

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

Communications and Engagement Summary

Spring 2026

Introduction

- This report provides an overview of the public input received on the Comprehensive Plan Update from May-June 2026.
- Community feedback was received through pop-up events, open office hours, and an online feedback form.
- Graphs depict answers to the questions posed in the online feedback form. Common themes and sample feedback from write-in comments are highlighted throughout.
- Review all online feedback form responses on the [Project Documents page](#).

Note: the County cannot require demographic questions, and all demographic data is self-reported.

How We Reached People & How They Participated

Public Engagement By the Numbers



Sent e-newsletter miniseries to **11,400+** subscribers



Collected **139** new e-newsletter sign-ups



Received **1,159** unique page views of Comprehensive Plan webpages in 2026



Distributed **1,321** flyers (English, Spanish, Arabic and Amharic)



8 pop-up events with **1,451** interactions



3 in-person Community Office Hours with **64** attendees



Online feedback form with **508** participants

Office Hours and Pop-Ups



Community Office Hours – 3 *Engagements with 64 Interactions*

- **Fairlington Community Center**

May 21, 2026, 12-2 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. • 1 interaction

- **Hendry House at Fort C.F. Smith Park**

June 2, 2026, 12-2 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. • 3 interactions

- **Central Library**

June 4, 2026, 5:30-7:30 p.m. • 60 interactions

Pop-Ups – 8 Engagements with 1,451 Interactions

- **Bike to Work Day - Rosslyn stop**, May 15, 2026, 7–9 a.m. • 164 interactions
- **Courthouse Farmers Market**, May 16, 2026, 8 a.m.–12 p.m. • 60 interactions
- **Westover Farmers Market**, May 17, 2026, 8 a.m.–12 p.m. • 305 interactions
- **MetPark Farmers Market**, May 30, 2026, 9 a.m.–1 p.m. • 219 interactions
- **Columbia Pike Farmers Market**, May 31, 2026, 9 a.m.–1 p.m. • 191 interactions
- **Sequoia Lobby, DHS**, June 3, 2026, 12–3 p.m. • 103 interactions
- **Arlington Food Assistance Center**, June 11, 2026, 9 a.m.–1 p.m. • 66 interactions
- **Columbia Pike Blues Festival**, June 13, 2026, 12–8 p.m. • 343 interactions

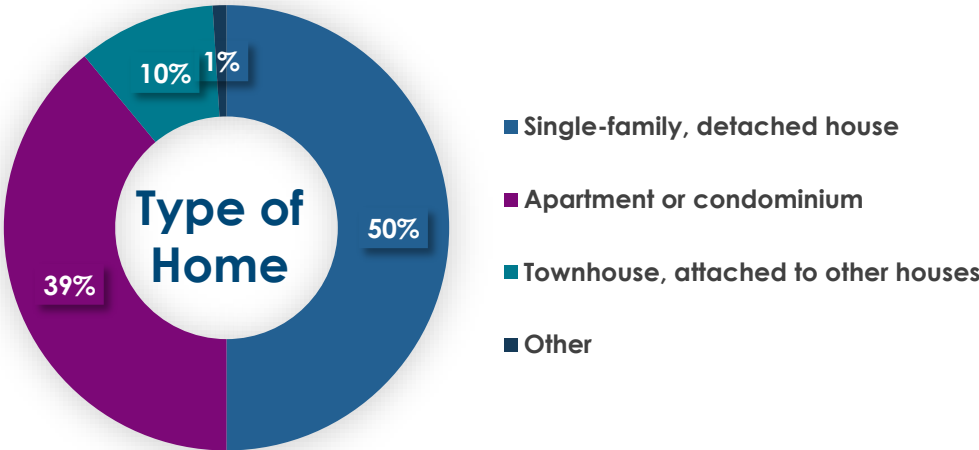
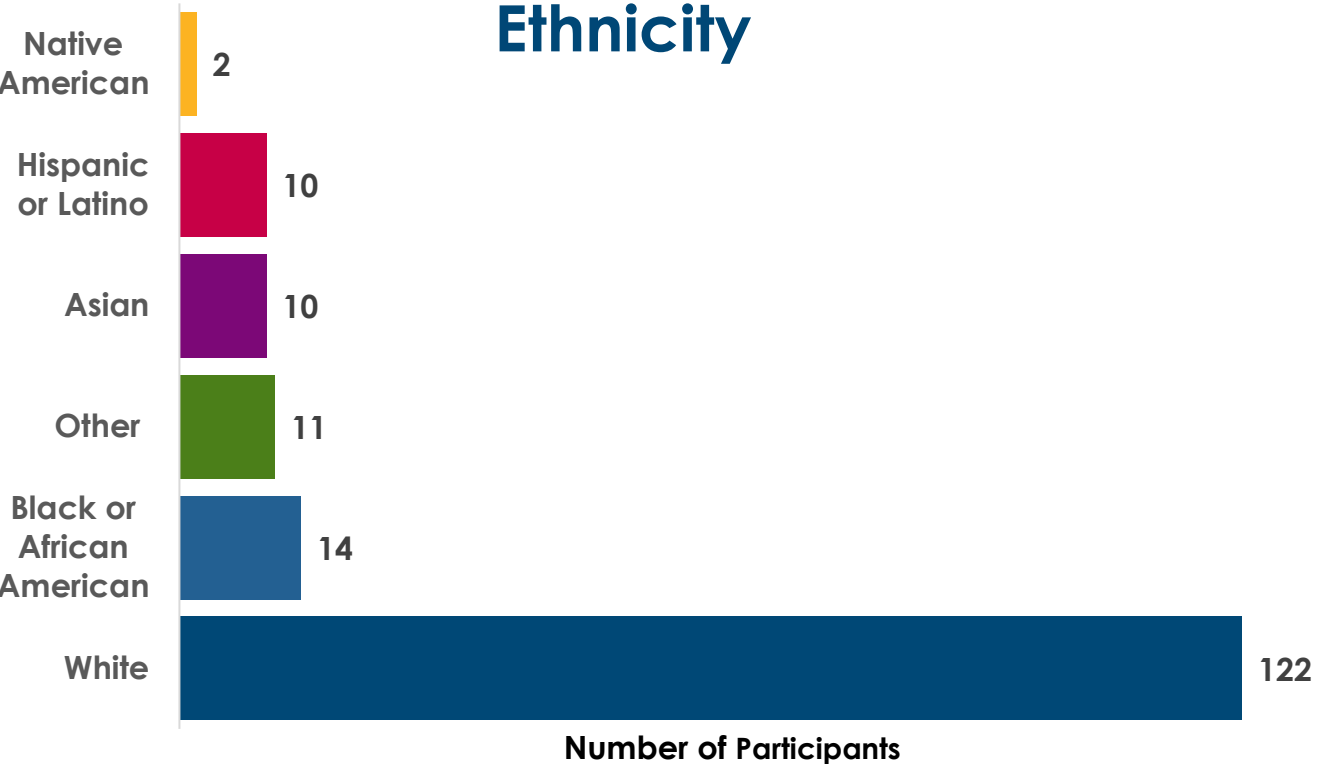
Online Feedback Form

Online Feedback Forms

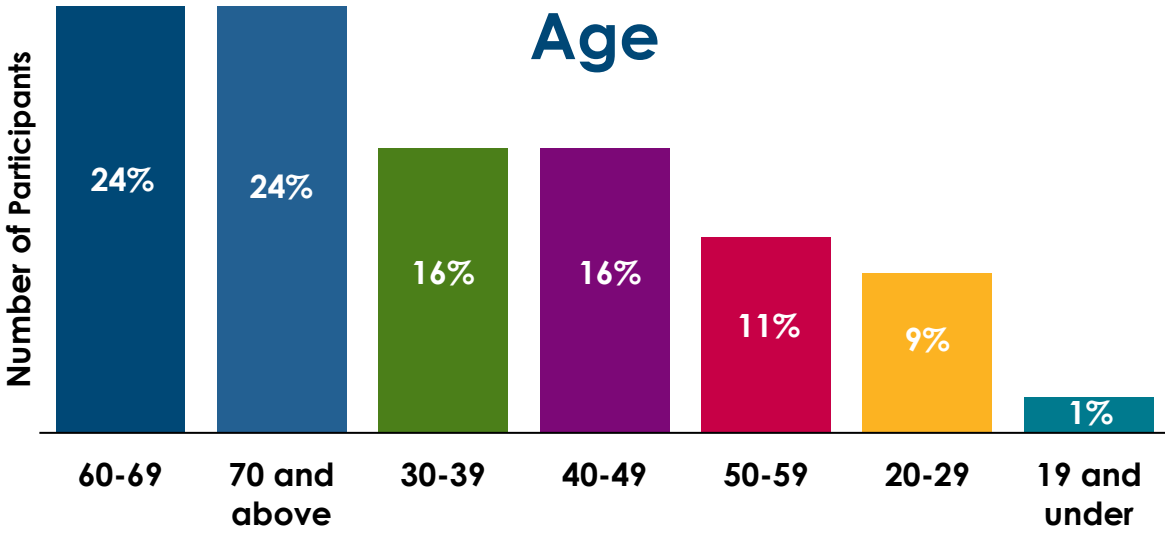
- The largest source of detailed input from the community
- More than 40 Arlington neighborhoods were represented
- Received responses in English, Spanish, and Arabic
- Common for online feedback forms to provide the most data collected
 - Spring 2025– 1,721 responses from 442 participants
 - Fall 2025 – 7,900 responses from 927 participants
 - See the [2025 Engagement Report](#)
 - **Spring 2026 – 22,500 responses from 508 participants**

