



MCPHERSON COUNTY
**Community
Foundation**

2025 Community Benchmark Report City of Galva, KS

Be The Movement!

Connect with local changemakers, local
community projects, resources & grants,
and much more.

www.mcphersonfoundation.org



Innovation Economy Partners
OUR FOCUS: IMPACT AND OUTCOMES

Betsy Davis | betsy@mcphersonfoundation.org

What Makes Our Community Special?

"Very small tight knit community."

"Everything is going to be strong"

Joseph

"Our community seems to take a lot of pride in our school system - I appreciate that as I think a strong school helps maintain a strong community. I think the city does a good job of keeping our community clean and presentable which makes it really welcoming and inviting for new families to move to town. Its a strong choice with just a 5 minute commute to McPherson!"

"the community is really generous and thoughtful. any time someone is in need everyone helps."

Peyton

"We are very active in our Senior Center with a lot of people using our Center. We are very friendly in Galva and always have been."

Kay

"Small safe community. Where you check on your neighbors and your neighbors check on you!"

"Strong sense of family, supportiveness, and welcoming. It is important to the community of Galva to always be improving their community."

"A lot of people know each other and will help when kids are in need"

Kassidy

"Small, quiet and simple. Grew up here and love the school classroom size."

Janelle

"Galva is a very unique town, from the massive church crowds every Sunday to the ballpark games you can hear from any corner in the town it's like a movie. Everyone is nice to each other and there's never any crime. It's a safe, quiet, and amazing place to live."

Sheperd

The Leaders That Make Our Community Special

arlo unrüh
myrna walline
linda andersen
bob andersen
dennis brucker
scot loyd
eric norstrom
sue vogts
sandy blair
richard baldwin
naomi ford
staci curl
tina anderson
kay arthaud
mr fast jen orth

Executive Summary:

Galva stands at a crossroads: economic confidence has fallen, yet residents still believe in their leaders and the town's future—vision and leadership trust are up even as commitment wanes. Deep loyalty anchors your community, and investment willingness remains above average despite broad negativity. No single program unites the majority, highlighting a moment ripe for honest dialogue about shared priorities: boosting job opportunities, enhancing public spaces, supporting families through housing and childcare, and nurturing entrepreneurs. By convening “Galva Together” forums, leveraging leadership credibility, and designing multi-benefit initiatives, you can transform cautious optimism into collective action and ignite a renewed chapter of growth and belonging.

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Economic Confidence

Economic perceptions fell into the red, yet investment willingness rose above regional norms—an opportunity to ignite small-business and workforce initiatives.

pg **6 - 9**

Community Engagement Confidence

Commitment dipped 10%, but trust in leadership and vision rose; deep loyalty and newcomer welcome signal strong relational assets.

pg **10 - 12**

Critical Community Priorities

Program priorities are evenly split—economy, public spaces, childcare, and housing all matter—calling for integrated, multi-benefit projects.

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Survey Respondent Profile

The Community Benchmarking report has been commissioned by McPherson Community Foundation to help local residents gain a better understanding of the most pressing opportunities that the local towns face. The annual reports that are generated will help leaders determine the extent to which the efforts are having an impact on the local residents. The reports are also a way for the the various towns in McPherson County to pursue grants to help further their local efforts.

**Local leaders can use this framework to help inspire change.
This report provides the clues on what the fellow residents are craving.**



Confidence In Our Local Economy

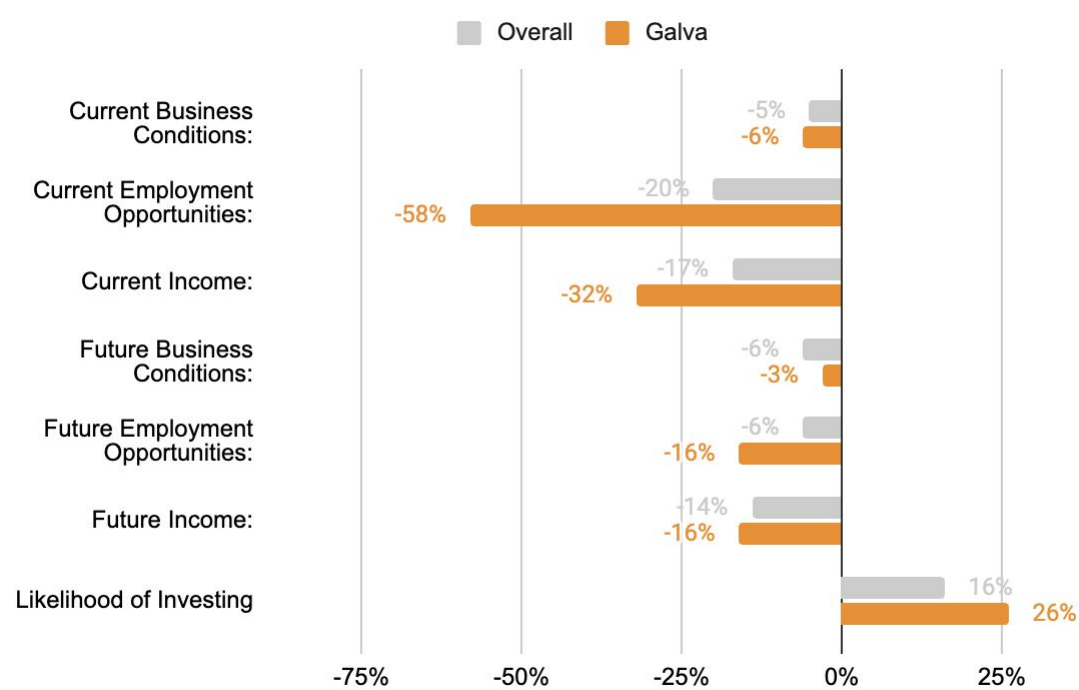
Economic Summary:

While economic perceptions across Galva dipped sharply in 2025—current business, jobs, and income confidence are all negative—residents still display a surprising willingness to invest (26% vs. 16% regional). Future outlooks, though higher than current ratings, remain in the red, revealing cautious optimism amid tangible challenges. The most critical shortfall is faith in today's job market (-58%), signaling a need for workforce development and employer incentives. Yet the community's above-average investment intent offers a unique lever: targeted small-business grants, childcare support, and housing pilots could channel that willingness into measurable growth and renewed economic vitality.

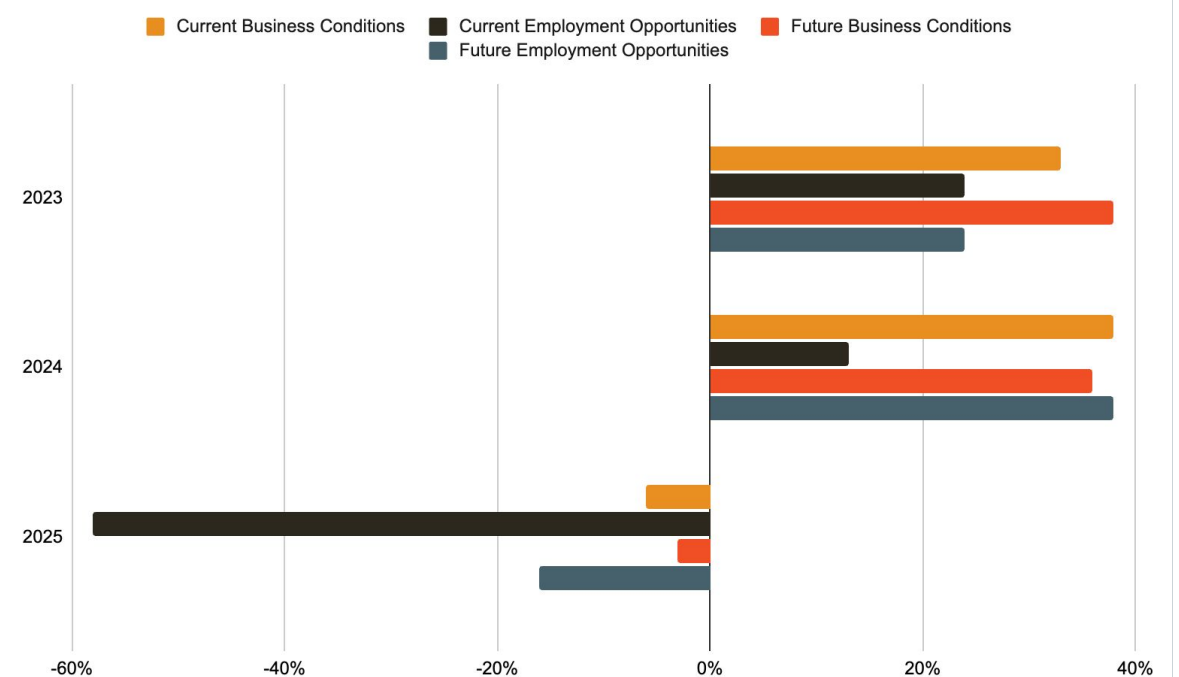
Businesses Needed In Our Town:

- Grocery store** – full grocery with fresh produce for local needs
- Restaurants** – varied local dining to boost community identity
- Entertainment venues** – permanent spaces for events and gatherings
- Convenience store with fuel** – true one-stop shop accepting cash
- Community events** – larger celebrations like picnics and food truck festivals
- Walmart** – full retail to expand shopping options locally
- Library** – public reading and learning space for all ages
- Fitness/Rec Center** – facility for sports and community health activities
- Childcare** – reliable services for working families' peace of mind
- Rental homes** – more housing options to retain and attract residents

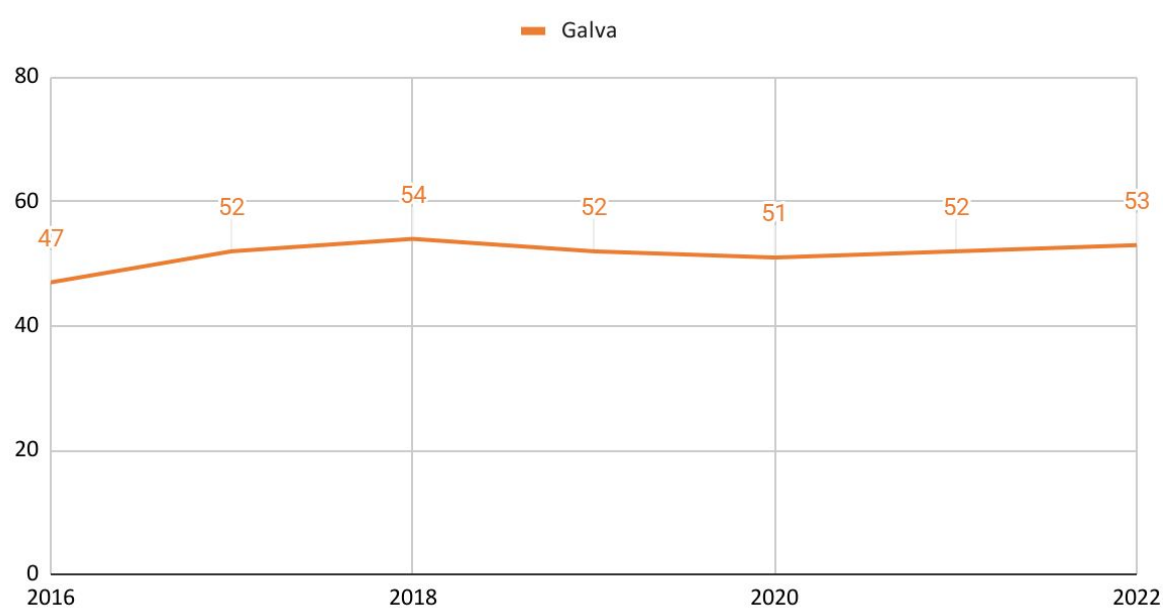
Our Economic Perceptions



Year Over Year Change (2023 vs 2025)

