

Prosperity Plan Regional Survey Results Summary



The Prosperity Plan Survey was mailed to 30,000 randomly selected households in the Prosperity Plan region (Butler, Harvey, Reno, Sedgwick and Sumner counties) in early May 2014. Approximately 2,100 total surveys were returned to Wichita State University's Hugo Wall School of Public Affairs. This document summarizes the aggregate results of the completed and returned surveys.

Need for Change and Strength of Community

Survey respondents agree or strongly agree that people living in South Central Kansas should be concerned about:

- ...the region's aging infrastructure (streets, bridges, water, sewer, etc.) and the rising cost of maintenance and/or replacement. (94%)
- ...the decline in the number of good-paying jobs. (93%)
- ...whether communities will have an adequate supply of water. (91%)
- ...the rising cost of and need for health care services. (89%)
- ...the lack of cooperation and coordination within and between local government organizations. (87%)
- ...the number of young people leaving the region every year who are choosing not to return. (84%)

Fewer survey respondents agree or strongly agree that people living in South Central Kansas should be concerned about:

- ...the number of individuals leaving cities or counties because of the lack of suitable housing. (45%)

Survey respondents are willing to put community interests above personal interests (74% agree or strongly agree), but are not sure that their fellow citizens will do the same (29% agree or strongly agree).

Survey respondents are willing to make personal sacrifices for the well-being of future generations (87-94% agree or strongly agree).

Survey respondents are willing to take responsibility to help create opportunity for all citizens if citizens are willing to do their part (90-95% agree or strongly agree).

Prosperity Plan Regional Survey Results Summary



The South Central Kansas Region

Survey respondents agree or strongly agree that if communities in South Central Kansas work together:

- ...we can build a stronger regional economy that improves quality of life for communities throughout the region (91%)
- ...we can build a regional economy that is stronger and better able to compete globally. (90%)

Fewer survey respondents agree or strongly agree that if communities in South Central Kansas work together:

- ...we will lose our independence and our ability to decide our own future. (20%)

Survey respondents agree or strongly agree that recommended courses of action for the South Central Kansas Region include:

- ...encouraging high schools and higher education to work with industry to promote technological advancements and to prepare students for employment upon graduation. (97%)
- ...encourage business and industry investment that diversifies the economy and increases employment access and opportunity. (94%)
- ...create opportunity for increased access to higher education. (87%)
- ...create regional job training centers matched to the needs of industry throughout the region. (86%)
- ...use regional marketing to encourage business investment. (86%)
- ...strengthen the region's economy and ability to compete globally. (85%)

Fewer survey respondents agree or strongly agree that a focus on community rather than regional economic development is the best recommended course of action for the South Central Kansas region (43%).

Prosperity Plan Regional Survey Results Summary



Transportation for South Central Kansas

Survey respondents agree or strongly agree that communities in South Central Kansas should work together to:

- ...make it more cost effective to maintain city and county roads throughout the region. (96%)
- ...improve streets and roadways connecting cities in the region making it easier for individuals, businesses and industry to travel between counties. (88%)
- ...make it easier to travel between cities and counties, improving access to employment. (87%)
- ...make it easier to travel between cities and counties improving access to regional services and amenities. (84%)
- ...create and improve regional public transportation options (bus service, shuttle service, commuter rail, etc.). (76%)
- ...improve connections between biking, hiking and pedestrian trails throughout the region to improve regional transportation and recreation options. (68%)

Prosperity Plan Regional Survey Results Summary



Regional Appeal

Survey respondents agree that South Central Kansas probably or definitely should act as a region to:

- ...secure reliable sources of water for current and future generations. (98%)
- ...adopt programs to encourage water conservation. (95%)
- ...increase access to healthy food (i.e. fresh produce). (83%)
- ...preserve current green space and parks. (94%)
- ...coordinate land use planning to protect water resources. (93%)
- ...coordinate land use planning to protect agricultural land. (91%)
- ...coordinate efforts and programs to improve the region's air quality. (85%)
- ...create transportation options to improve access to health care services. (81%)
- ...create opportunity for increased physical activity. (78%)
- ...promote investment to create affordable housing options. (77%)
- ...promote investment to diversify housing options. (70%)
- ...connect hiking, biking and walking trails between and within communities in the region. (68%)
- ...create new green space and parks. (67%)

Prosperity Plan Regional Survey Results Summary



Change in Public Investment

Survey respondents recommended the following changes in investment for the long term well-being of our communities and the region:

	Reduce Public Investment	No Change in Public Investment	Small Increase in Public Investment	Strategic Public Investment
Maintenance of existing streets and roadways	1%	13%	47%	39%
Road systems that connect cities and counties	2%	29%	48%	21%
Public transportation options between cities and counties	8%	34%	37%	21%
Public transportation options within cities and counties	5%	26%	41%	28%
Reliable sources for the future water needs of the region	1%	6%	28%	65%
Air quality improvement programs and initiatives	5%	24%	41%	30%
Job growth through retention, expansion and attraction of business and industry	2%	12%	36%	50%
Job training to create a skilled workforce	3%	14%	40%	43%
Opportunities for physical activity (recreation centers, parks, green space, etc.)	4%	33%	42%	21%
Expansion of housing options	6%	33%	44%	17%
Neighborhood improvement (sidewalks, open space, ease of access to services and amenities)	4%	30%	46%	20%
Building connections between existing hiking, biking and pedestrian trails	10%	36%	36%	18%