

Lake County *On the Table* participants: Hopeful about the Future and Eager to Engage on Challenging Issues

2018 Legacy Foundation *On the Table* participants are optimistic about what the future holds and see their community as having more that unites it than divides it. They are eager to get involved and work with fellow Lake County residents to make their community a better place to live.

A positive outlook and hope for the future: 2018 Legacy Foundation *On the Table* participants approach the issues and challenges facing their communities with a strong sense of hope for the future and positive feelings and perceptions about their community.

- ✓ 70% are more hopeful about what the future holds for their community (compared with only 30% who are more worried). A similarly large proportion (71%) believe the area in which they live has a strong sense of community.
- ✓ *On the Table* participants express a strong sense of unity—66% say their community is more united than divided (34%), and 62% say the people who make up their community have shared goals and priorities.

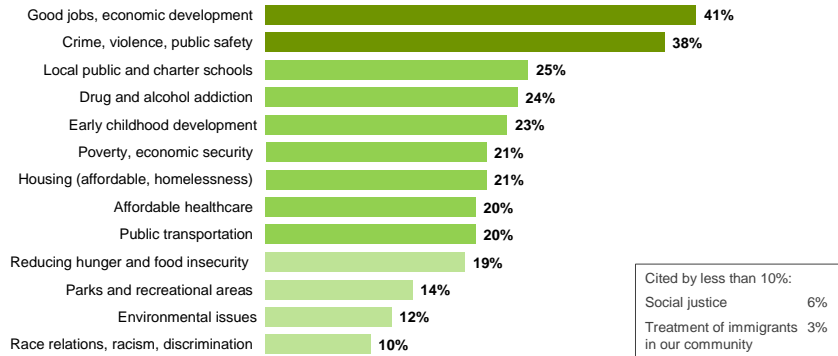
Mixed views regarding equal opportunities. Despite their optimism about the future and sense of unity within the community, many *On the Table* participants believe their community could do a better job of providing equal opportunities for everyone.

- ✓ *On the Table* participants are almost evenly split on whether their community provides equal opportunities for all—49% say it does and 51% say it does not.
- ✓ Those living in the Northeast (68%), African-American participants (66%), and Millennials (61%) are more likely than others to say that their community does not provide equal opportunities for everyone.
- ✓ Lack of access to basic services, such as quality schools, jobs, and grocery stores is the top issue participants of all racial and ethnic groups think needs to be remedied to address equity challenges.
- ✓ Roughly half of African-American and Hispanic participants also identify the need to address racism (48% each compared with 36% of white participants), while white participants are more likely to identify accessibility for people with disabilities (43% of white participants compared with 34% of African-American and 28% of Hispanic participants).

Most pressing issues: economic opportunities and crime/safety. The challenges and issues that 2018 *On the Table* participants feel are most important for their community to address are jobs and economic development and issues related to crime, violence, and public safety. Second-tier issues relate to pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade education and child development, as well as drugs and addiction.

- ✓ Economic opportunities and safety are the top two priority issues, regardless of gender, age, education level, and race.
- ✓ When specifically asked about the most important keys to tackling economic issues and poverty across Lake County, participants prioritize the availability of good jobs and providing more training and skill development opportunities for workers.

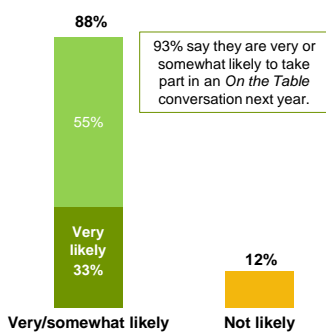
THREE Most Important Issues for my Community to Address



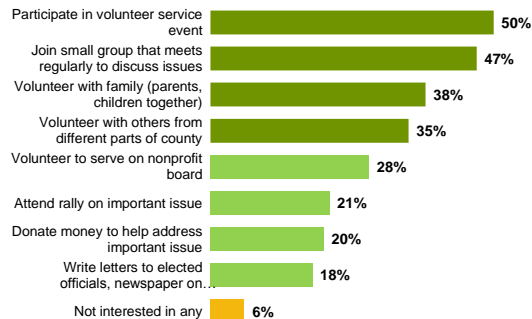
Catalysts for Change: Nonprofits, residents, and local government are viewed as the most powerful catalysts for change in the region. *On the Table* participants are eager to get involved and see a number of different avenues to do so.

- ✓ A majority (53%) of *On the Table* participants say nonprofits and community organizations are having the greatest impact on making their community a better place to live, followed by community residents (45%) and local government (43%).
- ✓ The vast majority (86%) of participants believe they can have a moderate or big impact on improving their community and an even larger proportion (88%) say they are likely to take a specific action regarding an issue they discussed at *On the Table*.
- ✓ Participants are interested in engaging through a number of different means, including volunteering and joining a small group that meets regularly to discuss important community issues.

Likelihood of taking specific actions on an issue or solution discussed at *On the Table* conversation



THREE ways I am most interested in getting involved addressing issues and challenges facing my community



On September 26, 2018, Legacy Foundation hosted its 2018 *On the Table* conversations with generous support from the Knight Foundation. An estimated 2,135 adults participated in the conversations, and 1,212 of these participants completed a post-conversation survey. The survey was conducted online and via paper by Hart Research Associates and Public Opinion Strategies.