



MCPHERSON COUNTY
**Community
Foundation**

2025 Community Benchmark Report City of Marquette, 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

What Makes Our Community Special?

"Strong fighters to keep our town vibrant and alive. We take care of one another in times of trial. The businesses in town cater to the town homies and to the never met before."

Barb

"Very friendly people who care about each other."

Margaret

"Small town America at its best. Volunteers, small business and neighbors being neighborly watching out for one another."

AJ

"We all work together for the greater cause of keeping our community striving."

Dorine

"Volunteerism, working hard to keep community viable, great activities for visitors"

Linda

"The local businesses. Greeting people"

Brooke

"Great small town feel."

Carissa

"The volunteerism in this town is amazing!"

Derek

"The people (they band together in hardship) Museums, Downtown, city sundries, disc golf course, the art room, the number of volunteers to help with all of the above."

Carol

"Community pride and determination to thrive. Nice downtown business district. Tourism."

Scott

The Leaders That Make Our Community Special

brenda graham
andi willemms
stan von strohe
jennifer krehbiel
dixon johnson
lavonna shaffer
janice larson
hayley samford
michelle fred peterson
kris hudson
mari loder
matt von strohe
steve piper
graham
james "art" mayfield
ron larson
janet manor
linda johnson
scott johnson

Executive Summary:

Marquette faces steep economic headwinds as residents report frustration with local business prospects, job opportunities, and household income stability. Yet beneath these challenges lies a committed, proud populace with deep emotional ties to their hometown. They trust one another, back entrepreneurial ventures, and champion efforts to restore downtown charm. By channeling this communal spirit into strategic investments—targeting blight removal, infrastructure renewal, and small-business support—the town can reignite confidence, attract new activity, and chart an inclusive path forward.

pg **4 - 5**

Economic Confidence

Sharp declines in business, jobs, and income contrast with hopeful investment intent, highlighting infrastructure needs and cautious optimism.

pg **6 - 9**

Community Engagement Confidence

Residents feel deeply connected and proud, with high trust and pride driving confidence; inclusive pathways and fairness remain growth areas.

pg **10 - 12**

Critical Community Priorities

Blight removal and infrastructure upgrades dominate; entrepreneurship and civic engagement follow, with housing and health services as supporting needs.

pg **13**

Survey Respondent Profile

Retirees show no interest in investing, while public workers are markedly more open to reinvesting. Retirees unanimously prioritize blight removal compared to half of public workers. Public workers report moderate community confidence, whereas retirees express little.

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

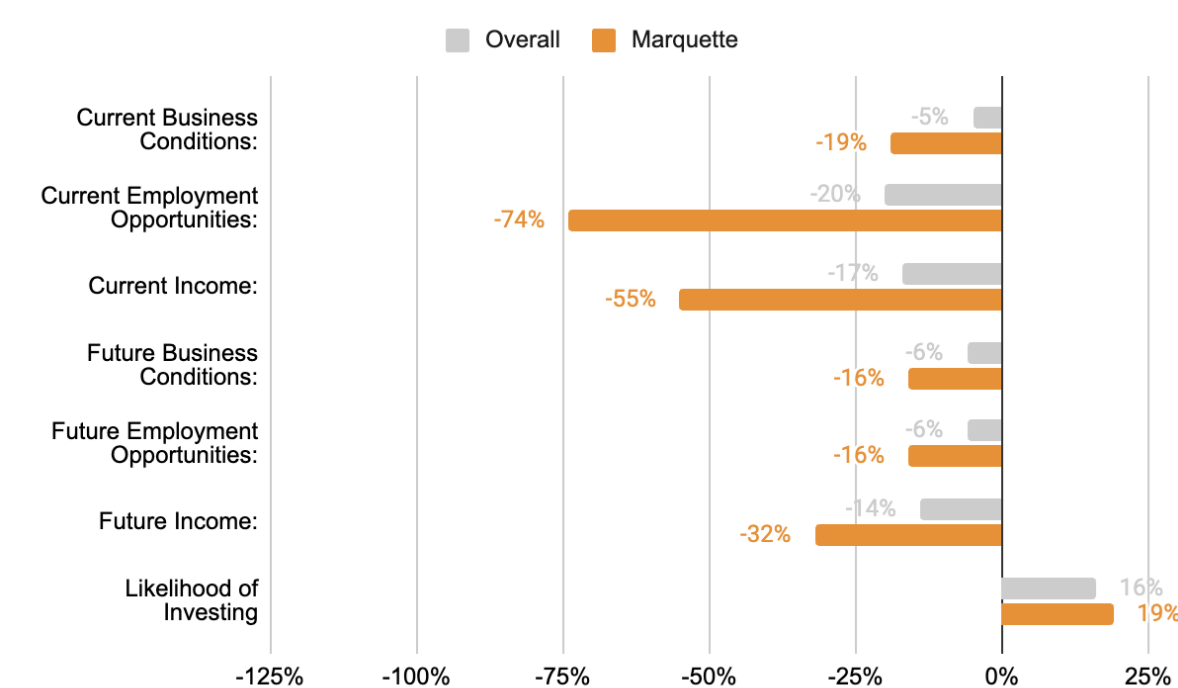
Economic Summary:

Residents of Marquette struggle with deep pessimism about current conditions in business, employment, and income. Despite these challenges, there's cautious optimism about the future, and a meaningful share of locals are willing to reinvest in their community. Critical infrastructure issues—from crumbling sidewalks to aging water and sewer lines—undermine confidence, yet targeted efforts to renew housing, revitalize Main Street, and support small business could spark a turnaround and lay the foundation for long-term resilience.

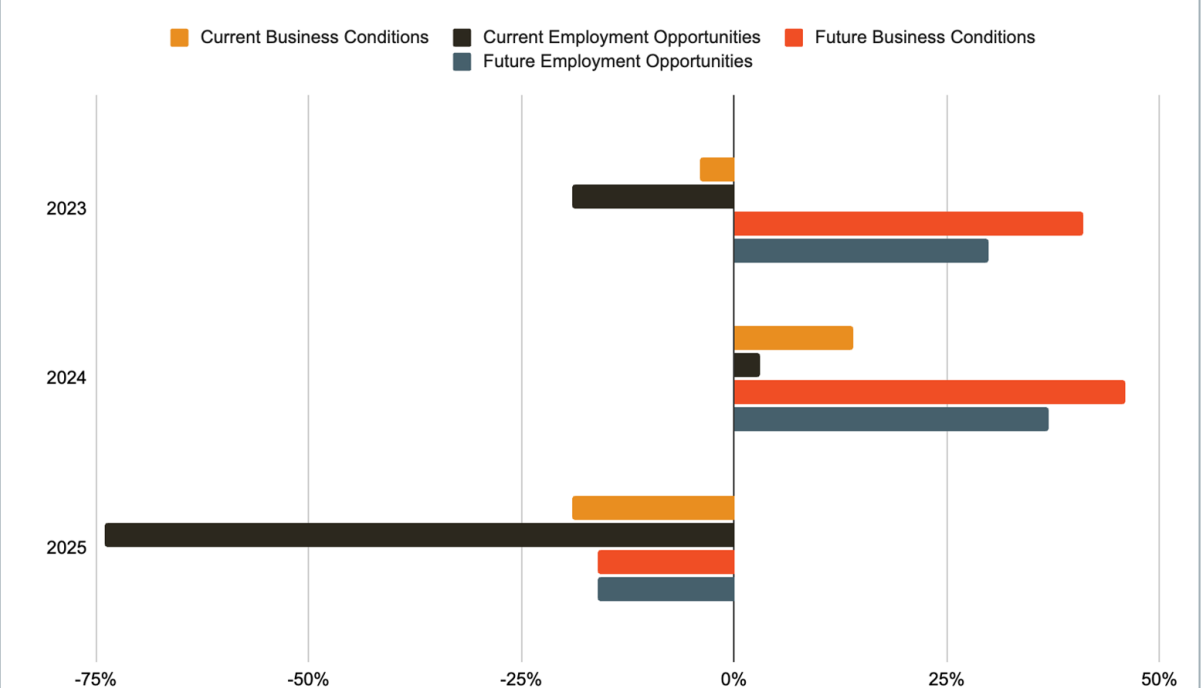
Businesses Needed In Our Town:

- Hardware Store** – essential for timely home repairs and maintenance.
- Coffee Shop** – gathering place fosters community interaction.
- Convenience Store/Gas Station** – provides fuel and everyday essentials.
- Retail** – increases local shopping options and economic growth.
- Grocery Store Support** – ensures stable and reliable food supply.
- Bakery** – offers fresh baked goods and local charm.
- Learning Center** – enhances education and lifelong learning opportunities.
- Charter School** – expands schooling choices and quality education.
- Housing** – addresses affordable living needs for residents.

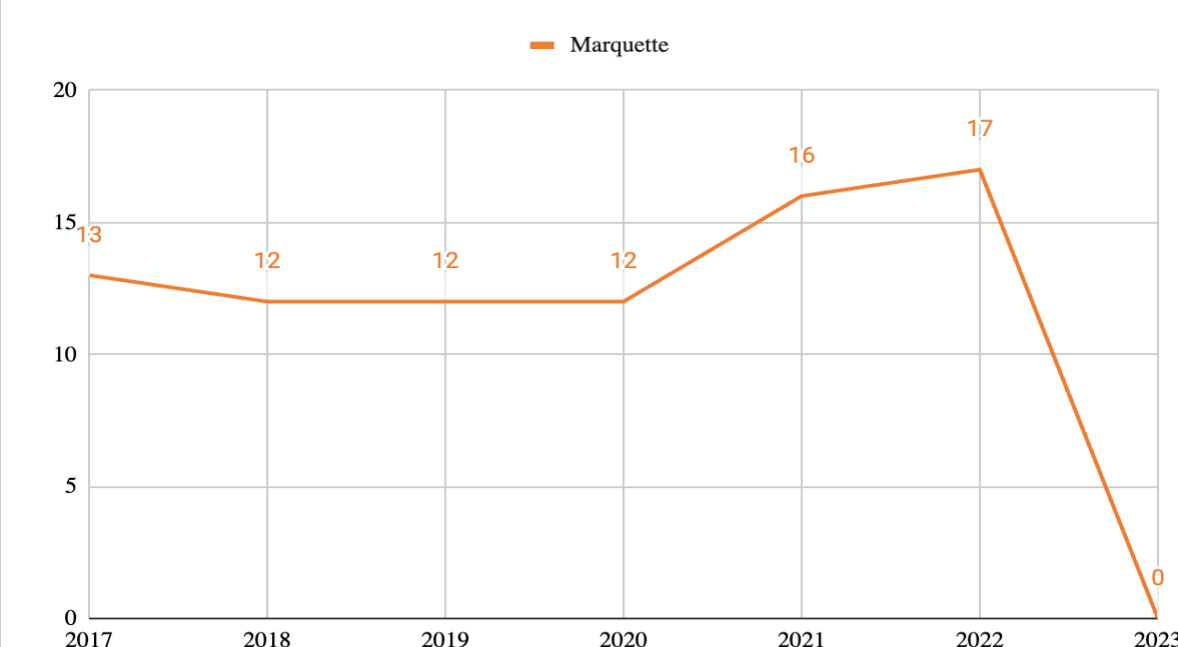
Our Economic Perceptions



Year Over Year Change (2023 vs 2024)