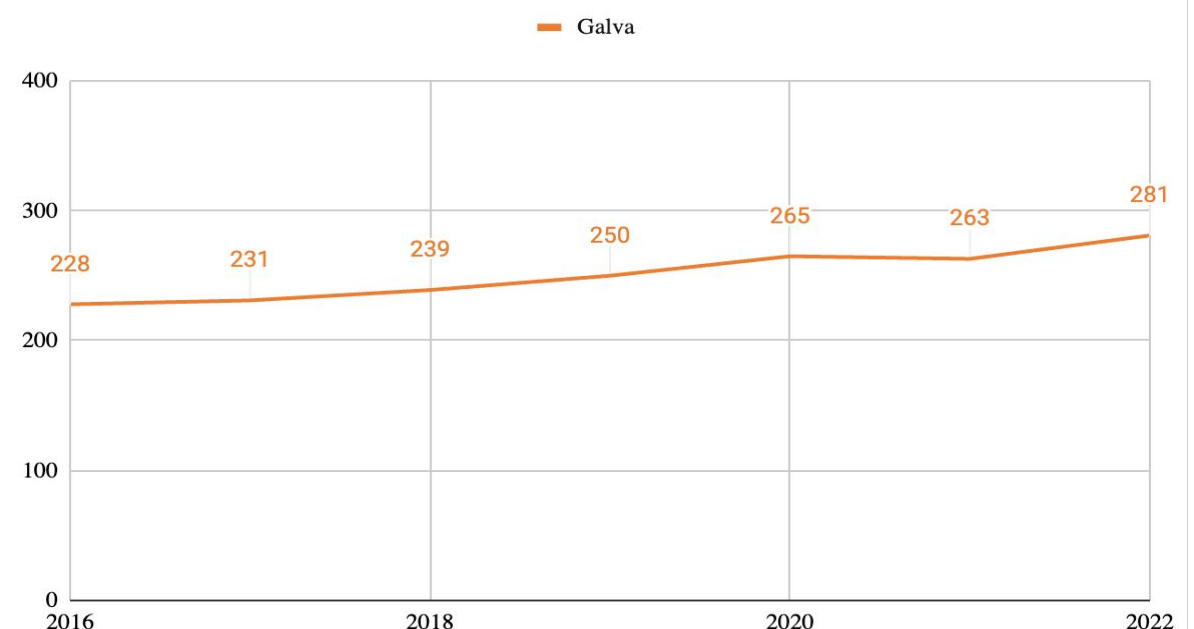


Businesses in Our Town



Data source:USCB, County Business Patterns

10 Year Shift in Local Jobs

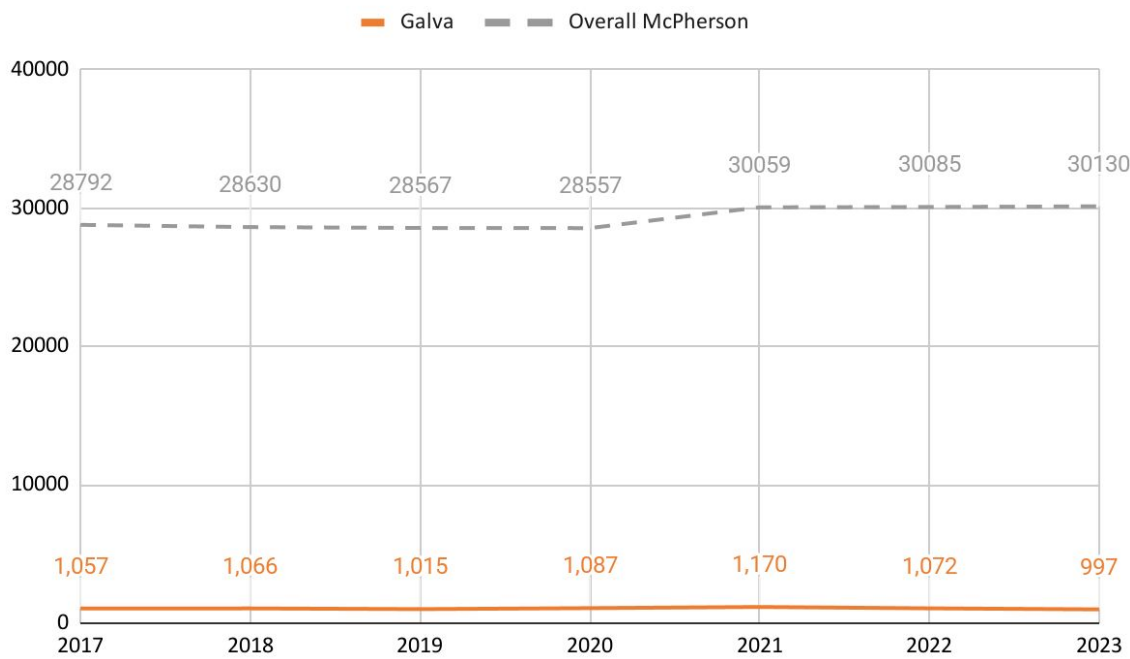


Data source:USCB, County Business Patterns

Local Economic Indicators



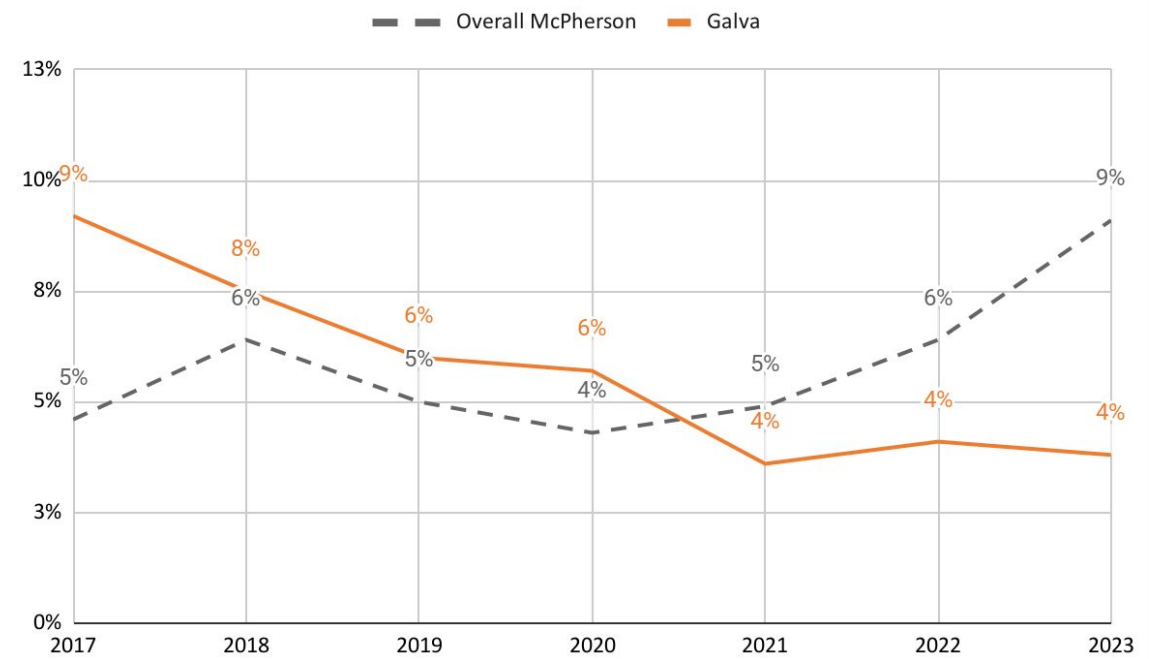
Overall Population Trend



Data source:USCB, ACS 5-Yr Avg



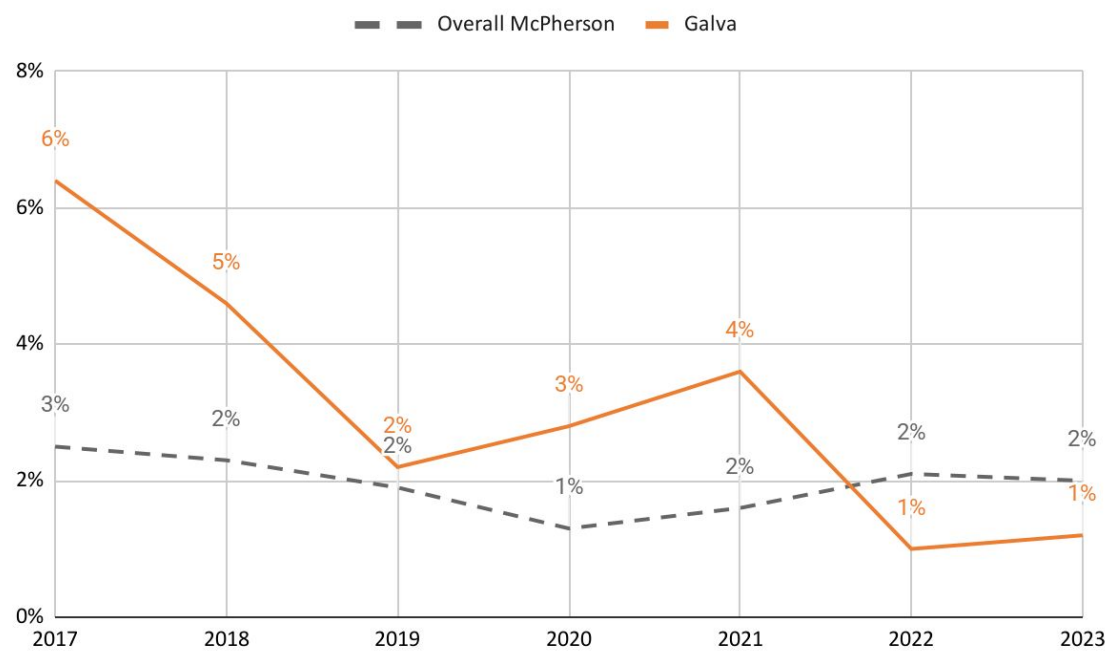
Local Poverty Rate



Data source:USCB, American Community Survey, 5-Yr Avg, DP03



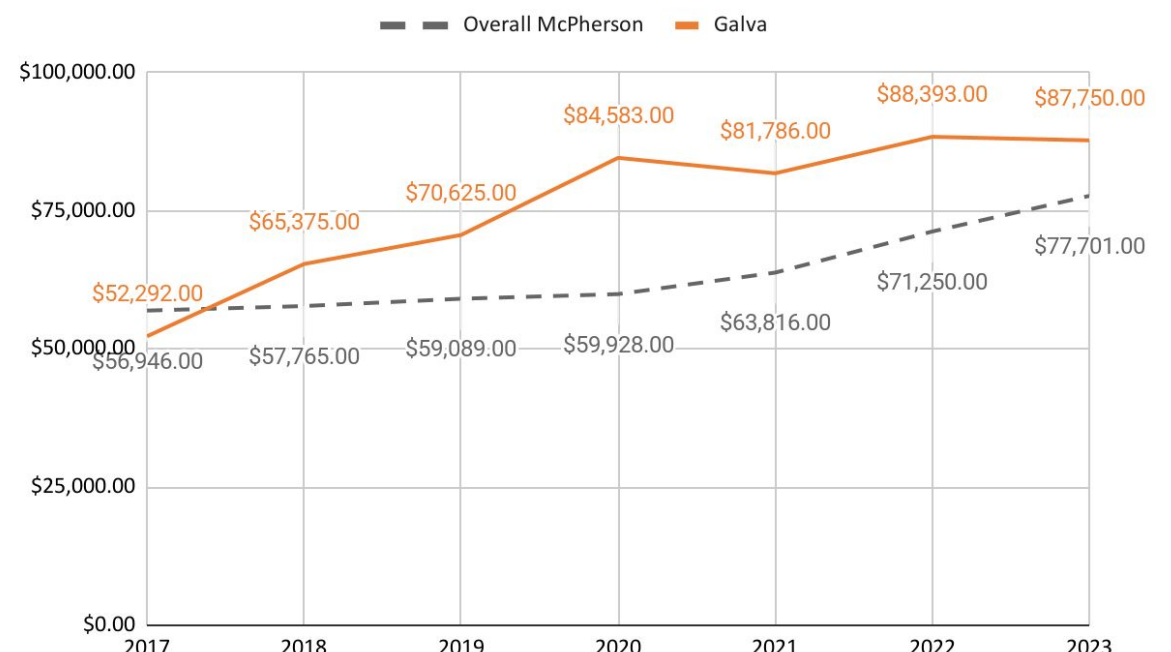
Local Unemployment Rate



Data source:USCB, American Community Survey, 5-Yr Avg, DP03



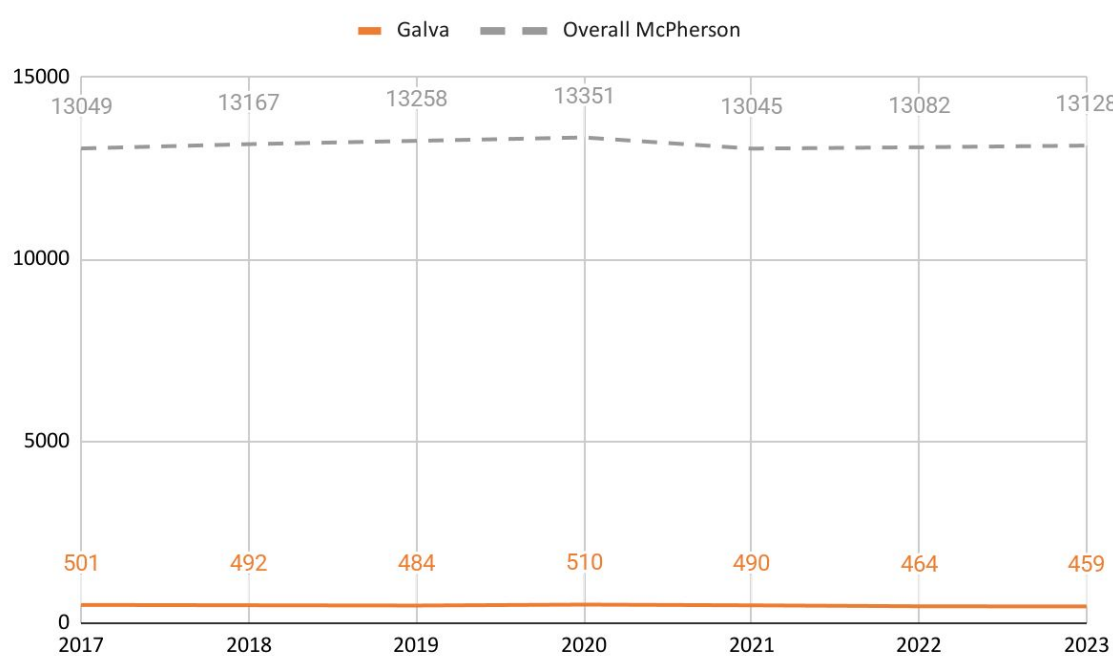
Median Household Income



Data source:USCB, American Community Survey, 5-Yr Avg, DP03



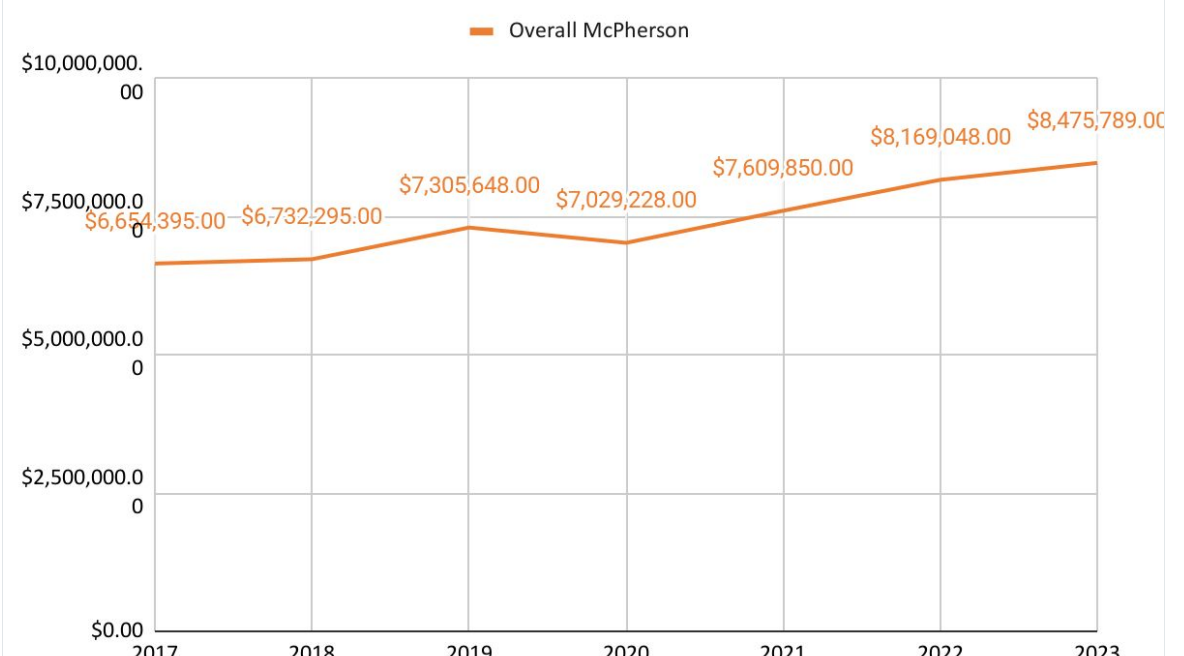
Total Housing Units



Data source:USCB, ACS 5-Yr Avg



Annual Sales Tax Collection



Data source:Kansas Dept of Revenue

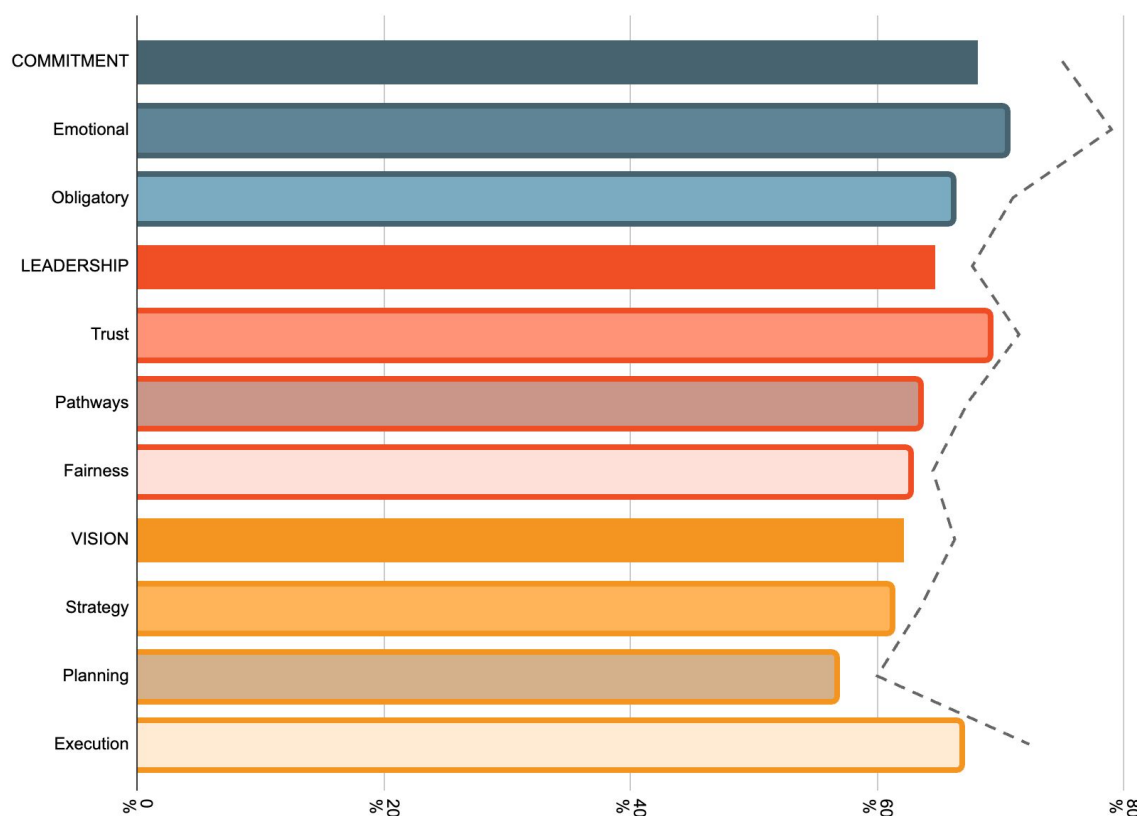
Confidence In Our Local Community

Engagement Summary:

Galva's sense of belonging and loyalty remains strong—76% would happily stay long-term and 71% feel deep loyalty—even as overall commitment confidence fell by roughly 10%. In contrast, vision and leadership confidence rose year-over-year, suggesting that residents may be questioning their personal stake but