

This Voice Of Our Community Study has been developed to help local community leaders and citizens identify the major local patterns. The data that has been captured here can be broadly classified in two categories: (1) The perceptions by the citizens of the community and (2) The numbers that measure the economic facts. The report helps identify the opportunities and the challenges, so that the community can build on what is working. **Our big observation: Major caveat, we only received 21 responses to the survey (the goal was 75).** For a small community, Galva has some very positive economic and community momentum. The leaders in Galva have an incredible opportunity to utilize this momentum to tackle very specific opportunities such as expanding entrepreneurial ecosystem to bring more consumer services to the community, developing stronger community planning capabilities, and engaging more young leaders in the community efforts.

What makes our community special?

The people
How tight-knit it is.
Small but strong leadership in the community
I love how small the Galva Community is and how people come together as one.
A small town where everyone knows who you are and is willing to help you, in times of need.
It's where I grew up and I take pride in knowing we are a growing and thriving community.
An overall clean, tidy, everybody 's-got-your-back community.
Sense of family

Our Most Admired Leaders

Myrna Walline

Former Mayor Wayne Ford

Mr. Little

Justin Reynolds

What Makes Our Community Special?

An overall clean, tidy, everybody's got your back community.

Small town, rural atmosphere - close enough to a lot of things, yet far enough way to keep that small town, rural atmosphere.

Galva is just the cutest little town! Has everything you need, besides a grocery store. McPherson is just a quick drive!

It is such a small town that everyone knows who you are and is willing to help you if you are in a time of need. I love how small the Galva Community is and how people come together as one.

The people are kind and loving. Helpful when disaster strikes, bringing food when loss of loved one, etc

Small but strong leadership in the community

We are a very quiet, small town with quick access to amenities.

THE EQUATION THAT DRIVES COMMUNAL PROGRESS AND PROSPERITY



Our Economy

What opportunity do you see here?

Our Economic Perceptions



Key Economic Observations

Good new:

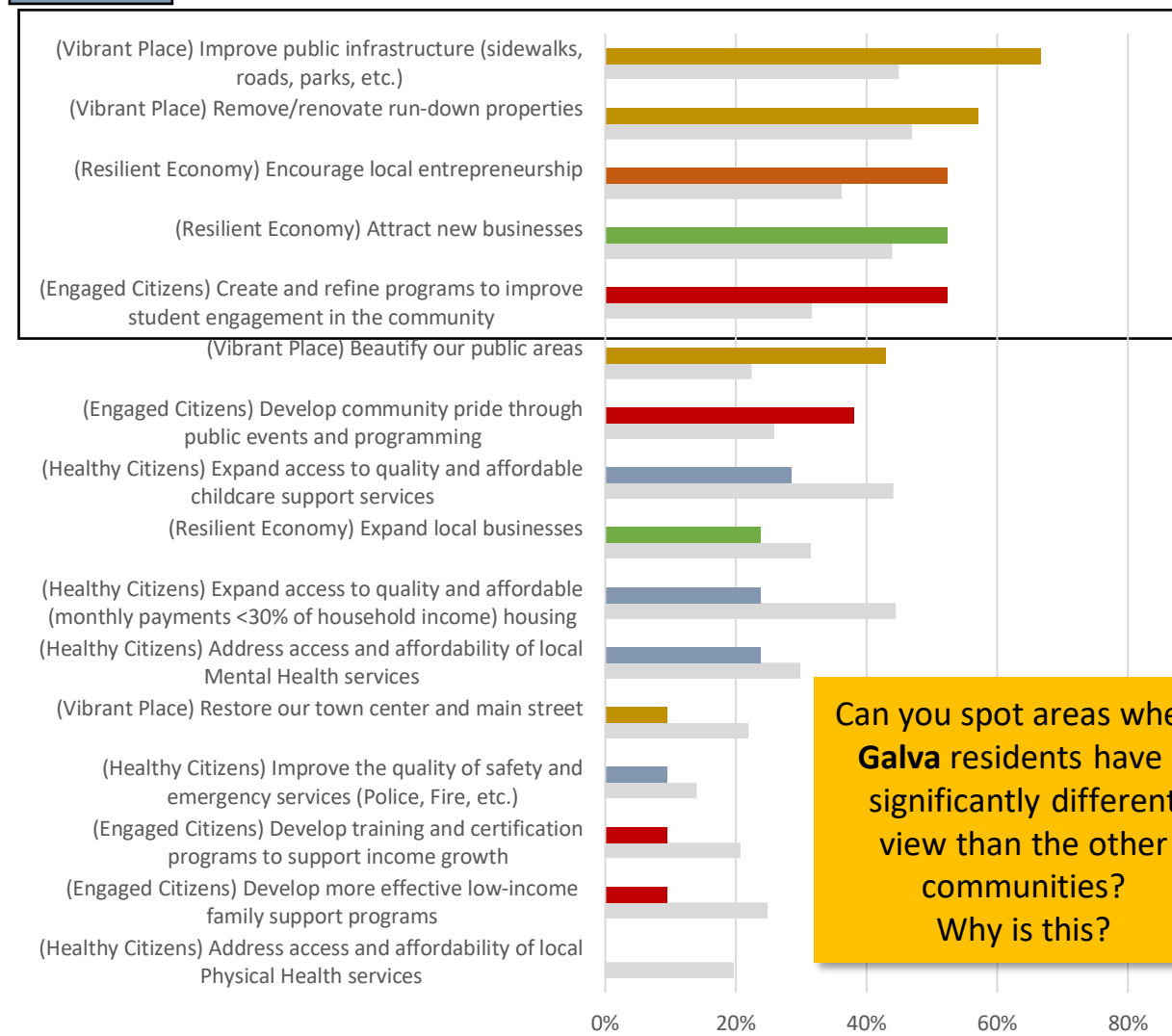
Although a very small community, Galva considers its local business conditions (both current and future) quite favorably.

Bad news:

On the other variables, Galva residents are not as confident about the community's performance. The lowest outlook relates to the future income opportunities in town. This is a critical variable, as this often determines the likelihood of young families moving to town.

