

D. Wu
J. Brown
C. Ellinger
S. Lynch
H. LeGris
L. Sheehan
P. Worley
W. Baxter
J. Reynolds
K. Plomin



A G E N D A
General Government & Planning Committee
January 17, 2023
1:00 P.M.

- | | | |
|-------------|---|------------------|
| I. | Election of Committee Chair / Selection of Vice Chair | (na) |
| II. | November 15, 2022 GGSS Committee Summary (for information only) | (1-3) |
| III. | December 6, 2022 PP&S Committee Summary (for information only) | (4-5) |
| IV. | PLN-ZOTA-22-00015 (Reynolds/Woodall) | (6-46) |
| V. | CivicLex Public Comment Proposal (Sheehan/Young) | (47-144) |
| VI. | Items Referred to Committee – Annual Status Report of Referrals | (144-151) |

"General Government and Planning committee, to which shall be referred matters relating to the department of general services and its divisions, the department of planning and its divisions, the department of law, any matter relating to the general administration of government and the divisions under the chief administrative officer, any related partner agencies, and any other matters relating to capital improvement projects." Council Rules & Procedures, Section 2.102 (2) Effective January 1, 2023. Adopted by Urban County Council September 22, 2022

2023 Meeting Schedule

January 11	August 15
February 14	September 19
March 7	October 17
May 9	



General Government & Social Services Committee

November 15, 2022
Summary and Motions

Committee chair, Council Member Susan Lamb, called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. Committee members Vice Mayor Steve Kay and Council Members Liz Sheehan, Fred Brown, Whitney Baxter, Amanda Bledsoe, and Kathy Plomin attended the meeting.

I. Approval of October 27, 2022 Committee Summary

A motion by Liz Sheehan to approve October 27, 2022 Committee Summary, seconded by Fred Brown, the motion passed without dissent.

II. Explorium Update

Colby Ernest, the Director of the Explorium, presented on behalf of this item. He gave a brief review of his presentation to the General Government and Social Services Committee from March 2022. The Explorium made many updates and repairs to the Museum since the last presentation. They have a new website where tickets can be purchased and programming can be viewed. The Explorium has begun exploring various community partners and they are wrapping up their strategic plan. There has been over 10,000 visitors to the museum since July, which is a higher number of visitors than Pre-Covid. There has also been 500+ group visits and over 3,500 visitors from public outreach. They have implemented an Explorium Experience and have hosted events across the Lexington community which include Art, Kids Club Family Day at Keeneland, the Boo-Seum and other Explorium field trips. They also hosted their first sensory hours for children with sensory needs in November. There is also the Experiences Fund which offers low-income family discounts, Title 1 school discounts, free community outreach programming, camp scholarships, and special events.

Ernest gave additional information about their strategic plan. The themes of the strategic plan includes finance, programs/exhibits, marketing/PR, development, and facilities. Ernest shared four goals the Explorium and its board has set for the next five years. Those goals include expand STEM, arts, and humanities based exhibits that highlight community/community partners, provide an interactive and engaging space that maximizes the ability for children to learn through play, become a steward in the community and provide new and engaging programs and events for a diverse range of children and families.

Plomin asked about the cost of leasing the space. Ernest said they have been leasing their current space since 1990 and are in that lease until 2024. They are looking at potential negotiations for the lease, but are also making sure it can achieve their goals. The space is about 22,000 square feet and the actual museum is 14-15,000 square feet. Plomin asked how many employees work at the Explorium. Ernest said there are nine employees. Plomin asked about the sensory event and if it will continue even though the Children's Charity no longer exists. Ernest said the event will continue.

III. Global Lex Annual Update

Isabel Taylor, LFUCG's Multicultural Affairs Coordinator, presented on behalf of the item. She began providing updates on ARPA and the US Treasury's stipulations for Title 6. The limits and parameters of Title 6 applies to those receiving federal funds, which includes sub recipients of ARPA funds. The US Treasury expects evidence based reporting and Civil Rights Compliance. The sub recipients of ARPA are required to provide an annual report to LFUCG with a brief narrative of public notice of compliance, and other details. Taylor has offered to provide the sub recipients an annual analysis. She has held 41 ARPA trainings in November of 2021 and from May to October 2022, there were 10 ARPA trainings.

Taylor reviewed how LFUCG tracks the Limited English Proficiency (LEP) population in Lexington. This number is based on school aged children and they are 10% of the total LEP population. FCPS provides the number of English learners. There were a total of 15,020 total LEPs in 2006. In 2022, there is an estimated 85,400 LEPs in Lexington, which is roughly 26.5% of the total population. There are 205+ languages spoken in Lexington. She shared the e911 calls of the last fiscal year. Taylor expressed concern that they are tracking 206 languages but they do not know how many of them are actively being spoken. Global Lex clients speak about 145 languages.

Taylor showed the updated entry form for Lexington Global Engagement Center. The form asks the country of origin, level of English, and how many years they have lived in the US to understand what level of US systems they know. Since the pandemic, they are asking what the best way is for Global Lex to communicate with clients. They have a section with the "most often seen" issues like labor issues, code enforcement issues, etc. It also shows from where they receive referrals like the Food Bank, the Nest, Kentucky Refugee Ministries, etc. Taylor also explained the various factors they must consider with Global Lex clients; many clients have experienced various traumas, grief, and loss. She shared information about how refugees fare after resettling in the United States. Current challenges include the lack of infrastructure for interpreters/multilingual workforce, global communities need multilingual job training, access to services and information, and combating misinformation.

Taylor shared there was a new Administrative Senior Specialist in Global Lex, Trina Brown. There is a referral map of service providers that provide language assistance. They are planning on hosting various workshops in 2023 on domestic violence. They are hoping to receive grant funding to translate and videotape Driver's Ed (online). There will also be an update to the interpreter list. Global Lex will have a web page link to all prior exhibits from community artists from around the world.

IV. Redistricting Workgroup Report Out

This item was reported out at the November 29th, 2022 Council Work Session.

IV. Division/Program Review

Lamb directed the Committee to the Division/Program Review included in their packet for informational purposes only.

V. Items Referred to Committee

Whitney Baxter made a motion, seconded by Kathy Plomin to move the Explorium Update to annual items, the motion passed unanimously.

A motion by Fred Brown to adjourn at 2:12 PM, seconded by Kathy Plomin, the motion passed without dissent.

Meeting materials: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1McHEihXn7akbM3V0oWHpLrC907T3AUR-/view>

Recording of the meeting:

https://lfucg.granicus.com/player/clip/5689?view_id=4&redirect=true&h=ba479032cc2c324e3d1e1b73ffd06fb7

JDS 1/11/2023



Planning and Public Safety Committee

December 6, 2022

Summary and Motions

Chair J. Brown called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m. Committee Members Ellinger, McCurn, Lamb, Kloiber, Worley, Baxter, Bledsoe, Reynolds, and Plomin were in attendance. Council Members F. Brown, and Vice Mayor Kay were also present as non-voting members.

I. Approval of October 18, 2022 Committee Summary

Motion by Kloiber to approve the October 18, 2022 Committee Summary. Seconded by Ellinger. Motion passed without dissent.

II. Approval of November 29, 2022 Committee Summary

Motion by Worley to approve the November 29, 2022 Committee Summary. Seconded by Baxter. Motion passed without dissent.

III. Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) Annual Update

Beth Overman, Director of PDR began by providing a background of the PDR program. She spoke about the farms located in the preserved area and she reviewed a list of RLMB Board members. She mentioned the partial land ranking assessment which includes ag. scoring, environmental protection, historic protection, and negative scoring. Farm applicants receive negative points if they are in a sewerable area. She spoke about the financial benefits of farmland conservation. She reviewed the 2022 new farm easements and explained each of those. She noted that the cumulative conserved farms is 285 farms which amounts to 31,066 acres. Additionally, 8 federally matched farms totals 1,664 acres. She reviewed the summary of farm easement applications. She explained the stewardship of existing farm easements and she reviewed challenges to farmland conservation. She provided a side by side map to show comparison of land. In addressing challenges, she said RLMB will provide annual report to Planning Commission. Gloria Martin, Chair of RLMB closed with some comments. Committee discussion included questions regarding a farm partially located in another county and how many acres in Fayette County goes into the land trust. Margaret Graves, Chair of the Bluegrass Land Conservancy, said there are 5 easements totaling 2000 acres and she provided locations of each easement. There was a question about how this compares to surrounding counties. Graves said there is less in Fayette County than in other counties. No action was taken on this item.

IV. Lexington Hamlets Project

Brenna Pye, with Lexington Public Library, presented the *Lexington Hamlets Project*. She introduced the steering committee involved in this process and explained that the item was placed in committee April 26, 2022 and the steering committee was formed to educate and inform council on this project. She explained the definition of a hamlet and provided a timeline of this project. She pointed out locations of each of the hamlets in Lexington. She provided some history behind the Cadentown - Rosenwald - Washington School. She reviewed next steps moving forward and reviewed a timeline for future work. Committee discussion included speaking about the new Executive Director of The Lexington History

Museum (Amanda Higgins) and the importance of understanding our history. No action was taken on this item.

V. Items Referred to Committee

Motion by McCurn to remove *Quiet Zone Feasibility Study* from the list of committee referral items. Seconded by Bledsoe. Motion passed without dissent.

Motion by Bledsoe to remove *Sustainable Growth Study* from the list of committee referral items. Seconded by Baxter. Motion passed without dissent.

Motion by Reynolds to remove *Review of Community Corrections Process for Working with ICE U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement* from the list of committee referral items. Seconded by Ellinger. Motion passed without dissent

Motion by Reynolds to remove *Consideration of an Approach to Gun Violence / Youth Gun Violence* from the list of committee referral items. Seconded by Baxter. Motion passed without dissent

Motion by Plomin to adjourn at 1:51 p.m. Seconded by Baxter. Motion passed without dissent.

PLN-ZOTA-22-00015:
INTENT STATEMENTS FOR
ZONING CATEGORIES
ARTICLES 8, 10, 11, 22, AND 23

General Government and Planning Committee

01/17/2023



LEXINGTON



Primary Documents that Guide and Regulate Planning in Lexington

Comprehensive Plan

- Establishes an overall plan and recommended actions relevant to the current and future needs of the Lexington Community (Rural Land Management Plan, Small Area Plans, Corridor Plans).

Zoning Ordinance

- Establishes laws that regulate the development of land within the Urban County's control.

Land Subdivision Regulations

- Establishes regulations that control the design and layout of land being divided in the Urban County.

Comprehensive Plan Implementation



2018 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Intents Text Amendment Timeline

December 2020 – January 2023

Staff Research, Outreach, Review and Language Development,
Planning Commission Public Hearings

February 28, 2019	Initiated by the Comprehensive Plan
August 19, 2021	PC Work Session - Overview of Intents
January 20, 2022	PC Work Session - Overview of Text
February 17, 2022	PC Work Session - Update of Text
February - July, 2022	Continued Refinement of Text
July 13, 2022	Notice Mailed to Neighborhood Associations
August 4, 2022	Zoning Committee Meeting
August 25, 2022	Public Hearing
October 6, 2022	Zoning Committee Meeting
October 27, 2022	Public Hearing Continued
November 10, 2022	Final Report Sent to Council
December 1, 2022	1 st Reading of Ordinance

Importance of the Intent of the Zones

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Linda Gorton

Mayor

Council At-Large and Vice Mayor, Steve Kay

Council At-Large, Chuck Ellinger II

Council At-Large, Richard Moloney

Council District [1](#), James Brown

Council District [2](#), Josh McCum

Council District [3](#), Jake Gibbs

Council District [4](#), Susan Lamb

Council District [5](#), Bill Farmer Jr.

Council District [6](#), Angela Evans

Council District [7](#), Preston Worley

Council District [8](#), Fred Brown

Council District [9](#), Jennifer Mossotti

Council District [10](#), Amanda Mays Bledsoe

Council District [11](#), Jennifer Reynolds

Council District [12](#), Kathy Plomin

County Council

“This zone is established to...”

- Provides the Connective Tissue between the Comprehensive Plan and the Zoning Ordinance
- Differentiates the purpose of each zone and provides background for the community
- Reviews the context and appropriateness of zones

Why update Zoning Ordinance Intent Statements?

- **Technical / Legal Reasons**
- **Practical Reasons**
- **Transparency**



What is being updated?

- “The intent of this zone is to...”
- Modernization and continuity between zones
- Strengthens connection to the Comprehensive Plan and the other adopted Community Studies
- Zone Changes - Provides greater context for the appropriateness of zones in different locations of the community

URBAN COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION 200 E. MAIN ST, LEXINGTON, KY		PLANNING SERVICES SECTION ZONING MAP AMENDMENTS	
SUMMARY OF REQUEST The applicant is seeking a zone change from the Wholesale and Warehouse Business (B-4) zone to the Light Industrial (I-1) zone for the properties located at 101 and 109 W Loudoun Avenue in order to establish a future kombucha brewery use at this location.		PLACE-TYPE The Industry and Production Center Place-Type is where Lexington's most intense types of economic development and job creation occur. These places should be located near major corridors to facilitate efficient and affordable shipping and transportation of goods throughout the region while minimizing the impact on the traffic infrastructure throughout the rest of the community. Special care should be taken to address the environmental impact of these places as well as their impact on residents.	
DEVELOPMENT TYPE Primary Land Use, Building Form, & Design Primarily employment land dedicated to the most intense types of employment-centric development. This is the only category where uses are inherently incompatible and are best separated from adjacent uses. These uses are best suited in areas where they already exist, collocating to utilize industrial-scale infrastructure to serve the needs of the users. Environmental protection measures should be taken to minimize impacts.		TRANSIT INFRASTRUCTURE & CONNECTIVITY These uses are also heavy employers and should incorporate mass transit infrastructure, on par with that of other modes, to connect residents to their jobs.	
PROPOSED ZONING  This zone is intended for manufacturing, industrial and related uses not involving a potential nuisance in terms of smoke, noise, odor, vibration, heat, light or industrial waste. In addition, the Comprehensive Plan recognizes that it is important to promote adaptive reuse of older industrial areas and to allow Industrial Mixed-Use projects and Adaptive Reuse Projects. The Comprehensive Plan should be used to determine appropriate locations for this zone and for Industrial Mixed-Use Projects. Consideration should be given to the relationship of this zone to the surrounding land uses and to the adequacy of the street system to serve the anticipated traffic needs.		PROPOSED USE  This petitioner is proposing the Light Industrial (I-1) zone in order to allow for production type uses within the existing Greyline Station Adaptive Reuse Project. In particular, the applicant wishes to utilize space within the existing workshop building in order to establish a kombucha brewery. While the scope of uses is proposed to be expanded, the footprint of the existing structures and the layout of the parking areas and landscaping are not proposed to be changed with this request.	
APPLICANT & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT  According to the submitted letter of justification, the applicant states that they had preliminary discussions with several adjacent property owners regarding this project, and has indicated that they intend to conduct further neighborhood outreach.		12	

Townhouse Residential (R-1T) zone

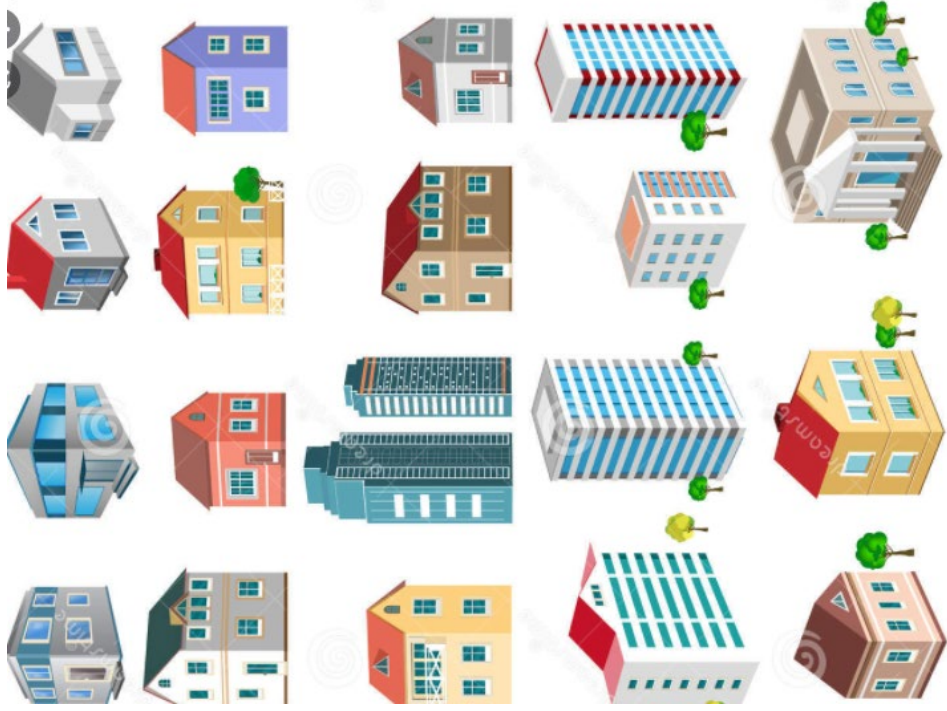
Current

at the density (units/acre) recommended by the Comprehensive Plan and in areas of the community where necessary services and facilities will be adequate to serve the anticipated population.

Proposed

The intent of this zone is to provide for low density, single family residences, emphasizing the incorporation of attached single family dwellings (townhomes) and supporting uses. This zone should be located in areas of the community where services and facilities are/will be adequate to serve the anticipated population. Attached single family dwellings should be located along road frontage and should not adversely impact the associated pedestrian system. This zone should be established in accordance with the Goals, Objectives, Policies, and Development Criteria of the Comprehensive Plan.

Modernization of Zone Titles



- The naming convention for our zones have not changed since the 1983
- Need to direct our vision to the future of Lexington-Fayette Urban County as represented by the Imagine Lexington: 2018 Comprehensive Plan

Modernization of Zone Title

Current

Proposed

Mixed Low Density Residential (R-2) zone

Medium Density Residential (R-4) zone

High Density Residential (R-5) zone

LR

low density residential



Primary Land Use, Building Form, & Design

Primarily attached and detached single-family homes of varying formats, including accessory dwelling units.

Homogeneous neighborhoods that do not include a mix of housing types should be avoided. Low density residential is only appropriate as a component of "Enhanced Neighborhoods" and "New Complete Neighborhoods", and should be supplemented by a variety of uses and housing options to create sustainable places.



Transit Infrastructure & Connectivity

Multi-modal network connections, including connected streets, are required to keep an efficient transportation network that provides viable options for all users.



Quality of Life Components

These developments should include intentional open space designed to fit the needs of area residents, and be in walking distance of nearby neighborhood-serving commercial/employment uses.

MR

medium density residential



Primary Land Use, Building Form, & Design

Primarily attached and multi-family units.

Multi-family units should complement and enhance existing development through quality design and connections.



Transit Infrastructure & Connectivity

Nearby commercial/employment uses and greenspaces should be easily accessible, and bicycle and pedestrian modes should be maximized to connect residents to destinations.



Quality of Life Components

These developments should include intentional open space designed to fit the needs of area residents, and a variety of neighborhood-serving commercial/employment uses.

HR

high density residential



Primary Land Use, Building Form, & Design

Primarily high-rise multi-family units.

This type of development is generally reserved for the most intensely developed areas in Lexington, with the infrastructure to support it. Where these developments about existing or historic neighborhoods, appropriate step-downs or context-sensitive elements should be used to minimize intrusion.



Transit Infrastructure & Connectivity

Mass transit infrastructure should be provided along transit routes through collaboration with Lextran, and bicycle and pedestrian facilities should be plentiful to provide multi-modal options. Parking should be minimized in favor of multi-modal options, and where necessary, should be predominantly accommodated within garages.



Quality of Life Components

Open space and greenspace opportunities should be adequate within the area to support the residents, or should be provided creatively on-site utilizing plazas, rooftop space, or other means that accomplish the goal, but still allow for high Floor Area Ratios.

What this text does...

- Corrects references to the Comprehensive Plan
- Updates the zone nomenclature to match the Comprehensive Plan
- Modernizes the text for 2023 and beyond

What this text does NOT do...

- Does not change what people can do with property
- Does not allow new uses

The Planning Commission Recommended Unanimous Approval for the Following Reasons:

1. The proposed text changes will provide greater consistency between Lexington's adopted documents and remove references to defunct future land use categories from past Comprehensive Plan methodologies.
2. The proposed text will also modernize the language of the Zoning Ordinance to reflect current and anticipated land use practices and to strengthen the vital link between the Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Regulations.
3. The proposed text changes will provide greater transparency to the community as to the purpose of zones and can provide a foundation to any future text amendments to zones.
4. The proposed text amendment is in agreement with the 2018 Comprehensive Plan's Goals, Objectives, and Policies, for the following reasons:
 - a. An accurate and modern Ordinance is imperative to the implementation of the 2018 Comprehensive Plan (Goal 2).
 - b. The proposed language will update the Zoning Ordinance to reflect the direction of the 2018 Comprehensive Plan, proactively planning for the next 20 years of growth (Theme E, Accountability Policy #2).
 - c. The proposed language will allow for the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan and the Placebuilder, which includes criteria for zone change applications, based upon the goals and objectives, to ensure development compliance with the Comprehensive Plan (Theme E, Accountability Policy #3).

Questions?



R-1A zone Intent

Current

Proposed

The intent of this zone is to provide for low density, single family detached residences and supporting uses. This zone should be located in areas of the community where services and facilities are/will be adequate to serve the anticipated population. This zone should be established in accordance with the Goals, Objectives, Policies, and Development Criteria of the Comprehensive Plan.

R-1E zone Intent

Current

Proposed

The intent of this zone is to provide for low density, single family detached residences and supporting uses. This zone should be located in areas of the community where services and facilities are/will be adequate to serve the anticipated population. This zone may be used for zero-lot-line houses, patio houses, and other compact housing types. This zone should be established in accordance with the Goals, Objectives, Policies, and Development Criteria of the Comprehensive Plan.

R-1T zone Intent

Current

Proposed

The intent of this zone is to provide for low density, single family residences, emphasizing the incorporation of attached single family dwellings (townhomes) and supporting uses. This zone should be located in areas of the community where services and facilities are/will be adequate to serve the anticipated population. Attached single family dwellings should be located along road frontage and should not adversely impact the associated pedestrian system. This zone should be established in accordance with the Goals, Objectives, Policies, and Development Criteria of the Comprehensive Plan.

R-2 Zone Intent

Current

Proposed

The intent of this zone is to provide for a mix of low density residential development and supporting uses. This zone should be located in areas of the community where services and facilities are/will be adequate to serve the anticipated population. This zone should be established in accordance with the Goals, Objectives, Policies, and Development Criteria of the Comprehensive Plan. This zone may be used for zero-lot-line houses, patio houses, and other compact housing types.

R-3 Zone Intent

Current

Proposed

The intent of this zone is to provide for medium density mixed residential development, including multi-family dwellings, group residential housing, compact housing types, attached and detached single family dwellings, and supporting uses. This zone should be located in areas of the community where services and facilities are/will be adequate to serve the anticipated population. This zone should provide a variety of housing options rather than a single type. The medium density residential uses should be located along local and collector streets, with lower density residential uses located along local streets. Adequate multi-modal connections should be available to all residents, so to allow for long term viability and incremental growth. Low and Medium density residential land uses should be established in accordance with the Goals, Objectives, Policies, and Development Criteria of the Comprehensive Plan.

R-4 Zone Intent

Current

Proposed

The intent of this zone is to provide for medium to medium-high density multi-family dwellings and supporting uses. This zone should be located in areas of the community where services and facilities are/will be adequate to serve the anticipated population. The medium to medium-high density residential uses should be located along collector and arterial streets. Where lower density development occurs in this zone, it should be located along local streets. Adequate multi-modal connections should be available to all residents. Development should be in areas of the community where necessary services and facilities will be adequate to serve the anticipated population. Medium to medium-high density multi-family dwellings should be established in accordance with the Goals, Objectives, Policies, and Development Criteria of the Comprehensive Plan.

R-5 Zone Intent

Current

Proposed

The intent of this zone is to provide for high density multi-family dwellings and supporting uses. This zone should be located in areas of the community where services and facilities are/will be adequate to serve the anticipated population. The high density residential uses should be located along collector and arterial streets. Adequate multi-modal connections should be available to all residents. Development should be in areas of the community where necessary services and facilities will be adequate to serve the anticipated population. High density multi-family dwellings should be established in accordance with the²⁵ Goals, Objectives, Policies, and Development Criteria of the Comprehensive Plan.

P-1 Zone Intent

Current

Proposed

The intent of this zone is to provide for offices and related professional uses. Retail sales are prohibited, except where directly related to office functions. Consideration should be given to the relationship of this zone to the surrounding land uses, the established built context, and the adequacy of the street system to serve the anticipated traffic needs. This zone should be established in accordance with the Goals, Objectives, Policies, and Development Criteria of the Comprehensive Plan.

B-1 Zone Intent

Current

Proposed

The intent of this zone is to accommodate neighborhood shopping facilities to serve the needs of the surrounding residential area. This zone should be located in areas of the community where services and facilities are/will be adequate to serve the anticipated population. This zone should be oriented to support and enhance a residential neighborhood. This zone should be established in accordance with the Goals, Objectives, Policies, and Development Criteria of the Comprehensive Plan.

B-2 Zone Intent

Current

Proposed

The intent of this zone is to accommodate existing and future development in the downtown core area. The zone is a specialized district for the location of high density residential and high intensity commercial and mixed-use developments. This zone recognizes the downtown core as the focal point of business, recreation, and transportation facilities and activities for Lexington. Development within this zone should coordinate with adopted plans and studies, including corridor studies and streetscape plans. This zone should be located and developed within the Downtown Place-Type and should be established in accordance²⁸ with the Goals, Objectives, Policies, and Development Criteria of the Comprehensive Plan.

B-2A Zone Intent

Current

Proposed

The intent of this zone is to accommodate existing and proposed development in the transitional "frame," which surrounds the downtown core area, by providing for comparable and compatible uses while anticipating the future expansion of the downtown core area. Development within this zone should coordinate with adopted plans and studies, including corridor studies and streetscape plans. This zone should be located and developed within the Downtown Place-Type and should be established in accordance with the Goals, Objectives, Policies, and Development Criteria of the Comprehensive Plan.

B-2B Zone Intent

Current

Proposed

The intent of this zone is to ensure compatible land uses, the preservation of existing attractions compatible with the Lexington Center, and the encouragement of new uses necessary to the proper development of the downtown area. The permitted land uses in the zone should have a logical relation to the Lexington Center and to the downtown core, should promote tourism, should promote the economic health of the community, should provide for an aesthetically pleasing environment, and should prevent the creation of influences adverse to the prospering of the Lexington Center and the downtown area. Development within this zone should coordinate with adopted plans and studies, including corridor studies and streetscape plans. This zone should be located and developed within the Downtown Place-Type and should be established in accordance with the Goals, Objectives, Policies, and Development Criteria of the Comprehensive Plan.

B-3 Zone Intent

Current

Proposed

The intent of this zone is to provide for retail and commercial uses, which are necessary to the economic vitality of the community but may be inappropriate in the more neighborhood oriented zones. Development in this zone should front on an arterial or major collector roadway and should serve the needs of the broader Lexington community. Consideration should be given to the relationship of the uses in the zone to the surrounding land uses and to the adequacy of the street system to serve the traffic needs. Developments should avoid nuisance impacts of light, air, and sound that may be caused on adjacent neighborhoods. Where necessary, developments should include service roads to reduce the impact on highway movement, while also providing appropriate frontage to meet the needs of businesses. This zone should be established in accordance with the Goals, Objectives, Policies, and Development Criteria of the Comprehensive Plan.

B-4 Zone Intent

Current

Proposed

The intent of this zone is to provide for wholesaling, warehousing, storage operations and establishments whose activity is of the same general character as the above. Establishments within this zone should focus on supportive uses to both industrial and residential needs and should act as a buffer between more intense and less intense land uses. To a lesser extent and where applicable, this zone is also intended to provide for the mixture of uses that promotes the adaptive reuse and redevelopment of older structures. The reuse of older structures is intended to allow for a more sustainable option for the revitalization of applicable properties, while providing employment, residential, and/or entertainment opportunities for the surrounding neighborhoods. Consideration should be given to the relationship of this zone to the surrounding land uses and the adequacy of the street system to serve the anticipated traffic needs. This zone should be established in accordance with the Goals, Objectives, Policies, and Development Criteria of the Comprehensive Plan.

I-1 Zone Intent

Current

Proposed

The intent of this zone is to provide appropriately located manufacturing, industrial, and related uses. The zone is intended to bolster Lexington's economy through diverse employment opportunities for the Bluegrass Region. The uses allowable within this zone involve low-impact manufacturing, industrial, and related uses not involving a potential nuisance in terms of smoke, noise, odor, vibration, heat, light or industrial waste. To a lesser extent and where applicable, this zone is also intended to provide for the mixture of uses that promotes the adaptive reuse and redevelopment of older structures. The reuse of older structures is intended to allow for a more sustainable option for the revitalization of applicable properties, while providing employment, residential, and/or entertainment opportunities for the surrounding neighborhoods. Adequate buffering and separation from lower intensity land uses is necessary. This zone should be established in accordance with the Goals, Objectives, Policies, and Development Criteria of the Comprehensive Plan.

I-2 Zone Intent

Current

Proposed

The intent of this zone is to provide appropriately located manufacturing, industrial, and related uses. The zone is intended to bolster Lexington’s economy through diverse employment opportunities for the Bluegrass Region. The uses allowable within this zone involve potential nuisance factors, which necessitates adequate buffering and separation from lower intensity land uses. To a lesser extent and where applicable, this zone is also intended to provide for the mixture of uses that promotes the adaptive reuse and redevelopment of older structures. The reuse of older structures is intended to allow for a more sustainable option for the revitalization of applicable properties, while providing employment, residential, and/or entertainment opportunities for the surrounding neighborhoods. This zone should be established in accordance with the Goals, Objectives, Policies, and Development Criteria of the Comprehensive Plan.

P-2 Zone Intent

Current

Proposed

The intent of this zone is to provide for a mixture of compatible office, and research uses in a campus setting that adheres to high quality standards.

Residential, retail, and hotel/motel uses are intended to be supportive uses for the organizations located on the research campus. The establishment and implementation of the zone should be conducted in accordance with all adopted master plans and the Goals, Objectives, Policies, and Development Criteria of the Comprehensive Plan.

M-1P Zone Intent

Current

Proposed

The intent of this zone is to ensure that mobile home parks are located in residential areas near major traffic corridors, and are context sensitive to surrounding land uses. The development of such parks should include planned open space and pedestrian circulation. This zone should be established in accordance with the Goals, Objectives, Policies, and Development Criteria of the Comprehensive Plan.

B-5P Zone Intent

Current

Proposed

The intent of this zone is to permit the establishment of limited commercial facilities which should be located at limited access highway interchange areas so that the traveling public is conveniently provided with transient type services without endangering the movement along, as well as access to and from, the limited access highway. The standards contained in this Article are intended to provide adequate protection for, and consideration of, the traveling public. This zone should be established in accordance with the Goals, Objectives, Policies, and Development Criteria of the Comprehensive Plan.

PUD Intent

Current

Proposed

The intent of this zone is to establish zones that encourage innovative design which may not be accomplished using traditional zoning practices. Certain customary restrictions may not be necessary, or may be altered based on the size and scale of the project. Customary standards are to be relaxed in these zones; therefore, close government scrutiny will be necessary to ensure that the overall standards for the health, safety, and welfare of the community will be maintained. These zones also promote the use of qualified professionals. It is further intended that the Planned Unit Development zones promote context sensitive development in accordance with the Goals, Objectives, Policies and Development Criteria of the Comprehensive Plan.

