

## Trends in multiple choice voting at the eight GDP Listening Sessions

### I. Introduction

The eight GDP Listening Sessions featured four groups of multiple choice questions, three essay questions, and an opportunity for verbal statements. Similar questions were asked in an online survey. The total attendance of the Listening Sessions was about 300 and there were about 400 respondents to the online survey. Much of the outreach data is posted at:

<http://www.aacounty.org/departments/planning-and-zoning/long-range-planning/general-development-plan/index.html#1b>

With reduced emphasis on small area plans in in the 2019 GDP, it is important to try to understand the geographical distribution of responses as much as possible. In the data below, the location of the Listening Session group of zip codes characterizing participants was the only geographical information available. The online survey has zip code data for each individual response. This full data set has been requested from the County, and this report will be updated to include the online data when this data becomes available.

### II. Local and county-wide trends

As shown in following sections, the identified issues of highest importance for the future of the County emphasize

- Protection of natural resources and water quality
- Provision of greenways, open space, and parks
- Rural conservation and preservation of community character
- Transportation
- Balancing growth and infrastructure and balancing economic activity and land use
- Education

It is also useful to consider the issues considered to be of lowest importance in the four multiple choice categories. These include

- Solid waste management
- Flooding and hazard mitigation
- Brownfields mitigation
- Housing variety
- Post disaster economic recovery
- New business support
- Health care
- Arts and cultural facilities

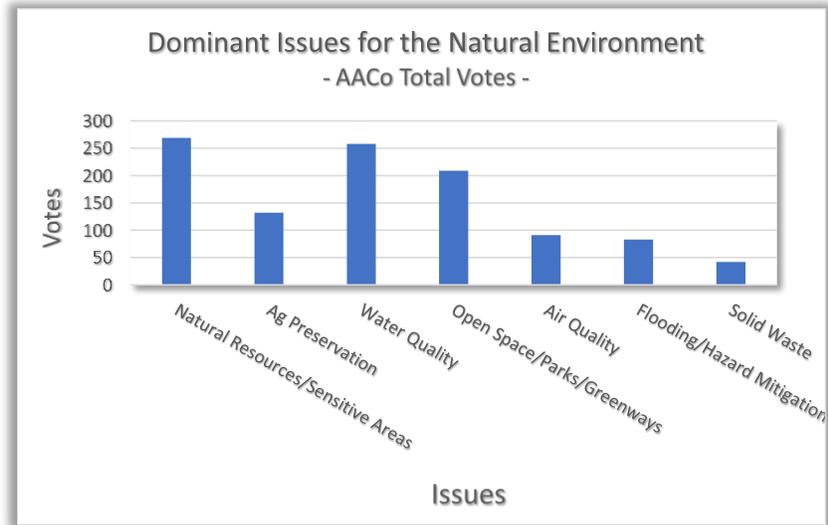
The fact that these latter issues, that are clearly non-negligible, are given a lower ranking helps us appreciate the degree of importance that respondents gave to the highest-ranked issues.

### III. Dominant issues for the Natural Environment

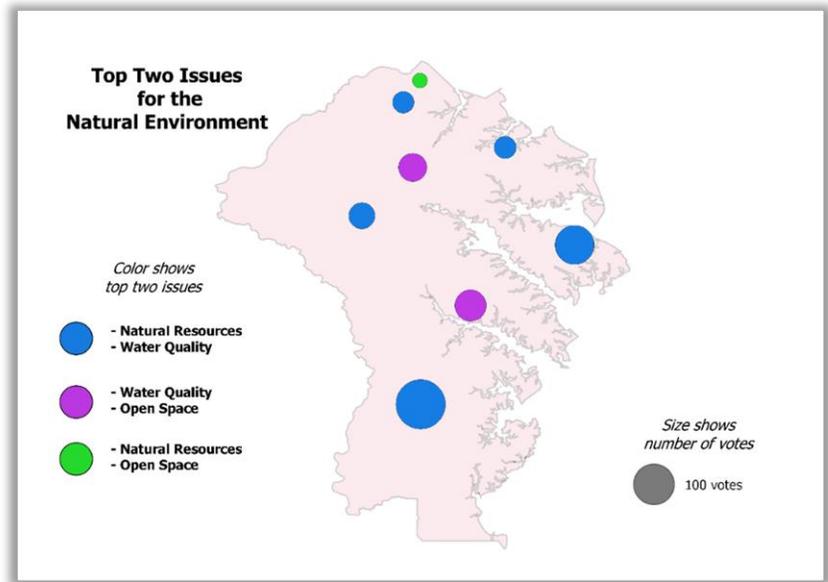
Throughout the County, dominant planning issues related to the Natural Environment fall in the areas of