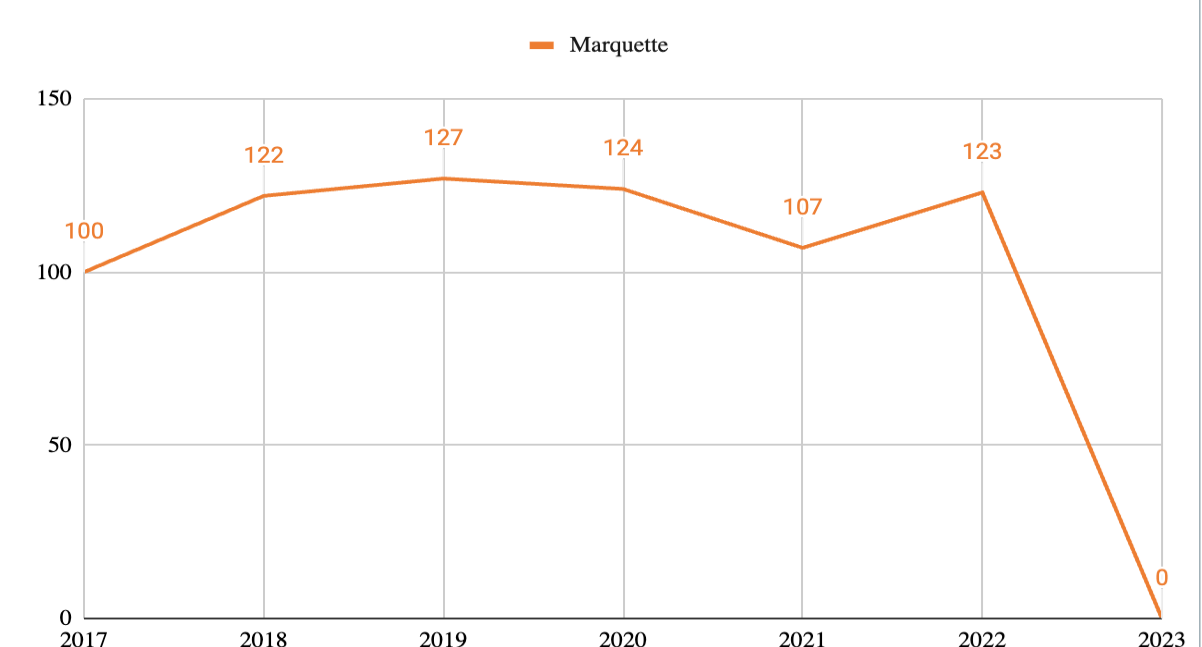


Businesses in Our Town



Data source:USCB, County Business Patterns

7 Year Shift in Local Jobs

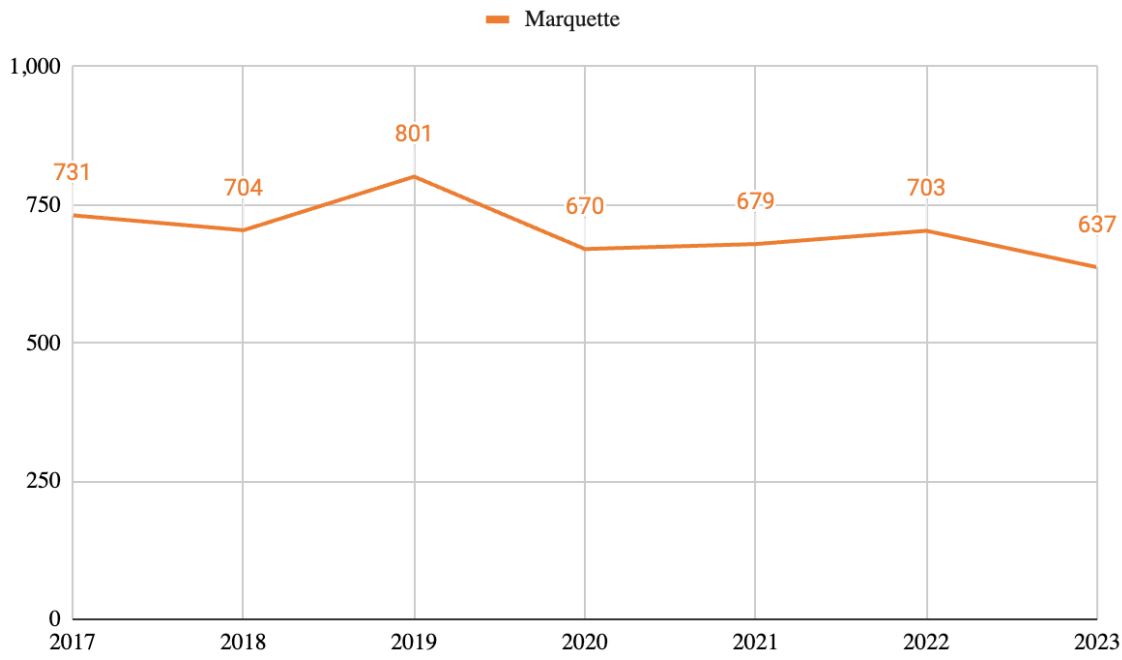


Data source:USCB, County Business Patterns

Local Economic Indicators

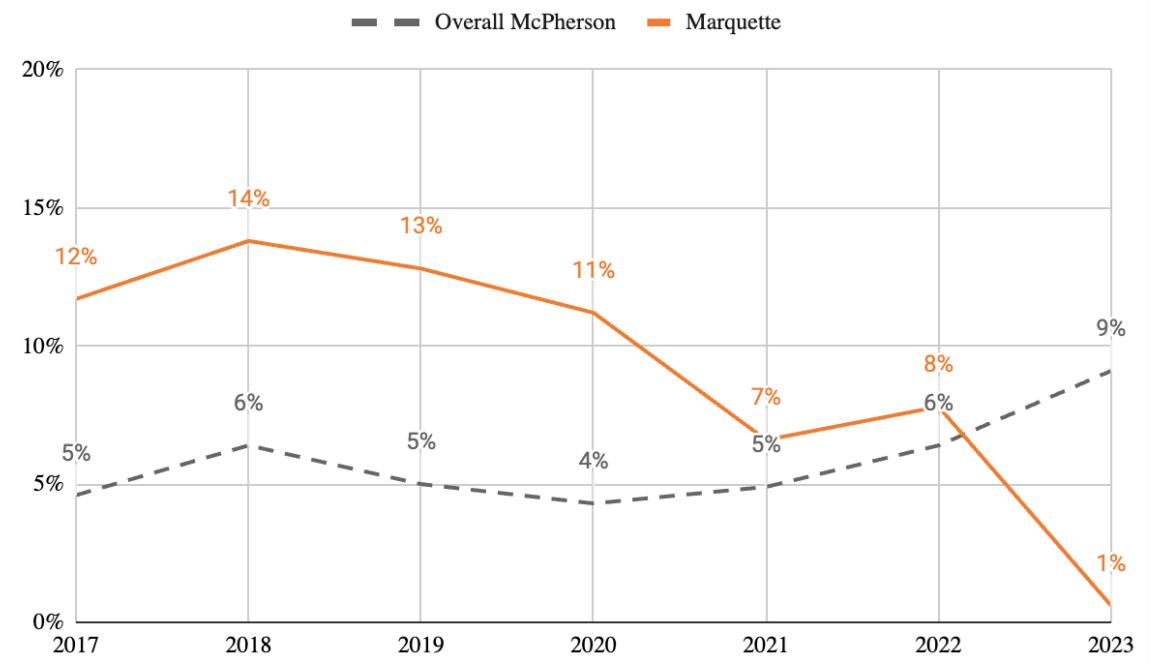


Overall Population Trend



Data source:USCB, ACS 5-Yr Avg

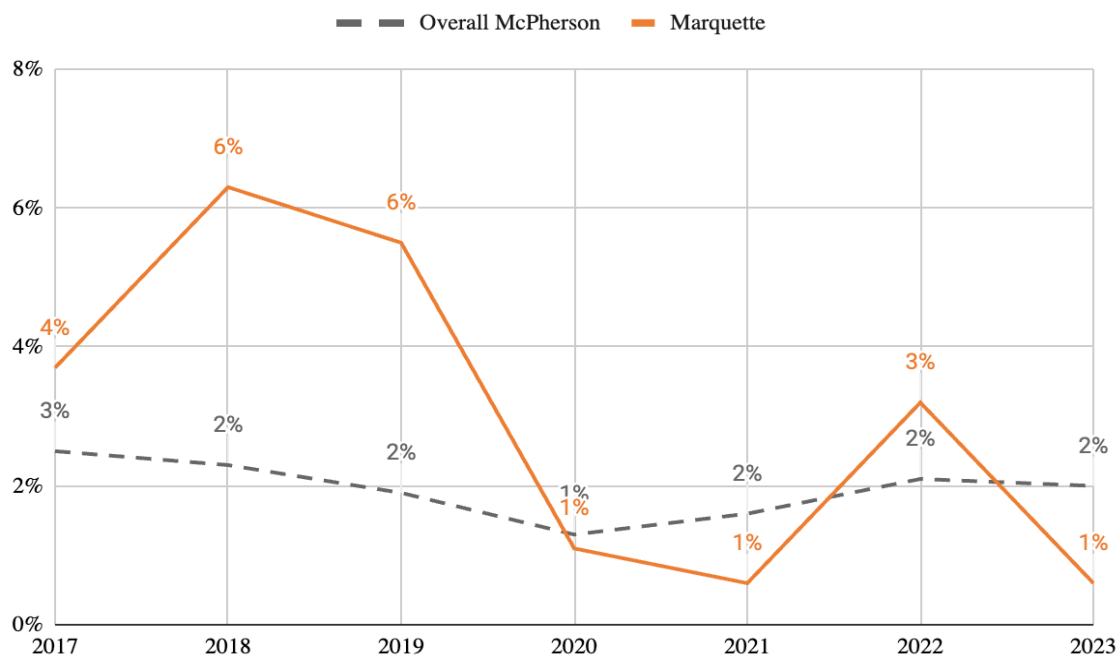
Local Poverty Rate



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



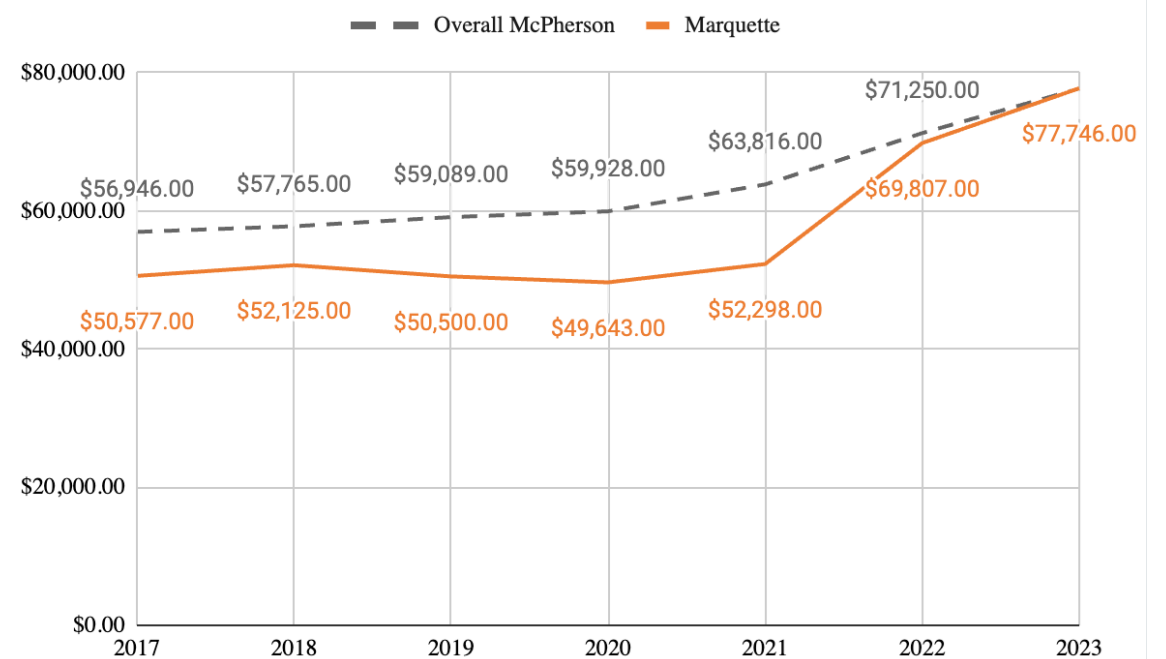
Local Unemployment Rate



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



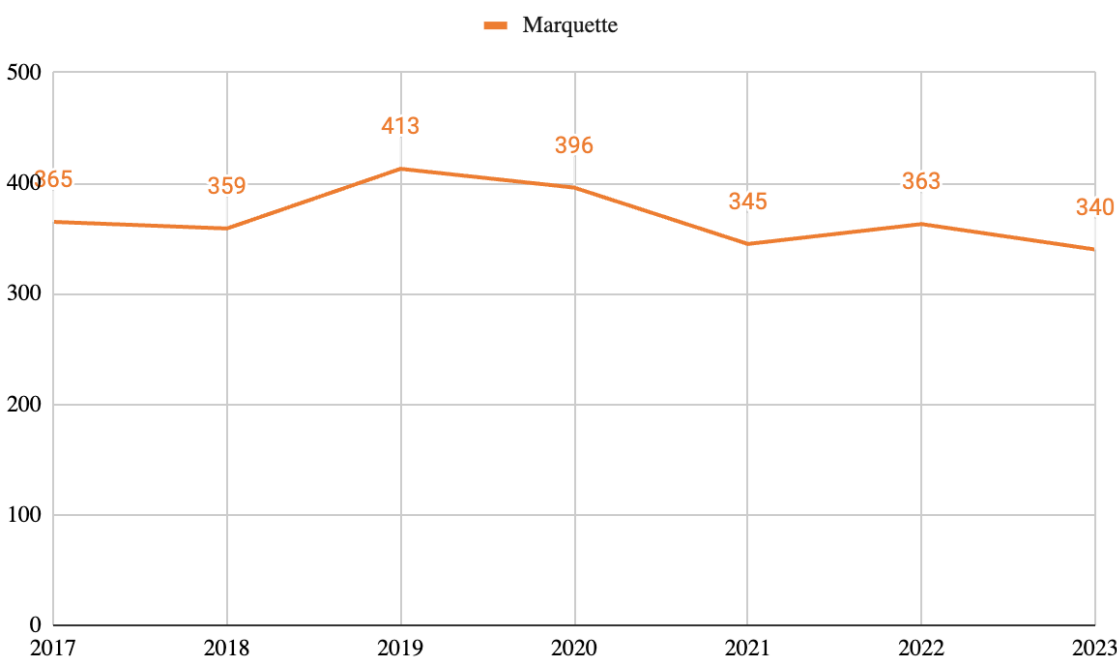
Median Household Income



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



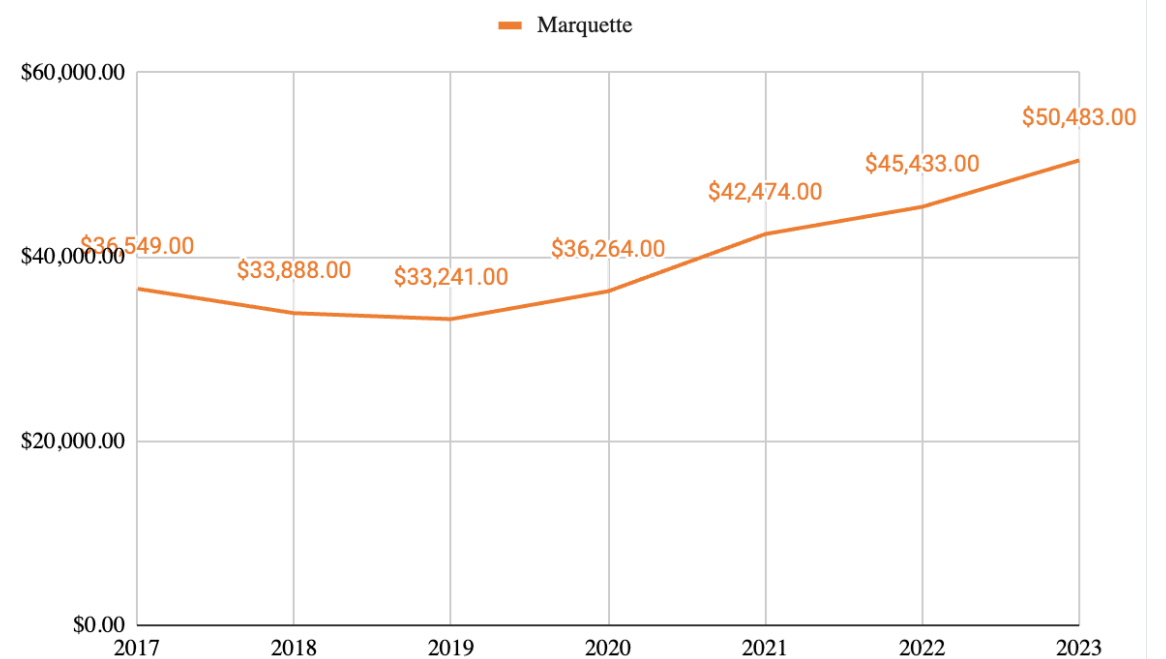
Total Housing Units



Data source:USCB, ACS 5-Yr Avg



Annual Sales Tax Collection



Data source:Kansas Dept of Revenue

