



# Oregon's Kitchen Table – Clatsop County Comprehensive Plan Update

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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Starting in 2018, Clatsop County began a multi-year process to update the County's Comprehensive Plan. County staff, citizen advisory committees and the Clatsop County Planning Commission have been working for more than two years on updating the policies for each of the 18 goals in the County's Comprehensive Plan. These policies are a roadmap showing how the County can meet those goals over the next couple of decades.

As the process to update the plan reached the final stages, the Clatsop County Board of Commissioners wanted to make sure that members of the public-- particularly those living in rural areas of the county, Spanish speaking community members, and people living with low-incomes--had sufficient opportunity to share what they think. The Board of Commissioners especially wanted to hear people's thoughts on housing, county services, community involvement, and the economy.

Oregon's Kitchen Table, a program at Portland State University, worked with the County to conduct a community engagement process to hear from people who live

in, work in, or own property in Clatsop County about what was most important to them when considering updates to the County's Comprehensive Plan.

The executive summary provides an overview of the engagement process as well as high level findings. The attached report contains three sections:

- A description of the project's outreach goals and design;
- Commonly held values and beliefs as well as areas of disagreements;
- A brief conclusion; and
- Appendices, including annotated questionnaire results.

## **ABOUT OREGON'S KITCHEN TABLE**

Oregon's Kitchen Table is a program of the National Policy Consensus Center in the College of Urban and Public Affairs at Portland State University, and was created by a group of non-partisan, non-profit community organizations dedicated to helping Oregonians have a voice in public decision-making. Oregon's Kitchen Table creates public consultations to allow Oregonians to weigh in on policy questions posed by elected officials and public managers. Oregon's Kitchen Table has been used at the state, local and regional levels to gather feedback from a wide variety of Oregonians using both an online survey tool to solicit input from thousands of participants and in-person community gatherings of various sizes and formats. The online survey tool is not intended to be a scientific study; rather it is one way to allow the public to share ideas, beliefs, and values with decision-makers.

Using culturally specific and targeted outreach, Oregon's Kitchen Table has a particular focus on hearing from Oregonians who have been left out of traditional engagement processes. We work with organizers, translators, and interpreters so materials and online and in-person consultations are available for Oregonians who speak a wide variety of languages and learn in a variety of ways. We recognize that people bring all different levels of knowledge and familiarity regarding issues and policies.

We use approaches to ensure those who may not have as in-depth knowledge can still respond and share what they believe and have experienced.

## OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

The purpose of this Oregon’s Kitchen Table project was to hear from people throughout Clatsop County about what matters most to them in regards to housing, county services, community involvement, and economic development in the county. In order to reach a number of different communities in different parts of the county, we designed a multi-faceted approach. We held two public meetings in rural parts of the county as well as a Zoom public meeting open to anyone living or working in Clatsop County. We also offered an online questionnaire in both English and Spanish. We conducted outreach to Spanish speaking and Latinx / Hispanic community members at a vaccination clinic held by Consejo Hispano, a community-based organization focused on serving Spanish speaking and Latinx / Hispanic community members in Clatsop County. We also partnered with Clatsop Community Action (CCA) to distribute paper questionnaires in both Spanish and English at one of their weekly food banks.

The results of this engagement provide a sense of the values and beliefs held by those who participated at this particular time.

## FINDINGS

The following commonly held perspectives emerged across various discussions, communities, geographic regions, and the responses through the online questionnaire:

- Knowledge about the Comprehensive Plan is limited, with slightly over half of participants saying they knew either “some” or a “little bit” about the Comprehensive Plan.
- While just over half of participants say they “want to see the county grow by bringing new jobs and businesses into the area, even if it increases the number

of year-round residents,” there are also many people who either want the county to stay as it is or grow its year-round population only a little bit.

- It is important to people to increase the housing options and availability for year-round residents and people who work in Clatsop County.
- People were more likely to 1) select natural resources or 2) healthcare and social services as the top two sectors for the economic future of the county.
- Many people are concerned about current infrastructure in the county, both with regard to meeting current needs as well as satisfying the needs created by any future growth.
- Transparency and community involvement in decision-making is important to people.

There are also some notable areas of disagreement:

- While more people wanted to see more public services even if their home or business became part of a city and they paid more in taxes, many people also disagreed with wanting to incorporate or pay more in taxes to receive more public services. In addition, many people also weren't sure how they felt about the topic.
- People also hold different views on how easy or hard it is for them to share their thoughts on issues like land use with the County.
- In terms of ways to involve the community on important decisions, “Have a bigger variety of people on county advisory boards or task group” was one of the top four choices for people, no matter what language they prefer. There are, however, different preferences regarding community involvement depending on people's language preference.