- protection of natural resources and sensitive areas
- water quality
- open space, parks and greenways

In each of the Listening Sessions, the top two items identified by participants were in one of these three areas.

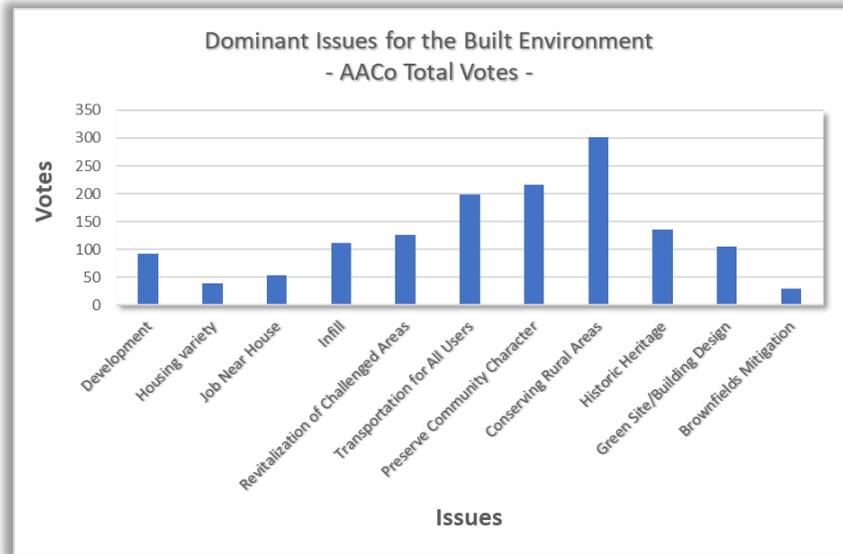


Although rural conservation is ranked near the top in issues for the built environment (see below), agricultural preservation ranked below natural resource protection, open space and water quality. The importance of these latter three issues for the natural environment was observed at all listening sessions.

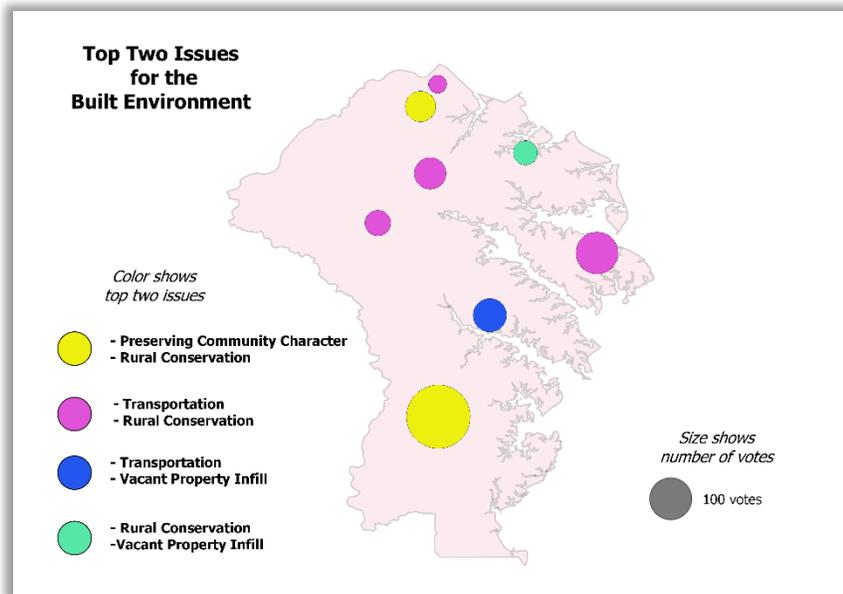


#### IV. Dominant issues for the Built Environment

Rural conservation was seen to be the issue of highest importance throughout most of the County. Preservation of the character of communities and transportation were also ranked highly.

