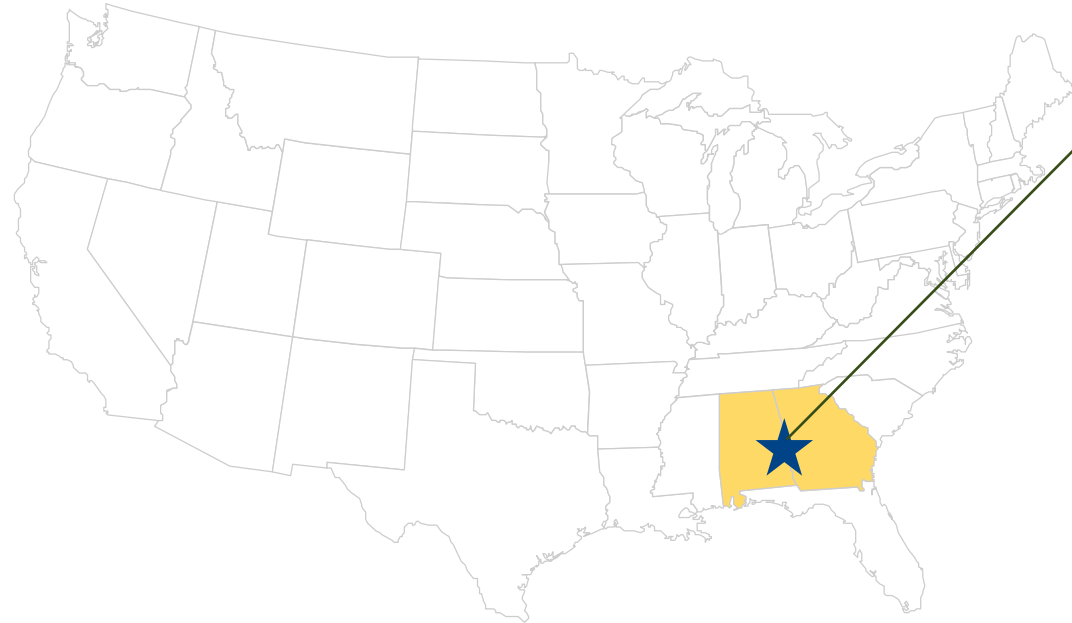


ON THE TABLE 2019

Participant Perspectives on Community and How to Effect Change

*Key findings from a survey among adults who participated in the
Community Foundation of the Chattahoochee Valley On the Table conversations,
with support from The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation,
October/November 2019*

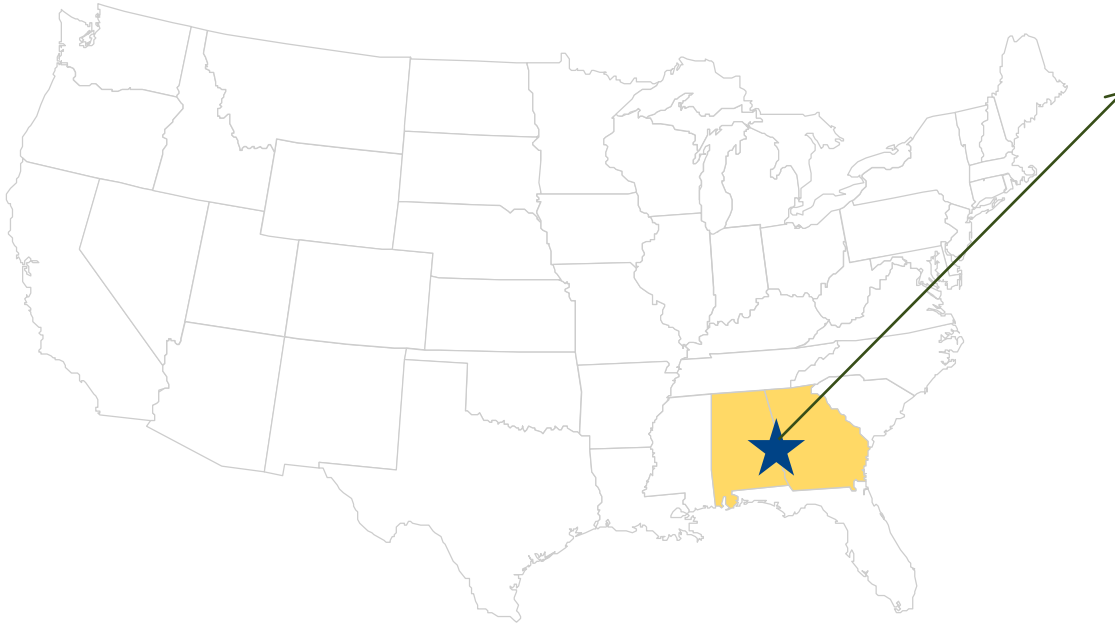
Methodology



- The Community Foundation of the Chattahoochee Valley estimates that 6,000 adults participated in On the Table conversations October 22, 2019.
- This report presents findings among 816 adults who participated in On the Table conversations and completed the post-conversation survey, which was conducted online and via paper.
- Survey field period: October 22 to November 5, 2019.
- Notes:
 - Throughout this report, the term “participants” is used to refer to On the Table participants who completed the survey.
 - For each question, percentages are based on the total number of participants who answered it.
 - “Whites” self-identify as non-Hispanic white adults.
 - “African Americans” self-identify as non-Hispanic African-American or black adults.
 - “Participants of color” self-identify as Hispanic, non-Hispanic African-American or black, Asian, another race, or biracial/multicultural adults.

Methodology

Geographic regions are defined by ZIP Codes



North/East
Muscogee Co
31820
31829
31909

South
Muscogee Co
31903
31907

North
Muscogee Co
31904

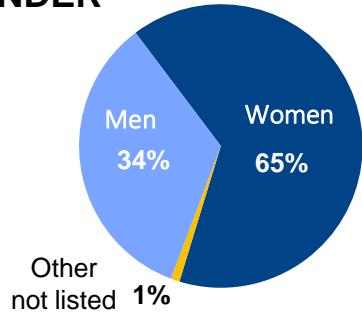
Uptown/
MidTown
31901
31906

Russell/Lee Co, AL
36854 36870
36856 36874
36867 36875
36869 36877

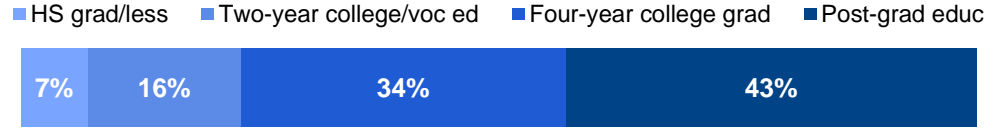
Other: ZIP Codes outside those listed

Profile of OTT Survey Participants: Demographics

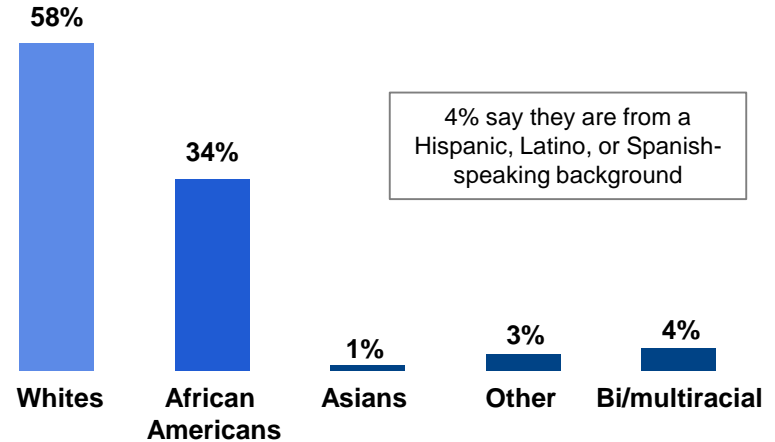
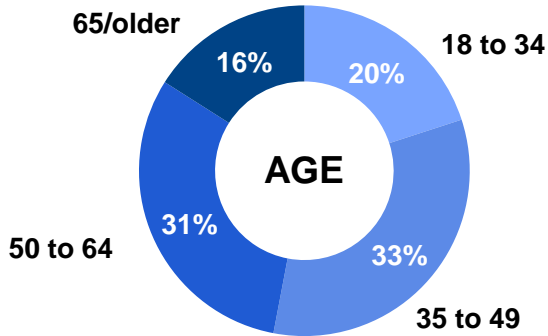
GENDER