Spring Online Feedback Form – *Who We Heard From*

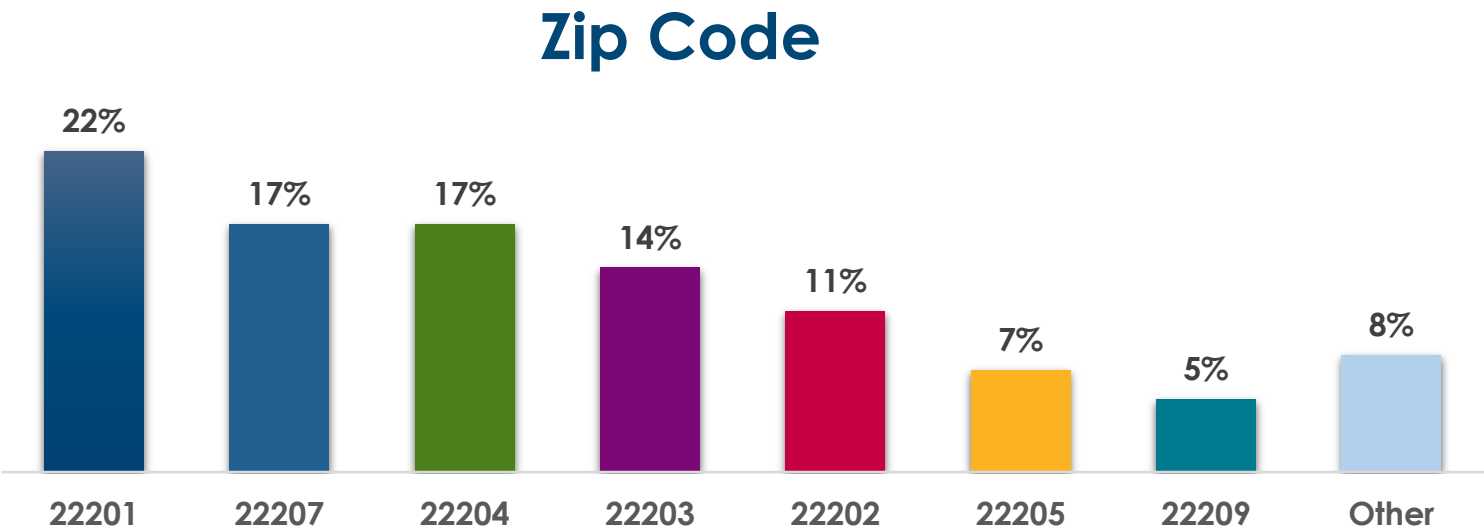
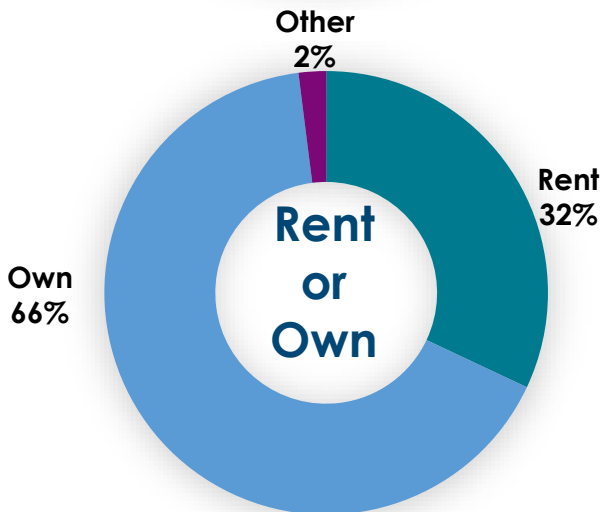
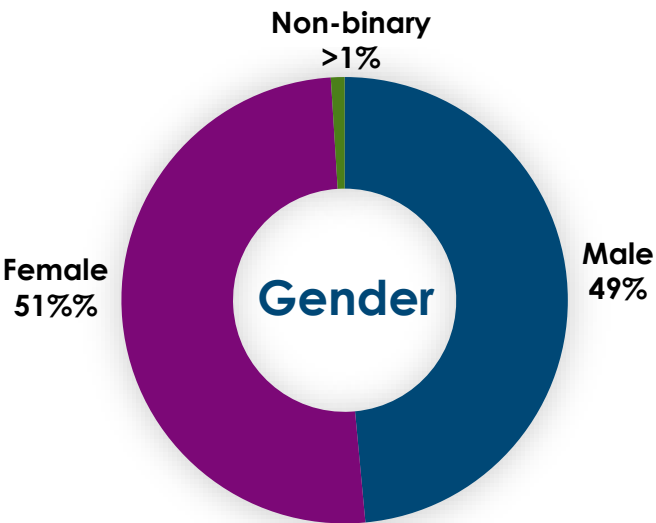
Ethnicity