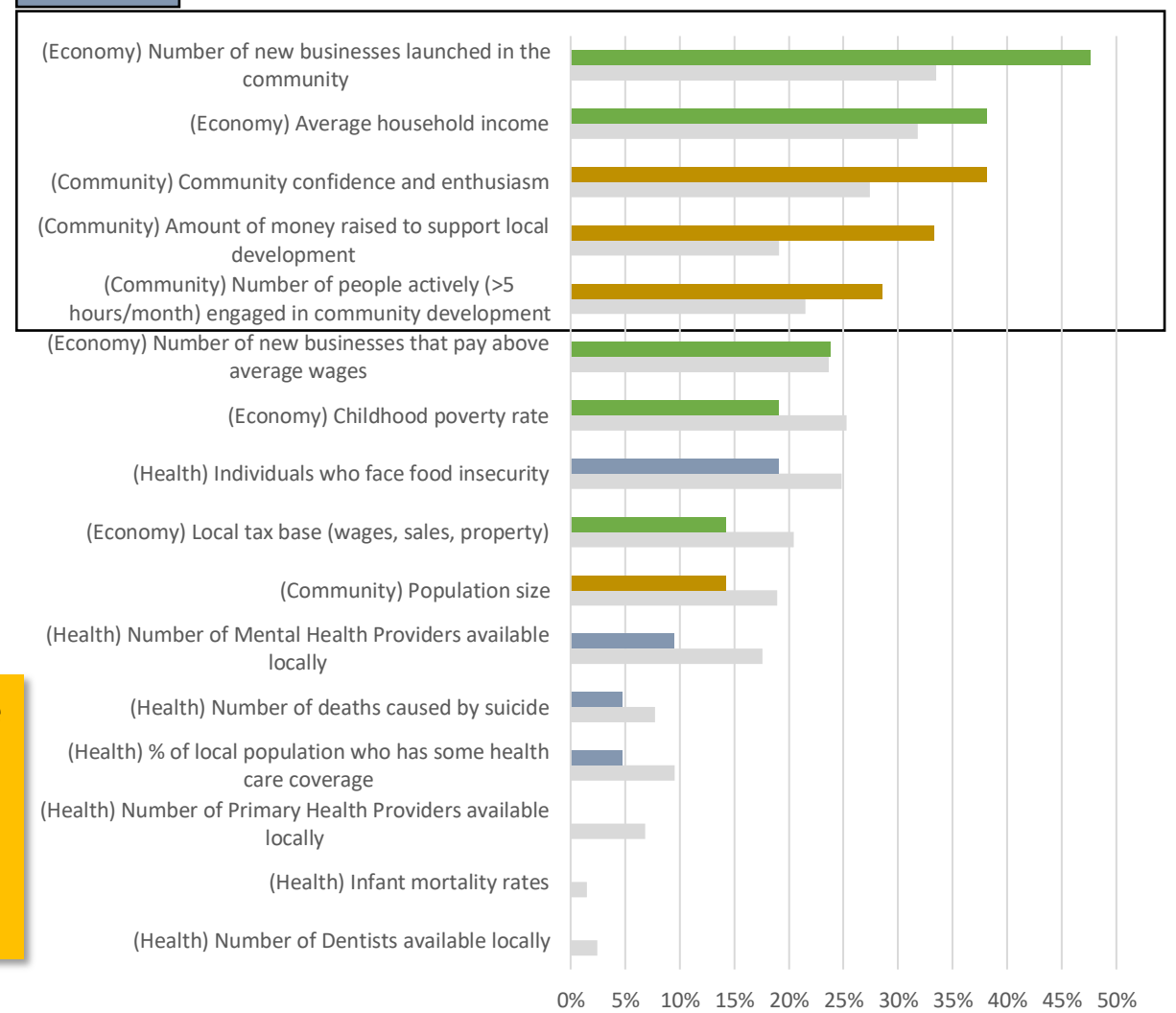
Top 5

Our Priority Programs



Top 5

Our Priority Metrics



Can you spot areas where Galva residents have a significantly different view than the other communities? Why is this?

Health Placemaking Economy People Average McPherson County Score

Key Economic and Community Observations:

Based on the economics of the community, Galva seems to be doing quite well. On a whole host of metrics: Household Income, Unemployment rate, Poverty Rate, Local Jobs, School Graduation Rates, the community seems to be performing quite well. The other metric that we also care about deeply is the local population level and this metric is trending positively.

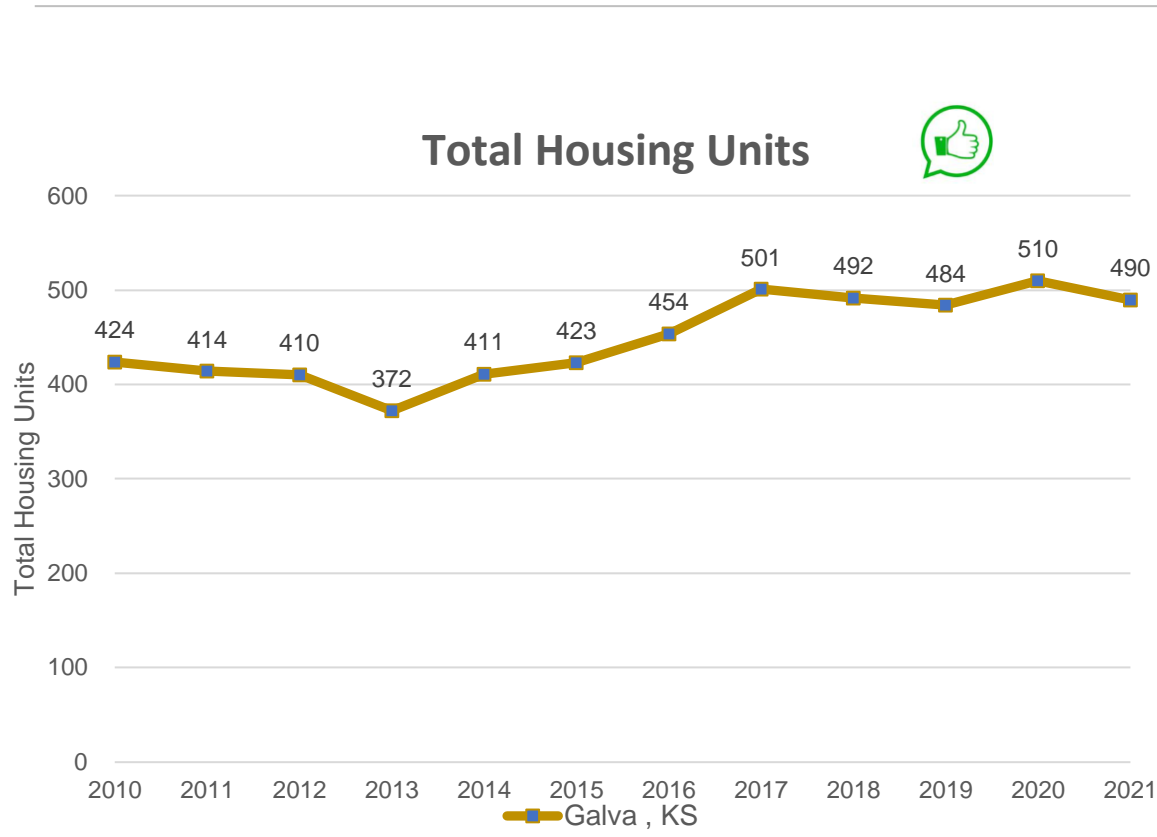
The Galva leadership should utilize this positive momentum to tackle some key opportunities in the community. The citizens have clearly articulated that 'Placemaking' is their most critical priority. Even in comparison to other communities in McPherson County, this priority was flagged as being more important. The other opportunity that the local leadership should consider tackling is catalyzing a few local businesses that can provide key consumer services (see adjacent box).

The Businesses We Would Like To See In Our Town:

