

The background image shows the Lakeville City Hall building, a brick structure with large glass windows and a central entrance. Two flagpoles stand in front of the building, one with the American flag and another with a blue flag. Lush green trees are visible in the foreground and background. The text is overlaid in white on a dark blue background.

Envision Lakeville Task Force Interview Summary

Overview – Interview process

From June 2 – August 4, 2023, Envision Lakeville Task Force members interviewed members of the community. 62 interviews were conducted

Taskforce Interviewers:

Abdi Abdulle, Aly Bunting, Erin Duckworth, Eric Gieseke, Jared Herndon, Kelsey Holberg, Hassan Jama, Krista Jech, Tony Joseph, Kristina Kwan, Sarah Smith Larkin, Iftinta Mohamed, Ava Nielson, Roz Peterson, Rick Ringeisen, Lisa Schneegans, Vicki Schwartz, Molly Staack, John Swaney, Aida Tezera, Christine "Tine" Thompson, Kellie Wallia

Interviews: Primary Focus

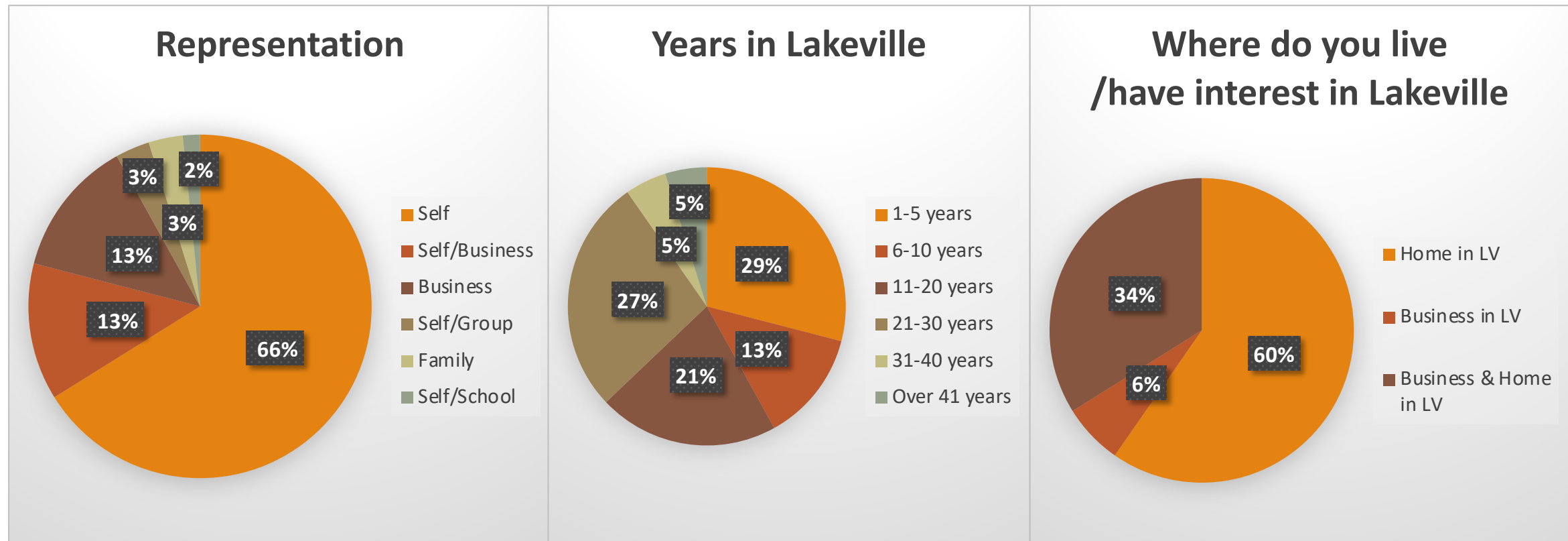
1. What they like about Lakeville.
2. Things to be improved in Lakeville.
3. Things to add for the future in Lakeville.

Interview Questions

1. Demographics snapshot: Representation (self, group or business), how long they've lived or been associated with Lakeville, where they live or have an interest in (home, business etc).
2. What do you like best about Lakeville?
3. What things about Lakeville could be improved? What do we need more of? Less of?
4. Lakeville is continuing to grow – we will add 10,000 people in the next 10 years (we are at 74,000 now). What advice would you give to the City Council about how to guide that growth?
5. What's the most important issue to the future of Lakeville?