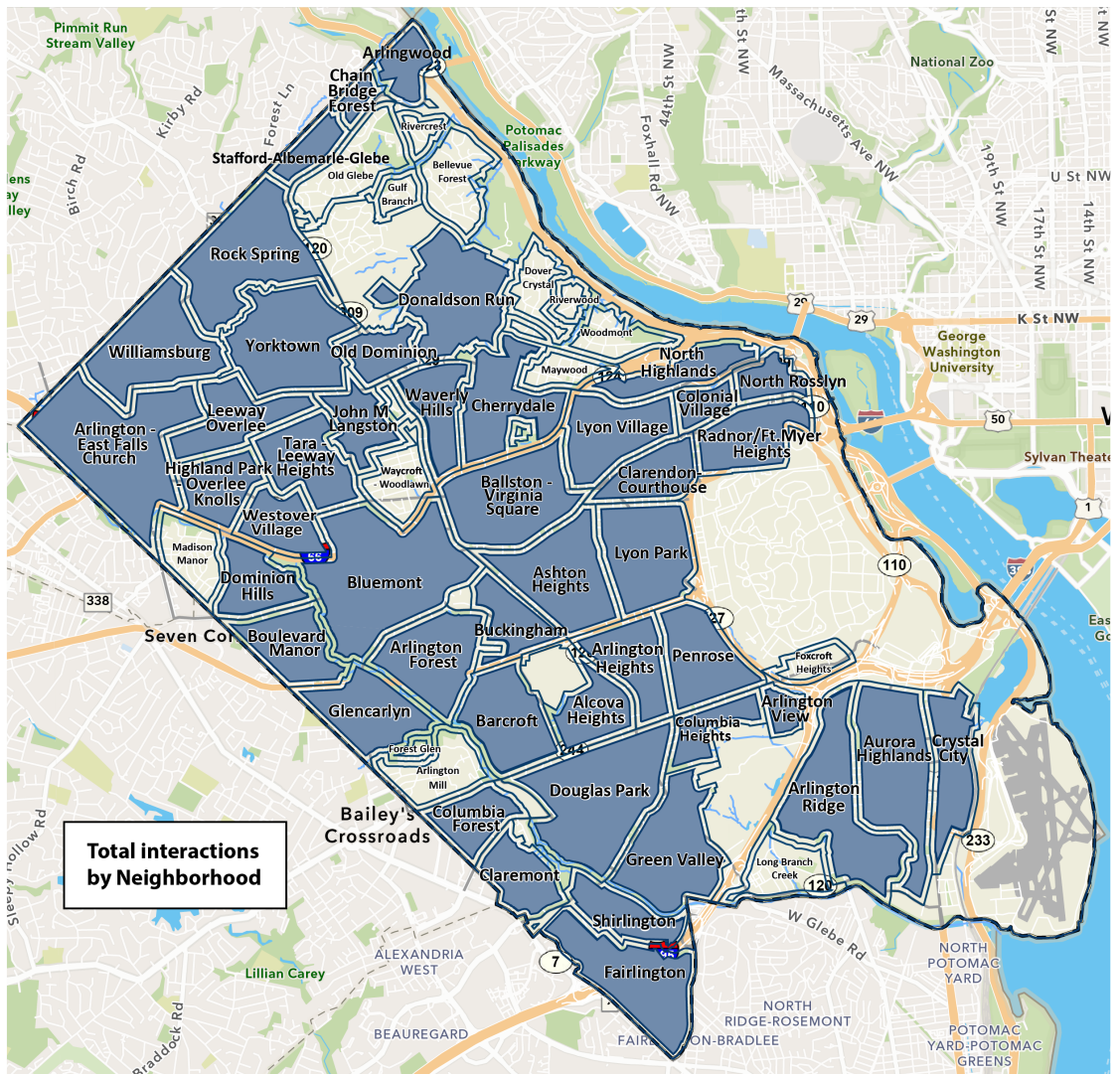
Age



Spring Online Feedback Form – *Who We Heard From*



Interactions and Participation by Neighborhood



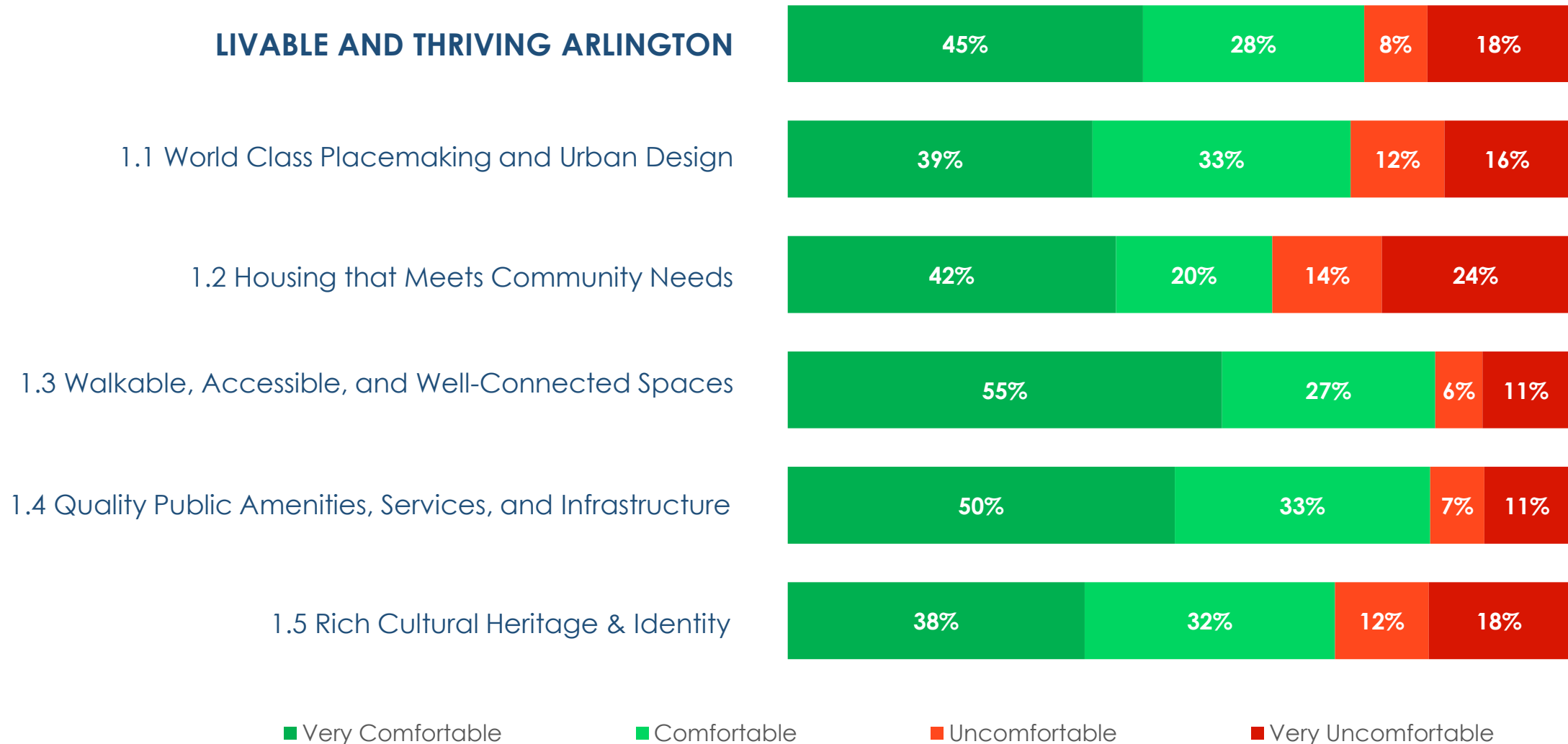
Participants from over 40 Arlington Neighborhoods

- Alcova Heights
- Arlington East Falls Church
- Arlington Forest
- Arlington Heights
- Arlington Ridge
- Arlingwood
- Ashton Heights
- Aurora Highlands
- Ballston-Virginia Square
- Barcroft
- Bluemont
- Boulevard Manor
- Buckingham
- Chain Bridge Forest
- Cherrydale
- Claremont
- Clarendon/Courthouse
- Colonial Village
- Columbia Forest
- Columbia Heights
- Crystal City
- Dominion Hills
- Donaldson Run
- Douglas Park
- Fairlington
- Glencarlyn
- Green Valley
- Highland Park Overlee Knolls
- John M. Langston
- Leeway Overlee
- Lyon Park
- North Highlands
- North Rosslyn
- Old Dominion
- Penrose
- Radnor/Ft. Meyer Heights
- Rock Springs
- Tara Leeway Heights
- Westover Village
- Williamsburg
- Yorktown

Livable and Thriving Arlington

Guiding Principle	Supporting Statements
 1. Livable and Thriving Arlington: Ensure everyone can thrive in high-quality, accessible, and affordable live-work-learn-play spaces that support wellbeing and integrate Arlington's urban and natural environments through thoughtful planning and design, coordinated infrastructure, and public services and programs.	1.1. World Class Placemaking and Urban Design: Create high quality spaces through visually appealing architecture, biophilic design, and culturally responsive public art that value and reflect the unique needs of Arlington's diverse communities and neighborhoods. 1.2. Housing that Meets Community Needs: Grow Arlington's overall housing supply, including more affordable and accessible options throughout the County, while reducing systemic barriers to housing access. 1.3. Walkable, Accessible, and Well-Connected Spaces: Create human scaled, well-connected public spaces that meet accessibility standards, support mixed uses, and offer walkability to daily needs, access to nature, and multimodal transportation options across the County. 1.4. Quality Public Amenities, Services, and Infrastructure: Provide and maintain reliable, resilient, accessible, and equitably located public facilities and infrastructure to meet current and future community needs. 1.5. Rich Cultural Heritage & Identity: Strengthen Arlington's identity by protecting historic resources, highlighting cultural heritage and locally inspired architecture, urban design, and art to shape a public realm that reflects the County's diverse community stories and character.

How comfortable or uncomfortable are you with this Guiding Principle and its Supporting Statements?