EDUCATION

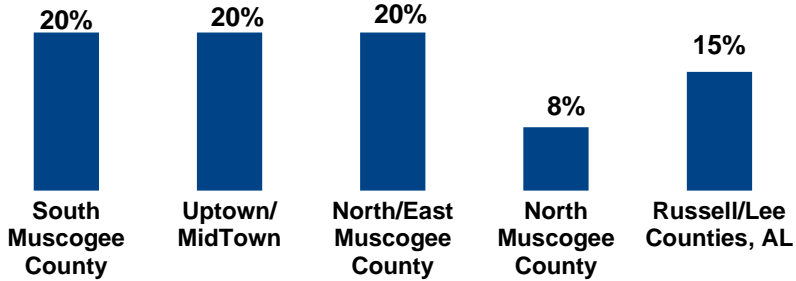


RACE/ETHNICITY

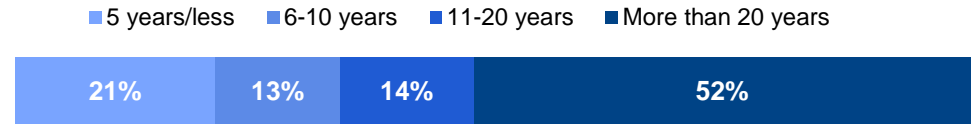


Profile of OTT Survey Participants: Community and Politics

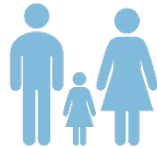
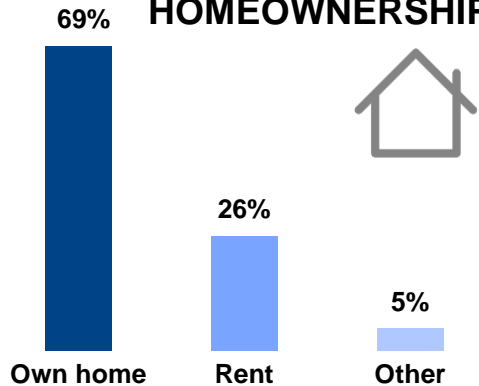
GEOGRAPHIC AREAS



LIVED IN COMMUNITY:



HOMEOWNERSHIP

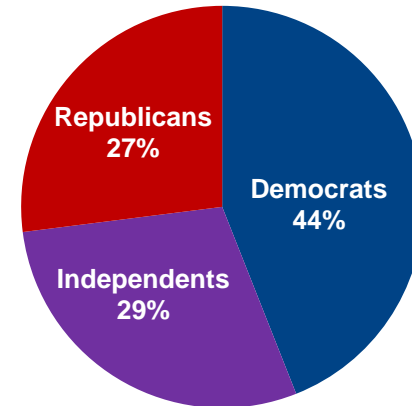


37%
Parent of
minor child



32% have a
connection to
Fort Benning

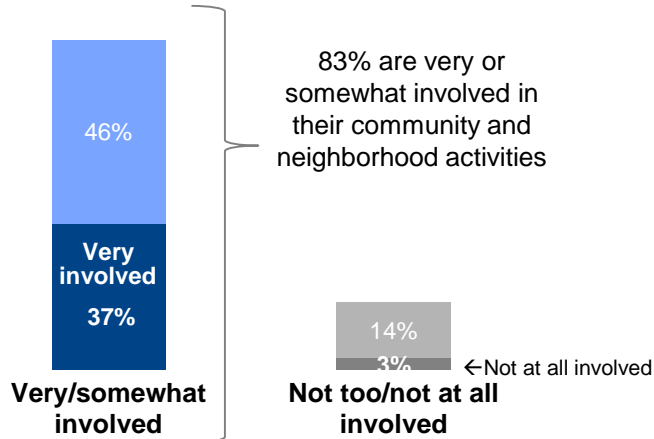
PARTY IDENTIFICATION



84% VOTED
in most recent
local elections

Profile of OTT Survey Participants: Community Engagement

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: AMOUNT



on the table
your voice matters.

42%
PARTICIPATED
in OTT last year

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: WAYS

Have done each in past year:

Donated to charity, cause, church, faith-based organization



Attended public meeting



Performed local volunteer work



Spoke with local elected official



Key Takeaways

- *On the Table* participants feel positive about their community: majorities agree that their community is the perfect place for them, that residents have shared goals and priorities, and that their community provides opportunities for everyone. Two-thirds believe their community is more united than divided.
 - Participants of color are less likely than whites to think their community provides opportunities for everyone, and they view their community as more divided than white participants do.
- Participants are optimistic about the future: significant majorities feel more hopeful than worried about the future and think their community will be a better place to live in five years.
- Across the region, crime/public safety and economic concerns rise to the top as issues participants most want their community to address.
- Nine in 10 say it is highly important that people come together from across the area to develop solutions to community challenges, and similarly high proportions say people like them can have an impact in making their community a better place to live.
 - Participants identify nonprofits and community organizations as having the greatest impact on making their community a better place to live.

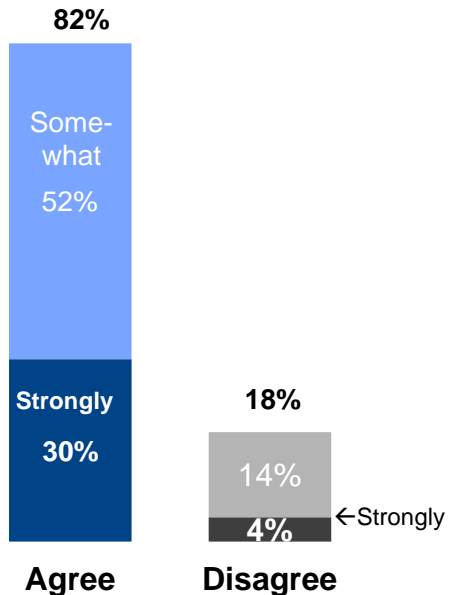
Key Takeaways

- Wanting the community to be strong for future generations is the primary motivation for participants to be involved in their community, and they are most interested in getting involved by volunteering and joining a small group that meets regularly to discuss important issues. High proportions feel confident that residents can come together to address issues and challenges in a positive way.
 - Participants identify lack of time as the top barrier to greater involvement, and more than one in five feel uncertain about how and where to find opportunities for involvement.
- More than nine in 10 participants say they are likely to take a specific action regarding an issue or solution discussed at *On the Table*. Significant majorities say *On the Table* has positive impacts in a variety of ways, including increased optimism about making positive change and heightened understanding and sense of connection with fellow community members.