## **SECTION 1: PROJECT GOALS AND DESIGN**

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### **BACKGROUND**

Beginning in 2019 six committees--consisting of 34 volunteer members -- conducted more than 100 in-person and virtual meetings. Public educational workshops on topics addressed in the plan were hosted by staff from various state and local agencies, including the Department of Land Conservation and Development, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Oregon Department of Forestry, the Clatsop County Historical Society, the Lower Columbia Preservation Society, the Clatsop Soil and Water District and the Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce. The Clatsop County Planning Commission also conducted 21 public hearings regarding the proposed amendments. The public, volunteer committee and agency input gathered during this period was incorporated into the first drafts of the goals and community plans.

The input from the public engagement that Oregon's Kitchen Table hosted in partnership with the County will be integrated into the final drafts presented to the Board of Commissioners in July 2022, with final public adoption hearings tentatively scheduled for September 14 and 28, 2022.

### **ENGAGEMENT GOALS**

The purpose of this project was to hear from people in different parts of the county - particularly more rural parts - about what mattered most to them regarding housing, county services, economic development and community involvement as the County updates its Comprehensive Plan. The project also created opportunities that made it easy for Spanish speaking community members and people living with low-incomes to participate.

### **DESIGN / OUTREACH**

In order to reach people throughout the county, Oregon's Kitchen Table developed a multi-faceted set of engagement activities. OKT conducted two in-

person community meetings, one community meeting via Zoom, hosted an online questionnaire in both English and Spanish, and provided the questionnaire in Spanish on paper to people at a COVID vaccination clinic as well as in both Spanish and English at a weekly food bank.

Outreach for the community meetings and the online questionnaire was primarily conducted by Clatsop County through multiple channels, including through multiple email lists, a direct mailing to residents in unincorporated parts of the county, the county website, an alert message, and social media. Outreach also included an email to Oregon's Kitchen Table email list and social media posts. Consejo Hispano also conducted outreach in Spanish and connected community members to a Spanish speaking member of Oregon's Kitchen Table team to assist with responding to the online questionnaire over the phone.

Because this engagement is intended for the general public, it assumes that respondents bring different levels of knowledge and familiarity regarding county government and planning. It was our goal to ensure that those who may not have as in-depth knowledge can still respond and share what they believe and have experienced.

Across all forms of engagement, people were given some background information about what a Comprehensive Plan is and the need to periodically update the Plan. They were then asked a series of questions to get a sense of their values and beliefs around growth, housing, economic development, and community involvement. People were given opportunities to share any other thoughts with county commissioners they might have. All participants were asked where they lived in Clatsop County. The online and paper questionnaires also asked additional demographic questions.

The community meetings were designed as opportunities for the County to hear from residents in more depth about trade-offs related to housing, the economy, and community involvement. They were also designed for participants to hear from and

learn from each other to gain a better understanding of what might matter to their fellow county residents. In this format, facilitators were able to ask people to explain their thinking or reasoning in more detail. Participants also had the chance to ask each other questions and to build off of one another's ideas.

The beliefs, values, and thoughts that people shared through different forms of engagement have been integrated in this summary report.

## **PARTICIPATION**

About 250 people participated in the different forms of engagement activities. A total of 202 people responded to the OKT questionnaire available in English and Spanish with 68 of those people answering questions on paper in either English or Spanish. While the majority of people who responded by paper questionnaires at the clinics responded in Spanish, a few people selected to respond to paper surveys in English. Across the online and paper questionnaires, 86% of participants selected English as their preferred language while 14% selected Spanish. Approximately 50 people participated in the three community meetings held May 19<sup>th</sup> (held at the Knappa High School Library), June 2<sup>nd</sup> (held at Jewell School) and June 14<sup>th</sup> (held via Zoom).

Attendees at the two in-person community meetings primarily came from the surrounding areas where the two meetings were held (Knappa-Svensen and Jewell, Elsie-Vine Maple or Hamlet) with a few residents of other Clatsop communities also in attendance. Participation from other Clatsop communities was higher through the online and paper surveys, with 27% from Astoria, 19% from Seaside, 10% from Warrenton and 8% from Gearhart.

The majority of participants across all forms of engagement reside in Clatsop County, with 10% owning property in Clatsop County but residing elsewhere. In addition, slightly over half of participants (53%) work in Clatsop County and 25%

own or manage a business in the county. 64% have lived in the county for over 10 years, with the largest group having lived in the county for 21 years or more (46%).

## **SECTION 2: COMMON THEMES and DISTINCTIONS**

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### **AWARENESS OF CLATSOP COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

While people were somewhat aware of the County's Comprehensive Plan, knowledge is limited with the largest group (46%) of participants selecting "I didn't know at all" when asked how much they knew. Just over half knew "some" (26%) or "a little bit" (26%).

There is also some confusion regarding what is within the County's jurisdiction to affect through the Comprehensive Plan. Some people shared thoughts about policies made or approaches taken at the city level while others shared their thoughts about decisions made at the school district level.