are still inspired by local leadership and the community's strategic direction. Notably, newcomers feel welcome (70%) and decision-making fairness ranks high, outperforming peer towns. These dynamics point to powerful relationships and credible leadership—assets to be harnessed as you rebuild broader commitment.



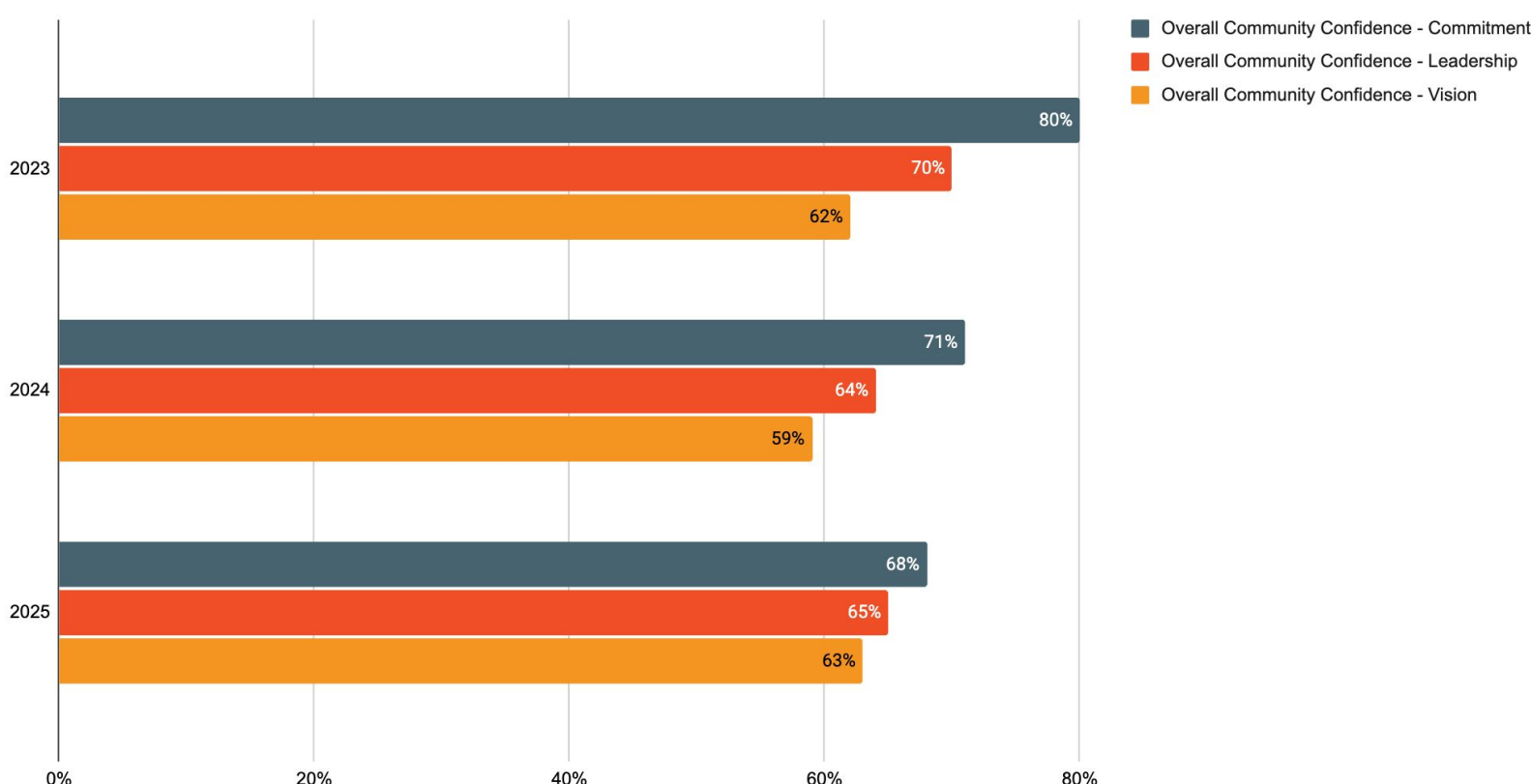
How do our residents view our community?



Questions:

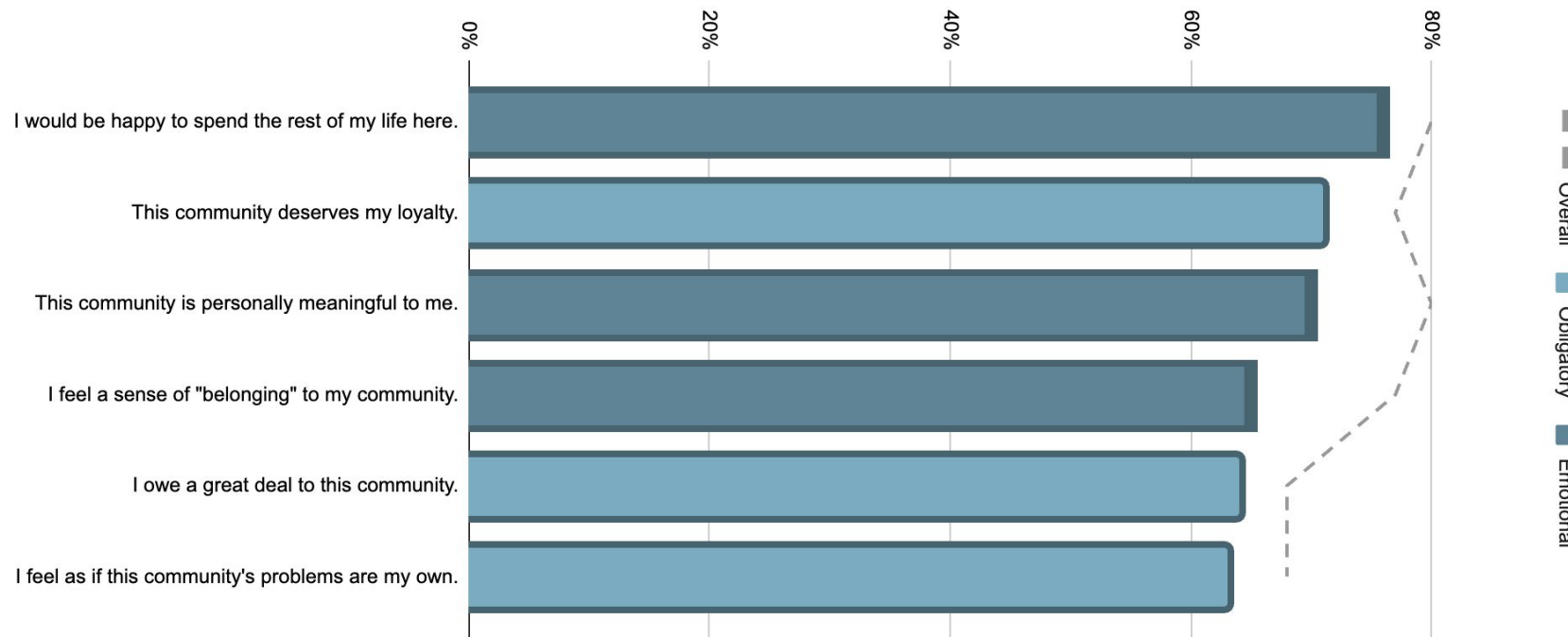
- Do Emotional and Obligatory perceptions differ, and what factors drive these differences?
- Which Execution metrics scored highest, and how can we leverage those strengths to uplift Strategy and Planning?
- What gaps exist between Trust and Pathways scores, and how might we close them?
- How have Execution perceptions changed Year-over-Year, and what does that imply for our Planning processes?
- How effective are existing Pathways for involvement, and what barriers prevent broader participation?
- What initiatives could improve Fairness perceptions in leadership decision-making?
- How can high pride in accomplishments translate into stronger Strategy outcomes?
- What role does Trust play in driving community investment and confidence?
- How might Obligatory perceptions ("I owe a great deal to this community") be deepened through engagement programs?