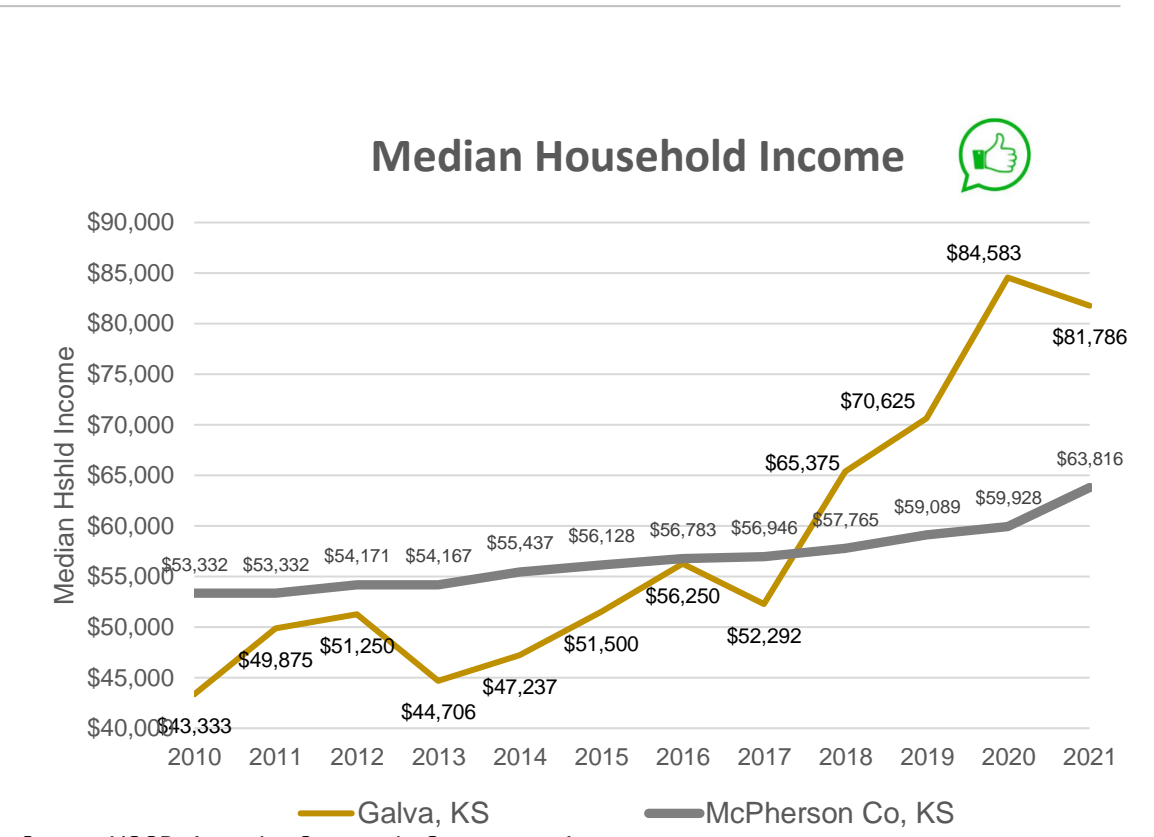
A grocery store, another restaurant, an expanded auto mechanic shop, a convenience store, a clothing store, a Cracker Barrell, another bank

Additional Important Economic Data

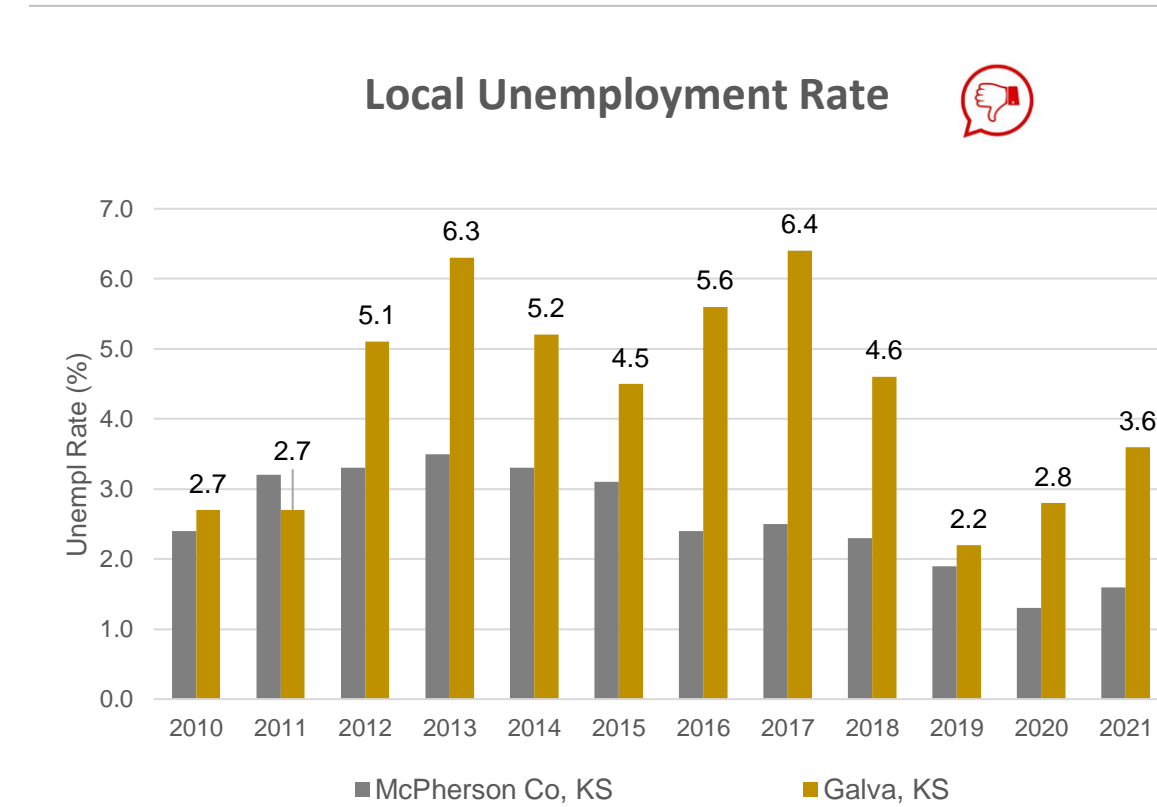
What opportunity do you see here?