### **PERSPECTIVES ON GROWTH IN GENERAL**

We heard differing perspectives on growth in general in response to different questions and in the discussions at the community meetings. When asked about the future of Clatsop County, about half of people (51%) who responded to the questionnaire selected "I would like to see Clatsop County grow by bringing new jobs and businesses into the area, even if it increases the number of year-round residents." The other half were divided between "I would like to see Clatsop County have a relatively stable year-round population growing little but with an increase in the number of visitors, such as for recreation or tourism" (27%) and "I would like to see Clatsop County stay pretty much the same as it is now" (23%).

In discussions at community meetings, some people noted that a lot of people live in the area because they like it quieter, so promoting a lot of growth may disrupt aspects of the community that people like. Others emphasized the need for growth, particularly for young families, because they see challenges in community building events and activities due to the size of the population. Others shared that they feel

while there was some room for growth, they want to see limited growth while making sure to still maintain the county's current look and feel.

We also heard a variety of concerns regarding growth, particularly related to infrastructure such as roads and water. Other people shared a desire to maintain open spaces and protect the natural resources and environment that Clatsop County offers.

### Excerpted Comments

Adding too much development strains local businesses unless we bring in more people who can do things like plumbing and electric. There's already long waiting lists for anything related to house issues that require a professional. There also needs to be an increase in access to medical care and veterinarian care. We can't keep building if we don't have the professionals to support the growth. Additionally, viewshed needs to be considered and the sensitive ecosystems.

Currently we do not have the highway/roadway infrastructure to support dynamic population and business growth.

Porque al aomentar el turismo, el condado se beneficia de muchas formas, respecto al creamiento económiro, genera nuevas y mejores oportunidades laborales y de negocios, crece el capital y crece el condado, siempre y cuando haya un turismo sustenible y amiyable con el medio ambiente. *(Because by increasing tourism, the county benefits in many ways, in terms of economic creation, generates new and better job and business opportunities, capital grows and the county grows, as long as there is a sustainable and environmentally friendly tourism.)*

We have little land suited for the development of either business or homes - our land is hilly, with mountains, water, and wildlife. People come to enjoy the great out doors... We need to provide another state park

Tourism is the #1 economic opportunity for the region and I support having more visitors. I do not, however, want to see more land converted into housing or other development, but would rather see town infill projects to refurbish existing properties into better housing.

## PERSPECTIVES ON HOUSING

One of the top concerns that we repeatedly heard from participants was related to housing. 53% strongly agreed and 32% agreed with the statement “I would like to see the county focus on making sure that people who work here can find a place to live. I want this even if it means we focus less on tourism money.” Many people shared concerns regarding housing in the county, including the following:

- A lack of available and affordable housing
- Property owners’ ability to build additional housing units on their property, particularly to help family members secure housing in the county
- The county’s ability to bring in new businesses and jobs due to a lack of housing
- Ability to pay for rent or to purchase a home with the area’s current wages, particularly for those working in the in tourism or hospitality sectors
- Increase in population experiencing homelessness
- Impacts of short-term rentals (STRs) on the housing stock

Nearly 75% of participants said that they want property owners to be able to build more housing on their own properties, even if it means some parts of the county don’t keep the same look or feel. Some people noted that there are geographical differences in Clatsop County and that it is important to them when considering zoning and regulations around housing. As one person said, “What is good for one community may not be best for another community.”

We heard a desire from some people to see a variety of different types of housing options while others feel strongly about maintaining the look and feel in rural parts of the county when it comes to types of housing. In one community discussion, while there was general agreement around the need for more housing and

development, there was also agreement about not wanting to have multi-family housing units.

We also heard some differences in beliefs regarding STRs. Some people view STRs as contributing to a reduction in housing stock and creating more of a focus on tourists rather than year-round residents. We also heard from property owners who want to have the flexibility to build or offer an STR on their property.

### Excerpted Comments

We have too many tourists and part year residents right now. We do not have enough affordable housing and most certainly not enough services to support the residents here year round. Since this is our workforce, we need to build up systems and supports to sustain them.

"Las familias en Clatsop necesitan que se fabriquen más viviendas ya que no hay viviendas suficientes para todos y esto hace que las pocas que hay tengan precios tan altos que la mayoría no puede pagar. *(Families in Clatsop need more homes to be built as there are not enough homes for everyone and this makes the few there are priced so high that most cannot afford. Most of the families in Clatsop have jobs related to tourism and their salaries depend on the number of tourists that visit the town, so it is important to keep tourism active.)*"

Affordable housing is next to impossible. I have seen young families leaving as they can't afford to buy a home. Not sure the best way to address the problem, but we can't depend on tourism for everything and we need diversification in the job market.

