

ON THE TABLE 2018

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 2018

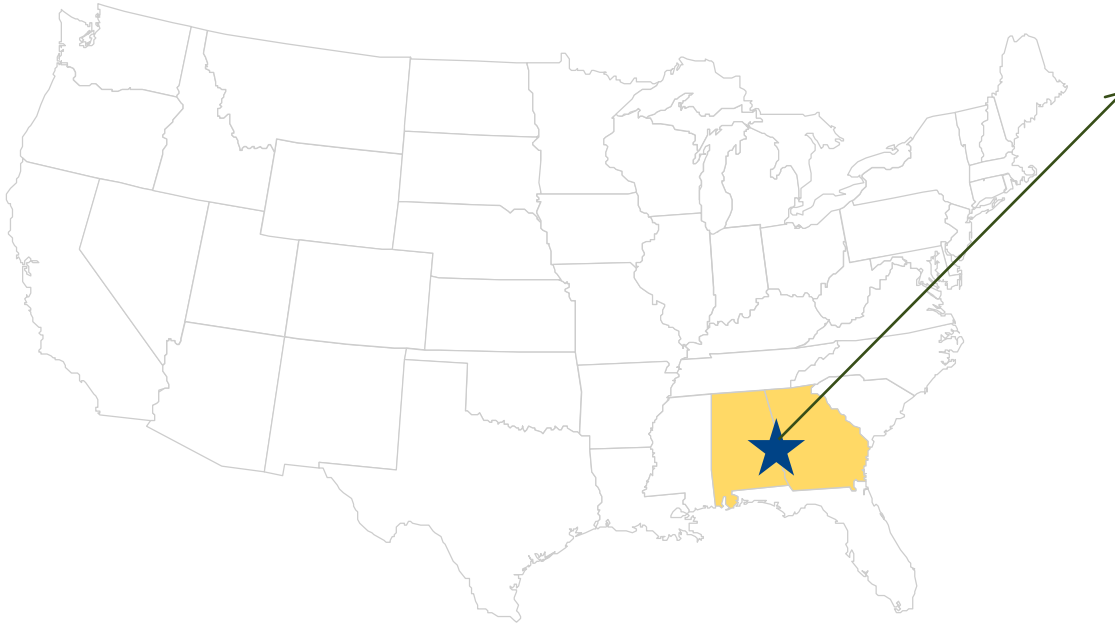
Methodology



- The Community Foundation of the Chattahoochee Valley estimates that 6,500 adults participated in On the Table conversations in 2018.
- This report presents findings among 610 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 8, 2018.
- 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.
 - “Participants of color” self-identify as Hispanic, non-Hispanic African-American or black, Asian, another race, or biracial/multicultural adults.
 - “African Americans” self-identify as non-Hispanic African-American or black 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

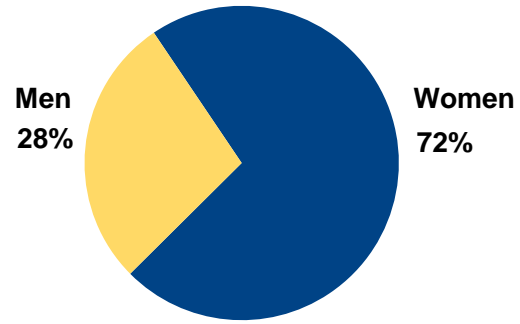
Uptown/
MidTown
31901
31906

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

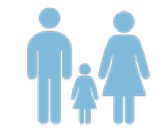
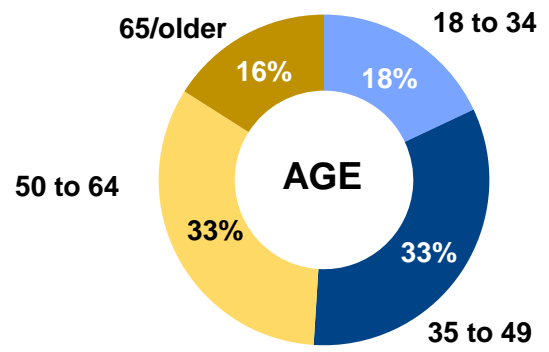
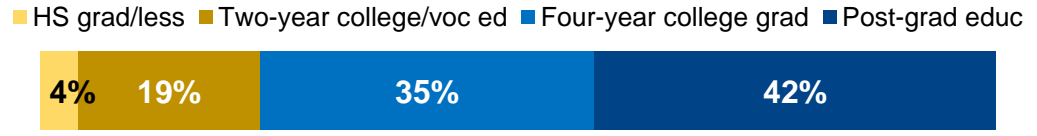
Other: ZIP Codes outside those listed