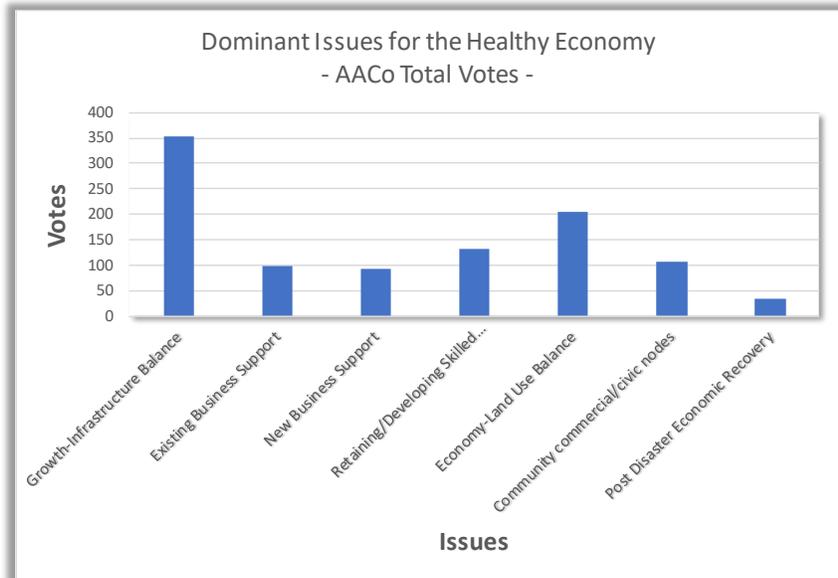


In most parts of the County, rural conservation and/or preservation of community character were in the top two issues of importance. However, in the Annapolis area transportation and vacant property infill were the top two issues, and transportation was highly ranked in four other areas in the northern part of the county

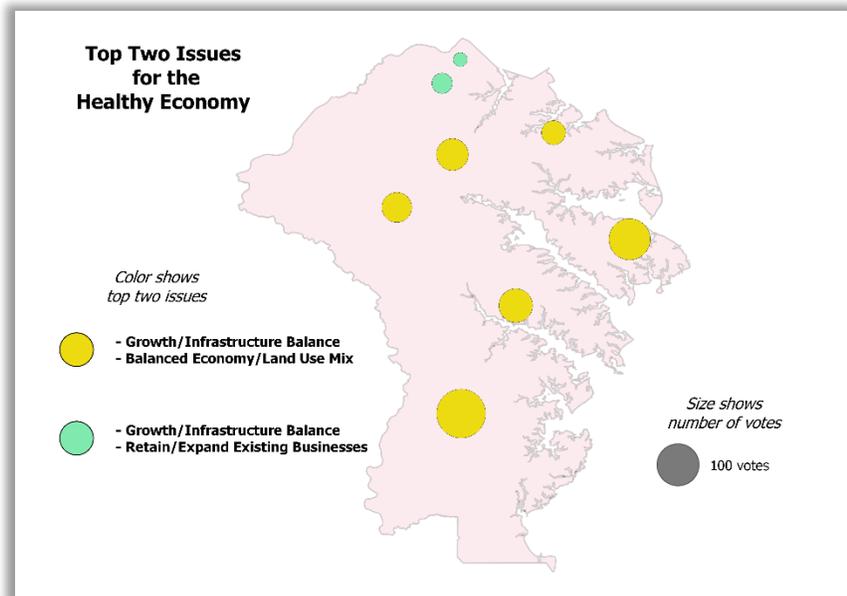


**V. Dominant issues for the Healthy Economy**

For creation and maintenance of a healthy economy, achievement of balances between growth and infrastructure and between economic growth and land use were clearly identified as the dominant issues in the County as a whole.