Inclusive Arlington

Guiding Principle



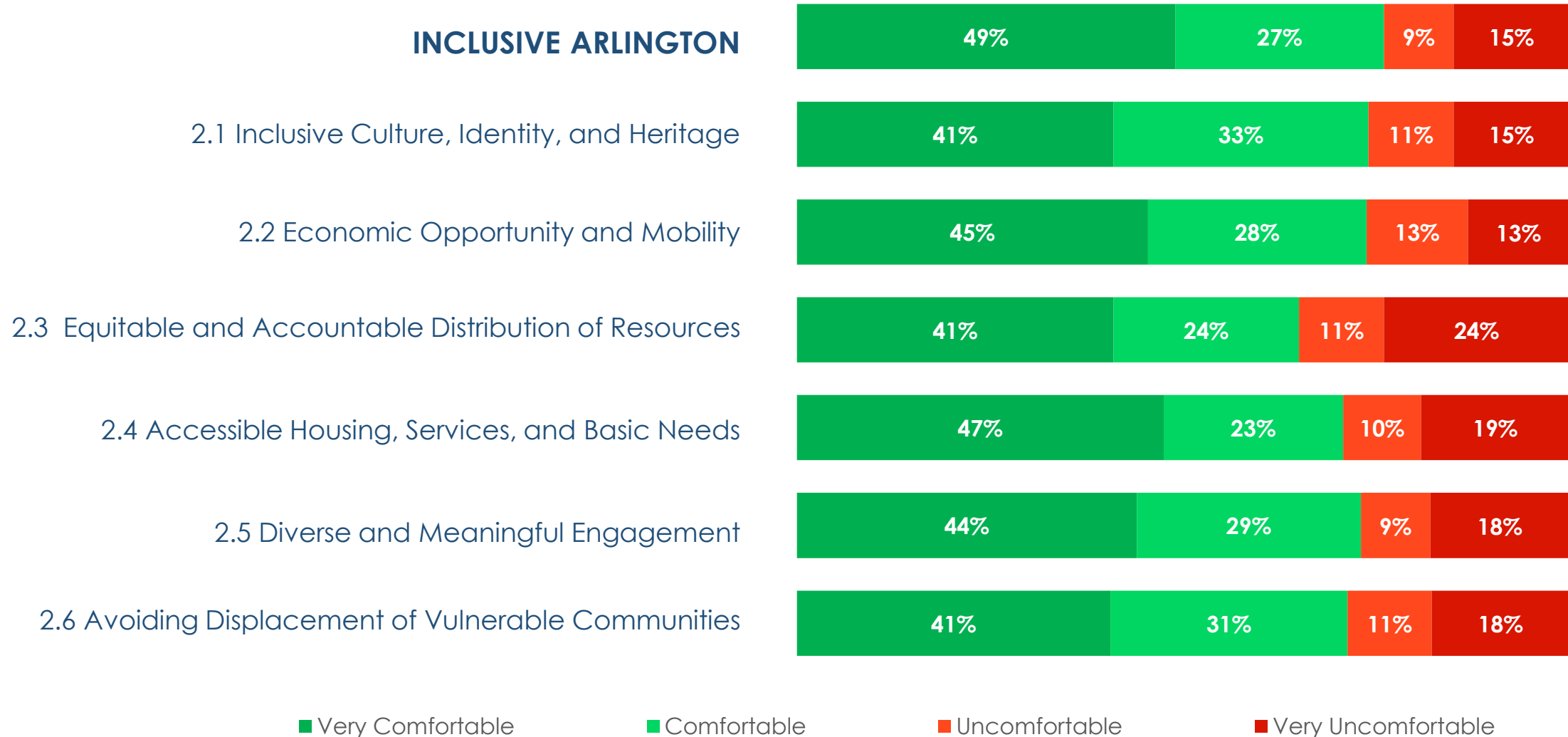
2. Inclusive Arlington

Ensure Arlington is a diverse, accessible, and welcoming community for all, free from all forms of discrimination, while integrating equity across all County work.

Supporting Statements

- 2.1. Inclusive Culture, Identity, and Heritage:** Strengthen and celebrate diverse communities and values by recognizing, preserving, and uplifting cultural resources and local heritage assets.
- 2.2. Economic Opportunity and Mobility:** Support workforce diversity and an inclusive economy that enables small business success, promotes education, job training, employment, and career advancement, and empowers long-term generational wealth-building and homeownership opportunities.
- 2.3. Equitable and Accountable Distribution of Resources:** Document historic and current harms and disparities to ensure equitable distribution of resources, and train staff on integrating the Equitable Development Principles into their work.
- 2.4. Accessible Housing, Services, and Basic Needs:** Provide equitable access to housing and other basic needs and services, including multimodal transportation options, education, healthcare, childcare, food and nutrition resources, aging and disability support, recreation, and other social services that meet diverse community needs.
- 2.5. Diverse and Meaningful Engagement:** Ensure planning, budgeting, and other decision-making processes follow public engagement best practices for equitable, inclusive, and accessible participation where residents, including historically marginalized groups, collaborate and share a sense of ownership and purpose in community life.
- 2.6. Avoiding Displacement of Vulnerable Communities:** Prioritize stabilizing residents and small businesses most vulnerable to market pressures, historic inequities, and environmental risks, so they can remain and thrive in the community as development and change occurs.

How comfortable or uncomfortable are you with this Guiding Principle and its Supporting Statements?

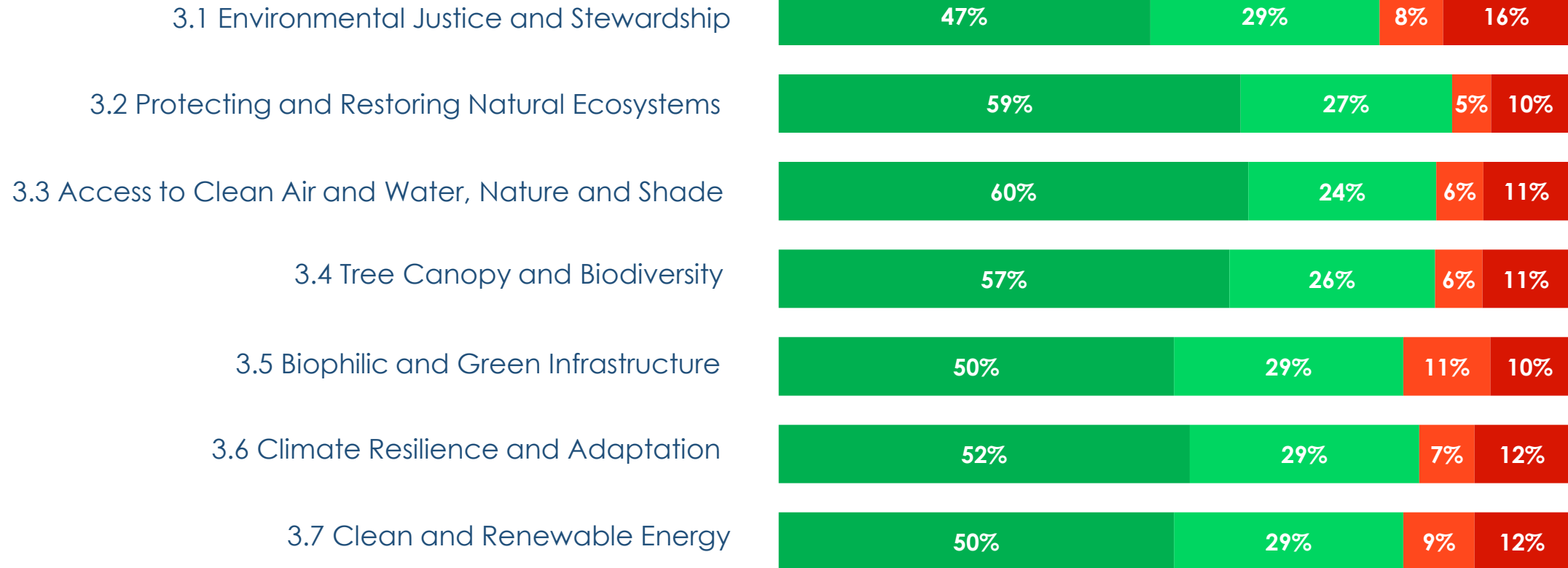


Sustainable & Environmentally Just Arlington

Guiding Principle	Supporting Statements
 3. Sustainable & Environmentally Just Arlington Ensure a sustainable and environmentally just community with equitable access to clean air, water, and healthy places so nature and people can thrive together, now and for generations to come.	3.1. Environmental Justice and Stewardship: Remediate cumulative environmental burdens, especially in higher-vulnerability areas, and promote environmental stewardship across planning, policies, education, operations, and budgets to meet adopted climate action targets and environmental commitments. 3.2. Protecting and Restoring Natural Ecosystems: Safeguard, restore, and enhance Arlington's natural ecosystems to support clean air and water, promote biodiversity and long-term environmental health. 3.3. Access to Clean Air and Water, Nature and Shade: Ensure equitable access to clean air and water, parks, natural spaces, and shaded areas to support public health and wellbeing. 3.4. Tree Canopy and Biodiversity: Reach and sustain countywide tree canopy goals, support biodiversity and ecological resilience, and prioritize diverse native landscapes tailored to local conditions and ecological contexts. 3.5. Biophilic and Green Infrastructure: Advance and equitably distribute nature-based design and green infrastructure across public and private spaces to enhance access to nature, improve health outcomes, reduce environmental impacts, and strengthen ecosystems. 3.6. Climate Resilience and Adaptation: Prioritize climate action efforts, including flood resilience and addressing urban heat island effect, through targeted investment, planning, and environmental protection efforts especially in communities vulnerable to environmental risks. 3.7. Clean and Renewable Energy: Expand clean, efficient, and renewable energy resources by advancing on-site solutions, and where that is not possible, supporting access to off-site solutions.