PUD-1 Zone Intent

Current

Proposed

The intent of this zone is to encourage unified design and development of large tracts of land in the new growth areas of Lexington-Fayette County. This zone should be established in accordance with the Goals, Objectives, Policies, and Development Criteria of the Comprehensive Plan.

PUD-2 Zone Intent

Current

Proposed

The intent of the Luigart Planned Unit Development (PUD-2) zone is to implement the recommendations of the 2009 Central Sector Small Area Plan and the 2011 North Limestone Sustainability Plan. The establishment of the zone should promote the innovative reuse and redevelopment of an older, mixed-use neighborhood in the urban core of Lexington-Fayette County in accordance with the Goals, Objectives, Policies and Development Criteria of the Comprehensive Plan.

EAR-1 Zone Intent

Current

Proposed

This zone is intended to provide a mixture of low density residential uses which will serve as a transition between the more intensely developed land uses and the Rural Service Area. Development in the EAR-1 zone shall comply with the Community Design Element of the Expansion Area Master Plan. The zone should be established in accordance with the Goals, Objectives, Policies and Development Criteria in the Comprehensive Plan.

EAR-2 Zone Intent

Current

Proposed

The intent of the Expansion Area Residential 2 zone is to provide a mixture of residential uses and housing types, to allow density transfer from areas which should not be developed, and to provide for well-designed neighborhoods. Development in the EAR-2 Zone shall comply with the Community Design Element of the Expansion Area Master Plan. The zone should be established in accordance with the Goals, Objectives, Policies and Development Criteria in the Comprehensive Plan.⁴²

EAR-3 Zone Intent

Current

Proposed

The intent of the Expansion Area Residential 3 Zone is to provide a mixture of residential uses and housing types at a higher density than the other Expansion Area Residential zones, to allow density transfer from areas that should not be developed and to provide for well-designed neighborhoods. Development in the EAR-3 Zone shall comply with the Community Design Element of the Expansion Area Master Plan. The zone should be established in accordance with the Goals, Objectives, Policies and Development Criteria in the Comprehensive Plan.

TA Zone Intent

Current

Proposed

The intent of the Transition Area zone is to create an overlay district to be used in conjunction with an EAR zoning category to allow for the development of residential uses and civic, cultural, religious, and educational institutions on lands which are located immediately adjacent to Community Center zones. Development in the TA Zone shall comply with the Community Design Element of the Expansion Area Master Plan. The zone should be established in accordance with the Goals, Objectives, Policies and Development Criteria in the Comprehensive Plan.⁴⁴

CC Zone Intent

Current

Proposed

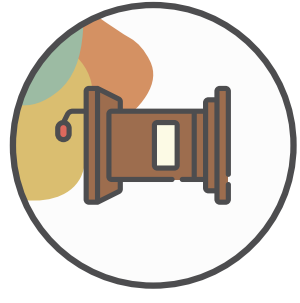
The intent of this zone is to implement the Community Center land use designation in the Expansion Area Master Plan by providing a mixture of residential uses and non-residential uses which serve the needs of the surrounding residential neighborhoods. Development in the CC Zone shall comply with the Community Design Element of the Expansion Area Master Plan. The zone should be established in accordance with the Goals, Objectives, Policies and Development Criteria in the Comprehensive Plan.

ED Zone Intent

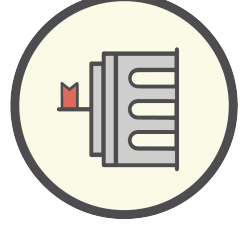
Current

Proposed

The purpose of the Economic Development zone is to provide land within the Expansion Area for employment opportunities compatible with the overall character of development as provided in the Expansion Area Master Plan. Development in the ED Zone shall comply with the Community Design Element of the Expansion Area Master Plan. The zone should be established in accordance with the Goals, Objectives, Policies and Development Criteria in the Comprehensive Plan.



Public Input
Research



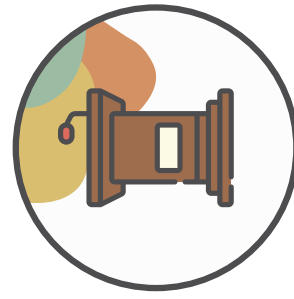
CivicLex

Presentation to GGP Committee



Thank you!

- CM Susan Lamb
- CIO Aldona Valicenti
- Drs. Iuliia Shybalkina, JS Butler, & Alan Bartley
- Stacey Maynard, Jennifer Sutton, Kelley Farley, Kendra Thompson, & Abbye Allan
- Current and Former Council Members
- Surveyed City Staff
- Public Focus Groups & Survey Respondents



Public Input
Research



CivicLex

The issue

Currently, the public can best provide feedback by emailing/calling their CM or showing up to give public comment in meetings – usually the 6pm Council Meeting.

BAD FOR RESIDENTS

Inopportune timing; confusing and underwhelming process; can lead to mistrust and disempowerment.

BAD FOR COUNCIL

Derails work at last minute after lengthy process; demoralizing for city staff; cost inefficient due to excess labor.

Background

- Began conversation with CM Lamb in Fall 2020 and was referred to and reviewed proposal with CIO Aldona Valicenti.
- Reviewed proposal with broader Administration - CAO Hamilton, CIO Aldona Valicenti, Tyler Scott, Glenn Brown, & Jenifer Wuorenmaa.
- Proposal unanimously approved by GGSS Committee in 2021.

Background

- Process:
 1. Survey the public on their perspectives on providing input for legislative items before council.
 2. Survey city staff on their perspectives on how the public provides input on legislative items before council.
 3. Find alignment between the two and create recommendations from there.

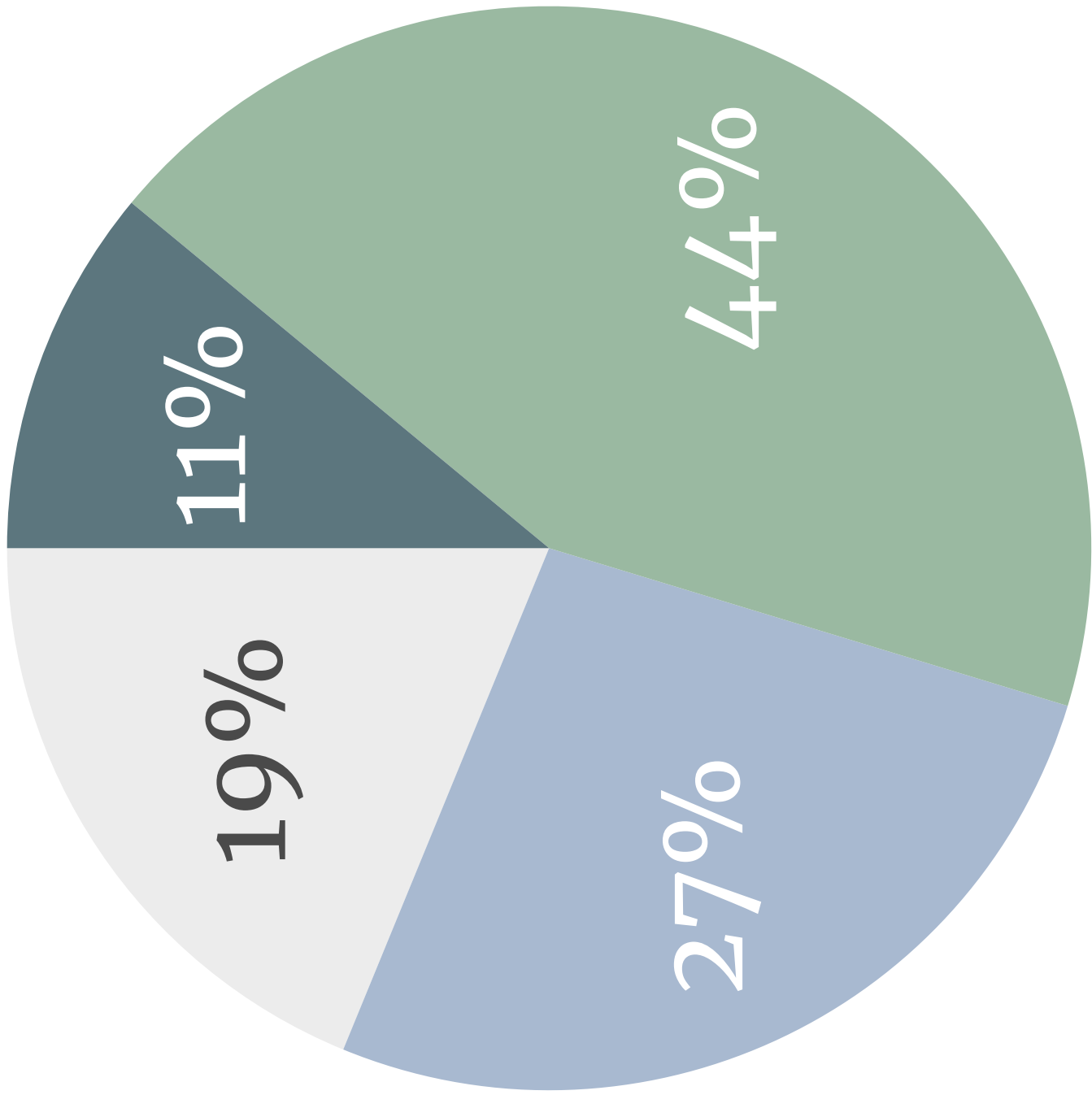
Part One - Public Survey

- Created public survey protocol with Drs. Cory Curl and Iuliia Shybalkina of Martin School of Public Policy, Dr. Alan Bartley of Transylvania University Department of Economics, and their students.
- Worked with Dr. JS Butler - Econometrics and Statistics Professor at Martin School - on data evaluation.

Public Data Overview

HOW OFTEN WOULD YOU SAY THAT YOU ENGAGE WITH
LEXINGTON'S CITY GOVERNMENT?

- We heard from 1,302 Lexington residents - a statistically significant sample.
- Survey respondents were, on average, not very engaged with LFUCG.

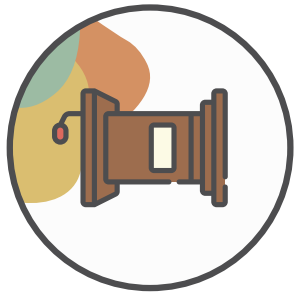
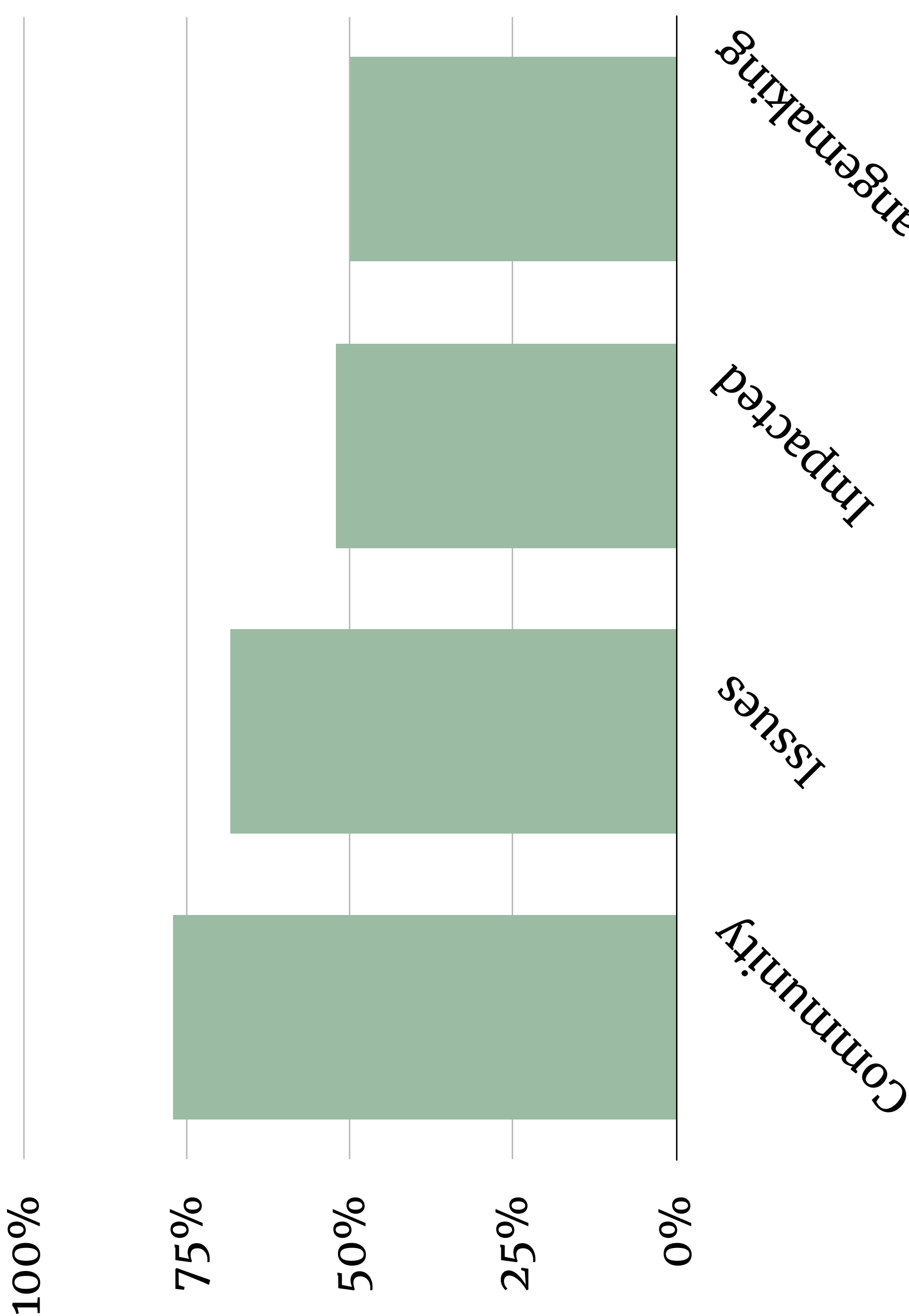


- Very Engaged
- Somewhat Engaged
- Not engaged - would like to be
- Not likely to Engage

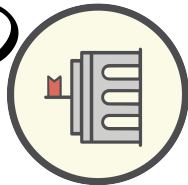
Why residents do participate

- Of those that had engaged with city government in the past, most reported that they were motivated to do so by an issue facing their neighborhood/community (77.1%) or care about the issue (68.4%).

WHAT MOTIVATES YOU TO ENGAGE WITH CITY GOVERNMENT?



Public Input
Research



Changelmaking

Impacted

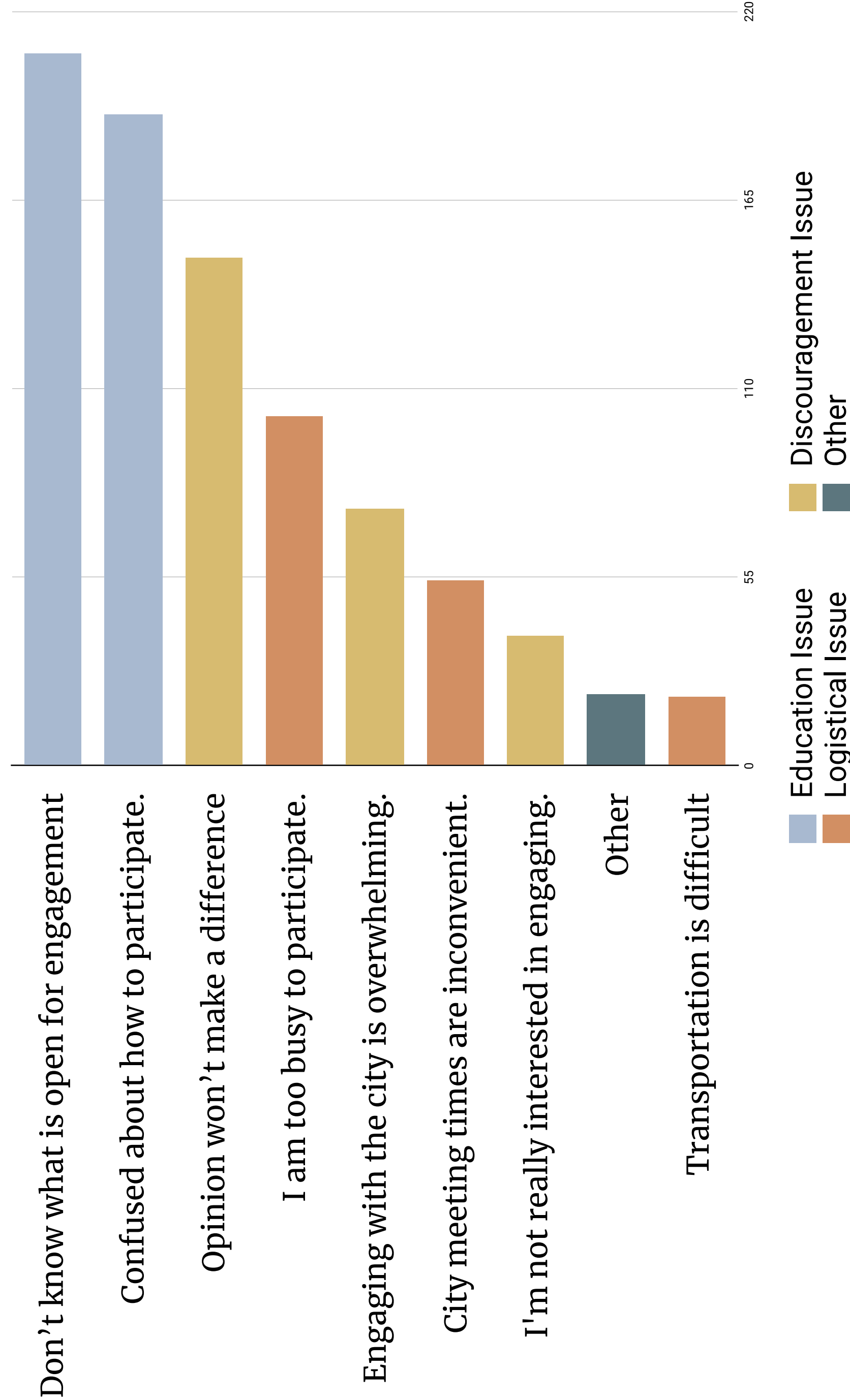
Issues

Community

Why residents don't participate

- Respondents don't know what issues are going before Council (45.8%) and don't know how to participate (41.9%). Some also reported that their opinion would not make a difference in the final result (32.6%).

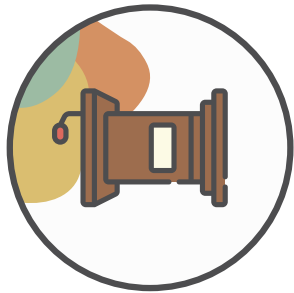
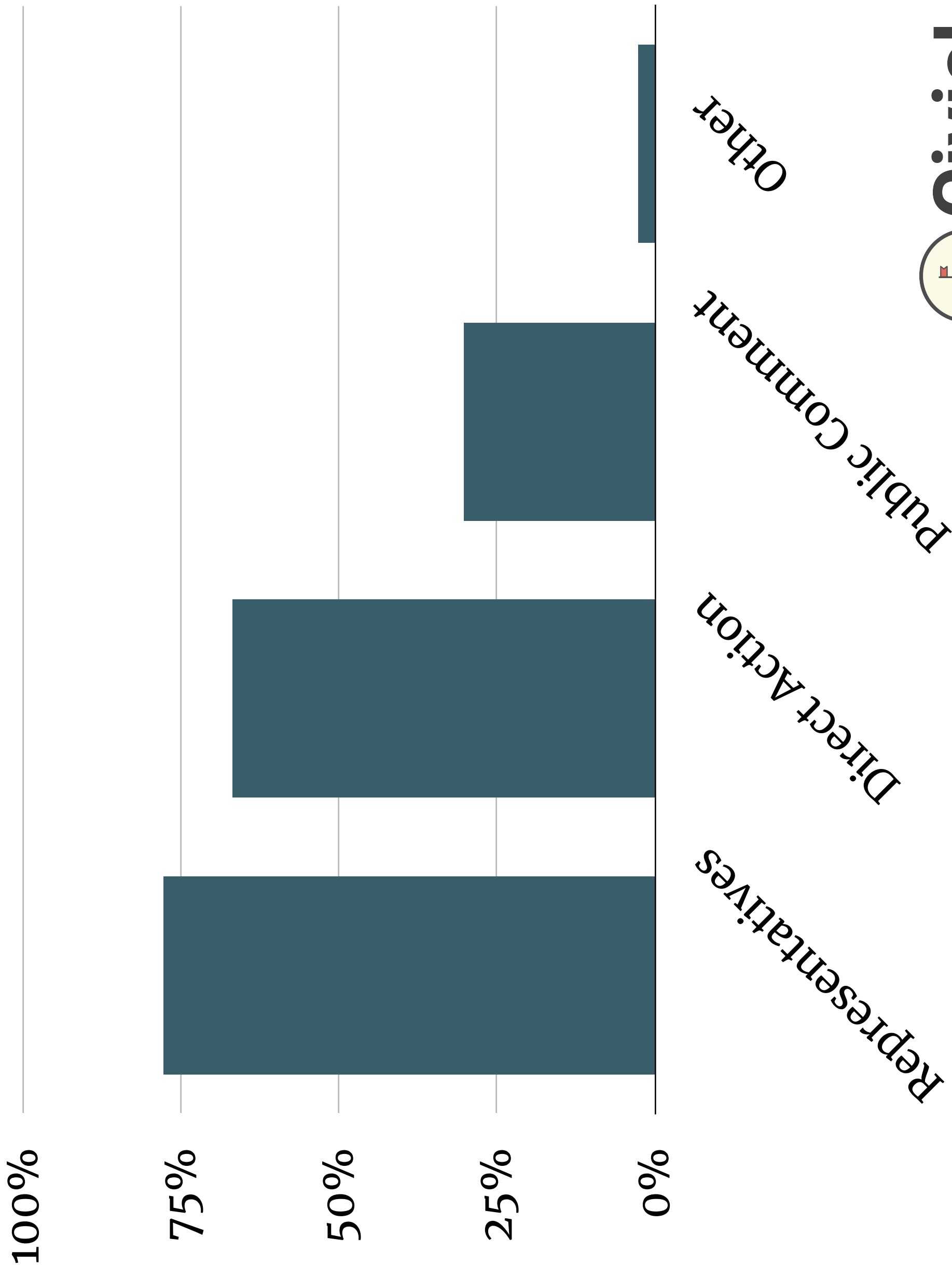
CAN YOU LET US KNOW WHY YOU DON'T ENGAGE MUCH WITH LEXINGTON'S CITY GOVERNMENT?



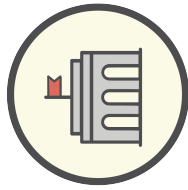
How do residents participate?

- Respondents directly engaged with the city through governmental representatives (79.9%) and/or through direct action like protesting, letter-writing, or petition signing (66.9%).

WHEN YOU'VE ENGAGED WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING WAYS HAVE YOU DONE SO?



Public Input
Research

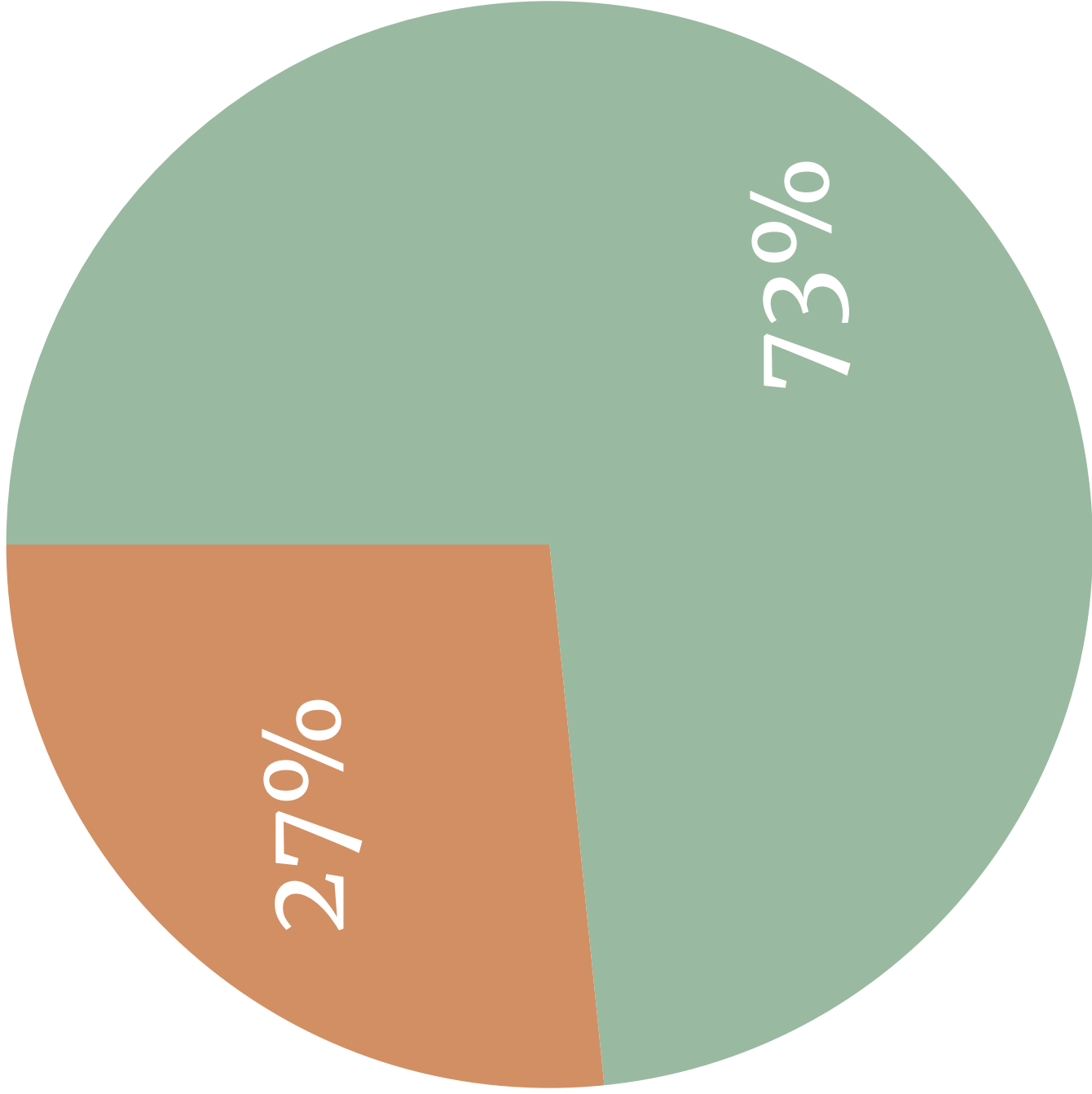


CivicLex

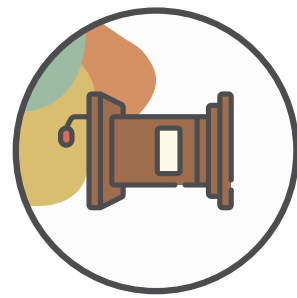
Do they want to be more engaged?

- Respondents indicated a desire to be more involved with city government (73.4%) and many think that their options for weighing in on city issues are inadequate (55.5%).

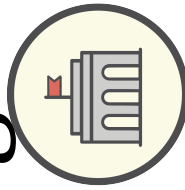
DO YOU WANT TO BE MORE ENGAGED WITH CITY GOVERNMENT?



- Want to be more engaged
- Don't want to be more engaged



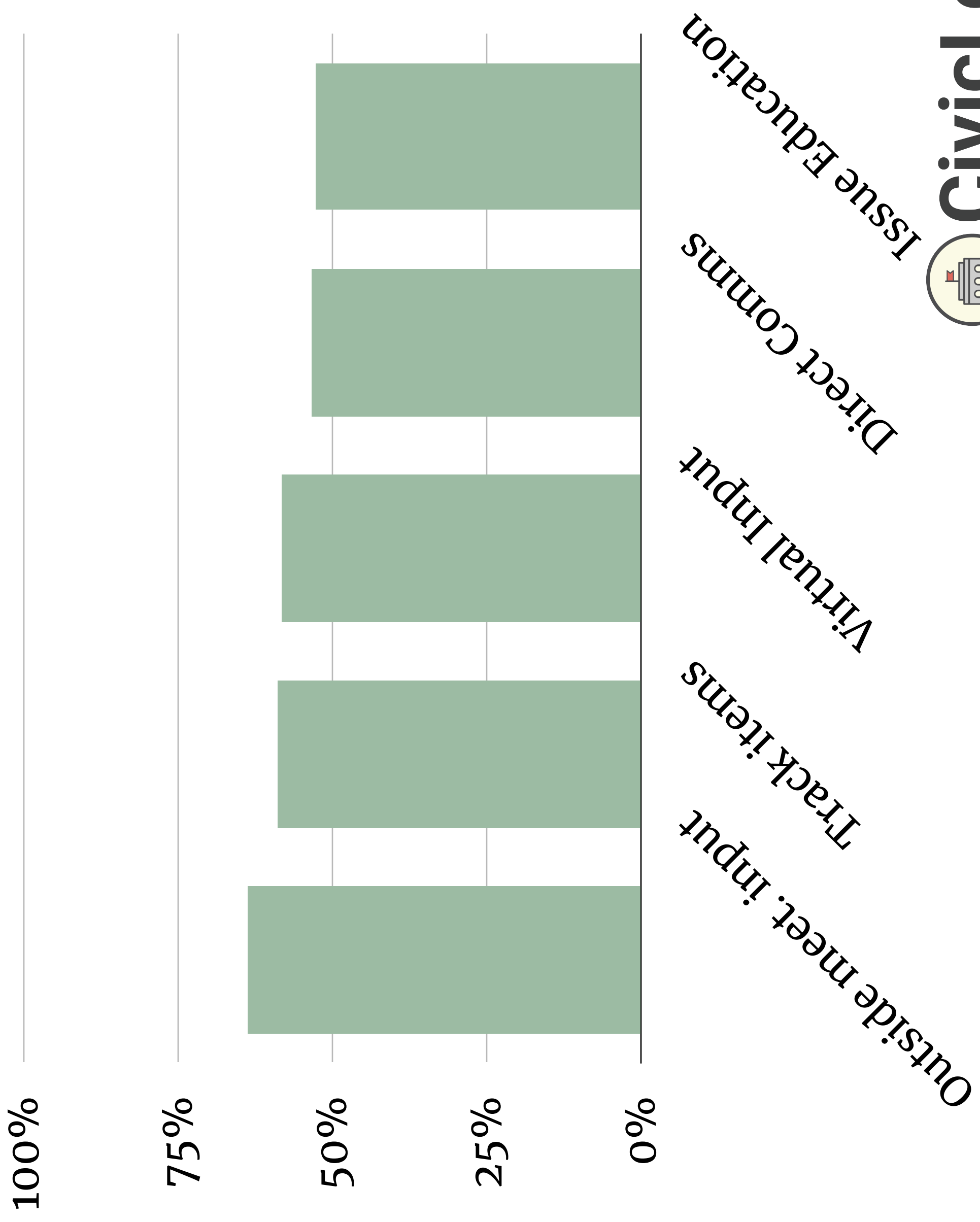
Public Input
Research



CivicLex

How do they want to participate?

