

What North Carolinians Think About Development

In the fall of 2021, the N.C. League of Municipalities commissioned Embold Research to conduct a poll of 1,077 adults in North Carolina. What follows are some key findings regarding their thoughts about how development proceeds in their communities and the decision-making that balances growth with local needs.

MANAGING GROWTH

TOTAL AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE	
96%	73%	Balancing growth and the needs of existing residents is a must for local officials. Every group needs to have their voices as growth is considered.
92%	60%	Community character matters, and i expect elected officials to protect it. Every town is different and unique, and that diverse patchwork is a strength of North Carolina
77%	38%	Accommodating and encouraging growth and development is crucial for a town to progress. Elected officials should support residential and commercial growth as long as it is well-managed.
47%	17%	The positives that come from growth and development far outweigh the negatives. It is important that local officials do not pass rules that hinder growth.

DECISION-MAKING



Who would you say has more control over policies that determine how growth and development proceeds in a village, city or town?

	64%	18%	18%
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In your opinion, who should have more control over policies that determine how growth proceeds in a city or town?

77%	8%	15%
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WHOSE OPINIONS MATTER

● VERY IMPORTANT ● SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT ● NOT TOO IMPORTANT ● NOT IMPORTANT AT ALL

How important should the opinions of each of the following be when making decisions about how growth proceeds?

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	Rural	19%	31%		32%	179	6
Developers	Suburban	15%	34%		31%	19%	
	Urban	15%	19%	45%		21%	
Surrounding	Rural	70%				24%	
Property	Suburban	73%				22%	
Owners	Urban	65%				29%	
Local	Rural	36%		40%	6	15%	
Government	Suburban	29%		42%		18%	
Staff	Urban	30%		47%		12%	
Local	Rural	41%		44	1%	119	%
Elected	Suburban	32%		47%		13%	
Officials	Urban	35%		39%		19%	
Local	Rural	47%			40%	9	%
Business & Business	Suburban	47%			41%	10)%
Groups	Urban	42%		43	3%	11%	6

HOW IMPORTANT ARE THE FOLLOWING WHEN IT COMES TO WHERE YOU CHOOSE TO LIVE?

● VERY IMPORTANT ● SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT ● NOT TOO IMPORTANT ● NOT IMPORTANT AT ALL

Things like parks, greenways and walkable neighborhoods?

42% 38% 14%

Things like scenic beauty and the preservation of trees and open spaces?

60% 33%

