

Better Together Community Survey

**Q1 On a scale from 1 to 5, how familiar are you with:**

Answered: 725 Skipped: -1

	<b>Not at All Familiar (1)</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Very Familiar (5)</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Weighted Average</b>
The City of Decatur 2010 Strategic Plan	<b>37.24%</b> 270	<b>24.14%</b> 175	<b>20.55%</b> 149	<b>10.90%</b> 79	<b>7.17%</b> 52	725	2.27
The Welcoming Cities initiative	<b>69.10%</b> 501	<b>15.86%</b> 115	<b>8.97%</b> 65	<b>3.31%</b> 24	<b>2.76%</b> 20	725	1.55
DecaturNext.com	<b>62.34%</b> 452	<b>16.83%</b> 122	<b>10.90%</b> 79	<b>5.38%</b> 39	<b>4.55%</b> 33	725	1.73
The Better Together initiative	<b>56.14%</b> 407	<b>19.59%</b> 142	<b>12.97%</b> 94	<b>7.45%</b> 54	<b>3.86%</b> 28	725	1.83

## Better Together Community Survey

### Q2 How did you first become aware of Better Together and/or this survey?

Answered: 725 Skipped: -1

Answer Choices	Responses	
The Decatur Focus	5.38%	39
Better Together Leadership Circle member	4.41%	32
City of Decatur website	1.93%	14
Decatur Next website	1.52%	11
Social media	17.52%	127
Email	28.97%	210
The Decatur Minute Blog	2.34%	17
Local blog or news outlet	12.14%	88
Poster or flyer	1.38%	10
Postcard	4.00%	29
Friend or neighbor (word of mouth)	18.34%	133
Other	2.07%	15
<b>Total</b>		<b>725</b>

#	Other (please specify)	Date
1	Decaturish "newspaper" I believe.	8/28/2015 4:38 PM
2	Decaturish.com	8/28/2015 2:46 PM
3	decatur metro	8/28/2015 2:00 PM
4	Decatur Coworks	8/26/2015 3:53 PM
5	bbq blues festival	8/25/2015 12:44 PM
6	Renfroe Website	8/24/2015 4:26 PM
7	Info through CSD	8/23/2015 8:50 PM
8	rms e blast	8/23/2015 5:02 PM
9	Friend emailed me information	8/22/2015 8:12 PM
10	City employee	8/20/2015 8:43 PM
11	Neighborhood email group	8/20/2015 4:14 PM
12	I work at Oxford College --that was a year-long emphasis of the chaplain's office.... some good programming	8/20/2015 12:54 PM
13	AJC	8/20/2015 11:27 AM
14	DBA	8/20/2015 9:30 AM
15	LEAD Home school group	8/19/2015 9:35 AM
16	NewspaperAJC	8/17/2015 11:13 PM
17	Create Community 4 Decatur mailing list	8/17/2015 10:07 PM
18	Christy Amador	8/17/2015 2:03 PM