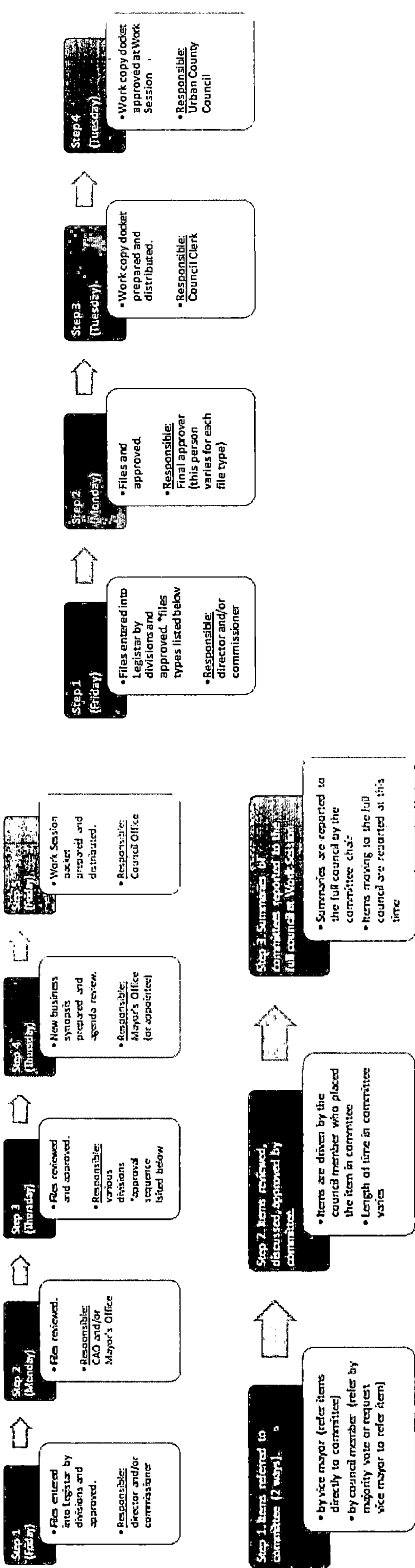
- Respondents indicated that they would like to have opportunities to provide public input outside of city meetings (63.8%) and have a better way to track items through the entire legislative process (58.9%). When asked to pick their most important priority, a plurality of respondents indicated that there should be more options for providing input virtually (18.3%).



Part Two - LFUCG Survey

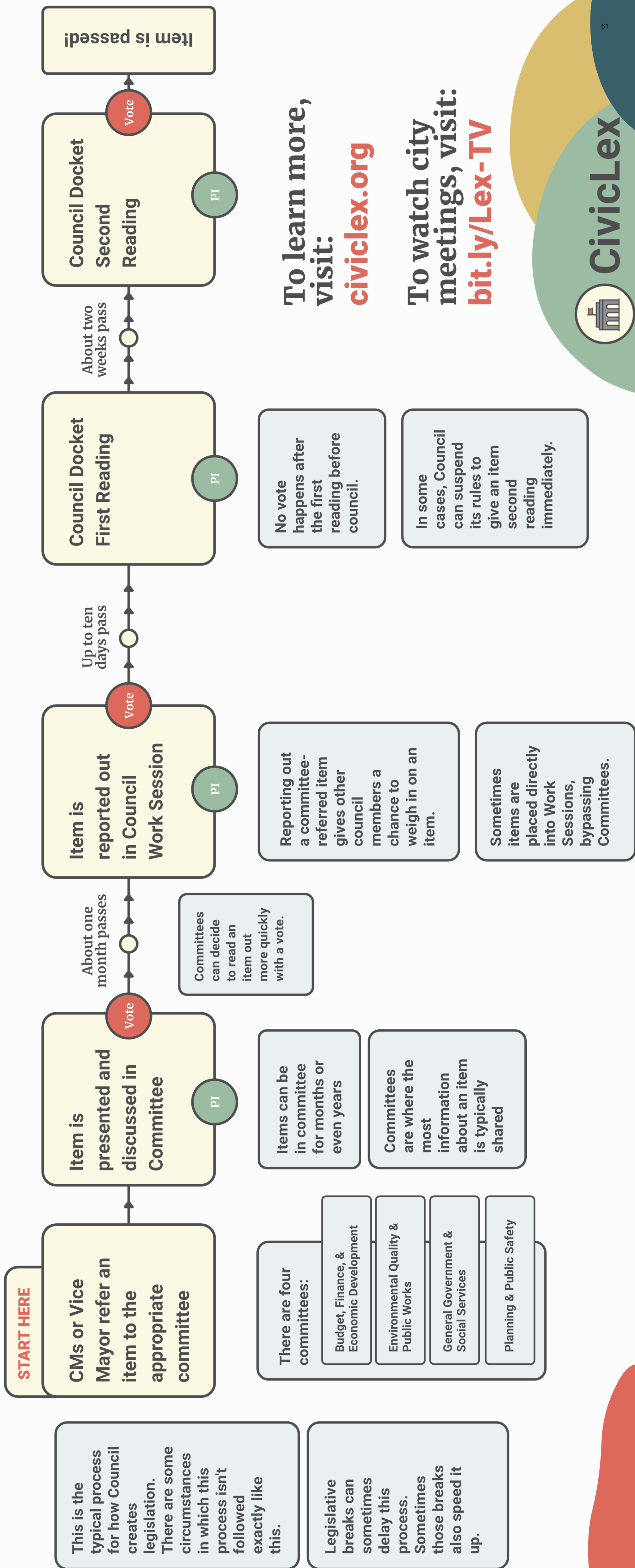
- How does legislative process work?

Legislative process



How legislation is created by the Lexington Urban County Council

- Each red dot is a vote that must take place to advance an item.
Most items need a simple majority to pass.
- Each green dot is an opportunity for formal public input before council/committees.



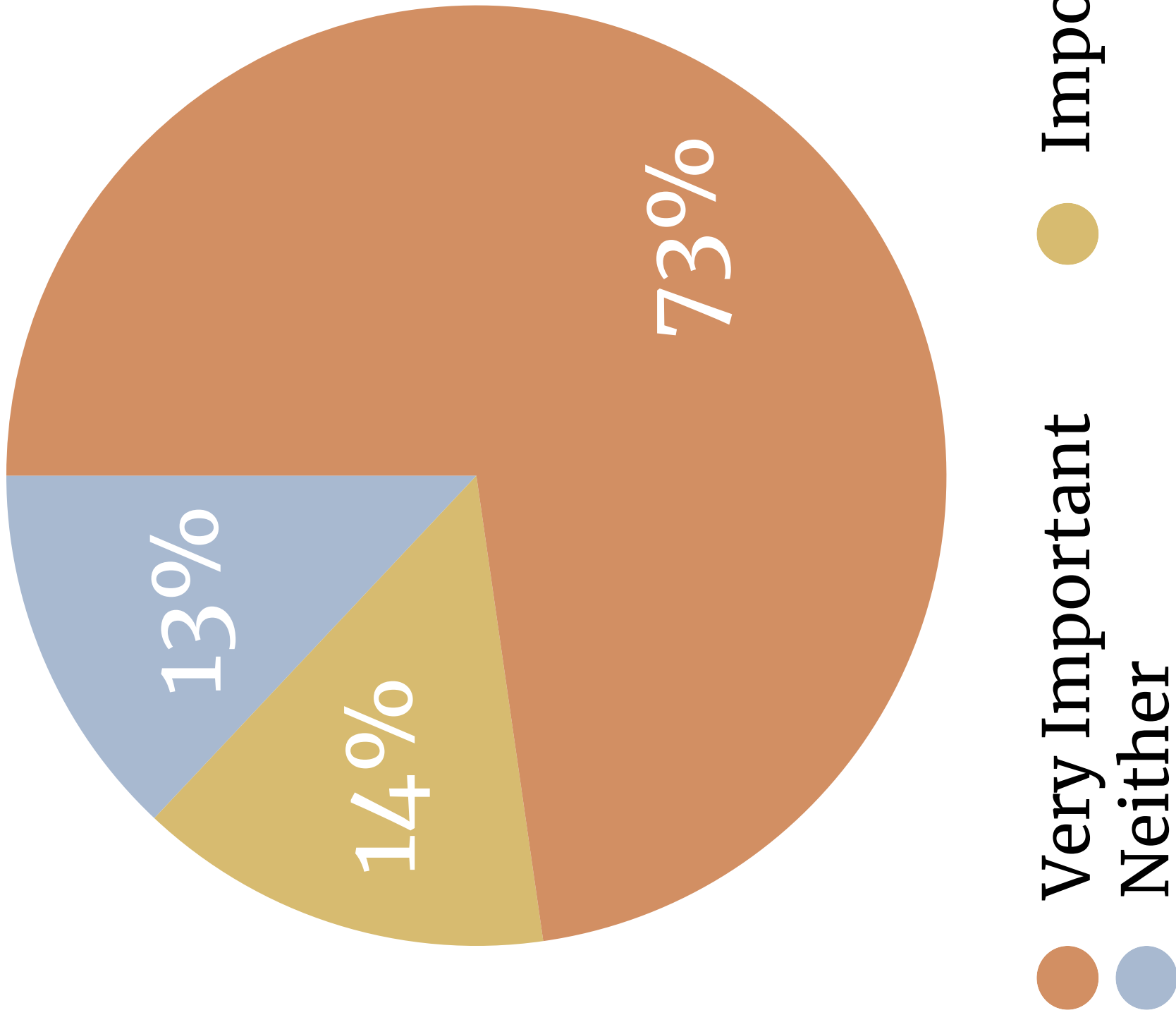
Part Two - LFUCG Survey

- Same partners as Part One.
- Survey edits made by Division of Human Resources.
- Distributed by CIO Valicenti to Commissioners, Directors, and others whose staff regularly engage with Lexington residents.
- Targeted 150 LFUCG staff.

LFUCG Data Overview

- We heard from 78 LFUCG employees.
- LFUCG staff thinks it is very important for the public to be able to provide input on items going before Council.
- No respondents selected unimportant or very unimportant.

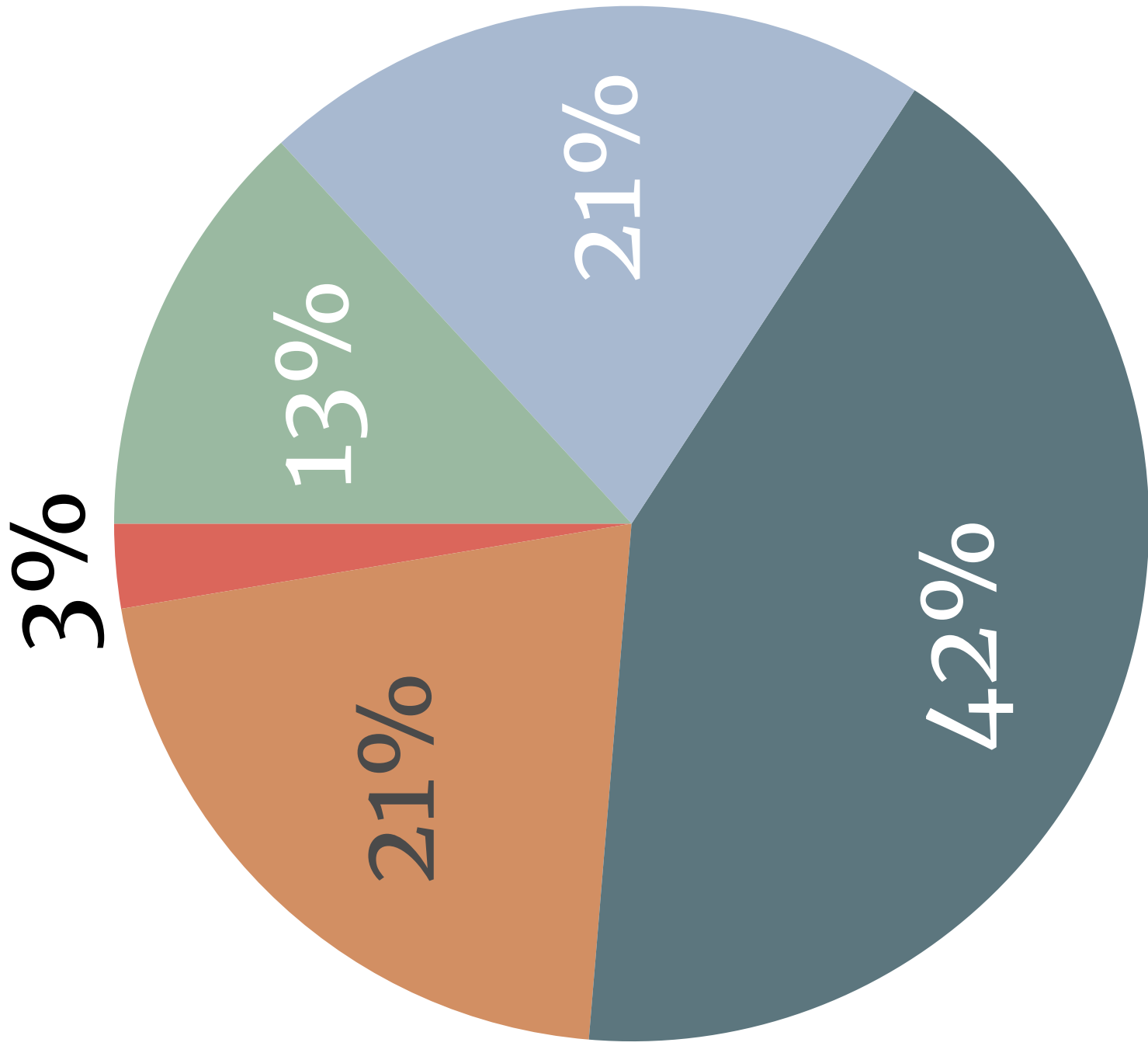
HOW IMPORTANT DO YOU THINK IT IS FOR THE PUBLIC
TO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE INPUT ON ITEMS GOING
BEFORE COUNCIL?*



LFUCG Data Overview

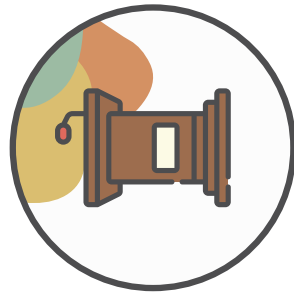
- LFUCG staff sees the current options for providing public input as only somewhat effective, with most falling in the middle.

HOW EFFECTIVE DO YOU THINK THE CURRENT
OPTIONS ARE FOR THE PUBLIC TO PROVIDE INPUT ON
ITEMS GOING BEFORE COUNCIL?

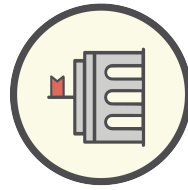


Very Effective
Neither
Very Ineffective

Effective
Not Effective



Public Input
Research

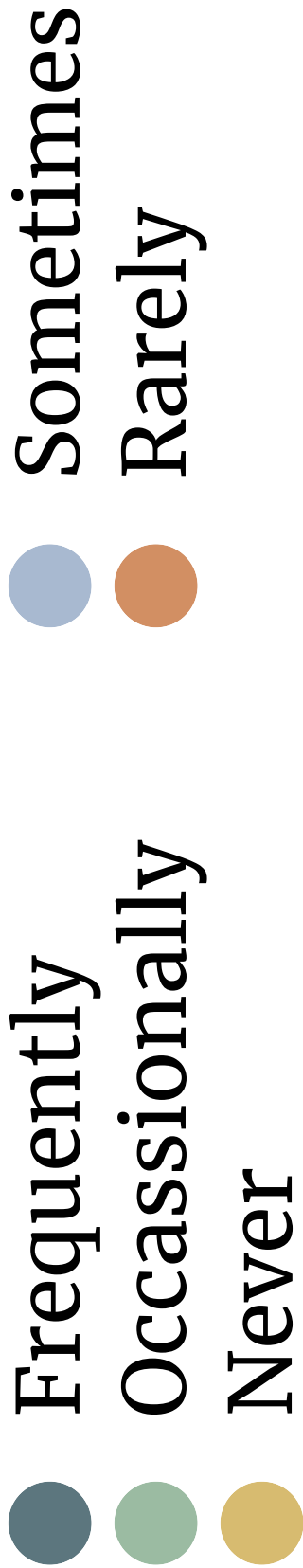
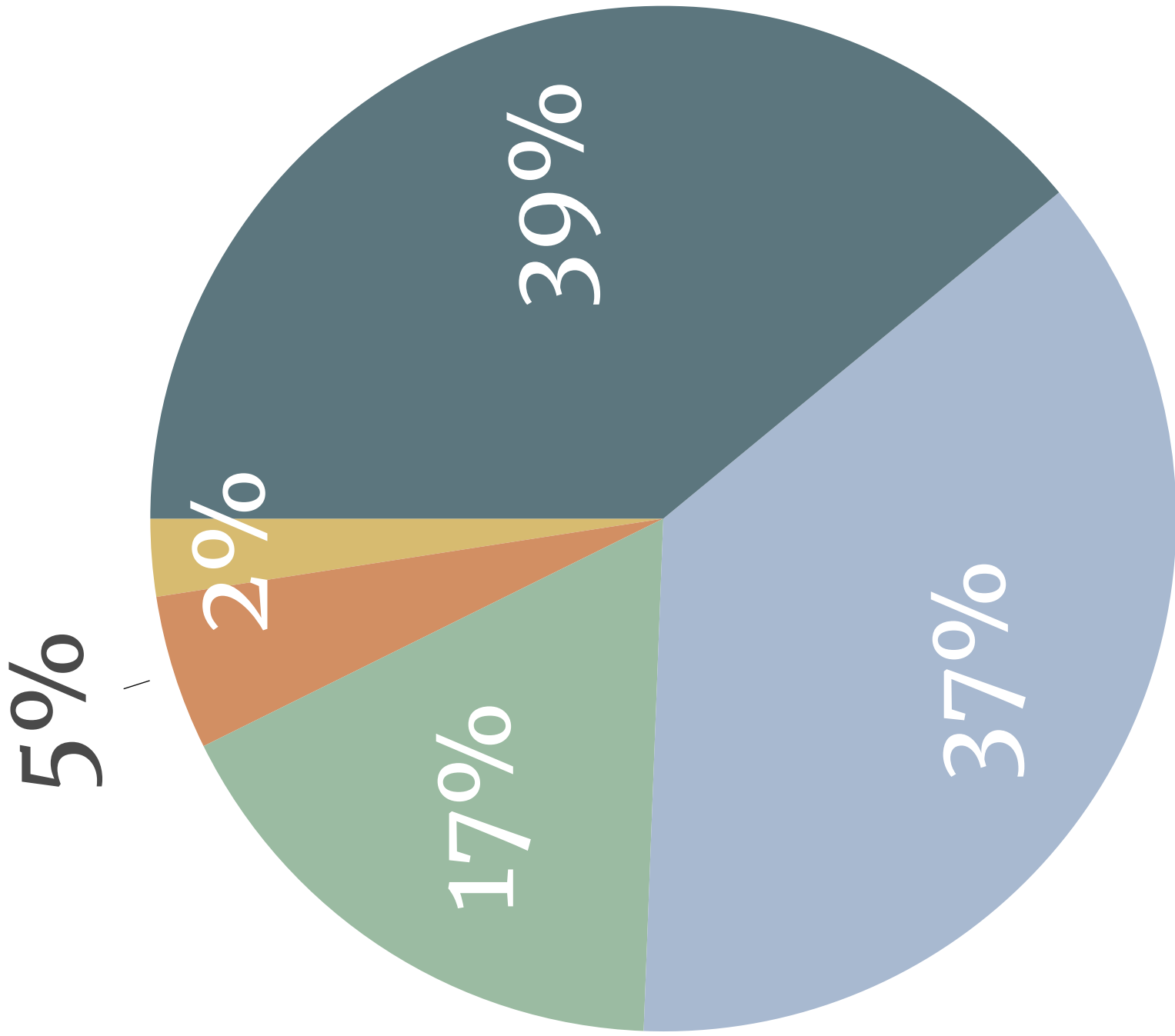


CivicLex

LFUCG Data Overview

- Of staff working on public-facing issues, public input frequently impacts their work.
- Staff are split on whether current public input is productive (26% say no, 22% say yes - 52% are in the middle).

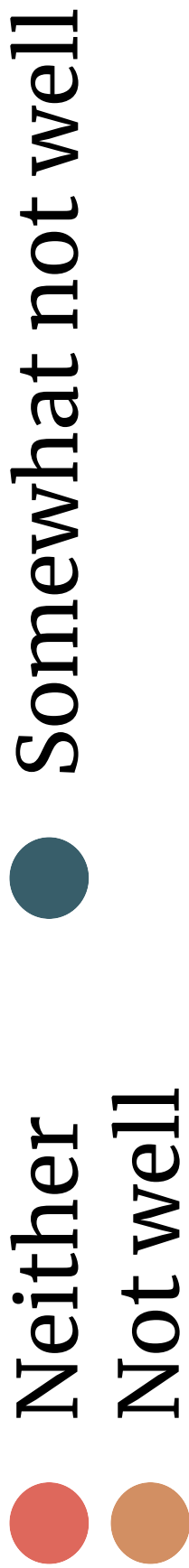
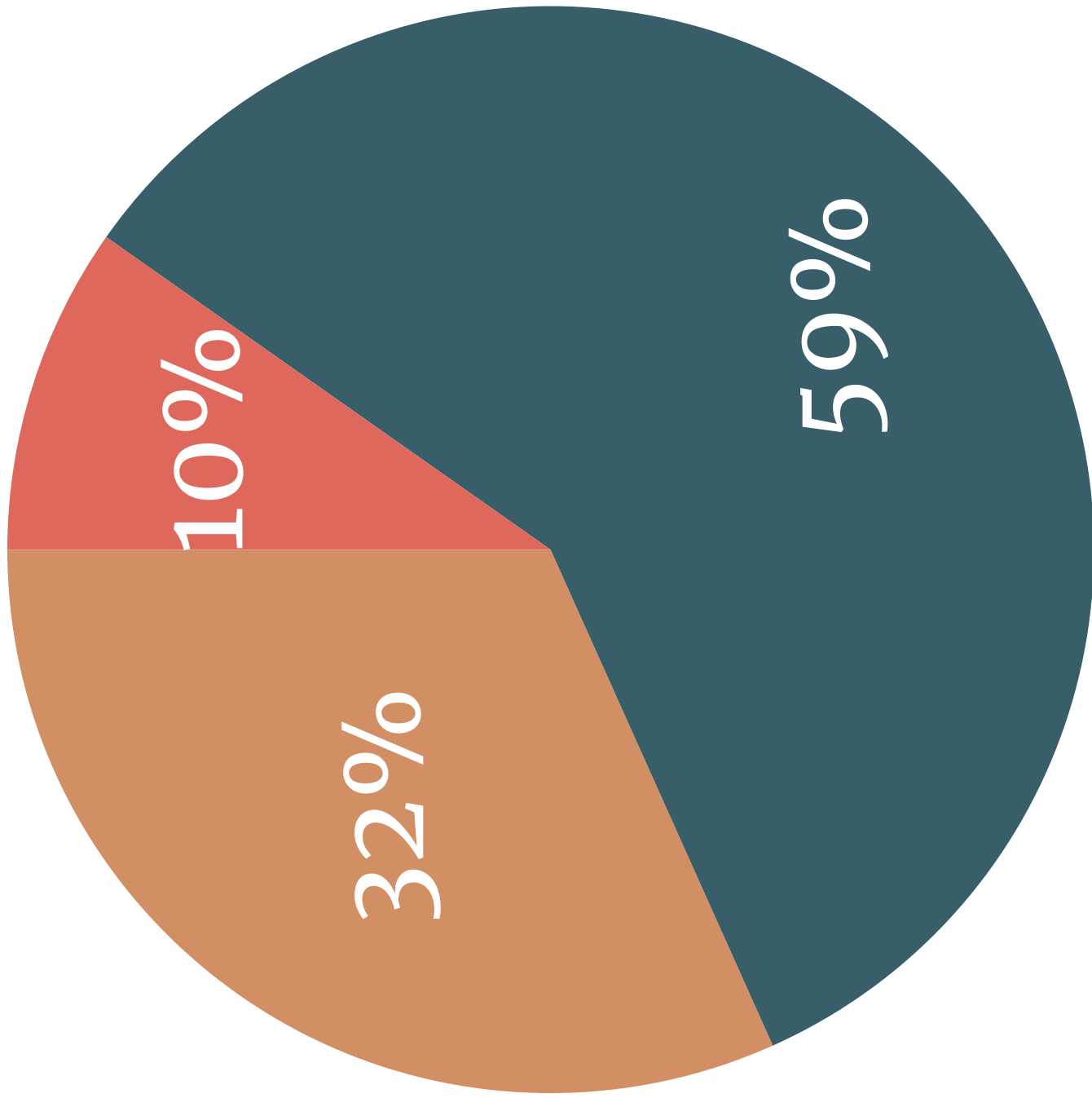
HOW OFTEN WOULD YOU SAY THAT PUBLIC INPUT
CAUSED AN IMPACT ON THE DIRECTION OF YOUR ITEMS?



LFUCG Data Overview

- Staff doesn't think the public has a good understanding of its current options for providing input on legislative items.
- No respondents selected somewhat well or very well.

HOW WELL DO YOU THINK THE PUBLIC UNDERSTANDS THEIR OPTIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN CITY GOVERNMENT?



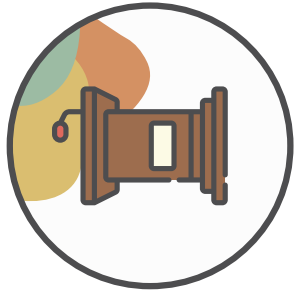
Further Data: 4 Point Assessment

How much of the time do you think you can trust Lexington's city government to make decisions in a fair way?

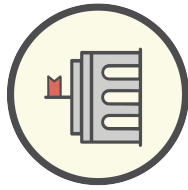
Subgroup <i>Respondents that say...</i>	Score
Options for weighing in on city government are adequate	3.1
City meeting locations are very convenient	3.2
City meeting locations are very inconvenient	2.6
Don't engage in local government because of transportation difficulties	2.6

How seriously do you think Governmental Representatives take your input?

Subgroup <i>Respondents that...</i>	Score
Are between the ages of 70 and 80	2.9
Find city meeting times very convenient	3.0
Are nonbinary	1.7
Find city meeting times very inconvenient	1.9



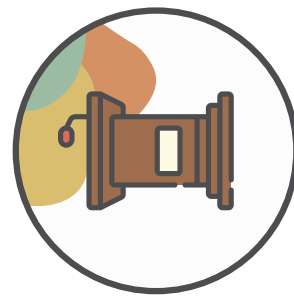
Public Input
Research



CivicLex

Further Data: LFUCG Staff

- LFUCG who are **more impacted** by public input rate the current effectiveness of public input **lower**.
- LFUCG staff who have had a **better experience** with public input rate the importance of public input **higher**.
- The LFUCG divisions/department most likely from to be impacted by public input our surveyed respondents are EQPW, Planning, and the Mayor's Office.
- 80% of LFUCG staff who have had a **bad experience** with public input still say they would like the public to be **more involved** in their work.



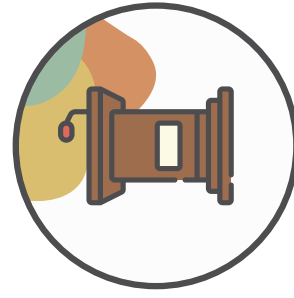
Further Data: Public/LFUCG Mismatches

Understanding participation

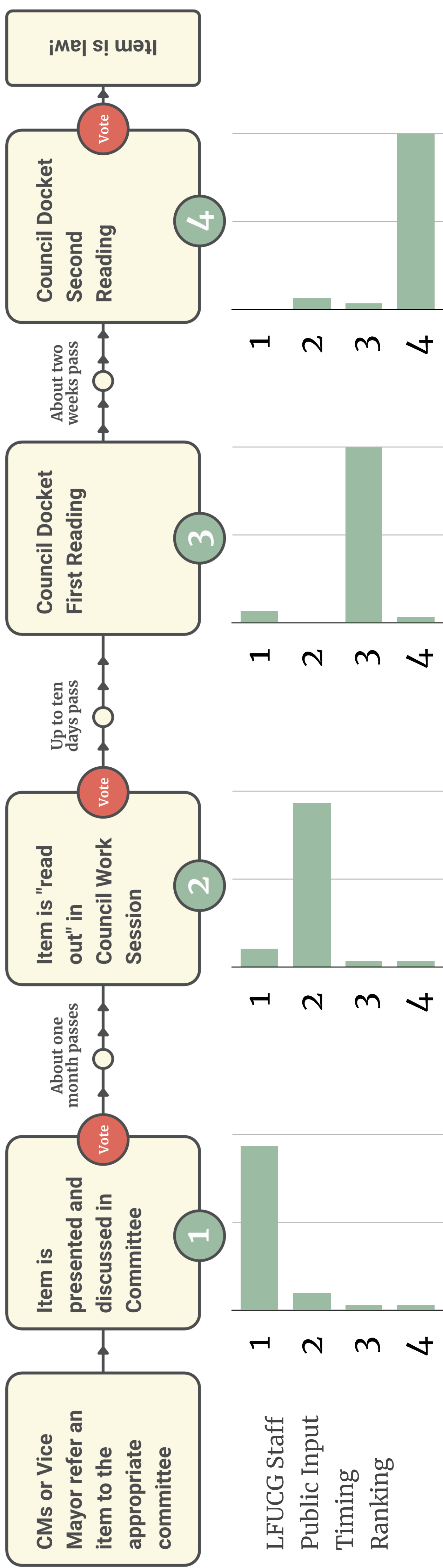
- Public survey participants answered “*How well do you understand your options to participate in local government*” with an average 2.6 out of 4
- LFUCG staff survey participants answered the question “*How well do you think the public understands their options to participate in local government*” with an average 1.4 out of 4

Reasons for not participating

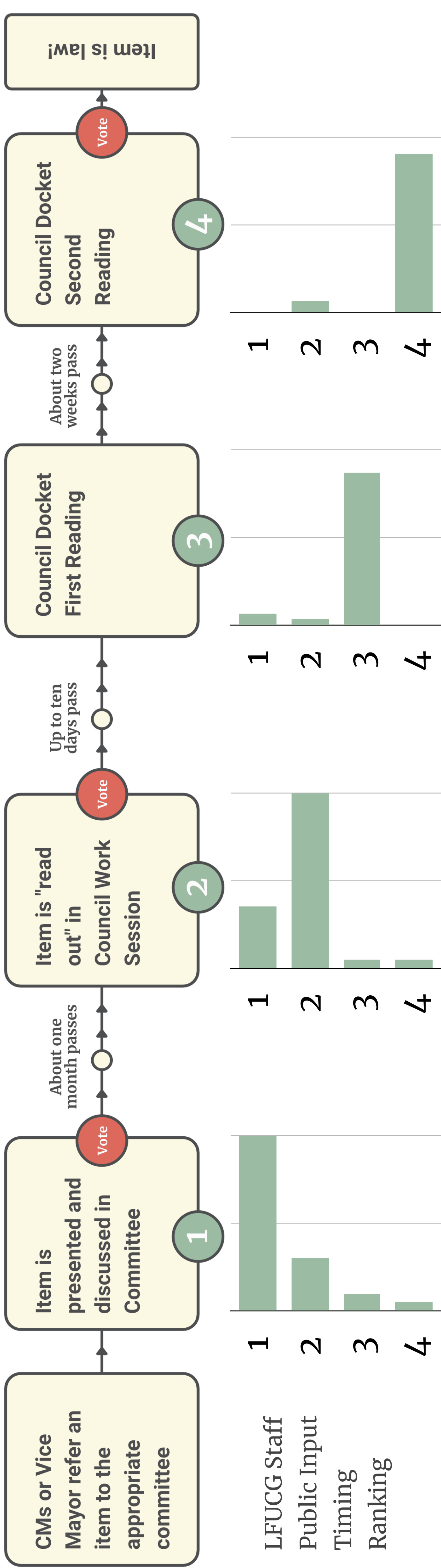
- We asked LFUCG why they think people don’t participate more in local government, and their top answer was that people don’t think their opinion will make a difference
 - This was actually the third most common reason public respondents cited, after not knowing what issues are open for engagement and being confused about how to participate



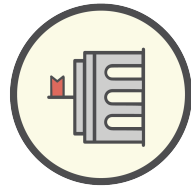
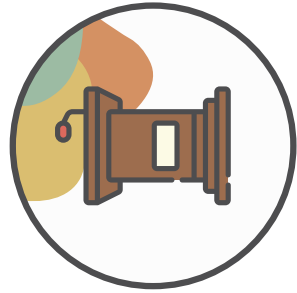
Input Timing - Helpful for Staff



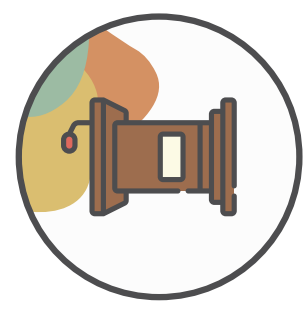
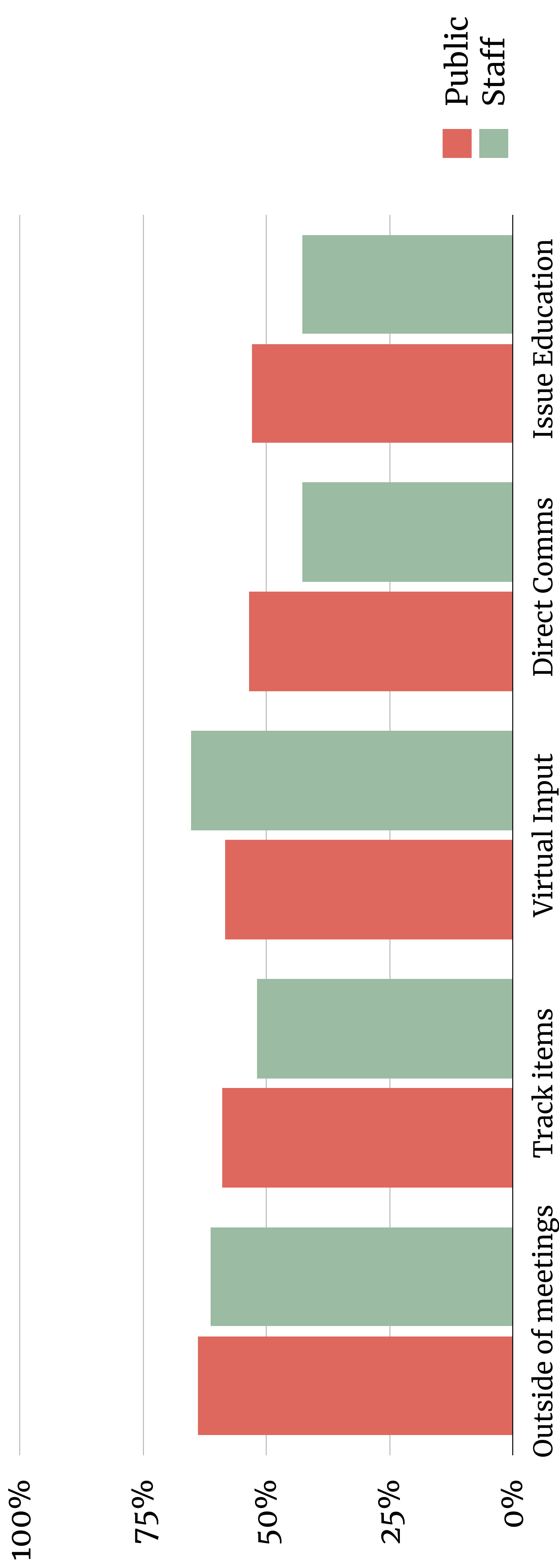
Input Timing - Effective for Public



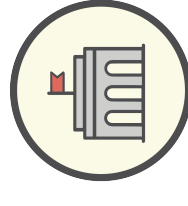
Comparison - why not engage?