How comfortable or uncomfortable are you with this Guiding Principle and its Supporting Statements?

SUSTAINABLE & ENVIRONMENTALLY JUST ARLINGTON



■ Very Comfortable

■ Comfortable

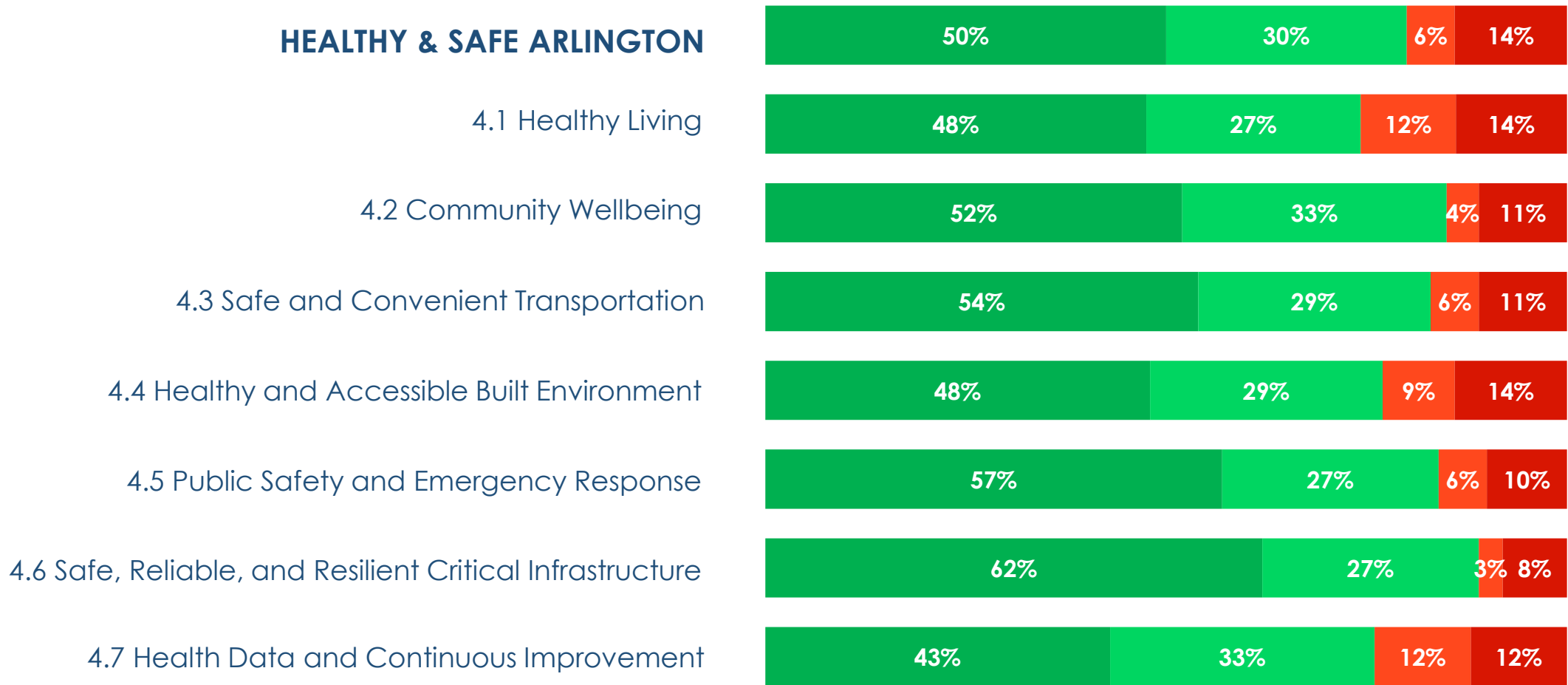
■ Uncomfortable

■ Very Uncomfortable

Healthy & Safe Arlington

Guiding Principle	Supporting Statements
 4. Healthy & Safe Arlington: Ensure Arlington supports a healthy lifestyle and strengthens protections for everyone through equitable access to healthy food, essential services, recreation, trusted public safety and emergency response teams, safe transportation options, and reliable infrastructure and information resources.	4.1. Healthy Living: Remove barriers to healthy living by reducing food insecurity, closing service gaps for the most vulnerable groups, and ensuring access to healthy food choices, stable housing, healthcare facilities, and supportive services such as aging and childcare services for all community members. 4.2. Community Wellbeing: Support wellbeing and behavioral health for all by providing public spaces, parks, and programs that promote active lifestyles, strengthen social connection, and reduce isolation. 4.3. Safe and Convenient Transportation: Create safe, comfortable, people-centered streets that accommodate all ages and abilities while eliminating transportation related deaths and serious injuries. 4.4. Healthy and Accessible Built Environment: Provide accessible, affordable, and adaptive housing that supports community integration for people with disabilities and enables aging in place through universal design, multigenerational living, supportive care systems, and assisted living arrangements. 4.5. Public Safety and Emergency Response: Provide quality public safety facilities, fire protection, community policing, and trusted emergency response to meet crisis situation needs, with a focus on protecting vulnerable individuals and communities. 4.6. Safe, Reliable, and Resilient Critical Infrastructure: Maintain resilient critical infrastructure that provides safe and reliable drinking water, fire flow, stormwater, wastewater, energy and transportation systems. 4.7. Health Data and Continuous Improvement: Foster a community committed to health and wellbeing through education and reporting on health metrics to guide equitable planning and investments and close service gaps.

How comfortable or uncomfortable are you with this Guiding Principle and its Supporting Statements?



■ Very Comfortable

■ Comfortable

■ Uncomfortable

■ Very Uncomfortable

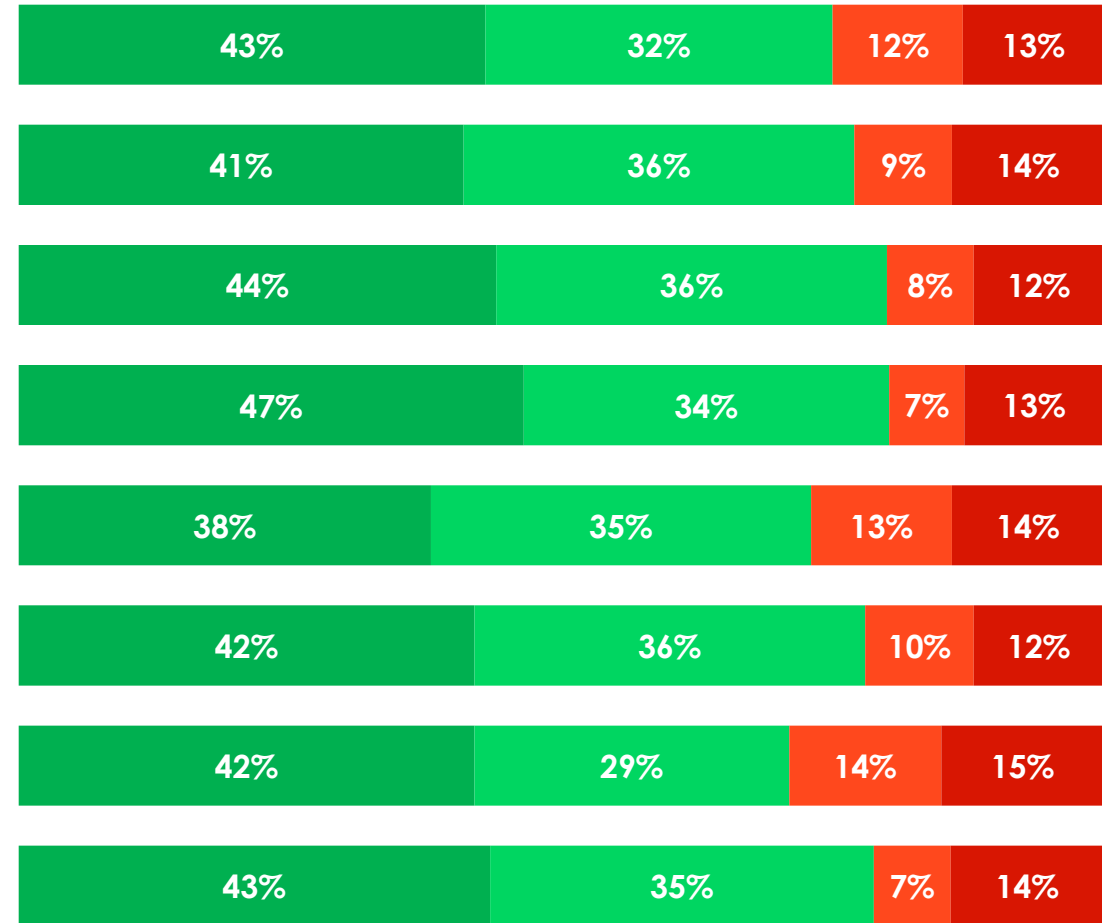
Economically & Socially Resilient Arlington

