



# What's Next, Alexandria?

## Take the Civic Engagement Poll!



*The City of Alexandria wants your feedback on how you like to participate in decisions about the City's future, your suggestions for improving the civic engagement process and the key topics you think we should discuss as a community. Your input will lay the groundwork for our first community discussion on civic engagement at which we'll provide the results of the poll and discuss how they can inform strategies for the future. After finishing the poll, if you have more ideas related to the City's civic engagement efforts, call or email us! Information is provided at the end of this poll.*

1. What is your connection to Alexandria? [Select all that apply, and/or fill in "other"]:

- I live here
- I work here
- I own a business here
- Other

If you answered other, please explain:

2. What is your age range?

- Younger than 18
- 18-25
- 26-35
- 36-45
- 46-55
- 56-65
- 66-75
- 76 or older

3. What methods do you use to get information about the City? [Select all that apply]:

- City of Alexandria Website or eNews alert
- Comcast Channel 70 – Alexandria's Government Access Channel
- Social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.)
- Newspaper (online or print)
- Radio or TV news
- Word of mouth, friends, neighbors, etc.
- Attending meetings (City Council, Boards/Commissions, community, civic association, School Board, etc.)
- Other
- None

If you answered other, please explain:

4. How do you participate in the public decision making process? [Select all that apply] :

- Attending City sponsored community meeting(s) on planning issues
- Attending civic, neighborhood, homeowners or tenants association meeting(s)
- Through the local PTA
- Through local nonprofit organization(s)
- Through neighborhood-organized projects or activities
- Providing comments to the City about a proposed public action, program, policy or plan
- Serving on an official board, commission, advisory group or coalition
- Serving as an officer or board member for a civic, homeowner or tenant's association
- Testifying at public hearing(s)
- Voting in elections
- I do not participate in the public decision making process
- Other

If you answered other, please explain:

5. Would you increase your participation in the public decision making process if you had different participation options available?:

- No, I would not increase my participation
- Yes, I would increase my participation
- I'm not sure

Please provide additional comments here:

6. The City often holds community meetings to solicit public feedback and create a community dialogue as part of the decision making process. Which of the following community meeting characteristics would make you most likely to attend (by importance)?:

	Important	Somewhat important	Not important
Childcare	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Convenient time (of day or evening) and/or day (week or weekend)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Refreshments	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Translation services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Transportation available or transit accessible	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
It is clear how my input will be used	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ground rules for participation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ample opportunity for public input	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Interactive, hands-on work	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Small group discussions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please provide additional comments here:

7. If you don't typically attend City-held community meetings, tell us why. [Select all that apply]:

- The meeting topics are not relevant to me
- I do not have time. I'm too busy with my career, family or other commitments
- I participate in other ways (City website, social media, local civic association, etc.)
- I'm confident my neighbors will represent my interests
- I'm satisfied with how things are going
- I am not aware of any community meetings
- Other

If you answered other, please explain:

8. What do you think are the most important ways to engage the community in public decision making?:

	Important	Somewhat important	Not important
Provide opportunities to explore issues through dialogue and deliberation, such as in small groups	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Provide opportunities for everyone to express their positions to a larger group, such as at City public hearings or on comment boards	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Learn from national/local experts and the experiences of other communities facing similar issues	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Offer the option of “virtual” participation via the web, both during and after public hearings, seminars, or other events	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Use statistically valid surveys to determine what issues are important to the community	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Invite the community early on in the planning process to identify the issues and opportunities that are important to them	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Make it easy to monitor a process through communication methods people already use like social media and email so they can participate in the way they choose	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please provide additional comments or suggestions here:

9. As the City works to improve the public participation process, please indicate the level of importance you place on each of the following:

	Important	Somewhat important	Not important
Acknowledge all points of view	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Allow the public to have input on the public engagement approach and planning process	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Establish common elements to all planning processes and plan documents	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Engage participants in more “hands-on” activities to actively build plans	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ensure that decision-makers receive the public’s input verbatim and unfiltered	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Keep the community informed about trends shaping the future	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Provide a broad range of options for public participation so anyone can be involved	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reach out to all segments of the community through community surveys	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Make it clear throughout the planning process how community input is shaping plan recommendations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please provide additional comments here:

10. As we explore what's next for Alexandria, what are the key topics you think we should discuss as a community? [Select the 7 topics most important to you. You may provide additional comments in the space below]:

- Affordable housing
- Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) enrollment trends, budget, land use implications
- Arts (role in economic development and quality of life)
- Community diversity
- Development and redevelopment
- Environmental quality
- Finances/budget (tax revenue, costs to provide City services and infrastructure)
- Healthy communities
- High quality architecture and public spaces
- Infrastructure maintenance and construction
- Neighborhood preservation
- Non-auto travel (transit, biking, walking)
- Open space, trails, recreation
- Traffic management
- Trends impacting the city's future – demographics, retail and office trends
- Other

Please provide additional comments or suggestions here:

*Thank you for your time!*

**Completed polls can be delivered to collection envelopes located in all City Libraries, City Recreation Centers, and City Hall, as well as some additional designated locations. Please call 703.746.3853 for information regarding additional locations.**

*Your input will be shared at our upcoming community meeting in November. If you would like to receive a report on the results of this poll and be notified of upcoming "What's Next Alexandria" events, please include your email address below, or call Carrie Beach, City of Alexandria, at 703-746-3853 or email [Carrie.beach@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Carrie.beach@alexandriava.gov).*

Email address, optional: \_\_\_\_\_

Your email address will remain private and will be used only for the purpose of City of Alexandria public outreach.