Profile of *On The Table* Survey Participants Who Completed the Survey

GENDER



EDUCATION

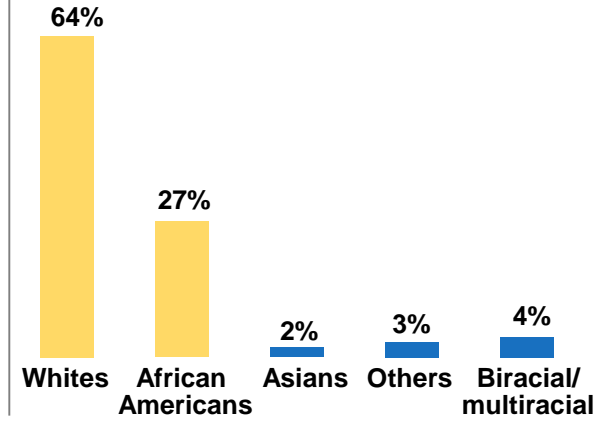


36%
Parent of
minor child

HISPANIC/ LATINO BACKGROUND

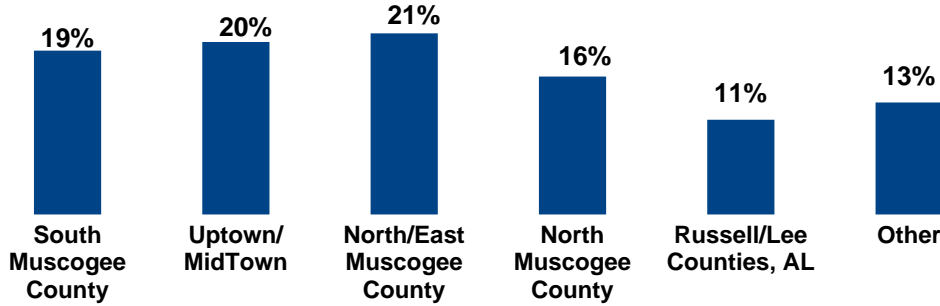


RACE

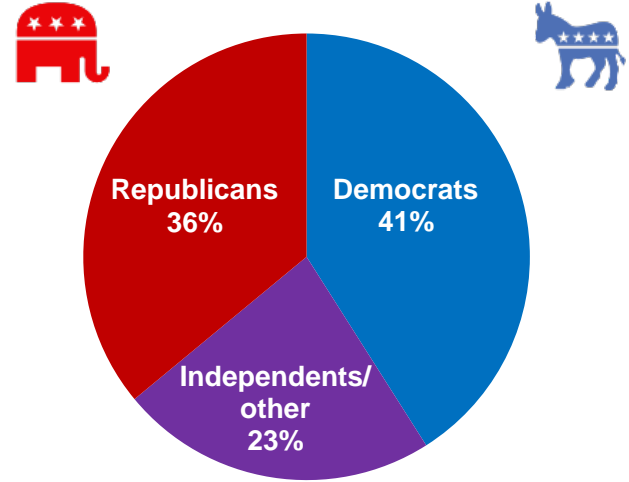


Profile of *On The Table* Survey Participants Who Completed the Survey

Geographic Areas



PARTY IDENTIFICATION



on the table
your voice matters.

36% PARTICIPATED
in *OTT* last year



58% VOTE in every local election

Key Takeaways

- *On the Table* participants who completed the survey are largely hopeful about the future of their community and express optimism about their community on key dimensions.
- More than two-thirds of participants feel that their community is more united than divided and that it provides opportunities for all.
- Crime/public safety and the economic concerns of jobs/economic development and poverty/economic security rank as the priorities that participants would most like their community to address.
 - Race relations is a second-tier priority which is slightly more pressing to participants of color than white participants.

Key Takeaways *(cont'd)*

- Participants view nonprofits as the greatest change-makers in their community, followed by employers, residents, and faith communities.
- There is a high level of confidence that residents can come together to address issues and challenges affecting the area in a positive way.
- Participants are highly involved personally and are optimistic that they can effect positive change in their community.
- They express the greatest interest in participating in a volunteer service event. Other ways of getting involved that appeal to smaller though notable segments include serving as a volunteer board member, volunteering with residents from different parts of the region, joining a small group that meets regularly to discuss issues, and donating money to address an issue of interest.
- Participants' biggest motivator for becoming engaged is to ensure the community is strong for future generations.
- The biggest barrier to their greater involvement is a lack of time.

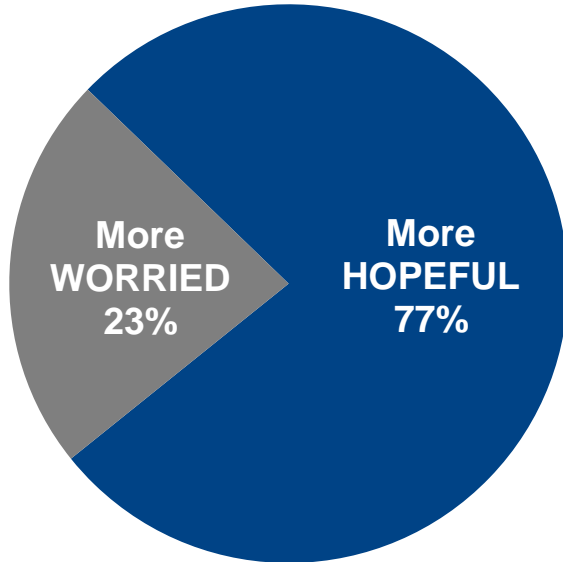
Key Takeaways *(cont'd)*

- Participants attribute an increased sense of connectedness, optimism, motivation, and understanding to their participation in a 2018 *On the Table* conversation.
- Large majorities of participants say they spoke to someone they did not know, learned about important issues affecting their community, and gained a better understanding of how to take action to address issues in their community through their *On The Table* experience.
- Nearly all participants say they are likely to return next year.

COMMUNITY OUTLOOK

A significant majority of *On the Table* participants are hopeful about what the future holds for their community.

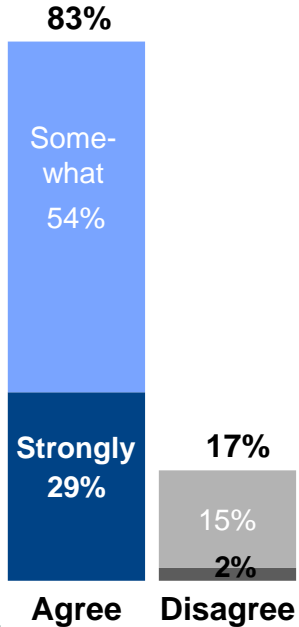
Looking ahead to the next five years or so, do you feel more hopeful or more worried about what the future holds for your community?



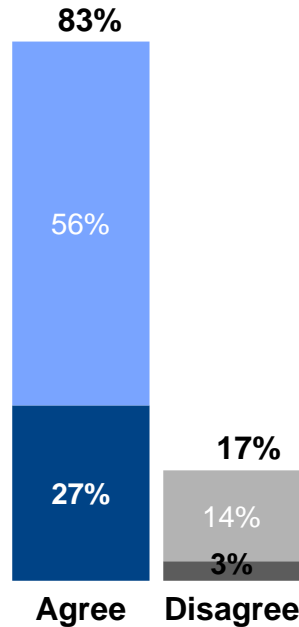
	Hopeful	Worried
Men	81%	19%
Women	76%	24%
Age 18 to 34	90%	10%
Age 35 to 49	75%	25%
Age 50 to 64	75%	25%
Age 65/older	72%	28%
Whites	79%	21%
Participants of color	75%	25%
African Americans	75%	25%
South Muscogee County	70%	30%
Uptown/MidTown	84%	16%
North/East Muscogee County	75%	25%
North Muscogee County	74%	26%
Russell/Lee Counties	84%	16%

Large majorities view their communities in a positive light on key dimensions.