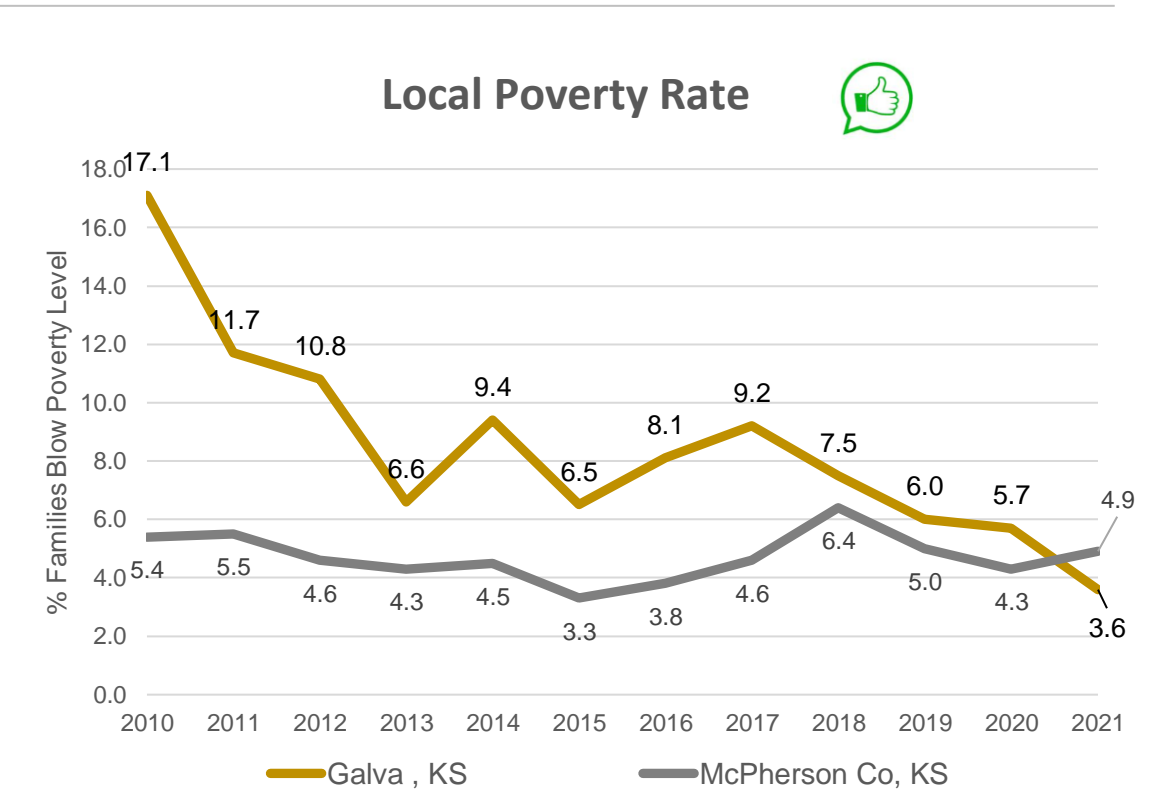
Source: USCB, American Community Survey



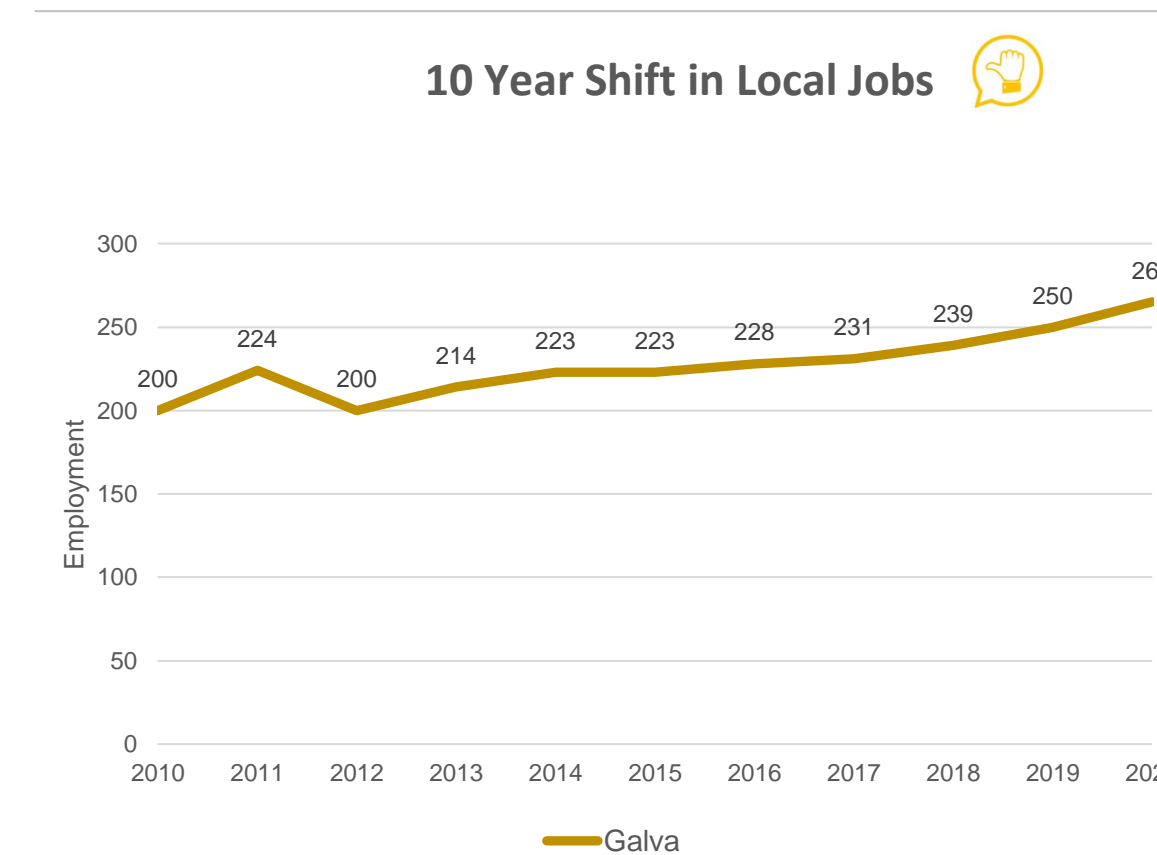
Source: USCB, American Community Survey, 5-yr Avg.



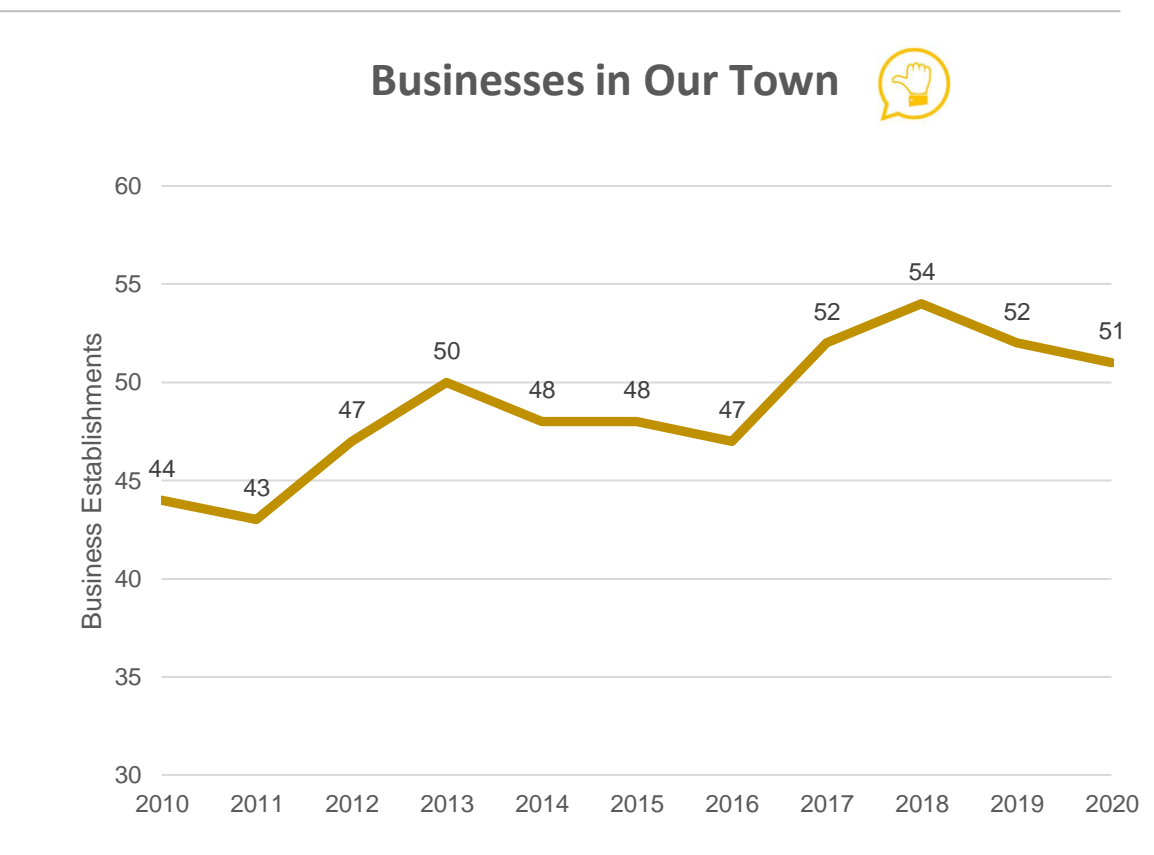
Source: USCB, American Community Survey, 5-Yr Avg.



