Positives and Negatives in Nashville

60% The percentage of **things that are positive** in Nashville.
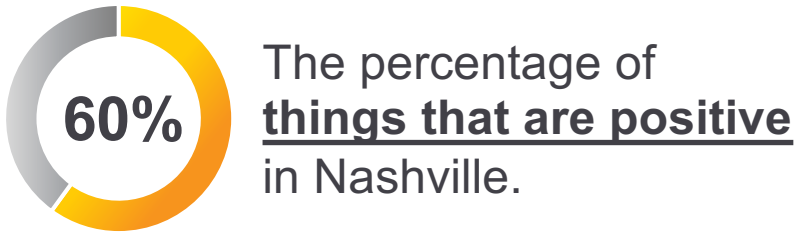
Top-5 Positives in Nashville

Selection rate for the top 3 positives among 16 options

46%	**Good restaurants, shopping, entertainment**
28%	**Creative gathering space for music, artists, etc**
27%	Vibrant downtown, Music City venues, events, and activities
27%	Lots of jobs/economic opportunity
25%	Good outdoor rec., parks, and green spaces

Top-5 Negatives in Nashville

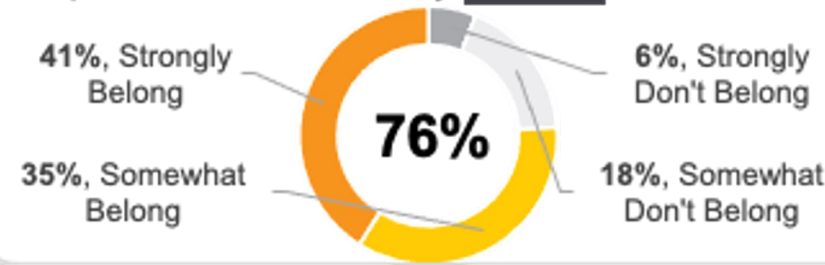*Selection rate for the top 3 negatives among 13 options*

39%	**Lack of affordable housing/shortage/cost**
38%	**Traffic/congestion/it's hard to get around**
37%	High cost of living
33%	Too much growth/not being managed well
31%	Lack of public transportation

Top-2 Favorite Visions For Nashville

Selection rate for the most and second most favorite vision among 5 visions

63%	**The Connected City**
50%	**Nashville's Neighborhoods are its Stars**
41%	Nashville is Home… The Place of Inclusion and Belonging
29%	Creativity, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship Supercenter
17%	Music and Arts Epicenter

The percent that feel they **Belong** in Nashville.

76%

- 41%, Strongly Belong
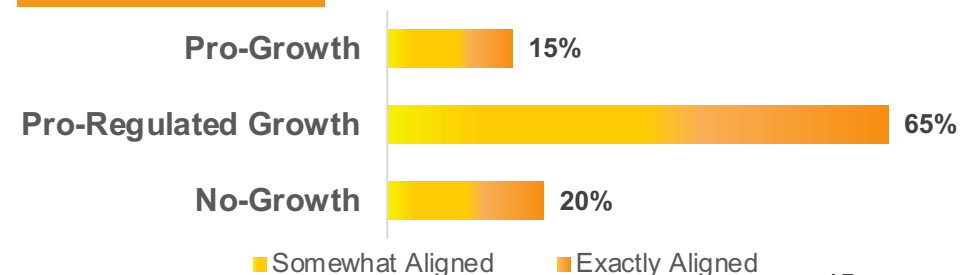- 35%, Somewhat Belong
- 6%, Strongly Don't Belong
- 18%, Somewhat Don't Belong

10 Very Important Neighborhood Features

Selection rate for the top 10 out of 15 respondent-selected features

Feature	%
Grocery stores	75%
Sidewalks with good lighting on both sides of every street	63%
Parks and green spaces	61%
Reliable garbage and waste removal	59%
Affordable housing options	57%
Bikeable and walkable throughout	55%
Schools	54%
Entertainment/restaurants	47%
Access to public transportation	45%
Police presence/Crime prevention resources	44%

Growth Impact on Nashville

A lot worse	A little worse	Neither better nor worse	A little better	A lot better
27%	29%	10%	22%	13%

Growth Orientation

Pro-Growth	15%
Pro-Regulated Growth	65%
No-Growth	20%

■ Somewhat Aligned ■ Exactly Aligned

45

IMAGINE NASHVILLE

Housing

Top-2 Goals For Housing

Selection rate for the most and second most important goals among 5 goals

54% **Ensure we are building a variety of housing options in all our neighborhoods to reduce housing shortages and lower housing costs**

43% **Make sure there is plenty of affordable housing in the communities of Nashville for people who keep the city going (musicians, artists, teachers, firefighters, police officers, etc.)**

42% Ensure people can afford to stay in their homes and are not being forced out

39% Ensure low-cost housing options are equally available to people of all walks of life