## Better Together Community Survey

19	Decatur city commission meeting	8/16/2015 12:29 PM
20	nextdoor.com	8/14/2015 9:32 AM
21	Nextdoor App	8/13/2015 9:20 PM
22	East Lake List Serve	8/13/2015 12:24 PM
23	internet search to consider transitional move	8/13/2015 9:45 AM
24	Neighborhood email group	8/12/2015 12:59 PM
25	My HOA email	8/12/2015 11:51 AM
26	Nextdoor Website	8/12/2015 10:12 AM
27	Decaturish	8/12/2015 6:37 AM
28	City of Decatur Schools Email	8/11/2015 10:17 PM
29	Facebook	8/11/2015 8:43 PM
30	bing news	8/11/2015 8:34 PM
31	not applicable	8/11/2015 6:11 PM
32	Not familiar	8/11/2015 5:31 PM
33	NextDoor Eastlake webpage	8/11/2015 5:04 PM
34	none	8/11/2015 4:41 PM
35	Not familiar	8/11/2015 4:34 PM
36	Decaturish Blog	8/11/2015 3:04 PM
37	Regina Kay	8/11/2015 1:22 PM
38	Decaturish	8/11/2015 1:21 PM
39	Decaturish website/blog	8/11/2015 1:02 PM
40	Decaturish	8/11/2015 12:53 PM
41	Decaturish	8/11/2015 12:09 PM
42	decatrish.com	8/11/2015 11:30 AM
43	Decaturish	8/11/2015 10:24 AM
44	Decaturish	8/11/2015 10:06 AM
45	Decaturish	8/11/2015 8:17 AM
46	Decaturish	8/11/2015 6:23 AM
47	Decaturish	8/11/2015 1:09 AM
48	Facebook post	8/10/2015 10:31 PM
49	Link on Facebook	8/10/2015 10:14 PM
50	Decaturish	8/10/2015 10:10 PM
51	Decaturish.com	8/10/2015 8:35 PM
52	Decaturish	8/10/2015 8:04 PM
53	Decaturish	8/10/2015 7:18 PM
54	Decaturish	8/10/2015 6:36 PM
55	Decaturish	8/10/2015 5:25 PM
56	Oakhurst neighborhood association Facebook page	8/10/2015 5:10 PM
57	Decaturish	8/10/2015 5:02 PM
58	Mention on the City Schools of Decatur Newsletter	8/10/2015 4:30 PM
59	Nextdoor message for Oakhurst	8/9/2015 4:40 PM

## Better Together Community Survey

60	post on NextDoor	8/8/2015 7:22 AM
61	NextDoor Lenox Place	8/8/2015 12:04 AM
62	City Commission Meeting	8/7/2015 10:32 PM
63	I'm actively involved in the process.	8/6/2015 1:58 PM
64	also from friend or neighbor, Decatur Focus, and e-mail.	8/5/2015 11:01 AM
65	Lenox Place FaceBook page communication from Better Together	8/3/2015 5:17 PM
66	Compassionate Atlanta	8/3/2015 8:43 AM