Comparison - Options to improve



Public Input
Research



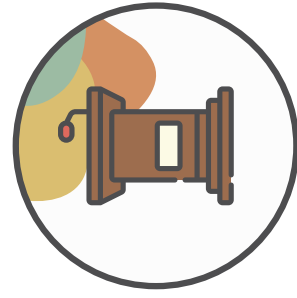
CivicLex

Quotes from LFUCG

“I do not feel the City makes it easy for people to interact with the government. If you lack transportation, don't have internet access, if you work/take care of children and can't attend meetings, etc. your options are limited. So a small (often vocal) group has their opinions heard”

“Engagement needs to be equitable for all to be truly productive and representative of our community.”

“Frankly, I think it's too late when something even gets to Council Committee. Public input should be collected earlier when things are a work in progress. Needs to be equitable for all to be truly productive and representative of our community.”



**Public Input
Research**

“Being heard does not necessarily mean you get your way. The goal is to make the community better – make it more efficient, more open and inclusive, more diverse, etc.”

“The input given is only as good as the education provided. Why public input stinks and isn't helpful is not the fault of the public. More education on policy options, their impacts and their costs is desperately needed.”

“I think the breakdown is that the public is not taught the legislative process. They just don't know when and where to find the information – or even what information they are lacking.”

“Council meetings are the END of the process. Rarely is an item before the council voted down at a council meeting. Citizens, if they have an opinion, need to share it as early in the process as possible.”

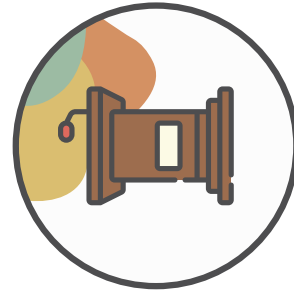


CivicLex

Recommendations - Process

1-a. Move Public Comment for items on the agenda to the beginning of meetings.

- A clear piece of feedback we heard in focus groups and open responses from the public survey is that residents who do show up to public meetings sometimes leave feeling frustrated when public comment is at the end of the agenda.
- We recommend moving public comment for items on the agenda to the beginning of all meetings, including Council Meetings.



**Public Input
Research**

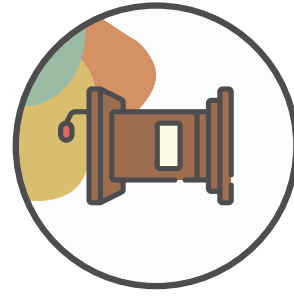


CivicLex

Recommendations - Process

1-b. Allow Public Comment for items on the agenda for all Council Committee, Work Session, Council, and Committee of the Whole meetings.

- One clear takeaway from the public survey was that most members of the general public do not understand when they are allowed to give public comment in meetings and when they can't.
- We recommend that LFUCG allow Public Comment for items on the agenda at all public meetings, including Council Committees, Work Sessions, Council Meetings, and Committees of the Whole.



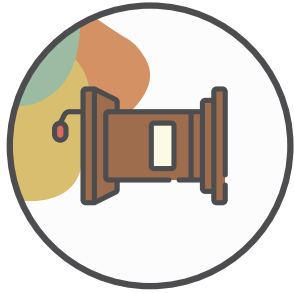
**Public Input
Research**



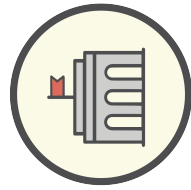
Recommendations - Process

1-c. Hold separate meetings specifically designated for public education and input that are outside of city hall.

- Throughout the survey, residents said they wanted to know more about what items were up for consideration in city hall and wanted more ways to weigh in on those issues.
- Based on our research, we recommend that LFUCG holds one additional monthly public meeting to present on items coming up before Council and to solicit public input on these items. We also think these meetings could be outside of city hall, and potentially spread out across the 12 Council Districts.



Public Input
Research



CivicLex

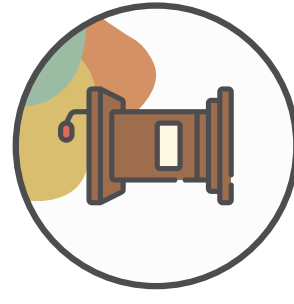
Name	Meeting Date	Meeting Time
City Council	4/11/2022	5:30 PM
General Public Comment Session	4/11/2022	5:00 PM
Business, Arts, Workforce, & Aviation Services Committee	4/6/2022	1:30 PM
Safety, Housing, Education & Homelessness Committee	4/6/2022	10:00 AM
Finance & Governance Committee	4/5/2022	1:30 PM
Land Use, Transportation & Infrastructure Committee	4/5/2022	10:30 AM
Mayor-Council	4/5/2022	9:30 AM
City Council	4/4/2022	5:30 PM
General Public Comment Session	4/4/2022	5:00 PM
Budget and Policy Committee	4/4/2022	1:30 PM

Courtesy: Denver, Colorado

Recommendations - Process

1-d. Restructure the Council schedule to better position public input to be helpful and effective.

- The primary issue here is that the public is currently directed - implicitly and explicitly - to provide public input at the Thursday Council Meetings at 6pm, which, according to LFUCG staff, is the least helpful and effective time to provide public comment.
- We recommend that Council Work Sessions be moved to weekday evenings and LFUCG should direct the public to consider these as their primary public comment opportunity. This could possibly be traded with moving existing Council Meetings to the daytime.



**Public Input
Research**

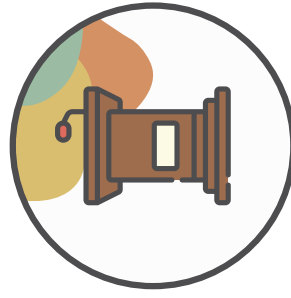


CivicLex

Recommendations - Technology

2-a. Utilize stop-gap measures to provide virtual input on high-impact legislation.

- While the public and staff both expressed clear interest in virtual public engagement, robust public input technologies can be expensive and take awhile to implement.
- We recommend that LFUCG uses low-cost, stop-gap tools to gather public input on high-impact legislation while it considers implementing more robust and comprehensive public input and deliberation technologies.



Public Input
Research

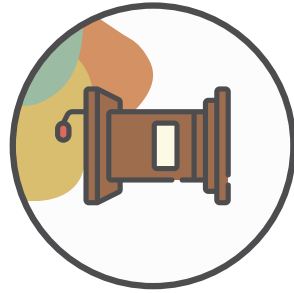


CivicLex

Recommendations - Technology

2-b. Provide additional options for on-the-record virtual public comment for meetings.

- Both the public and LFUCG staff agree – an easy way to address a lack of public input on legislative items is to provide more opportunities for virtual public comment.
- We recommend that LFUCG allow for virtual public comment via email or voice message for items on the agenda, and that those comments are entered into the public record.



Public Input
Research



Public Meeting Schedules, Agendas, and Minutes

March 18, 2020
City Council
Special Meeting

+ Meet Your Newly Elected City Council Members

Tempe Public Safety Advisory Task Force

Tempe Citizens' Panel for Review of Police Complaints and Use of Force

+ Boards and Commissions

+ Election Information

+ Public Records Requests

Arizona Open Meeting Law

City Code and City Charter

City Council Conflicts of Interest

City Council Events Schedule

City Facilities Naming

City Council Online Meeting Comment Card

Font Size:    Share & Bookmark  Feedback 

Questions? The City Clerk's Office can be reached at (480) 350-4311 or clerk@tempe.gov, Mon. – Fri., 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., except on City holidays.

 Listen 

The Tempe City Council values and welcomes public input on Public Hearing items or during Public Appearances or a Call to the Audience. **Public Hearing items are designated by an asterisk (*) on the meeting agenda. For Work Study Sessions, you may only speak once on an issue Review Session item, or a Committee of the Whole item, listed on the agenda.** If you wish to address a matter concerning Tempe City government, please fill out and submit the form below, **no later than 2 p.m. the day of the City Council meeting.** If an item is not listed on the meeting agenda, the City Council may not act on the information, but may choose to refer the matter to the City Manager for follow up.

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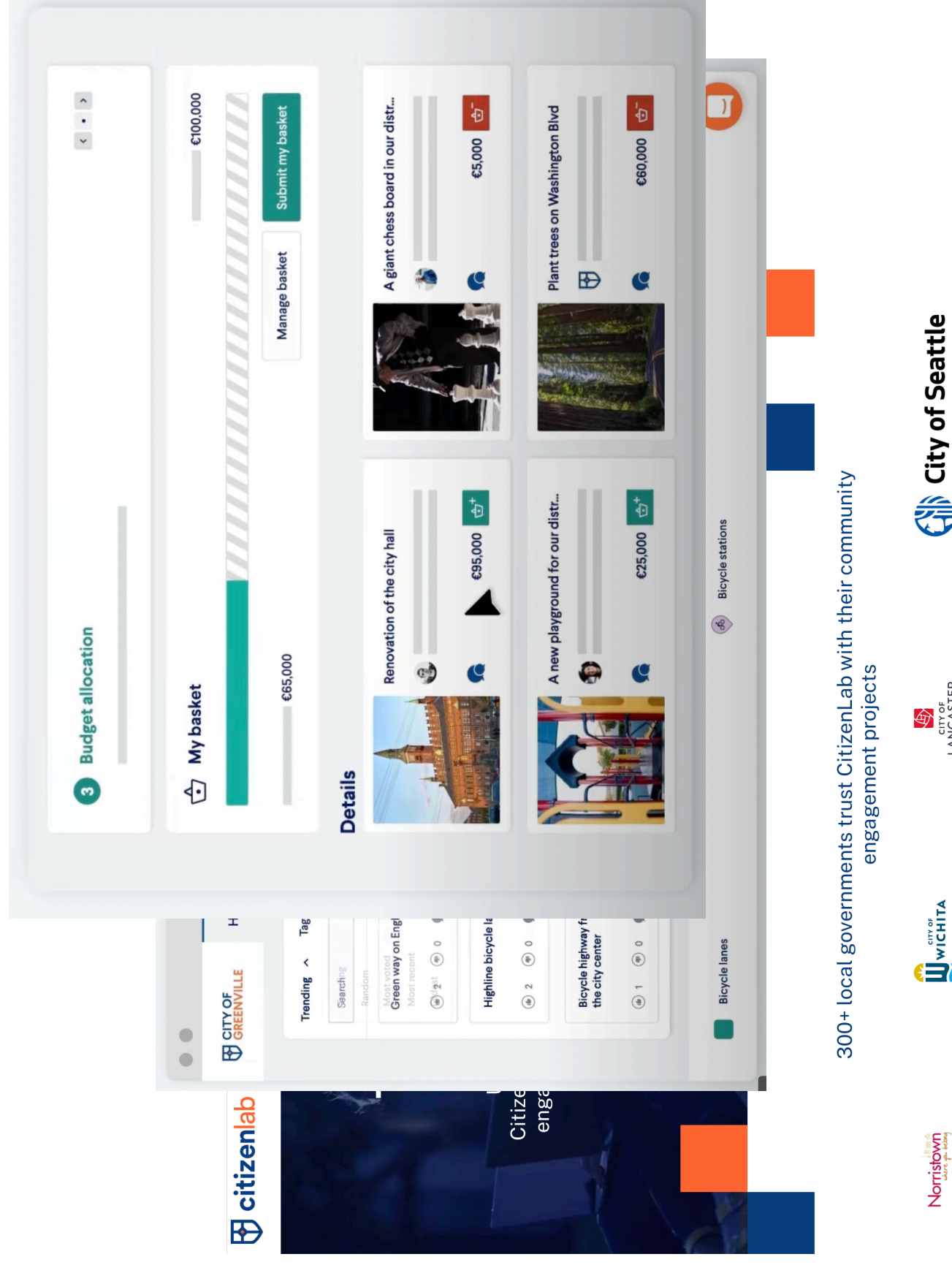
CivicLex

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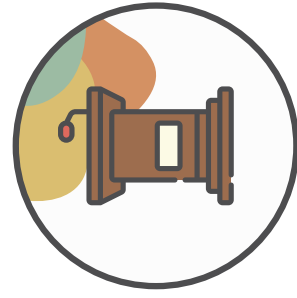
Recommendations - Technology

2-c. Implement user-friendly technologies that allows for legislative tracking and public input.

- Over the past 10 years, new technology has emerged that allows residents to track legislative items and provide verified digital input on said items.
- We recommend that LFUCG adopts a robust, online legislative input system.



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Public Input
Research

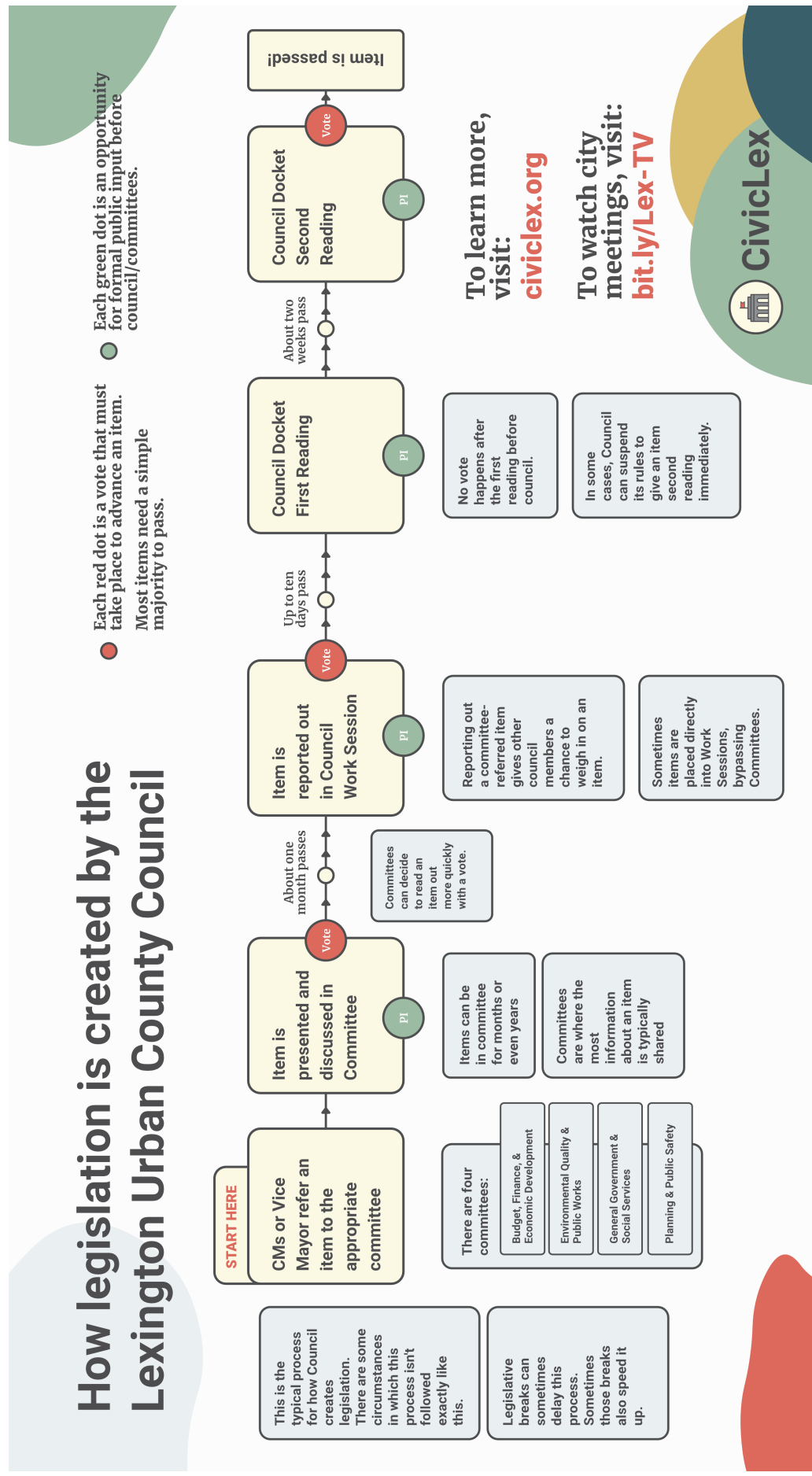


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Recommendations - Education

3-a. Create a public guide to LFUCG’s legislative process

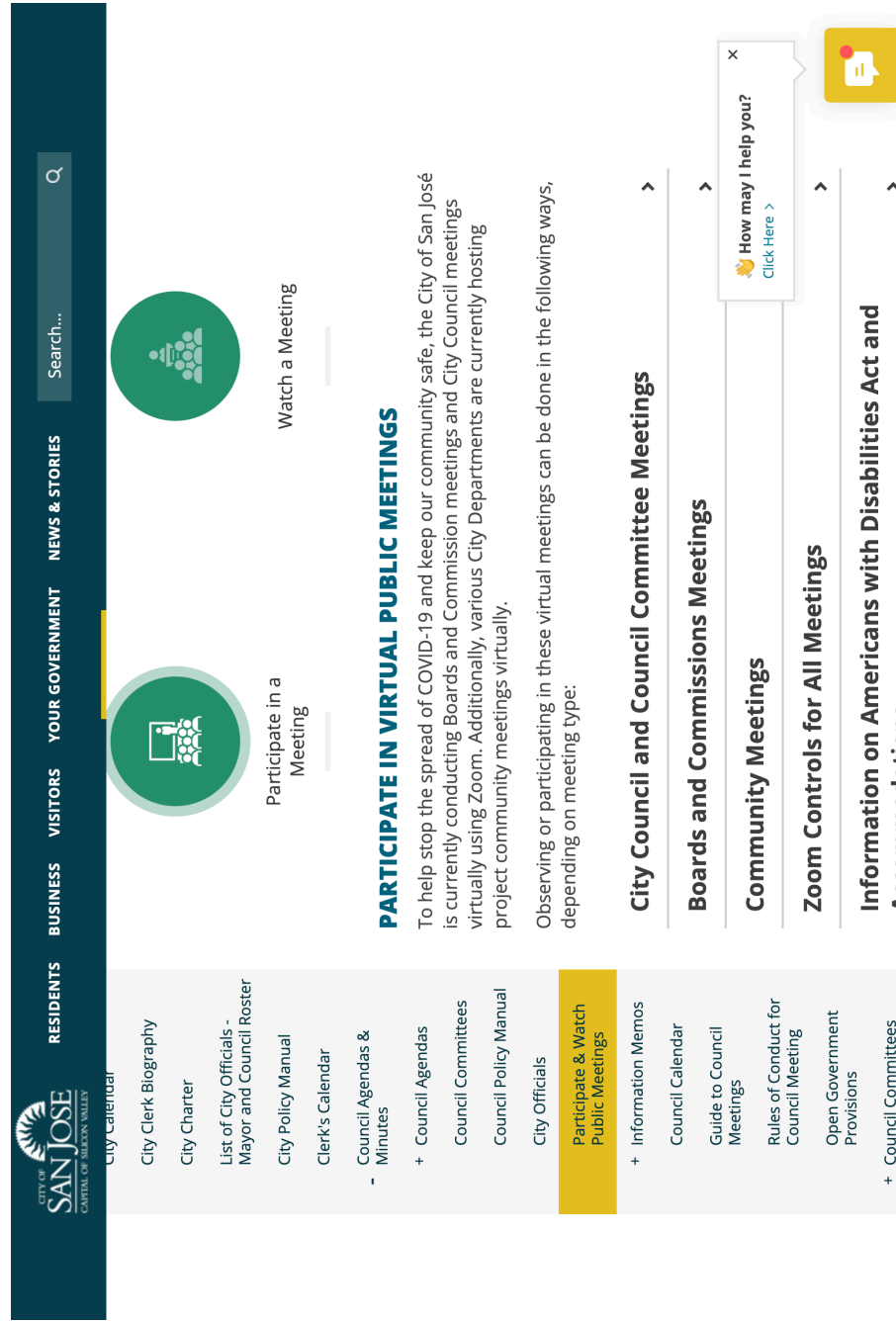
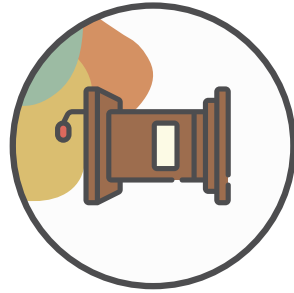
- The legislative process can be cumbersome and confusing for the general public.
- We recommend that LFUCG publicly posts a detailed guide to how its legislative process works on its website.



Recommendations - Education

3-b. Create online resources that explain how to provide effective public input.

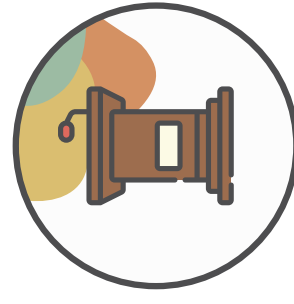
- As we have stated earlier, the public and LFUCG staff agree that it is not clear how a resident should go about weighing in on an item advancing through council.
- We recommend that LFUCG create a single page on its website that explains how to come to city hall, provide public comment in city meetings and virtually, tips for an effective public comment, and more.



Recommendations - Education

3-c. Create in-chamber resources that help residents understand how Council Meetings work and the best tips for public comment.

- Public meetings can be confusing for many who attend, and often, people haven't done research of how it works in advance.
- We recommend that LFUCG create print and digital resources that are available to attendees in public meetings for public meetings work and how to participate.



**Public Input
Research**

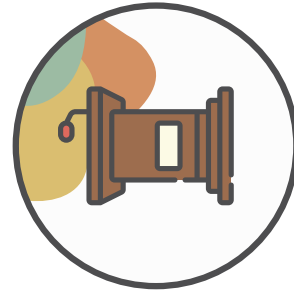


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Recommendations - Education

3-d. Create resources that help residents understand what issues are being discussed by Council.

- One of the most significant challenges described by the public in our survey was not knowing what was even being discussed by council until after the fact.
- We recommend that LFUCG create an up-to-date page on its website of what major items are being discussed in Council Committee, Work Sessions, and Council Meetings.



**Public Input
Research**

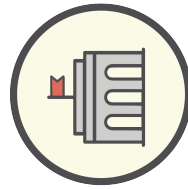
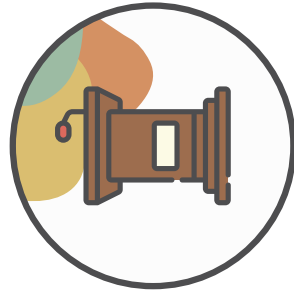


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Recommendations - Education

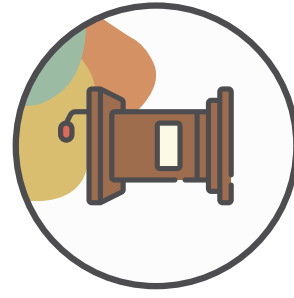
3-e. Provide a better user experience for residents in city hall.

- When residents arrive at city hall, where to go and who to talk to can be confusing.
- We recommend LFUCG examine ways to make city hall more friendly and approachable for residents.

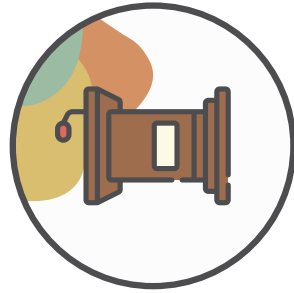


Moving forward

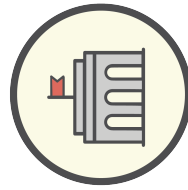
- Formal report submitted to LFUCG and released to the public.
- Survey data will be anonymized and made public.
- CivicLex would be happy to be in a support role for advancing any of these recommendations.



Questions?



**Public Input
Research**

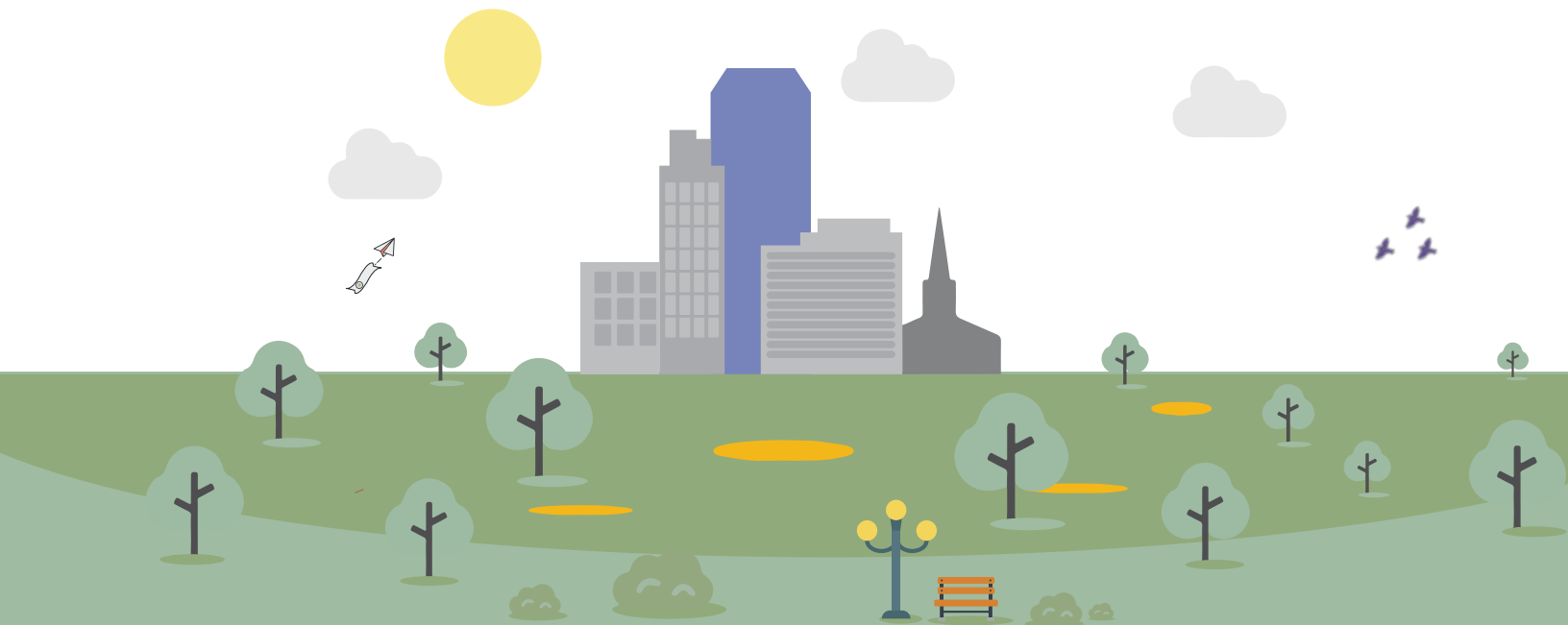


CivicLex

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Public Input Research

Draft of Final Report – Jan 11, 2022



Thanks

This report would not be possible without the support of many LFUCG officials and Lexington residents that gave their time to this process.

A very special thank you to District 4 Council Member Susan Lamb and Lexington Chief Information Officer Aldona Valicenti who stewarded this process alongside us from the beginning.

We would also like to acknowledge:

- Drs. Iuliia Shybalkina, JS Butler, & Alan Bartley for their work on survey creation and data analysis.
- Stacey Maynard, Jennifer Sutton, Kelley Farley, Abb Allan, & Kendra Thompson for their generosity in helping us build our process and recommendations.
- Lexington residents who registered for our initial Public Input Focus Groups: April Taylor, Beau Revlett, Beth Musgrave, Blake Hall, Brittany Roethemeier, Christian Motley, Dan Wu, David Lowe, Emma Anderson, Kelley Farley, Lisa Brown, Ginny Dailey, Gregory Butler, John Cirigliano, Ken Cooke, Paula Singer, Peter Bourne, Rena Wiseman, Russell Allen, Tiffany Duncan, Tom Eblen, Walt Gaffield, & Victor Palomino.
- Current and Former Council Members and surveyed LFUCG employees.

This report was written by Kit Anderson and Richard Young.

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Introduction & Executive Summary

In 2021, CivicLex launched a new project in partnership with the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government that focused on the public input process for items brought before the Urban County Council. The goal of this partnership was to understand the barriers to public participation in Lexington's local legislative process and to generate a series of recommendations to address any issues in the public input process.

