

Ideas for Positive Conversations at Community Meetings

Why we need to plan:

- This is about the fundamental needs of my community - roads, sewers, schools – these are issues that impact me and my family every day. The government makes decisions about schools and roads and that impacts my family, my kids' school and my property. I want to be a part of the process that makes those decisions- that's why I'm here.
- We haven't done a good job of thinking ahead in the past and look what's happened. [INSERT LOCAL EXAMPLES OF THE RESULTS BECAUSE OF POOR OR NO PLANNING] If we go through this decision and have a strategic about how we want to grow, we'll be stronger as a community and outside interests won't be able to come in and influence the decisions instead.
- This discussion is for us to decide our own future and what kind of place we want to leave to our kids and grandkids. We need to preserve and protect our quality of life. We need these meetings so we can figure out how to save money, improve the value of our property, and leave something better for our kids.

Property Rights

- **I value my personal property rights and my right to live my life the way I want. I value [city/town] - that is why I live here. I realize the decisions made about how our community grows, as people continue to move here, will impact the quality of life, schools and roads we all pay for.**

The future

- **If we don't discuss our future, we put our whole community at risk. I know what it looks like in our community if we fail to design and implement a good, strategic plan. It leads to higher taxes, more congestion and traffic.**
- Change will happen in our community, whether we prepare for it or not. Places that fail to talk about these things risk developing in ways that are harmful in the long-term. I don't want my community to turn into a forgettable, bland sea of strip malls and highways. Either changes happen to us that will ultimately sink our economy, or we can choose to grow in a better way.

Examples and personal stories

- We need to be smart about our future. If a business wants to be successful, it develops a thorough plan about how to grow and generate revenue so it can make money and keep the doors open. Our [town/community] needs to do the same. We can't expect to do nothing and hope for the best.
- Without planning, there's nothing to stop a (*PICK YOUR EXAMPLE: sewage treatment plant, gas station, massive condo development, etc.*) from being built next door to me. How would that impact my property rights and property value?
- I live here because of the quality of life. I'm proud to participate in the discussions that have made this community what it is. (*Tell a personal story about why you like your community.*)