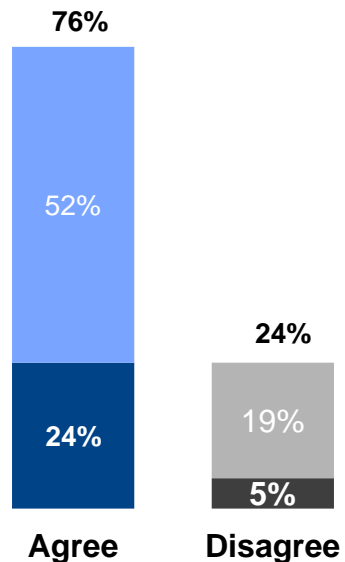
COMMUNITY OUTLOOK

Large majorities feel that their community is the perfect place for them and that residents have shared goals and priorities; a smaller majority feel that their community provides opportunities for all.

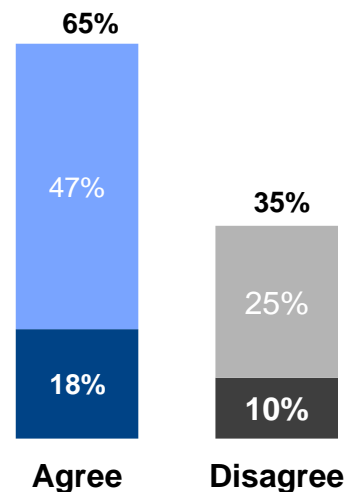
My community is the perfect place for people like me



Residents have shared goals/priorities for our community

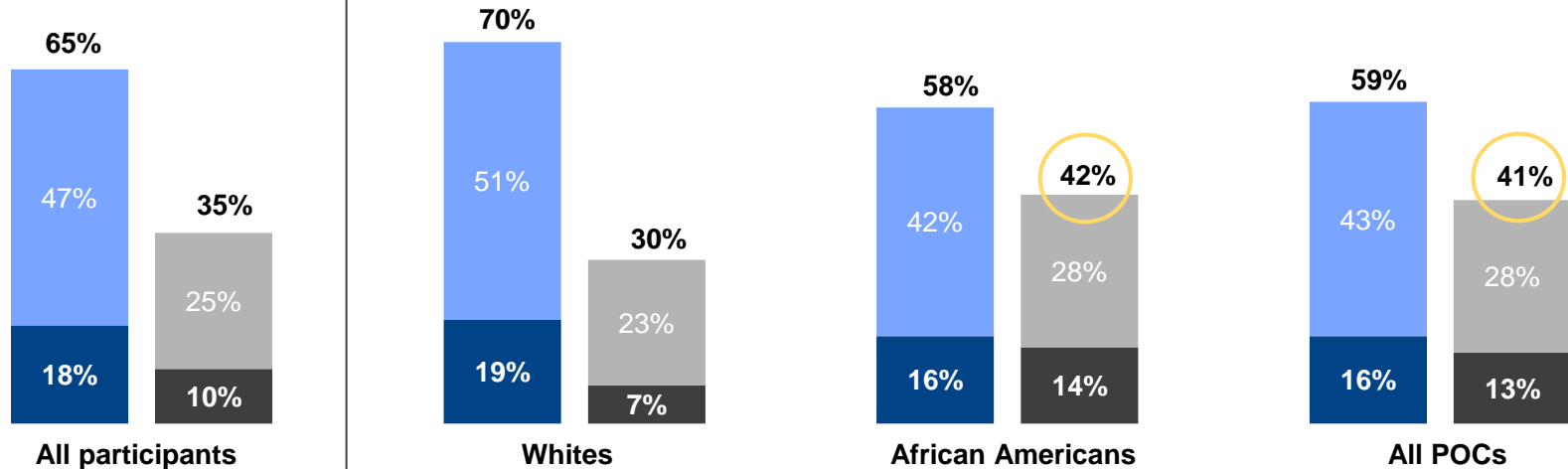


My community provides opportunities for everyone



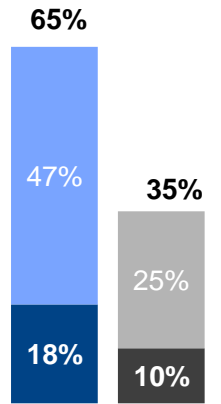
While still a majority, participants of color are less likely than whites to feel that their community provides opportunities for everyone.

My community provides opportunities for everyone:

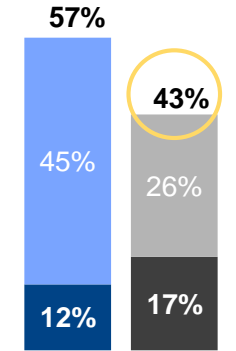


There are regional variations in the degree to which participants think their community provides opportunities for everyone.

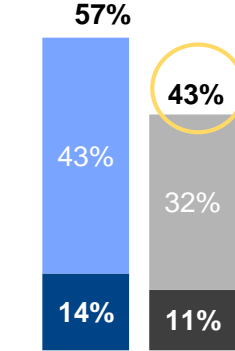
My community provides opportunities for everyone:



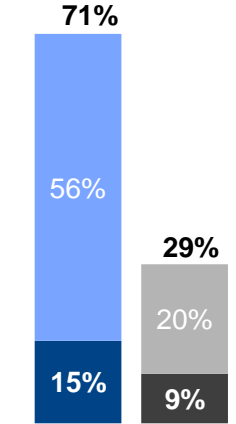
All participants



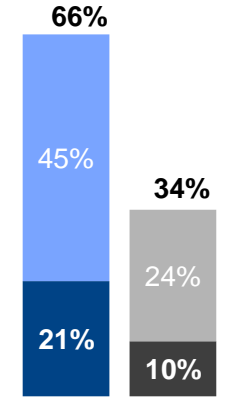
South Muscogee County



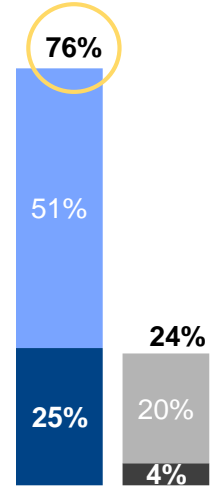
Uptown/MidTown



North/East Muscogee County



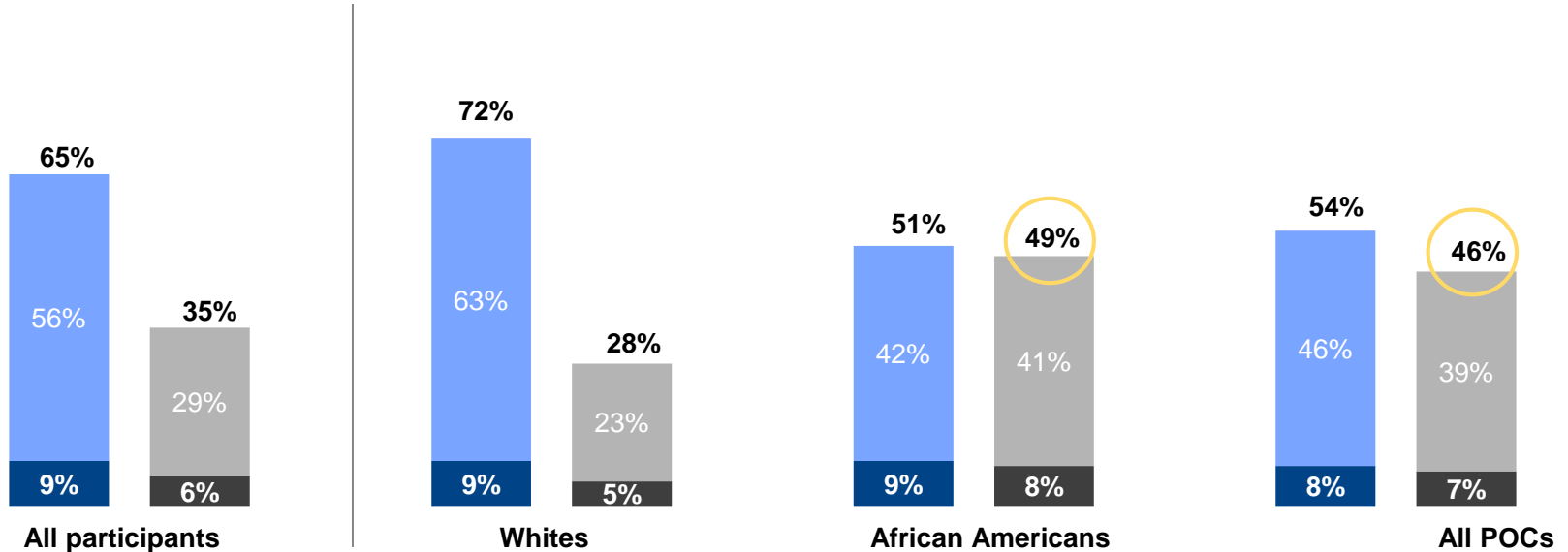
North Muscogee County



Russell/Lee Counties

White participants view their community as more united than participants of color do.