Interview Responses: Demographics

- 62 interviews logged



Interview Responses: Demographics

- 62 interviews logged

Representation

Self - 41
Self/Business - 8
Business - 8
Self/Group - 2
Family - 2
Self/School - 1

Years in Lakeville

1-5 years - 18
6-10 years - 8
11-20 years - 13
21-30 years - 17
31-40 years - 3
Over 41 years - 3

Where do you live/have an interest in Lakeville

Home in LV - 37
Business in LV - 4
Business & Home in LV - 21



Interview Response Themes

Q.1 What do you like best about Lakeville?

- **Small Town Feel with Amenities:** Many respondents appreciate Lakeville's combination of a small-town atmosphere and the availability of various amenities, contributing to a balanced lifestyle.
- **Community & Family-Oriented:** The sense of community & family orientation is consistently mentioned, with respondents valuing the friendly atmosphere, safety and family-friendly environment.
- **Schools & Education:** The quality of schools & educational opportunities in Lakeville is a recurring theme, indicating that the City is known for its strong educational offerings.
- **Natural Features & Recreation:** References to lakes, parks, trails and green spaces highlight Lakeville's natural beauty & recreational opportunities, contributing to residents' quality of life.
- **Convenience & Location:** The City's strategic location, access to major highways and proximity to the Twin Cities is a plus.
- **Positive Community Engagement:** Many respondents appreciate the engaged community, support for local businesses, diverse activities and events that foster a strong sense of belonging.

Interview Response Themes

Q.2 What things about Lakeville can be improved? What do we need more of? Less of?



- **Urban Growth & Development:** Concerns and opinions about the City's growth and development including issues related to housing, population control, business development traffic congestion, road infrastructure and the balance between housing and business.
- **Schools & Education:** Comments about the state of schools, the need for support, and their impact on the community . Both the need for more schools and the desire for their improvement are mentioned.
- **Traffic & Transportation:** Reference to traffic congestion, road crowding, road improvements, transportation issues and the need for better traffic management and infrastructure.
- **Community Amenities & Infrastructure:** Requests for additional amenities such as parks, biking & walking trails, crosswalks, sidewalks, community centers, public spaces and retail options. Some comments touch on specific improvements like snow removal, road maintenance and sound barriers.
- **Diversity & Inclusivity:** Calls for increased diversity in City staff, leadership and representation, along with the need for more inclusive and equitable policies and initiatives, especially regarding employment and community engagement.
- **Restaurants & Retail:** Desire for more dining and shopping options, including upscale restaurants, diverse restaurants and high-end grocery stores. Respondents express a desire for greater variety of retail and dining in the City.

Interview Response Themes

Q.3 Lakeville is continuing to grow – we will add 10,000 people in the next 10 years (we're at 74,000 now). What advice would you give to the City Council about how to guide that growth?



- **Urban Growth & Development:** Concerns and suggestions related to the City's growth and development included housing, infrastructure, transportation and traffic management.
- **Schools & Education:** Emphasis on supporting schools and education, both in terms of infrastructure and resources, and the need to ensure schools can accommodate the growing population.
- **Business & Economic Development:** A focus on creating a business-friendly environment, promoting business growth, and diversifying employment opportunities within the City.
- **Community Engagement & Inclusivity:** Requests for increased diversity in employment, leadership and services, along with the importance of engaging with diverse communities and promoting inclusivity in decision-making.
- **Infrastructure & Amenities:** Desires for better infrastructure planning to match growth, including road systems, public facilities, parks and community spaces.
- **Retail & Services:** Calls for more retail options, restaurants, and services in the City to cater to the growing population and offer a range of amenities for current/future residents.



Interview Response Themes

Q.4 What's the most important issue to the future of Lakeville?

- **Preserving Small Town Feel:** Concerns about maintaining the intimate and small-town atmosphere despite growth and development.
- **Managing Growth & Taxes:** Emphasis on controlled growth, smart growth, and effective management of taxes to ensure affordability and sustainability.
- **Schools & Education:** Prioritizing high-quality education and schools along with concerns about school funding, curriculum, and maintaining standards.
- **Public Safety:** A strong focus on public safety, including the importance of a well-functioning police department and addressing mental health issues.
- **Community Engagement & Inclusivity:** Promoting diversity, inclusivity, and community engagement through representation, communication and fostering a sense of belonging.
- **Business Growth & Economic Diversification:** Encouraging business growth, economic diversification and creating opportunities for businesses and employment within the City.