Guiding Principle	Supporting Statements
 5. Economically & Socially Resilient Arlington: Ensure Arlington fosters economic resilience and community prosperity by promoting innovative and market-responsive growth, supporting diverse businesses, and offering equitable access to essential services and amenities.	5.1. Value Aligned and Fiscally Responsible Growth: Guide public and private investments that reflect adopted plans and policies and advance community values and priorities, while maintaining quality and responsible stewardship of public resources. 5.2. Economic Diversification and Investment: Foster long-term economic strength and diversification that supports business investment, retention, and expansion, and promotes thriving mixed-use places, anchored by arts, culture, tourism, and community-serving institutions. 5.3. Inclusive Entrepreneurship and Business Ecosystem: Enable inclusive entrepreneurship and small business success by reducing barriers to entry and growth and by offering access to new networks and opportunities so small businesses can thrive. 5.4. Flexibility and Commercial Resilience: Enable flexibility in changing market conditions through dynamic, market responsive land use policies and regulations that support adaptive reuse and strengthen the vitality and resilience of commercial corridors. 5.5. Workforce Opportunity and Economic Mobility: Advance economic mobility and strengthen talent pipelines through access to life-long education and training opportunities that match jobs and skills in evolving industries and technologies. 5.6. Household Stability and Wealth Building: Promote planning, policies, and accessible supportive services that strengthen household stability, enable wealth building, enhance homeownership pathways, and reduce barriers to workforce participation. 5.7. Social Infrastructure and Preparedness: Protect livelihoods and wellbeing and prevent long term economic loss and service disruption through strong social infrastructure, climate resilience, emergency preparedness, and reliable essential services.

How comfortable or uncomfortable are you with this Guiding Principle and its Supporting Statements?

ECONOMICALLY & SOCIALLY RESILIENT ARLINGTON

- 5.1 Value Aligned and Fiscally Responsible Growth
- 5.2 Economic Diversification and Investment
- 5.3 Inclusive Entrepreneurship and Business Ecosystem
- 5.4 Flexibility and Commercial Resilience
- 5.5 Workforce Opportunity and Economic Mobility
- 5.6 Household Stability and Wealth Building
- 5.7 Social Infrastructure and Preparedness



■ Very Comfortable

■ Comfortable

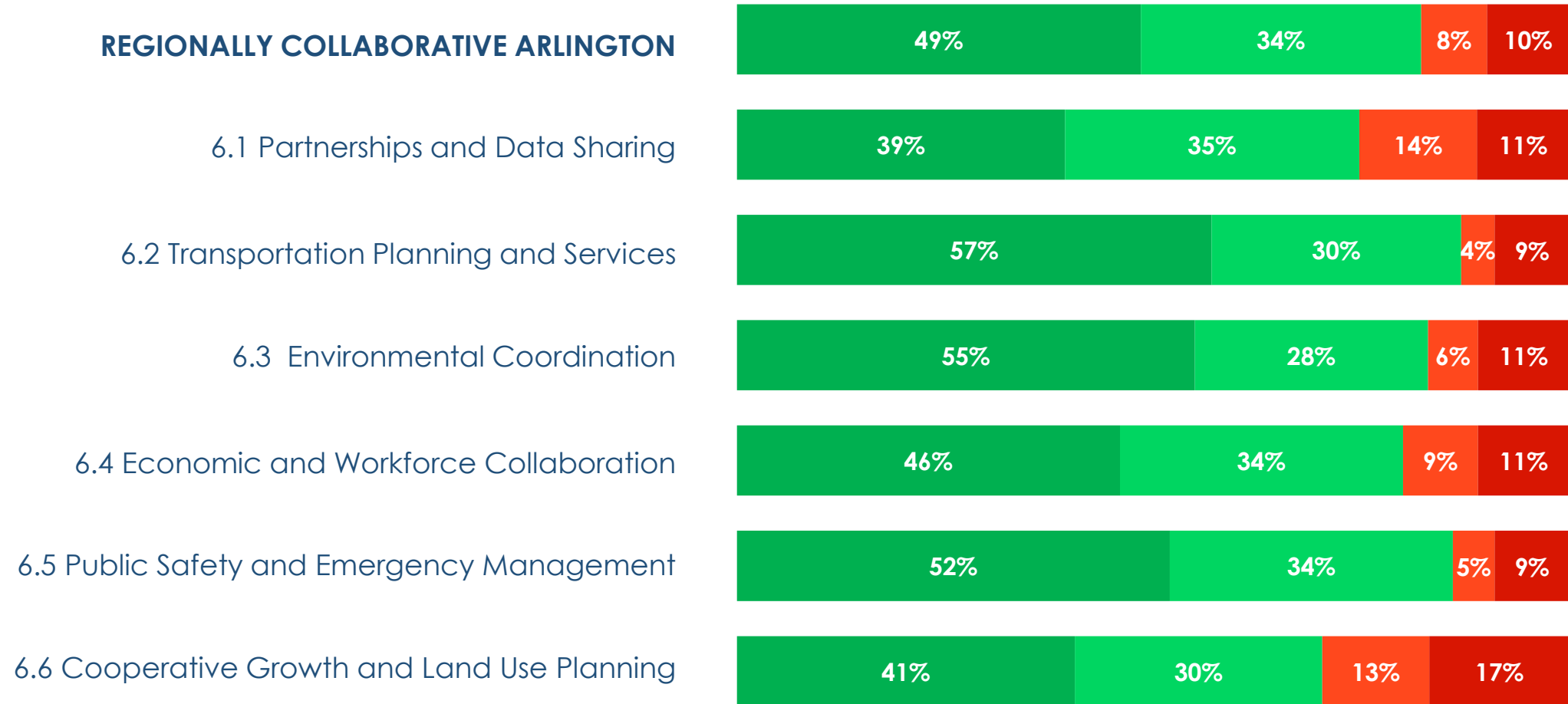
■ Uncomfortable

■ Very Uncomfortable

Regionally Collaborative Arlington

Guiding Principle	Supporting Statements
 6. Regionally Collaborative Arlington Ensure Arlington collaborates with regional, state, and federal partners on matters affecting the County to achieve mutual benefit without compromising local autonomy.	6.1. Partnerships and Data Sharing: Build and sustain regional partnerships that support coordinated data systems, secure information sharing, and best-practice learning to strengthen cross-jurisdictional policies, meet regional commitments, improve public services, and advance equitable development goals. 6.2. Transportation Planning and Services: Promote comfortable and consistent travel experiences by coordinating transportation planning, enhancing regional transit systems, and partnering on transportation demand management efforts. 6.3. Environmental Coordination: Coordinate environmental resilience planning and climate action efforts, including protecting natural resources, advancing green infrastructure and flood resilience, and expanding renewable and clean energy resources. 6.4. Economic and Workforce Collaboration: Coordinate with government, industry, and higher education to strengthen regional competitiveness, attract value-aligned industries, and expand education-to-employment career pathways. 6.5. Public Safety and Emergency Management: Formalize and strengthen interjurisdictional public safety partnerships and mutual aid structures and implement unified emergency planning and readiness frameworks. 6.6. Cooperative Growth and Land Use Planning: Coordinate regional land use planning and cross-border collaboration in the Metropolitan Washington region to advance goals, such as housing targets aligned with economic and employment forecasts, while supporting value-aligned development and best practices.

How comfortable or uncomfortable are you with this Guiding Principle and its Supporting Statements?