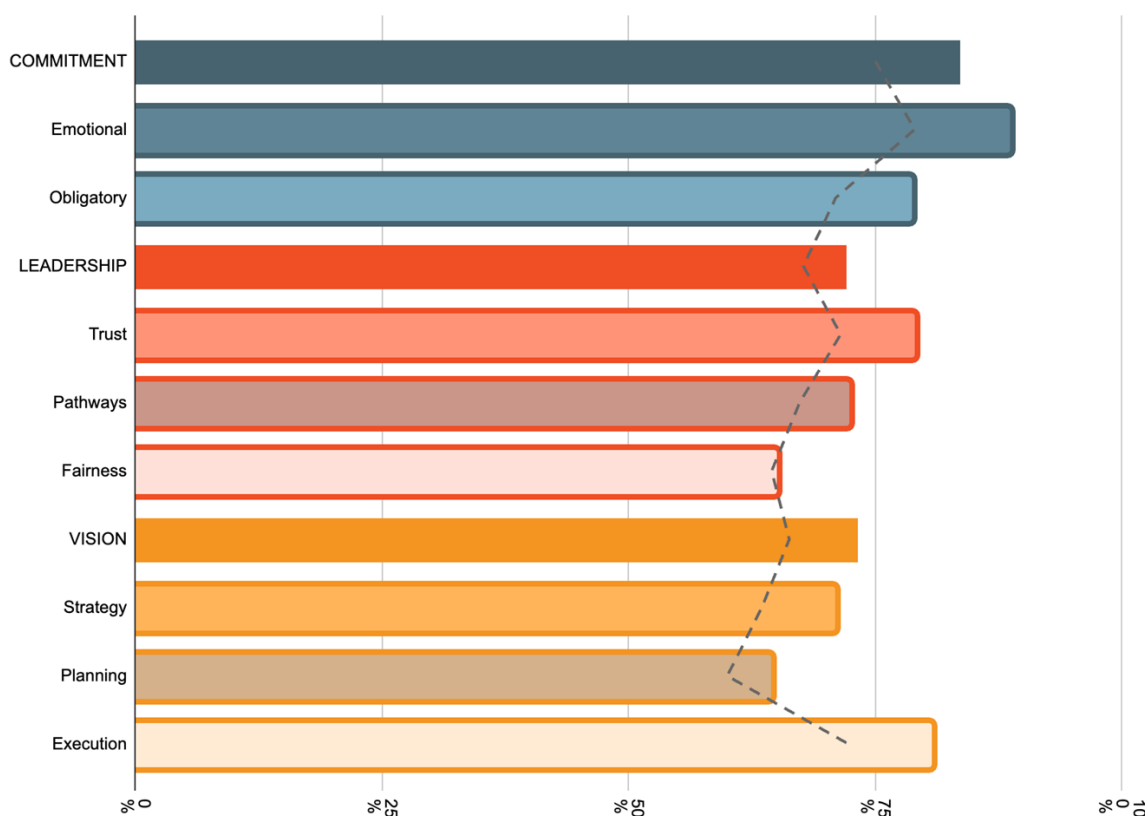
Confidence In Our Local Community

Engagement Summary:

Marquette residents feel a powerful emotional bond to their town, driven by a strong sense of belonging and personal meaning. They're proud of past accomplishments and celebrate community successes, expressing confidence in the town's direction. Trust runs high—neighbors rely on one another and newcomers feel welcomed—yet there's room to enhance structured pathways for involvement and ensure that decision-making feels fair and inclusive to maintain engagement.



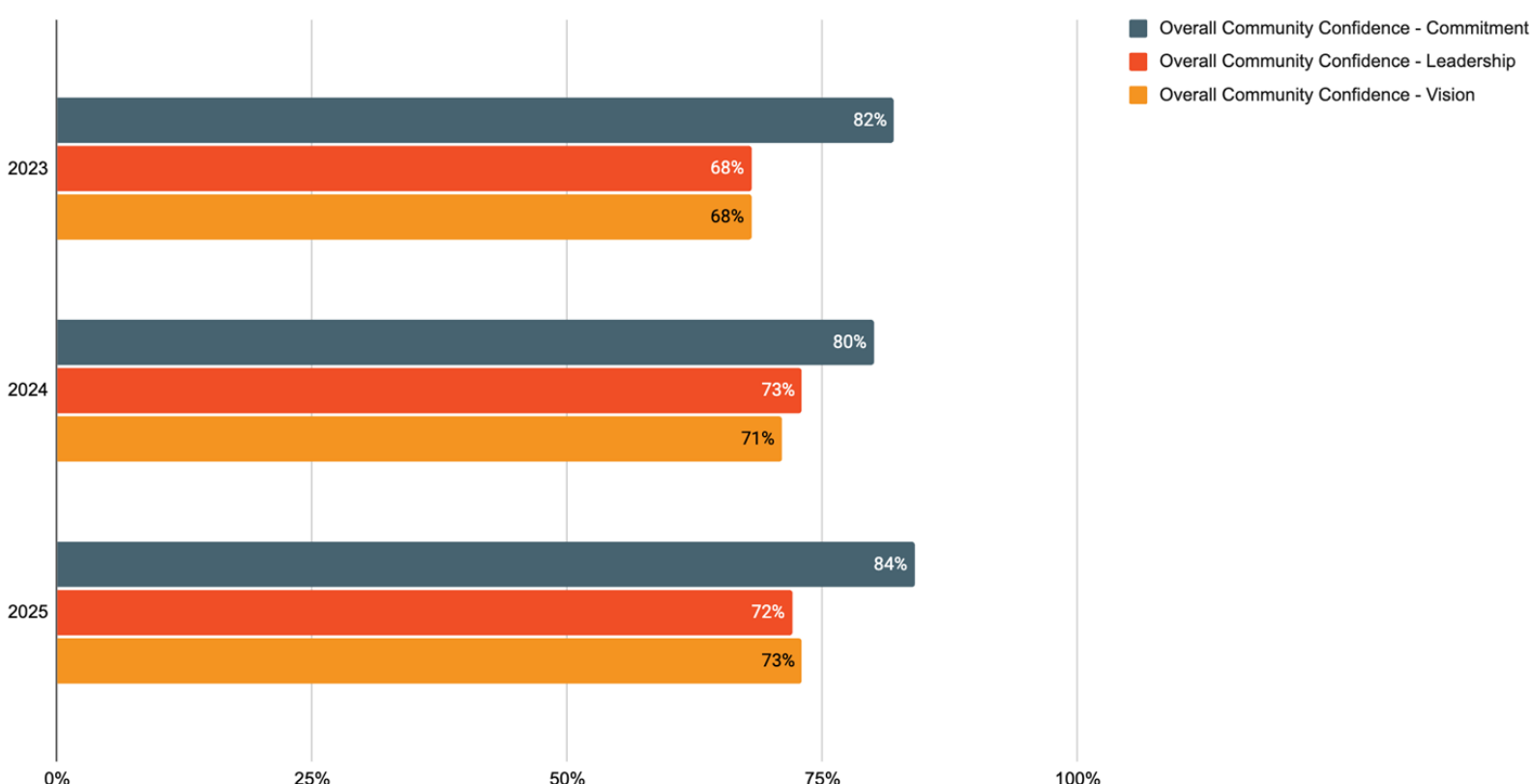
How do our residents view our community?



Questions:

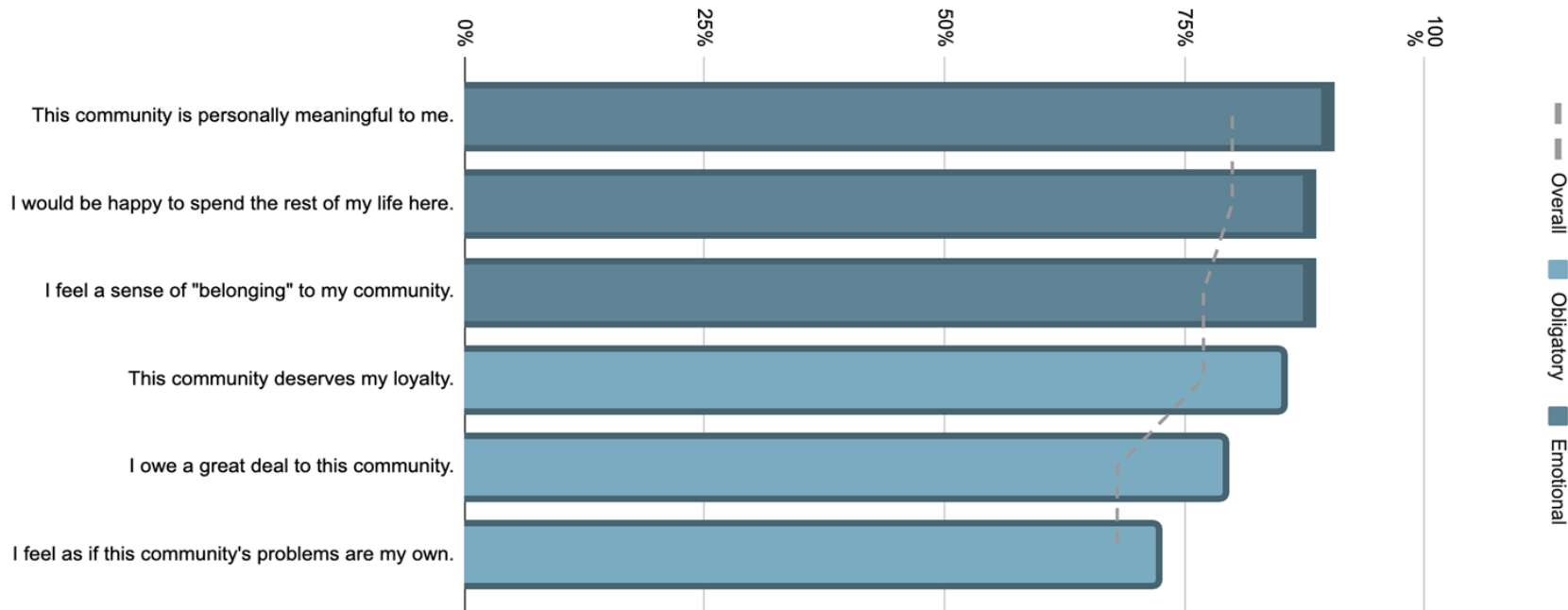
- Why does the Planning subcategory trail behind other Vision areas?
- What strategies will improve the Fairness subcategory?
- Why is the Emotional subcategory outperforming all others?