Escogí una población relativamente estable que crezca poco por que actualmente tenemos un problema con el aumento de la población en los últimos años sin haber aumento en la Construcción de viviendas lo que se traduce en mucha gente no teniendo donde vivir y una gran alza en los precios de las viviendas disponibles. Tenemos una gran crisis en la disponibilidad de viviendas actualmente ya que la población ha crecido considerablemente y la disponibilidad de viviendas es la misma. Por otro lado, creo que es importante el turismo en nuestra localidad, ya que una gran cantidad de residentes locales dependen del turismo para sus negocios y empleos. *(I chose a relatively stable population that grows little because we currently have a problem with the increase in population in recent years without an increase in housing construction, which translates into many people not having a place to live and a large rise in prices of available homes. We have a major housing availability crisis right now as the population has grown considerably and housing availability is the same. On the other hand, I believe that tourism is important in our locality, since a large number of local residents depend on tourism for their businesses and jobs.)*

### Excerpted Comments (Continued)

Clatsop County needs housing, housing, and more housing. There is no way to grow the county without building housing, affordable housing, workforce housing, housing, housing, housing, and more housing. Until Clatsop County builds SIGNIFICANT amounts of housing it has no chance of having a stable year round population - to live here, to work here, to support the tourism here.

I am seeing so much construction in natural areas in the county - I know we have a housing shortage, but I am concerned that we are losing some beautiful areas as well. We live here for the quality of life and I would hate for us to lose that completely.

There is great pressure to increase the housing in the county. Do it responsibly. Do not extend urban growth boundaries. Reevaluate the true needs. Apartments, Duplexes, Cluster Cottages. People in this area aren't homeless because they can't find a house to buy or rent. They can barely afford an apartment. We need to help people to help themselves, not make it completely out of their reach.

## PREFERENCES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

There was general agreement among participants throughout the different forms of engagement about their top sectors when thinking about the economic future of the county. In the responses to the questionnaire, people selected natural resources (30%) and healthcare and social services (24%) most often. These were also the two that people discussed in community meetings. While tourism wasn't one of the top two, 13% selected it as an option in the questionnaire and it often came up in people's responses. One person noted, "The tourism has taken a bigger part of the economic system in the county, however, the jobs and the pay for that activity are low. There is a mismatch in this regard. What people in the community are looking for are other types of economic activities that allows us to have better jobs and better pay."

When asked what people most need in order for their family or business to prosper, some common responses emerged, including:

- Access to healthcare, including bilingual healthcare services
- Mental or behavioral healthcare

- Housing options and more affordable housing to attract both potential employers as well as employees
- High speed internet access, particularly in rural areas
- Childcare
- More opportunities and activities for young children and families
- Higher wages
- Lower taxes
- Improved infrastructure
- Social services
- Fewer restrictions when starting up a small business

### Excerpted Comments

There is a lack of childcare throughout the entire county. It is expensive because it is scarce. Many families limit their income so one spouse stays home, which then limits their economic development.

Vivienda a un precio razonable. Servicios de salud bilingües. (*Housing at a reasonable price. Bilingual health services.*)

Solid internet, good medical facilities and small businesses.

Honestly I think the potential is here for my family to prosper however everything has gotten SO much more expensive. I can't afford land/larger home for my family of seven, gas, groceries, I homeschool instead of work because the school systems are terrible (even though some good people work there)- and I don't agree with the agenda that is being taught to our children.

We need opportunity available to us to build on property more freely, and use that property how we see fit within reason. Specifically allowing short term rentals in rural areas outside of the more popular areas close to the beach. Our ideal scenario would be for us to build on a property that we'd rent as a short term rental. This scenario wouldn't affect available housing for year-round residents since we'd create a new housing unit that didn't previously exist. The other thing we need for our family is a steady flow of tourism related to recreational fishing.

Less taxes and less regulations. Every time you turn around government needs more money. I don't mind paying my fair share but when I do I expect to visually see improvements in my community with the money I'm paying in taxes.

## PUBLIC SERVICES

In the online and paper questionnaires, participants were asked if they would like to get more public services, even if that meant paying more in taxes and their home or business becoming part of a city. More people leaned towards agreeing with the statement (33%) than disagreeing (28%), though 40% selected either “I don’t know or I’m not sure” or “This question doesn’t apply to me”.

While “agree” and “disagree” responses came from a variety of communities across the county, there were some distinct preferences within each geographic area. The following breaks down how people who identified as living within a particular community in Clatsop County responded to this question:

- Respondents from Arch Cape / Falcon Cove were more likely to select “agree” (60%) vs “disagree” (40%).
- People from Astoria were more likely to select “disagree” (43%) or “This question doesn’t apply to me” (26%) vs “agree” (22%).
- People from Cannon Beach more likely to select “agree” (70%) vs “This question doesn’t apply to me” (30%).
- Clatsop Plains residents were more likely to select “agree” (60%) vs “disagree” (20%) or “This question doesn’t apply to me” (20%).
- While Gearhart residents were most likely to select “This question doesn’t apply to me” (31%), they were split among “disagree” (25%) and “I don’t know or I’m not sure” (25%). 19% selected “agree.”
- People from Jewell, Elsie-Vine Maple or Hamlet were more likely to select “disagree” (71%) vs “agree” (14%).
- HWY 202 or Olney participants were more likely to select “disagree” (60%) vs “agree” (40%).
- Respondents from Knappa-Svensen were more likely to select “agree” (49%) vs “disagree” (22%).
- Seaside residents were more likely to select “I’m not sure or I don’t know” (49%) than either “agree” (23%) or “disagree” (10%).
- People in Warrenton were more likely to select “agree” (40%) vs “disagree” (35%).