# Better Together Community Survey

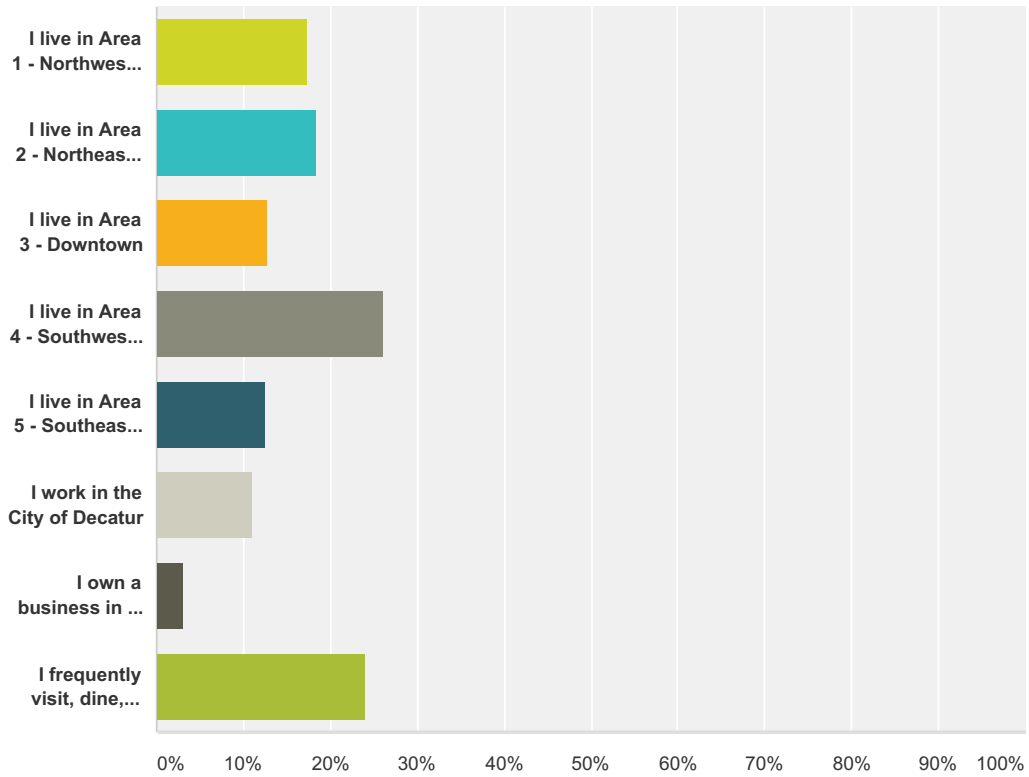
## Q3 Community Involvement

Answered: 725 Skipped: -1

	Not at All Involved	Somewhat Involved	Very Involved	Total	Weighted Average
How would you rate your current level of involvement in your neighborhood?	<b>19.03%</b> 138	<b>64.55%</b> 468	<b>16.41%</b> 119	725	1.97
How would you rate your current level of involvement in the city as a whole?	<b>28.55%</b> 207	<b>59.17%</b> 429	<b>12.28%</b> 89	725	1.84

### Q4 What is your connection to the City of Decatur?

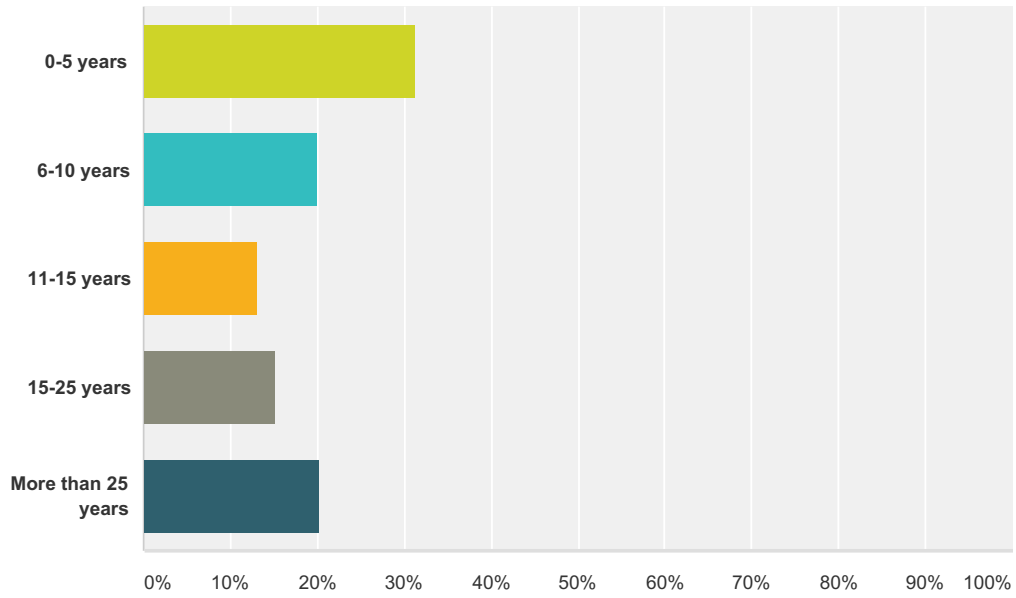
Answered: 707 Skipped: 17



Answer Choices	Responses	
I live in Area 1 - Northwest Decatur - Clairemont	17.40%	123
I live in Area 2 - Northeast Decatur - Sycamore/Great Lakes	18.39%	130
I live in Area 3 - Downtown	12.73%	90
I live in Area 4 - Southwest Decatur - Oakhurst	26.03%	184
I live in Area 5 - Southeast Decatur - Winnona Park	12.59%	89
I work in the City of Decatur	11.03%	78
I own a business in the City of Decatur	3.11%	22
I frequently visit, dine, worship or shop in the City of Decatur	24.05%	170
<b>Total Respondents: 707</b>		