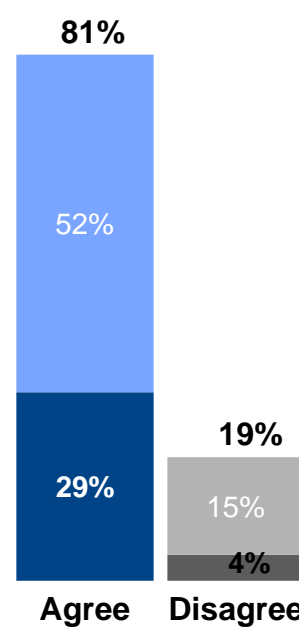
Residents have shared goals/priorities for our community



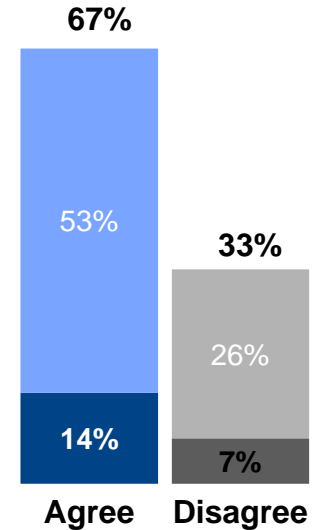
My community is changing for the better



The area where I live has a strong sense of community

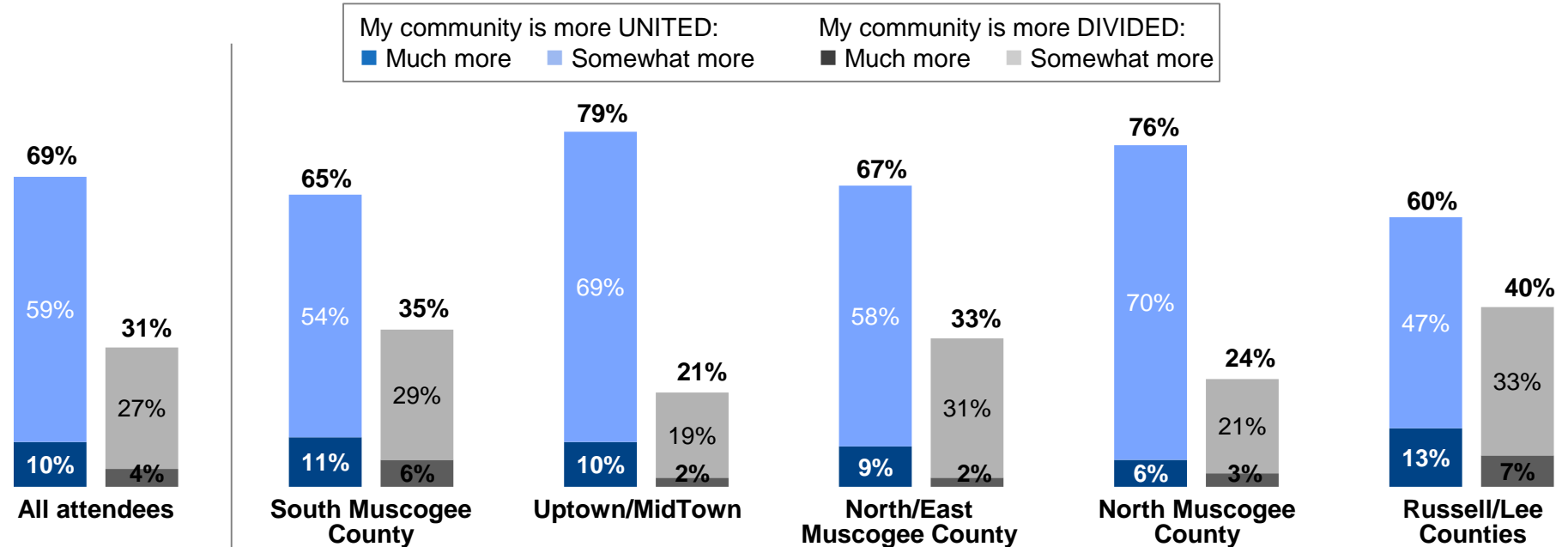


My community provides opportunities for everyone



Participants are twice as likely to feel their community is united as divided, with those in Uptown/MidTown and North Muscogee feeling the greatest sense of unity.

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

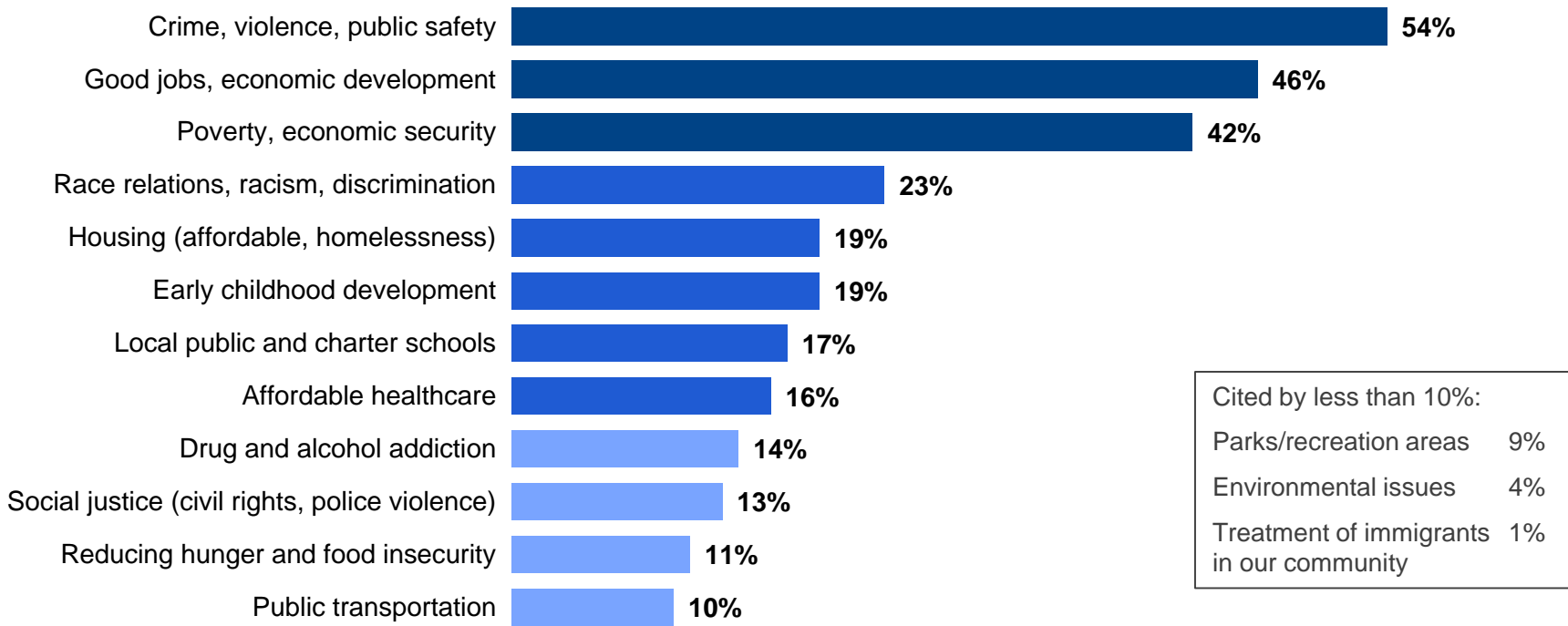


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COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

Crime/public safety and economic concerns are top priorities for the community to address.

