



## Perspectives of County Residents on Three Important Topics



### Spring survey by Anne Arundel Community College reveals growing concerns

Results of the [Spring 2023 survey](#) of Anne Arundel County residents by the Center for Study of Local Issues (CSLI) at the Anne Arundel Community College have been released. The survey covered a broad range of local, state, and national topics, and a few of the local topics that we think will be of interest to GAN members are overviewed below. CSLI has been conducting these surveys twice annually for several years so that changes of citizen attitude on various topics frequently can be observed.

In comparison with the previous [Fall 2022 survey](#) significant increases in concern were expressed about housing costs, environmental protection, traffic, and growth and development. There was a sharp increase in the number of respondents who pointed to cost of housing as the County’s most significant problem. This was especially true among those under 40, those with income of less than \$75,000, and of African Americans. Two-thirds of respondents strongly or somewhat supported the proposal that the County should do more to solve the housing shortage. Several possible solutions were evaluated by respondents with results shown below in Table 1. The most popular option, with 63% support, was imposition of a requirement that all new developments include moderately-priced dwelling

Item	Support	Don't Support	No opinion
The County should do "more" to solve the housing shortage?	67	28	6
Make it easier for homeowners to set up auxiliary dwelling units (small apartments)	48	40	12
Require all new developments to include moderately priced dwelling units	63	29	7
Relaxing some of the zoning restrictions for multi-family dwelling units	48	41	12
Allowing higher density construction through redevelopment near transit centers	54	34	12

Table 1. County options for creating more moderately-priced housing

**The Fall 2022 survey explored in depth citizen concerns about population growth and residential development.** At that time, 60 percent of survey respondents said that slower or no population growth in the County would be desirable. The Spring 2023 survey did not explore citizen attitudes about growth at the same level of detail, but it did find that growth and development as well as traffic congestion were perceived as even larger problems than in the previous survey. Growth and development and related issues like traffic congestion appear to be a continuing and growing problem in the County (See Table 2)

	Fall '22	Spring '23
<b>Taxes</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Crime / drugs*</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Economy</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Education / school problems</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Traffic congestion/ problems</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Growth / development</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>22</b>

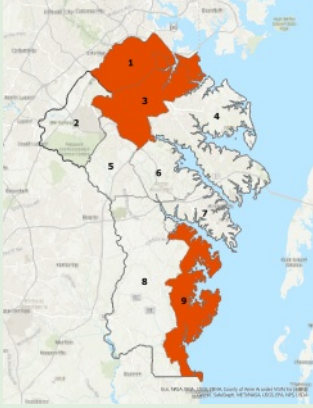
Table 2. Most important problems facing AACo residents (numbers are relative)

**Electric cars.** About 14% of U.S. greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are generated by the cars and trucks that we see on the highway, and it is important to replace those vehicles by others, like electric cars, that are not powered by fossil fuels. If we are to meet 2030 and 2050 climate goals, citizens need to rapidly become familiar with electric vehicles and consider replacement of current vehicles with them. The Spring 2023 survey provides some disappointing insight into progress on this front. The survey found that most people have never driven a car with a battery – either as a hybrid, a plug-in hybrid that can travel some distance on battery only, or a fully electric car that travels only on battery power. When asked about the likelihood of purchasing an electric car in the next few years only about 20% of respondents said yes, while 60% said no and the remainder were uncertain (see Table 3 below)

Response	Percent
I won't be in the market for ANY car in the next couple of years	27
Will definitely buy one	4
Likely to buy one	16
Am considering buying one but need convincing	14
Unlikely to buy one	26
Definitely won't buy one	34
Don't know	6

Table 3. Planned purchase of electric car by Anne Arundel residents

There have been many discussions of technological impediments to adaption of electric vehicles, but it seems clear, in Anne Arundel County, at least, that consumer unfamiliarity and reluctance will play an important role.



## SAC applications for Regions 1, 3, and 9.

Applications for the Stakeholder Advisory Committees (SAC) of Regions 1, 3, and 9 will be open until July 11. Application materials are available at [this link](#).

It is essential that SAC members are empathetic with the needs of the communities that they represent, understand them well, and do not carry conflicts of interest that would interfere with their ability to voice the general wishes of their community.

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### GAN Meeting with Office of Planning and Zoning

On May 30 the GAN Board met virtually with Planning and Zoning Officer Jenny Jarkowski. Topics of discussion included zombie permits, site visits, document access, and transportation issues.

All GAN members were invited to observe the meeting and submit questions through the chat function. Meeting notes will be distributed to all members.

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**GAN Dues.** If you are a GAN member haven't paid your 2023 dues, please do it now. Just click [this link](#). If you are not a member, please join us!

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