■ Very Comfortable

■ Comfortable

■ Uncomfortable

■ Very Uncomfortable

Infrastructure-Ready Arlington

Guiding Principle



7. Infrastructure-Ready Arlington:

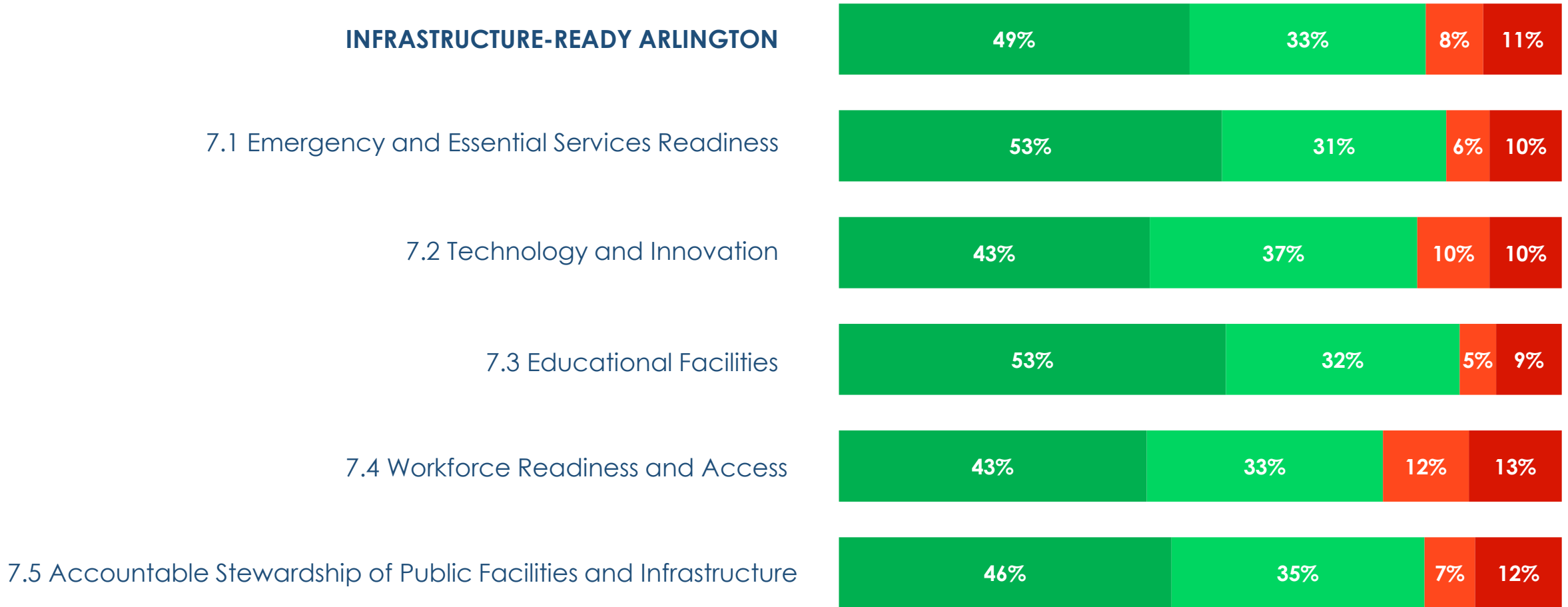
Ensure Arlington supports the community's current and emerging needs through future-ready infrastructure and public facilities, technological innovation, and accountable stewardship of public resources.

Supporting Statements

- 7.1. Emergency and Essential Services Readiness:** Align public facilities and emergency response services with anticipated growth, and modernize aging systems, while investing in clean and renewable energy, backup systems, climate resilient and future-ready infrastructure and technology.
- 7.2. Technology and Innovation:** Ensure that technology infrastructure is accessible, reliable, secure, scalable, equitably distributed, and supports innovation to improve efficiency and respond to changing community and market needs.
- 7.3. Educational Facilities:** Plan for schools, educational spaces, and alternative learning environments to meet projected student enrollment and learning needs.
- 7.4. Workforce Readiness and Access:** Plan for and provide accessible, technology-enabled spaces and public facilities that support learning, innovation, entrepreneurship, and future-ready workforce and industries, while fostering career opportunities in green and technology-driven sectors.
- 7.5. Accountable Stewardship of Public Facilities and Infrastructure:** Coordinate long-range planning, siting, and co-location of public facilities and infrastructure to maximize community outcomes, reduce costs, ensure lifecycle stewardship, and align investments with land use decisions and community growth.

How comfortable or uncomfortable are you with this Guiding Principle and its Supporting Statements?

INFRASTRUCTURE-READY ARLINGTON



Very Comfortable

Comfortable

Uncomfortable

Very Uncomfortable

What We Heard in the Online Feedback Form

From the 508 participants, we received 230 comments for the open-ended question posed in the online feedback form.

Participants offered general comments and feedback related to each of the seven draft guiding principles.

Common topics and themes have been identified and summarized in this report.

What We Heard – Overall Key Takeaways

Majority of respondents broadly support Arlington's goals of affordability, sustainability, safety, and quality of life, but want a more transparent, focused, fiscally responsible, and measurable approach to achieving them.

- Housing affordability remains a key priority, though responses are mixed on the role of density, zoning changes, and neighborhood preservation.
- Fiscal responsibility is a concern, with strong interest in controlling taxes, prioritizing core services, and demonstrating clear value for public investments.
- Transparency and accountability are essential. Respondents want clear goals, implementation plans, costs, timelines, and measurable outcomes.
- Mixed perspectives were shared on growth and development and focus on balancing affordability and economic growth with neighborhood identity, infrastructure capacity, and quality of life.
- Environmental protection is supported, especially tree canopy preservation, parks, open space, conservation, and climate resilience.
- Public safety, transportation safety, and emergency preparedness are important priorities across the community.
- Infrastructure should keep pace with growth, including schools, transportation, utilities, parks, and public services.
- Technology and data privacy generate significant concern, particularly around AI, surveillance, and data-sharing practices.
- Accessibility, inclusion, and community engagement are valued, with residents calling for more meaningful public involvement and improved accessibility for all ages and abilities.

What We Heard – Livable and Thriving Arlington

Common Topics and Themes:

- Housing & Development
- Preservation of Neighborhood Identity
- Affordable Housing
- Transit, Walkability & Transportation
- Tree Canopy, Green Space & Environment
- Trust in County Government
- Infrastructure & Public Services
- Equity & Inclusion

“

Arlington needs a diverse, vibrant, sustainable, inclusive and abundant housing supply.

“

Arlington should not abandon its long successful model of focusing density in transit corridors and preserving single family neighborhoods.

“

I believe these subjective “principles” will destroy the Comp Plan’s existing composition/connectivity and needlessly superimpose elements (e.g. “regional planning”) that are adequately addressed via other mechanisms now.

What We Heard – Livable and Thriving Arlington

Overall

Respondents largely share goals of affordability, sustainability, and livability, but differ significantly on how much growth and density Arlington should accommodate.

- Housing affordability is the top concern, with many citing rising rents, home prices, and displacement.
- Mixed perspectives on growth and density:
 - Some support preserving the current transit-corridor growth model and single-detached neighborhoods.
 - Others support expanding housing options and density throughout the county.
- Strong support for protecting tree canopy, parks, and neighborhood identity alongside any future development.
- Broad agreement on investing in infrastructure and quality of life, including schools, parks, public safety, transit, walkability, and family services.
- Residents want greater transparency and trust in planning decisions, with clearer policies and stronger public engagement.

What We Heard – Inclusive Arlington

Common Topics and Themes:

- Housing and Development
- Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity
- Government Role and Spending
- Public Safety and Crime
- Community Engagement and Governance
- Accessibility and Aging
- Immigration
- Environment and Sustainability

“

Would like to see a goal to reduce fees, penalties, fines, even criminal judgements which are regressive, penalizing poorer people.

“

If Arlington is to thrive, we need diverse and abundant housing and services throughout the county.

“

Our communities are more accessible and welcoming when residential growth and community amenities and services are available across all neighborhoods.

What We Heard – Inclusive Arlington

Overall

Housing is a key priority, with strong interest in affordability, housing supply, and reducing barriers to development, though opinions differ on growth, density, and rent regulations.

Equity and inclusion are important but offer mixed perspectives, with some calling for stronger support for marginalized communities and others favoring a greater focus on equal treatment and core services.

Residents want government to prioritize fundamentals such as public safety, infrastructure, accessibility, and fiscal responsibility, while expressing concerns about taxes and spending.

Growth vs. preservation remains a key tension, balancing economic vitality, housing needs, environmental goals, and neighborhood identity.

Community engagement, access, and quality of life are recurring themes, with calls for more meaningful public participation, support for aging in place, and improved accessibility for all residents.

What We Heard – Sustainable & Environmentally Just Arlington

Common Topics and Themes:

- Tree Canopy Preservation
- Green Space and Natural Resource Protection
- Concerns About Development and Density
- Sustainability and Climate Resilience
- Stormwater, Water Quality, and Watersheds
- Neighborhood Design and Historic Preservation
- Walkability and Livability
- Environmental Quality Beyond Trees

“

I worry that more density would mean less green and would impact the watersheds. I very much appreciate the park land and green spaces around streams such as Four Mile Run.