Year Over Year Change



Confidence In Our Local Community

Community Confidence: Personal Commitment



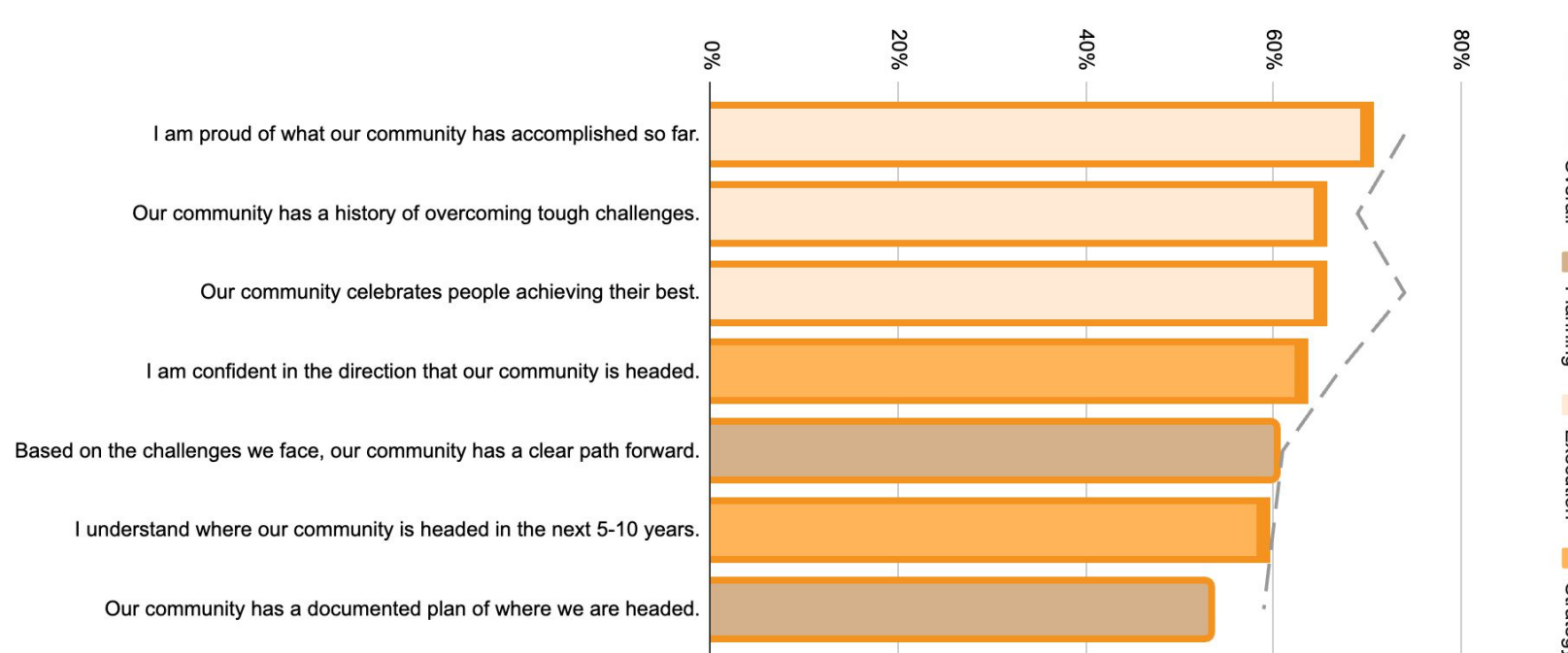
- How can we strengthen residents' sense of belonging to the community?
- What strategies would increase the percentage of residents willing to spend the rest of their lives here?
- Why might perceptions of owing a great deal to the community trail behind loyalty, and how can we address this gap?
- What initiatives could deepen residents' loyalty and ownership?

Community Confidence: Local Leadership



- How can we enhance trust in community leadership to support broader interests?
- What measures will ensure newcomers feel welcome and have clear pathways for involvement?
- How might improving fairness in decisions increase overall community confidence?
- What barriers exist to trusting leadership?

Community Confidence: Vision

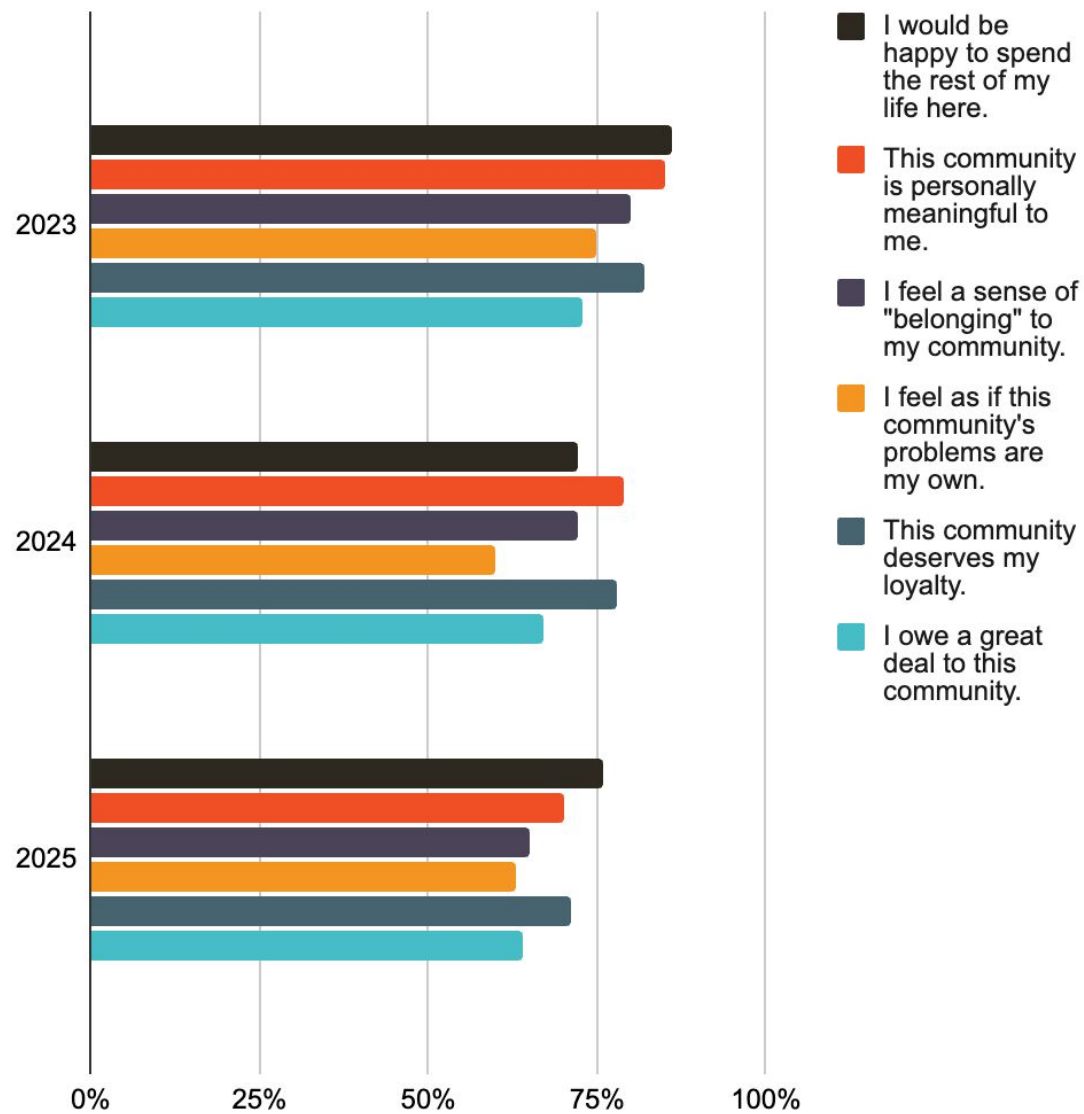


- How can we build confidence in where our community is headed by highlighting past accomplishments?
- What planning processes could strengthen the documented plan perception and ensure clear pathways forward?

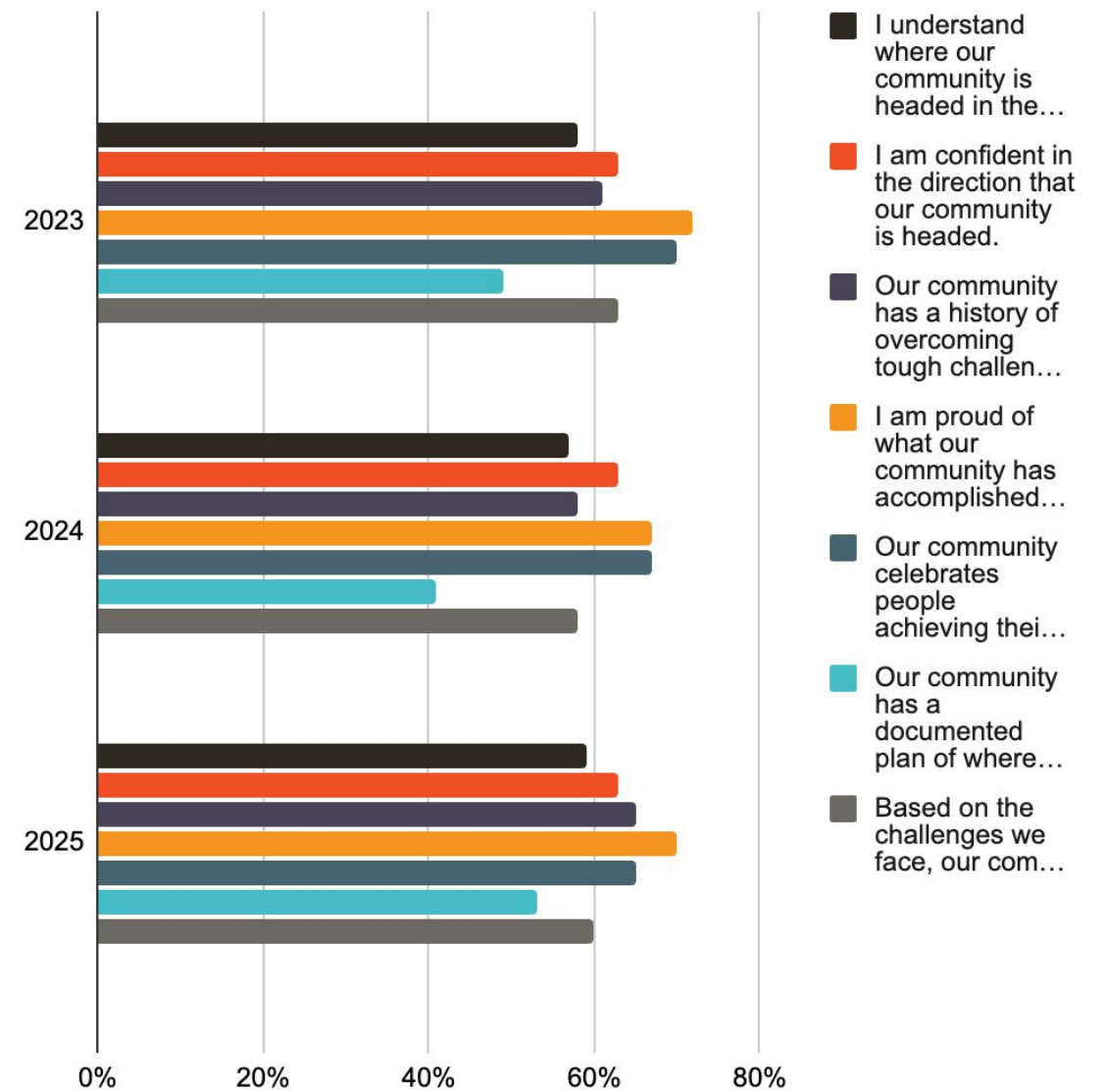
Portion of the community that is highly confident on the listed community dimensions (Rating range: 0-7)