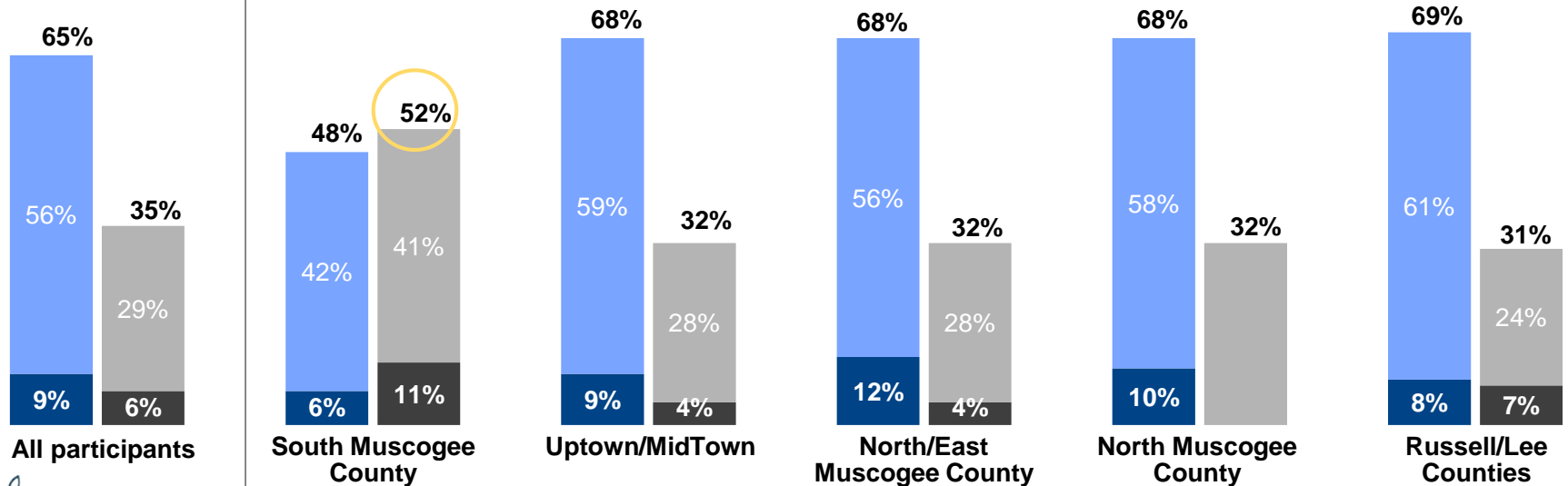
Do you think people in your community are more united or more divided when it comes to addressing important goals and challenges?



Participants in South Muscogee County feel their community is more divided than do participants in other regions.

Do you think people in your community are more united or more divided when it comes to addressing important goals and challenges?

■ Much more united ■ Somewhat more united ■ Much more divided ■ Somewhat more divided



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Hart/POS for the Community Foundation of the Chattahoochee Valley

A significant majority of participants are more hopeful than worried about what the future holds for their community.

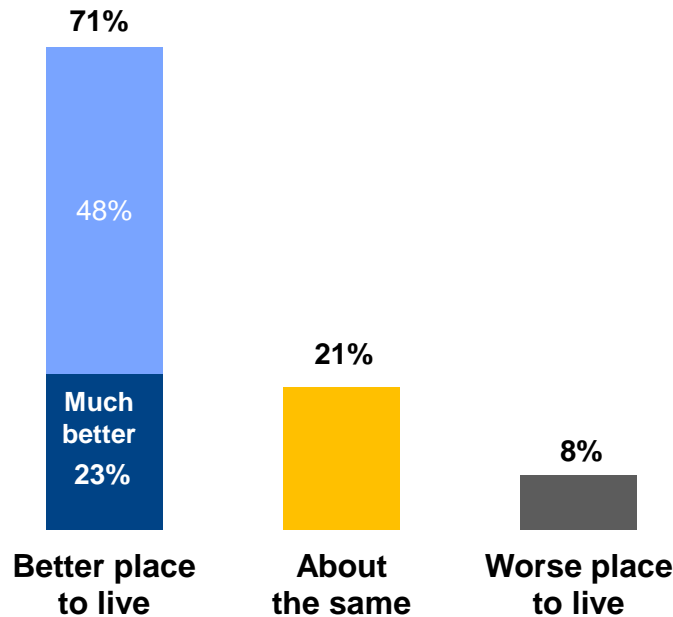
Looking ahead to the next five years or so, do you feel more hopeful or more worried about what the future holds for your community?



More HOPEFUL			
Men	79%	Involvement in community:	
Women	75%	Very involved	82%
Age 18 to 34	85%	Somewhat involved	75%
Age 35 to 49	77%	Less/not involved	67%
Age 50 to 64	73%	South Muscogee County	64%
Age 65/older	69%	Uptown/Midtown	75%
Whites	80%	North/East Muscogee County	79%
African Americans	71%	North Muscogee County	86%
All POCs	71%	Russell/Lee counties	77%
10 years/less in community	79%		
11 to 20 years in community	78%		
More than 20 years in community	75%		

More than seven in 10 participants think their community will be a better place to live in five years; there are only minor variations across the region.

Barring a natural disaster or other unforeseen challenges, how do you think your community will be as a place to live five years from now, compared to today?