## Excerpted Comments

### From those who selected “Agree”

Incorporation may allow the community to make decision for themselves

I think it is a fair trade off if I pay more in tax and less in utility bills.

Pienso que independientemente que tengamos que pagar mas taxes, es importante que existan mas servicios públicos. Para mi es como si quiero vivir bien tengo que pagar por ello, quiero buena salud, debo pagar seguro, quiero una casa para vivir, tengo que pagar renta o mortgage, quiero un celular inteligente, hay que pagar un plan, quiero un carro, debo pagar por el. etc. Nada para mi es gratis y si quiero un mejor bienestar para mi familia, se que para obtenerlo habrá que pagar mas. *(I think that regardless of whether we have to pay more taxes, it is important that there are more public services. For me it is as if I want to live well, I have to pay for it, I want good health, I have to pay for insurance, I want a house to live in, I have to pay rent or a mortgage, I want a smart cell phone, I have to pay for a plan, I want a car, I have to pay for it. etc. Nothing for me is free and if I want a better welfare for my family, I know that to obtain it I will have to pay more.)*

### From those who selected “Disagree”

As someone who lives in a rural area. The only thing that is not provided is a pool and library. We have a great fire department in sheriff's office. Why would I want to pay more for services like that when at half the cost I get great service if not better. I can get library services on Google and can put a pool in my backyard also for a fraction of the cost I would pay the city. I couldn't even afford my house if I had to pay the taxes people do in city limits. I would have to leave the county.

I don't think increasing taxes is the right answer. I think better management is the right answer.

### From those who selected “I’m not sure or I don’t know”

Depends on the value and type of public services

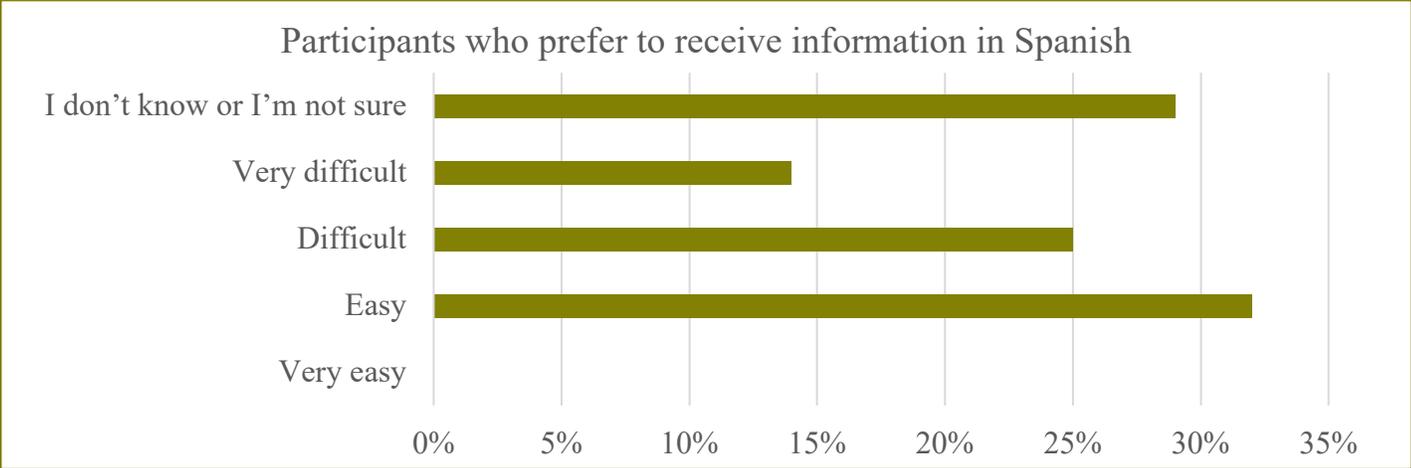
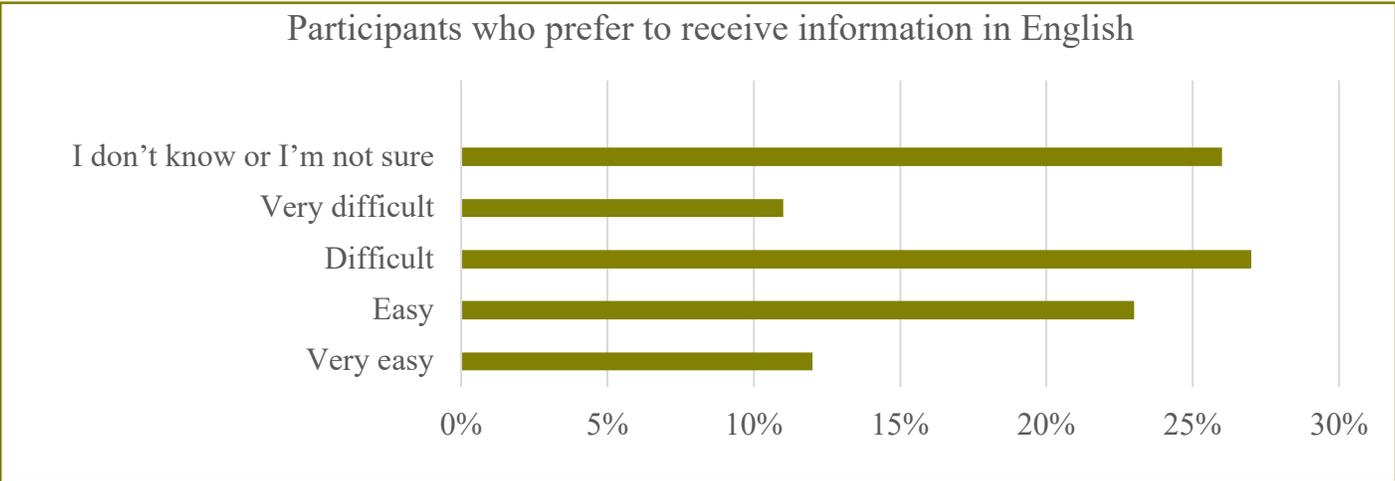
Not sure that I can afford more taxes, but as more people move into the area we need to keep up with the population growth in the area.