Confidence In Our Local Community

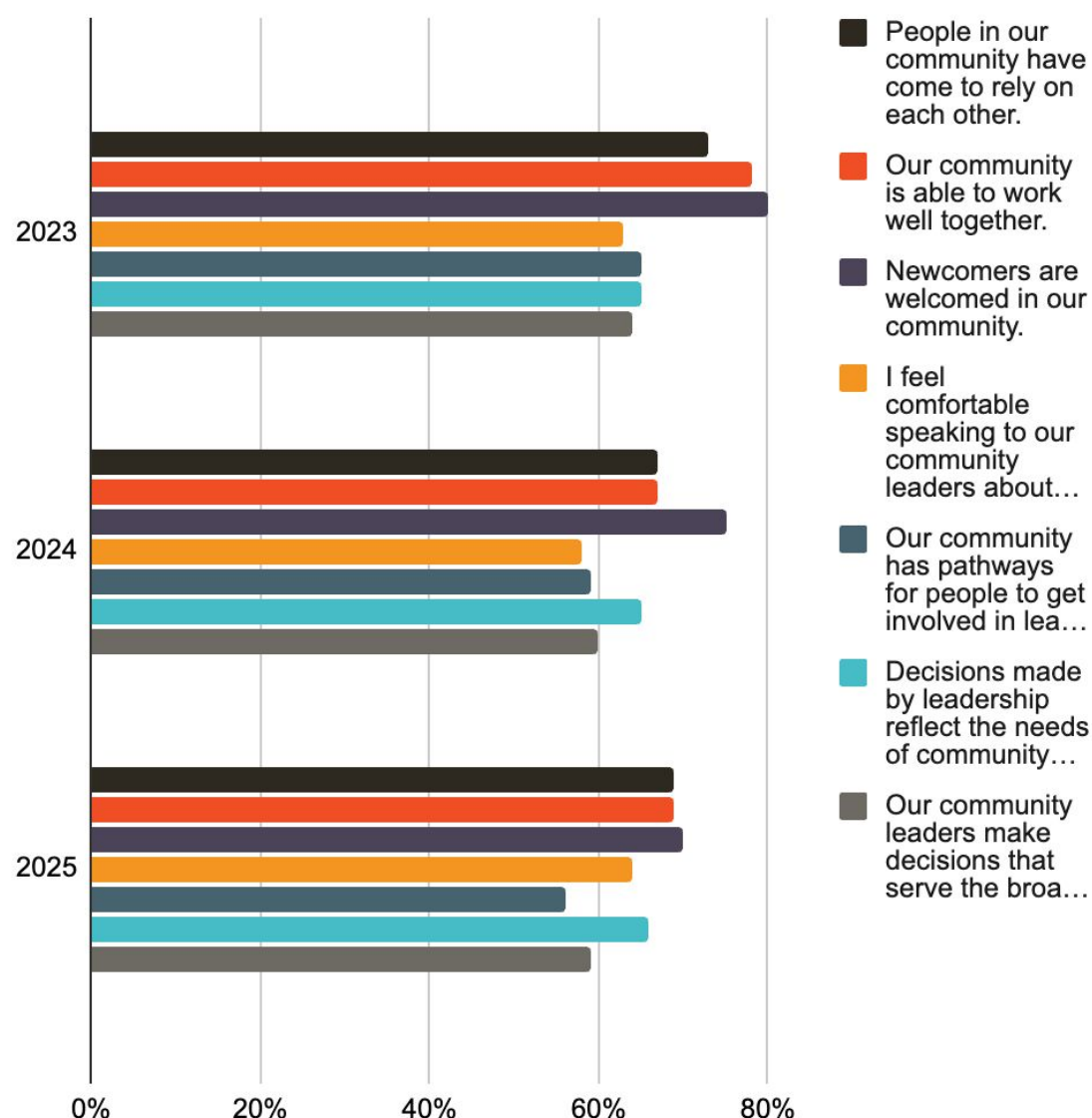
Commitment



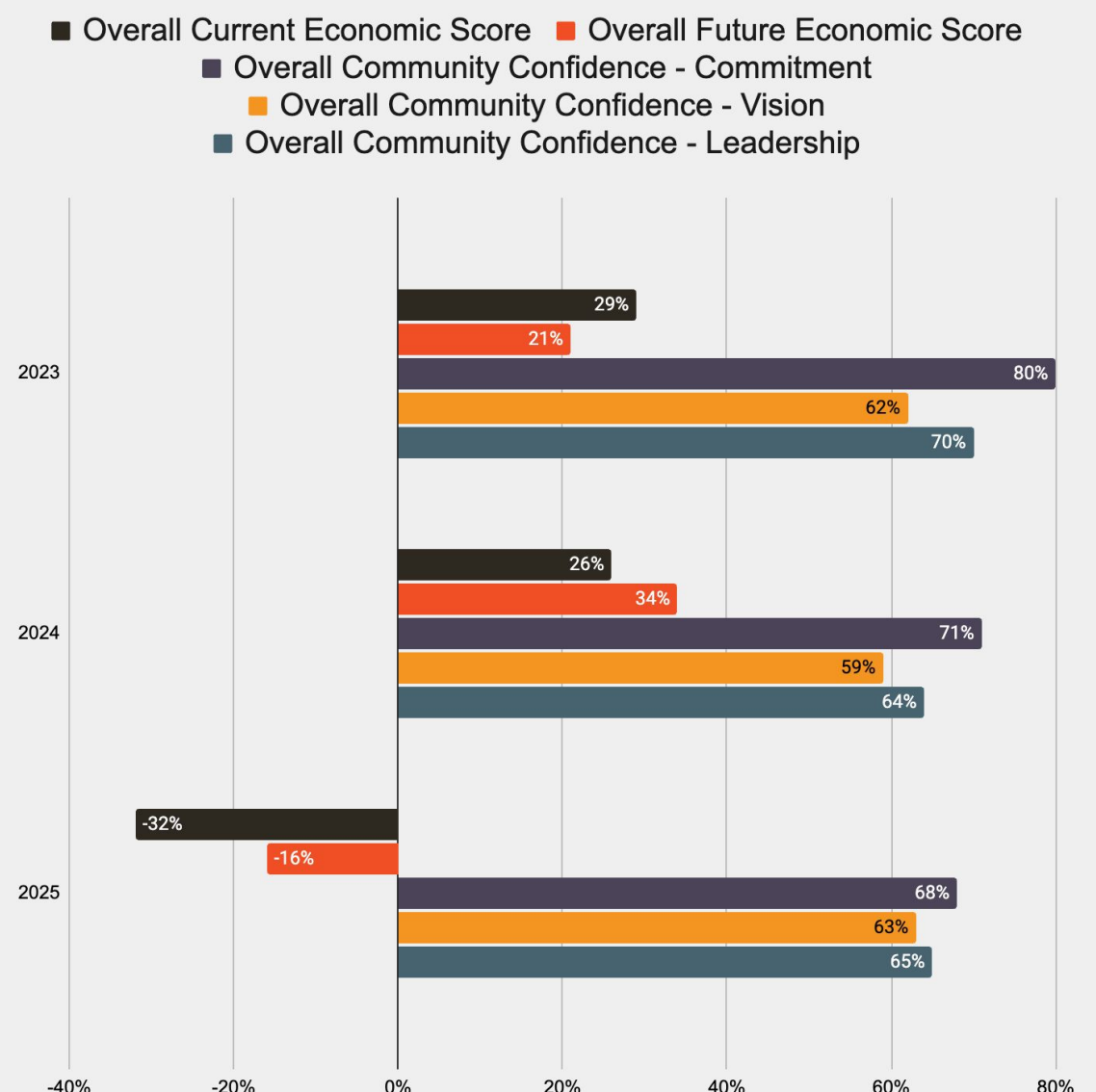
Vision



Leadership



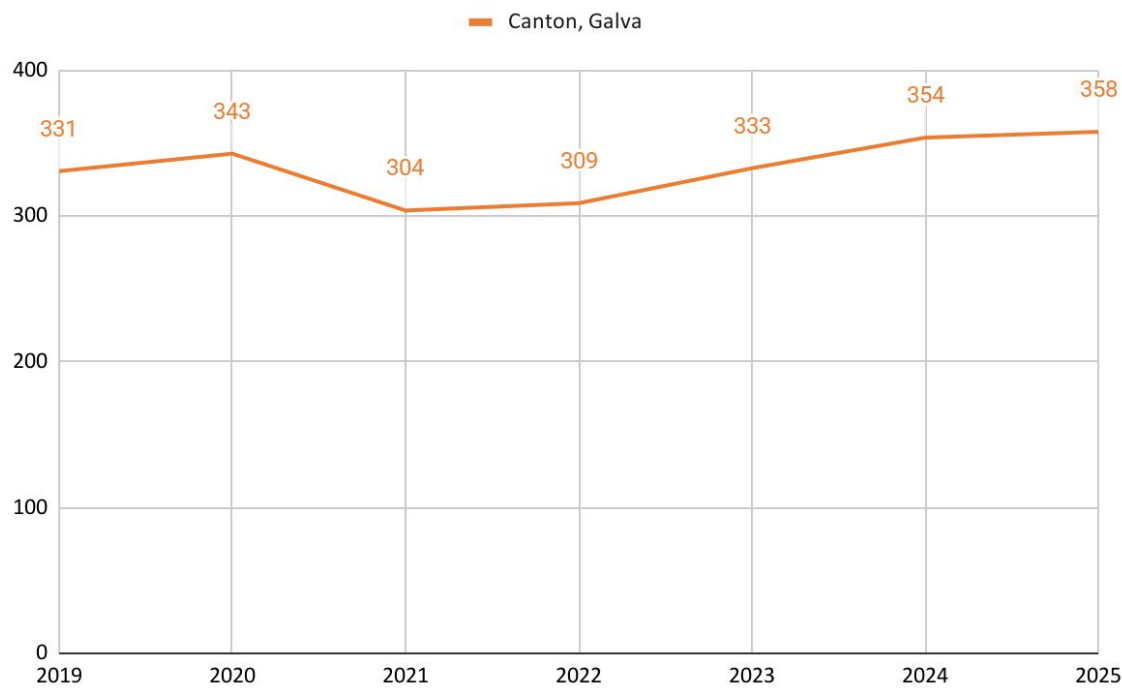
Economic vs. Community Confidence



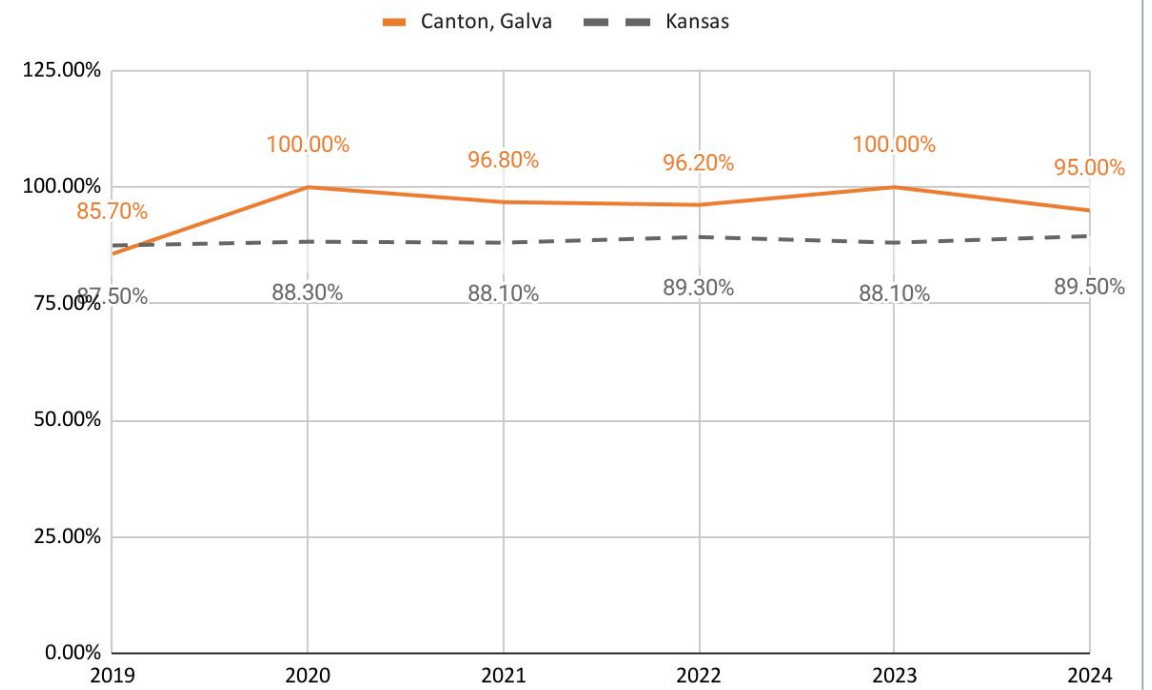
Portion of the community that is highly confident on the listed community dimensions (Rating range: 0-7)