Source: USCB, American Community Survey



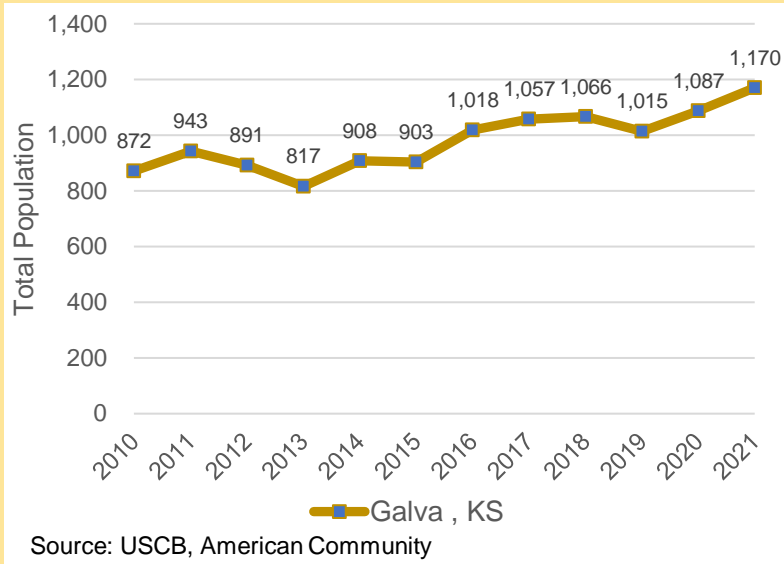
Source: USCB, County Business Patterns By Zip. Data is on zip code basis. on zipcode b



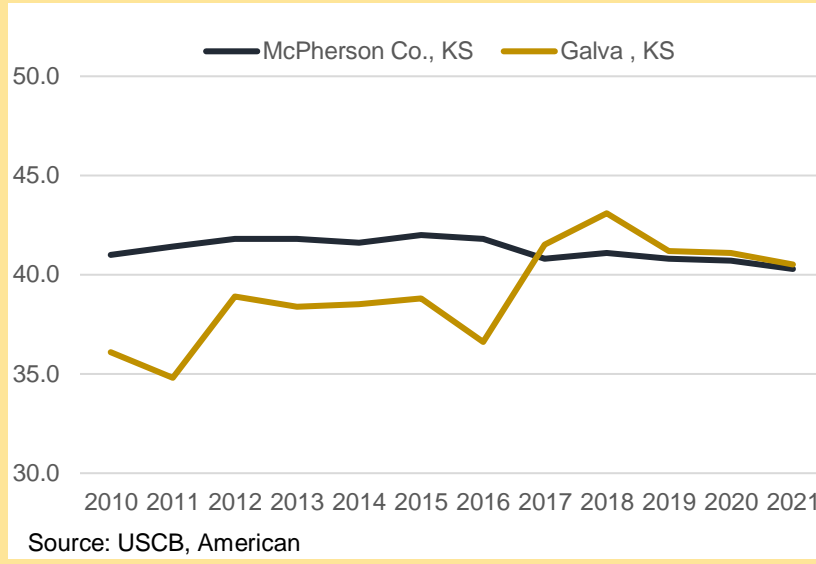
Source: USCB, County Business Patterns By Zip. Data is on zip code basis. on

Our People, Our Pride
What opportunity do you see here?

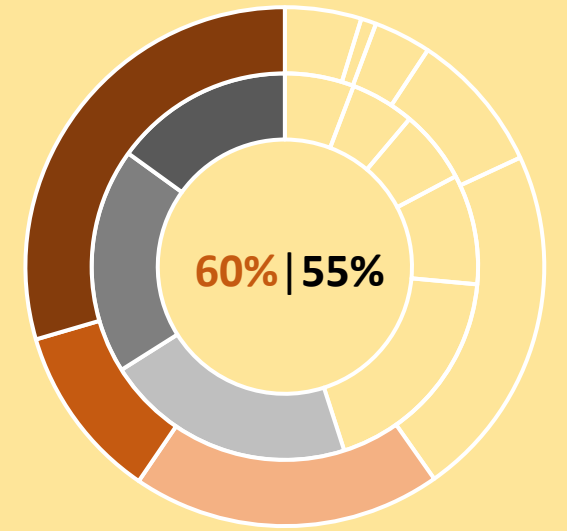
Overall Population Trend



Population Trend by Age



Overall Community Confidence



Data source: US Census

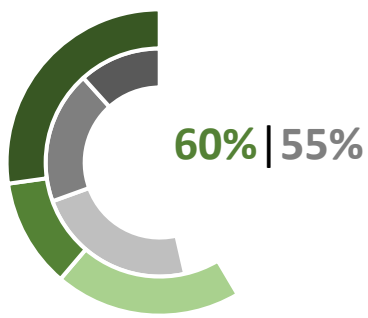
Source: USCB, American Community Survey. 5-yr average.

Data source: Community Survey (Spring 2023)

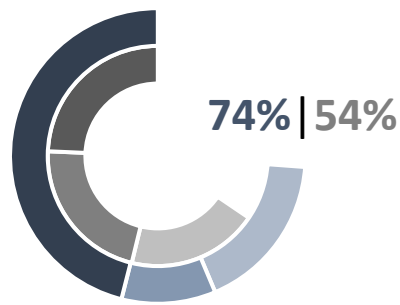
Portion of the community that is highly confident on the listed community dimensions (Rating range: 0-7; Scored >5)

Legend: Town Scores (various colors), Average McPherson County Score (grey)

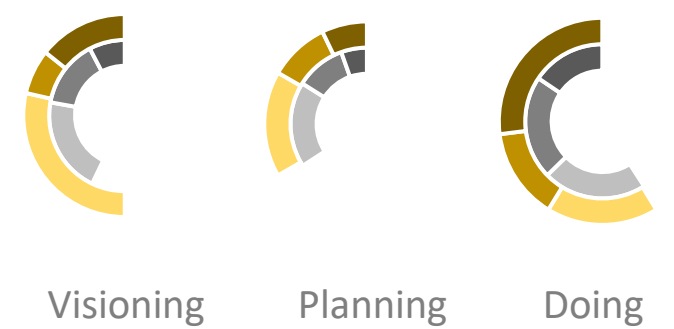
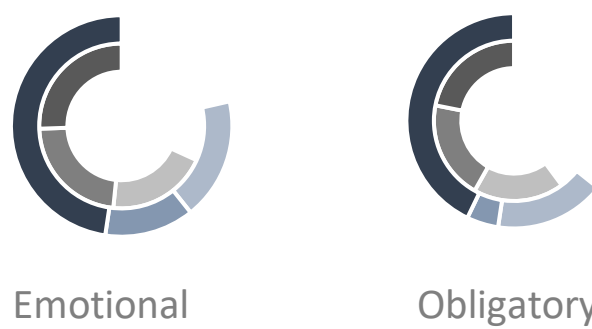
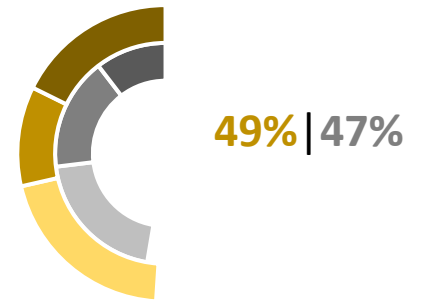
Collaborative Leadership



Citizen Commitment



Community Vision



The residents of Galva's perceptions are generally at par with the other communities. What additional steps can be taken here?

This is an area where Galva shines. The local commitment that residents show towards their community is exemplary.

While Galva's ratings are above the McPherson average, this is an area where the local leadership should exert more effort.

OVERALL COMMUNITY PERCEPTION

Galva residents generally hold their community in a higher regard than the average McPherson County resident. The biggest areas of strength for the community are the Commitment that the citizens show towards their community, especially the Emotional Connection/Commitment. The next area of strength is the Trust that the citizens have for their local leaders. These two areas are an incredible area of strength for a community and is the strong foundation that can enable progress. The biggest opportunity for the community is in its ability to better Plan its future path. This seems to be a critical challenge across the County.