Currently, the public can best provide recognized feedback by:

- Emailing their Council Representatives or City Staff
- Showing up to give public comment in meetings

Neither of these options are truly adequate - emails are not part of the public record and Council Meetings only occur on Thursday evenings at 6pm. Also, because the meetings that the public are likely to attend are mostly procedural and take place at the end of the legislative process, the comments made by the public often have no impact on the final legislation.

This process needs improvement for a couple of reasons:

- First, it is detrimental for a community's faith in its elected leaders and its city government. If residents don't think their opinion is being taken seriously or if the process is prohibitively confusing, they will have less trust in their representatives, and increasing skepticism that the city government is looking out for its community.
- Second, it's an inefficient use of taxpayer dollars and wasteful for legislators and city staff. Last minute opposition to a matter before council derails months of work by staff and consensus building by Council. Not only is this demoralizing for City staff, but it can also lead to a waste of taxpayer resources if the issue must move backward in the process, requiring additional staff time.

In order to understand the limitations of the current public input processes, CivicLex partnered with researchers from the University of Kentucky's Martin School for Public Policy and Transylvania University to conduct two surveys.

The first survey focused on public perception of the process. The second survey focused on gathering the relevant opinions of LFUCG employees who routinely engage with the public.

Once CivicLex and its research partners completed the survey process, we generated a series of recommendations based on the provided input, best practices from other communities, and advice from LFUCG officials and experts in governmental/resident communications.

Part One: Public Survey

CivicLex's Public Input Survey reached a statistically significant sample of Lexington-Fayette County residents - 1,032 individuals. The sample was more likely to be white and female as compared with Lexington as a whole, but sampling weights can be used to address this disparity.

Survey respondents were, on average, not very engaged with LFUCG. The main reasons for this lack of engagement are that many of the respondents don't know what issues are going before Council (45.8%) and/or don't know how to participate (41.9%). Some also reported that their opinion would not make a difference in the final result (32.6%).

Of those that had engaged with city government in the past, most reported that they were motivated to do so by an issue in their neighborhood (77.1%). Most of these respondents directly engaged with the city through governmental representatives (79.9%) and/or through direct action like protesting, letter-writing, or petition signing (66.9%).

Regardless of past engagement with city government, many respondents indicated a desire to be more involved with city government (73.4%) and a majority think that their options for weighing in on city issues are inadequate (55.5%).

Respondents had clear thoughts on ways to improve the process for engaging with city government on legislative items. A majority of respondents indicated that they would like to have opportunities to provide public input outside of city meetings (63.8%) and have a better way to track items through the entire legislative process (58.9%). When asked to pick their most important priority, a plurality of respondents indicated that there should be more options for providing input virtually (18.3%).

Part Two: LFUCG Staff Survey Overview

CivicLex worked with LFUCG's Chief Information Officer and Division of Human Resources to target the LFUCG Staff Survey to key staff across city government who regularly engage with the public on legislative items. In total, CivicLex requested a survey response from over 150 LFUCG staff members, and received a response from 78.

The LFUCG staff respondents closely mirrored the demographics of the broader Lexington survey in that they tended to be more white and more female. They also tended to be older and more well-educated than the public survey respondents and Lexington, broadly.

LFUCG staff see resident engagement with city government in a similar way to how the public sees it. Most of the LFUCG staff say that the ability for the public to engage with city

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government is important or very important (87%). A majority of LFUCG staff respondents said that they want the public to be more engaged (68.8%) and they also believe that the public wants to be more engaged with city government (64%).

In general, LFUCG employees responded that the current options for public input are only somewhat effective (average 3.2/5) and only somewhat productive (average 2.9/5). They also think that the current input they receive tends to not be somewhat or less representative of the wider public sentiment (87.5%).

Of the LFUCG staff who are working on public issues, most reported public input sometimes or frequently impacting the direction of the issues they were working on (75%). They also reported that this engagement was only somewhat helpful (average 3.1/5).

LFUCG staff responses to why the public doesn't participate were similar to the public survey responses, but more pessimistic. LFUCG staff and the public agree that many people don't participate because they don't understand what issues are coming before city government and they don't understand how to participate. However, most employees said that the top reason that the public didn't engage with city government was that they thought it wouldn't matter (81.3%). This is substantially higher than this response was for the public (32.6%).

Additionally, the idea that the public is not interested in participating is much more prevalent in staff responses (52%) than the public responses (8%).

LFUCG staff also agreed with the public on what options to increase public input would be most helpful. A majority of city staff said that more options for virtual input (65.3%), allowing formal public comment outside of city meetings (61.4%), and a better way to track legislation (52%) would all be helpful and impactful. When asked to just pick one option, a plurality of staff said that more options for virtual input would be the most helpful (23.4%).

LFUCG staff had clear thoughts on where in the legislative process public input should occur. When presented with a map of this process, LFUCG staff wanted input to occur earlier in the process – in Council Committees or Council Work Sessions. 84% of LFUCG staff respondents indicated that public input would be most helpful at Council Committee meetings. They also thought this would be the most impactful place for residents to provide input to have that input incorporated (69%).

Recommendations

In looking at the data from these surveys, national best practices, and conversations with experts, CivicLex is making several recommendations across three categories – process changes, technology changes, and the addition of educational resources.

Process Changes

1-a. Move Public Comment for items on the agenda to the beginning of meetings. A clear piece of feedback we heard in focus groups and open responses from the public survey is that residents who do show up to public meetings sometimes leave feeling frustrated when public comment is at the end of the agenda. We recommend moving public comment for items on the agenda to the beginning of all meetings, including Council Meetings.

1-b. Allow Public Comment for items on the agenda for all Council Committee, Work Session, Council, and Committee of the Whole meetings. One clear takeaway from the public survey was that most members of the general public do not understand when they are allowed to give public comment in meetings and when they can't. We recommend that LFUCG allow Public Comment for items on the agenda at all public meetings, including Council Committees, Work Sessions, Council Meetings, and Committees of the Whole.

1-c. Hold separate meetings specifically designated for public education and input that are outside of city hall. Throughout the survey, residents said they wanted to know more about what items were up for consideration in city hall and wanted more ways to weigh in on those issues. Based on our research, we recommend that LFUCG holds one additional monthly public meeting to present on items coming up before Council and to solicit public input on these items. We also think these meetings could be outside of city hall, and potentially spread out across the 12 Council Districts.

1-d. Restructure the Council schedule to better position public input to be helpful and effective. The primary issue here is that the public is currently directed – implicitly and explicitly – to provide public input at the Thursday Council Meetings at 6pm, which, according to LFUCG staff, is the least helpful and effective time to provide public comment. We recommend that Council Work Sessions be moved to weekday evenings and LFUCG should direct the public to consider these as their primary public comment opportunity. This could possibly be traded with moving existing Council Meetings to the daytime.

Technology Changes

2-a. Utilize stop-gap measures to provide virtual input on high-impact legislation. While the public and staff both expressed clear interest in virtual public engagement, robust public input technologies can be expensive and take awhile to implement. We recommend that LFUCG uses low-cost, stop-gap tools to gather public input on high-impact legislation while it considers implementing more robust and comprehensive public input and deliberation technologies.

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2-b. Provide additional options for on-the-record virtual public comment for meetings. Both the public and LFUCG staff agree – an easy way to address a lack of public input on legislative items is to provide more opportunities for virtual public comment. We recommend that LFUCG allow for virtual public comment via email or voice message for items on the agenda, and that those comments are entered into the public record.

2-c. Implement user-friendly technologies that allows for legislative tracking and public input. Over the past 10 years, new technology has emerged that allows residents to track legislative items and provide verified digital input on said items. We recommend that LFUCG adopts a robust, online legislative input system.

Educational Resources

3-a. Create a public guide to LFUCG’s legislative process. The legislative process can be cumbersome and confusing for the general public. We recommend that LFUCG publicly posts a detailed guide to how its legislative process works on its website.

3-b. Create online resources that explain how to provide effective public input. As we have stated earlier, the public and LFUCG staff agree that it is not clear how a resident should go about weighing in on an item advancing through council. We recommend that LFUCG create a single page on its website that explains how to come to city hall, provide public comment in city meetings and virtually, tips for an effective public comment, and more.

3-c. Create in-chamber resources that help residents understand how Council Meetings work and the best tips for public comment. Public meetings can be confusing for many who attend, and often, people haven’t done research of how it works in advance. We recommend that LFUCG create print and digital resources that are available to attendees in public meetings for public meetings work and how to participate.

3-d. Create resources that help residents understand what issues are being discussed by Council. One of the most significant challenges described by the public in our survey was not knowing what was even being discussed by council until after the fact. We recommend that LFUCG create an up-to-date page on its website of what major items are being discussed in Council Committee, Work Sessions, and Council Meetings.

3-e. Provide a better user experience for residents in city hall. When residents arrive at city hall, where to go and who to talk to can be confusing. We recommend LFUCG examine ways to make city hall more friendly and approachable for residents.

Public Survey

Survey Structure and Design

The first step in our process was to create and release a survey that gathered public feedback on providing input to LFUCG. We designed this survey in consultation with Drs. Cory Curl and Iuliia Shybalina of Martin School of Public Policy, Dr. Alan Bartley of Transylvania University Department of Economics.

The questions were developed after a series of 4 focus groups, conducted by CivicLex. These focus groups were designed to be a check on the development of the survey questions and protocol, to make sure there were no gaps in the questions that we asked and in the multiple choice responses offered. The focus groups targeted four different types of Lexington residents:

1. **Highly engaged:** This group already participates in formal public engagement with the city on a highly consistent basis. They email council, give public comment, and attend meetings on a weekly basis. Examples could include individuals involved with formal advocacy organizations or resident groups.
2. **Moderately engaged:** This group engages occasionally in formal and informal ways with the city. They write op-eds, email council and give comment occasionally, and lead informal advocacy movements. Examples could include residents that engage with activism individually or in small coalitions that aren't formal organizations.
3. **Likely to be engaged:** This group doesn't currently engage with city government on any sort of consistent basis, but are involved in advocacy or other civic activities. They attend civic meetings, participate in civic life on social media, and may vocalize their opinions frequently – but rarely to the city in a direct way.
4. **City Employees:** This group consists of city employees that engage regularly with the public as part of their job. They regularly interact with Lexington residents, lead meetings, gather input, and process feedback.

Once the survey tool was designed, we released it to the general public for three months, from April 2021 to June 2021. We recruited survey respondents through a variety of channels:

- Over 100 posters and flyers were placed throughout the city, in high-traffic locations like laundromats, gyms, libraries, grocery stores, hair salons, and coffee shops.
- Placement in community media and the newsletters of LFUCG Councilmembers.
- Direct outreach through affinity and constituent groups.
- Online, promoted Facebook posts were used to reach Lexington residents outside of CivicLex's typical audience.

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All marketing materials highlighted the prizes being offered raffle style to survey takers – gift cards to Kroger, Ramsey’s, Wilson’s, and Starbucks.

The public survey asked respondents to give their ZIP Code, and we used in progress data on which ZIP Codes were less represented to target our marketing geographically.

Survey Structure

The public survey was structured into groups of the following question types. For the full survey, please see the appendix at the end of this document.

1. **Demographic Questions:** these questions were designed to get basic demographic information to understand the sample audience. We asked questions specifically about the age, race/ethnicity, gender, education, ZIP code, and neighborhood of respondents.
2. **Basic Engagement Questions:** these questions were designed to help us assess the respondent’s current level of participation in local government. We asked questions that included if the respondent knew their Council Member, how often they engaged with Lexington’s city government, and more.
3. **Extended Engagement Questions:** these questions were only available to respondents who indicated in the survey that they engaged in the past with LFUCG. The questions were designed to understand the motivation and mechanisms that cause people to engage in local government.
4. **4-Point Assessment Questions:** These questions were designed to evaluate the current state of public input for LFUCG. We asked respondents to indicate if they trust local government to make decisions in fair way, how they understand their options for input, and more.
5. **Recommended Improvement Questions:** These questions were designed to get feedback on how Lexington’s public input methodologies could be improved. We asked respondents about ideas for improving the current ways that people provide input as well as potential new ways to provide input.

Demographic Responses

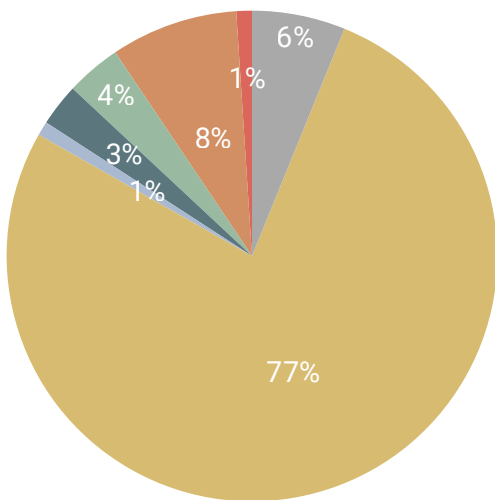
CivicLex’s Public Input Survey reached a statistically significant sample of Lexington–Fayette County residents – **1,032 individuals**.

Demographic Overview

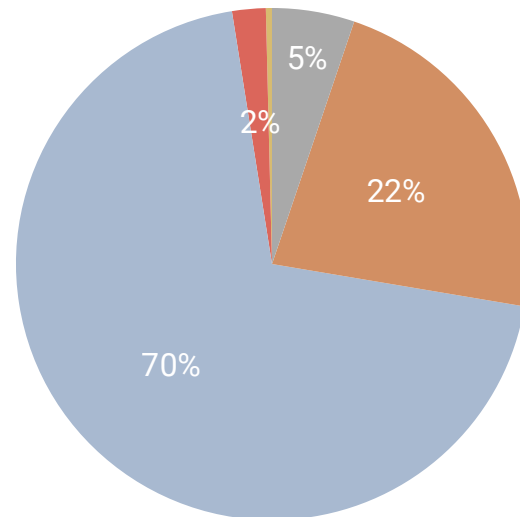
The respondents to the survey were more likely to be white, well-educated, young, and female than Lexington-Fayette County as a whole. 82% of the survey respondents identified as being white, compared with 70% of Lexington's Population. The Black/African-American and Hispanic/Latino population were both underrepresented in the sample, with 9.3% and 4% of respondents respectively, compared with 14.5% and 7.2% in Lexington. Respondents who identified as Asian American or Pacific Islander represented 3.2% of survey respondents, compared with 4% of the broader Lexington population.

The most significant disparity in the surveyed demographics was gender identity - over 74% of respondents identified as female, as compared with 51% of the population. While there is little city-wide data on the number of individuals who identify as non-binary or an "other" gender, we found that our percentage of respondents in this identity (4%) was higher than expected.

Race/Ethnicity of Public Input Survey Respondents (n = 1032)



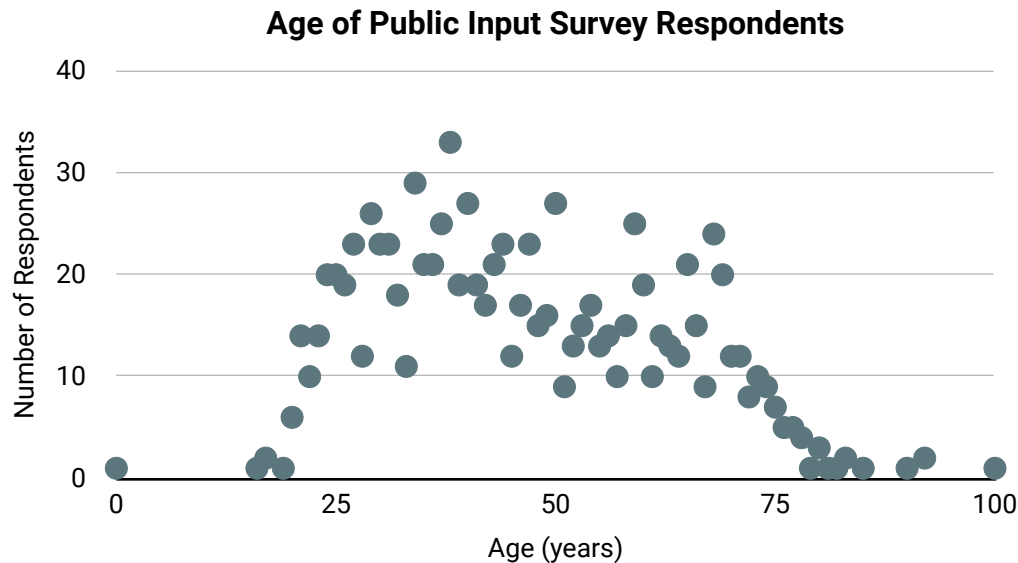
Gender Identity of Survey Respondents (n = 1032)



Survey respondents are also more likely to be more well-educated than Lexington's average population. 68.6% of respondents report having a college degree, in contrast with the average of 45% of degree holders in Lexington as a whole.

Age

Our age demographics more or less lined up with Lexington’s demographics with one notable exception - those under the age of 20 were highly underrepresented. Less than 2% of our respondents reported being under this age. Given the stake that this group of individuals has in Lexington’s future, we were disappointed with this result. CivicLex is actively developing programming for K-12 students in Lexington in partnership with Fayette County Public Schools, and we hope to increase youth involvement with civic issues like Public Input through that process.



Geography

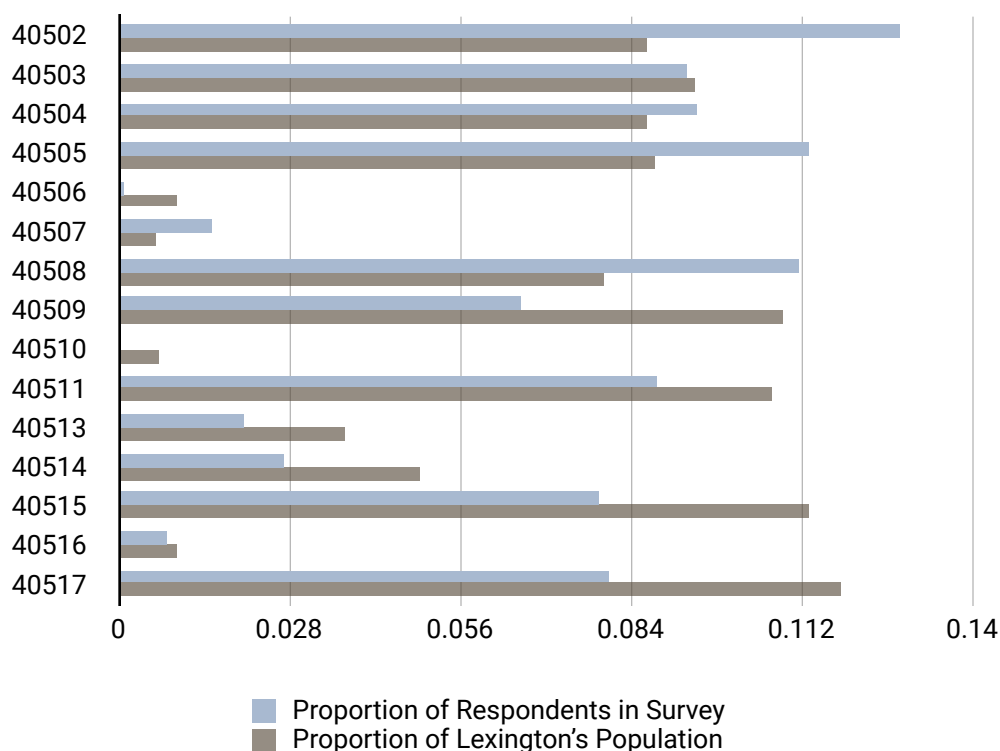
Lastly, we found that, geographically, our sample of Lexington was fairly representative. The 40502 ZIP code was slightly overrepresented, which, as one of the most affluent and engaged ZIP codes in Lexington, was not surprising. This is a common result in past CivicLex city-wide surveys. The chart on the following page depicts ZIP Code Representation in the Public Input Survey. The blue bar represents the proportion of respondents in the survey with a given ZIP code, and the grey bar represents the proportion of residents in Lexington with the same ZIP. As you can see, 40505 and 40508 are also overrepresented in the survey. 40515 and 40517 are the most underrepresented ZIP codes in the survey, followed by 40513 and 40514.

Engagement

Of the total respondents, we found that only 11% reported being “very engaged” with the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government (LFUCG). This result is the lowest of all the categories of engagement - over 18% of respondents reported not engaging at all, and not being interested in doing so. Interestingly, we found that 42% of respondents didn’t know who their Lexington Urban County Council member was, which is very close to the same number of people that reported not engaging with LFUCG.

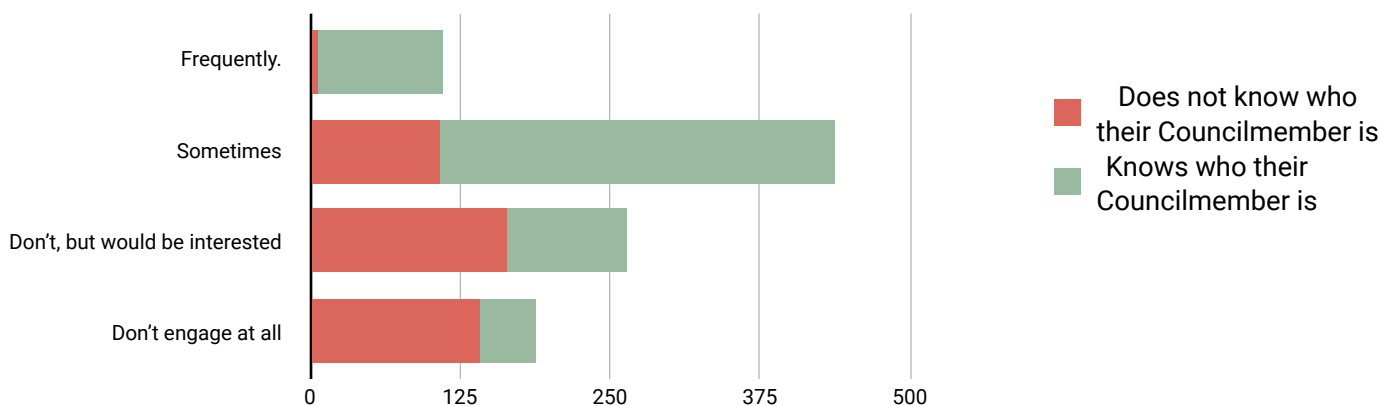
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ZIP Code Representation in Public Input Survey



In the data we found a significant correlation between knowing who your Council Member is and engaging in local government. 72% of respondents who **do not know** who their Council Member is report that they have never engaged with city government. 74% of respondents who **do know** who their Council Member is report that they frequently or sometimes engage with local government. This trend is also visible in the chart below, where you can see that the vast majority of respondents who frequently engage with Lexington's City Government know who their Councilmember is, along with a substantial portion of those who engage sometimes.

How often would you say that you engage with Lexington's City Government?



Engaging with local government

The Public Input Survey asked a series of questions about how residents feel about their options for weighing in on city issues, including:

- *Do you feel like your options for weighing in on city issues are adequate?* (Question 12)
- *Do you want to be more engaged with city government?* (Question 13)
- *How much of the time do you think you can trust Lexington's city government to make decisions in a fair way?* (Question 15)
- *How often do you think those decisions are what is best for Lexington?* (Question 16)
- *How well do you understand your options to participate in city government?* (Question 17)
- *How convenient are city meeting times?* (Question 18)
- *How convenient are city meeting locations?* (Question 19)
- *How seriously do you think governmental representatives take your input?* (Question 20)

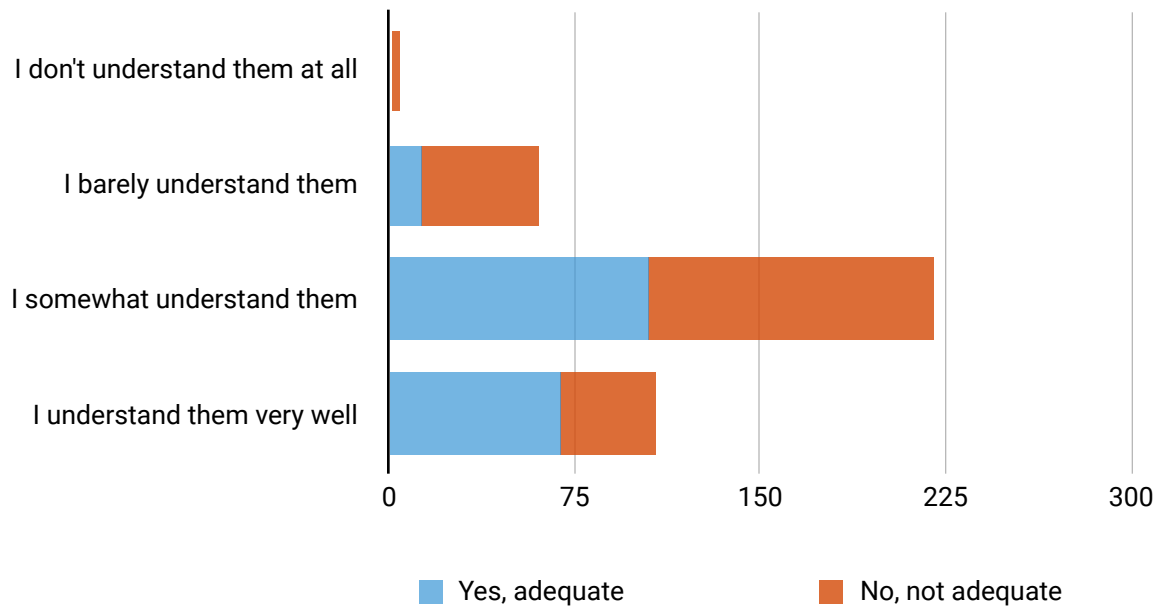
Do you feel like your options for weighing in on city issues are adequate?

56% of respondents report that yes, they do think their options for weighing in on city issues are adequate, and 46% report that they are inadequate. This is a glass half full situation – from this dataset, it would be fair to say that “Over half of residents who took this survey are content with their public input options”. However, it would also be fair to say that “almost half of Lexington Residents in this survey do not think that current options for public input are sufficient”.

Diving deeper, a comparison with the question “How well do you understand your options to participate in city government?” (Question 17) reveals that the more someone understands their current options for participating in, the more likely they are to say that those options are adequate. 63% of respondents who understand their options “very well” rate those options as adequate, while only 21% of respondents who “barely understand” options respond that they are. See the chart on the next page for more detail.

It is also important to note that, due to the branching logic structure of this survey, **Questions 12 and 13 were only asked to respondents that already engage with local government to some degree.** Specifically, the logic jump happens at the question “How often would you say you engage with Lexington’s City Government”. Respondents who answer frequently or sometimes are the only ones who received this set of questions.

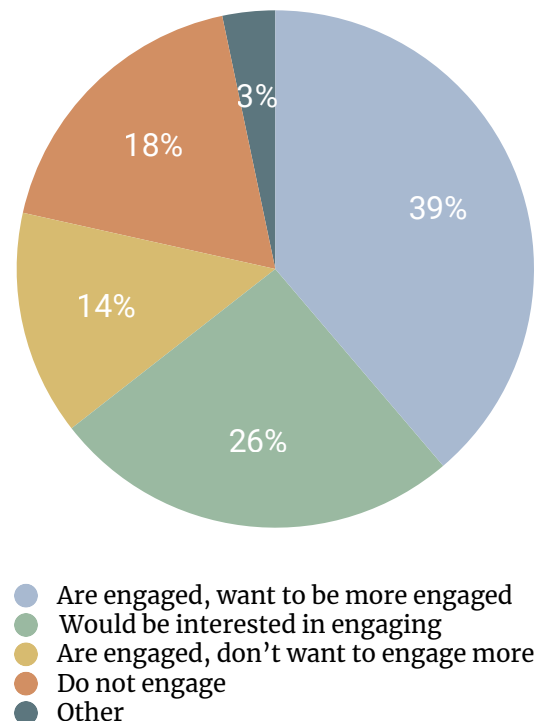
“How well do you understand your options to participate in city government?” vs. “Do you feel like your options for weighing in on city government are adequate?”



Do you want to be more engaged with city government?

73% of respondents report that yes, they do want to be more engaged with city government, and 27% report that they do not. This is one of the most substantial answer differences in the entire public input survey – most respondents do want to be engaged with local government.

Like question 12, this question was only asked of respondents who already have some level of engagement with local government. As you can see in the chart to the right, if you add the respondents who answered affirmatively to this question with respondents who answered “I don't engage, but I would be interested in doing so!” to Question 4, you find that 65% (or the majority) of respondents are interested in increasing their current level of engagement, and a very small slice of the pie (only 16%) are not currently engaged and not interested in changing that.



Four-point assessment questions

Of these questions, four are asked of the entire survey body and follow the same 4 point scale for answer choices. These four questions are **4 point assessment questions** in the survey. They are a useful baseline for evaluating the current effectiveness of LFUCG's public input, and can also be explored in relation to other questions (demographics, geography, previous engagement level) to help understand what makes people feel the way they do. These four assessment questions will come up throughout the report, and are summarized in the table below.

4 point Assessment Question (AQ) Overview

	Survey Average
How much of the time do you think you can trust Lexington's city government to make decisions in a fair way? (AQ 1)	2.9
How often do you think those decisions are what is best for Lexington? (AQ2)	2.9
How well do you understand your options to participate in city government? (AQ3)	2.6
How seriously do you think governmental representatives take your input? (AQ4)	2.4

DRAFT***How much of the time do you think you can trust Lexington's city government to make decisions in a fair way?******Number of Respondents = 848******Average = 2.9 out of 4***

Cells that are within one standard deviation of the average (2.4) are colored grey. Cells below one standard deviation of the average are colored red, and cells one standard deviation above the average are green.

It is noteworthy that both of the extreme ends of this question – that the respondents either always or never trust LFUCG to make decisions in a fair way – only account for 11% of the total responses. Most respondents seemed reluctant to give a strong verdict one way or another throughout the survey. This makes sense in light of following questions like Question 17, *How well do you understand your options to participate in city government?* Most respondents do not really understand how they can participate in city government, and many also report that not understanding what issues are up for debate as a reason for not participating. An all around lack of understanding of how LFUCG operates on a daily basis seems to be contributing to the tepid nature of respondent's trust in local government.

Subgroup	Score
Options for weighing in on city issues are adequate	3.1
Options for weighing in on city issues are NOT adequate	2.7
City meeting locations are very inconvenient	2.6
City meeting locations are very convenient	3.2
Pick 1 improvement: more education	3.1
Pick 1 improvement: more languages	2.7
African American/Black respondents	2.6
White respondents	2.9
Don't engage at all in city government	3.0
Sometimes engage in city government	2.8
Doesn't engage: transportation is difficult	2.6
Doesn't engage: not really interested	3.1

DRAFT***How often do you think those decisions are what is best for Lexington?*****Number of Respondents = 846****Average = 2.9 out of 4**

Respondents were given the same set of 4 multiple choice responses to this question: never, not often, some of the time, and always. The breakdown is similar to the fairness question, but with an even higher proportion (76%) reporting “some of the time”. The proportion of respondents who believe that fair decisions that are best for Lexington are being made either some of the time or always is almost identical – 82% for fairness and 83% for best for Lexington. Further, of the 845 respondents who answered both questions, 687 answered the same number to both (over 80%), 154 differed by one point, and only 4 differed by two or more points.

Subgroup	Score
Options for weighing in on city issues are adequate	3.1
Options for weighing in on city issues are NOT adequate	2.7
City meeting locations are very inconvenient	2.6
City meeting locations are very convenient	3.2
Pick 1 improvement: more education	3.1
Pick 1 improvement: more languages	2.7
African American/Black respondents	2.6
White respondents	2.9
Don't engage at all in city government	3.0
Sometimes engage in city government	2.8
Doesn't engage: transportation is difficult	2.6
Doesn't engage: not really interested	3.1

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How well do you understand your options to participate in city government?