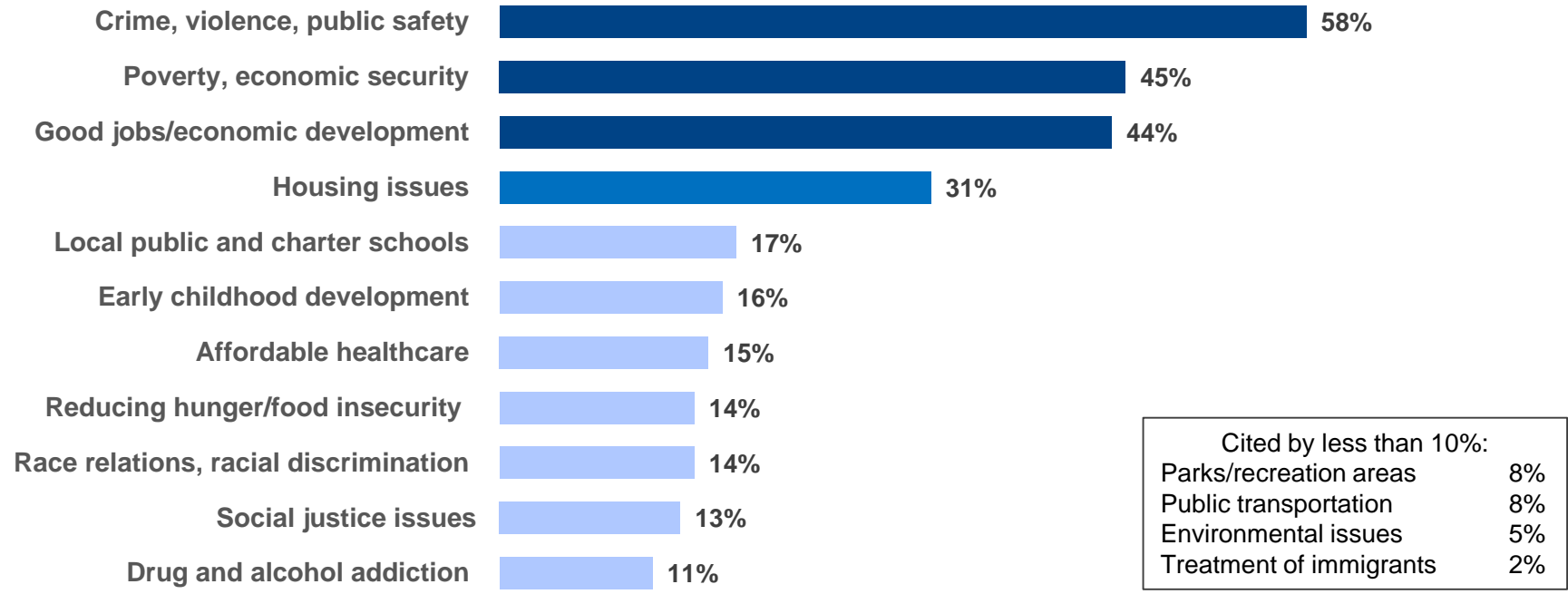
Better Place to Live	
10 years/less in community	74%
11 to 20 years in community	70%
More than 20 years in community	70%
<hr/>	
South Muscogee County	61%
Uptown/Midtown	73%
North/East Muscogee County	76%
North Muscogee County	77%
Russell/Lee counties	70%

On the Table 2019: Perspectives on Community and How to Effect Change – October 2019
Hart/POS for the Community Foundation of the Chattahoochee Valley

COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

Crime/public safety and economic concerns (poverty and jobs) are the top priorities that participants would like their community to address.

THREE most important issues for my community to address:



Crime/public safety and economic concerns are top priorities across the region, though the degree to which they are priorities varies somewhat.

THREE most important issues for my community to address:

South Muscogee Co.		Uptown/Midtown		N/E Muscogee Co.	
Crime/violence/ public safety	69%	Crime/violence/ public safety	52%	Crime/violence/ public safety	56%
Jobs/economic development	42%	Poverty/economic security	51%	Jobs/economic development	50%
Poverty/economic security	39%	Jobs/economic development	45%	Poverty/economic security	48%

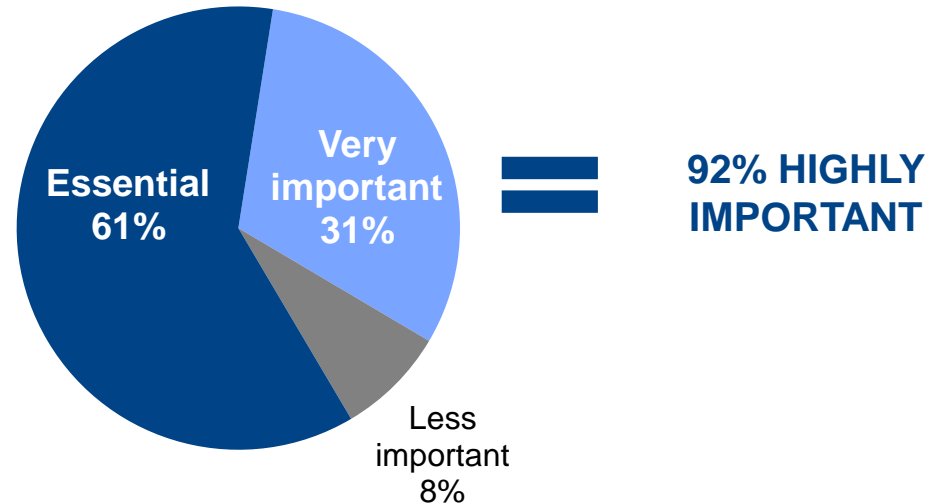
North Muscogee Co.		Russell/Lee counties	
Crime/violence/ public safety	55%	Crime/violence/ public safety	56%
Poverty/economic security	44%	Poverty/economic security	44%
Jobs/economic development	34%	Jobs/economic development	43%

Participants place high importance on people coming together from across the area to develop solutions to community challenges.

How important is it that members from across your city/community come together in person on a regular basis to engage in conversations with each other in order to develop effective solutions to the issues and challenges facing our community today?

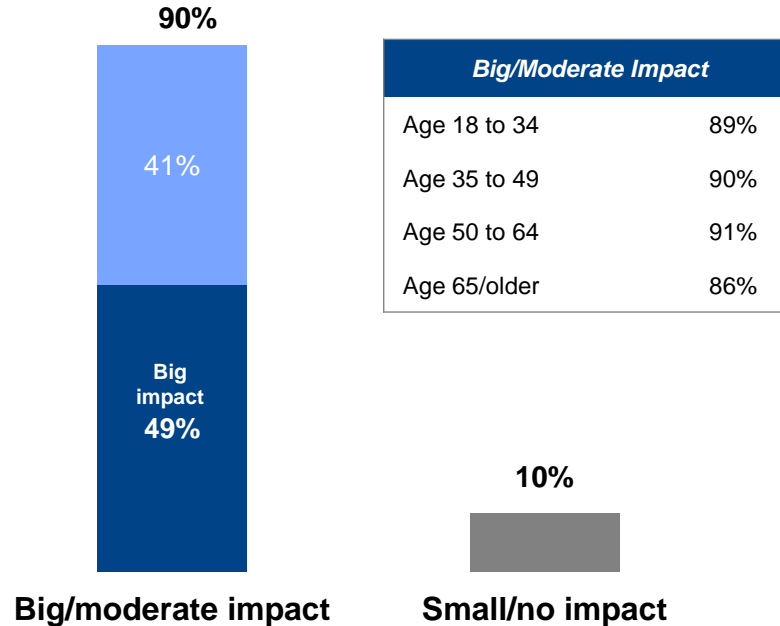
Essential to come together in person

Men	56%	Whites	59%
Women	63%	African Americans	63%
Age 18 to 34	67%	All POCs	63%
Age 35 to 49	61%	South Muscogee County	60%
Age 50 to 64	60%	Uptown/Midtown	62%
Age 65/older	54%	North/East Muscogee County	66%
		North Muscogee County	58%
		Russell/Lee counties	58%