Local Community Indicators

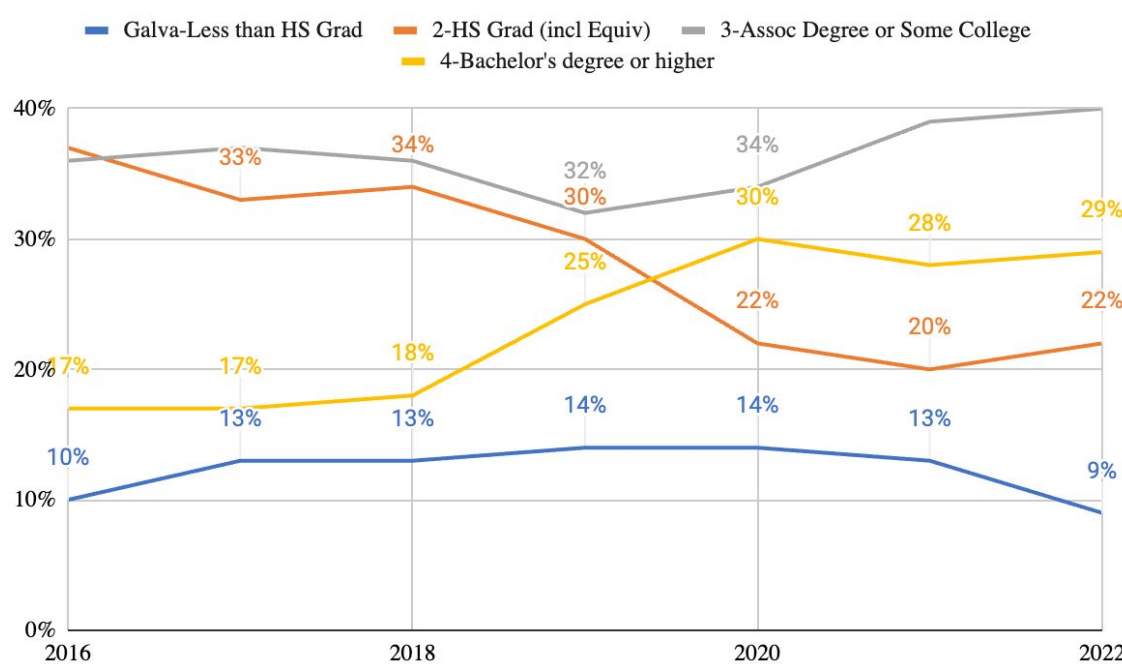
Local School Enrollment



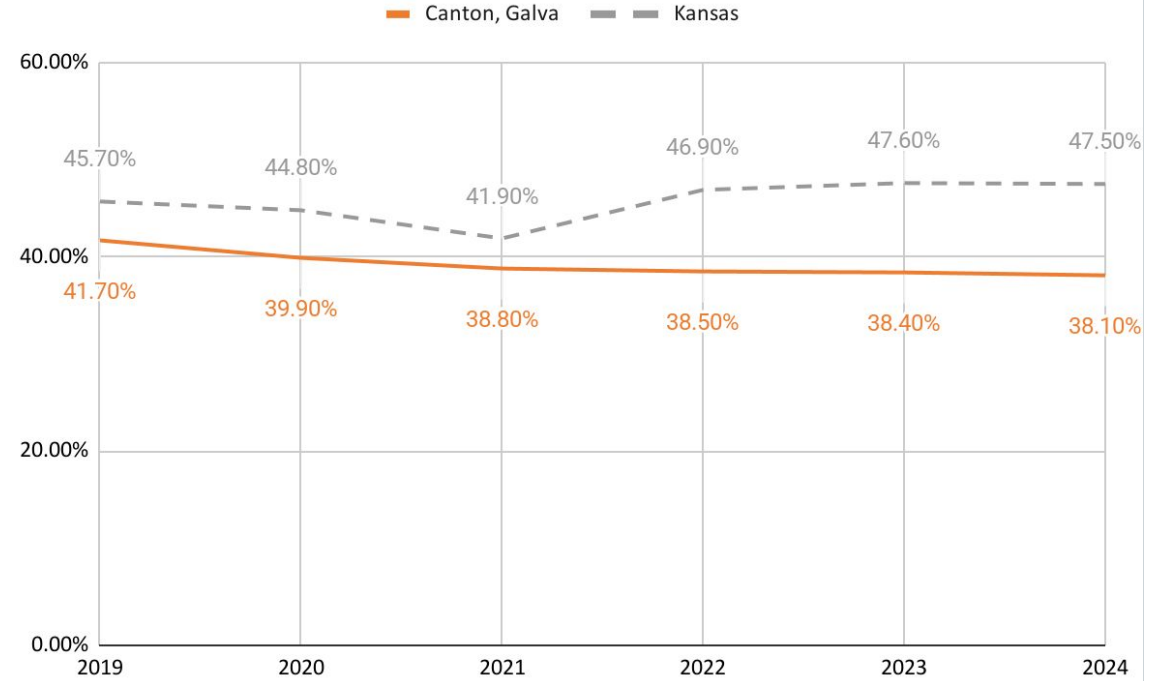
High School 4 Year Graduation Rate



Local Educational Level

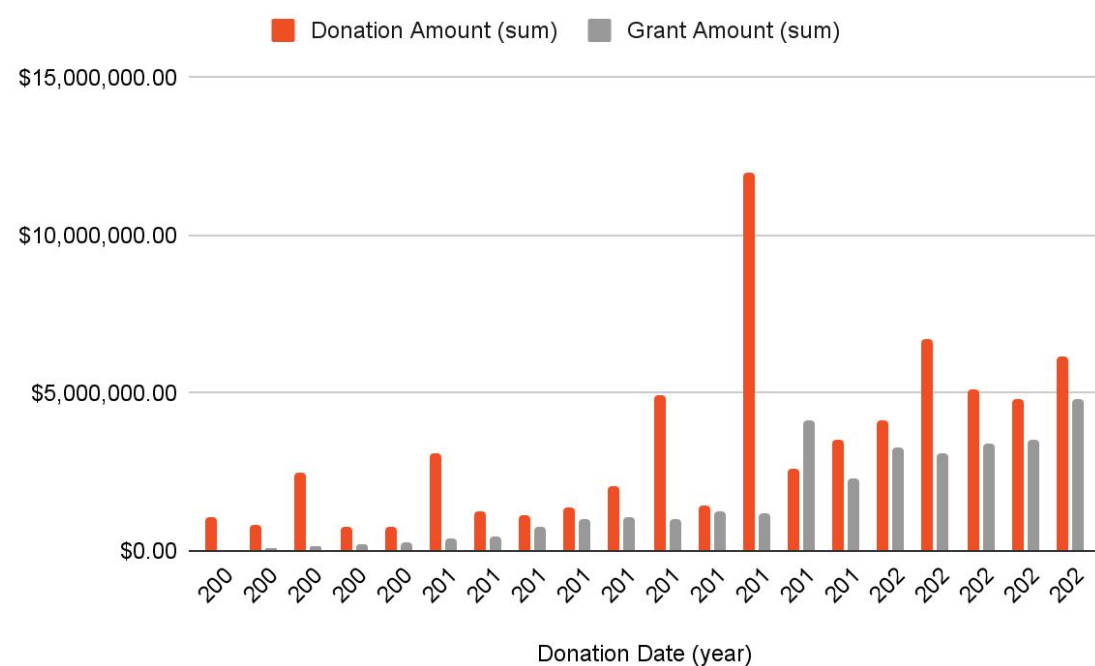


School % Free/Reduced Price Lunch

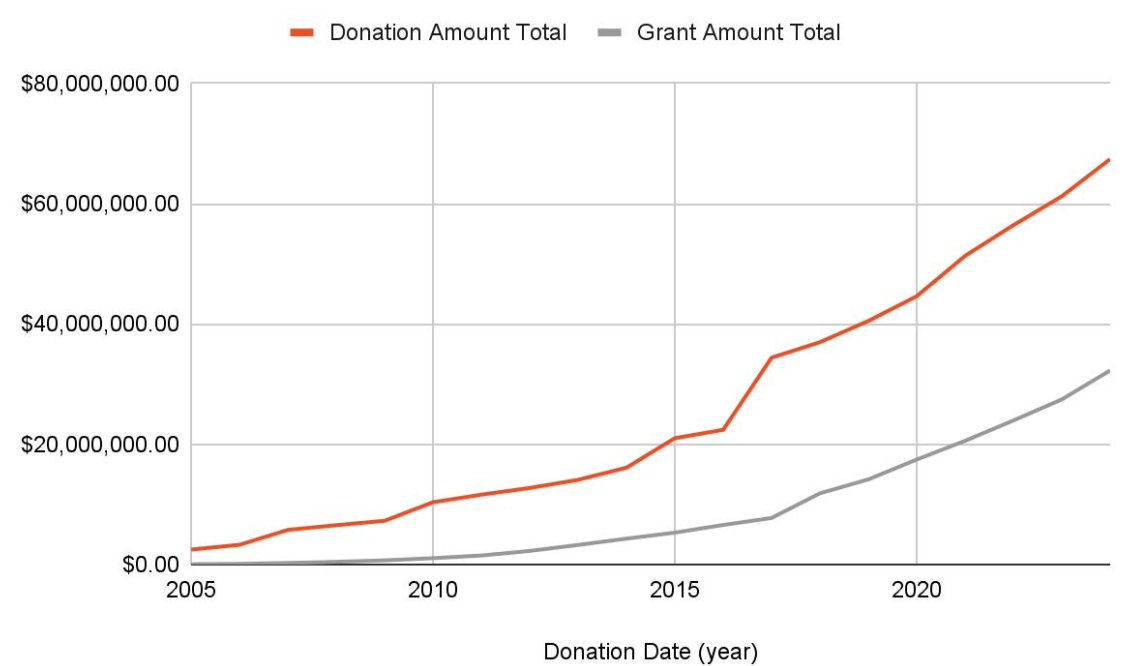


Source for all education graphs: Kansas State Dept of Education, Data Central

McPherson Community Foundation: Annual Dollars Raised & Invested



McPherson Community Foundation: Compound Dollars Raised & Invested

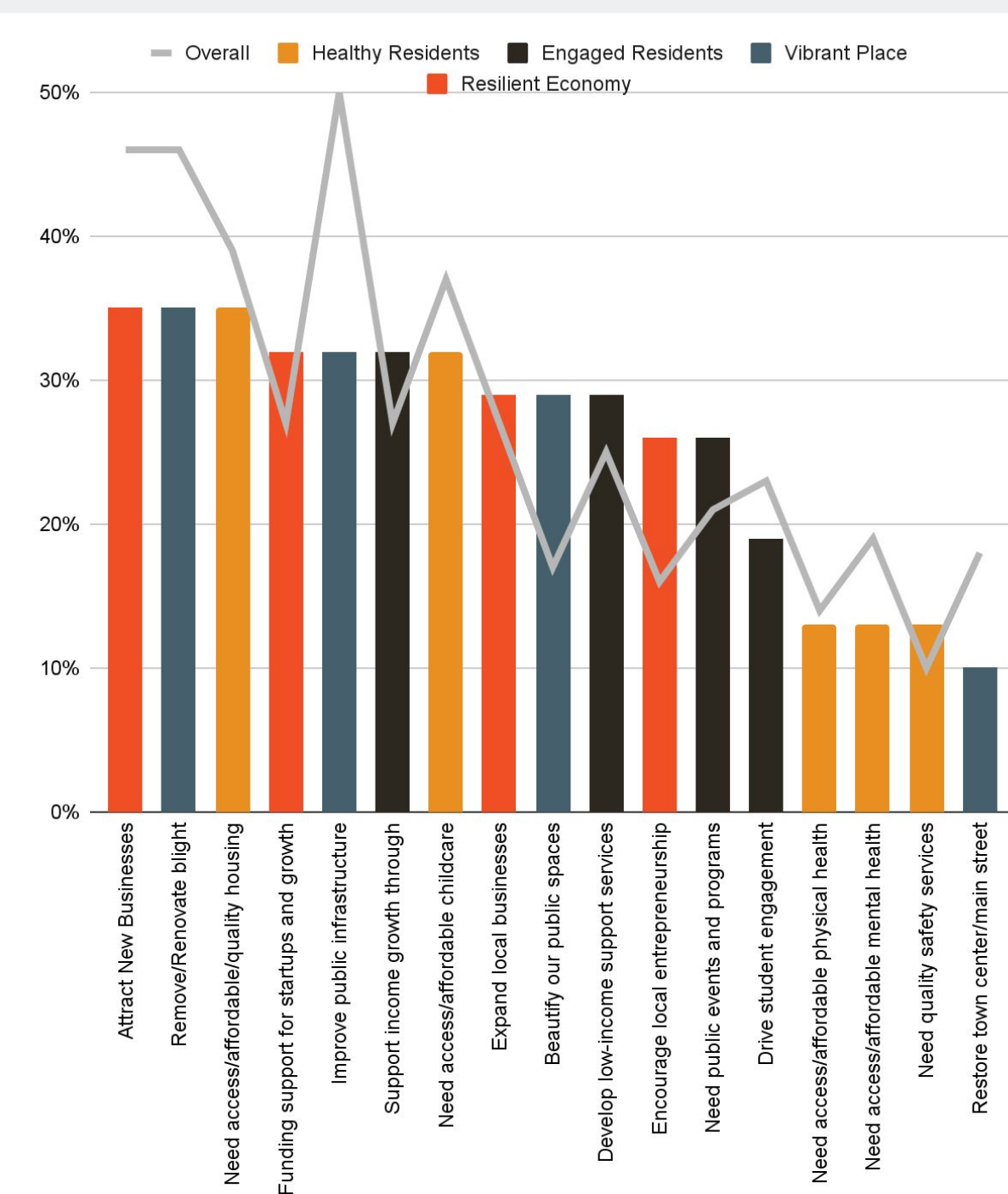


Community Program Priorities

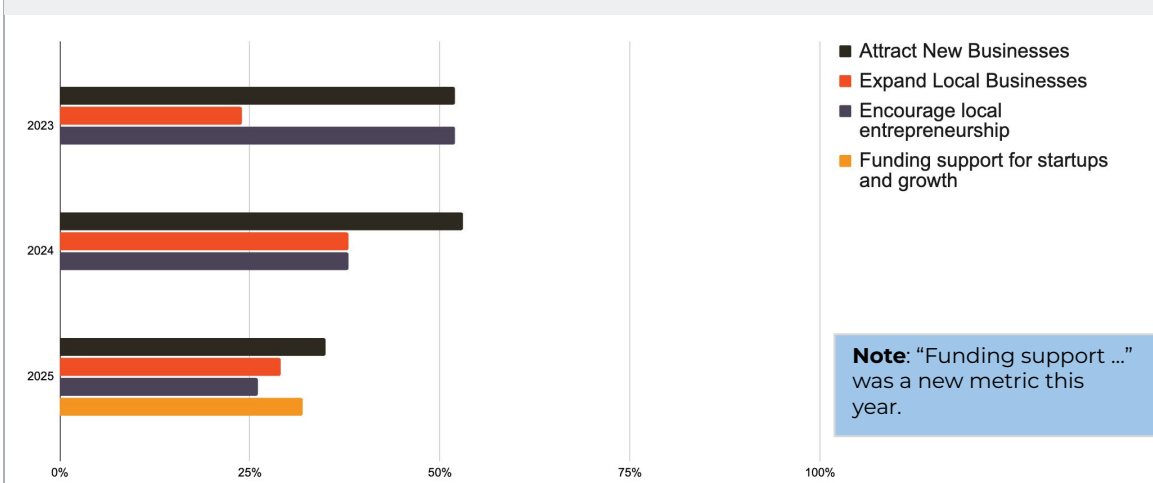
Priorities Summary:

No single program commands a clear majority—top support peaks at just 35%—indicating that residents view economic development, public-space beautification, childcare, and housing needs almost equally. Beautifying the public square outpaces regional interest, underscoring a hunger for shared gathering spaces, while entrepreneurial initiatives also rank highly, reflecting a desire for homegrown business growth. Year over year data show declining urgency in some areas including business attraction, driving student engagement, and quality safety services. To honor the other increasing needs like affordable housing and childcare, integrated initiatives—like mixed-use downtown revitalization combining tiny-home prototypes and childcare co-ops—will resonate most deeply and build consensus.