THREE most important issues for my community to address:



Crime/public safety and economic concerns are the top priorities across race/ethnicity. Race relations is a bigger priority among participants of color, especially African Americans, than among whites.

THREE most important issues for my community to address:

Whites		Participants of color		African Americans	
Crime, violence, public safety	53%	Crime, violence, public safety	55%	Crime, violence, public safety	56%
Good jobs, economic development	46%	Good jobs, economic development	46%	Good jobs, economic development	49%
Poverty, economic security	44%	Poverty, economic security	39%	Poverty, economic security	37%
Housing	20%	Race relations, racial discrimination	31%	Race relations, racial discrimination	35%
Early childhood development	19%	Social justice (civil rights, police violence)	20%	Social justice (civil rights, police violence)	24%

There are some variations in the focus on crime/public safety and economic concerns by region.

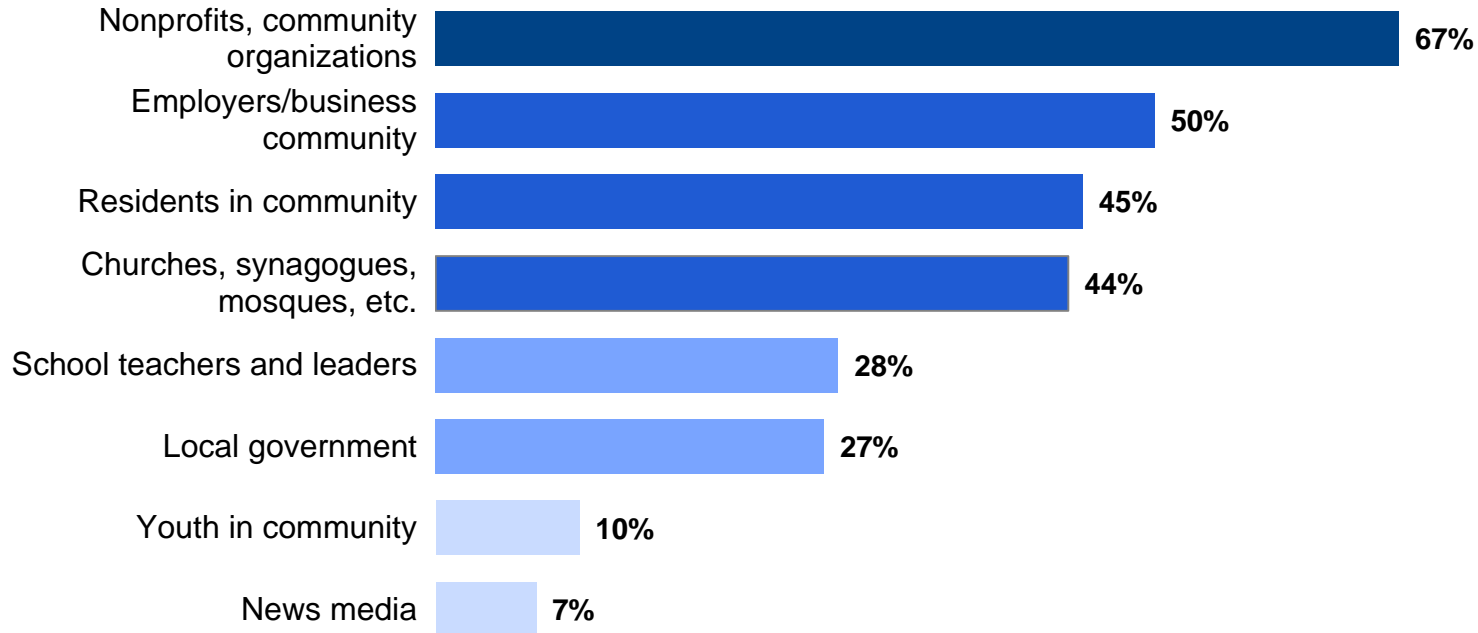
THREE most important issues for my community to address:

South Muscogee Co		Uptown/MidTown		North/East Muscogee Co		North Muscogee Co		Russell/Lee Counties	
Crime, violence, public safety	61%	Crime, violence, public safety	50%	Crime, violence, public safety	62%	Poverty, economic security	49%	Jobs, economic development	55%
Jobs, economic development	44%	Jobs, economic development	44%	Jobs, economic development	47%	Crime, violence, public safety	48%	Crime, violence, public safety	49%
Poverty, economic security	39%	Poverty, economic security	44%	Poverty, economic security	40%	Jobs, economic development	48%	Poverty, economic security	36%
Race relations, discrimination	26%	Race relations, discrimination	28%	Race relations, discrimination	28%	Housing issues	26%	Race relations, discrimination	23%
Early childhood development	26%	Housing issues	19%	Local public and charter schools	19%	Local public and charter schools	20%	Housing issues	20%

EFFECTING CHANGE IN MY COMMUNITY

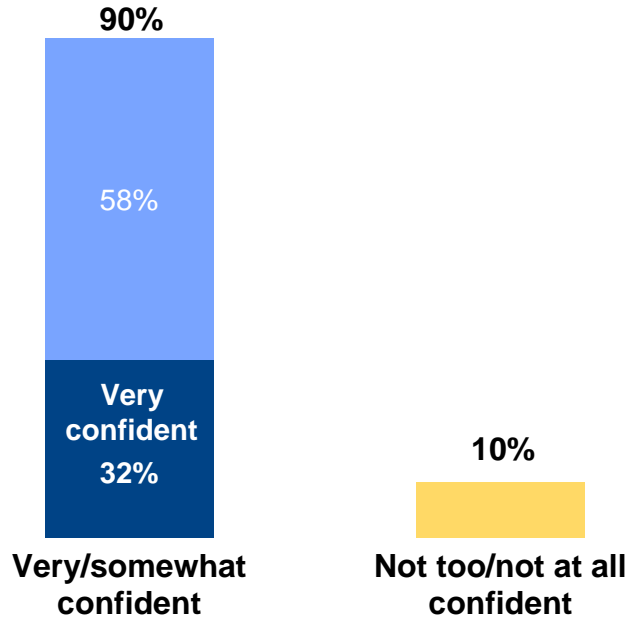
Nonprofits are viewed as the agents of change that have the most impact, followed by employers, residents, and faith communities.

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



Most are confident that residents can come together to address issues and challenges affecting the area 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?