Year Over Year Change



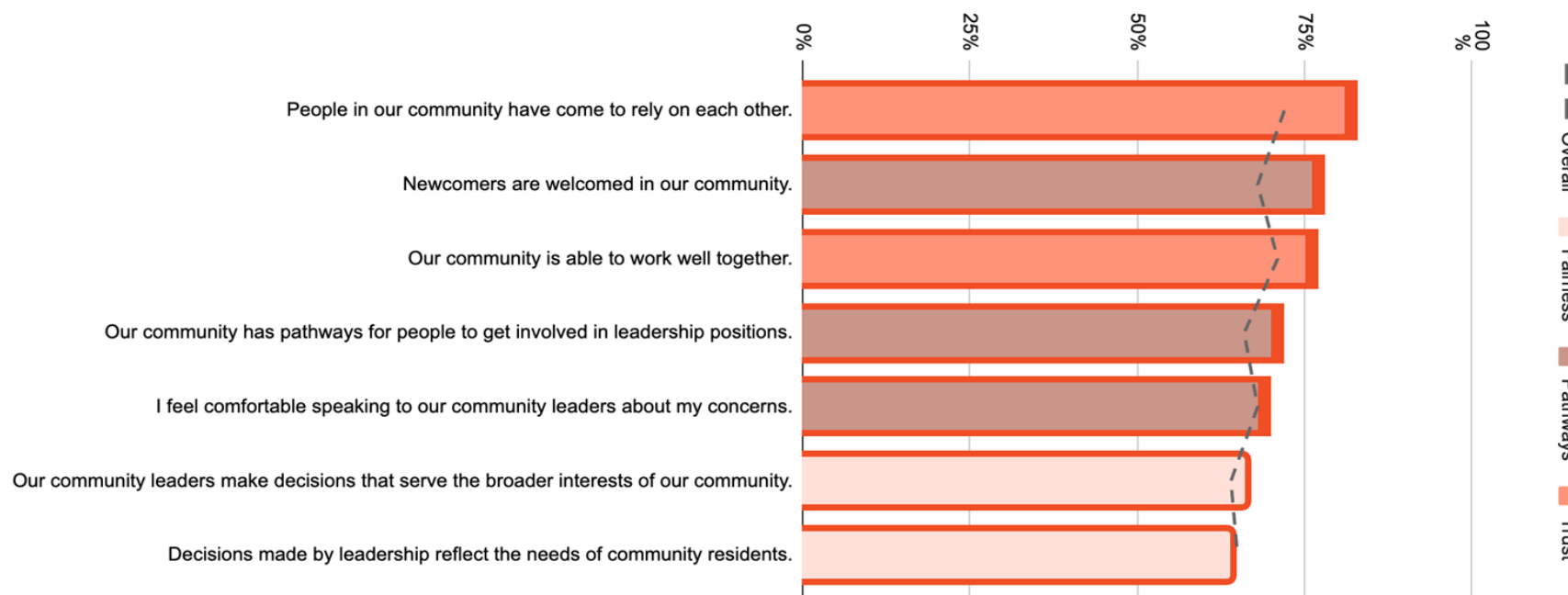
Confidence In Our Local Community

Community Confidence: Personal Commitment



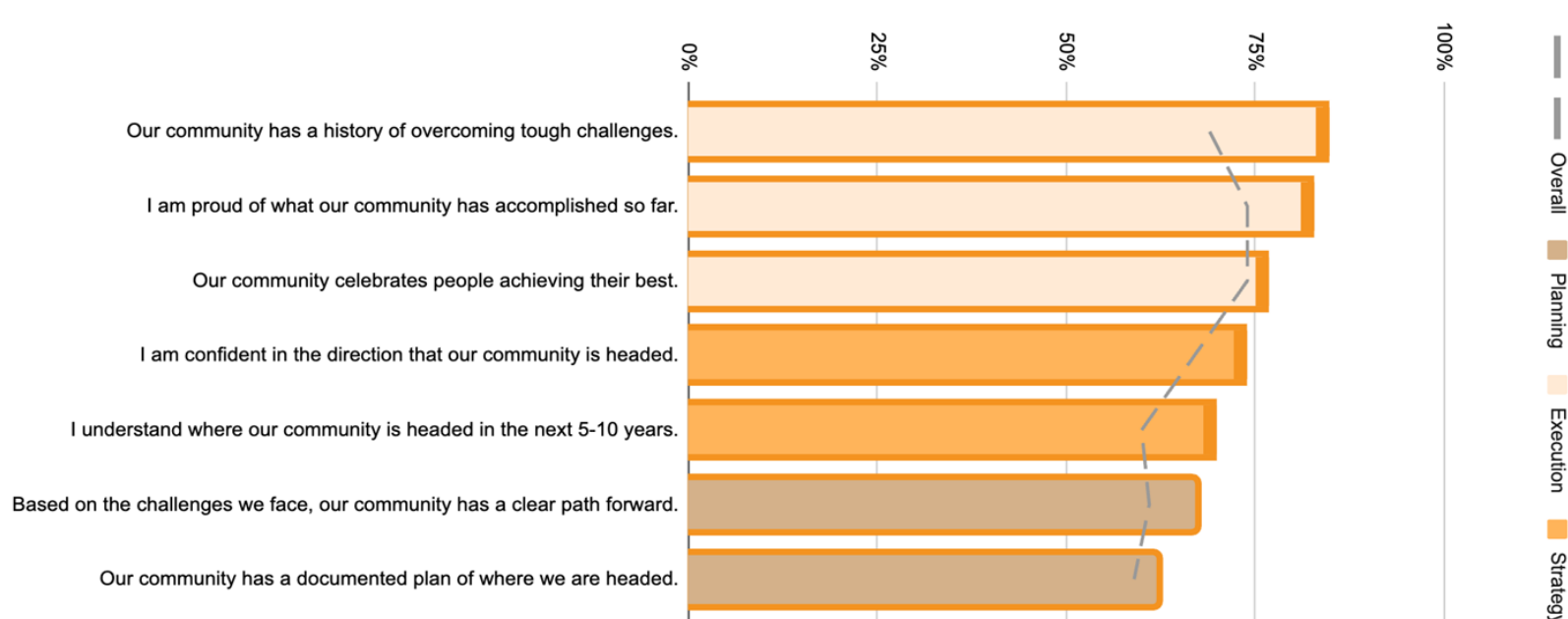
- What makes residents feel this community is personally meaningful to them?
- Which factors could lead people to see community problems as their own?

Community Confidence: Local Leadership



- How can we enhance the community's ability to work well together?
- What welcomes newcomers most effectively into our community?

Community Confidence: Vision

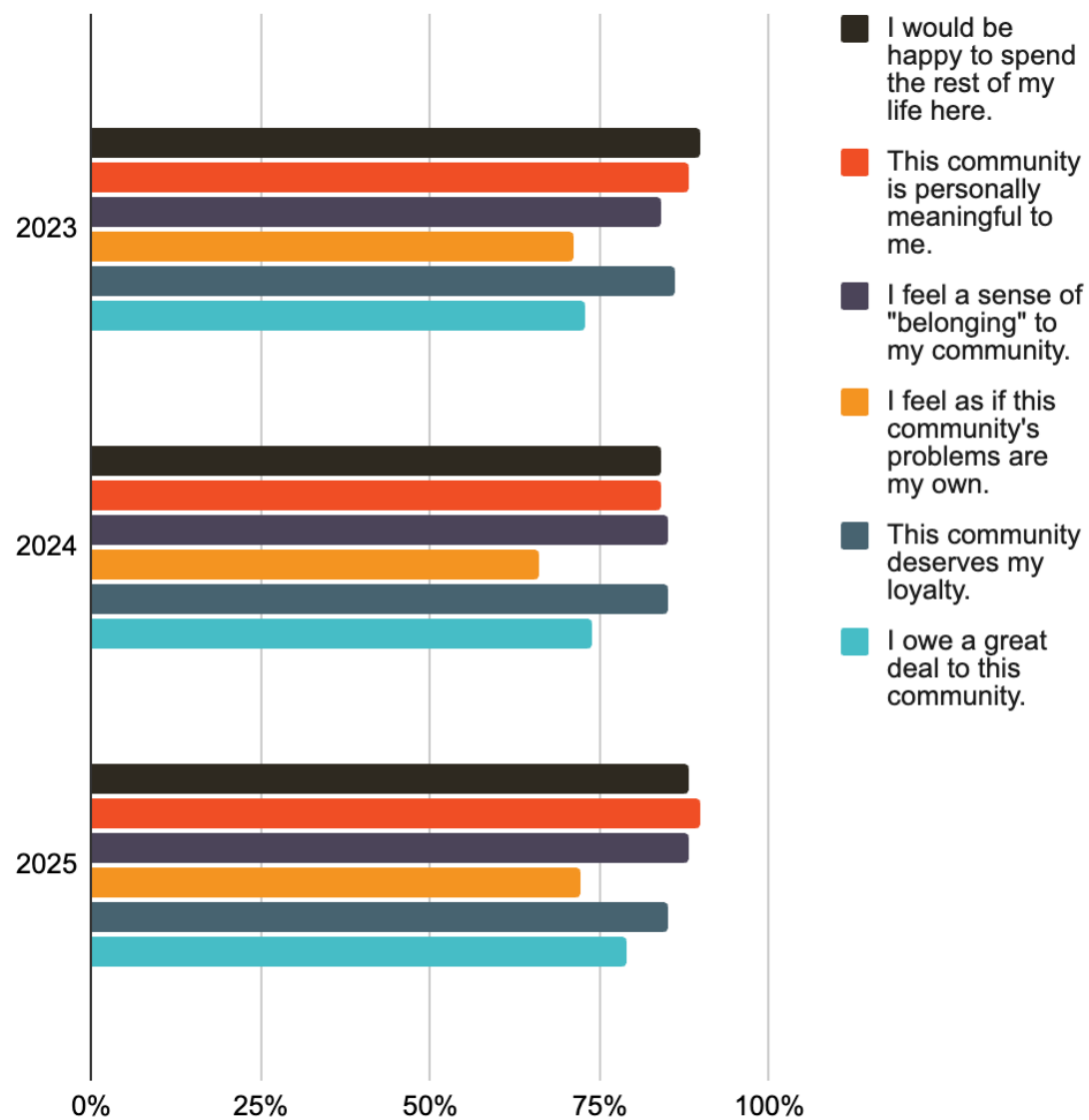


- How can residents understand better where our community is headed in the next 5-10 years?
- Which past challenges have most reinforced pride in our accomplishments?