22% Eliminate homelessness

Affordability Priorities Importance

Mean score on a scale of 1-Not at all important to 10- Extremely Important

8.5 **Increase affordable housing requirements and incentives for developers to make sure they generate more affordable housing options**

7.8 **Build more compact and less expensive housing closer to where people live, work, and play**

7.8 Provide more buyer/renter assistance and support to get people into housing and help them stay there

7.6 Create more community partnerships and programs making more housing more affordable for more people

6.9 Build more homes to increase the housing supply which will bring down housing prices and help meet demand
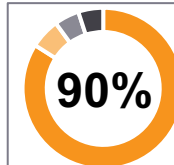
Education

Top-2 Goals For Education

Selection rate for the most and second most important goals among 5 goals

64% **Ensure they can support themselves as an adult in the real world**

48% **Provide a way to lift children out of poverty and level the playing field for their future**

43% Ensure they have the skills they will need to be successful in the workplace

31% Ensure they are well informed and able to engage in civic and political matters in their community

14% Ensure they are prepared for college

Education Priorities Importance

Mean score on a scale of 1-Not at all important to 10- Extremely Important

9.1 **Increase funding for public education (per pupil spending is way below comparable cities)**

9.0 **Improve teacher quality through better recruitment, compensation, training, etc.**

8.8 **Focus on early childhood health and education—without a good start, chances for success go way down**

8.7 Increase access to affordable, high-quality childcare and early childhood education

8.6 Increase school safety

8.4 Focus on modernizing our school facilities and materials—every child deserves a clean and up-to-date place to learn

8.3 Focus on failing schools to do whatever is needed to turn them around

8.2 Increase personalized student focus and support to teach kids in ways that best fit their individual needs

6.9 Increase the schooling choice and options available to parents to make sure their child gets the best education

90% Agree with the statement *Investing in public education is an important priority for Nashville*

# Mobility

Top-2 Goals For Mobility

Selection rate for the most and second most important goals among 4 goals

78% **Make it easier to get around Nashville—to and from downtown and from one place to another in the region (connecting different parts of the City and Downtown better)**

48% **Ensure everyone has good access to downtown and the important parts of the region—make transportation options equally accessible to all across Nashville/Davidson Co.**

42% Make it easier to get around inside the neighborhoods and communities where people live

33% Improve transportation safety and reduce crashes and personal injuries

Mobility Priorities Importance

Mean score on a scale of 1-Not at all important to 10- Extremely Important

9.2 **Improve and increase public transportation availability and options throughout the city (light rail, bus rapid transit, expanded bus service)**

8.5 **Improve bicycle and pedestrian connectivity and infrastructure across the city and in the surrounding communities (bikeable streets, sidewalks, greenway and trail networks, etc.)**

8.3 Reduce traffic congestion

8.1 Improve road maintenance and operations on existing roads

7.2 Construct new street and highway improvements to better connect parts of the city

7.0 Promote flexible and remote work schedules to reduce the need and impact of commuting
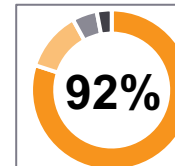
92% Agree with the statement *Investing in city-wide public transportation is an important priority for Nashville*

Housing

Comments

- For all homes built in an area (such as 1, 2 or 3 zip codes), build low-cost apartment buildings that house the same number of people in those same areas/zip codes, no matter where the houses are built (meaning, higher-income areas, too).
- Build dense housing along transit corridors
- If you lived in Nashville for 15+ years you automatically get a $200-$500 subsidy off of your rent. We need to keep locals here.
- Perhaps community-based jobs that are work/live—provide housing as a benefit of employment. Rent control, or some restrictions on how much landlords can increase rent year-by-year.
- Block out-of-town investors from buying up all of the houses and then increasing rent. In our current housing crisis when families are being displaced, I don't see why any large companies or investors should be allowed to own single-family homes.
- Build tiny home communities on city land that is vacant. Use these to allow families to get on their feet and eventually be able to buy their own home
- Either build subsidized housing for lower-middle income workers or require developers to include subsidized units in their developments for lower-middle income workers.
- Limit AirBnBs!
- Special considerations (tax breaks, credits) for certain lower paid professions to help them live in or closer to the communities they work in/serve - teachers, daycare workers, law enforcement, firefighters, restaurant workers, etc.