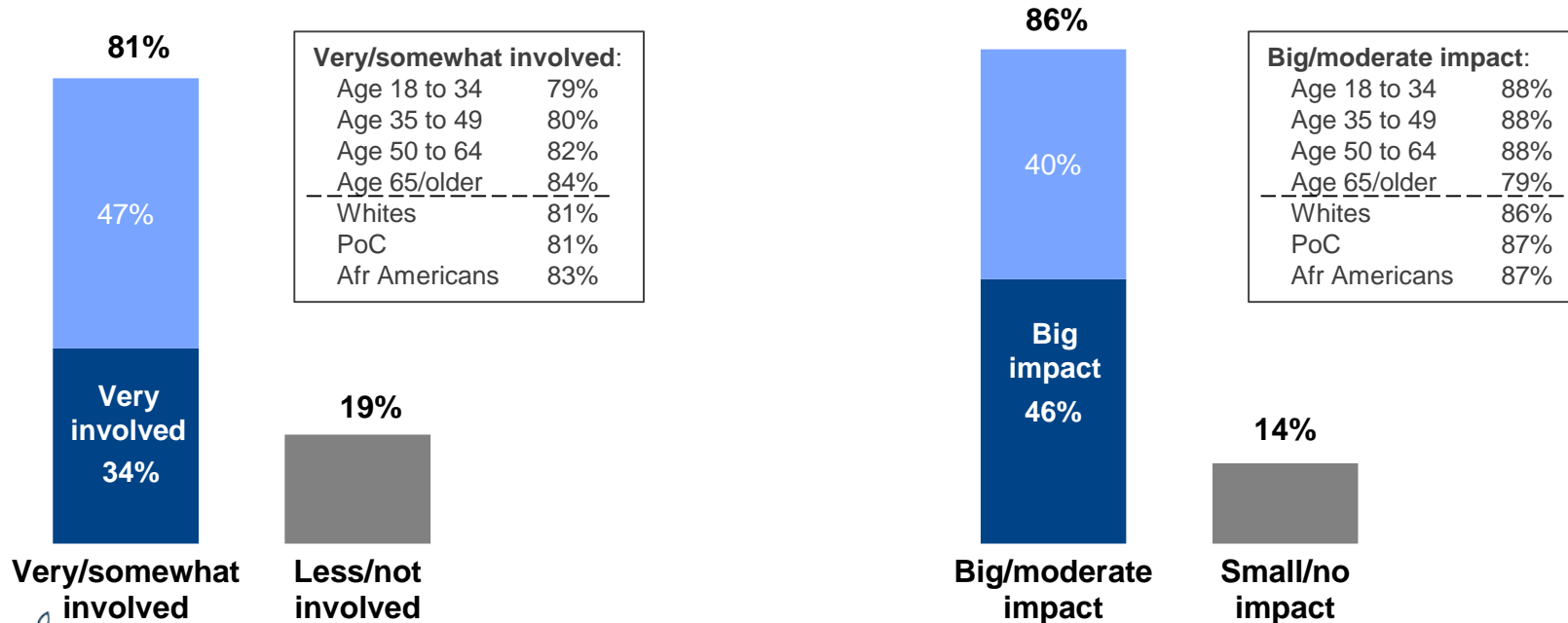


VERY confident	
Age 18 to 34	42%
Age 35 to 49	32%
Age 50 to 64	29%
Age 65/older	25%
<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed #0070C0;"/>	
Whites	35%
Participants of color	27%
African Americans	28%

Significant majorities are involved in their community and believe they can make their community a better place to live.

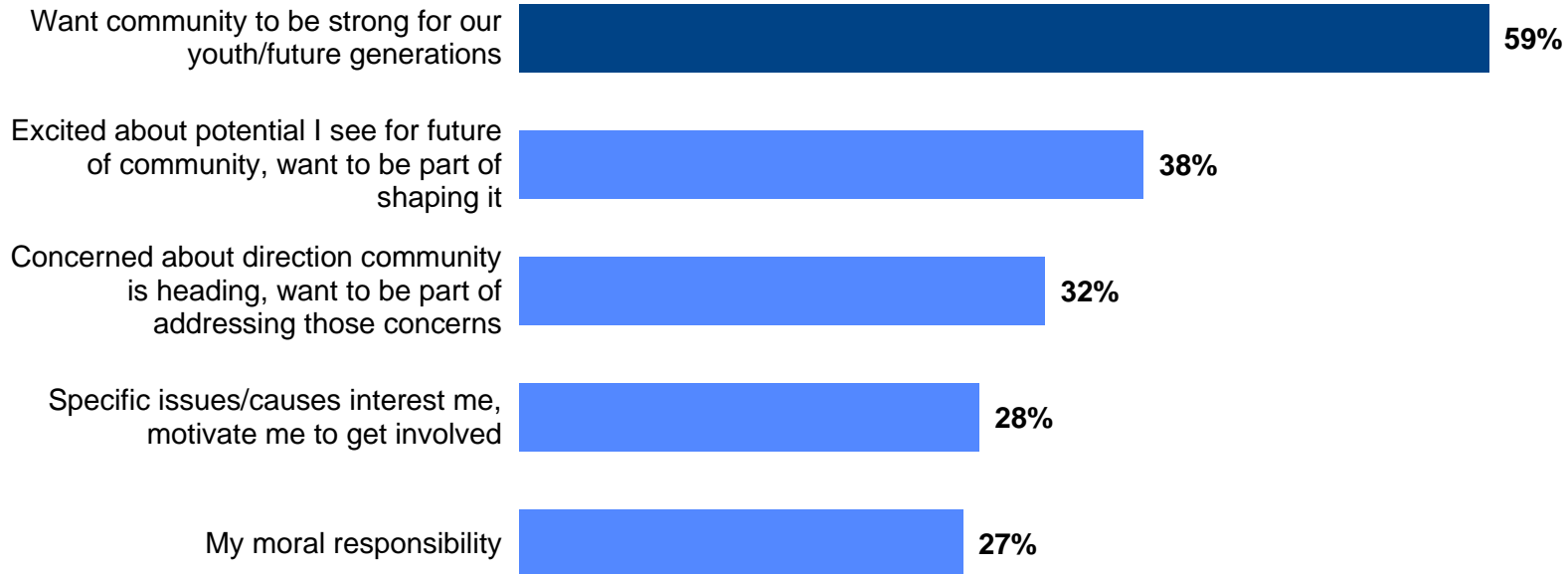
Involvement in my community and neighborhood activities:

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



The biggest motivator for community engagement is having a strong community for future generations.

