

RESIDENT WELL BEING:

Transportation

- Transportation
- Improve transportation in rural areas
- Develop reliable transportation/buses for county
- Transportation - Can we expand bus service into Enka-Candler area? Bus service into town would benefit many goals

Education/Schools

- Education opportunities tied to workforce needs – create opportunity system

Community (sense of, access to services, place-making)

- People are connected with community and neighbors and have purpose in their existence.
- Ensure older adults received comparable funding to children's services in Buncombe County
- Focus on the growing trend of elder neglect and fraud/scam prevention
- Improve/support aging in place
 - Caregiver support
 - We have great programs but little promotion of them
- Population growth – what our changing demographics needs
- Define population growth – age, race, education, profession
 - Determine each groups' strengths and needs
 - How best to address needs

Housing

- Affordable housing

Employment, Econ Development & Partnerships

- Living wage and social supports including affordable housing
- Living wage
- The widening divide between the 1% of the population and everyone else – the wage gap

Funding (taxes, alternate sources, add'l investment)

- Offer communities the option to collectively supply for regional specific need grants to solve their pressing issues and help them implement those visions – percentage of sales tax/population measure
- Stop encouraging so much tourism. Use more hotel taxes to support infrastructure instead of advertising for more tourism. Get rid of the agency that constantly encourages visitors – TDA.

Health/Substance Abuse/Mental Health

- More focus on drug rehab programs

Land Use, Development & Public Investment

- Begin intergenerational planning with all aspects of county planning, this will increase community vitality.

Natural Resources (water & air quality, greenspace, farmland & food)

- Everyone has access to quality food, water and healthcare

Recreation/Greenways/Healthy Life

- Greenways
- Bicycle incentives
- Expanded opportunities for positive experience with fresh food and/or healthy food environments
- County sets example for workplace and community wellness initiatives
- We should increase our recreational assets and ensure they are accessible by all, especially making sure each of our communities has assets in their communities
- Provide opportunities and facilities for residents to participate in physical exercise.

Accountability & Performance Measurement

- New section – Governmental Services
 - #1 in online services
 - Empire commission to limit expansion
 - Lead in collaboration with city and schools and Land of Sky
 - Create transparency mechanism
 - Empower oversight review team for 2 years

Rural Access/Connectivity

- We need a strong internet system countywide – not just in the urban area

VIBRANT ECONOMY:

Transportation

- Alternative transportation enables people to live and work in all areas of the county.

Education/Schools

- Affordable childcare options
- To have an educated workforce who will be trained for high paying jobs – special skills needed in robotics/computer programming

Housing

- Reducing high cost of housing

- More workforce living housing areas. Workers can't afford to live here

Employment, Econ Development & Partnerships

- Living wage and social supports including affordable housing
- Living wages – can't spend money if you don't have any.
- Incentives to small local vendors or to consumers who shop small
- Goal needs to be connected to percent of people below livable wage
- Support homegrown/entrepreneurial local and small businesses.
- Provide support and initiatives to homegrown businesses
- Lower restrictions to new businesses cost and fees
- Raise – encourage living wages
- To develop a program for business development to highlight the benefits of moving a company to Buncombe County.

Funding (taxes, alternate sources, add'l investment)

- Develop plan where people who already do live here do not have the tax base raised by development so high that they must move

Collaboration/Public Engagement

- Economic goals complementing and supporting other strategic goals
- Develop more areas where new innovators can share office space

Land Use, Development & Public Investment

- Improve infrastructure in Enka-Candler
 - Water/sewer down 19/23 to allow retail development

Recreation/Greenways/Healthy Life

- Strong community hubs of dense population and preserved greenspace for all to enjoy

Energy & Waste Reduction

- Solar/wind infrastructure. It would bring jobs and save money

Rural Access/Connectivity

- Full broadband coverage in county
- WE must ensure that every BC household has affordable, high speed internet; this directly impacts education, health, and economic outlook
- High-speed internet is accessible in every part of the county.