### Q5 If you are a resident, how long have you lived in the City of Decatur?

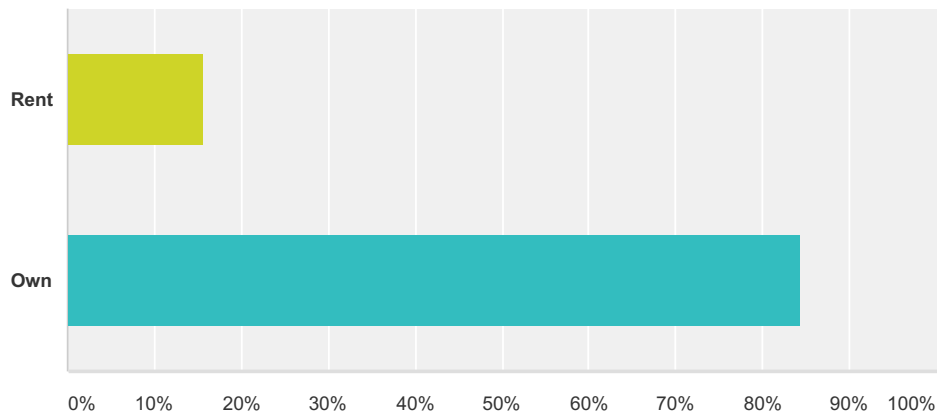
Answered: 625 Skipped: 99



Answer Choices	Responses	Count
0-5 years	31.36%	196
6-10 years	20.00%	125
11-15 years	13.12%	82
15-25 years	15.20%	95
More than 25 years	20.32%	127
<b>Total</b>		<b>625</b>