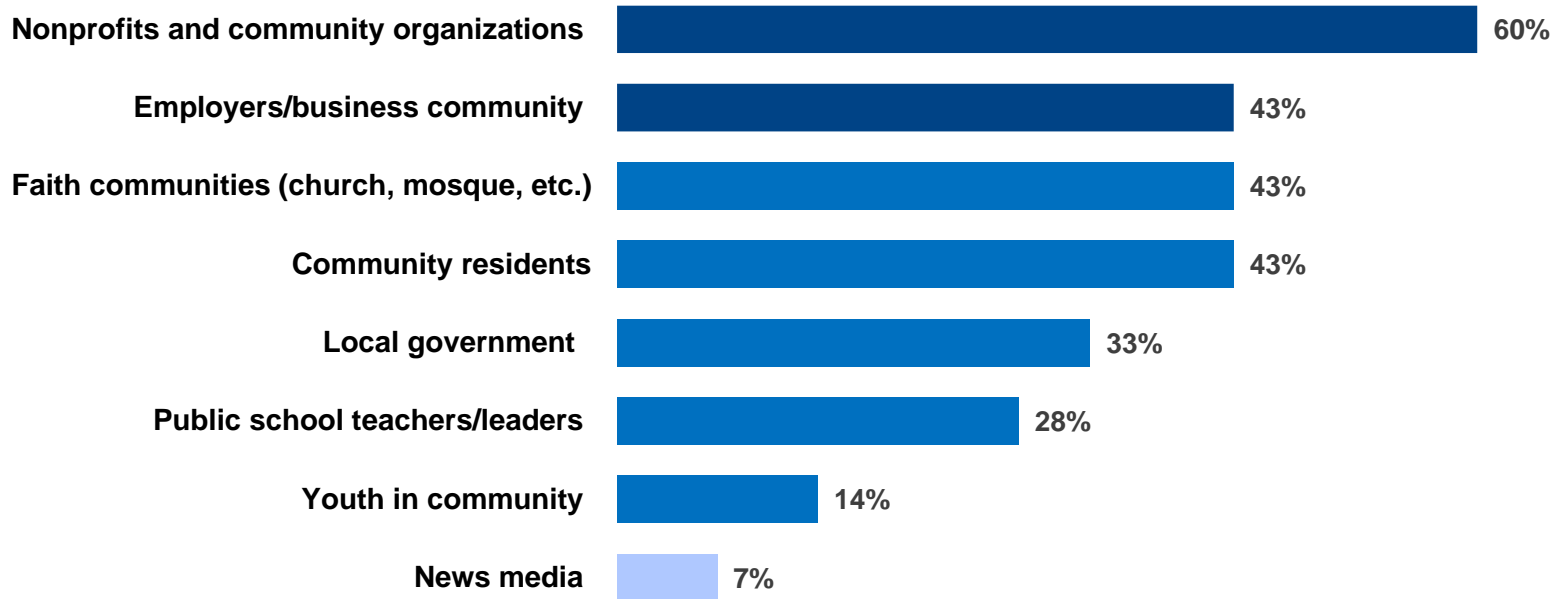
OTT participants believe they can make their community a better place to live.

Impact people like me can have in making my community a better place:



Nonprofits and community organizations are recognized as having the greatest impact on making the community a better place to live.

TWO or THREE groups that have greatest impact on making my community a better place to live:



Perspectives on which entities have the greatest impact vary somewhat by age and race.

TWO or THREE groups that have greatest impact on making my community a better place to live:

	All participants	Whites	African Americans	All POCs	Age 18 to 34	Age 35 to 49	Age 50 to 64	Age 65/older
Nonprofits/community organizations	60%	67%	52%	53%	67%	57%	62%	54%
Community residents	43%	40%	44%	48%	42%	51%	40%	35%
Faith communities (church, mosque, etc.)	43%	44%	43%	40%	35%	35%	47%	59%
Employers/business community	43%	49%	32%	34%	38%	43%	45%	42%
Local government	33%	32%	35%	34%	34%	32%	32%	34%
Public school teachers and leaders	28%	26%	31%	30%	31%	28%	25%	33%
Youth in community	14%	11%	17%	18%	20%	17%	11%	5%
News media	7%	5%	10%	9%	8%	7%	4%	10%

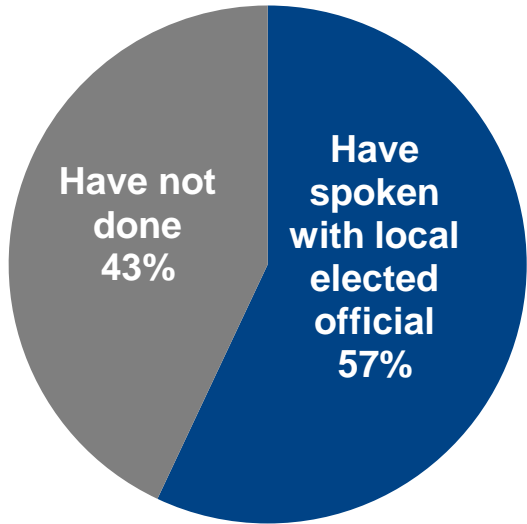
OTT participants are involved in their communities in a variety of ways.

I have done this in the past year/in recent elections:



More than half have spoken to elected leaders in the past year; younger participants are less likely to have done so.

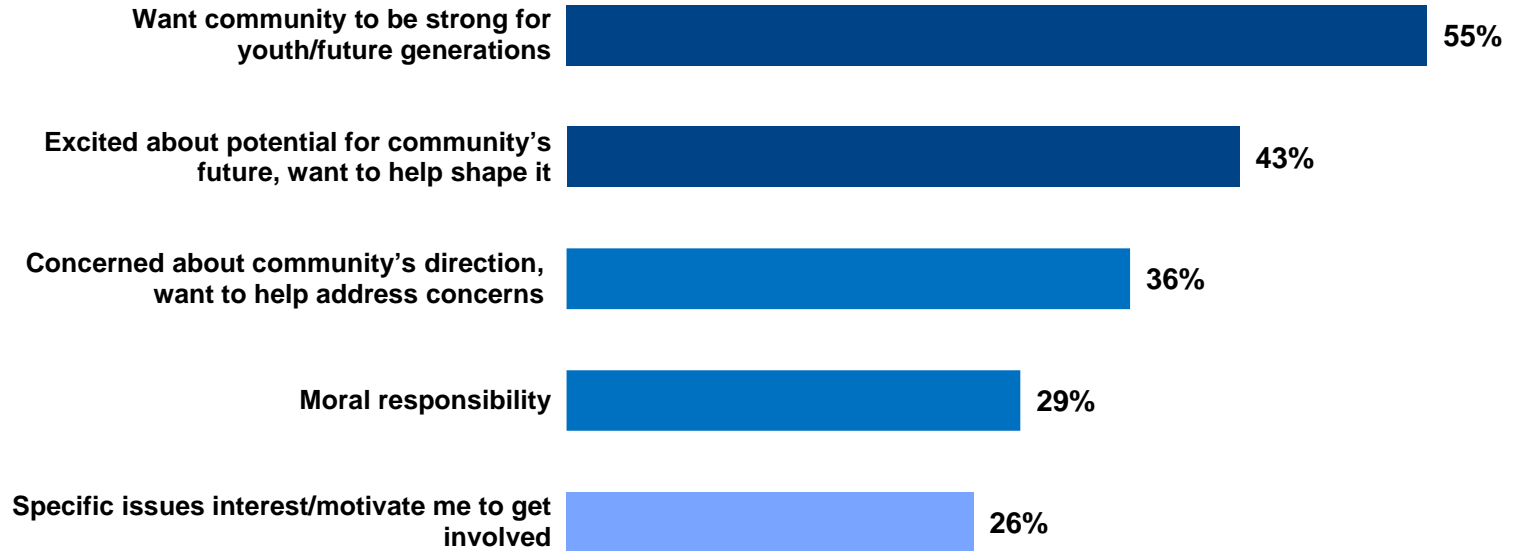
Have you spoken with a city council member, mayor, or other local elected official in the past year?