Education

Comments

- Focus on funding public schools, not charter schools or voucher programs
- Ensure that early childhood education and preschool is available to all students and families regardless of income. Provide more resources and services for low-income families and the schools that serve them.
- I am not an expert in education but know that teachers and staff deserve a higher pay. Public schools are most important and I want to live next to families with children who recieve a good education regardless of income, social status, etc.
- Start early with early childhood learning opportunities; continue to offer and expand options for young adults to complete GED; and support access to skills training and/or jobs that include skills training via Career Centers. Continue to offer adult education.
- Rather than one one, huge school system trying to apply a one-size-fits-all approach to education, we need to break the school district into mini-districts. This would get decision-making closer to families, neighborhoods, etc.
- School Choice!!
- There just has to be a vision of making public education something to be proud of in Davidson county and Nashville - not something to settle for if you cannot afford private school

Mobility

Comments

- Dependable and frequent light rail that extends to neighborhoods within Davidson County and to surrounding counties. Give incentives for commuters to use rail.
- More frequent bus routes. More cross city routes.
- Light rail or a trolley connecting East Nashville/Germantown/North Nashville/Midtown/Airport would do so much to free up congestion from people visiting the city and allow residents to easily get around in the dense areas without a car.
- Bus only lanes, community engagement and education to help drivers become more educated on pedestrian and biker rights, more HAWK and ADA compliant crossings. A huge part of this problem is lack of community education, stigma around public transit, etc.
- Light rail ASAP
- We need more sidewalks…
- Our local car culture will need to see future mass transit options as 'cool', convenient, affordable and safe. Local, regional and state leaders need to get on board with a 20- to 50-year vision of investment and move forward with commitment of resources.
- Light rail or street cars to connect all major neighborhoods to downtown
- We need to solve the traffic mess that is BNA currently. A light rail to the city center or area offsite with rideshare and pickup would be ideal. Since a large majority of passengers are going downtown a rail to the city center would help alleviate traffic.

Ideal Neighborhood

Comments

- A strong community association or neighborhood group.
- Community among neighbors - people who know [...] and support each other.
- It's wonderful when it's intergenerational and full of trees [...]
- LOCALLY owned small retail and restaurants
- Diverse neighbors ...economic, political, racial and age
- Along with the bikeability/walkability I would add controlling traffic speed.
- Safe spaces for families, sidewalks, well lit, green spaces
- Walkability and bike ability
- Medium-level density. Houses close together without being too densely packed.
- Having everything you need for day to day to living in one neighborhood, so you don't have to drive between neighborhood.
- Block parties. I grew up in the 12 South area and we all knew our neighbors because of the 12 South block parties on Montrose Ave. I miss the days of community engagement [...]
- Safety for everyone. Police present, good lighting, parks / green spaces, etc.
- More murals, support our nonprofit arts organizations and arts ecosystem.
- Affordable housing

One Change

Comments

- Housing that is affordable for people who rent, especially options for people who are currently unhoused, people who have past felonies, and working class folks who aren't able to afford luxury or current market prices.
- Save local businesses. There is zero help in saving small businesses. There is no rent control. There is no community effort. We all feel hopeless in my hometown. I was born and raised in Nashville and I feel like we are being forced out.
- A robust, safe, and affordable public transportation system
- Allow the people who have lived and loved Nashville for their entire lives to have access to affordable housing/cost of living raises. It is incredibly disheartening that as a native Nashvillian I do not know if or when I will ever be able to afford a home
- Connect all the greenways and make sure every street in Davidson County has a sidewalk.
- More support and understanding from the state government about what makes Nashville such a great place to live instead of seeing it as "the enemy" that must be put in its place. Nashville's success is Tennessee's success!
- Seriously need to improve the public school system to make it attractive to those who can afford private schools. There are two systems currently - the haves and have-nots - private and public.

Big Ideas

Comments

- Creation of Department of Creative Industries - arts, entertainment, culture built as a economic development engine rather than how we treat it now. Not fluff, but the glue and community identity.
- Be sure to include additional services for the elderly, 60+ population, as the percentage of this population increases, not just here, but throughout the U.S. This includes resources for healthy living/accessibility to basic needs.
- TRANSIT PLEASE. WE'RE BEGGING.
- Make sure that residents can benefit from the tourism and entertainment sector in our city, even if they can't pay the exorbitant prices that tourists do. I'm thinking resident discounts to any and all city-supported activities or venues.
- Why not become the center for the best public education model in the USA or world? Partner with colleges, foundations, high profile businesses (Amazon, Oracle) and government to envision and create the K-12 schools of the future?
- Nashville growing into a city that is more environmentally responsible. LOADS of recycling receptacles everywhere, more places to charge your electric vehicle, more protected bike lanes and completely connected greenway system.
- More mixed use zoning in neighborhoods. Allow small groceries, pharmacies, cafes, etc. mixed in with residential. Higher density.

Youth

Comments

- Encourage a vibrant culture of paid high school internships among both public and private sectors.
- More advanced academics More guidance counselors enabling each to work with a small enough number of students that each child and their family is known. With all the colleges & universities we have in Nashville, we should have the best teacher training
- Quality parks/outdoor recreation. Accessible public transportation and safe bike routes. Safe neighborhoods and affordable housing. Mentorship programs.
- Better childcare options, especially on days where schools are closed and parents are still working
- The library system is already great. Good job! Safety, safety, safety.
- Better and more appealing programming for kids at community centers and/or libraries. Publicly funded STEM labs for kids. On the job training opportunities as part of their education in high school.