### Q6 If you are a resident, do you rent or own?

Answered: 620 Skipped: 104

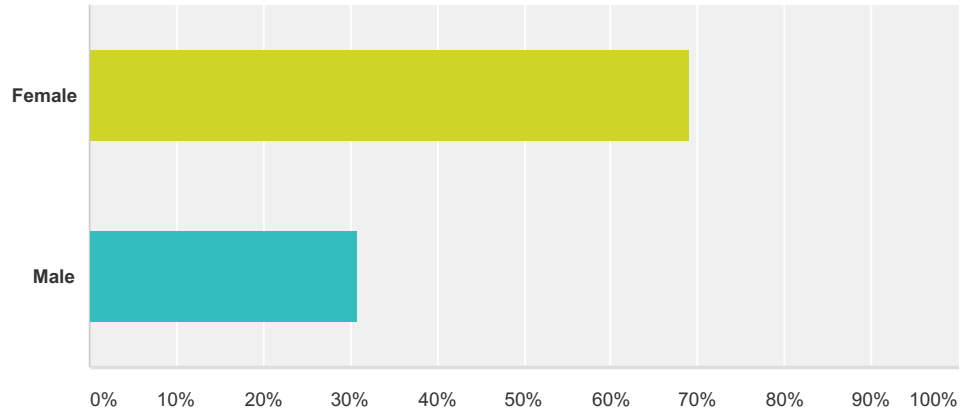


Answer Choices	Responses
Rent	15.65% 97
Own	84.35% 523
<b>Total</b>	<b>620</b>



### Q7 What is your sex?

Answered: 707 Skipped: 17

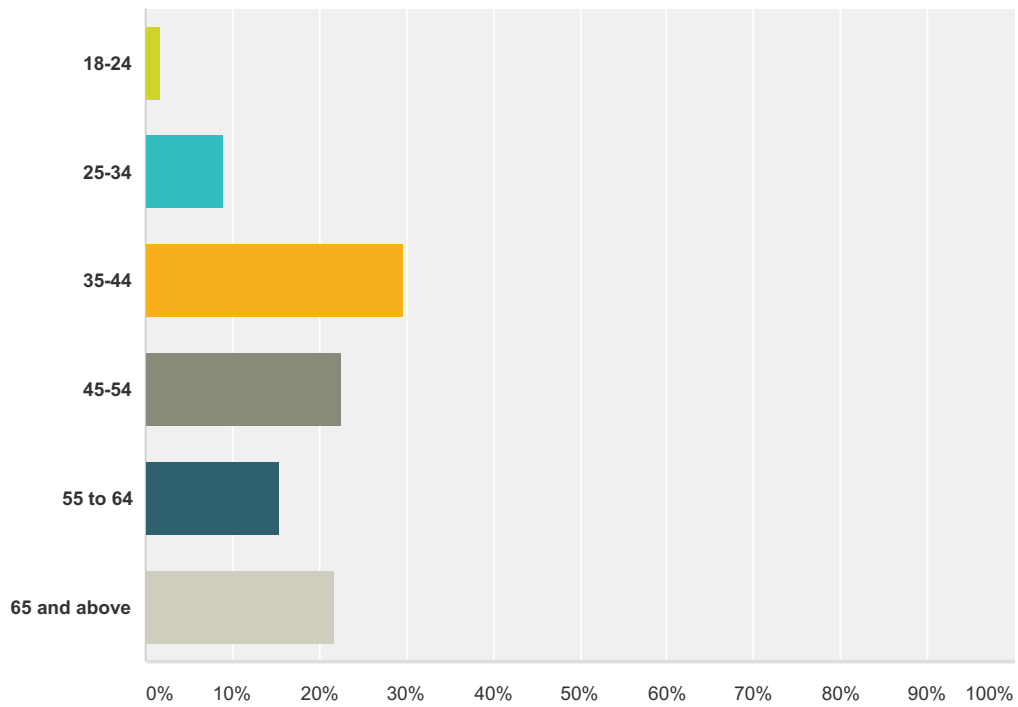


Answer Choices	Responses
Female	69.17% 489
Male	30.83% 218
<b>Total</b>	<b>707</b>

#	Other identity (please specify)	Date
1	xxx	8/24/2015 4:35 PM
2	I love that you added this!	8/17/2015 2:37 PM
3	N/A	8/11/2015 5:51 PM
4	fyi sex = gender. my sex is female. my gender is woman.	8/7/2015 3:51 PM