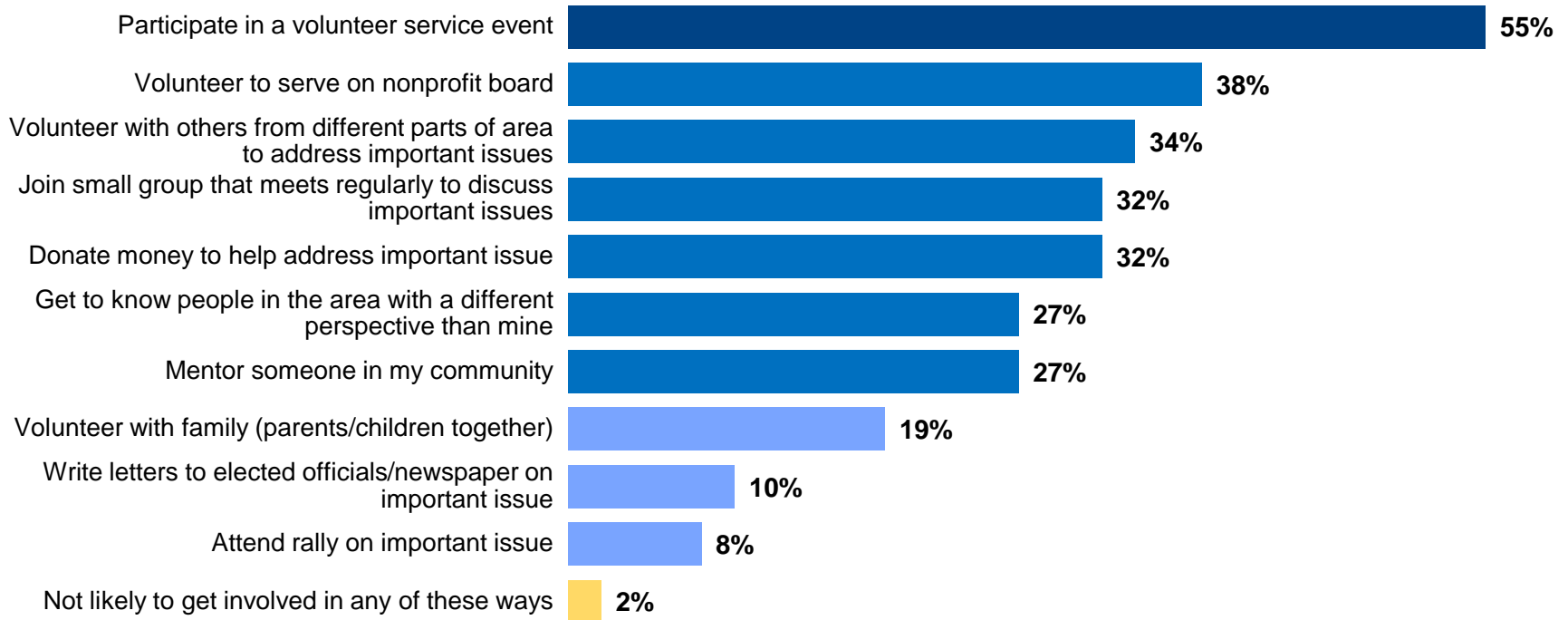
Which TWO of these are the most motivating to you personally as reasons to be involved and engaged in your community?



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Participants are most interested in getting involved by volunteering at a service event, though other activities have appeal to about one in three participants.

In which THREE of these ways would you be most interested in getting involved in your community?

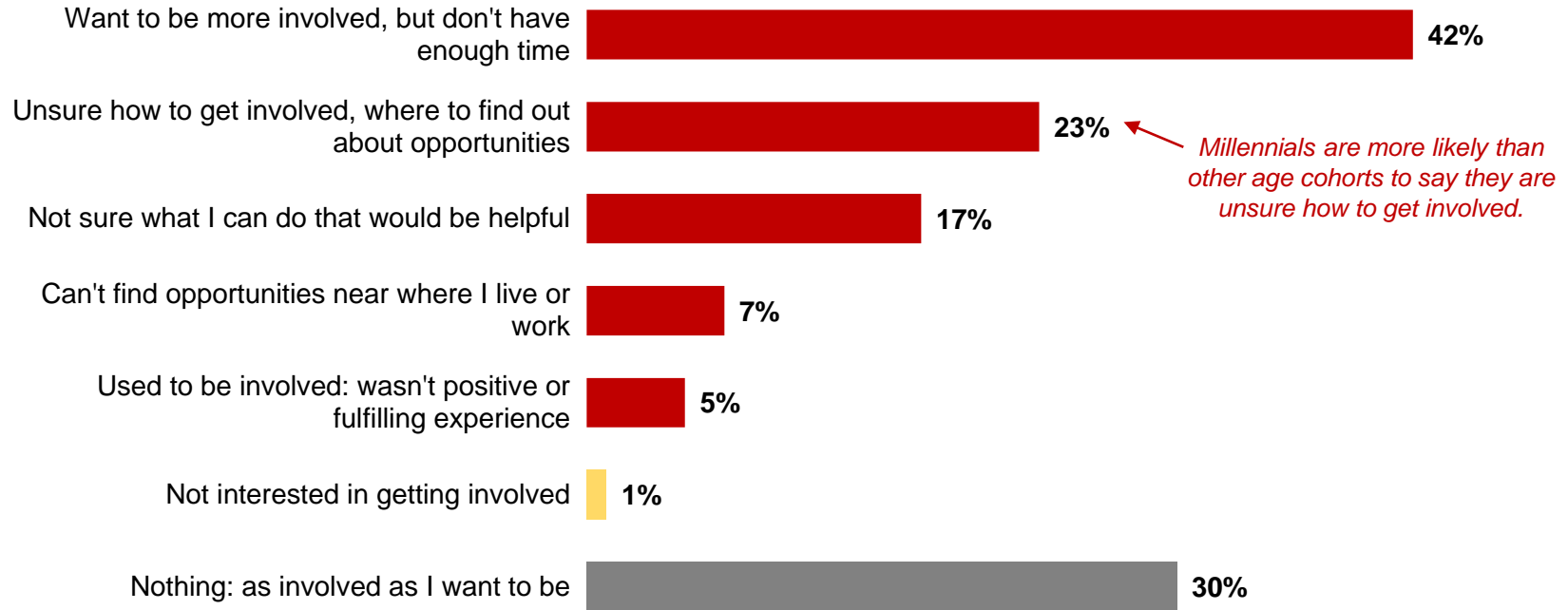


Interest in participating in a volunteer service event decreases somewhat with age.