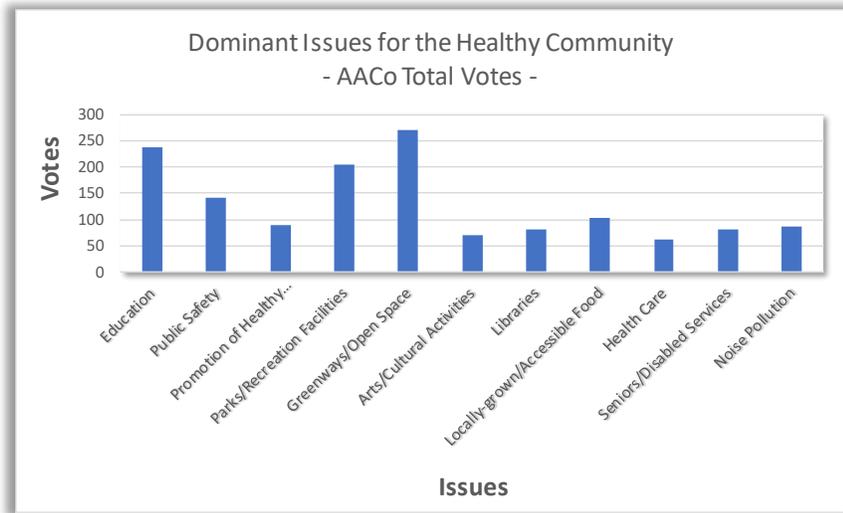


In the most northern Listening Sessions, retention and expansion of existing businesses was seen to be slightly more important than balancing economic growth with land use.

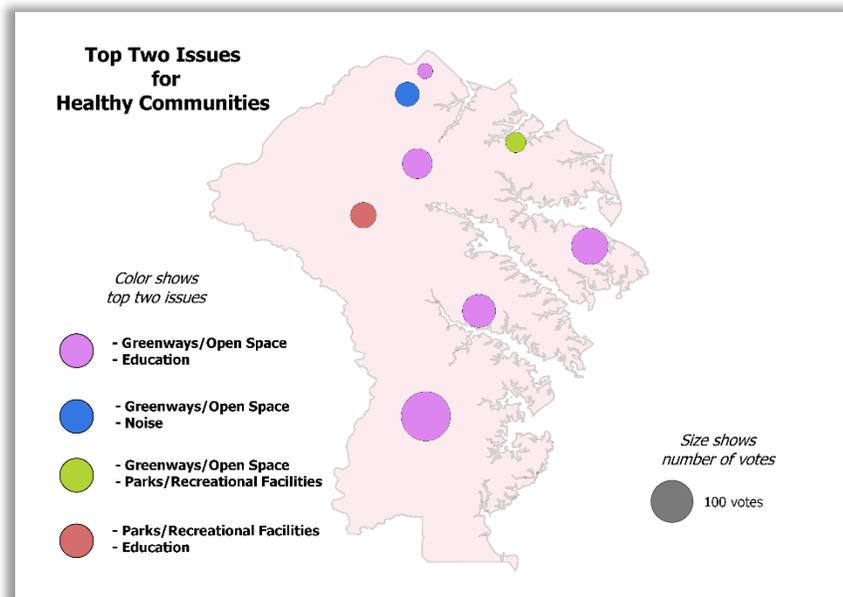


## VI. Dominant issues for the Healthy Community

Respondents identified the presence of greenways and open space, parks and recreation facilities, and good education infrastructure as the most important goals for promotion of a healthy lifestyle in the future evolution of the County.



In the North County HS session noise pollution was named as a key issue for the future. The session comments suggest that this may be due to proximity to BWI and light rail and to opposition to MagLev.



## VII. Geographic distribution of participants by zip code

The geographic distribution of Listening Session participants was concentrated in the eastern and southern portions of the county. This may reflect demographic differences as well as population density.