### Q8 Which category below includes your age?

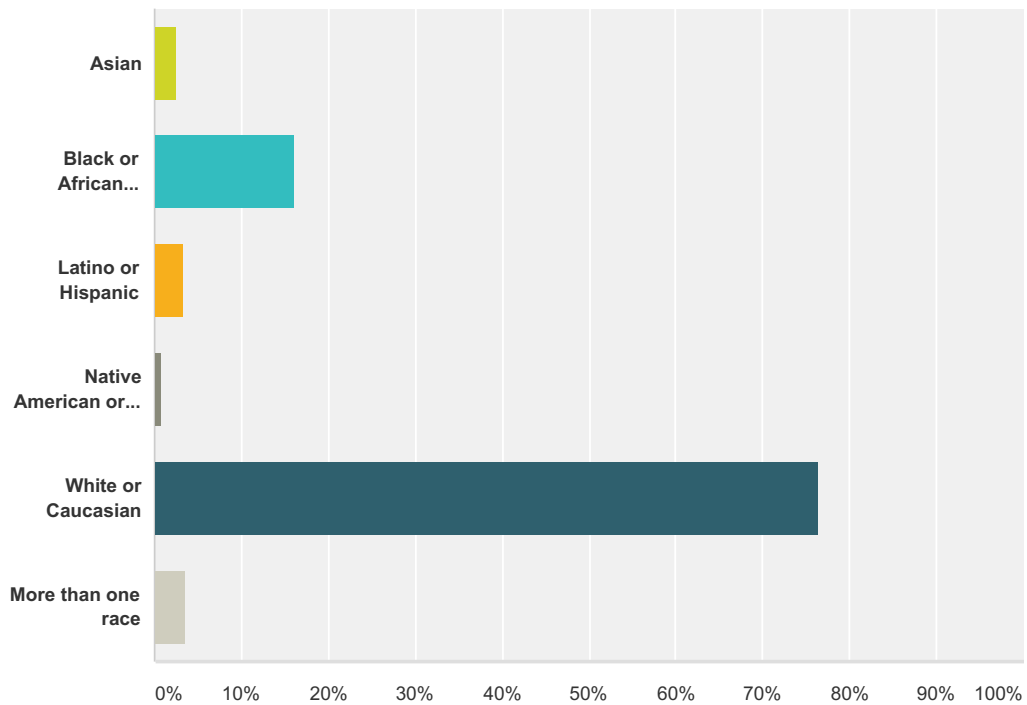
Answered: 707 Skipped: 17



Answer Choices	Responses	
18-24	1.70%	12
25-34	9.05%	64
35-44	29.70%	210
45-54	22.49%	159
55 to 64	15.42%	109
65 and above	21.64%	153
<b>Total</b>		<b>707</b>

### Q9 How do you identify racially and ethnically?

Answered: 707 Skipped: 17

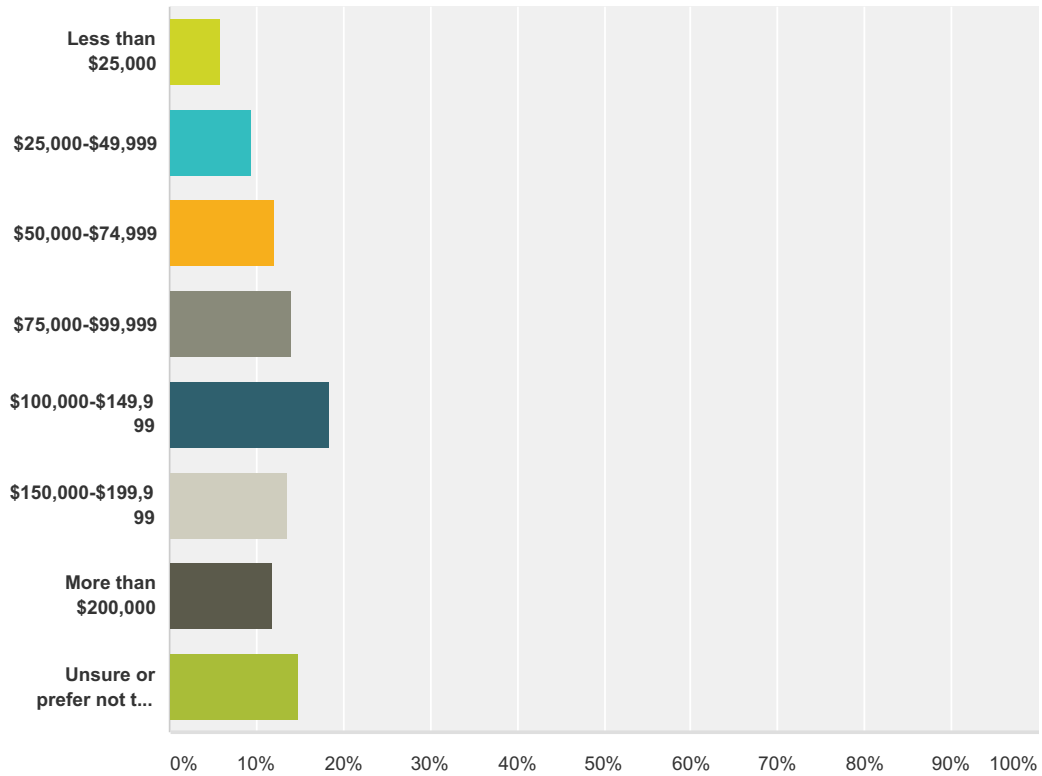


Answer Choices	Responses
Asian	2.40% 17
Black or African American	15.98% 113
Latino or Hispanic	3.39% 24
Native American or American Indian	0.85% 6
White or Caucasian	76.38% 540
More than one race	3.54% 25
<b>Total Respondents: 707</b>	