Number of Respondents = 846

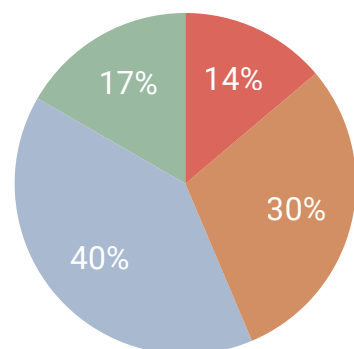
Average = 2.6 out of 4

Respondents were given four multiple choice answers for this question: *I don't understand them at all, I barely understand them, I somewhat understand them, and I understand them very well.*

By assigning point values to these answer choices, the average is a 2.6 out of 4, indicating that the average respondents is somewhere between barely and somewhat understanding their options to participate in city government.

A fairly small portion – 14% of respondents – report that they don't understand their options for participating in city government at all. However, it is important to consider the overall characteristics of the survey population. It is likely that many residents who do not understand their options for participating in city government at all would not be interested in taking a survey about public input, regardless of the incentives offered.

How well do you understand your options to participate in city government?



- I don't understand them at all
- I barely understand them
- I somewhat understand them
- I understand them very well

Subgroup	Score
Know who CM is	2.9
Do not know who CM is	2.2
City meeting times are very inconvenient	2.5
City meeting times are very convenient	3.1
Met in person with a government representative	3.3
Trust city gov to make decisions in a fair way always	2.8
Trust city gov to make decisions in a fair way some of the time	2.5
Pick 1 improvement: more language options	3
Pick 1 improvement: earlier information	2.5
Feel input is taken very seriously	3.0
Feel input is taken not seriously at all	2.3
Don't engage but would be interested in doing so	2.1
Engage frequently	3.3

DRAFT***How seriously do you think governmental representatives take your input?******Number of Respondents = 848******Average = 2.4***

The average score of this assessment question is **2.4 out 4**, which ties it for the lowest score of the six assessment questions alongside How convenient are city meeting times. 41% of respondents, or 351 people, report that they think government representatives take their input Somewhat Seriously, followed by 32% who think their input is taken Somewhat not Seriously. Almost exactly half (49.9%) of respondents think their input is taken either not seriously or somewhat not seriously. Only 18% of respondents report that they don't think their input is taken seriously at all.

What determines the responses to this question? The chart below details an assortment of subgroups of respondents and their average response to the How seriously do you think Government Representatives take their input. Cells that are within one standard deviation of the average (2.4) are colored grey. Cells below one standard deviation of the average are colored red, and cells one standard deviation above the average are green.

Group	Score
Given public input in a Council Committee Meeting	2.2
Given public input in a Council Meeting	2.5
Respondents between the age of 70 and 80	2.9
Respondents under the age of 30	2.3
Respondents who know who their Councilmember is	2.6
Respondents who do not know who their Councilmember is	2.2
Male respondents	2.5
Female respondents	2.4
Nonbinary respondents	1.7
City meeting times are very inconvenient	1.9
City meeting times are very convenient	3.0
Don't understand options for participating at all	2.1
Understand options for participating very well	2.7

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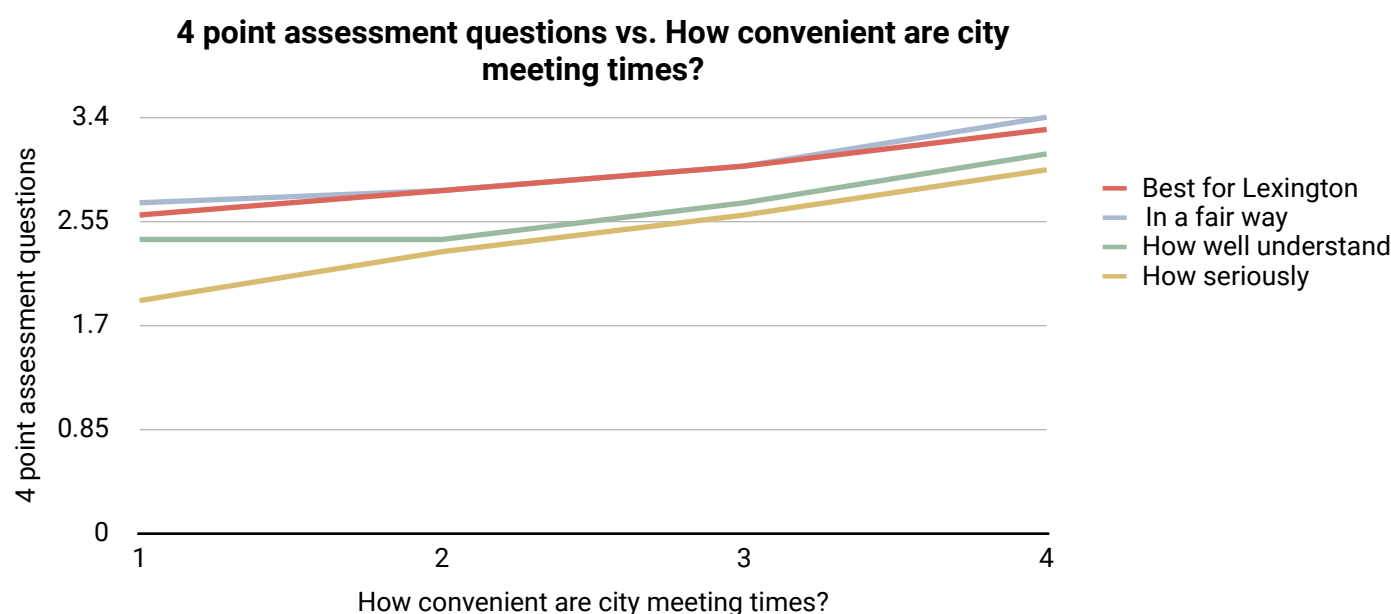
How convenient are city meeting times?

Number of Respondents = 840

54% of respondents answered that city meeting times are either somewhat or very inconvenient, while 46% answered that they are either somewhat convenient or very convenient. The most severe category – that city meeting times are very inconvenient – represents only 13.7% of respondents.

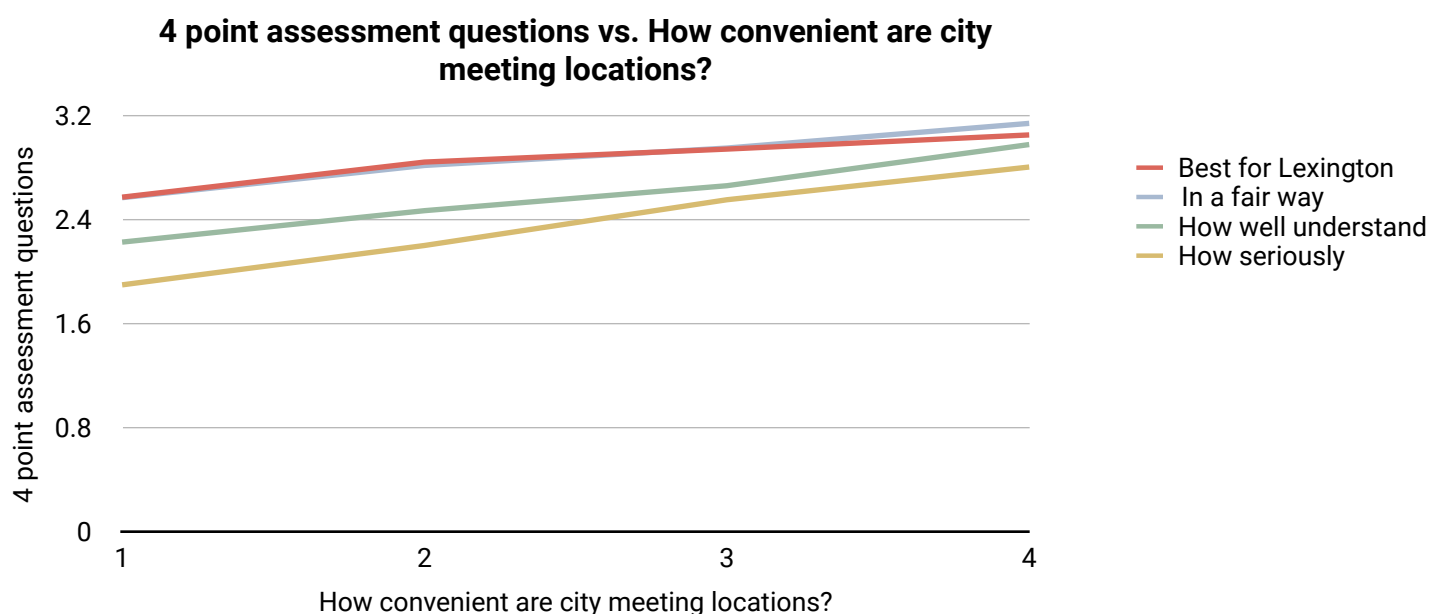
This alone is a decent result – it is impossible to schedule meetings in a time and place that is convenient for everyone, and meeting convenience for half of the respondents could certainly be worse. However, the convenience level of city meetings times and locations becomes much more significant in comparison with other questions in this survey, particularly the ones that ask respondents to rate their faith that LFUCG is making decisions in a fair way and that those decisions are what is best for Lexington.

Thus far, the convenience of city meeting times is the **strongest predictor we have found for how respondents rate their faith that LFUCG is making decisions in a fair way and that those decisions are what is best for Lexington**. There is a stronger correlation between the convenience of city meeting times and these metrics than there is between the metrics and race, gender, education level, ZIP code, current engagement level, or any other variable in this dataset. This is evident in the chart below – respondents who state that city meeting times are very inconvenient rate the “best for Lexington” question .7 points lower than those who find meeting times very convenient.



DRAFT***How convenient are city meeting locations?******Number of Respondents = 838***

The convenience of city meeting locations follows that of city meeting times, but has a slightly less exaggerated effect. 45.4% of respondents indicated that city meeting locations are either somewhat inconvenient or very inconvenient, as opposed to 54% with city meeting times. City meeting locations are a strong predictor of the 4 point assessment questions, but less so than city meeting times. All in all, this survey indicates that both city meeting times and locations are important predictors of civic outcomes, but that time is the more significant of the two.



Why don't people engage?

Before we get into why people do engage with local government in Lexington, let's start with why people **don't** engage, or **Question 5** of the survey.

We found that the plurality of respondents that do not participate in local government (49%) don't do so because they **don't understand what issues are actually open for them to engage with**. This tells us that the level of civic education related to issues moving through the local legislative process is low and that current strategies for providing this information are relatively inadequate. 41% of these respondents don't participate because they are **confused about the process**.

Some respondents who do not participate in local government don't do so because they are pessimistic about whether or not their engagement will matter. We found that this was the case for 32% of respondents.

The answer choices that cover a respondent just being altogether disengaged – not interested, too busy, or overwhelmed – were not reported as the biggest obstacles to engagement. Most respondents who answered that their engagement “makes no difference” also cited that they are either confused about how to engage or confused about what issues they can give input on. Specifically, 22% of respondents answered that they are too busy, and 16% of respondents answered that it is too overwhelming.

Why don't you engage [with local government] more?

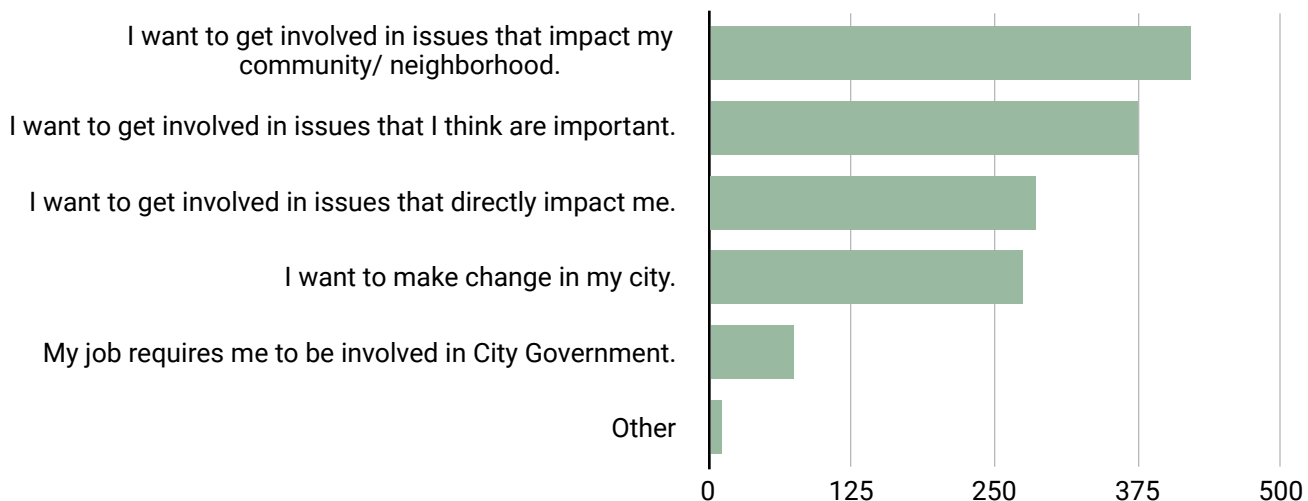


Why do people engage?

In the set of multiple choice responses inside **Question 7**, we found that people are most likely to engage with local government if an issue is going to impact their community or neighborhood. What was surprising about this is that people report being almost 50% more likely to engage with local government if an issue impacts their community than if it impacts them individually. 77% of respondents that do engage with local government do so because a particular issue is going to impact their community/neighborhood. Only 53% of respondents report engaging with local government because an issue will impact them directly.

Other reasons for engaging with local government included thinking an issue was important (68%), making change in the city (50%), and having a job that requires it (13%).

What motivates you to engage with local government?



How do people engage?

While most people recognize “public input” as the public comment that takes place in council and committee meetings, we found that was actually the least common way that respondents who engage with local government do so.

Almost 80% of respondents report directly reaching out to government officials. 70% of respondents report reaching out to their District Council Member and 40% report reaching out to other members of the Urban County Council, including Council At Large positions. In

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addition to Council Members, 50% of respondents report reaching out to members of city departments and 44% of respondents report reaching out to staff in the Mayor's Office.

Giving Public Comment (Question 8)

The 30% of respondents who do regularly engage with local government and have given public comment have done so at a variety of different meeting types. The number one most common meeting for respondents to have given public comment at are Council Meetings. The full list is below. Please note that the percentages associated with each meeting type will not add up to 100%, as many survey takers have given public comment at more than one type of meeting.

1. Council Meetings (69% of respondents who have given public comment)
2. Planning Commission Meetings (46%)
3. Task Force or Subcommittee Meetings (37%)
4. Council Committee Meetings (33%)
5. Council Work Sessions (28%)
6. Other (10%).

The fact that the number one venue for public comment is a Council Meeting is a concerning but understandable trend - Council Meetings tend to receive the most publicity, but as illustrated in this report, they are the very last step for a legislative decision and whatever negotiation might be happening on a given item is almost certainly completed by the time it reaches a Thursday Evening Council meeting. This fact likely contributes to the trend we have observed in this data that people who are more engaged in Local Government are actually slightly less likely to think it makes decisions in a fair way (add citation?) - if you show up to a meeting to give public comment on an item but it is signed into law directly afterwards, it is difficult to feel like you have made an impact.

In a similar vein, the two meeting types that are arguably the most effective places to give Public Comment - Council Work Sessions and Committee Meetings - are the least popular choices. These are places where ordinances and other legislative items are not fully decided - and neither are the Councilmembers voting on them. Directing residents to share public comments earlier in the process, during these meetings, is a simple and effective way to increase their impact.

Reaching out to Government Representatives (Question 9 & 10)

433 survey respondents reported reaching out to Government Representatives as a way of providing public input. Of this group, 86% report reaching out to their District Councilmember (375 respondents). The full list is as follows:

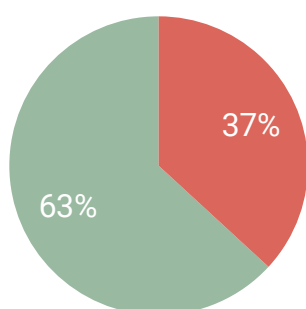
1. District Councilmember (86%)
2. City Department Staff (63%)
3. Mayor's Office Staff (55%)

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4. Councilmembers outside of respondents' district, including At-Large (51%)
5. Other (<1%)

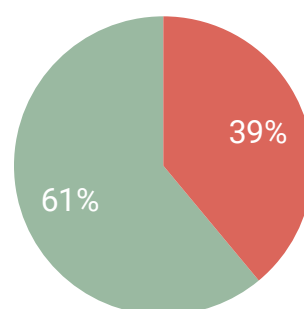
This breakdown makes sense – A respondent's District Councilmember is a good place to start for public input, and they can often refer residents to other parties that might be helpful to contact. One interesting component is that non-district and particularly At-Large Councilmembers are 4th on the list. Educating more residents about At-Large Councilmembers, and the fact that they represent all Lexington residents similarly to the Mayor, would be a helpful tactic for increasing the effectiveness of public input.

Input via Phone



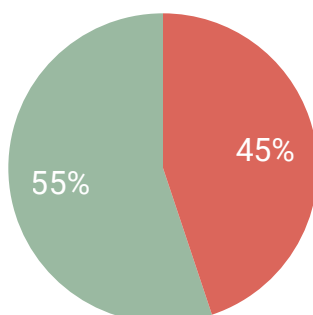
● Not Very Seriously + Somewhat Not Seriously
● Somewhat Seriously + Very Seriously

Input in Person



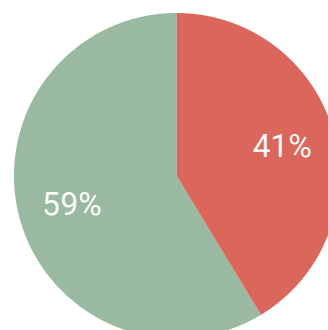
● Not Very Seriously + Somewhat Not Seriously
● Somewhat Seriously + Very Seriously

Input via Social Media



● Not Very Seriously + Somewhat Not Seriously
● Somewhat Seriously + Very Seriously

Input via Email



● Not Very Seriously + Somewhat Not Seriously
● Somewhat Seriously + Very Seriously

In terms of the format of how residents have reached out to these government representatives, 87% of respondents report using email as their communication of choice. The full breakdown is:

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As you can see in the charts above, respondents who reach out to government representatives via phone are the **most likely** to report that their input is taken seriously, and respondents who reach via social media are the **least likely**.

Engaging in Direct Action (Question 11)

358 of the survey respondents report engaging in direct action as a way of giving input into local government. Of these 358 respondents, 75% have led or signed a petition, 72% have participated in a protest or demonstration, and 27% have published letters to the editor or blog posts. We investigated who specifically has reported engaging in direct action, and found that starkest difference between respondents who have engaged in direct action and the general survey population is age. The average age of a respondent who has engaged in direct action is 47, while the average age of respondents who have given public comment is 54, and who have reached out to government representatives directly is 51. There is not a significant variation of race, gender, or education level, of respondents who have participated in direct action and the general survey population.

Of the methods for engaging with local government (directly reaching out to representatives, direct action, and giving public comment), respondents who have engaged in direct action tend to score LFUCG the lowest on the 4 point assessments. In the table below, metrics that are one standard deviation (or more) lower than the average are colored red, and metrics that are one standard deviation (or more) higher than the average area colored green.

4 point Assessment overview of methods for engaging

	Survey Average	Reaching out to gov. rep.	Public Comment	Direct Action
How much of the time do you think you can trust Lexington's city government to make decisions in a fair way?	2.9	2.85	2.8	2.78
How often do you think those decisions are what is best for Lexington?	2.9	2.85	2.82	2.77
How well do you understand your options to participate in city government?	2.6	3.19	3.25	3.10
How seriously do you think governmental representatives take your input?	2.4	2.58	2.44	2.46

Improving Public Input

The public input survey gave respondents nine multiple choice options for suggested improvements to engaging with local government, in addition to a write in “other” option. These options are listed below in the order of their popularity.

1. Providing public input/comment outside of city meetings (63.8%)
2. A better way to track issues through the entire legislative process (58.9%)
3. More options for virtual public input/comment (58.3%)
More ways to communicate directly with government officials (53.45%)
4. More education options about the issues in city government (52.8%)
5. A dedicated, full-time person in city government to assist residents with providing input (46.3%)
6. Earlier information about city meetings (41.1%)
7. More city meetings outside of the Government Center / away from Downtown Lexington (40.4%)
8. More language options in city communications (24.7%)
9. Other (1.7%) *See attachment 1 for “Other” responses*

The survey then asked respondents which of those same improvements they would personally use. The popularity of improvements in this question almost exactly mirrors the previous question, with the exception of “More city meetings outside of the Government Center / away from Downtown Lexington” being slightly more popular than “Earlier information about city meetings”.

Finally, we asked respondents to pick **just one** method for improving public input. The number one choice for this question was more options for virtual public input, with 18.3% of respondents choosing that as their number one option. See the chart below for further detail*.

We also investigated *who* suggested each of these different improvements. We found that this varied across factors like –

- **Level of Engagement:** More engaged respondents were more likely to suggest each option, across the board – people who are more engaged seem to want even more engagement options
- **Race/ Ethnicity:** The suggestions with the most popularity variation by race/ethnicity were More Language options (Non white respondents were **1.5 times more** likely to suggest than white respondents) and a better way to track issues (non-white respondents were **1.2 times less** likely to suggest than white respondents)

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- **Gender:** Nonbinary and female respondents were much more likely to suggest more virtual options (32% of Nonbinary respondents vs. 19% of Female respondents vs. 11% of male respondents). Male respondents were more likely to suggest earlier information being available about city issues and more meetings outside downtown.

We also investigated if any of the specific improvements were and other metrics to see if they varied according to various characteristics. With the assistance of JS Butler and Dr. Yulia Shybalkina from the University of Kentucky's Martin School, we also investigated if the answers to these questions (15 and 16) correlate with other responses in this survey. We found that:

- There is no relationship between the degree of engagement of respondents (*Question 4 – how often would you say you engage with local government?*) and how respondents rate LFUCG making decisions in a fair way.
- More engaged respondents assess the best for Lexington question lower, indicating they are less satisfied with the decision making process.
 - The average response on best for Lexington for those who engage rarely/never is 2.95, while the average for those who engage sometimes/frequently is 2.83
- The fairness question is evaluated statistically significantly lower by Black respondents. Specifically, black respondents rated fairness .3 points lower on average.
- Nonbinary respondents also significantly rated fairness .42 point lower on average.
- Older respondents rate fairness higher by .002 points per year of age
- Females are slightly more likely (.1 points on average) to rate fairness higher than men
- Hispanic/Latino respondents did not indicate the same negative fairness ratings as black and Asian American respondents
- Fairness is rated the highest by older females and lowest for younger black and non-binary respondents

City Staff Survey

Survey Structure and Design

The LFUCG staff survey was open for over one month, from February 9 to March 22. The questions and structure were designed by CivicLex, in consultation with Drs. Cory Curl and Iuliia Shybalkina of Martin School of Public Policy, Dr. Alan Bartley of Transylvania University Department of Economics.

CivicLex worked with LFUCG's Chief Information Officer Aldona Valicenti and District 4 Council Member Susan Lamb to understand what specific information would be helpful to glean from city workers. Once we identified this, we worked with CIO Valicenti and CM Lamb to identify city staff members that would be appropriate to ask these questions of.

The LFUCG staff survey is structure into several question groups

1. **Demographic Questions:** these questions were designed to help us understand who is taking the survey and who we might be missing.
2. **Assessment Questions:** these questions were designed to help us understand how city workers felt about local government's current methods for the public to provide input.
3. **Impact Questions:** these questions were designed to help us understand how public input impacts the work of governmental officials.
4. **Improvement Questions:** these questions were designed to help us understand how local government officials think the public input process could be improved.
5. **Perception of the Public Questions:** these questions were designed to help us understand how local government workers perceive how the public thinks of engaging with government.

The Survey Population

78 LFUCG staff members answered the Public Input Survey for city staff. The survey asked LFUCG staff what Division or office they work in, as well as demographic information.

Of the 78 respondents:

- 8 work in Code Enforcement
- 12 work in or with the Urban County Council
- 4 work in Environmental Quality and Public Works (EQPW)
- 4 work in Grants and Special Programs
- 4 work in LexCall

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- 4 work in the Mayor's Office
- 10 work in Planning
- 7 work in Purchasing
- 10 work in Social Services
- 10 work in other departments, including engineering, the CAO's office, and custodial. *Note: if a division had less than 4 responses, they were included in the other category to preserve anonymity*

Survey population Demographics

CivicLex also collected demographics for the city staff survey respondents. The demographics mainly mirror the demographic of the broader public survey. The staff respondents skewed female, with 71% of respondents identifying as female, 27.4% identifying as male, and 1.6% identifying as nonbinary.

In terms of race/ethnicity, almost 82% of respondents identified as White. 17% as African-American/ Black, 7% as Latino or Hispanic, and 2% as Asian or Pacific Islander. *Note, the percentages of these totals add up to greater than 100% because respondents were able to select multiple races/ethnicities.*

Both the average and median age of LFUCG staff respondents was 45. The youngest respondent was 24, and the oldest was 74.

For education level, no LFUCG staff respondents reported having a high school diploma or less. 16% report some college but no degree, 6.3% report an Associate's Degree, 41.3% with a Bachelor's Degree, 33.3% with a Graduate Degree, and 3.2% with a Doctoral or Professional Degree.

LFUCG Staff Reflections on the Current State of Public Input

How important do you think it is for the public to be able to provide input on items going before Council?

Number of respondents = 77

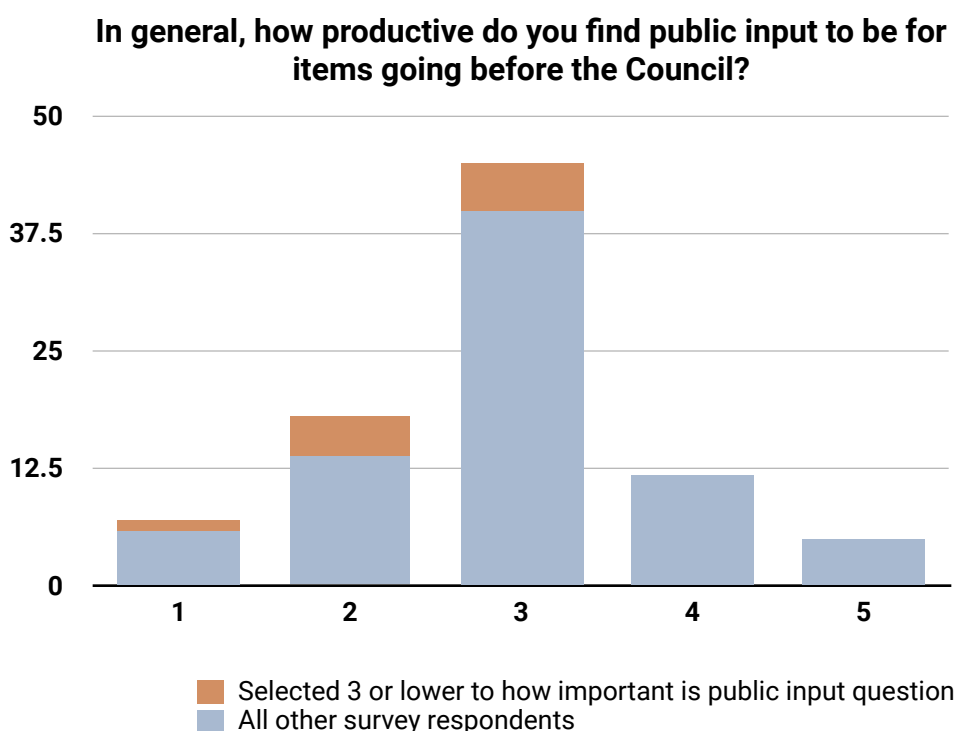
Average = 4.6

The average response to this question was 4.6, indicating that most LFUCG staff seem to agree that public input is either important or very important. 87% of respondents selected 4 or 5 on the scale. No respondents selected a 1 or 2, and 13% selected a 3. There does not seem to be a

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single defining feature of the respondents who selected a 3 for this question – they follow a similar breakdown for all other survey questions.

The one question these respondents consistently score different is “In general, how productive do you find public input to be for items going before the Council?”, as illustrated in the graph below. No respondent who selected a 3 or lower on this question rates the productivity of public input higher than a 3 out 5. This suggests that LFUCG who find public input to be more productive also rate it as more important. This makes sense, although it does seem to indicate that some LFUCG staff don’t feel that public input has an inherent value, regardless of outcome. Rather, the actual products of how the process goes dictate their feelings towards the concept as a whole.



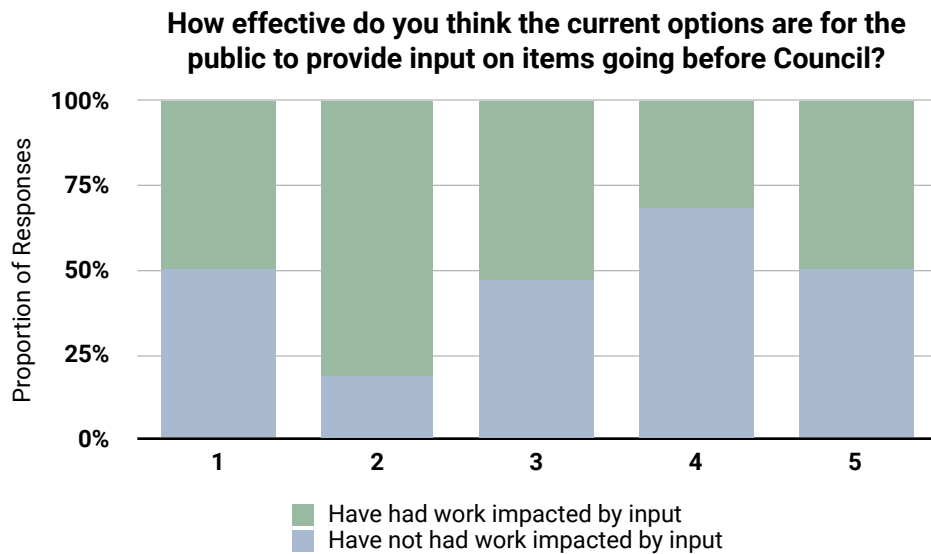
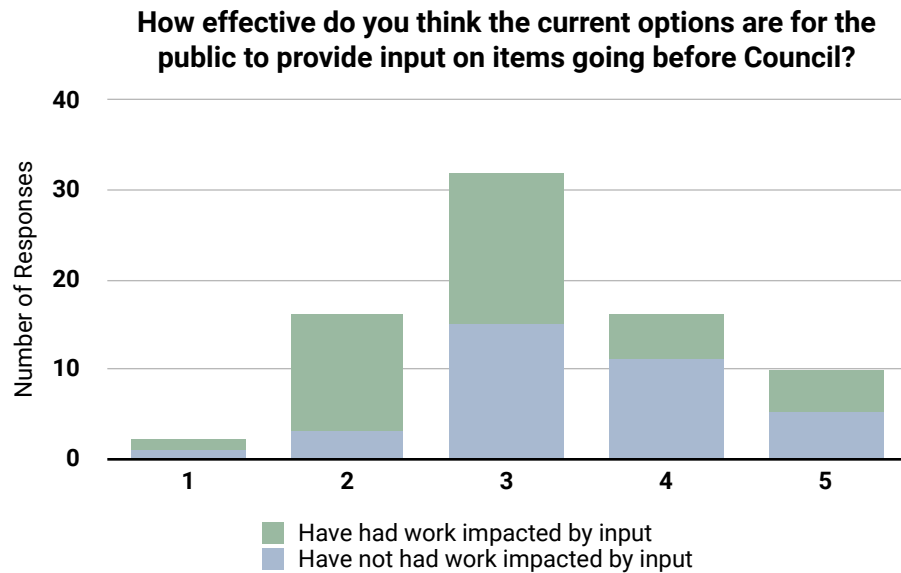
How effective do you think the current options are for the public to provide input on items going before Council?

