

# OSU EXTENSION LISTENS TO OUR COMMUNITIES

Findings From A Regional Community  
Engagement Forum Hosted In Washington County



Washington County

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## Washington County One of 16 Community Engagement Forums Held Statewide

In spring and summer 2019, OSU Extension hosted community forums at sites across the state of Oklahoma. The forums sought to ensure that a wide range of community members were engaged so that their opinions and perspectives on important issues would be represented in OSU Extension's strategic planning.

### About OSU Extension

Oklahoma State University Extension is a thriving, sought-out, science-based educational resource dedicated to improving the lives of all Oklahomans. With a presence in all 77 counties, OSU Extension has the knowledge and leadership to help the state's citizens solve local issues and concerns, promote leadership and manage resources wisely through programs focusing on agricultural enterprises; natural resources and environmental management; food, nutrition, health and safety education; and youth, family and community development.

### OSU Extension Community Engagement Statewide Forums

#### Executive Summary

More than 400 people participated in one of the 16 OSU Extension community forums. They were asked to provide input on what they thought the most important issues facing their communities were going to be over the next 3 to 5 years. They were specifically asked about issues related to Families, Youth and Children, and about issues related to their Community, Economy (Farms and Businesses) and Natural/Environmental Resources. Based on the results of the community forums, researchers at OSU provided site hosts with results specific to their communities, as well as perspective on issues that came up as common themes statewide.

The forum results are summarized in a series of handouts and on the OSU Extension website. Extension educators will be using their results to engage the community in action planning around the identified issues and action ideas. Trainings for follow-up engagement activities are being offered to Extension educators so they will have an even greater ability to engage their communities authentically and effectively.

Results can be found online at [extension.okstate.edu/communityforums](https://extension.okstate.edu/communityforums).

## Top Issues and Action Ideas for Regional Forum Hosted by Washington County

### Children, Youth and Families

#### Promote a Strong Work Ethic

- No action provided

#### Promote Development of Basic Life Skills

- Provide classes on nutritional education
- Offer mentoring to encourage personal growth

#### Promote Nutrition Education through Gardening

- Work with Channel 11 to develop more programming like Oklahoma Gardening
- Create community gardens
- Provide 4-H Videos on YouTube and make other resources available online

#### Strengthen Employment/Professional Skills

- Hire an OSU educator to provide education on professional skills and guidance
- Create after school programs to teach on basic life skills

### Community, Economy (Farms and Businesses) and Natural/Environmental Resources

#### Conserve Water, Energy and Soil

- Offer a community recycling day
- Create a recycle, compost drop site
- Provide education on soil erosion and prevention
- Partner with city economic and business development committees on sustainability

#### Increase Economic Growth

- Research ways to increase economic growth in the community

#### Provide Education on Budgeting and Finances

- Host a series of seminars on financial literacy
- Use social media more effectively
- Create a YouTube series on budgeting and finances
- Create more Sunup programming

#### Promote Tourism

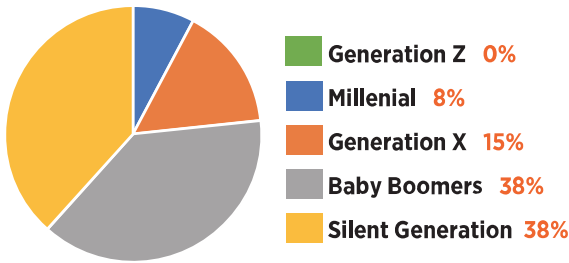
- No action provided



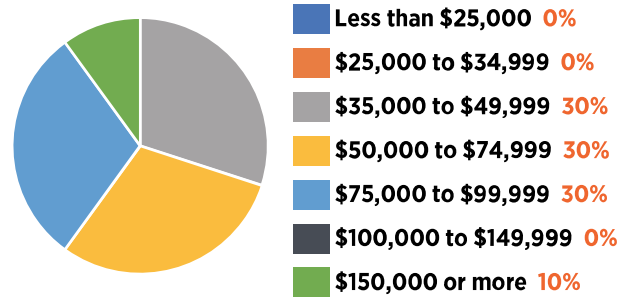
## Responses from Regional Forum Hosted by Washington County

Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number

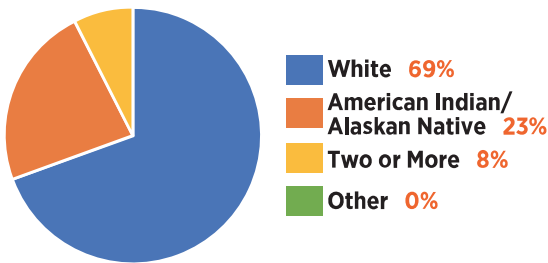
### Age Range



### Income Range



### Race/Ethnicity



### Gender



### Military Veteran



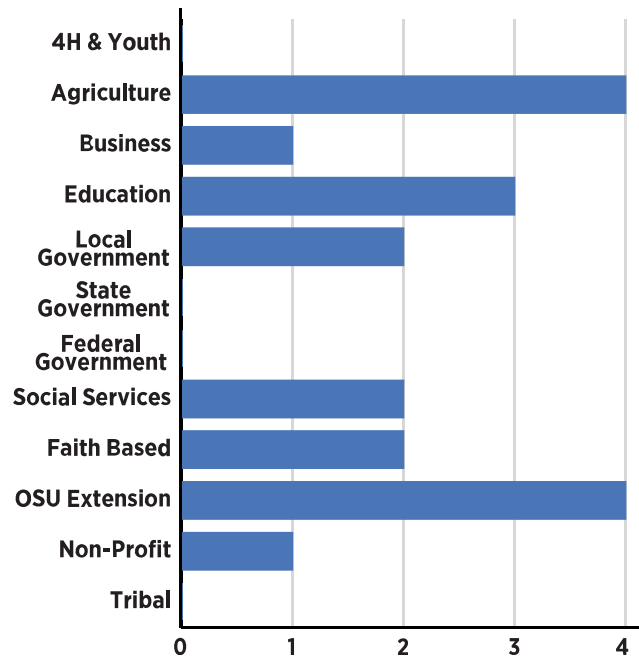
### Have a Disability



### Attended OSU Extension Program Previously



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