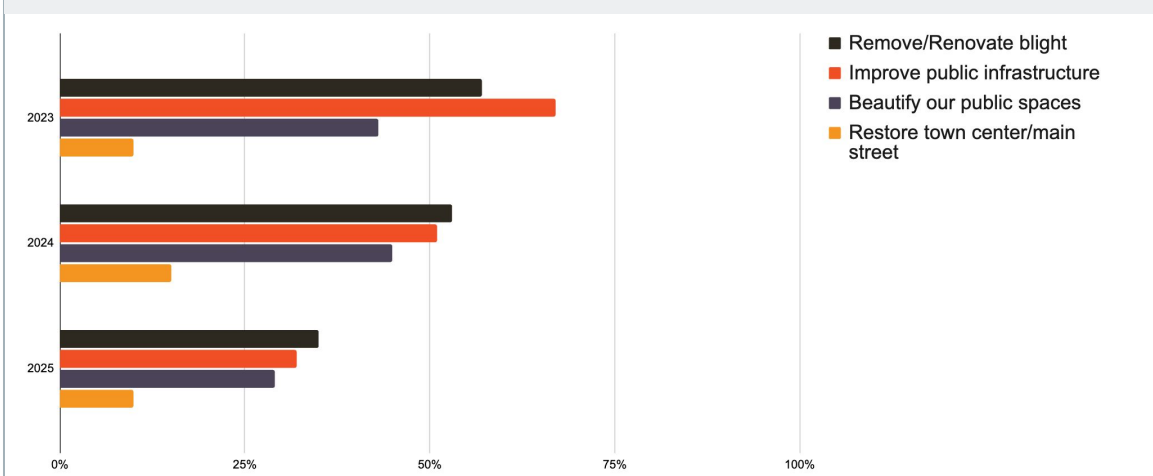
Program Priorities



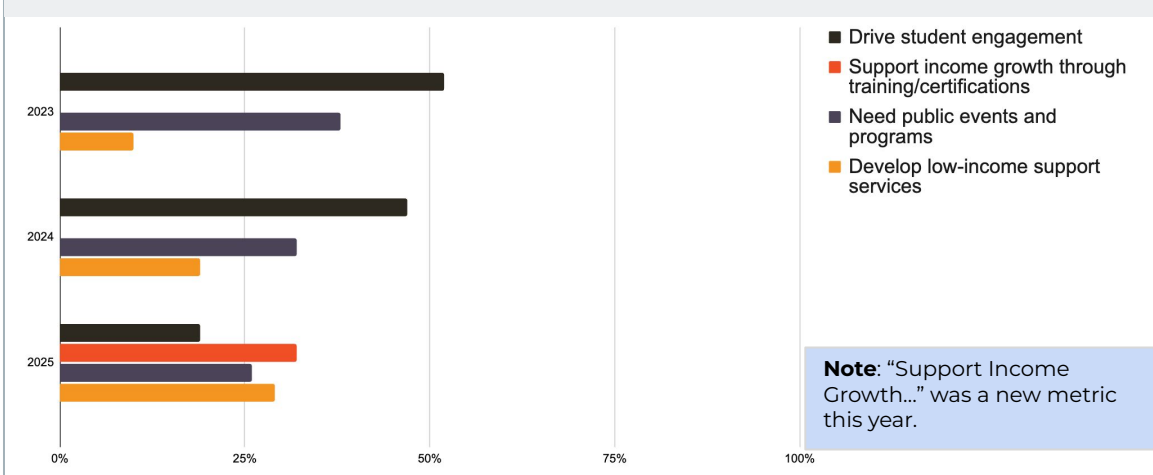
Resilient Economy



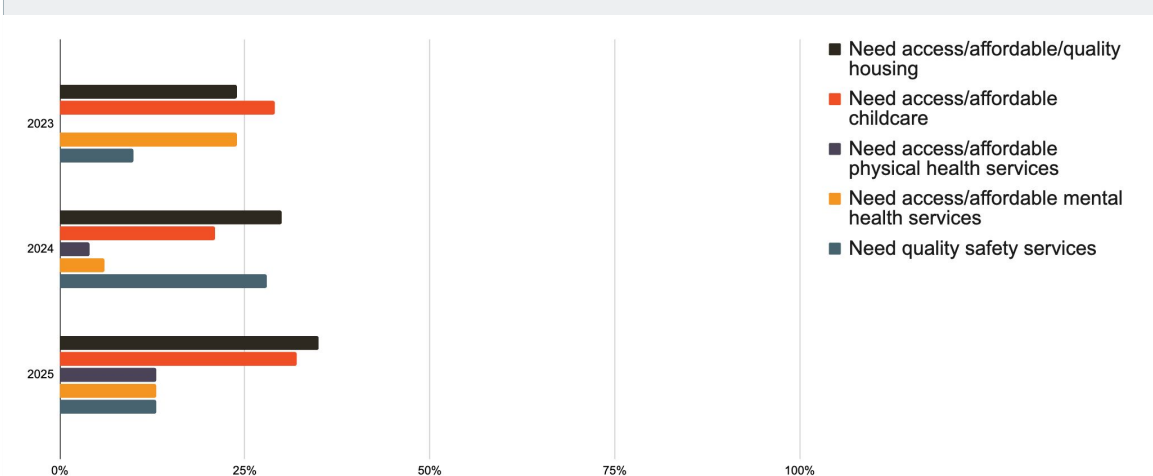
Vibrant Place



Engaged Residents



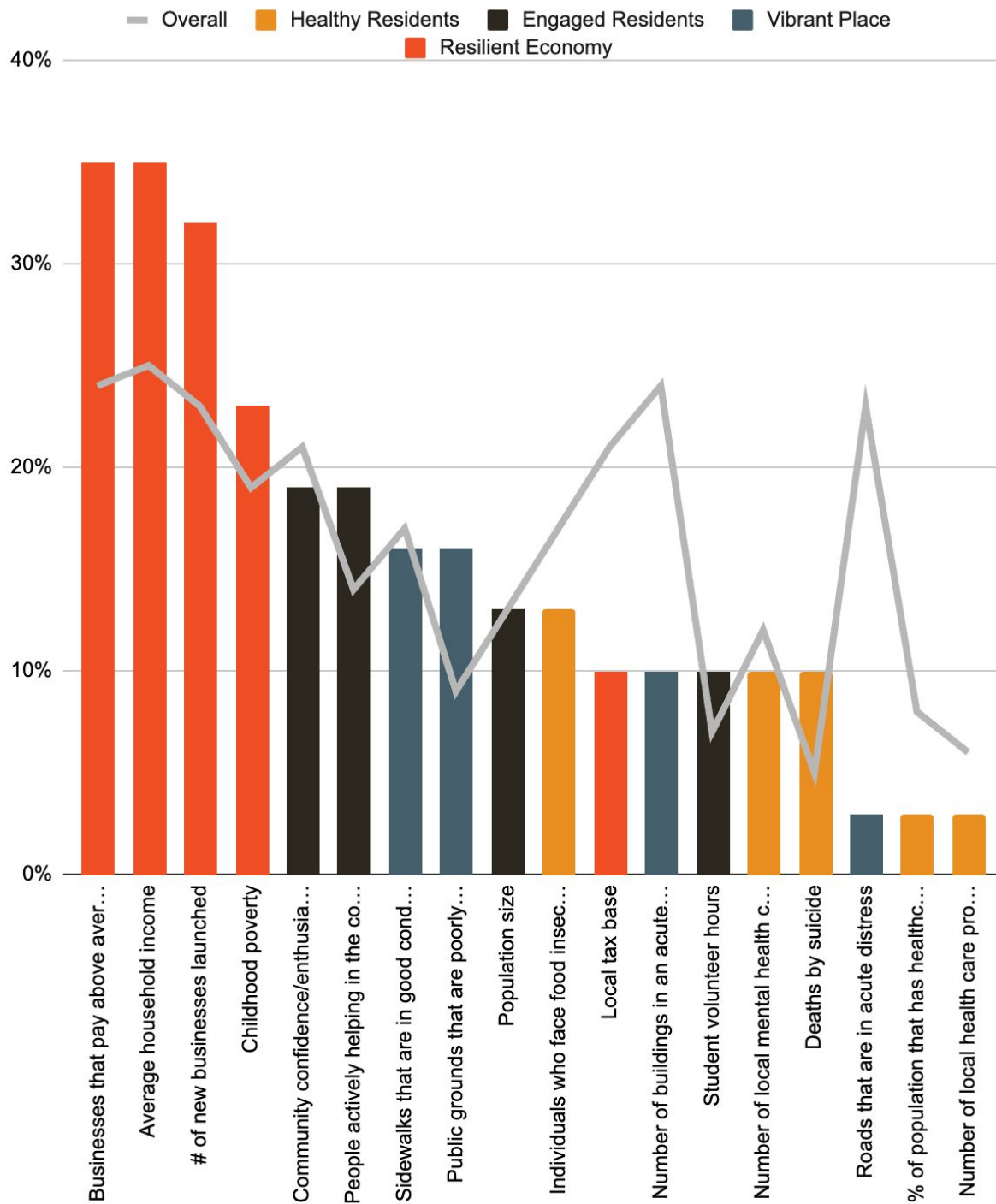
Healthy Residents



- Why did no single Priority Program exceed 35% support, and what does this even distribution across all the categories indicate about community consensus?
- How can Galva leverage the equal ranking of its top three programs across different categories to design integrated initiatives that address multiple needs simultaneously?
- Given that Beautifying public spaces significantly outpaces the regional average, which specific downtown or public square enhancements should Galva prioritize and why?

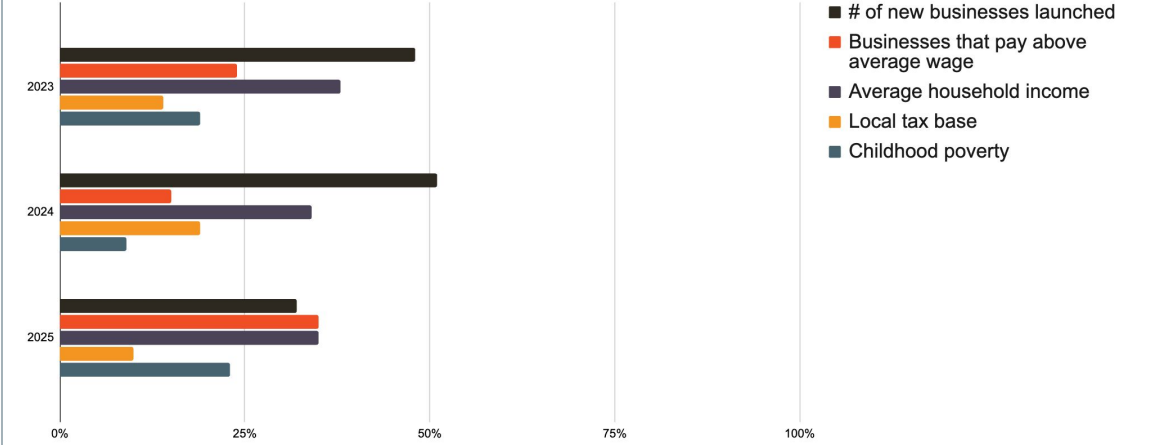
Community Priority Metrics

Priority Metrics

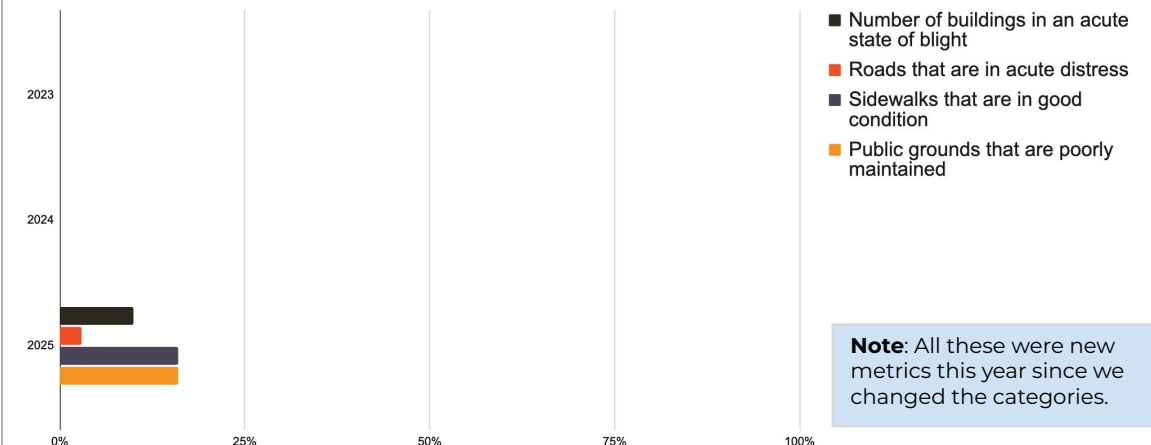


- Why do Resilient Economy metrics like “Businesses that pay above average wages” and “Average household income” outrank other metrics in the economic category?
- In light of the Engaged Residents scores for “Community confidence/enthusiasm” and “People actively helping in the community,” what volunteer-driven or community-led projects could amplify both civic engagement and service delivery?
- How can Galva build on its desire for a vibrant place to bolster activity for the area to be economically resilient?

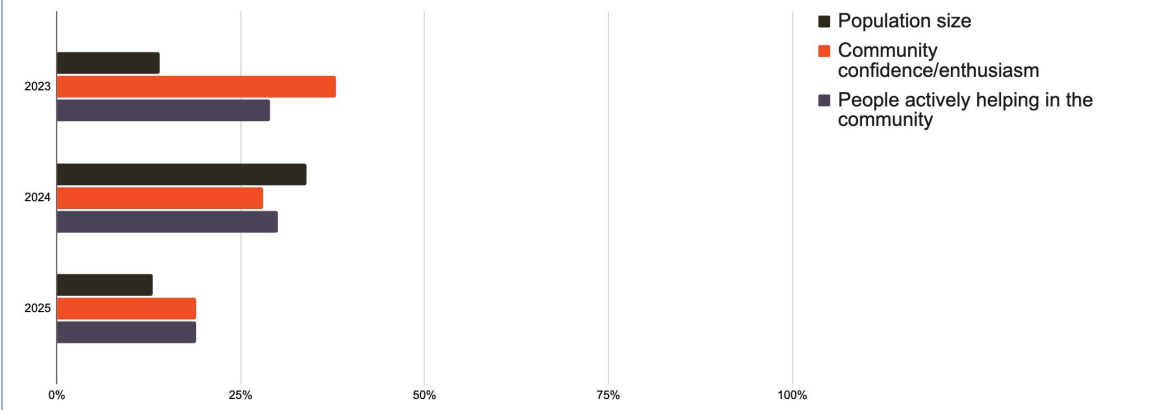
Resilient Economy



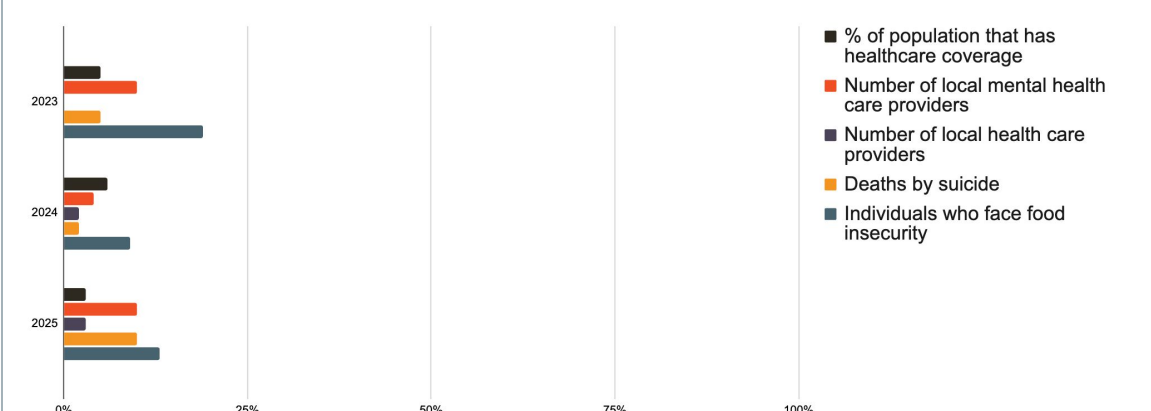
Vibrant Place



Engaged Residents



Healthy Residents



Investing In Local Priorities

What project should be undertaken locally if money, time, or skills were not a constraint? What outcome would this create in the next 2-3 years?

- Residential Expansion – Develop affordable housing and utilities to attract residents and support workforce growth
- Park Updates – Renovate community parks and sidewalks for safe, accessible recreation spaces
- Water Infrastructure Improvement – Upgrade water systems to ensure clean, reliable supply for future growth
- Childcare Facilities – Establish high-quality, affordable childcare to support working families
- Education Expansion – Expand elementary school capacity and options to enhance student success

If we could only invest \$15k in a program each year for the next 3 years, what project should we work on? What outcome would this create in the next 2-3 years?