Number of respondents = 76

Average score = 3.2

The average response to this question was 3.2, indicating that most respondents think that the current options for public input are moderately effective. It is interesting to compare these responses with the responses to the question “Have you ever had an item before the Council that you worked on receive public input?”. As you can see in the graph below, respondents who

have had their work impacted by public input are more likely to rate the current effectiveness of public input lower than respondents who have not been impacted by public input. The average score on this question from respondents who have had their work impacted by public input is 3, while the average score from respondents who have not is 3.5.



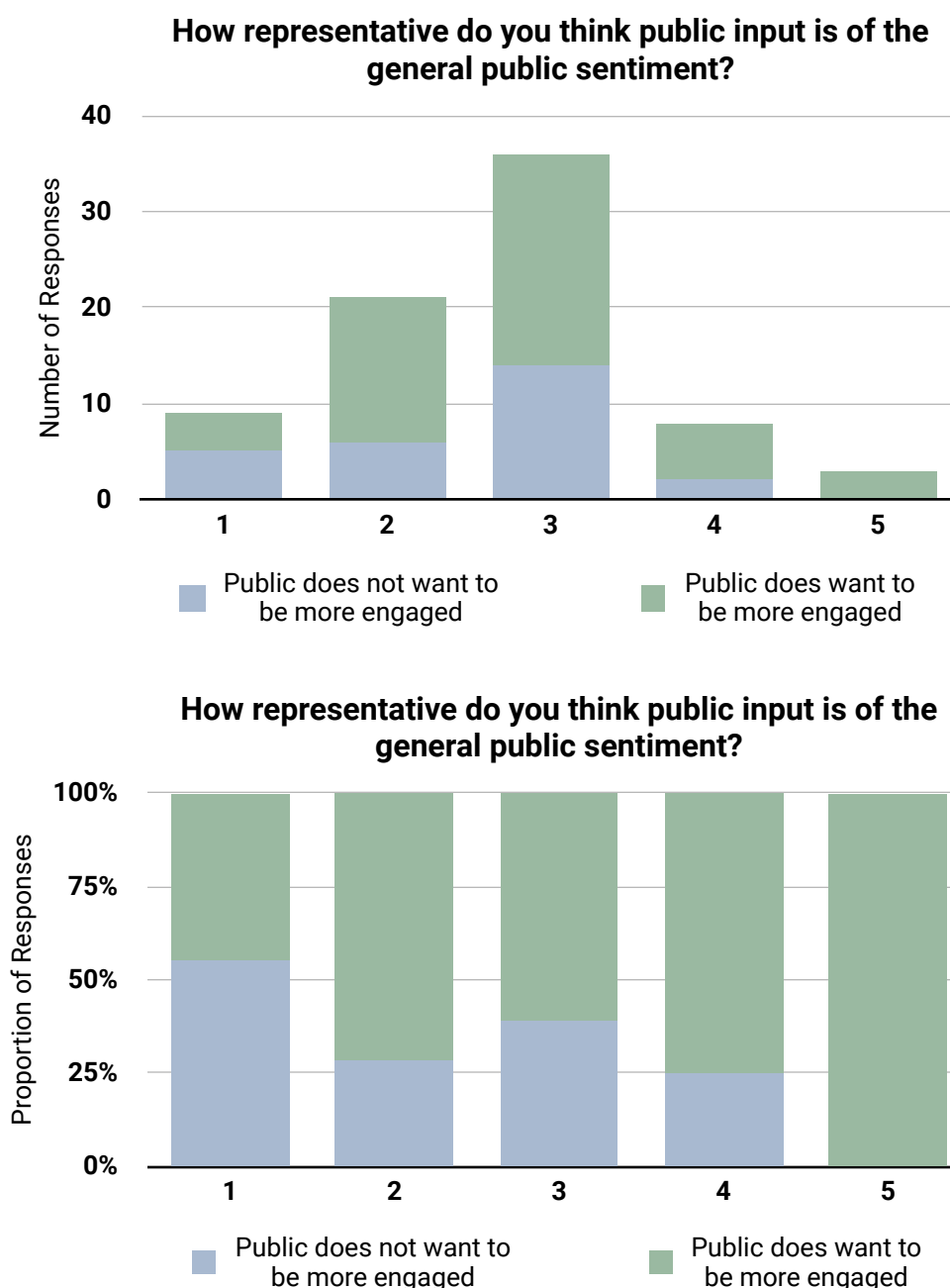
Of the input that is typically provided, how representative do you think it is of the general public sentiment?

Number of Respondents = 77

Average score = 2.7

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The average response to this question was 2.7, indicating that most respondents think that current public input is not very to somewhat representative of the general public sentiment. This question received the lowest average score of the four 5 point scale questions about the current state of public input in this survey. We chose to compare this response set with answers to the question “Do you think the general public wants to be more engaged with issues coming before the Council?”. We found that respondents who do think the public wants to be more engaged in local government were more likely to rate the current representativeness of public input higher, as you can see in the graphs below.



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How does current public input impact the work of LFUCG staff?

Have you ever had an item before the Council that you worked on receive public input?

77 out of 78 respondents answered this question. 41 respondents, or 53% have had an item before Council that received public input, and 36 respondents or 47% have not. The divisions of respondents that report the highest levels of public input are Environmental Quality and Public Works, the Mayor's Office, and Planning. The Divisions with the lowest reported levels of Public Input are Code Enforcement, Social services, and LexCall.

(For respondents who have received Input) Think about all of those items for a minute. In what ways did the public provide input on them?

Of the 41 respondents who have received public input on an item before Council, the most common way to receive input is via emails from residents (8), followed by phone calls from residents (18%) and Public Comment in Council meetings (18%). There are a few interesting trends indicated in this data.

Council Meetings are the most commonly reported meeting for receiving public input (18%), followed by Council Work Sessions (15%), Council Committee Meetings (13%), Task Force/ Subcommittee meetings (10%) and Planning Commission meetings (7%). This is slightly concerning when compared with a later survey question that asks where in the legislative process respondents think is most and least helpful to receive public input. Council Meetings (first and second readings) are consistently ranked as the least helpful place to receive public input, but are currently the most popular option. Conversely, Council Committee Meetings are ranked as the most helpful place to receive public input, but are the least popular of the Council-wide meetings.

We also compared what avenues respondents reported receiving public input in with how they feel about the overall effectiveness, productivity, and representativeness of public input. We did not find a significant variation in the average scores of public input based on the type of input received - there is a total variation of .36 points (on a scale of 1 to 5) between the highest and lowest scores of the various methods.

How often would you say that public input caused an impact on the direction of your items?

(Multiple choice with options Never, Rarely, Occasionally, Sometimes, and Frequently)

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The responses to this question indicate that Public Input does often have an impact on the direction of legislative items. The most commonly selected response for this question was Sometimes, with 39% of all answers. This was followed closely by Frequently, with 37% of answers. Only 2 respondents answered rarely, and only one answered never.

By assigning numerical values to the answer choices (never = 1, rarely = 2, occasionally = 3, sometimes = 4, frequently = 5), we are able to see which departments and divisions report the highest level of impact from public input. As you can see in the table below, respondents from the Mayor's Office report the highest impact of public input, followed by Planning and Council. The divisions and departments that do receive public input but report the lowest impact are Purchasing and Social Services.

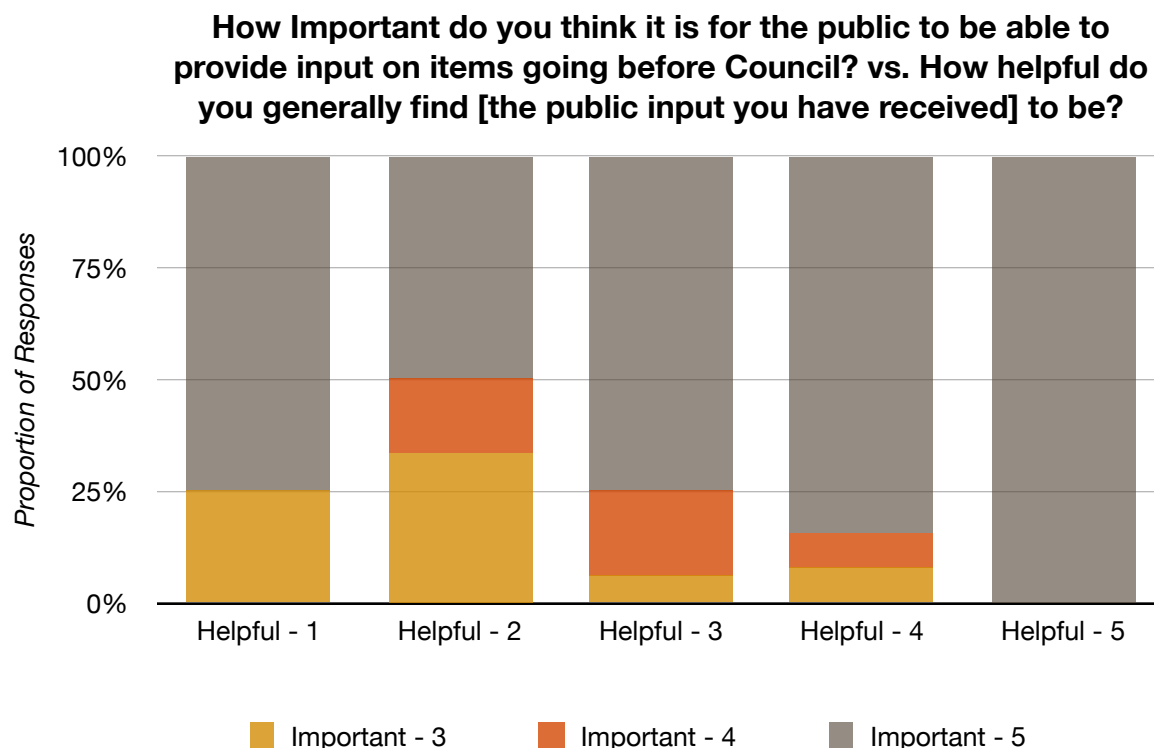
Division and if they have received Public Input

Division or Department	Number of Respondents	% Received Public Input
EQPW	4	100%
Mayor's Office	4	100%
Planning	10	100%
Council	12	92%
Total	78	53%
Grants and Special Programs	4	50%
Other	10	40%
Unknown	5	40%
Purchasing	7	29%
Code Enforcement	8	13%
Social Services	10	10%
LexCall	4	0%

DRAFT***Lastly, how helpful did you generally find that input to be?******On a scale of 1–5, 1 being not helpful and 5 being very helpful***

Of the respondents who have received public input on a legislative item, the average helpfulness rating is 3.1 out of 5, which we interpret as being moderately helpful. It is interesting to compare this question with the question “How often would you say that public input caused an impact on the direction of your items?”, which has an average of 4.0. This indicates that current public input is more impactful than it is helpful.

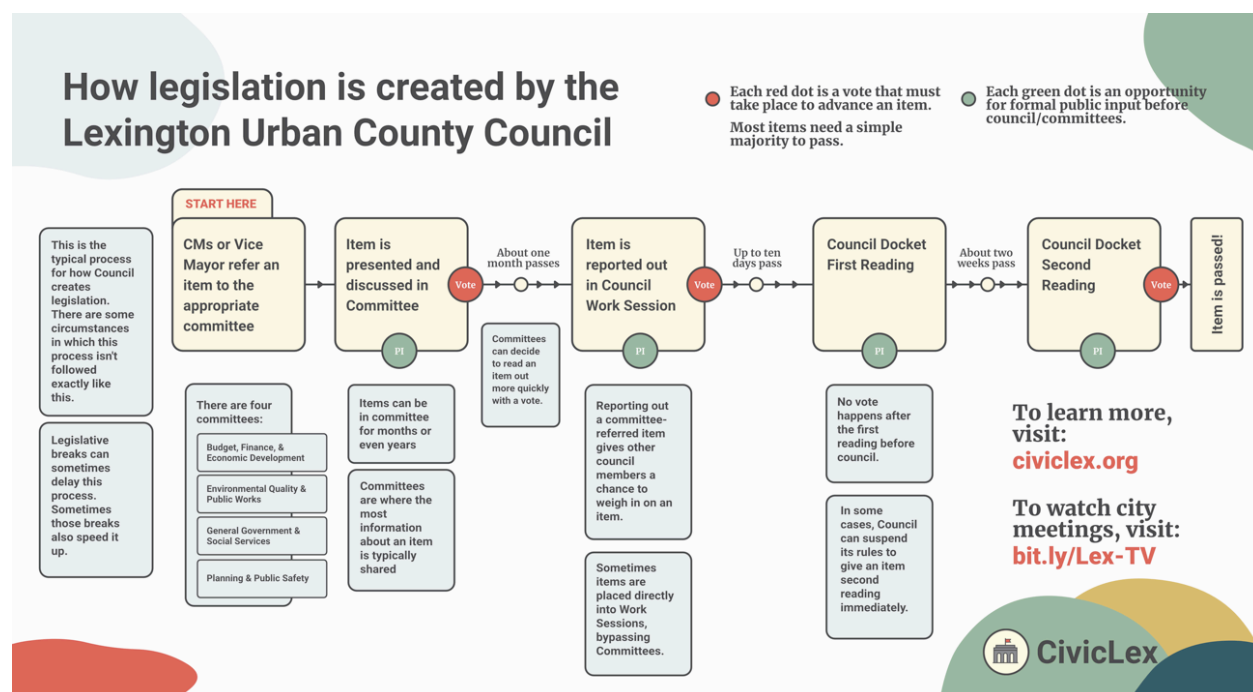
Inside this question, there are 4 respondents who indicated that Public input is not helpful at all, and 6 respondents who indicate that Public Input is a 2 out 5, which can be interpreted as almost never helpful. We investigated the characteristics of these 10 respondents, who seem to have the least positive experience with public input. Interestingly, 8 out of these 10 respondents still selected that they want the public to be more engaged with local government (higher than the average across the survey population of 69%). This suggests that a negative experience thus far has not diminished these LFUCG staff member’s belief in the importance of public input – a heartening result. There are several other shared characteristics in this group of staff respondents, including that they do not rate the question “How well do you think the public understands their options to participate in local government?” Higher than a 2 out of 5.



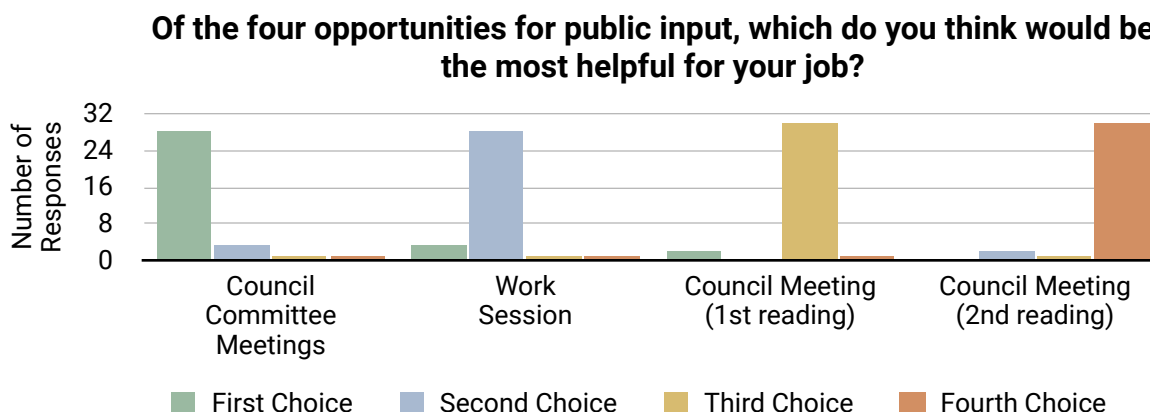
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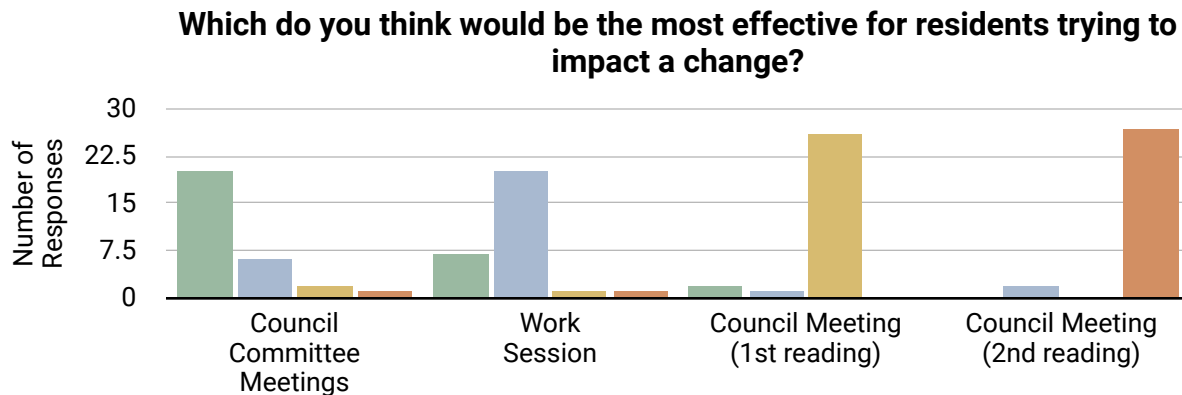
Ranking Potential Improvements to Public Input

The LFUCG staff survey also asked respondents to give feedback on how the overall public input process could be improved. Specifically, they were given a legislative map (image below) of how an item is passed before council, and asked where in the process would be the best place to receive public input.



Take a look at the map. Of the four opportunities for public input, which do you think would be the most helpful for your job?





The vast majority (85%) of respondents **chose Council Committee Meetings as the most helpful place to receive public input**. Beyond that, 94% of respondents chose Council Committee Meetings as either the first or second most helpful place for public input. This is one of the strongest findings of the survey process – increasing outreach and public input for Council Committee Meetings is one of the most direct ways to improve the current state of public input in LFUCG. The full ranking is:

1. Council Committee Meetings (#1.24 on average)
2. Council Work Sessions (#2 on average)
3. Council Meeting First Readings (#2.9 on average)
4. Council Meeting Second Readings (#3.85 on average)

As you can see in the graph on the following page, each opportunity for input has one ranking – first, second, third, or fourth – that is significantly more popular than all other choices. **Overwhelmingly, LFUCG staff rated opportunities higher the earlier in the legislative process that they take place**. Far and away the most popular place for the public to give input according to LFUCG staff is Council Committee Meetings, which also happens to be one of the least popular places for it to actually happen. According to our survey of the general public, the only type of meeting that receives public input less is a Council Work Session, the option most LFUCG staff rank as the second most place to impact a change via public input.

Of these four opportunities for the public to provide input, which do you think would be the most effective for residents trying to impact a change?

The responses to this question are a slightly less exaggerated version of the responses to the previous question. The same four opportunities are ranked by respondents as–

1. Council Committee Meetings (#1.45 on average)
2. Council Work Sessions (#1.86 on average)

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3. Council Meeting First Readings (#2.83 on average)
4. Council Meeting Second Readings (#3.86 on average)

As with the previous question, Council Committee Meetings are ranked as the top option for public input, followed by Council Work Sessions.

How much of the time do you think the public trusts LFUCG to make decisions in a fair way?

Number of respondents = 41

Average score = 2.8 out of 4

The numeric average rating for this question is a 2.8 out of 4. This is very similar to the rating of 2.9 out of 4 from the actual public survey. This indicates the LFUCG staff have a fairly strong grasp on how much faith the public has in their local government – the match between staff response and public responses is even stronger in the next question, about how often the public trusts LFUCG to make decisions that are best for Lexington.

The responses to this question also vary according to different characteristics of the survey takes. By Divisions, Code Enforcement, EQPW, Purchasing, and Social Service all averaged the highest, most optimistic, rating of a 3 out of 4. Council Office, Planning, and ‘Other’ division ranked in the middle between 2.7 and 2.8. The divisions with the lowest estimation of the public’s confidence in LFUCG were Grants and Special Programs (2.5) and the Mayor’s Office (2.3).

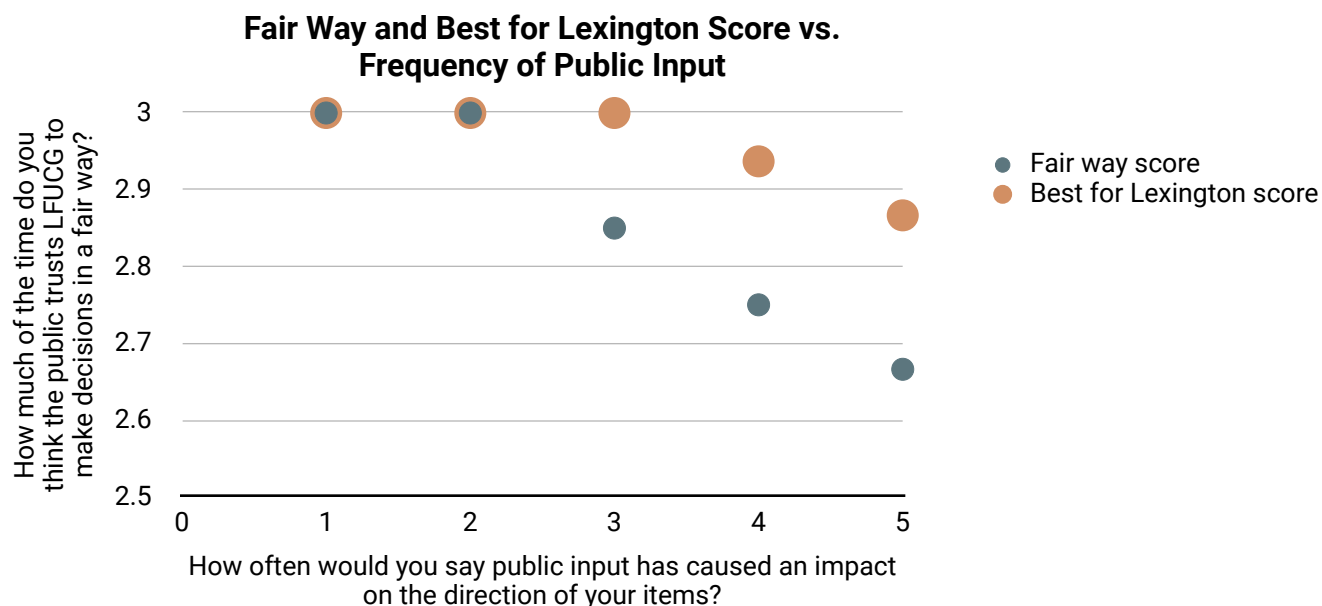
Another interesting finding is that the more frequently a respondent is impacted by public input, the lower they rated this metric. In the chart below, the Y axis represents the average rating that respondents gave for how often they think the public trusts LFUCG to make decisions in a fair way (teal dots) and make decisions that are best for Lexington (orange dots). The X axis is a numeric representation of the question “How often would you say public input has caused an impact on the direction of your items?”, in which 1 represents never and 5 represents frequently.

How often do you think the public thinks those decisions are what is best for Lexington?

Number of respondents = 41

Average score = 2.9 out of 4

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The numeric average of this question is a 2.9 out of 4, which is exactly the same as the average from the public version of our survey. This is another indicator that LFUCG staff have an accurate understanding of how the public feels about their current methods for giving input on legislative items, and of their general feelings towards local government.

There is some variation within this question according to different characteristics of the survey takers. Specifically, we found that the average score of all divisions was a 3 out of 4, except for the Urban County Council Office and the Mayor's Office, both of which rated this question as a 2 out of 4 on average. This means that that the two divisions that are based on the work of elected (rather than appointed) officials both consistently score the public's faith in LFUCG making decisions that are best for Lexington a full point lower than all other divisions surveyed.

How well do you think the public understands their options to participate in city government?

Number of respondents = 41

Average score = 1.8 out of 5

This is the lowest averages score of all of the 5 point questions LFUCG staff were asked to rate as a part of this survey. The public version of this survey asked Lexington residents how well they understand their options to participate in city government and gave an average answer of 2.6 out of 4. Converting both of these ratings to percentages, we see that LFUCG give a score of 36% understanding, while the public give themselves a score of 65% understanding. **This is the most significant difference between LFUCG staff opinion and Public Opinion in the entire**

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survey process. Members of the public have almost twice as much confidence in their understanding of participating in city government than LFUCG staff do.

This result could suggest several different things. One noteworthy possibility is that the public knows about *some* aspects of participating in city government, and feel reasonably confident about the methods they are familiar with. However, it is possible that in reality, LFUCG staff are aware of other methods for participation that are not even on the general public's radar, and rate the general knowledge of the public lower accordingly.

How convenient do you think city meeting times are for the public?

Number of respondents = 41

Average score = 2.2 out of 5

LFUCG staff respondents rated that city meetings times are not very convenient for residents, with a numeric average of 2.2 out of 5. By converting this to a proportion, we see that LFUCG staff respondents a time convenience score of 44%, while the actual public rated the convenience of city meeting times as 2.4 out of 4, or 60%. This is good news – it means that city meetings times are, on average, more convenient to members of the public than LFUCG staff currently believe.

It is possible that the LFUCG staff respondents had specific sectors of the public in mind that they do not hear from as often when they were rating the convenience of city meeting times. However, the public version of this survey did not find a significant variation of the convenience of city meeting times for resident by education level, race/ethnicity, gender, or ZIP code. The most significant demographic determining factor we found for the convenience of city meetings times was age, in that resident under 50 are more likely to rate the convenience of city meeting times lower than residents over 50.

How convenient do you think city meeting locations are for the public?

Number of respondents = 40

Average score = 2.2 out of 5

Similar to the question of city meeting times, LFUCG staff gave this question an average score of 2.5 out of 5 or 44%, which is substantially lower than the public rating of 2.6 out of 4 or 65%. Again, it seems that city meetings locations are more convenient to the public than LFUCG staff currently believe.

What do you think are the main reasons that some residents don't provide input to LFUCG?

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Number of respondents = 75

The number one reason LFUCG staff think that some residents don't give input is that they don't think their opinion will make a difference. In reality, members of the public reported that this is the third most frequent reason why they don't engage with local government. In general, LFUCG have a fairly accurate understand of why some members of the public don't engage – there is no reason with more than 3 degrees of difference between the lists from LFUCG and from the public. The least accurate understand LFUCG staff have is the ranking of “[members of the public] are not interested in engaging” as the third most common reason why they don't engage, when in reality this was reported as seventh in the public survey. LFUCG staff also underestimated the importance of the public knowing what issues they can engage with – they ranked it third, while the public ranked it as the number one most common reason for not engaging.

LFUCG staff reasons why they think residents don't provide input:

1. They don't think their opinion will make a difference. (↓2)
2. They are confused about how to participate. (=)
3. They don't know what issues they can engage with. (↑2)
4. They're not interested in engaging. (↓3)
5. They are too busy to participate. (↑1)
6. City meeting times are inconvenient. (=)
7. They are overwhelmed by engaging with the city. (↑2)
8. Transportation to city meetings is difficult. (=)
9. Other (=)

Members of the public reasons why they don't participate in local government:

1. I don't know what issues are open for me to engage with.
2. I don't know/am confused about how to participate.
3. I don't think giving my opinion will make a difference.
4. I am too busy to participate.
5. Engaging with the city is overwhelming.
6. City meeting times are inconvenient.
7. I'm not really interested in engaging.
8. Transportation to city meetings is difficult for me.
9. Other

Which of the following options do you think would improve how the city engages with residents?

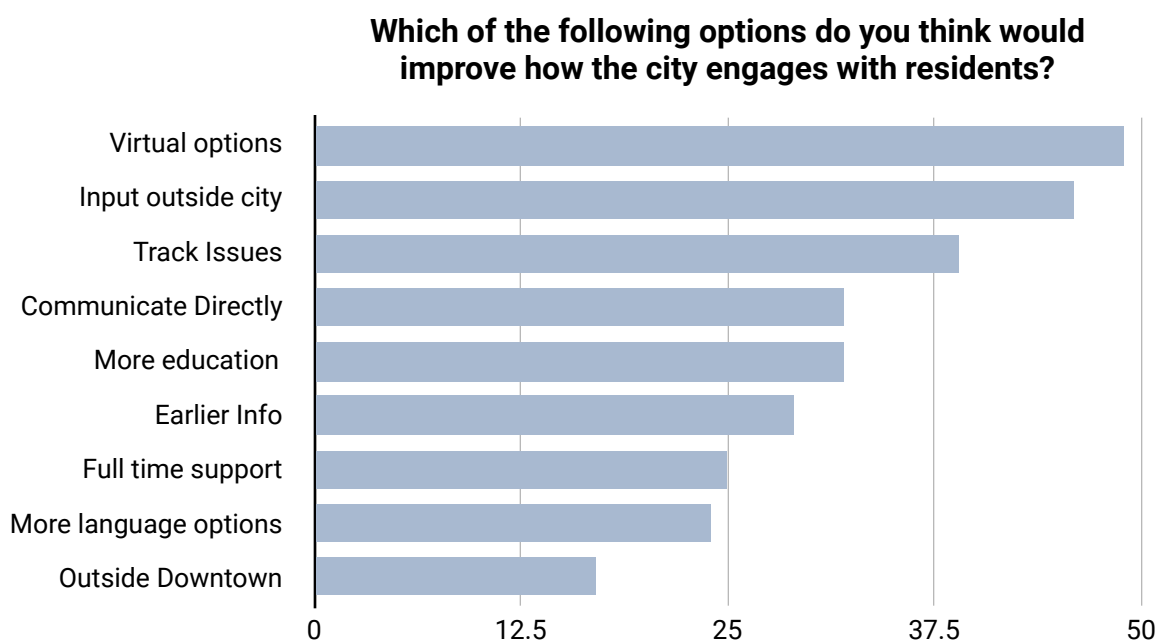
This question gave 9 options of ways to improve how the city engages with the public. This was a multiple choice question, where respondents could pick as many options as they liked. The top suggestion of the 1,200 residents survey was **a way to provide public input outside of city meetings**. This choice makes sense, especially when compared with our findings about the importance of the convenient of city meeting times and locations. Being able to give public

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input outside of these narrowly scheduled opportunities was the public's most popular method for improving public input. A better way to track issues through the entire legislative process was the next most popular improvement. The survey did not ask respondents about their familiarity or experience with Legistar, but we feel safe in saying that a more user friendly legislative tracking software would improve the public's relationship with LFUCG.

In the chart below, the bars are abbreviated with the following shorthand

- Input Outside City = Providing public input/comment outside of city meetings
- Track Issues = A better way to track issues through the entire legislative process
- Virtual Options = More options for virtual public input/comment
- Communicate Directly = More ways to communicate directly with government officials
- More Education = More education options about the issues in city government
- Full time support = A dedicated, full-time person in city government to assist residents with providing input
- Earlier info = Earlier information about city meetings
- Outside downtown = More city meetings outside of the Government Center / away from Downtown Lexington
- More language options = More language options in city communications



Recommendations

In looking at the data from these surveys, national best practices, and conversations with experts, CivicLex is making several recommendations across three categories – process changes, technology changes, and the addition of educational resources. Each of these sets of recommendations are designed to build on each other in order, meaning easy-to-change and low-impact items come first in each section.

1. Process Changes

1-a. Move Public Comment for items on the agenda to the beginning of meetings.