<i>Ways I would be most interested in getting involved in my community:</i>	All attendees	Age 18 to 34	Age 35 to 49	Age 50 to 64	Age 65/older
Volunteer service event	55%	64%	58%	52%	45%
Serve on nonprofit board	38%	33%	45%	37%	31%
Volunteer with others from different parts of area	34%	32%	35%	34%	35%
Join small group to discuss important issues	32%	32%	30%	31%	38%
Donate money to help address important issue	32%	31%	28%	32%	39%
Get to know people with different perspective	27%	38%	20%	28%	24%
Mentor someone in my community	27%	30%	28%	26%	20%
Volunteer with family (parents/children together)	19%	13%	27%	20%	8%
Write letters to elected officials/newspaper	10%	7%	8%	11%	11%
Attend rally on important issue	8%	9%	5%	8%	13%
Not likely to get involved in any of these ways	2%	1%	1%	3%	5%

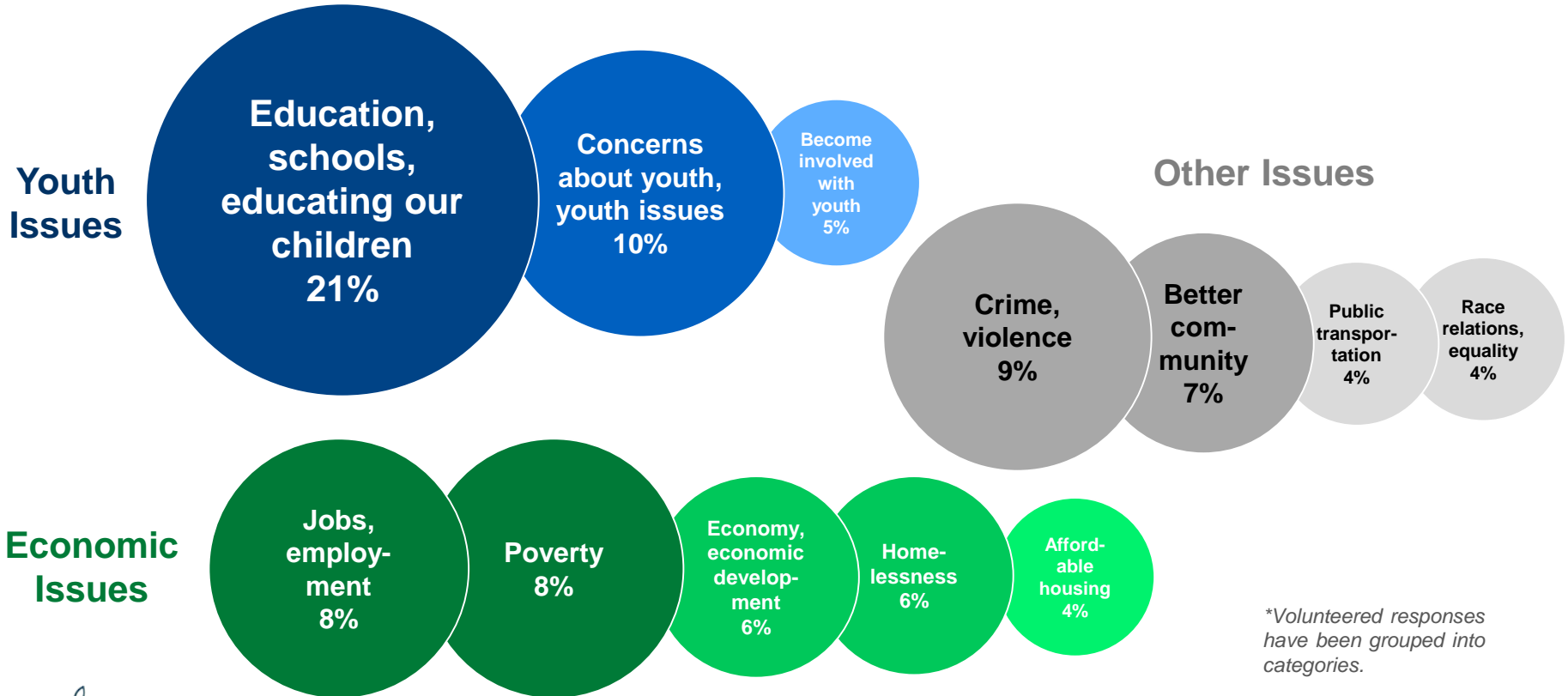
The top barrier to getting more involved is a lack of time.

Which of these, if any, prevent you from getting more involved in addressing issues affecting your community?



Issues Attendees Are Most Likely to Get Involved in Addressing

*What issues in your community are you most likely to get involved in addressing?**



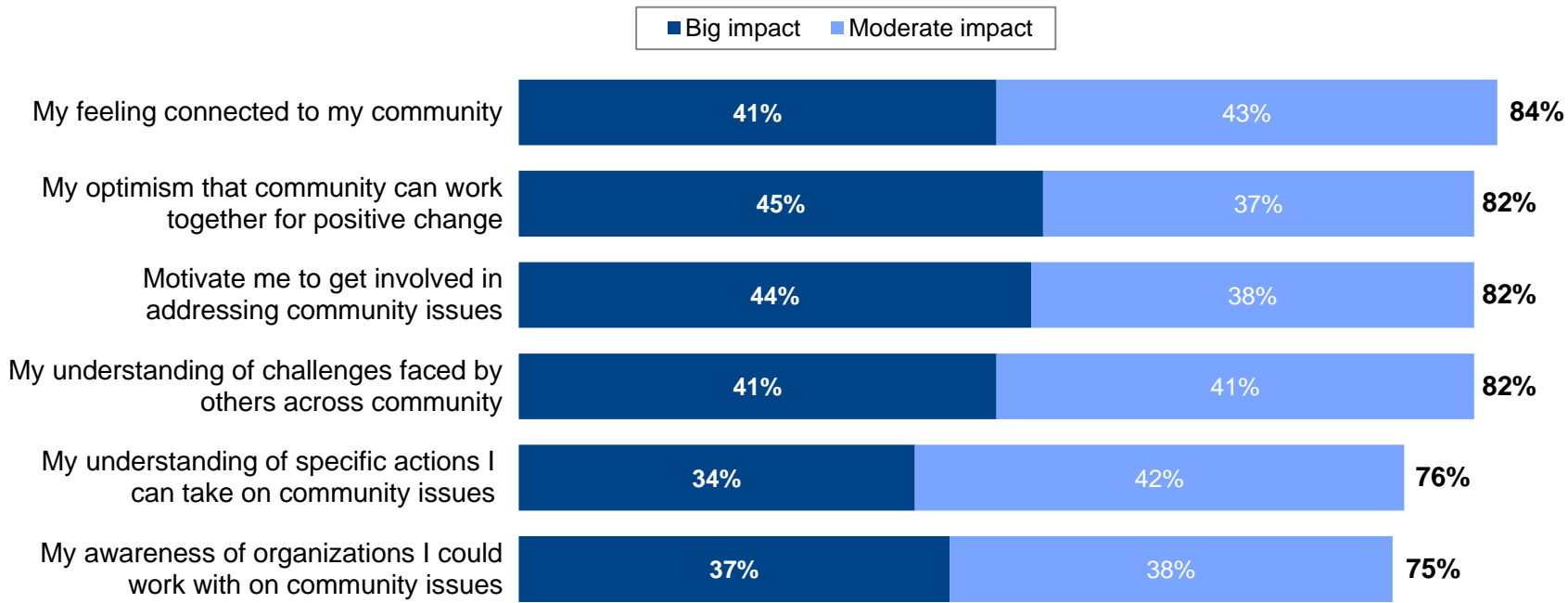
**Volunteered responses have been grouped into categories.*

