



REGIONAL FORUM SERIES 1

Anderson County

Idea Consolidation Record

This document shows how similar ideas created at each table were combined for keypad polling. These ideas were quickly combined during the meeting to allow for shorter lists to poll upon, so they were a best effort to get the intention of the ideas provided. In some cases, the exact wording of one idea was used because it best captured the intention of all similar ideas.

For some meetings, the ideas were too different to combine enough to fit on one slide, and there is a longer list, split between two slides. Remember, the polling prioritization provides only a snapshot of priorities of those in the room, not a conclusive vote on any ideas.

In the lists below, the summary idea is in bold, with the similar ideas that were combined into the summary idea below. The summary ideas are the ones that were used for keypad polling.

Anderson County

Regional Strengths

Diverse recreation opportunities and attractions for all ages

- diversity of interests, ages, attractions
- All of your needs within region
- Outdoor Recreation and proximity to mountain, lakes and streams

Natural beauty, area is centrally located to be convenient to mountains, lakes, and other recreational amenities.

- natural resources
- Quality of life: Natural beauty, arts, low cost of living
- green space open space
- Area is centrally located to be convenient to mountains, lakes, and other recreational amenities.
- Oak Ridge: Preserve the natural beauty of the areas and limit sprawl.
- Natural beauty (mountains, valleys, lakes, etc.), climate
- Beauty and natural assets of the area btwn Cumberland Plateau, Smokies, TVA Lakes
- natural environment--parks, rivers, bicycling, general outdoor activities, beauty

Strong regional identity with a rich history and unique culture

- history of the five county area
- Proximity to big city cultural, sports activities, shopping
- Anderson County: he would like to build on the rich history of the area and play up the unique aspects of each of our communities.
- strong regional identity of east Tennessee. where else do you get 100,000 people singing together on a Saturday afternoon?

Good health care system

- Good health care system

Job opportunities, strong workforce and home to a diverse economy

- DOE facilities with large employment that draws from surrounding area.
- Diverse job opportunities, with different areas of region having different strengths.
- Good schools and upper level education with many options**
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 - Good economic mix, recreation, education all within region
- Sustainability energy efforts - Solar City, Windmills, Hydroelectric Power, Biofuels.**
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- Preservation of rural character**
 - Marlow: He would like the rural character to remain intact and limit negative impact of government regulations.
- Pretty good connectivity between the counties - roads, culture, recreation, etc.**
 - Knoxville is a good hub for the region with services, amenities, etc.
 - Pretty good connectivity between the counties - roads, culture, recreation, etc.
- Well connected through easy access to transportation options: interstates, rail, etc.**
 - Convergence of major road systems (75, 40, 81). Good rail systems. Nice logistics. room for population and job growth due to open land.

Regional Challenges

- Poor air quality, high asthma levels – non-attainment of EPA standards, etc.**
 - Green growth and sustainability, Air, water quality
 - poor air quality - non-attainment, asthma levels, etc.
- Limited services for aging and other special needs populations.**
- Public education system needs improvement, especially in poorer areas**
 - Public (K-12) Education
 - K-12 education in the region needs improvement
 - Raising the floor of public education (5)
 - pockets of low education, esp. in poorer areas--need for economic equalization.
- Poverty and illiteracy major problem, especially in rural areas**
 - Poverty - major problem in rural areas
 - Need to Reduce illiteracy - major problem especially in rural areas, and for attracting employers
- Lack of regional thinking and collaboration**
 - Collaboration among elected officials
 - lack of strong intergovernmental relationships
 - Five counties---five visions/getting people to think regionally
 - We fail to think and act regionally and therefore, we compete with each other, which doesn't capitalize on our resources.
 - Makeup of the counties is different: what fits for one, may not fit for another
 - We don't market ourselves collectively as a region.
- Lack of regional public transportation network to reduce dependency on cars**
 - Lack of public transit
 - public transportation reducing dependency on automobile
 - We don't have a regional transportation network.
- Drug abuse linked to crime**
 - Drug problem creates crime problem (comprehensive approach) (4)
 - meth and drug abuse
- Lack of activities for younger people, childhood obesity**
 - lack of activities for younger people
 - childhood obesity.
- Lack of employment opportunities, economic growth**
 - Need to attract more industry to grow jobs, especially manufacturing, not just any jobs but good, diverse jobs
 - Econ growth

- Economic development - regional coordination and cooperation - stop competing with each other (3)
- More employment opportunities

Lack of or failing infrastructure - roads, water, sewer

- failing infrastructure systems
- lack of infrastructure--roads, water, sewer.