I would be willing to pay more taxes if it was for services in my rural community that are beneficial to a majority of the citizens. I would not be willing if it was for services to which I am opposed.

**COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

The questionnaires and community meetings also provided opportunities for people to share how they want to see the County involve people in important issues like land use. The questionnaire first asked people how easy or difficult it was for them to share what they think on important issues with the County. Overall, 39% selected either “difficult” or very difficult” while 35% selected either “very easy” or “easy”. 26% selected “I don’t know or I’m not sure.” There were a few key differences in how people who prefer to use English responded versus those who prefer to use Spanish responded. These are noted in the Table A and Table B below.

**How easy is it for you to share your thoughts with the county on important issues?  
One such issue is land use.**



There were also some notable differences on how people thought the County could hear from more people on important topics. “Have a bigger variety of people on county advisory boards or task groups” and “Use social media” were among the top choices for both English and Spanish speakers.

Those who said they prefer to use English selected the following options as their top choices:

- Use online questionnaires (25%)
- Have a bigger variety of people on county advisory boards or task groups. Include people from different areas (19%)
- Hold town-hall style meetings focused on one issue or topic. (18%)
- Use social media (14%)

Those who said they prefer to use Spanish selected the following as their top choices:

- Translate so people who speak a language other than English can participate. (24%)
- Have a bigger variety of people on county advisory boards or task groups. Include people from different areas. (18%)
- Use social media. (18%)
- Host conversations at community events that I already attend. They might be at my church, school or a place where I volunteer. (14%)

In addition, people shared a desire for transparency and follow-up regarding how decisions about land use are made. Several people also emphasized that using easy-to-understand and accessible language was important to them as well. We also heard a desire to make sure that all parts of the county are included through both representation on commissions or advisory committees and in any in-person meetings or activities.

People also shared ideas for other methods of making sure people are informed or asked about their thoughts. The most common suggestion was to use direct

mailings, such as with tax or other bills the County already sends. While neither English speakers nor Spanish speakers selected “Use phone calls or text messages” as one of their top choices, several people shared that having a telephone option was important to them for a variety of reasons, including literacy levels, discomfort or lack of familiarity with online platforms, a lack of highspeed internet access, and a sense of safety. As one person said, “Para la gente indocumentada hay mucho temor en compartir lo que piensan entonces para ellos es preferible no realizar eventos en personas con ellos sino llamadas telefonicas como esta, dar la opcion para que la gente pueda hablar y dar su input. (For undocumented people, there is a lot of fear in sharing what they think, so for them it is preferable not to hold events in person with them, but rather phone calls like this one, giving the option so that people can speak and give their input.)”

### **Excerpted Comments**

"As to #11. do not stretch this out over a long time line. Be concise. People pay attention if there is a clear and resolute action plan. Take a month, make it COMP Month. Schedule thing with clarity and purpose. Do not allow time to fade recollection of the previous info gathering. Do a marketed focus campaign. Also make all your public presentations at a lay person standard, avoid jargon and that academic planner style overwrought speak."

county advisory boards should be in each of the county commissioner districts. this would allow for the community to funnel topics through their county commissioners who would vote directly on the topic. Having advisory groups loaded up with people from one section of the county does not allow for diversity nor does it allow for each of the areas in the county to have a voice. additionally it does not allow for county commissioners to hear from their constituents on the topics at hand. A small but extremely vocal constituent base tends to lead discussions and refuse to listen or even allow for the discussion of other viewpoints. this is easily seen by the difference in opinion of the advisory boards as compared to voted in commissioners.