<i>Have spoken with council member, mayor, or local elected official</i>			
Age 18 to 34	39%	Years in community:	
Age 35 to 49	51%	10 years/less	47%
Age 50 to 64	70%	11 to 20 years	54%
Age 65/older	62%	More than 20 years	64%
Whites	57%	South Muscogee County	49%
African Americans	61%	Uptown/Midtown	66%
All POCs	56%	North/East Muscogee County	52%
		North Muscogee County	70%
		Russell/Lee counties	58%

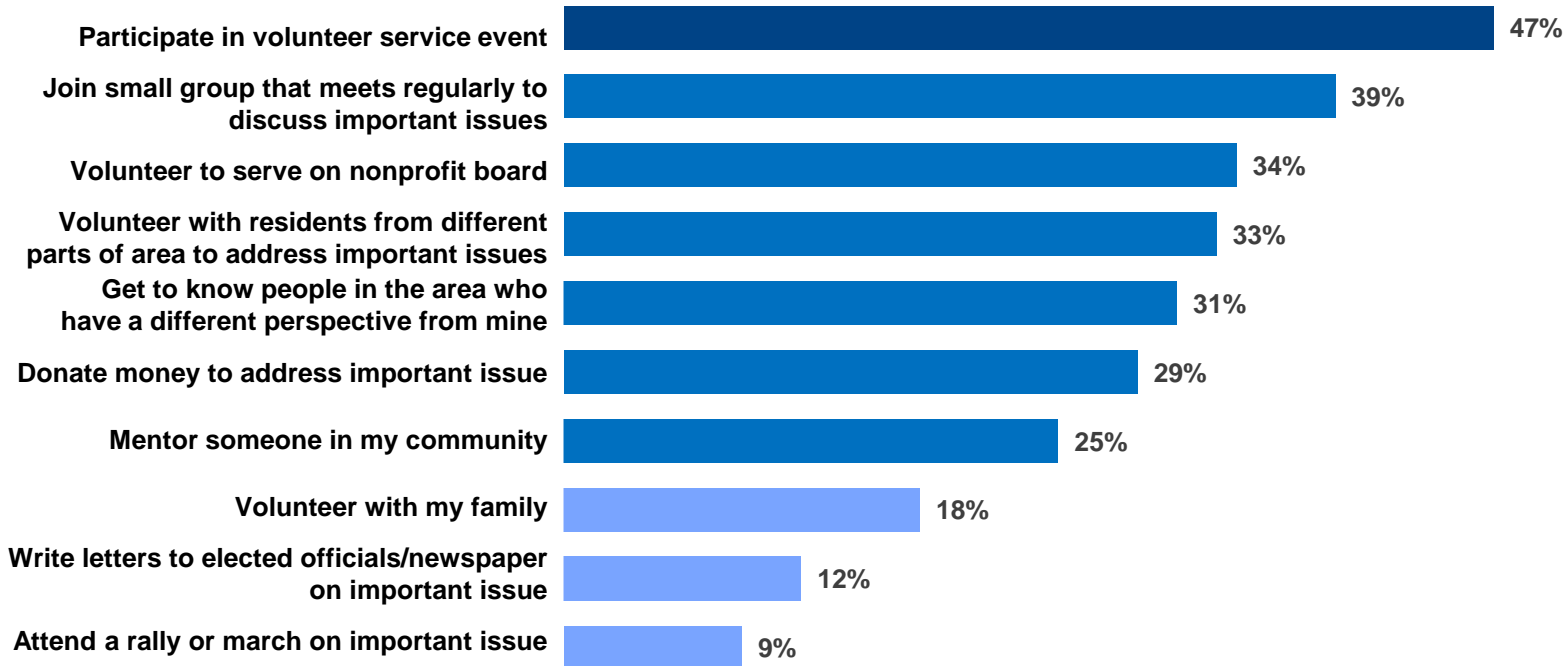
Having a strong community for future generations is the biggest motivator for community involvement; more participants are motivated by excitement about the future than concern about it.

TWO most motivating reasons to be involved and engaged in my community



Participants are most interested in volunteering and joining a small group that meets regularly to discuss issues.

THREE WAYS in which I am most interested in getting involved in addressing issues/challenges facing my community

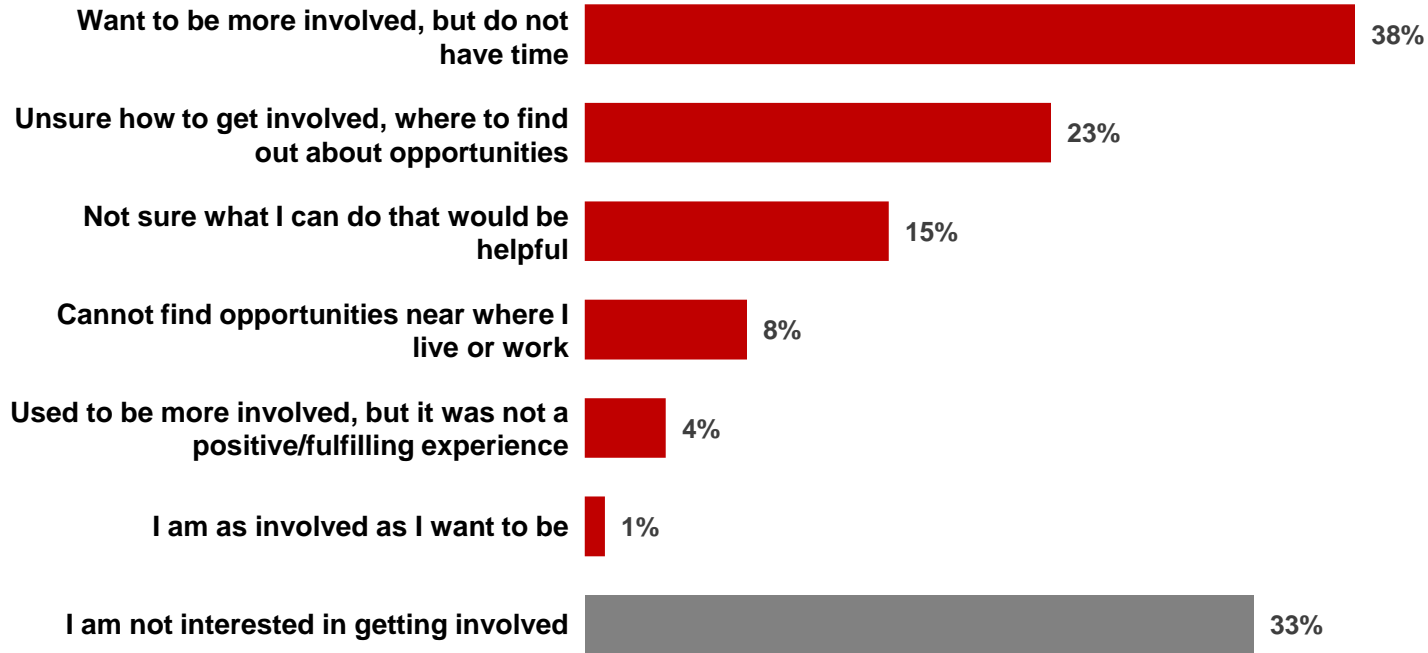


Interest in specific forms of engagement varies somewhat with age.