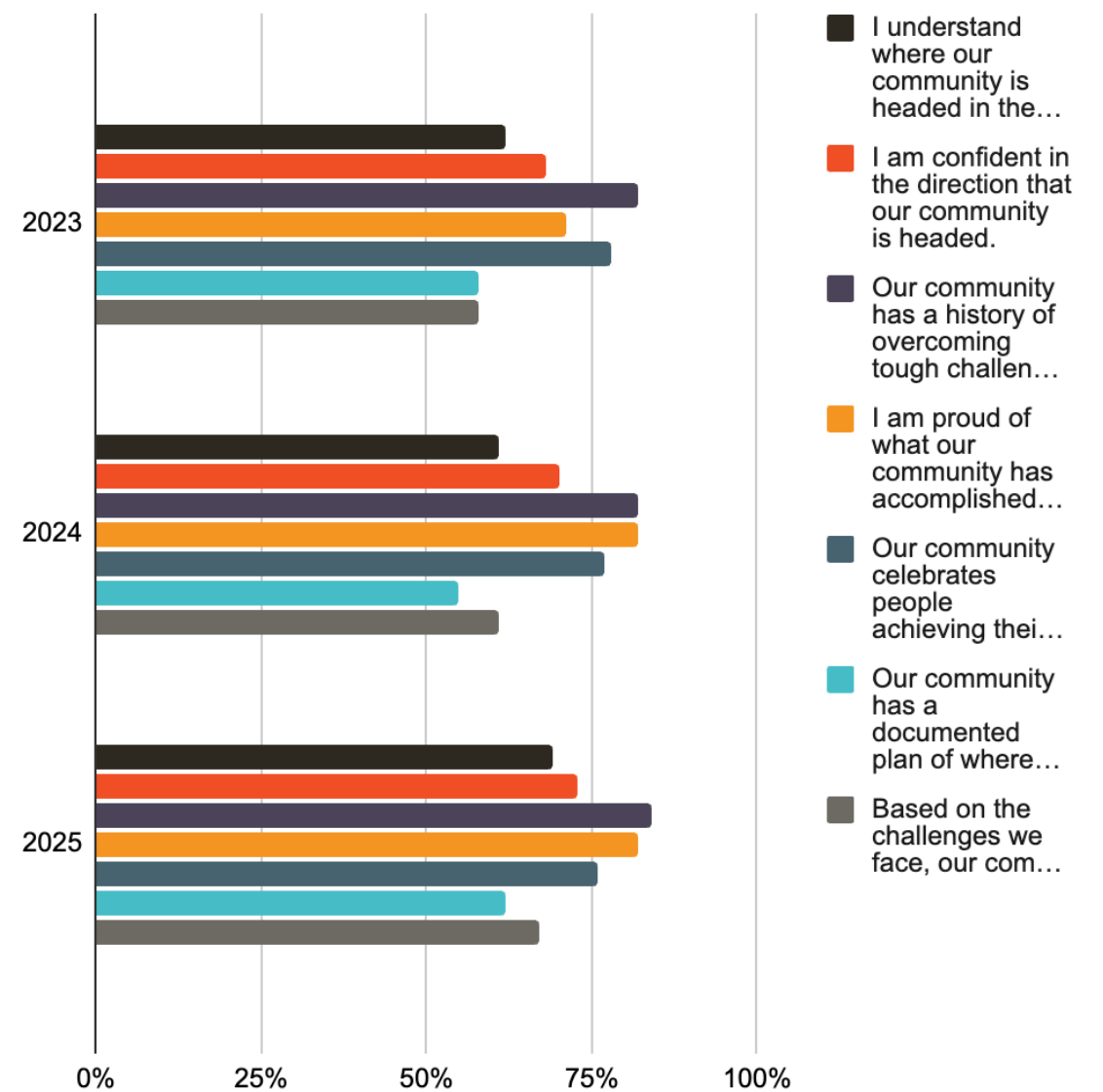
Portion of the community that is highly confident on the listed community dimensions (Rating range: 0-7)