#	Some other race (please specify)	Date
1	West Indian of British Origins	8/25/2015 10:43 AM
2	iranian	8/25/2015 8:49 AM
3	West Indian	8/13/2015 10:05 AM
4	Arab American	8/12/2015 1:59 PM
5	Human	8/11/2015 10:18 PM
6	Cuban American	8/11/2015 1:24 PM

### Q10 What is your household income?

Answered: 707 Skipped: 17



Answer Choices	Responses	
Less than \$25,000	5.80%	41
\$25,000-\$49,999	9.34%	66
\$50,000-\$74,999	12.16%	86
\$75,000-\$99,999	14.00%	99
\$100,000-\$149,999	18.39%	130
\$150,000-\$199,999	13.58%	96
More than \$200,000	11.88%	84
Unsure or prefer not to answer	14.85%	105
<b>Total</b>		<b>707</b>

## Better Together Community Survey

### Q11 Please share anything else that's important to know about who you are.

Answered: 152 Skipped: 572

#	Responses	Date
1	Will move b/c high taxes	9/23/2015 7:29 PM
2	Two things: I'm gay, and we have one child (19 months).	9/18/2015 10:57 AM
3	Lesbian Parent - one child very environmentally concerned	9/7/2015 1:51 PM
4	Gay	9/2/2015 11:15 AM
5	My husband and I started first grade in Decatur City Schools, taught in the school system, and are still here in Decatur. Love it!	9/2/2015 10:32 AM
6	I am a naturalized US citizen (immigrated to the US in 2001).	8/31/2015 10:50 AM
7	I have Multiple Sclerosis.	8/29/2015 10:19 PM
8	I was very involved in City Schools of Decatur. My boys attended College Heights pre-k because of the charisma of Gayle Gellerstedt, and we completely bought in to the idea of our neighborhood schools. My eldest son was the guinea pig class that endured the first 5th grade class at Glennwood Academy, the 9th grade Academy, the disastrous new math curriculum, etc. I experienced first hand (I substitute taught many years in CSD), the upheaval and the very hard work it took to make the school system what it is today.	8/28/2015 10:04 AM
9	I attend Oakhurst Baptist Church.	8/26/2015 7:59 PM
10	Retired, present home was a 1978 HUD lottery house.	8/26/2015 4:03 PM
11	I am a Decatur Police Caps volunteer, a childless dog owner, and a property manager. I've lived in Decatur most of my adult life.	8/26/2015 10:35 AM
12	I am a third generation Decatur resident and an Agnes Scott graduate.	8/25/2015 7:02 PM
13	Attended CSD as a child (through Renfro) and now a Parent with children in CSD.	8/25/2015 6:44 PM
14	I've been a resident for 5 years. 2 of my 3 children attend COD schools. I have been very happy with the city and the schools but want to see some improvements as well. Looking forward to this weekend!	8/25/2015 3:09 PM
15	Interested in volunteering sometimes. Interested in most activities in the Oliver House. I have only lived in Decatur 3 years, my home is in Michigan.	8/25/2015 12:32 PM
16	I am 67 years old, have traveled around the world, native Washingtonian, African-American woman who lives and believes in man-moh-renq-kyo. I have worked all my life and am now retired!	8/25/2015 12:23 PM
17	Been in Jamaica, divorced, live alone, have no friends to interact with on a regular basis. Was homeless, sometimes have no food to eat. Families do not care about me (they are uppity) some Americans do not like foreigners in their building.	8/25/2015 10:43 AM
18	I am very friendly.	8/25/2015 10:39 AM
19	Lived in Decatur nearly 25 years, enjoys reading, the Bible, and her senior meetings.	8/25/2015 10:27 AM
20	I have a child with Down Syndrome. I am an educator.	8/25/2015 9:11 AM
21	I teach in City Schools of Decatur and my kids attend school here.	8/25/2015 8:50 AM
22	I am a retiree who is being taxed out of Decatur. We need senior tax exemptions for all retirees, not just low income. You have to be either really poor or upper middle class income to afford Decatur now.	8/25/2015 12:08 AM
23	I am a church goer who tries to help others because I love my neighbors. I like my community and feel that I am very intelligent.	8/24/2015 4:21 PM
24	I am 80 years old in fairly good health. I still live in my house for over 50 years. I love Decatur.	8/24/2015 3:42 PM
25	retired on fixed income sharing a house with partner also retired,	8/24/2015 2:34 PM
26	I am a member of the Baha'i Faith.	8/24/2015 1:59 PM