<i>Ways I would be most interested in getting involved in my community:</i>	All participants	Age 18 to 34	Age 35 to 49	Age 50 to 64	Age 65/older
Participate in volunteer service event	47%	59%	46%	43%	40%
Join small group that meets regularly to discuss important issues	39%	35%	40%	42%	34%
Volunteer to serve on nonprofit board	34%	30%	35%	36%	36%
Volunteer with residents from different parts of area to address important issues	33%	34%	28%	35%	39%
Get to know people in the area who have a different perspective from mine	31%	35%	31%	30%	30%
Donate money to address important issue	29%	20%	26%	34%	37%
Mentor someone in my community	25%	25%	25%	25%	29%
Volunteer with my family	18%	14%	31%	13%	8%
Write letters to elected officials/newspaper on important issue	12%	15%	11%	11%	9%
Attend a rally or march on important issue	9%	12%	8%	8%	10%

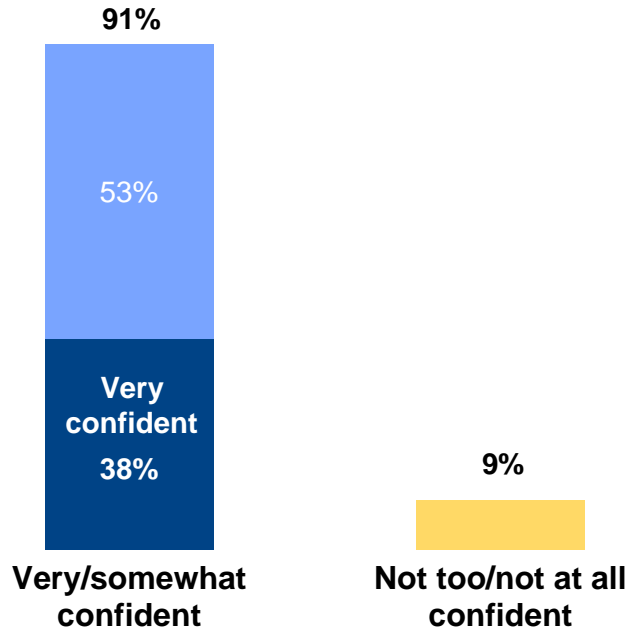
Lack of time is the top barrier to greater involvement, but more than one in five indicates uncertainty about how to get involved.

What, if anything, prevents you from getting more involved in addressing issues affecting your community?



Participants are confident that residents can come together to address issues and challenges in a positive way.

How confident are you that residents in your community can come together to address issues and challenges affecting the area in a positive and helpful way?



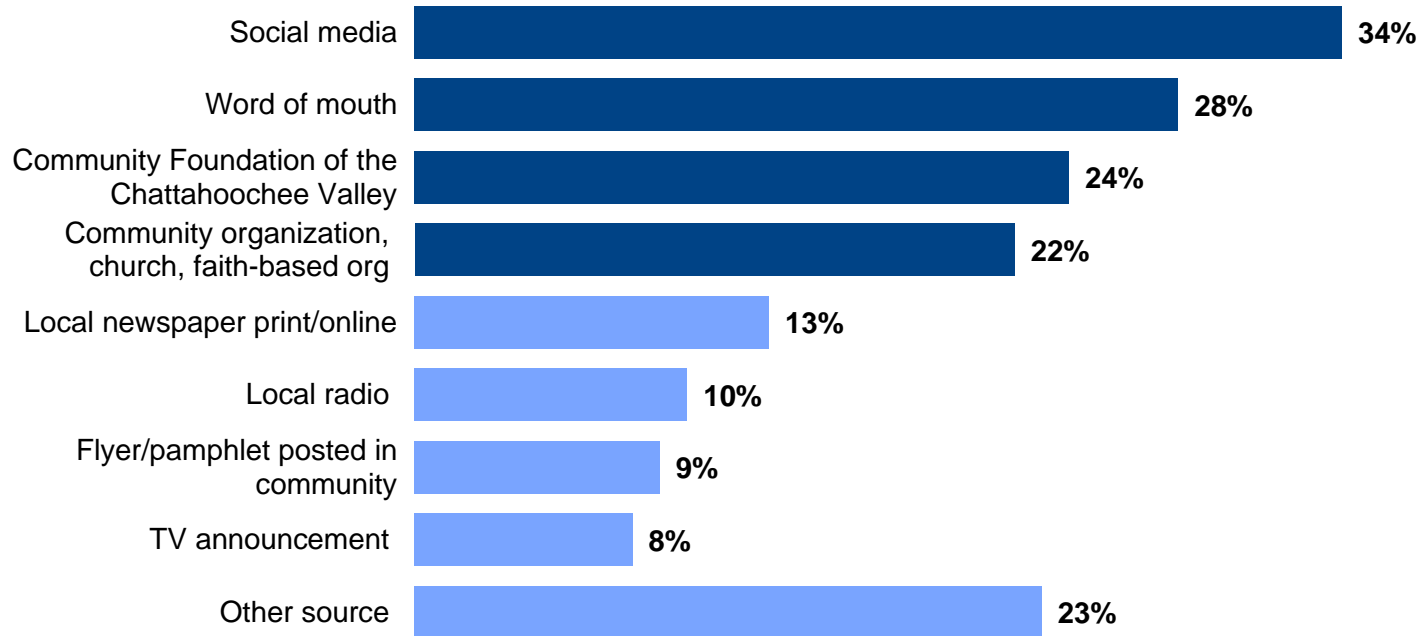
VERY confident	
Age 18 to 34	46%
Age 35 to 49	39%
Age 50 to 64	32%
Age 65/older	42%
South Muscogee County	36%
Uptown/Midtown	39%
North/East Muscogee County	39%
North Muscogee County	40%
Russell/Lee counties	36%

on the table
your voice matters.

CONVERSATION EXPERIENCE

Word of mouth and communication from the foundation and community organizations are the top ways participants learned about *On the Table*.

How did you hear about On the Table?



OTT conversations led to connections, helped participants learn about issues facing their community and how to take action to address them.

Which of these apply to your On the Table experience?



I spoke with at least one person that I did not already know



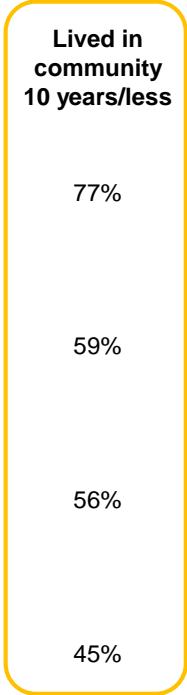
I learned about important issues in my community



The conversation helped me better understand how I can take action to help address issues and challenges in my community

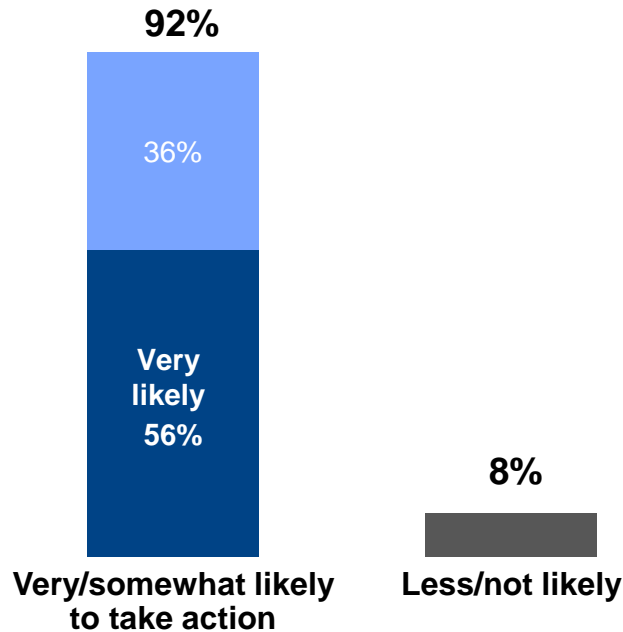


I exchanged contact information with at least one person that I did not already know



More than nine in 10 say they are likely to take a specific action regarding an issue or solution they discussed at *On the Table*.

How likely are you to take specific actions or next steps regarding an issue or solution discussed at the On the Table conversation you participated in?



Very Likely to Take Action			
Men	53%	Years in community:	
Women	58%	10 years/less	56%
Age 18 to 34	53%	11 to 20 years	57%
Age 35 to 49	60%	Over 20 years	56%
Age 50 to 64	57%	Involvement in community:	
Age 65/older	50%	Very involved	75%
Whites	49%	Somewhat involved	51%
African Americans	67%	Less/not involved	27%
All POCs	65%	Democrats	61%
		Independents	54%
		Republicans	50%

On The Table conversations had most positive impacts in a variety of ways.

My participation in the On the Table conversation had a BIG/MODERATE IMPACT on this for me