“

Preservation of trees, green spaces, permeable surfaces, clean air and clean water--particularly on private property-- must remain priorities throughout.

“

For a sustainable future, we should also ensure infill development is flexible enough to preserve mature trees while updating stormwater systems in areas that currently lack controls.

What We Heard – Sustainable & Environmentally Just Arlington

Overall

Tree canopy preservation emerged as the strongest and most consistent priority, with calls for stronger protections, enforcement, and incentives to retain mature trees.

Residents value green space, parks, streams, and natural resources and are concerned that growth and redevelopment may reduce environmental quality and access to nature.

Support for balancing housing and development with environmental stewardship, including protection of trees, watersheds, stormwater systems, and biodiversity.

Desire for stronger climate resilience measures, particularly around flooding, water quality, stormwater management, and ecological health.

Neighborhood identity and quality of life are important considerations, including walkability, historic neighborhoods, and community identity.

Residents want clearer, more actionable commitments, with measurable outcomes and accountability rather than broad aspirational goals.

What We Heard – Healthy & Safe Arlington

Common Topics and Themes:

- Public Safety and Emergency Services
- Transportation, Streets, and Mobility
- Affordable Housing and Cost of Living
- Government Scope and Priorities
- Health and Mental Health

“

Health ideas vary so much, govt needs to be cautious here. Ideas must follow law.

“

Well-designed, walkable neighborhoods directly improve public health outcomes and social connectedness.

“

It must provide essential safety and community services and then it is the community's responsibility to take it from there.

What We Heard – Healthy & Safe Arlington

Overall

Respondents want a safe, more affordable, accessible, and well-managed Arlington with strong public services and thoughtful growth.

Public safety is a key priority, with strong interest in crime prevention, emergency response, preparedness, and pedestrian safety.

Transportation and mobility improvements are widely supported, including safer sidewalks, crossings, bike facilities.

Affordability concerns are significant, particularly around housing costs, rents, taxes, fees, and fines.

Health and mental health services are viewed as important and underrepresented in the draft.

Residents want effective, reliable core services, though opinions differ on the scope of government's role beyond safety and infrastructure.

Views of growth and development remain mixed, balancing housing needs with concerns about neighborhood impacts, safety, and quality of life.

Accessibility, walkability, and environmental quality are recurring themes, including sidewalk conditions, inclusive design, resilience, and light pollution.

What We Heard – Economically & Socially Resilient Arlington

Common Topics and Themes:

- Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Discipline
- Housing Affordability and Housing Supply
- Economic Growth and Business Development
- Government Should Focus on Core Functions
- Affordability and Cost of Living
- Smart Growth, Density, and Planning
- Environmental Conservation and Green Space

“
More high density housing in urban corridors like Rosslyn, Courthouse, Ballston, Pentagon City, and Crystal City is very important for our tax base and revenue and also improving land use but it leads to an increase in housing costs and for retail, restaurants, or groceries in the area, it also leads to higher prices.”

“
Allow accessible and welcoming residential growth, community amenities and services across all neighborhoods because maximizing residential growth is equally essential to economic resilience and vitality.”

“
Be fiscally responsible. Stop raising taxes and learn to balance a budget.”

What We Heard – Economically & Socially Resilient Arlington

Overall

Respondents generally support Arlington's long-term goals but want them pursued through practical, affordable, and fiscally disciplined strategies.

Fiscal responsibility is a key priority, strong desire for budget discipline, efficient use of funds, and limiting tax increases.

Housing affordability remains a major concern, support for expanding housing options, workforce housing, and reducing barriers to development.

Focus on core services, residents want investment prioritized toward public safety, education, infrastructure, and essential government functions.

Support for economic vitality, business-friendly policies, commercial occupancy, and economic resilience are viewed as important to Arlington's future.

Preference for smart, balanced growth, continued support for walkability, transit-oriented development, green space, and sustainable planning.

Desire for clearer priorities and implementation, respondents want measurable outcomes, transparent costs, and less bureaucracy.

What We Heard – Regionally Collaborative Arlington

Common Topics and Themes:

- Regional Collaboration and Partnerships
- Housing and Growth
- Government Data Sharing and Privacy
- Taxation and Public Spending
- Environmental Conservation
- Emergency Preparedness and Resilience

I support regional planning, especially with respect to preparing for breakdowns in food security supply chains and absorbing climate refugees.

Concern regarding "government" that we are coordinating with.

The guiding principals and the related statements were structured strong and align with values for the County but for some there may be some unintended consequences such as the principle related to partnering with state and federal partners, specifically data sharing, and understanding how the data may be used or misused.

What We Heard – Regionally Collaborative Arlington

Overall

Broad support for affordable housing, environmental conservation, and regional collaboration.

Strong concerns about data sharing, privacy, and potential misuse of resident information.

Questions about costs and taxes, including how new initiatives will be funded and their impact on residents.

Desire for clearer definitions of regional partnerships, collaboration goals, and implementation strategies.

Interest in resilience planning, including emergency preparedness, food security, and climate impacts.

Request for greater transparency and public engagement in planning and decision-making processes.

What We Heard – Infrastructure-Ready Arlington

Common Topics and Themes:

- Basic Infrastructure and Public Services
- Technology, AI, and Data Infrastructure
- Land Use, Housing, and Development
- Government Priorities and Spending
- People First, Technology Second

I'm wary of some of the tech infrastructure in Arlington, particularly anything related to AI, data centers, or huge megacorporations which risk negative outcomes for the county's inhabitants. Arlington should divest from AI and big data in particular.

As long as Arlington focuses on people first and technology second (AI, et. al.), I am comfortable with the technology and infrastructure statements.

It makes sense to be adaptive in the service of community needs, like turning unused office space into affordable housing.

What We Heard – Infrastructure-Ready Arlington

Overall

Request to prioritize core services such as infrastructure, utilities, snow removal, schools, and public safety should come before new initiatives.

Call for taking a cautious approach to technology; skepticism around AI, data centers, surveillance, and privacy impacts; technology should serve residents, not drive priorities.

Concern about corporate influence and a preference for policies that directly improve residents' quality of life.

What We Heard – General Feedback

Common Topics and Themes:

- Lack of Clarity and Use of Jargon
- Concern About Government Transparency and Trust
- Frustration with Vague Aspirational Planning
- Feedback Form Design Frustrations
- Need for Prioritization

What We Heard – General Feedback

Overall

Some participants express concern that:

- The principles are too vague
- The feedback form was poorly designed
- The County has not clearly explained intentions
- Implementation, costs, and tradeoffs are missing

Some participants:

- Support the vision
- Appreciate community engagement
- Believe the goals are worthwhile aspirations
- Support Guiding Principles overall but want specific refinements

Respondent Wishes

- Plain English instead of planning jargon
- Specific, measurable goals
- Greater transparency
- Clear implementation plans
- Cost and fiscal impact information
- Prioritization of goals
- Improved feedback form
- Protection of existing neighborhoods and predictable growth policies
- More opportunities for meaningful public input
- Accountability for outcomes

Commission and Committee Feedback

What We Heard – Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) Meeting

Common Topics and Themes

- Growth, Density, and Land Use
- Equity and Accessibility
- Community Engagement and Public Trust
- Climate and Environmental Stewardship
- Housing Diversity and Affordability
- Technology and Infrastructure
- Balancing Competing Priorities within the Comprehensive Plan

“

Tree canopy and open spaces are often an afterthought.

“

The current vision was described by one speaker as “a pivotal point in forming the compact on urban environment we know today and helped Arlington protect its low-density residential neighborhoods while planning for the expansion of Metro.”

“

Do these Guiding Principles truly reflect the priorities of the community or are they the priorities of the staff?

What We Heard – Overall Key Takeaways

Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) Meeting

Overall

There is a desire for a clearer vision regarding growth, development, and density. Participants expressed differing views but agreed the conversation is important.

Participants generally supported the draft guiding principles but expressed concern that numbering them could imply a level of importance. There was strong interest in ensuring the principles work together rather than compete with one another.

The discussion about equity was both a point of support and a topic of debate regarding its significance across multiple principles.

Participants praised outreach efforts while calling for broader neighborhood-level participation and increased trust-building.

Discussion centered on how Arlington can best accommodate growth while preserving identity, historic resources, and high-quality design.

Many comments sought stronger language around climate mitigation and a more integrated role for nature and the environment throughout the Comprehensive Plan.

The Infrastructure Ready principle generated significant discussion about expanding the plan's principles and policies on technology.

There is support for economic resilience through industry diversification, education, and workforce development that strengthen long-term economic vitality.

Thank you