A clear piece of feedback we heard in focus groups and open responses from the public survey is that residents who do show up to public meetings sometimes leave feeling frustrated when public comment is at the end of the agenda. This forces them to wait for meetings that can be an indeterminate length of time, and often, decisions are already made before the public comment portion even begins.

We recommend moving public comment for items on the agenda to the beginning of all meetings, including Council Meetings.

1-b. Allow Public Comment for items on the agenda for all Council Committee, Work Session, Council, and Committee of the Whole meetings.

One clear takeaway from the public survey was that most members of the general public do not understand when they are allowed to give public comment in meetings and when they can't. In many meetings, like Council Committee meetings, public comment is up to the discretion of the chair. Sometimes, residents will show up to meetings, expecting to be able to give comment, and will be turned down.

By making it explicit that public comment is open in all regular meetings of the Council, this issue could be largely resolved. To address lengthy stretches of public comment, LFUCG could start meetings early, or even host a separate meeting for public input immediately prior to existing meetings.

We recommend that LFUCG allow Public Comment for items on the agenda at all public meetings, including Council Committees, Work Sessions, Council Meetings, and Committees of the Whole.

Here's a good example: The City of Denver, Colorado holds an open public comment meeting every Monday before its scheduled Council Meeting.

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1-c. Hold separate meetings specifically designated for public education and input that are outside of city hall.

Throughout the survey, residents said they wanted to know more about what items were up for consideration in city hall and wanted more ways to weigh in on those issues. City employees also said that they felt residents didn't often fully understand issues that were up for discussion. We also see strong correlations between the timing and location of public meetings and residents' trust in government.

Based on our research, we recommend that LFUCG holds one additional monthly public meeting to present on items coming up before Council and to solicit public input on these items. We also think these meetings could be outside of city hall, and potentially spread out across the 12 Council Districts.

Here's a good example: The City of Fort Worth, Texas holds biweekly meetings specifically for public presentations/input. This is in lieu of providing opportunities for public comment on items not on the agenda at the end of meetings.

1-d. Restructure the Council schedule to better position public input to be helpful and effective.

The primary issue here is that the public is currently directed – implicitly and explicitly – to provide public input at the Thursday Council Meetings at 6pm. If there is a clear takeaway from the LFUCG staff survey, it is that the public providing comment on legislation when it arrives in these meetings is largely harmful and ineffective. When residents show up directly before an item passes through its second reading and that item gets derailed, it is frustrating for LFUCG staff, wasteful of government resources, and disempowering for residents.

While LFUCG staff recommended Council Committee Meetings as the best time for public input to arrive, we have heard from many current and past Council Members that these meetings are critical for deliberation. While we do think Public Comment should be allowed to happen in Committee meetings, we think that they are not the best meetings to direct most people to for input.

Therefore, we recommend that Council Work Sessions be moved to weekday evenings and LFUCG should direct the public to consider these as their primary public comment opportunity. This could possibly be traded with moving existing Council Meetings to the daytime.

2. Technology Changes

2-a. Utilize stop-gap measures to provide virtual input on high-impact legislation.

While the public and staff both expressed clear interest in virtual public engagement, robust public input technologies can be expensive and take awhile to implement. Stop gap measures like publicly-posted survey tools could be used to gather virtual input for high-impact legislation while more robust recommendations from this category are implemented. The public input process for the American Rescue Plan Act shows that LFUCG has already demonstrated a robust ability to gather public input for legislation.

We recommend that LFUCG uses low-cost, stop-gap tools to gather public input on high-impact legislation while it considers implementing more robust and comprehensive public input and deliberation technologies.

2-b. Provide additional options for on-the-record virtual public comment for meetings.

Both the public and LFUCG staff agree – an easy way to address a lack of public input on legislative items is to provide more opportunities for virtual public comment. This could include pre-recorded video public comment, entering emailed public comment into the public record, or providing new systems for resident engagement with legislative items. Currently, emails to Council Members about legislative items are not entered into the public record, although they are open to public record requests.

We recommend that LFUCG allow for virtual public comment via email or voice message for items on the agenda, and that those comments are entered into the public record.

Here's a good example: Cities as large as Seattle, Washington and as small as Tempe, Arizona provide the option for virtual public input through email, voicemail, and other options. There are resources for virtual public comment in meetings from the National League of Cities (NLC) and the International City/County Management Association (ICMA).

2-c. Implement user-friendly technologies that allows for legislative tracking and public input.

Over the past 10 years, new technology has emerged that allows residents to track legislative items and provide verified digital input on said items. While Legistar is useful for those with technical experience, it is confusing and cumbersome for the general public. We think that LFUCG could bolster public input by adopting new technologies to allow residents to track items moving through Council and provide input on them as they advance.

We recommend that LFUCG adopts a robust, online legislative input system.

Here's a good example: Cities across the country use software like PublicInput, CitizenLab, and Bang the Table to provide alternative options for residents to track and comment on items advancing through the legislative process.

3. Educational Resources

3-a. Create a public guide to LFUCG's legislative process.

The legislative process can be cumbersome and confusing for the general public. In research for this project, we found that the only publicly-available description to the legislative process in LFUCG is inside the Code of Ordinances. Providing resources on how the legislative process works would help residents understand the process broadly, and when to participate.

We recommend that LFUCG publicly posts a detailed guide to how its legislative process works on its website.

3-b. Create online resources that explain how to provide effective public input.

As we have stated earlier, the public and LFUCG staff agree that it is not clear how a resident should go about weighing in on an item advancing through council. In research for this project, we found very few resources on LFUCG's website that explain how to provide public input on legislative items broadly, or on how to provide public comment in Council meetings.

We recommend that LFUCG create a single page on its website that explains how to come to city hall, provide public comment in city meetings and virtually, tips for an effective public comment, and more.

Here's a good example: The City of San Jose, California provides a clear understanding for how to participate in various city meetings, including Council, Council Committees, Community Meetings, and Boards and Commissions on a unified public input page on their website.

3-c. Create in-chamber resources that help residents understand how Council Meetings work and the best tips for public comment.

Public meetings can be confusing for many who attend, and often, people haven't done research of how it works in advance. They can walk into a process that is at best disorienting and at worst disempowering. Providing an in-chambers resource for residents who attend meetings would make it easier for people to orient themselves during meetings. This information could also include tips for giving an effective public comment, a guide for who in government to talk to for important issues, and more.

We recommend that LFUCG create print and digital resources that are available to attendees in public meetings for public meetings work and how to participate.

3-d. Create resources that help residents understand what issues are being discussed by Council.

One of the most significant challenges described by the public in our survey was not knowing what was even being discussed by council until after the fact. While other recommendations in

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our report also address this item, we think that a simple, regular public posting of the items advancing out of Council committee or regular in-person workshops could help residents understand what issues are up for debate.

We recommend that LFUCG create an up-to-date page on its website of what major items are being discussed in Council Committee, Work Sessions, and Council Meetings.

3-e. Provide a better user experience for residents in city hall.

When residents arrive at city hall, where to go and who to talk to can be confusing. In focus groups and survey data, we heard from a number of residents in greater detail that the experience of showing up to city hall is daunting for many. We think that LFUCG could make city hall much more accessible by adding signage and art to make the space more friendly. Some cities even provide a “greeter” service in city hall, which uses college interns or retirees in city hall to welcomes residents before important meetings.

We recommend LFUCG examine ways to make city hall more friendly and approachable for residents.

Here’s a good example: In 2014, The City of Boston, Massachusetts created a new program paying College students to serve as greeters in city hall, helping visitors get oriented to the building and know where to go for different services and offices.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Public Survey Questions

Demographic Questions help us understand who is taking the survey and who we might be missing. Specifically, the survey asked:

- **What is your age?**
- **Which of the following races/ethnicities do you identify with?**
 - African American/ Black
 - Latino or Hispanic
 - Asian or Pacific Islander
 - Native American
 - White
 - Other (fill in)
- **Which of the following genders do you identify with?**
 - Male
 - Female
 - Non-Binary
 - Other (fill in)
- **What is the highest level of education that you currently hold?**
 - Less than a high school degree
 - Completed high school or obtained a GED
 - Some college but no degree
 - Associate's Degree
 - Bachelor's Degree
 - Graduate Degree
- **What ZIP code do you live in?**
- **What do you call your neighborhood?**

Basic Engagement Questions, that help us assess the respondent's current level of participation in local government. These were:

- **Do you know who your Lexington Urban County Council Member is?**
 - Yes
 - No
- **How often would you say that you engage with Lexington's City Government?**
 - Frequently
 - Sometimes – when something I care about comes up
 - I don't engage, but I would be interested in doing so!
 - I don't engage at all.
- **Can you let us know why you don't engage much with Lexington's city government?**
 - I'm not really interested in engaging.
 - City meeting times are inconvenient.

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- I am too busy to participate.
- Transportation to city meetings is difficult for me.
- I don't know/am confused about how to participate.
- I don't know what issues are open for me to engage with.
- Engaging with the city is overwhelming.
- I don't think giving my opinion will make a difference.
- Other (fill in)

Extended Engagement Questions, specifically for respondents who report that they have engaged with LFUCG before. These were:

- **When you have engaged with City Government in the past, has it been about a single issue, or multiple subjects?**
 - I've engaged on a single issue
 - I've engaged on multiple subjects
- **What motivates you to engage with city government?**
 - I want to get involved in issues that directly impact me.
 - I want to get involved in issues that impact my community/neighborhood.
 - I want to get involved in issues that I think are important.
 - I want to make change in my city.
 - My job requires me to be involved in City Government.
 - Other (fill in)
- **When you've engaged which of the following ways have you done so?**
 - I've given public comment in a meeting.
 - I've directly reached out to government representatives.
 - I've engaged in direct action - protests, petitions, letters, etc.
 - Other (fill in)
- **At what types of meetings have you given public comment?**
 - Council Meetings
 - Council Work Sessions
 - Council Committee meetings
 - Task Force / Subcommittee meetings
 - Planning Commission Meetings
 - Other (fill in)
- **What types of government representatives have you reached out to in the past?**
 - Your District Council Member
 - Council Members that aren't your District CM
 - Mayor's Office Staff
 - City Department Staff
 - Other (fill in)
- **How did you reach out to them?**
 - Email
 - Phone
 - In-person meetings
 - Social Media
 - Other
- **How have you engaged in direct action in the past?**

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- I've participated in protests or demonstrations
- I've led or signed petition efforts
- I've published letters to the editor or blog posts
- Other (fill in)
- **Do you feel like your options for weighing in on city issues are adequate?**
 - Yes
 - No
- **Do you want to be more engaged with city government?**
 - Yes
 - No

4 Point Assessment questions, that evaluate the current state of public input for LFUCG.

These were:

- **How much of the time do you think you can trust Lexington's city government to make decisions in a fair way?**
 - Always
 - Some of the time
 - Not often
 - Never
- **How often do you think those decisions are what is best for Lexington?**
 - Always
 - Some of the time
 - Not often
 - Never
- **How well do you understand your options to participate in city government?**
 - I understand them very well
 - I somewhat understand them
 - I barely understand them
 - I don't understand them at all
- **How seriously do you think governmental representatives take your input?**
 - Very seriously
 - Somewhat seriously
 - Somewhat not seriously
 - Not very seriously
- **How convenient are city meeting times?**
 - Very convenient
 - Somewhat convenient
 - Somewhat inconvenient
 - Very inconvenient
- **How convenient are city meeting locations?**
 - Very convenient
 - Somewhat convenient
 - Somewhat inconvenient
 - Very inconvenient

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Recommended Improvement questions, that ask respondents to rank and give feedback on possible changes to the Public Input System.

- **Which of the following options do you think would improve how the city engages with residents?**
 - More ways to communicate directly with government officials
 - Providing public input/comment outside of city meetings
 - A better way to track issues through the entire legislative process
 - Earlier information about city meetings
 - A dedicated, full-time person in city government to assist residents with providing input
 - More education options about the issues in city government
 - More city meetings outside of the Government Center / away from Downtown Lexington
 - More options for virtual public input/comment
 - More language options in city communications
 - Other (fill in)
- **Which of those options would you personally use?**
 - More ways to communicate directly with government officials
 - Providing public input/comment outside of city meetings
 - A better way to track issues through the entire legislative process
 - Earlier information about city meetings
 - A dedicated, full-time person in city government to assist residents with providing input
 - More education options about the issues in city government
 - More city meetings outside of the Government Center / away from Downtown Lexington
 - More options for virtual public input/comment
 - More language options in city communications
 - Other (fill in)
- **One last question with these options... if you had to pick just one, which one would be the most helpful to you?**
 - More ways to communicate directly with government officials
 - Providing public input/comment outside of city meetings
 - A better way to track issues through the entire legislative process
 - Earlier information about city meetings
 - A dedicated, full-time person in city government to assist residents with providing input
 - More education options about the issues in city government
 - More city meetings outside of the Government Center / away from Downtown Lexington
 - More options for virtual public input/comment
 - More language options in city communications
 - Other (fill in)

Appendix 2: LFUCG Staff Survey Questions

1. Do you work for the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government?
2. Which LFUCG Division or Office do you work in?
3. How important do you think it is for the public to be able to provide input on items going before Council? (Scale from 1-5)
4. How effective do you think the current options are for the public to provide input on items going before Council? (Scale from 1-5)
5. Of the input that is typically provided, how representative do you think it is of the general public sentiment? (Scale from 1-5)
6. In general, how productive do you find public input to be for items going before the Council? (Scale from 1-5)
7. Which of these options best describes your feelings about the general public's engagement with items going before Council?
 1. I want the public to be less engaged
 2. I think the current level of engagement is sufficient
 3. I want the public to be more engaged
8. Do you think the general public wants to be more engaged with issues coming before the Council?
 1. Yes
 2. No
9. Have you ever had an item before the Council that you worked on receive public input?
 1. Yes
 2. No
10. Think about all of those items for a minute. In what ways did the public provide input on them?
 1. Public Comment in Council Meetings
 2. Public Comment in Task Force / Subcommittee meetings
 3. Public Comment in Planning Commission Meetings
 4. Emails from Residents
 5. Phone Calls from Residents
 6. Participation in Stakeholder or Community Meetings
 7. Other
11. How often would you say that public input caused an impact on the direction of your items?
 1. Frequently
 2. Sometimes
 3. Occasionally

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4. Rarely
 5. Never
12. Lastly, how helpful did you generally find that input to be? (Scale from 1-5)
 13. Take a look at the map below. Of the four opportunities for public input, which do you think would be the most helpful for your job?
 1. Council Committee Meeting
 2. Work Session
 3. Council Meeting (First Reading)
 4. Council Meeting (Second Reading)
 14. Of these four opportunities for the public to provide input, which do you think would be the most effective for residents trying to impact a change?
 1. Council Committee Meeting
 2. Work Session
 3. Council Meeting (First Reading)
 4. Council Meeting (Second Reading)
 15. How much of the time do you think the public trusts LFUCG to make decisions in a fair way?
 1. Always
 2. Some of the time
 3. Not often
 4. Never
 16. How often do you think the public thinks those decisions are what is best for Lexington?
 1. Always
 2. Some of the time
 3. Not often
 4. Never
 17. How well do you think the public understands their options to participate in city government? (Scale from 1-5)
 18. How convenient do you think city meeting times are for the public? (Scale from 1-5)
 19. How convenient do you think city meeting locations are for the public? (Scale from 1-5)
 20. What do you think are the main reasons that some residents don't provide input to LFUCG?
 1. They're not interested in engaging.
 2. City meeting times are inconvenient.
 3. They are too busy to participate.
 4. Transportation to city meetings is difficult.
 5. They are confused about how to participate.
 6. They don't know what issues they can engage with.

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7. They are overwhelmed by engaging with the city.
 8. They don't think their opinion will make a difference.
 9. Other
22. Which of the following options do you think would improve how the city engages with residents?
1. More ways for residents to communicate directly with government officials
 2. Allow residents to provide formal public comment outside of city meetings
 3. A better way for residents to track issues through the entire legislative process
 4. Letting residents know information about city meetings
 5. A dedicated, full-time person in city government to assist residents with providing input
 6. More education options about the issues in city government
 7. More city meetings outside of the Government Center / away from Downtown Lexington
 8. More options for virtual public input
 9. More language options in city communications
 10. Other
23. One last question with these options... if you had to pick just one, which one would be the most helpful to you?
1. More ways for residents to communicate directly with government officials
 2. Allow residents to provide formal public comment outside of city meetings
 3. A better way for residents to track issues through the entire legislative process
 4. Letting residents know information about city meetings
 5. A dedicated, full-time person in city government to assist residents with providing input
 6. More education options about the issues in city government
 7. More city meetings outside of the Government Center / away from Downtown Lexington
 8. More options for virtual public input
 9. More language options in city communications
 10. Other
24. What is your age?
25. Which of the following races/ethnicities do you identify with?
26. Which of the following genders do you identify with?
27. What is the highest level of education that you currently hold?
28. Is there anything else about public engagement you want to share with us?



General Government & Planning Committee 2023 Annual Status Review of Committee Referrals

1. CivicLex Public Comment Proposal

- Referred by: CM Lamb on January 19, 2021
- Last Heard: April 12, 2022
- Item details: Executive Director Richard Young gave an update on CivicLex's effort on gathering community feedback on public input. In the fall of 2020, Young, Lamb and CIO's office began conversations about how to improve the public input process. CivicLex conducted a survey in 2021 and the early months of 2022 to gather information on how to improve this process. Young provided draft recommendations. CivicLex will be returning in January 2022 to provide additional recommendations to Council. This item will need a new sponsor.

2. Diversifying Hiring and Promotional Opportunities within LFUCG

- Referred by: CM Lamb on April 13, 2021
- Last Heard: June 15, 2021
- Item details: The June presentation reviewed the diversity of employees compared to the community's labor market and how the majority of the LFUCG's employee diversity is found in lower-paid jobs. Strategies for improvement were outlined for both external and internal candidates; for employees, this included more offerings of the Academy program and the creation of a mentorship program. An update is expected after the Division of Human Resources has had time to make progress on the strategies they introduced. This item was not heard in 2022 because Human Resources was not ready with updates. This item will need a new sponsor or it can be removed from committee.

3. Language Access in LFUCG and How to Improve it

- Referred by: CM Reynolds August 10, 2021
- Last Heard: April 12, 2022
- Item details: This item was placed in committee to look at the different ways LFUCG provides language access and how to improve that access throughout the community. After discussions with CM Reynolds, Division of Emergency Management, Global Lex, staff, and the CAO's office, a web translation service for the website was proposed and approved in the FY23 budget. Additional potential improvements include developing an LFUCG Crisis Communication Plan, increased pay for bilingual or multilingual employees, and increase the number of language tools for first responders.

4. Study of Consent Agenda Process for Council Meetings

- Referred by: CM Plomin on September 28, 2021
- Last Heard: Not yet presented
- Item details: After meetings with CM Plomin, Council staff, and the Clerk's office, this item is pending additional review once Council has an opportunity to evaluate recent adjustments to change orders and alternative price contracts.

5. Review of Regulations and Guidance for Redistricting

- Referred by: CM Bledsoe on December 7, 2021
- Last Heard: November 15, 2022
- Item details: This item was placed in committee following the conclusion of the redistricting process, which resulted in the approval of Ordinance 136-2021. This item was initially heard on May 10, 2022 and established a work group to review the current redistricting ordinance. The work group reported out on October 27, 2022 and provided an updated ordinance. Ordinance 146-2022 was approved by Council on December 6, 2022. This item can be removed from committee.

6. Division and Program Review Process – 2022 Evaluations Selection

- Referred by: BFED Committee on November 30, 2021
- Last Heard: November 15, 2022
- Item details: The Division and Program Reviews for Lex TV and Lex Call were shared in the November 15, 2022 packet for information only. The next Division and/or Programs that will be reviewed will be selected by the new General Government and Planning Committee.

7. Review of Neighborhood Access and Traffic Calming Measures

- Referred by: CM Baxter on August 16, 2022
- Last heard: Not yet presented – early 2023
- Item details: This item was placed into committee to examine the permanent barricade on Agape Drive. A Resolution was passed in 2014 that allows for the permanent closure. Staff from Traffic Engineering, Division of Planning, Streets and Roads, Division of Police and Division of Fire & EMS were contacted for input on how this closure has impacted those divisions. While residents are in favor of keeping the barricade, the closure does impact city services such as waste management, streets and roads, the Fire Department. This is because the large service vehicles are unable to turn around once they enter Agape. When leaving, they must back out of street which presents a safety concern.

8. Review of Short-Term Rentals

- Referred by: CM J. Brown on June 11, 2019
- Last Heard: November 29, 2022
- Item Details: On February 18, 2020, the committee approved a draft ordinance for the regulation, registration, and fees for Short-Term Rentals. The draft ordinance was approved by

Council at Work Session on March 10, 2020. The item appeared on the Council Docket for first reading on March 17, 2020; however, Council agreed to table the item due to the pandemic and the suspension of public meetings. This item was taken back up October 18, 2022 with a brief overview of Short-Term Rentals and at that time a special meeting was scheduled for November 29, 2022 to review (2) draft ordinances – 1 for the Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment and 1 for Amendments to the Code of Ordinances. This meeting also allowed for constituents to provide public input. STR operators were opposed to the strict regulations and neighborhoods were supportive of having regulations and enforcement of STRs. The item remains in committee and drafts will be revised, taking into consideration the comments that were provided at the special meeting.

9. Review of Recommendations for ensuring the Continuous Operations for Shared Use Paths

- Referred by: CM Ellinger on August 10, 2021
- Last Heard: January 18, 2022
- Item Details: Scott Thompson with Transportation Planning described the importance of transportation systems which are made up of travel lanes, bike lanes, sidewalks, and shared use paths for people of all ages in every part of our community. He said streets are meant to enable safe and convenient access for all road users and access is maintained to ensure reliability during new construction, redesigns and roadway improvements, and maintenance of operations. This will require transparent development of a complete streets policy with the approval and adoption of Council.

10. Review of Enhancements to Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) program (public access)

- Referred by: CM Kloiber on March 8, 2022
- Last Heard: June 21, 2022
- Item Details: This item was placed in committee for a request from PDR to provide a presentation on potential ways to provide public access to farms. It is staff's understanding that the Law Department reached out to CM Kloiber for follow-up questions, but never received a response. Also, PDR reached out the federal entity for an opinion, but never received a response. This item will need a new a sponsor or it can be removed from committee.

11. Mass Transit and Regional Zones

- Referred by: CM McCurn on July 5, 2022
- Last Heard: Not yet presented
- Item Details: The intent of this item was not provided when the item was referred to committee. This item will need a new sponsor or it can be removed from committee.

12. Examine Ways to Evenly Distribute Social Services Facilities in Neighborhoods

- Referred by: CM Reynolds on June 14, 2022
- Last Heard: Not yet presented
- Item Details: This item will examine over-saturation of community facilities in neighborhoods and look at ways to evenly distribute these facilities. Several years ago, Lexington attempted to require a conditional use permit for allowing these, however federal regulations preventing this from happening based on potential discrimination. Staff has worked

with Division of Social Services, Division of Planning, and GIS to create a map that will illustrate the number of facilities in each district.

13. Assessment of Lexington's African American Hamlets

- Referred by: CM Plomin on April 26, 2022
- Last Heard: December 6, 2022
- Item Details: The presentation of this item outlined the various locations of the Lexington Hamlets. Future endeavors include educating the public on this important piece of history, collect stories and artifacts, recruit volunteers, and raise funds for the restoration of the Cadentown – Rosenwald - Washington School.

14. How to Communicate with Broad Groups of Diverse People

- Referred By: CM McCurn on May 31, 2022
- Last Heard: Not yet presented
- Item Details: The intent of this item was not provided when the item was referred to committee. This item will need a new sponsor or it can be removed from committee.

15. Examine Opportunities to Relocate Programming and Initiatives from the Mayor's Office to Other Relevant Divisions within LFUCG

- Referred By: CM Sheehan on May 31, 2022
- Last Heard: Not yet presented
- Item Details: This item was a result of the FY23 Budget Process and came out of the General Government & Social Services Link. This item intends to evaluate the questions regarding why programs in the Mayor's office are increasing, is this practice sustainable, and are there better places in government for some of these programs to reside.

16. Charter Review

- Referred By: CM Sheehan on November 1, 2022
- Last Heard: Not yet presented
- Item Details: This is a recommendation from the Redistricting Work Group and is to conduct a comprehensive review of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government Charter. Work on this item will begin in 2023.

17. Study of Conditional Use Permits and Related Zone Text Amendments in the Rural Service Area

- Referred By: CM Plomin on December 6, 2022
- Last Heard: Not yet presented
- Item Details: There is concern in the Rural Service Area about the requests for potential development that was a result of the Goal 4 Report. The Rural Land Management Plan exists to provide a strategic framework and the item is to examine current ZOTAs to ensure they align with that plan. Work on this item will begin in 2023.

Annual/Periodic Updates:

18. Explorium PSA: Requirements/Achievements for Additional Funding

- Referred by: CM Susan Lamb on June 5 2018; FY20 Budget COW on May 28, 2019
- Last Heard: November 15, 2022
- Item details: The Explorium presented twice in 2022. The first presentation was an introduction of the New Explorium Director, Colby Ernest, on March 8, 2022. The second presentation was on November 15, 2022 and gave an overview of their strategic plan. This item was made an annual item on November 15, 2022. This item will need a new a sponsor.

19. Bluegrass Area Development District – annual update

- Referred by: CM Moloney on April 10, 2018
- Last heard: April 13, 2021
- Item details: Staff was unable to get in contact with BGADD to provide their annual update. In April 2021, they reviewed the plans and reports they create as a requirement of the U.S. Economic Development Administration, as well as a variety of workforce development initiatives and programs. This item will need a new sponsor.

20. Lexington Global Engagement Center (Global Lex)

- Referred by: CM Lamb on January 2015
- Last heard: November 15, 2022
- Item details: This item is in committee to receive periodic updates; it became an annual item starting in 2019. The last update, in November 2022, included information about ARPA and how Global Lex has been involved in training ARPA recipients. There are 206+ languages spoken in Lexington. There was also an overview of changes made since the pandemic and the additional information they collect from Global Lex clients. This item will need a new a sponsor.

21. Annual Status Report on Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) Easement Acquisitions

- Referred by: Required by Ordinance
- Last heard: December 6, 2022
- Item details: This presentation is a requirement under Chapter 26 of our Code of Ordinances. The last update was presented to committee on December 6, 2022. The update included a review of the applications process, farm closings, pending easements, and withdrawals from the program, etc.

22. Follow-up from Infill and Redevelopment Committee Regarding Council Sponsored Re-Zoning (Resolution)

- Referred by: VM Kay on March 2, 2022
- Last Heard: April 19, 2022
- Item Details: Council Sponsored rezoning offers three ways to begin a zone change process: developer led zone changes, Planning Commission led zone changes, or Council initiated zone

changes. Following today's meeting, notification will be sent to the property owners explaining the proposed action and inviting them to discuss this issue with the Infill & Redevelopment Steering Committee. If the reaction from property owners is positive, the committee will schedule meetings to discuss the proposed action with nearby neighborhood associations and affected renters in the study area. There are multiple "pause" points built in so the process can stop at any time should negative input be received. This item will need a new a sponsor.

23. Expanded Public Hearing Notification (Pilot Program)

- Referred by: CM F. Brown on September 28, 2021
- Last Heard: January 18, 2022
- Item Details: The purpose for the expanded notification Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment (ZOTA) is to move from notification of property owners within a certain radius of the subject property to notification of property owners and property addresses (if the property is not the owner's primary mailing address). Motion was made to enter into a one-year pilot program and have it brought to committee for an update in February 2023.

24. Lexington History Museum

- Referred by: CM Plomin on March 21, 2017; FY20 Budget COW on May 28, 2019
- Last heard: April 12, 2022
- Item details: This item is in committee to support the need for Lexington to have a history museum. The presentation in April updated the Council on the move Lexington History Museum made to the Adam Rankin House. LHM reviewed their strategic plan that was created in 2021, which included various ongoing projects, and new initiatives. They requested \$1.6 million over the period of three years. Council approved \$705,500 over the period of three years.

Subcommittees:

25. Electronic Billboards Subcommittee

- Referred by: CM Plomin on April 24, 2018
- Last Heard: August 18, 2020
- Item Details: A special committee was formed June 5, 2018 to consider potential draft legislation concerning digital billboards in Fayette County. CM Stinnett was appointed as head of that committee; however, with his departure CM Plomin has been spearheading this effort. The committee has met a few times to discuss these issues. Some concerns about electronic billboards include distracted driving, size, and aesthetics. When this item was last presented, a motion was made to turn the work over to the Division of Planning staff.

General Government and Planning Commitee

Referral Item	Referred By	Date Referred	Last Heard	Status	File ID
1 CivicLex Public Comment Proposal	S. Lamb	January 19, 2021	April 12, 2022	In progress	0362-22
2 Diversifying Hiring & Promotional Opportunities within LFUCG	S. Lamb	April 13, 2021	June 15, 2021		0612-21
3 Language Access in LFUCG and How to Improve It	J. Reynolds	August 10, 2021	April 12, 2022		0359-22
4 Study of a Consent Agenda Process for Council Meetings	K. Plomin	September 28, 2021		In progress	
5 Review of Regulations and Guidance for Redistricting	A. Bledsoe	December 7, 2021	November 15, 2022	Completed	1171-22
6 Division and Program Review - 2022 Evaluations Selection	BFED Committee	November 30, 2021	November 15, 2022	In progress	1172-22
7 Review of Neighborhood Access and Traffic Calming Measures	W. Baxter	August 16, 2022			
8 Review of Short-Term Rentals	J. Brown	June 11, 2019	November 29, 2022		
9 Recommendations for Ensuring the Continuous Operations for Shared Use Paths, Sidewalks, and Bike Lanes	C. Ellinger	August 10, 2021	January 18, 2022		
10 Review of Enhancements to PDR program that will allow for public access to farmland	D. Kloiber	March 8, 2022	June 21, 2022	August 23, 2022	
11 Mass Transit and Regional Zones	J. McCurn	July 5, 2022			
12 Examine Ways to Evenly Distribute Social Service Facilities in Neighborhoods	J. Reynolds	June 14, 2022			
13 Assessment of Lexington's African American Hamblets and Historic Preservation of Their Heritage	K. Plomin	April 26, 2022			
14 How to communicate with broad groups of diverse people	J. McCurn	May 31, 2022			
15 Examine opportunities to relocate programming and initiatives from the Mayor's Office to other relevant Divisions within LFUCG.	L. Sheehan	May 31, 2022			
16 Charter Review	L. Sheehan	November 1st, 2022			
17 Study of conditional use permits and related zone text amendments in the Rural Service Area	K. Plomin	December 6th, 2022			
Annual/Period Updates					
18 Explorium PSA; Requirements/Achievements for Additional Funding	Lamb / Budget COW	FY20 June 5, 2018 / 28, 2019	May November 15, 2022		1169-22
19 Bluegrass Area Development District - annual update	R. Moloney	April 10, 2018			0378-21
20 Lexington Global Engagement Center (Global Lex)	S. Lamb	January 2015	November 15, 2022		1170-22
21 Annual PDR Review (Required by Ordinance)	J. Brown		December 6, 2022		
22 Follow-Up from Infill and Redevelopment Committee Regarding Council Sponsored Re-Zoning (Resolution)	S. Kay	March 1, 2022	April 19, 2022		
23 Expanded Public Hearing Notification (Pilot Program)	F. Brown	September 28, 2022	January 18, 2022		
24 Lexington History Museum	Plomin / Budget COW	FY20 March 21, 2017 / 28, 2019	May April 12, 2022	made an annual item on 8/17/21	0361-22
Subcommittees					
25 Electronic Billboards	K. Plomin	Juny 1, 2018	8/18/2020		