Challenges identified by local citizens:

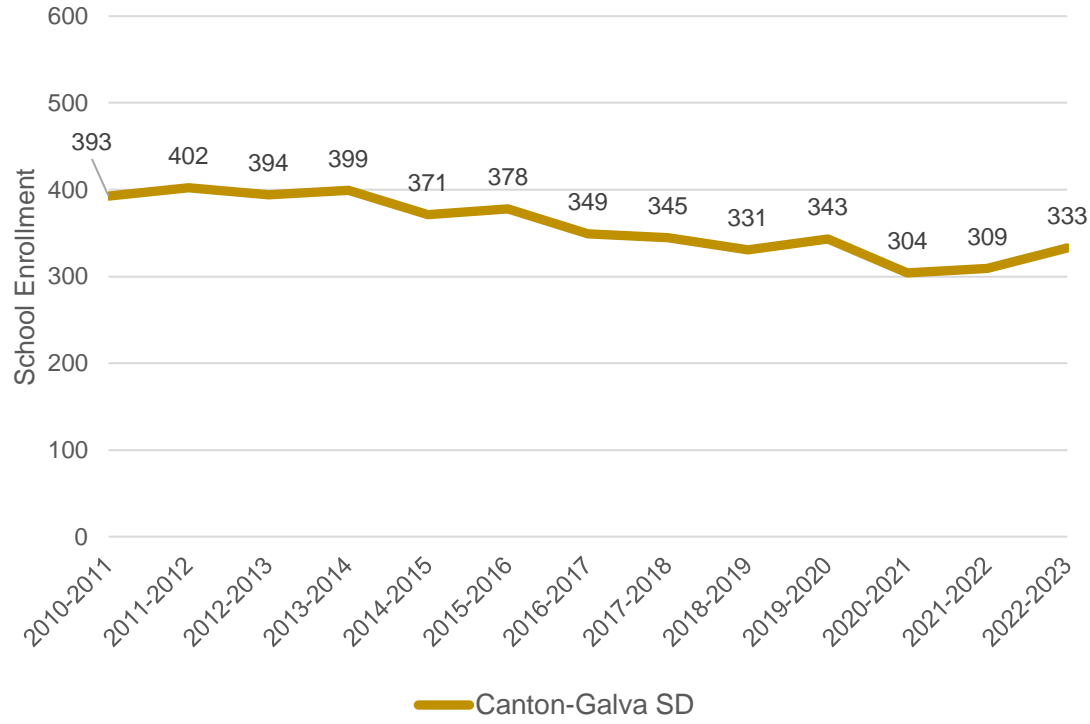
Housing Development
Affordable quality housing, property improvement

Economic Development
A retail tax generator

Key Community Metrics

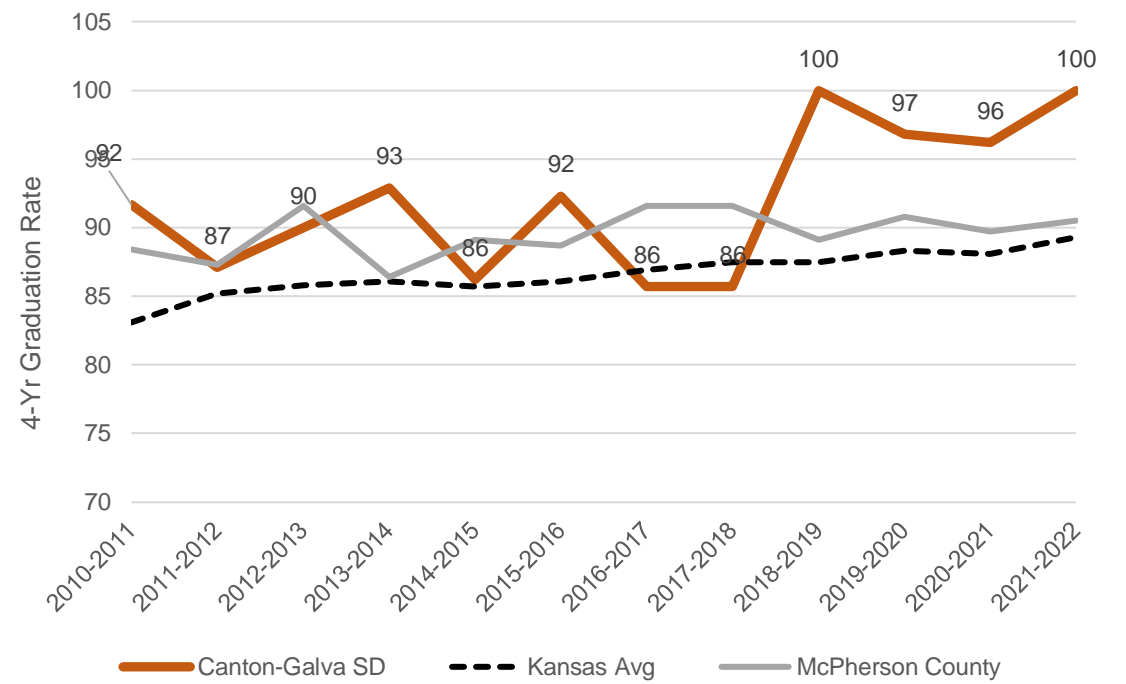
What opportunity do you see here?

Local School Enrollment



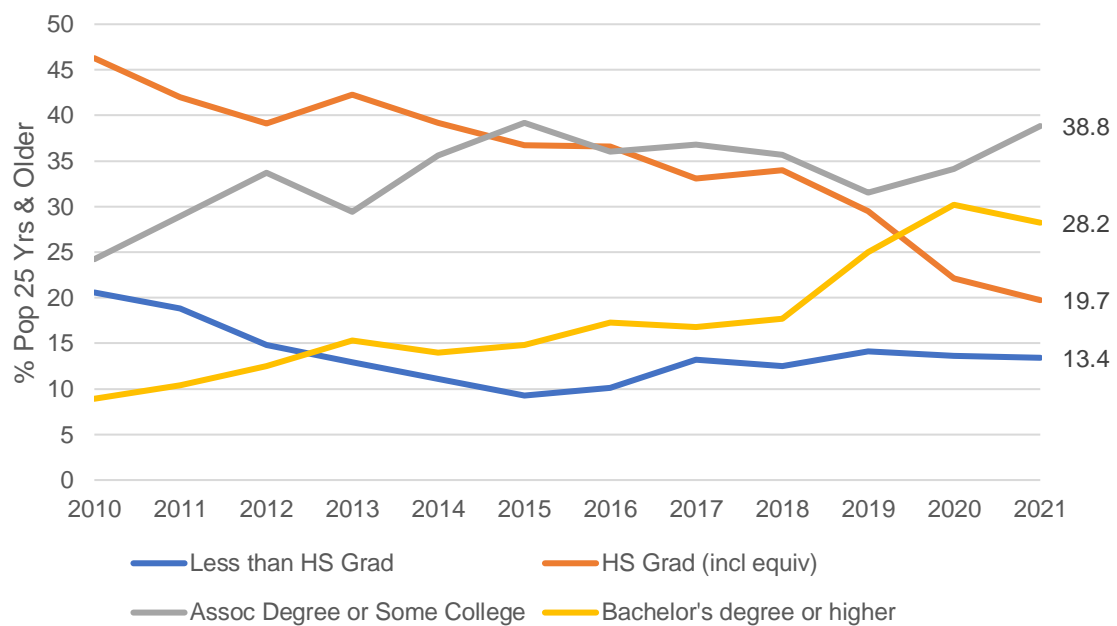
Source: Kansas State Dept of Education, Data Central