Confidence In Our Local Community

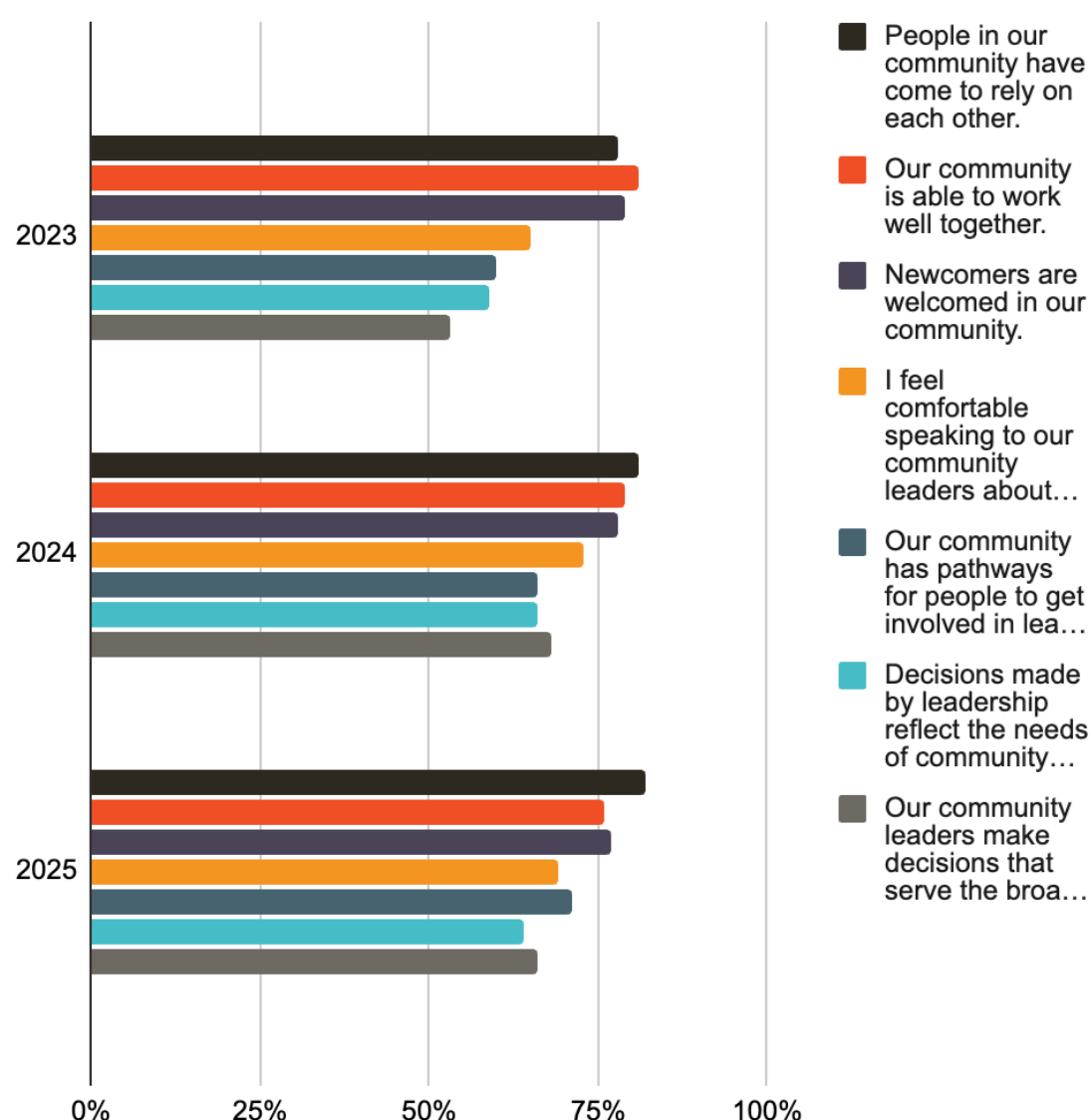
Commitment



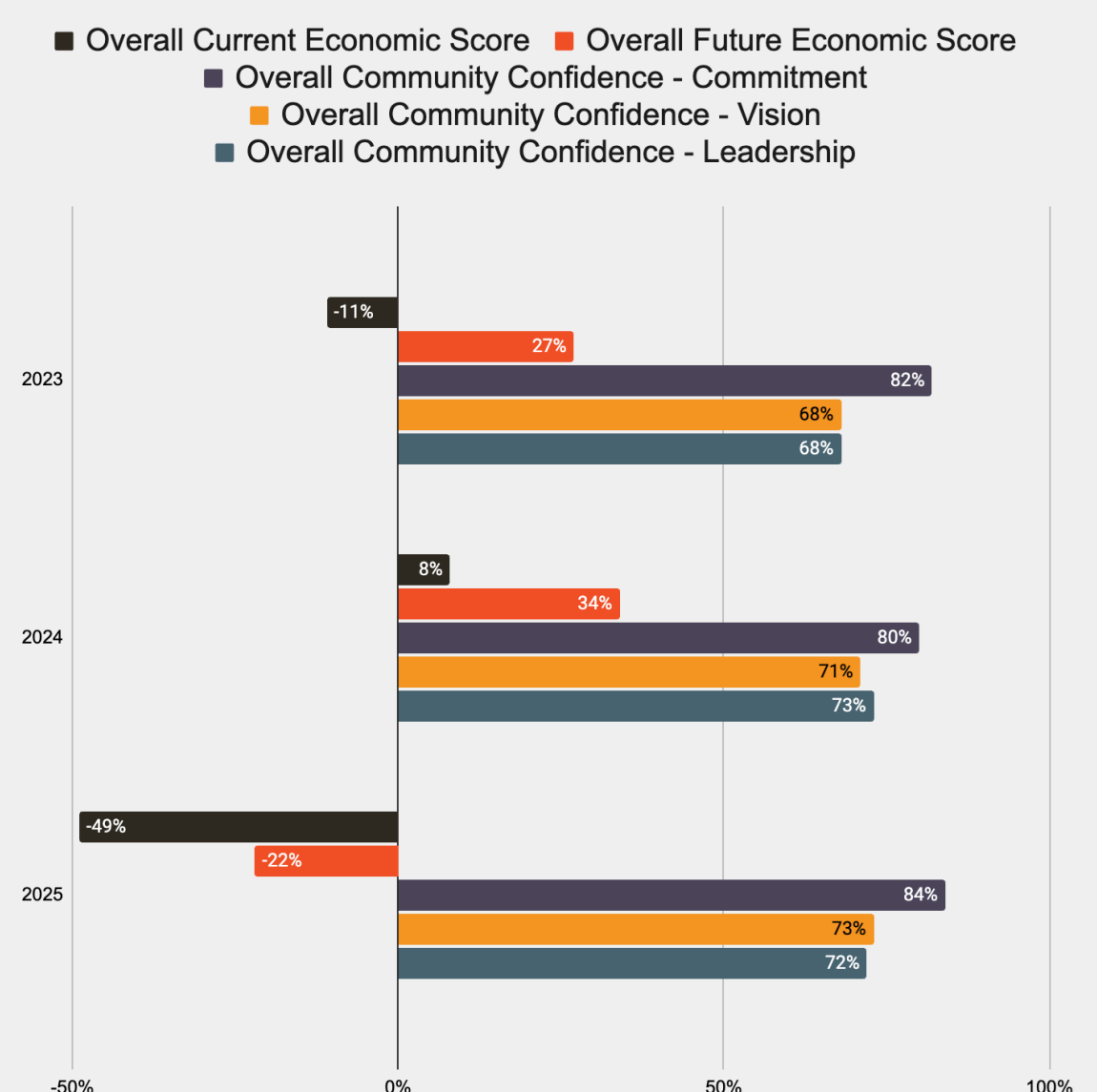
Vision



Leadership



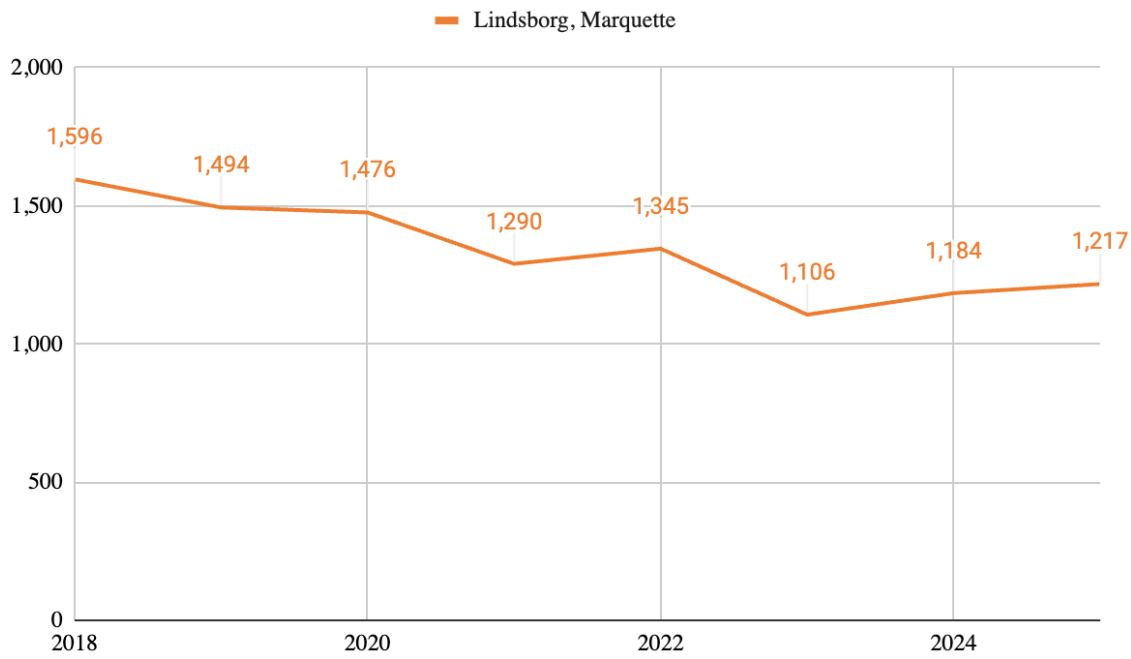
Economic vs. Community Confidence



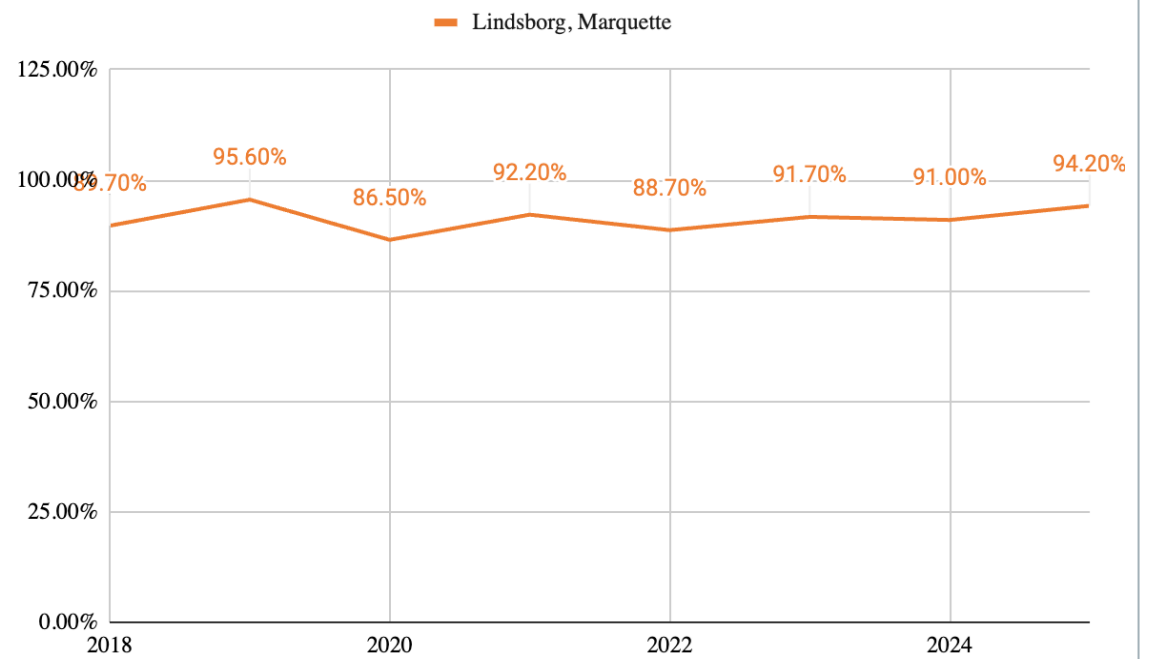
Portion of the community that is highly confident on the listed community dimensions (Rating range: 0-7)

