

# Belzoni & Humphreys County Strategic Plan – 74 surveys

## Community Survey Questionnaire

Your answers to the following questions will help guide the effort to prepare a Strategic Master Plan for Belzoni & Humphreys County. The survey will be used as a tool and responses will be confidential.

- |   |           |             |            |       |             |     |
|---|-----------|-------------|------------|-------|-------------|-----|
| 1. What is your gender?                                 | Male - 18 | Female - 57 |            |       |             |     |
| 2. What is your age?                                    | 18-25     | 26-35       | 36-45      | 46-55 | 56-65       | 65+ |
|   | 3         | 13          | 10         | 17    | 12          | 18  |
| 3. How long have you lived in Belzoni/Humphreys County? | 0-5 years |             | 5-10 years |       | 10-20 years |     |
| 20+ years   |           |             |            |       |             |     |
|   | 6         |             | 9          |       | 5           |     |
|   |           |             |            |       | 54          |     |

### QUALITY OF LIFE

4. How satisfied are you with living in Belzoni /Humphreys County? (Circle one)

Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied		No Opinion
5	41	12	9		4

5. What do you like most about living in Belzoni/Humphreys County?

- small town convenience
- the cost of living
- medical facilities
- knowing everyone
- quiet town
- Friendly town
- family atmosphere
- caring community
- peaceful neighborhood
- library

6. What do you like least about living in Belzoni/Humphreys County?

- Continuous tax increases
- Leaders elected by popularity rather than competency
- Wasteful spending by city/county elected officials
- Very little population growth
- No activities for youth/adults
- Need more diverse stores so we can shop in town
- Lack of housing
- Lack of recreational/entertainment activities
- Lack of stores
- Poor academically performing schools
- City not kept clean
- Expensive car tags
- Complacency
- Poor streets/roads
- Loud music
- Pants hanging down
- Quality of city/county leadership
- Disrespectful citizens
- Law officers breaking laws
- More places to eat
- Race Relations
- Feel unsafe at times
- Only one grocery store (lack of competition )
- Slow law enforcement response
- Law enforcement think they are above the law
- Many people hanging out on the street corners
- Declining population
- Decreased economic activity

- High drop out rate of schools
- Only one grocery store
- Lack of community leaders
- Roads need to be mowed more often
- Poverty

7. People define Quality of Life in different ways. What one word or phrase best defines "Quality of Life" to you?

Is this a word or phrase you would use to describe Belzoni/Humphreys County? (Circle one) Yes

No

NO

Rest & peace

Availability with choices

Great education

Health

Security

Showing God's love

Integrity

Peace of mind

Blessed

Healthcare

Housing

Clean Streets

Quality entertainment

Feeling content & happy

YES

Simple

Spirited

Satisfaction

Happy

Peace

8. How would you categorize the quality of life in Belzoni/Humphreys County?

1 -Best in Mississippi Delta

15 - Below average

5 -One of the best in Mississippi Delta

11 - Poor

14 -Generally good

1 - No opinion

37 -Has been deteriorating

9. How important are the following factors to the quality of life in Belzoni/Humphreys County? (Check one box that applies to each factor)

	Very Important	Important	Somewhat Important	Not at All Important	No Opinion
Safe place to live	68	3	2	1	-
Clean and attractive	51	16	2	2	-
Hometown atmosphere	47	22	-	1	-
Adequate medical facilities	48	12	4	1	-
Vibrant 'Downtown' area	42	22	4	2	-
Selection of housing	32	30	6	4	-
Quality of schools	62	7	2	2	-
Shopping opportunities	31	32	6	5	1
Environmental quality of water and open space	47	14	7	2	1
	Very Important	Important	Somewhat Important	Not at all Important	No Opinion

Parks and recreation facilities (public & private)	28	31	13	4	1
Public services (Library, Police, Fire)	56	18	2	-	-
Proximity to employment	40	20	4	1	-
Transportation system with easy access throughout the city	33	20	14	1	1
Walkability	34	23	12	3	-

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

10. Over the past five years, do you believe Belzoni/Humphreys County's quality of life has improved, stayed about the same, or declined? (Circle one)

Improved - 5

Stayed about the same - 25

Declined - 44

If improved, why do you believe the community has improved?

-city park

-sidewalks

If declined, why do you believe the community has declined?

We are losing good citizens

Overall appearance of town

Lack of jobs

Nothing to do

Taxes keep increasing & services are decreasing

Affordable housing

Poor city /county government

Not spending public funds wisely

City /county services have declined

City/county governments have no vision

Streets/roads have declined

Crime rate

Poor schools

No shopping opportunities

Laws not enforced

Lazy people

No sense of pride

Drugs

Newspaper has very little local news

11. Would you recommend Belzoni/Humphreys County to your family or friends as a good place to live?

Yes -23

No - 39

If Yes, what would be the one major reason?

YES-

Small town atmosphere

The churches

People look out for each other

Family oriented

Affordability

Safe place to live

Livable community

Hometown Feel

If No, what would be the one major reason?