High School 4 Year Graduation Rate



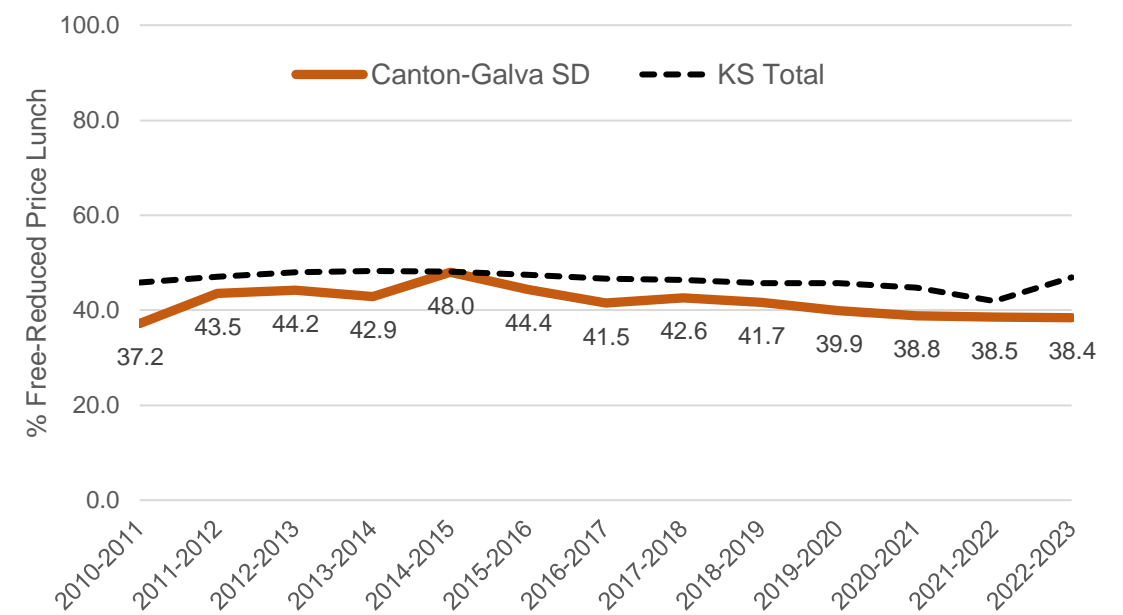
Source: Kansas State Dept of Education, Data Central

Local Educational Level



Source: USCB, American Community Survey, 5-yr Avg.

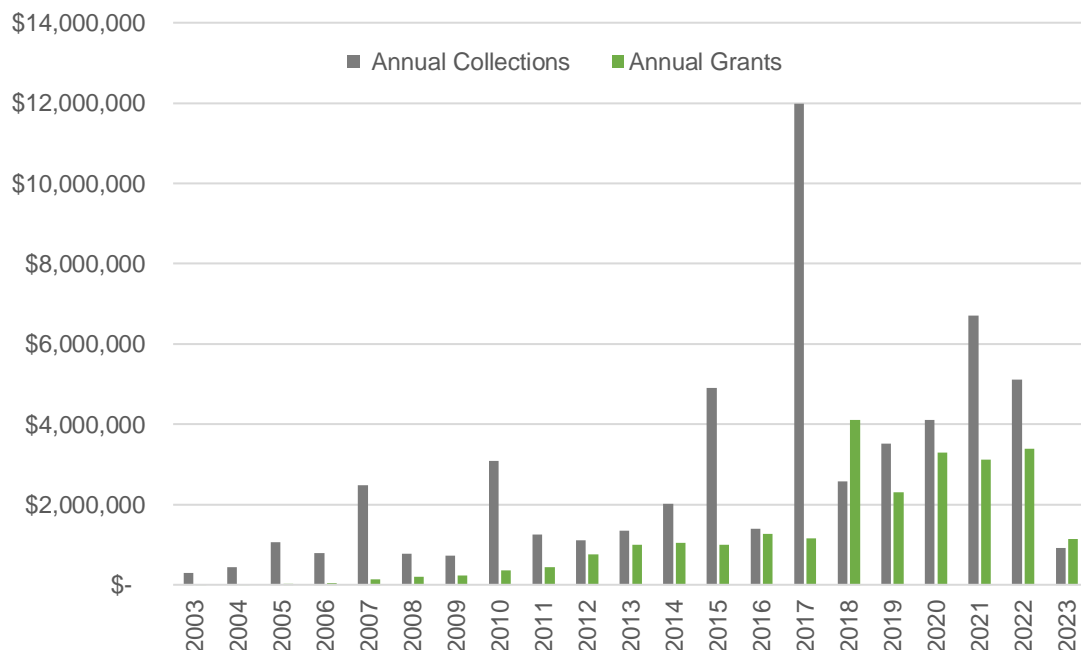
School District % Free-Reduced Price Lunch



Source: Kansas State Dept of Education, Data Central

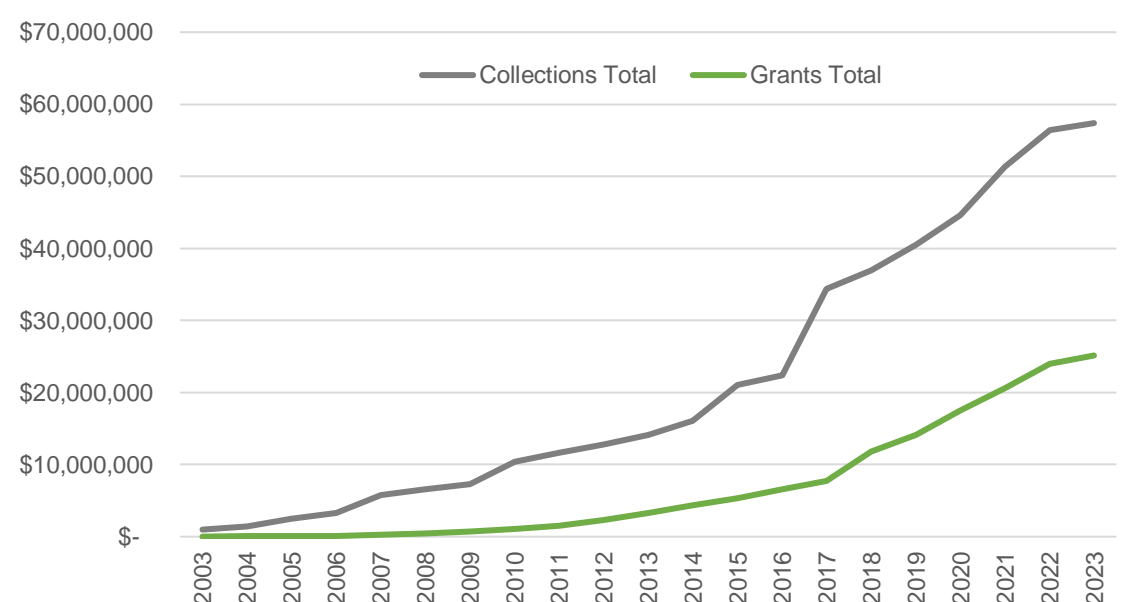
Community Foundation

Annual Dollars Raised and Invested



Source: McPherson County Community Foundation, 2023

Total Dollars Raised and Invested



Who Responded to the Survey

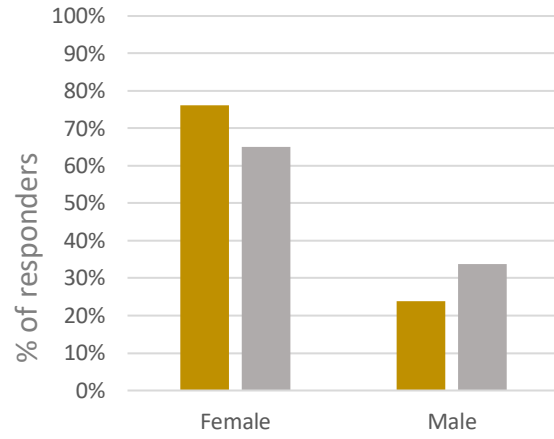
What opportunity do you see here?