Local Community Indicators

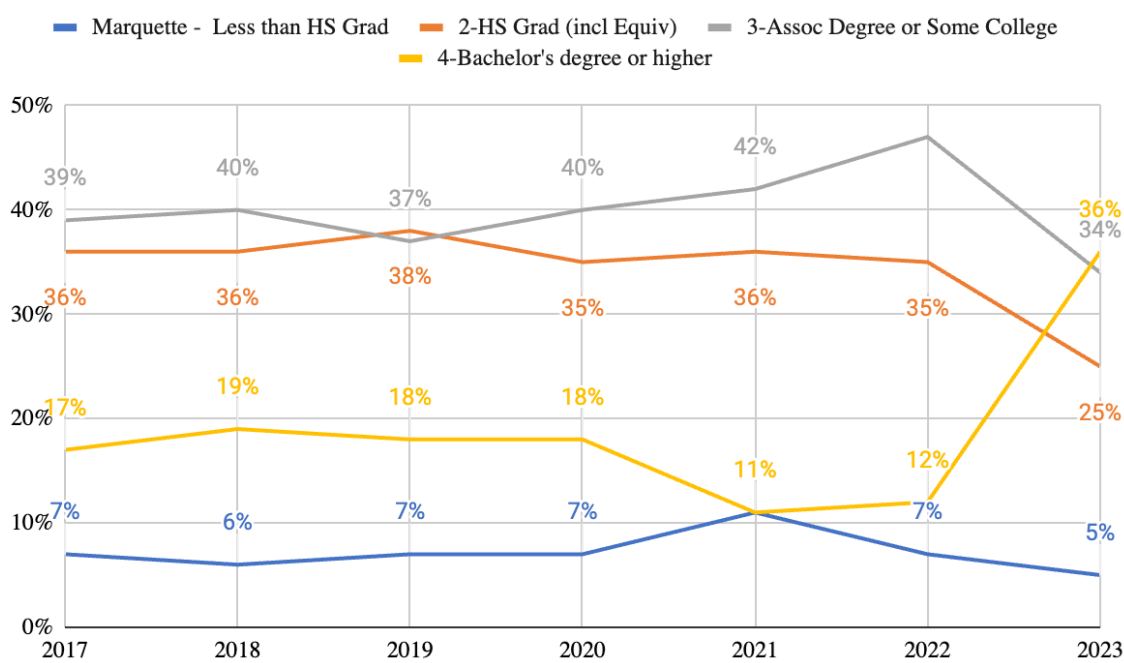
Local School Enrollment



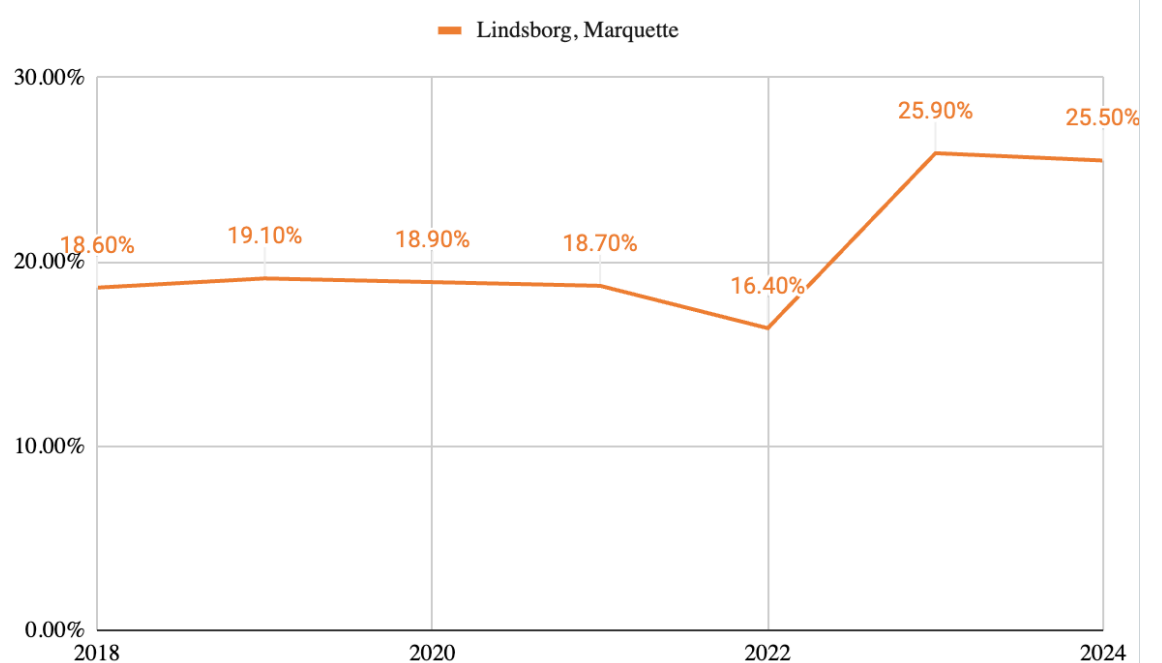
High School 4 Year Graduation Rate



Local Educational Level

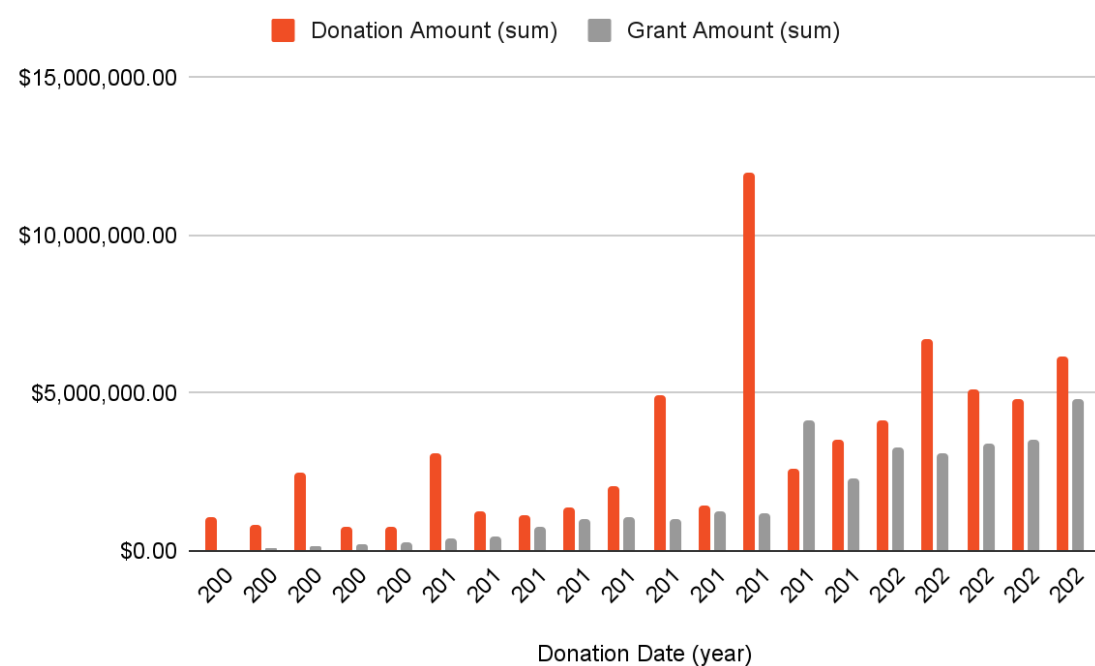


School % Free/Reduced Price Lunch

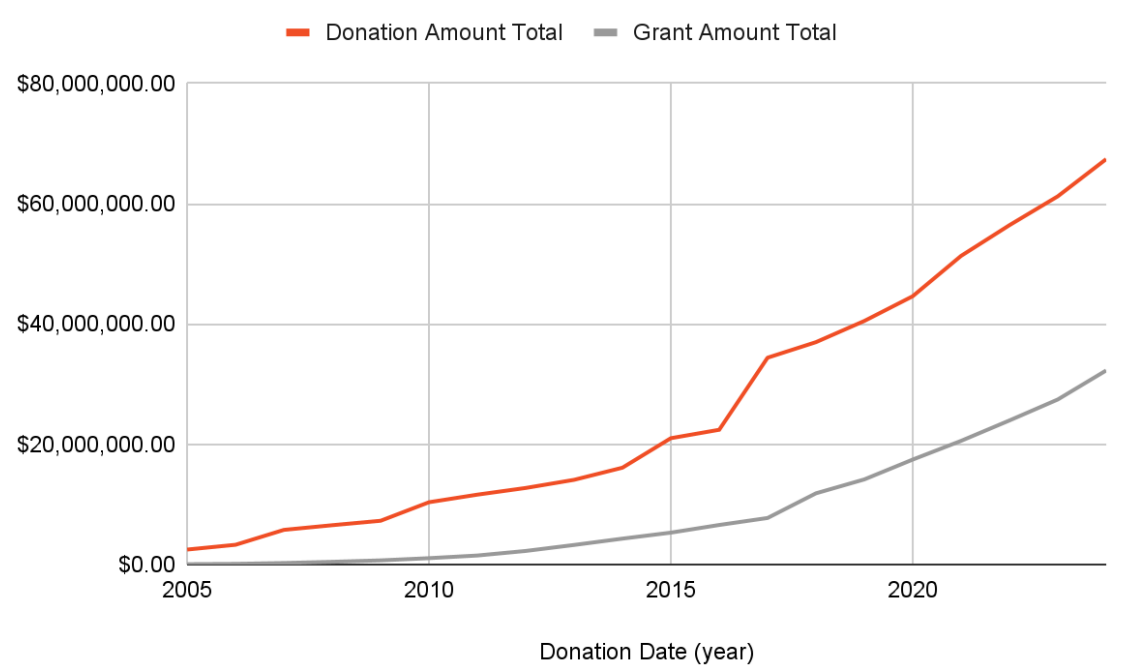


Source for all education graphs: Kansas State Dept of Education, Data Central

McPherson Community Foundation: Annual Dollars Raised & Invested



McPherson Community Foundation: Compound Dollars Raised & Invested

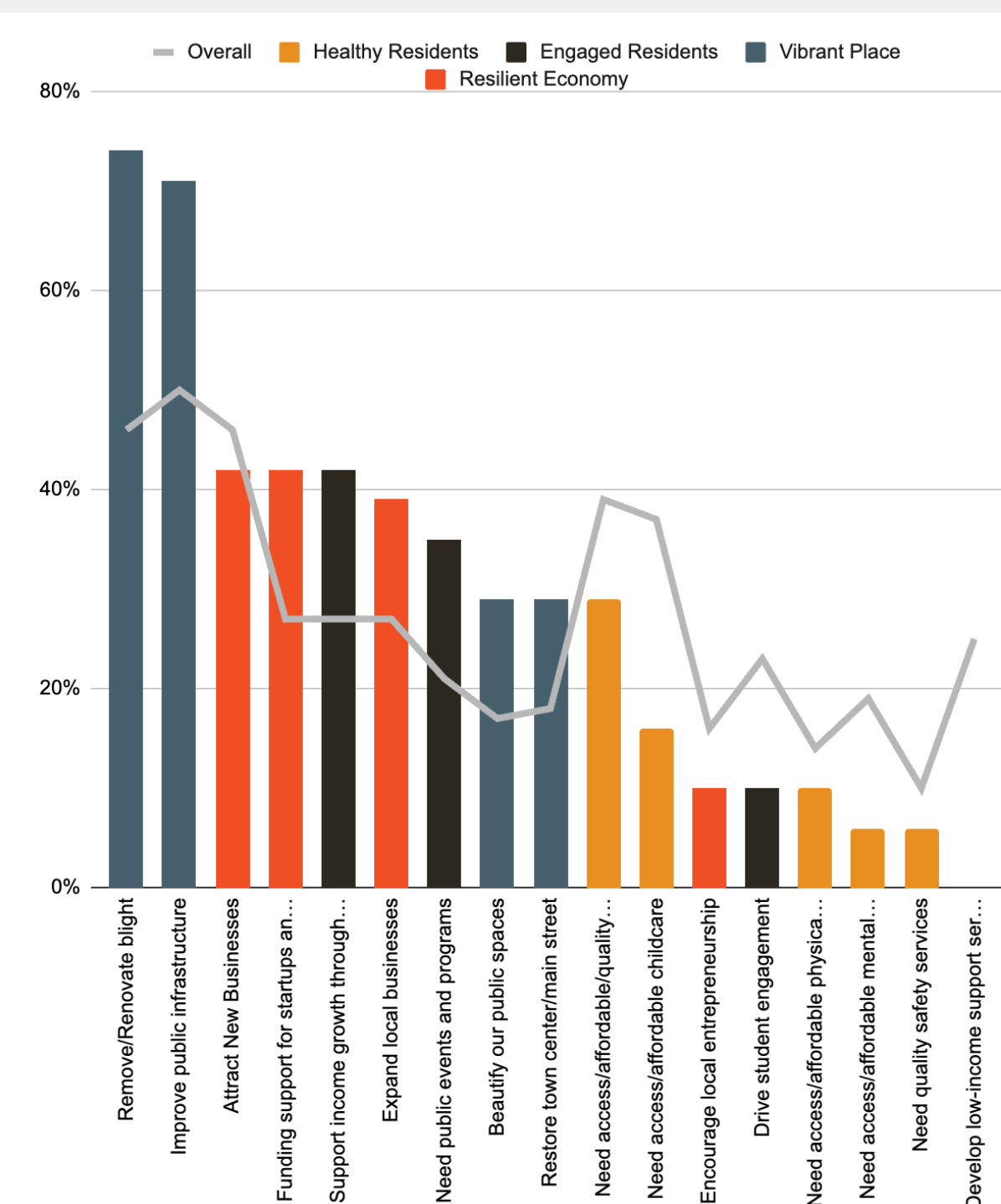


Community Program Priorities

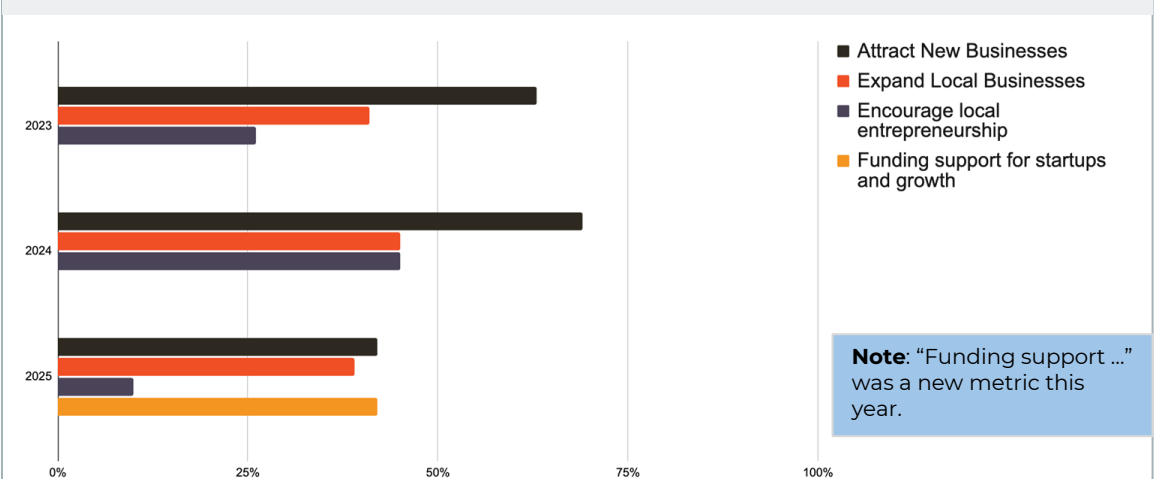
Priorities Summary:

Revitalizing public spaces tops the community's agenda: restoring blighted properties and upgrading infrastructure are clear imperatives to renew downtown vitality and safety. There's also strong support for fostering and expanding small business, while civic engagement initiatives—like training and certification support and confidence-building events—remain essential. Though housing, childcare, and health services rank below these priorities, they represent important areas for balanced growth and well-being.