EDUCATED AND CAPABLE COMMUNITY:

Transportation

- Bring public transportation system to the county

Education/Schools

- A literacy program where seniors help new readers practice their proficiency. Good for both parties' brains!
- Access to education
- What can we do to increase traditional public school enrollment.
- Support our public schools in all areas – academic, social services, arts and extra-curricular
- Increase technical and trade based programs
- Educational institutions from preschool to college located in every community and access to those institutions for all citizens no matter their income level.
- Every BC citizen is able to pursue advanced education beyond high school to improve their quality of life.
- Redirect resources toward children in the classroom vs admin functions
- Provide incentives for GED recipients
- More funding for public education
- Develop a partnership with AB Tech to institute programs that will enhance our workforce
- Older adults have access to affordable continuing education
- The achievement gap no longer exists
- Support public schools – not private

Community (sense of, access to services, place-making)

- One-stop shop for older adults and caregivers that is county funded and supported with senior center, adult day center, meal site, exercise, resources, etc. Much like Family Justice Center
- Support working family caregivers as we do similarly to working moms and dads
- Do increase access for elderly to community services and programs

Employment, Econ Development & Partnerships

- Living wage and social supports
 - Obamacare
 - Food stamps
 - Reliable extended bus services
 - Construction of small-size affordable housing so that baristas, back-of-house restaurant workers have a path to home ownership
 - Minimum wage
- A Living wage
- Increase median income
- Home health/in-home aid – lack of people in these jobs
- Attract more major employers, mid-level employment opportunities, support agriculture, balanced tourism to keep our young people here, and the resources we spend on their education working for Buncombe as the age.
- Multiple, major employers in every region of county paying above average wages
- Create a unified, seamless talent force development for Buncombe County – expand goal beyond preschool

Children/Youth/Pre-K & Childcare

- Increase quality affordable childcare option
- Assure that all children 2-5 have quality free daycare and are offered developmentally appropriate learning.
- All youth receive a quality early childhood education
- All children have access to education beginning with pre-k or before
- Children have time to play – get outside and be creative

Funding (taxes, alternate sources, add'l investment)

- Look at property tax breaks for older adults

Recreation/Greenways/Healthy Life

- Improved nutrition and connectors with positive food environment/wellness initiatives

Rural Access/Connectivity

- Expansion of water and sewer regionally as well as broadband access

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP:

Transportation

- Better mass transit (Sorry ART Bus, ya just don't cut it)
- Provide free transportation in city/county
- Transportation and roads that allow better flow or eliminate traffic so they don't sit for long periods of time wasting gas

Community (sense of, access to services, place-making)

- End urban sprawl/create more of a community

Housing

- Protect land by making dense housing affordable and desirable (updated amenities, views of protected land)
- Accessible and affordable housing options for all incomes and ages

Land Use, Development & Public Investment

- County zoning
- Increase water and sewer access to eliminate septic systems and keep waterways cleaner
- Coupons if property is restricted zoning to give value for loss of use. Can sell for density credit later.
- Better zoning or implement zoning in all of county – empower officials to shape future – right now, hand-tied
- Incentives

Natural Resources (water & air quality, greenspace, farmland & food)

- Plant 100 more trees than we did the year before
- Farmland succession planning
- Conservation easements that do not preclude farming
- Support economically sustainable/viable working farms
- Increase long-term success of new and beginning farmers
- Develop and employ a plan for farmland and woodland preservation and management
- Conserve all prime soils for current and future farm sustainability
- Double land conservation efforts while we still have the undeveloped land
- Conserve green spaces, farmland, woodland in Buncombe County. Preserve critical view sheds.
- Ensure runoff and storm water regulations to reduce silt and waste entering our waterways.
- Protect clean water and air
- Save farmland – save undeveloped land
- Give more farmers tax benefits for smaller farms even if they aren't producing as much
- Preserve and protect farmland by ensuring aging farmers have reduced property taxes even when they can no longer physically farm

Recreation/Greenways/Healthy Life

- Create parks and preserve greenspace now for future generations
- Bike/walking trails connect our population hubs (European model)

Energy & Waste Reduction

- Comprehensive climate response plan
 - Take over the utility as enabled by NC 1976 (40 towns do this)
 - Insulate/retrofit housing
 - Enable solar capacity
 - Reliable, extended bus service
 - Restore train service
- I am very impressed with the phrase GREEN NEW DEAL and its growing adoption by many cities, states and countries.
- Recycling made easy
 - Better understanding of what can be and how
- Develop standards that are enforceable to combat greenhouse gases