Number of people:



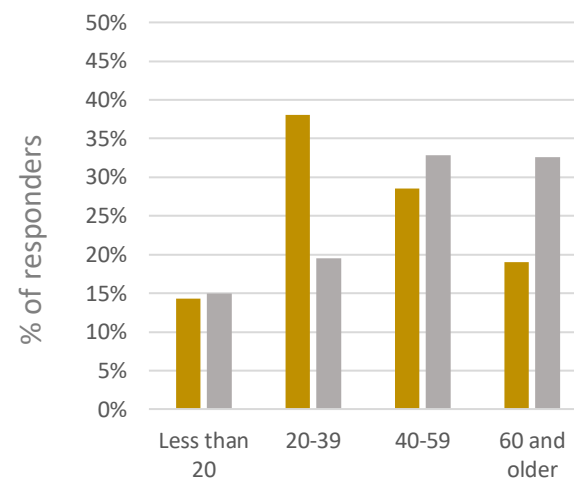
Given that we only received 21 responses to the survey, this report is not statistically significant. But the report can be used as a directional guide.

Gender:



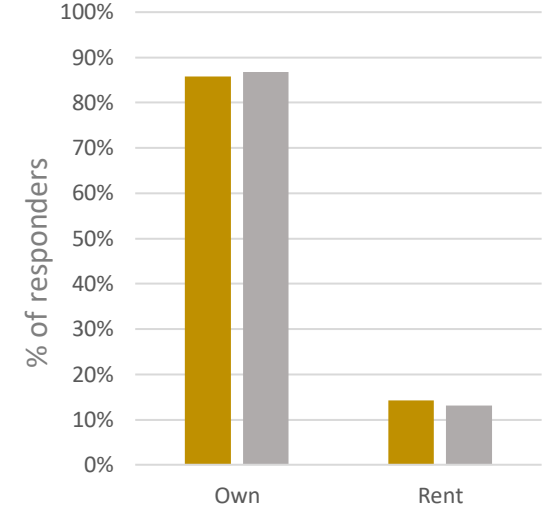
5 Males | 16 Females
Males generally had far better perceptions of the community's economy. Females would like to see more entrepreneurship programs.

Age Profile:



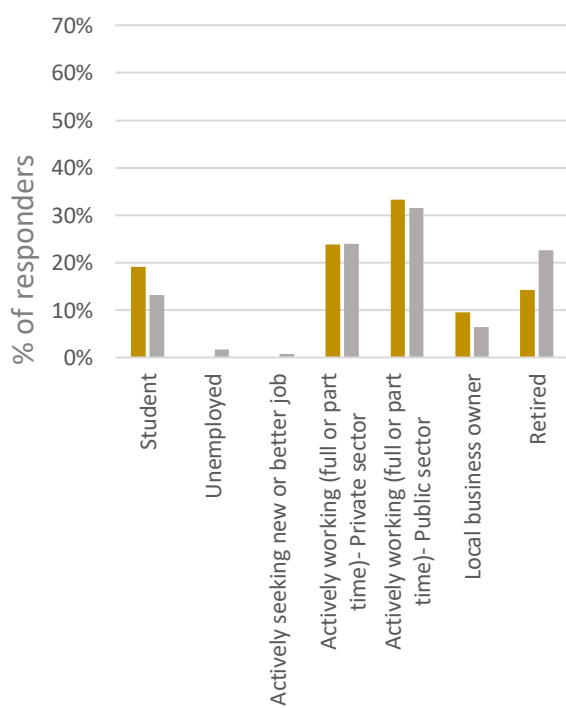
The oldest population have the highest general community confidence and the youngest have the lowest. Although, when it comes to the confidence in the future economy of the community, the trend is exactly reverse.

Residential Status:



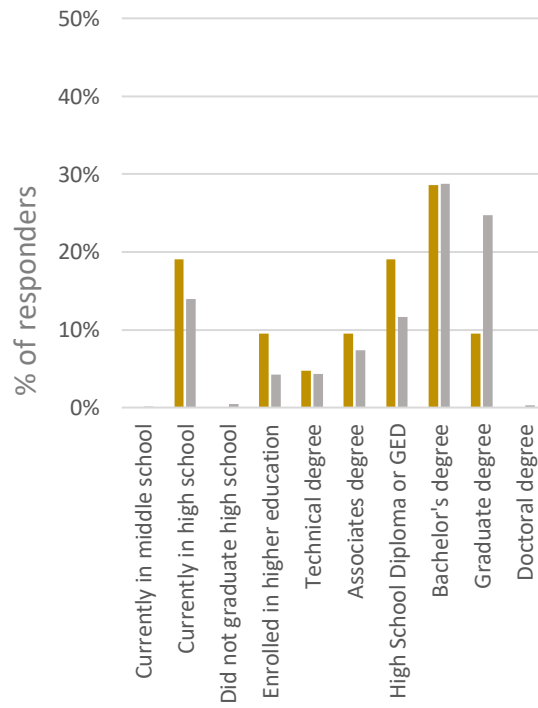
3 Renters | 18 Owners
Renters are flagging the need for quality and affordable housing and need for mental health services. Owners would like to see more community engagement.

Occupation:



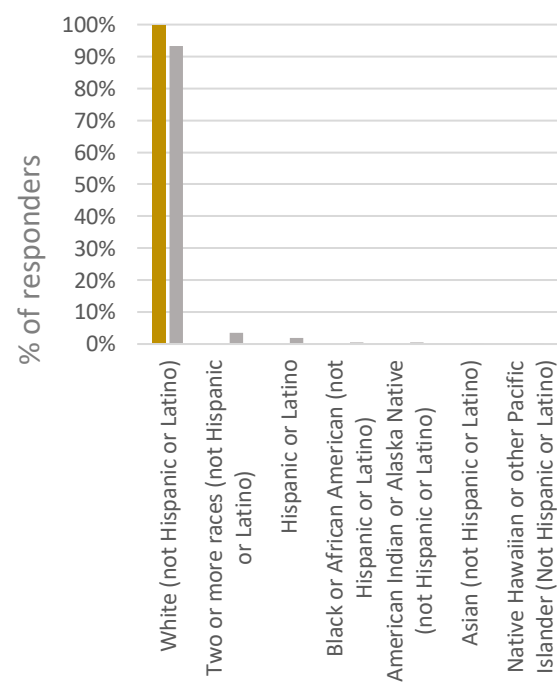
Retired residents have high community confidence, and the students have the lowest. On the Economic Confidence the feedback is reversed.

Education Status:



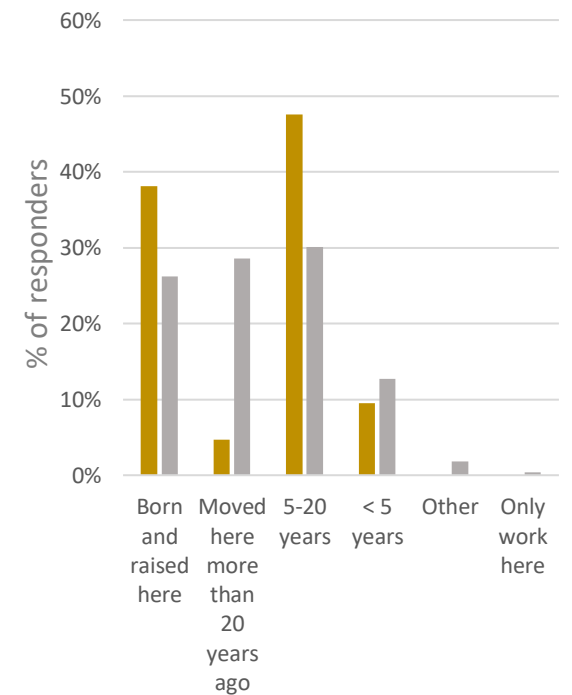
Residents who have the highest education also tend to have the highest perception of the community.

Ethnicity:



Not enough data to analyze.

Duration of Residence:



Not enough data to analyze.

 Town Score
 Average McPherson County Score

Number of people who expressed an interest in volunteering to better the community: **3 of 21 (7%)**