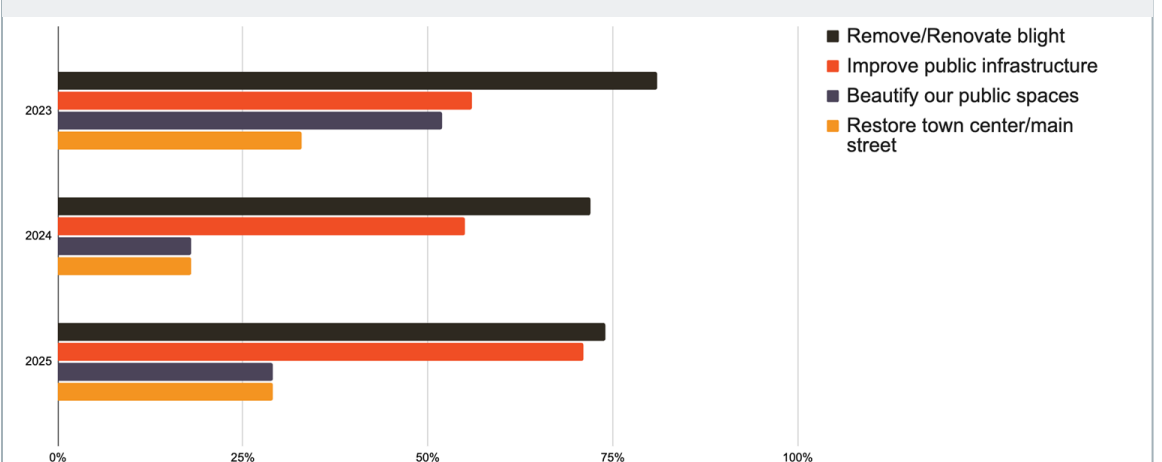
Program Priorities



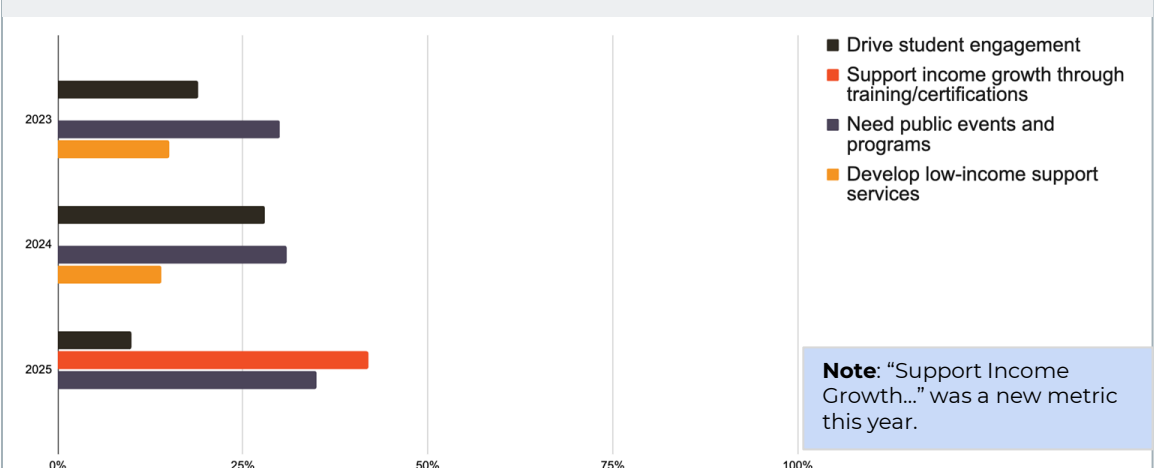
Resilient Economy



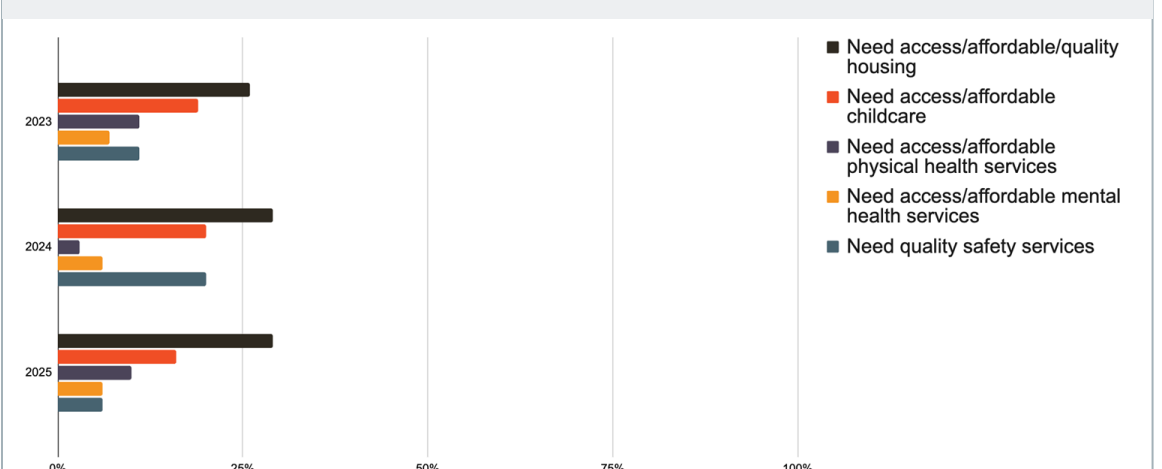
Vibrant Place



Engaged Residents

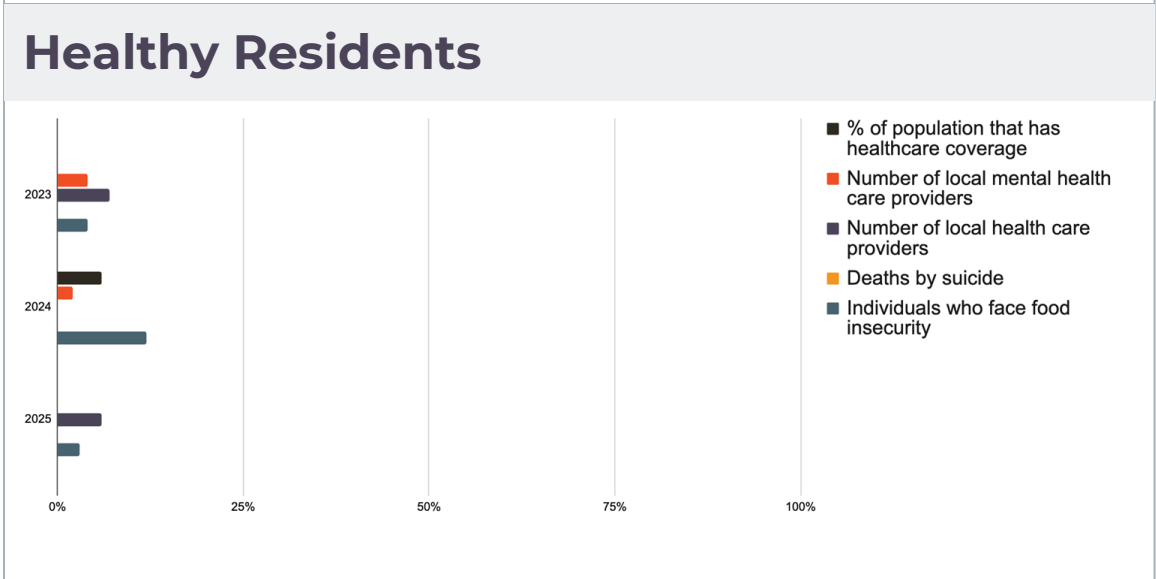
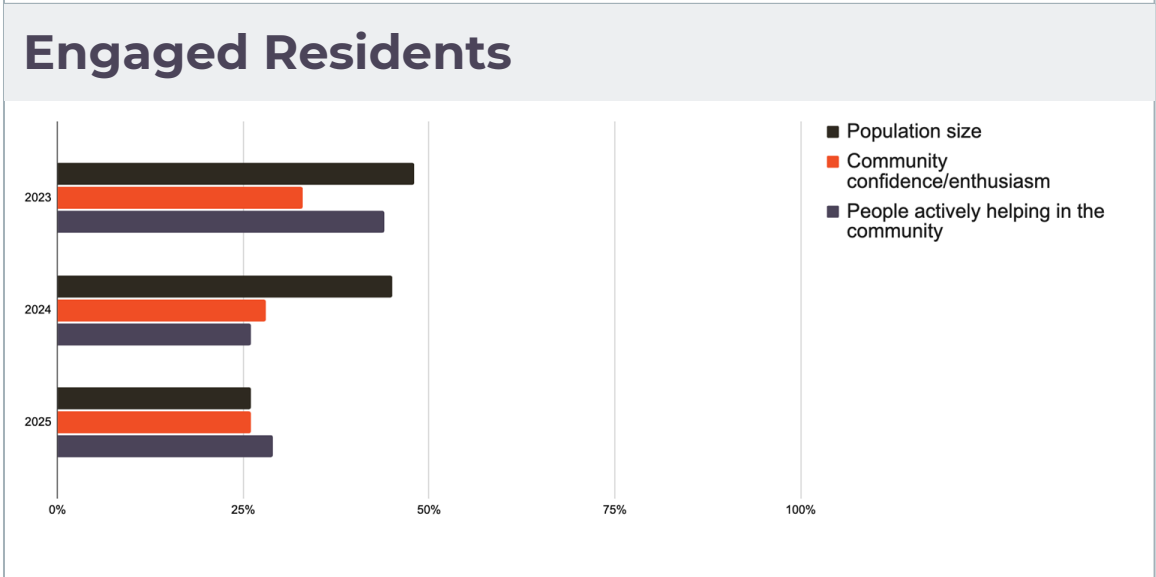
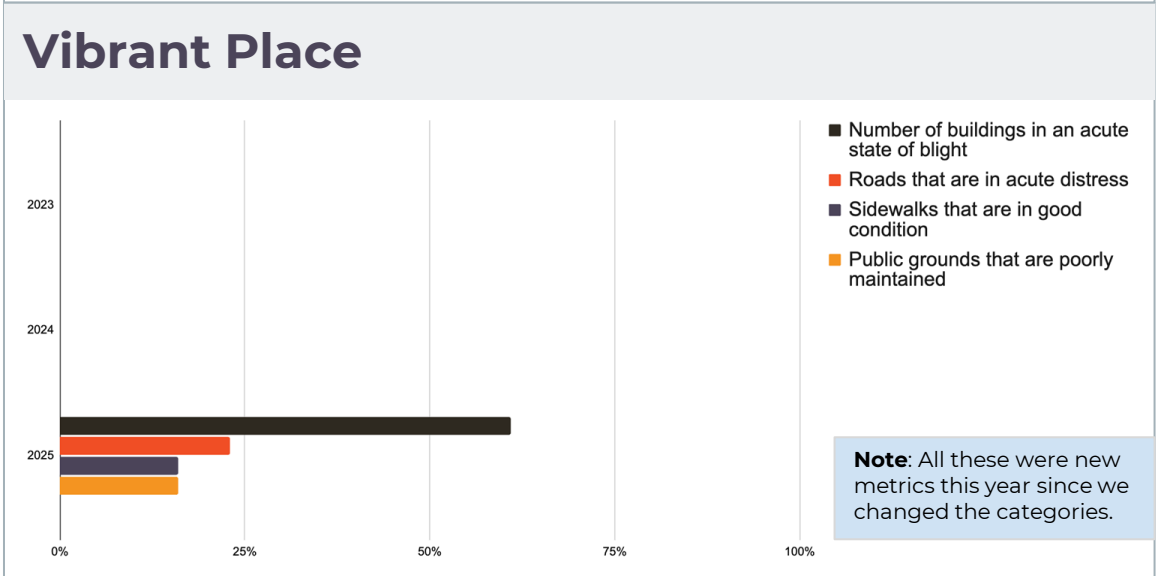
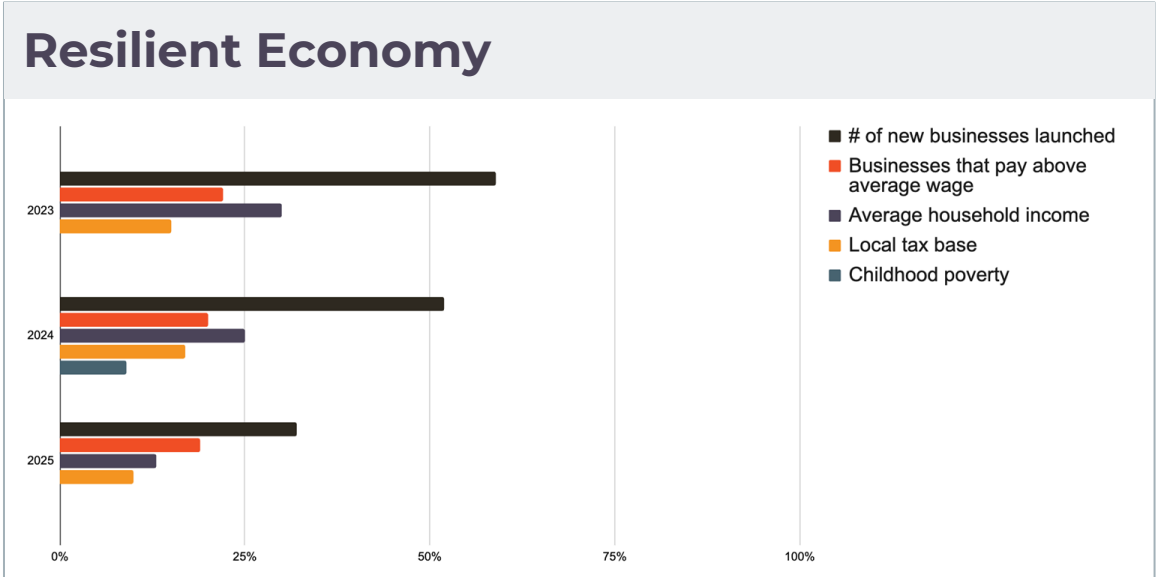
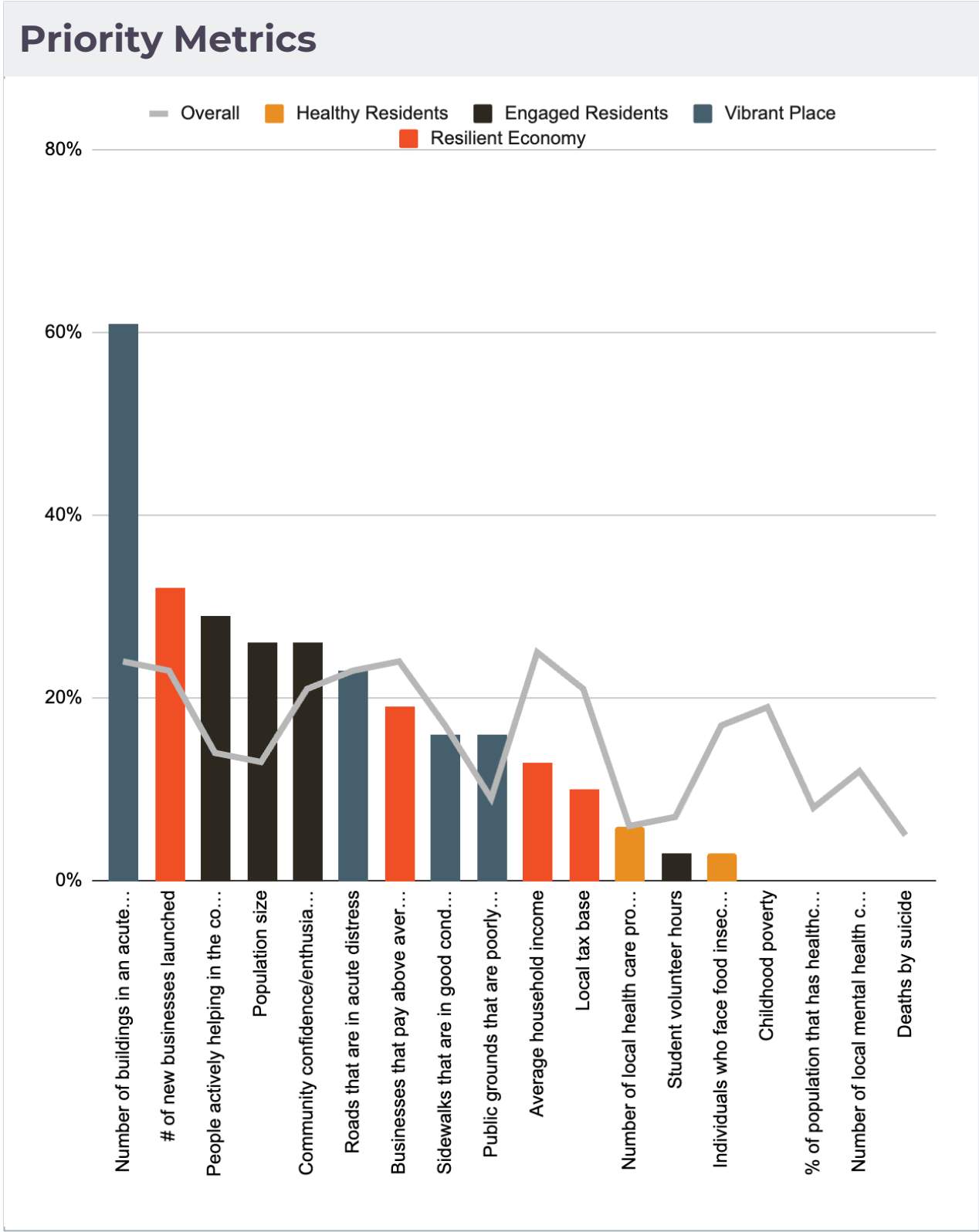


Healthy Residents



- Why are the top two Priority Programs both within the Vibrant Place category, and how does this emphasis align with Marquette's unique community needs?
- What factors might explain why "Remove/Renovate blight" received over 20% more votes than the community average, and how should resources be allocated accordingly?

Community Priority Metrics



- Why is the metric “Number of buildings in an acute state of blight” nearly double the votes of the next highest metric, and what implications does this have for program development?
- In what ways does Marquette’s higher emphasis on “Population size” and “Community confidence/enthusiasm” reflect on strategies to engage residents more effectively?



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?

- Remodeling downtown properties and beautifying Main Street – attracts visitors and boosts local business foot traffic in 2–3 years
- Repaving and upgrading sidewalks and streets – improves pedestrian safety and reduces liability over the next few years
- Overhauling water, sewer, and septic infrastructure – ensures reliable utilities and lowers long-term maintenance costs
- Developing affordable housing opportunities – stabilizes population growth and strengthens viability
- Attracting and supporting local businesses (gas station, manufacturing, retail) – creates jobs and drives economic growth

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?

- Sidewalk and Street Safety Repairs – use funds to maintain and upgrade sidewalks and streets, reducing hazards and liability.
- Downtown and Park Beautification – clean up façades, paint and repair park areas to boost curb appeal and visitor experience.
- Water and Sewer Infrastructure Upgrades – replace aging water meters, pipes, and sewer lines to ensure reliable utilities.
- Housing Rehabilitation and Affordable Homes – rehabilitate run-down properties and create affordable housing for families.
- Park and Recreation Enhancements – invest in playgrounds, park equipment, and green spaces to foster family-friendly community gathering.

Serving your community!

How do you serve your community today?

- Senior Center Meal Service – volunteer at senior center, cook and serve meals, run summer lunch program.
- Local Business Support – shop local and spend in Marquette businesses to strengthen the economy.
- Civic Leadership – serve on City Council, Chamber of Commerce, Lions Club, and community boards.
- Cultural Volunteering – volunteer at the Art Room, Motorcycle Museum, and other cultural institutions.
- EMS Volunteering – support community health by volunteering with EMS services.

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

- Versatile Volunteer Engagement – open to filling any volunteer role as needed.
- Community Governance Leadership – serve on community boards and in city positions.
- Sustained Volunteer Continuity – continue existing volunteer commitments.
- Physical Contribution Enhancement – improve personal health to increase active participation.
- Adaptive Future Planning – determine and pursue meaningful future service roles.

Survey Respondents