The same people keep commenting and showing up. Those who aren't paying attention don't have a voice and usually don't find out until it is too late. There needs to be a longer time period for community involvement in major changes.

I would appreciate more transparency about why funding decisions are made. To take the distribution of ARPA funds, it was not made clear why within the emergency shelter support system the most money was allocated to the best funded organizations with the highest barrier services.

## SECTION 3: CONCLUSION

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This engagement process provides the County with a sense of what people most value and prioritize around topics related to land use in the county. The fact that there were pluralities in responses to many of the key questions underscores the challenge of adequately reflecting the public will in Clatsop County comprehensive planning. But it also offers a valuable opportunity to continue to engage the community with the County and with one another as plans are adopted and the implementation phase begins.

Given the desire we heard from people about transparency and follow up, we encourage the County to return to community members to share how their input was used in final decisions about updating the Comprehensive Plan as well as with future important decisions around land use. The County may also want to consider different avenues for involving and communicating about decisions with different communities in the county, particularly those who prefer to use a language other than English or who experience other barriers to participation.

## Appendix A. Clatsop County Comprehensive Plan Update – Annotated Questionnaire

### INTRODUCTION

You can help plan for the next 20 years in Clatsop County if you live, work or own property in Clatsop County.

Clatsop County is working with Oregon’s Kitchen Table to get your thoughts about updates to the county’s Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan guides zoning and how we use land.

The County Board of Commissioners wants to hear from you before the plan is done!

Please fill out this short questionnaire if you live, work or own property in Clatsop County. You can fill this out until June 17, 2022.

### BACKGROUND

#### What is a Comprehensive Plan?

Comprehensive Plans guide each county’s zoning and future land use.

An Oregon law says each county must make a comprehensive plan. The plans include goals for the counties. These goals address land use, community involvement, farmland, forestland, housing, and nature.

#### Why does the Comprehensive Plan matter to me?

Clatsop County’s plan is important for all of us! It guides decisions about what and where you can build on your property. It guides how you can use your property. It guides where you can put your business. It also guides where parks and boat ramps can be located.

We all can help make a plan that meets our needs for 20 years. The county board wants to hear from you. They want to hear about housing and county services. They also want to hear about community involvement and the economy. Your ideas will help them decide about plan updates.

You can share your ideas 2 ways:

1. Take the online questionnaire or fill out a paper one. The questionnaire is due June 17, 2022. You can pick a paper one up and drop it off by June 17 at Clatsop County Community Development Office. It is at 800 Exchange Street, Suite 100, Astoria, OR 97103. Hours are 7:30 am–4:00 pm Monday through Friday.

2. Attend a community meeting. Two meetings are in-person. One is virtual.

- In-person meetings:
  - May 19, 6:00 pm–8:00 pm, at Knappa High School Library (41535 Old Hwy 30, Astoria)
  - June 2, 6:00 pm–8:00 pm, at Jewell School (83874 Hwy 103, Seaside)
- Virtual (Zoom) meeting:
  - June 14, 6:30 pm–8:00 pm

## Appendix A. Clatsop County Comprehensive Plan Update – Annotated Questionnaire

And please ask people you know in Clatsop County to share what they think, too.

### Will my answers on this questionnaire be private?

Yes. All answers will be private (confidential). They will not be tied to your name or contact information, if you choose to share those.

You can read about Oregon’s Kitchen Table’s privacy policy here - <https://www.oregonskitchentable.org/privacy-policy>. If you have any questions, please email Oregon’s Kitchen Table at [info@oregonskitchentable.org](mailto:info@oregonskitchentable.org) or call 503-725-5248.

### How will the county use the results of this questionnaire?

Our county will get a report based on the questionnaire answers. Also, Oregon’s Kitchen Table will share with us what they hear from the public meetings. All of this will help the commissioners decide about the updates to the plan.

The report will also be posted on Oregon’s Kitchen Table’s website at <https://www.oregonskitchentable.org/results>.

## QUESTIONS

### 1. How much did you know about the County Comprehensive Plan before today?

RESPONSE CATEGORY	N=201
I knew a lot	3%
I knew some	26%
I knew only a bit	26%
I didn't know at all	42%
I'm not sure	3%

### 2. Think about the future of Clatsop County. Which one statement matches your opinion best? Please choose only one, even if you like a number of the statements.

