



Jersey Township
Village of Johnstown
City of New Albany

SURVEY RESULTS

RESIDENTS WANT WESTERN LICKING COUNTY ACCORD TO PROTECT AREA'S RURAL, SMALL-TOWN CHARACTER



Proactively planning for growth that preserves the rural, small-town character of western Licking County is the top concern of a large majority (86%) of residents who participated in a recent survey conducted on behalf of Jersey Township, the village of Johnstown and the city of New Albany.

The survey is part of a collaborative planning process among the three jurisdictions designed to responsibly manage growth in a way that protects the desirable quality of life that residents enjoy while building resilient, sustainable communities and strong local economies. If approved by all three communities, the proposed Western Licking County Accord will serve as a non-binding policy document to prudently guide future land use and infrastructure development.



“If current trends continue, the central Ohio population is expected to grow by one million people by 2050 and that growth will affect western Licking County residents,” says Chris Hermann, principal at MKSK, a planning and landscape architecture firm. “The Western Licking County Accord will allow these communities to employ development policies that identify desirable future land uses and locations where those land uses best serve each community.”





MKSK was retained to conduct the survey as part of its analysis of existing conditions, current plans, future trends and area assets (physical, economic, etc.) to help these communities build consensus about a shared vision that represents the interests of all residents.

Most survey participants (75%) favor a shared land use agreement and plan among the jurisdictions. More than 50 percent want design standards to guide future development and a multi-jurisdictional panel to review and make recommendations to elected officials regarding future development proposals.



Residents and community members also expressed a desire for public amenities, such as parks, and for new development to be designed and strategically located to not detract from the character of the area.

More than 75 percent of respondents said they would like to see some type of park, trail or recreational facility. Less than 20 percent said they did not want any new community uses.



“Development is not a bad word and, when it is done correctly, it can improve our quality of life and increase the tax base while avoiding traffic congestion, poor quality construction and overburdened government resources,” Hermann added. “This accord provides opportunities to preserve green space and add public amenities such as leisure trails and parks.”

More than 150 residents provided input into the planning process through focus groups, a public meeting and an online survey which was available on each community’s website during December and January.

A second public meeting will be held at 7 pm on April 20 at the Jersey Baptist Church, 13260 Morse Road, where MKSK will share findings from the online survey as well as preliminary ideas related to future land uses for community feedback. By summer, the firm is expected to provide a draft plan for the communities that includes proposed land use policies and development standards reflecting the accord’s shared vision. After final review and discussion, each jurisdiction will have the opportunity to formally approve and adopt the non-binding plan.

PUBLIC MEETING
April 20, 2017, 7 pm
Jersey Baptist Church
13260 Morse Road