NO

Lack of employment opportunities

Lack of Housing

Lack of shopping centers

- Not a very good school system
- Lack of youth activities
- Appearance of town
- Need vision in elected officials and community leaders
- Streets/roads are poor
- Drugs
- Abandoned houses
- Cars parked in front yards
- Limited resources

12. Does Belzoni/Humphreys County offer the housing and services to allow you to age in place (continue to live in Belzoni/Humphreys County) if you choose to do so? Yes - 21 No - 30

13. What would you say is the most critical issue facing Belzoni/Humphreys County today?

- Belzoni Police Department
- City/county government priorities
- Housing
- Jobs
- Lack of retail businesses
- Poor city/county government
- Cleanup the town/county
- Improving education
- City/county don't work together
- Drug problem
- Activities for youth
- Lack of leadership in city/county elected officials
- Lack of city/county government services
- Infrastructure-streets/roads/sewage
- Entertainment
- Motels
- Poor law enforcement
- No population growth

EMPLOYMENT

14. Does anyone in your household work outside of Belzoni/Humphreys County? Yes - 25 No - 47

- If Yes, why?
- lack of employment base in Belzoni/Humphreys County,
  - better salary outside Belzoni/Humphreys County,
  - specialized job located elsewhere,
  - personal preference, other)

GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT

15. What do you think about the current growth rate in Belzoni/Humphreys County?

Too Fast - 2 About Right - 7 Too Slow - 43 No Opinion - 18

16. How strongly would you support or oppose policies regarding growth in Belzoni/Humphreys County? (Check one box for each policy)

	Strongly Support	Support	Oppose	Strongly Oppose	No Opinion
Policies that restrict growth	6	6	23	20	7
Policies that pace growth in targeted areas	15	23	13	5	7

No policies; unlimited growth	16	16	17	8	6
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17. Which of the following types of developments would you like to see more of in Belzoni/Humphreys County, keep at the same level, or see fewer of? (Check one for each development type)

	More	Same	Fewer	No Opinion
Office buildings	47	17	-	3
Retail centers	54	10	-	1
Neighborhood service retail	41	10	3	7
Mixed Use Developments (live/work)	39	10	3	5
Restaurants	52	16	1	-
Entertainment/attractions	59	3	2	2
Grocery stores	47	20	1	1
Hotels/motels	41	22	2	5
Industry	57	7	-	1
Business parks	38	18	2	6
Apartments	29	19	17	3
Townhouses	35	15	11	9
Condominiums	27	6	8	20
Starter Homes (\$75,000-\$150,000)	41	13	6	6
Moderate Homes (\$150,000-\$300,000)	28	18	8	9
Luxury Homes (\$300,000+)	19	19	10	15
Retirement/Assisted Living Housing	43	11	3	4
Mobile Homes	6	9	30	11
Low-Income/Public Housing	18	11	27	7

18. In constructing future facilities, how important or unimportant are the following issues? (Check one box for each issue)

	Very Important	Important	Somewhat Important	Not at All Important	No Opinion
That the facility generates pride in the community	62	10	4	-	-
That it be attractive	51	9	4	1	-
That it be cutting edge	35	14	15	6	1
That it include significant amounts of landscaping	32	19	14	5	-
That it be sustainable	45	18	10	1	-
That it be economical	46	15	23	1	-

**PLANNING**

19. Presently, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the following aspects of Belzoni/Humphreys County? (Check one box for each aspect)

	Strongly Satisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Strongly Dissatisfied	No Opinion
The number of retail businesses in the city	3	16	43	9	-
The overall appearance of your neighborhood	5	26	27	11	2
The overall appearance of your city	2	25	36	9	2
The appearance of medians and rights of way	2	40	21	7	1
Overall appearance of	1	44	36	3	3

commercial buildings					
Overall quality of parks in the city	2	16	37	10	5
Overall level of safety in the community	2	26	25	13	1
Availability of well-paying, diverse job opportunities	-	0	25	32	3
The distribution of commercial and residential land use throughout the city	-	19	26	9	14
The quality and quantity of public parks and recreation facilities	-	19	27	20	6
Quality of streets, water, sewer, and infrastructure	1	9	27	30	1
Code enforcement	1	19	25	17	6
Vitality of aging neighborhoods	1	12	31	16	9

20. What evening(s) during the week would be the most convenient for you to attend public meetings to gather input for the Strategic Plan? (Circle all that apply)

Monday - 9                      Tuesday - 20                      Wednesday - 11                      Thursday - 20

21. What form of communication do you prefer to be notified of public meetings? (Circle all that apply)

Mail -25      Newspaper-30      Foundation Website-3                      E-mail -28      Facebook-10  
Signs-9

Notification Address if desired: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your time!

Please return completed survey by May 25, 2012 either by mail to Belzoni City Hall, POB 674, Belzoni, MS 39038 or you can drop off the survey at Belzoni City Hall, 102 W. Jackson St, Belzoni, MS 39038 (you can use the drop off box outside after normal business hours) or Catfish Museum, 110 Magnolia St. Belzoni, MS 39038 or mail to the Catfish Museum, POB 145, Belzoni, MS 39038. You can fax the survey to 662-247-4805 or email to [catfish@belzonicable.com](mailto:catfish@belzonicable.com).