RESPONSE CATEGORY	N=199
A. I would like to see Clatsop County grow by bringing new jobs and businesses into the area, even if it increases the number of year-round residents.	51%
B. I would like to see Clatsop County stay pretty much the same as it is now.	23%
C. I would like to see Clatsop County have a relatively stable year-round population growing little but with an increase in the number of visitors, such as for recreation or tourism.	27%

### 3. Please tell us about why you chose the answer you chose above.

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Responses available by request

**4. Please select which of these two statements you agree with most while you consider the future of the county. You might not agree with either statement entirely. You might agree with both. But please pick the one you agree with most.**

<b>RESPONSE CATEGORY</b>	<b>N=197</b>
I would like property owners in the county to be able to build more housing on their own properties. It might let family members afford to live in the county. I want this even if it means that parts of the county don't keep the same look or feel.	74%
I want the county to keep its current look and feel. I want this even if property owners in the county aren't able to build more housing on their own properties.	26%

**5. Please let us know how much you agree or disagree with the statement below. I would like to see the county focus on making sure that people who work here can find a place to live. I want this even if it means we focus less on tourism money.**

<b>RESPONSE CATEGORY</b>	<b>N=202</b>
Strongly agree	53%
Agree	32%
Disagree	5%
Strongly disagree	4%
I don't know or I'm not sure	5%

**6. Think about the economic future of the county. Please choose the two that are most important to you:**

<b>RESPONSE CATEGORY</b>	<b>N=381</b>
Natural resources (fishing, forestry)	30%
Manufacturing	10%
Tourism	13%
Teleworking (people can work from anywhere in the world)	9%
Healthcare and social services	24%
Trade	9%
Other	10%

**7. What things do you need most to help your family or business prosper?**

Responses available by request

## Appendix A. Clatsop County Comprehensive Plan Update – Annotated Questionnaire

**8. Please let us know how much you agree or disagree with the statement below. I know that to get more public services might mean that my home or business would become part of a city. It might also mean I have to pay more fees or taxes. I would like to get more public services anyway.**

<b>RESPONSE CATEGORY</b>	<b>N=202</b>
Agree	33%
Disagree	28%
This question doesn't apply to me	21%
I don't know or I'm not sure	19%

**9. Please share more about why you selected the answer above.**

Responses available by request

**10. How easy is it for you to share your thoughts with the county on important issues? One such issue is land use.**

<b>RESPONSE CATEGORY</b>	<b>N=197</b>
Very easy	11%
Easy	24%
Difficult	28%
Very difficult	11%
I don't know or I'm not sure	26%

**11. How could the county hear from more people on important issues? Please select the three ways that you would like to see the county do this. Select only three.**

<b>RESPONSE CATEGORY</b>	<b>N=510</b>
Use online questionnaires.	21%
Host conversations at community events that I already attend. They might be at my church, school or a place where I volunteer.	8%
Hold town-hall style meetings focused on one issue or topic.	15%
Hold county commission meetings at easier times for people to attend.	9%
Have a bigger variety of people on county advisory boards or task groups. Include people from different areas.	17%
Translate so people who speak a language other than English can participate.	9%
Use social media.	14%
Use phone calls or text messages	4%
Other	4%

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**12. Is there anything else you want to share with County leaders? Please use this space if you have other thoughts about housing, economic development, services, or community involvement in Clatsop County.**

Responses available by request

**13. Which part of Clatsop County do you live in?**

<b>RESPONSE CATEGORY</b>	<b>N=202</b>
Astoria	27%
Cannon Beach	5%
Gearhart	8%
Seaside	19%
Warrenton	10%
Arch Cape or Falcon Cove	2%
Clatsop Plains	2%
Jewell, Elsie-Vine Maple or Hamlet	4%
HWY 202 or Olney	2%
Knappa - Svensen	11%
Other	9%

**14. How many years have you lived in Clatsop County?**

<b>RESPONSE CATEGORY</b>	<b>N=202</b>
5 years or less	17%
6 to 10 years	15%
11 to 20 years	18%
21 years or more	46%
I prefer not to say	4%

**15. Do you live, work, or own or manage a business in Clatsop County? Please mark all that apply.**

<b>RESPONSE CATEGORY</b>	<b>N= 202</b>
I live in Clatsop County	86%
I work in Clatsop County	53%
I visit Clatsop County but live or work elsewhere.	5%
I own or manage a business in Clatsop County	25%
I own a home in Clatsop County, but my main residence is somewhere else.	10%
Other (please describe)	4%

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**16. Which races and ethnicities do you consider yourself to be? Please mark all that apply.**

<b>RESPONSE CATEGORY</b>	<b>N=199</b>
Asian, Pacific Islander	<1%
Black, African American, African, Caribbean	<1%
Hispanic, Latino, Latina	16%
Native American, American Indian, Native Alaskan	1%
White, Caucasian	75%
Another race or ethnicity not listed (please describe)	5%

If you would like to share in your own words how you describe your race, origin, ethnicity, ancestry or Tribal affiliations, please use this space:

**17. What language do you prefer to get information in?**

<b>RESPONSE CATEGORY</b>	<b>N=204</b>
English	86%
Spanish	14%
Other (please describe)	0%