- Park Improvements – fund landscaping, playground upgrades, and community-led maintenance
- Education & Vocational Training – provide micro-grants for skills workshops and apprenticeships
- Food Place Expansion – subsidize pop-up food trucks and small local eateries
- Childcare Services – seed funding for a shared-use childcare coop to open slots for working families
- Affordable Housing Pilot – purchase materials for tiny-home prototypes to demonstrate cost-effective housing and attract new residents

Serving your community!

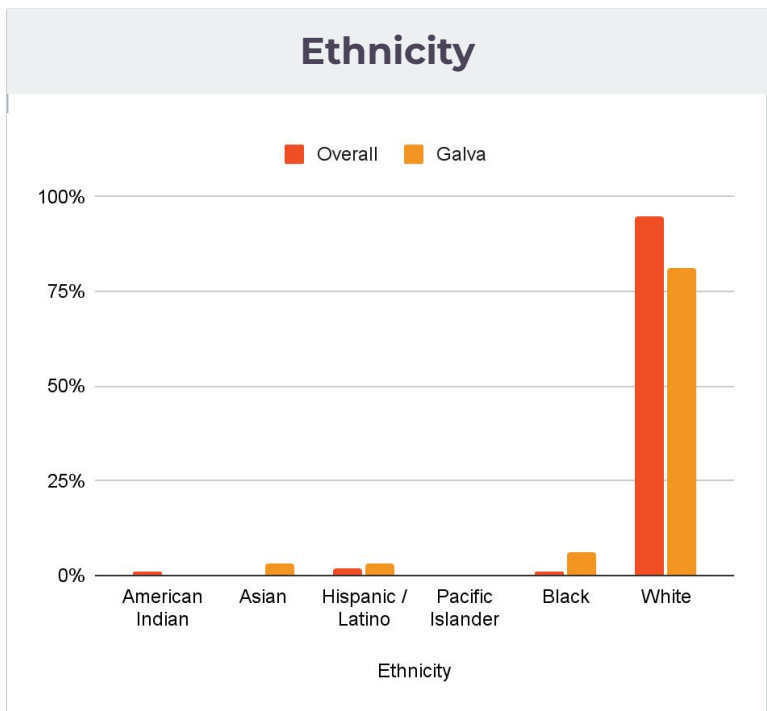
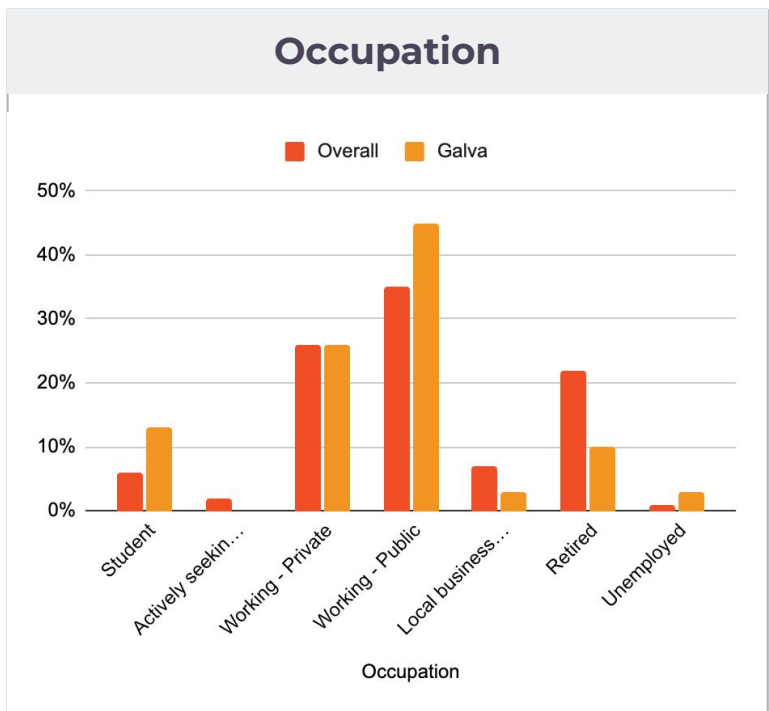
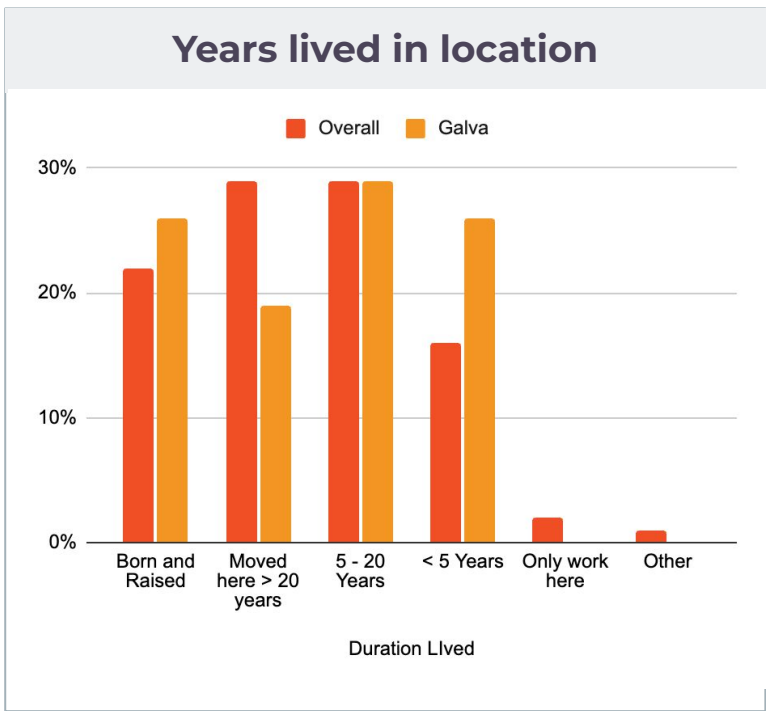
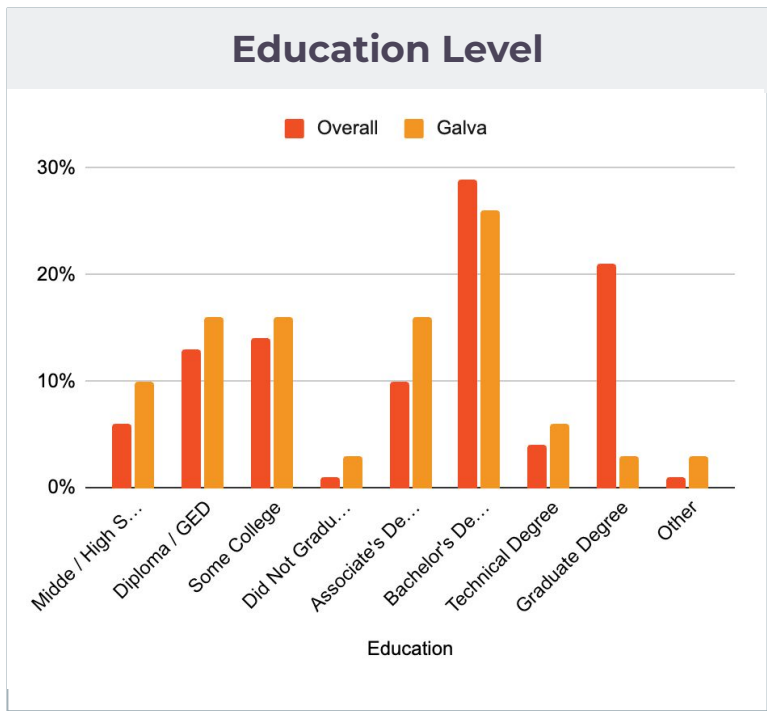
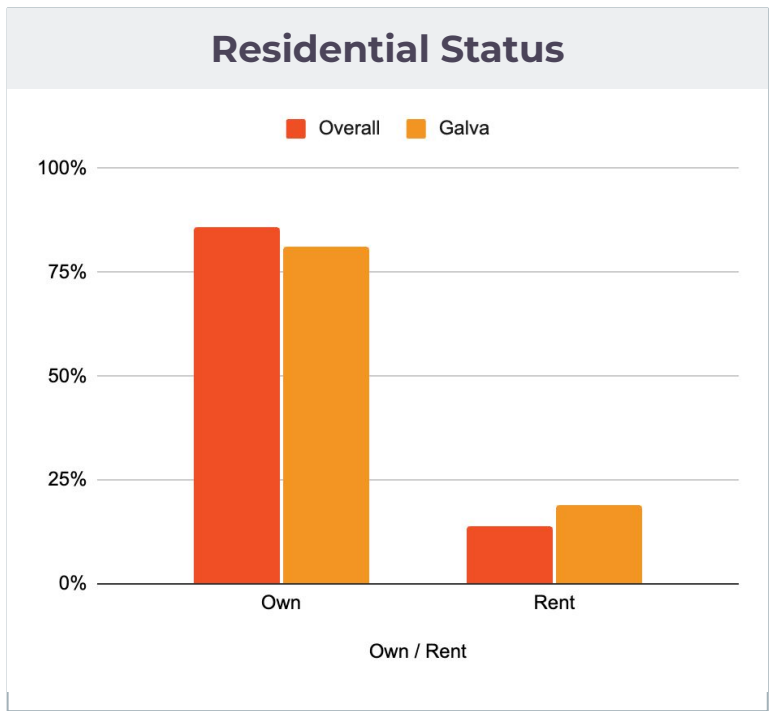
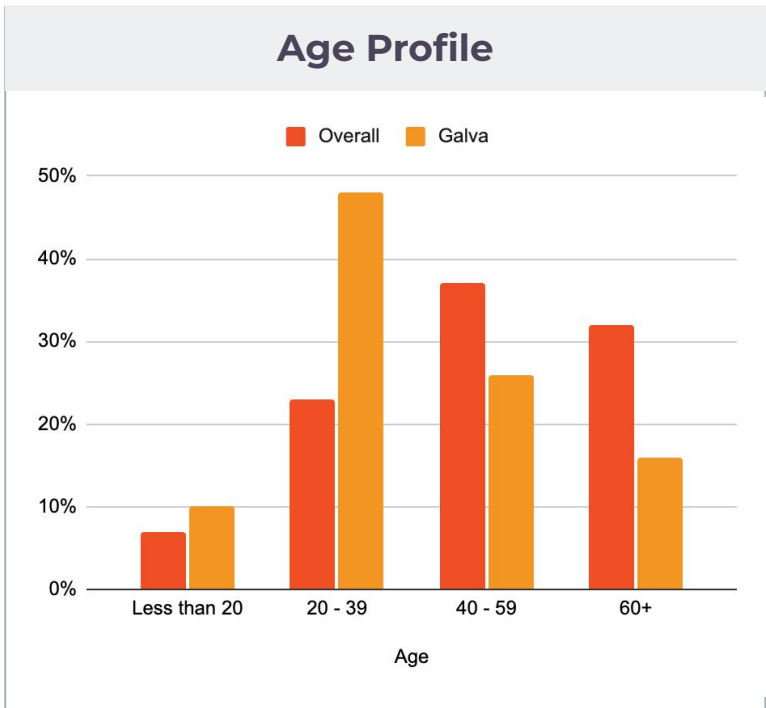
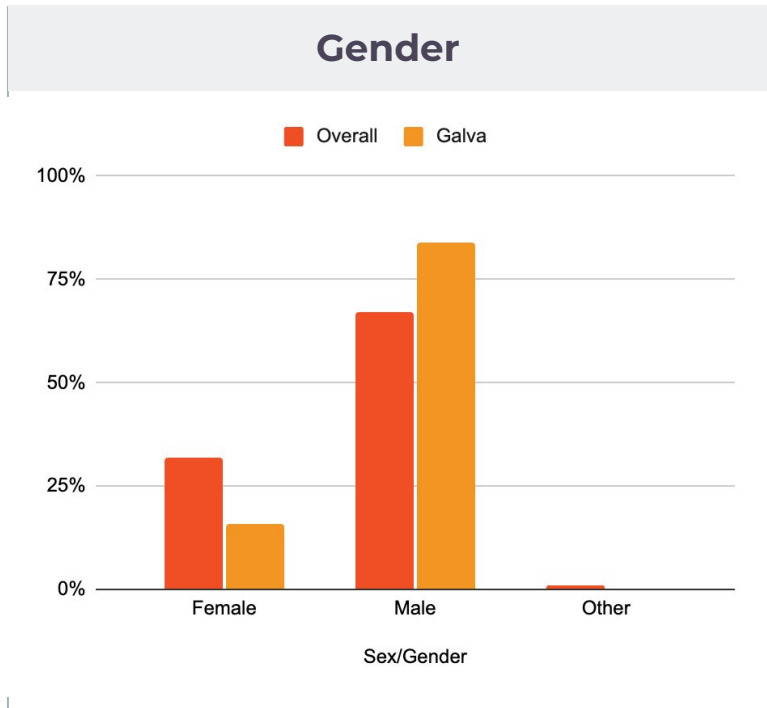
How do you serve your community today?


- Senior Center Board Leadership – serving as President of the Senior Center Board to plan programs
- Special Needs Education Support – working with special needs children at school and related activities
- Community Market Hosting – organizing local markets in Canton and expanding them into Galva
- Civic Participation – connecting through FFA, attending community meetings, and voicing concerns at City Council
- General Volunteering – offering ad-hoc volunteer assistance within the county as needs arise


How would you like to serve your community in the future?

- Senior Center Volunteer – continue volunteer service at the Senior Center to support seniors' programs
- Town Cleanup Initiative – organize and lead community-wide town cleanup efforts for a cleaner Galva
- Regional Collaboration Committees – establish joint Galva–Canton committees to tackle shared challenges
- Educational Event Sponsorship – sponsor and support local schooling events to enrich student opportunities
- Board Leadership and Organization Development – serve on boards/councils and create new groups to drive solutions

Survey Respondents



 **Town Score**

 **Average Community Score**

11

Number of people who expressed an interest in volunteering to better the community
11 of 31 (35%)