on the table
your voice matters.

ON THE TABLE
CONVERSATION EXPERIENCE

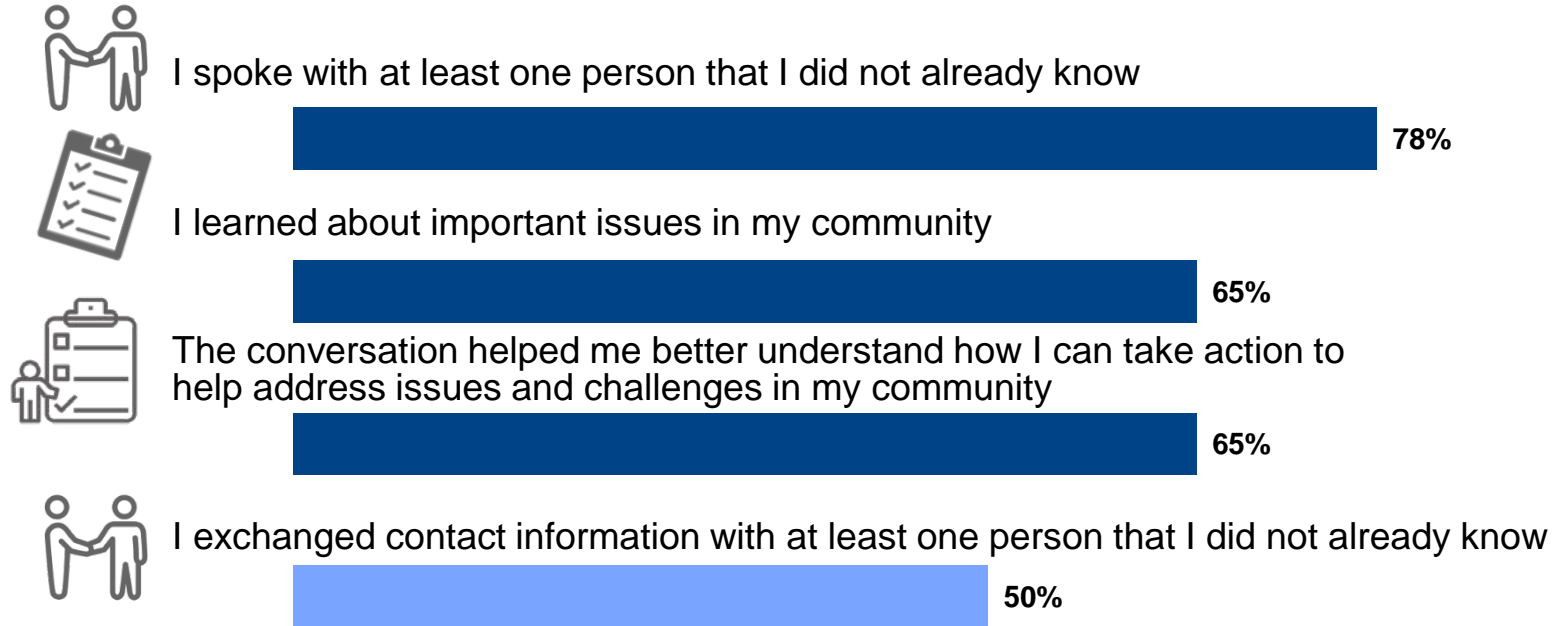
On the Table conversations resulted in sense of connectedness, optimism, motivation, and understanding.

What impact did your recent On The Table conversation have on this for you personally?



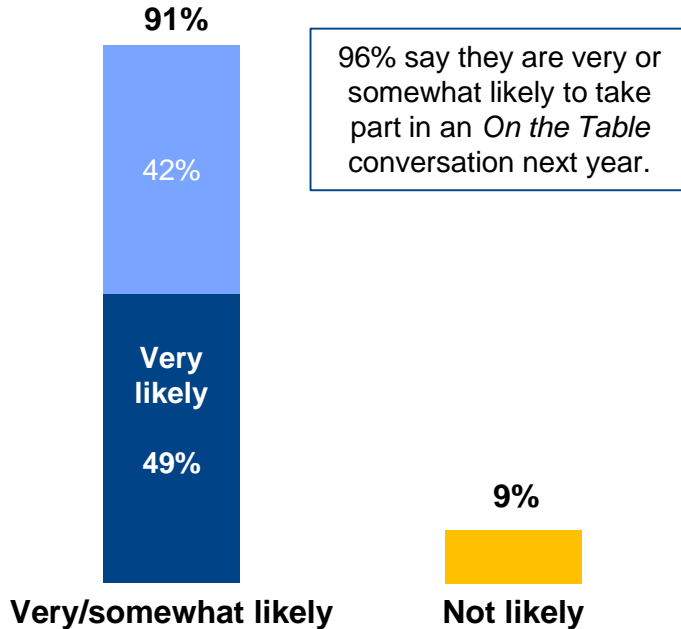
Large proportions of participants say they connected with individuals and gained a better understanding of issues and how to address them from their *OTT* conversation.

Which of these apply to you related to your On the Table experience?



Nine in 10 are likely to take specific actions regarding something they discussed during their *On the Table* conversation.

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



VERY likely to take action	
Age 18 to 34	61%
Age 35 to 49	47%
Age 50 to 64	48%
Age 65/older	46%
Parents	49%
Whites	43%
Participants of color	59%
African Americans	60%
South Muscogee County	59%
Uptown/MidTown	47%
North/East Muscogee County	42%
North Muscogee County	50%
Russell/Lee Counties	47%

Actions Participants Will Take as a Result of *On the Table* Conversation

What specific actions do you plan to take as a result of your conversation?