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27	new to the area as a resident, been visiting for years	8/23/2015 5:03 PM
28	A white person who is VERY concerned about the tearing down of the apt homes of so many poor people of all ages, and shifting them out of the city and its schools, while rebuilding eventually MAY bring them back in a few YEARS....Good-bye young families and teenagers and elderly whose communities have been broken up. I know that I am privileged to walk all around, stare,usually just in interest, at homes, cars, whatever without anyone being afraid of me and my next move and "interest". Another topic: teardowns and removal of trees GRRRRR.	8/23/2015 9:22 AM
29	I answered the questions as if I still lived in Decatur. I actually moved 3 years ago in 2012 but wanted to give feedback on how to improve Decatur	8/21/2015 11:00 AM
30	I am the parent of one teen and one young adult with disabilities. I am concerned that they stay in Decatur to live and work independently, even if I move away or die, and that the community becomes more inclusive of them.	8/20/2015 1:44 PM
31	I have two children in the City Schools	8/20/2015 12:07 PM
32	We are a family of four. One of our children is African American, so it is important to us that we always live in a diverse and inclusive place, not just racially/ethnically but also economically.	8/20/2015 11:19 AM
33	I am person with a disability	8/20/2015 7:27 AM
34	A dedicated volunteer of Decatur and the DEF. A secular humanist.	8/19/2015 8:12 PM
35	i use a manual wheelchair and i am culturally defined and labelled as "disabled".	8/19/2015 7:39 AM
36	I'm a recently-graduated college student	8/18/2015 3:18 PM
37	I am a lesbian. I am a little dismayed that, considering the great diversity of Decatur, this is not one of the demographic facts considered.	8/18/2015 1:03 PM
38	I do not own a car and so walk everywhere in Decatur. I also have mobility impairments that mean I have to be extra careful around sharp inclines, declines, and steps. Access to curb cuts, ramps, handrails, and functional sidewalks is vital to me as I move around Decatur and conduct my affairs there.	8/18/2015 12:09 PM
39	Lifelong DeKalb Co. resident	8/17/2015 11:14 PM
40	I am a stay-at-home mom and a member of the middle class that seems to be disappearing from Decatur.	8/17/2015 7:54 PM
41	I run a N-P , I CARE, that transports seniors of DeKalb County (many of the seniors live in Decatur) FREE to their medical appointments, using Volunteer Drivers who use their own vehicles for the transportation. I CARE staff, Board members and volunteer drivers are involved in various Decatur events throughout the year. Some of our Volunteer Drivers live in Decatur and are involved in other aspects of Decatur life.	8/17/2015 2:09 PM
42	Retired husband and wife. Former CSD Teacher	8/16/2015 2:09 PM
43	Child in school system	8/16/2015 12:31 PM
44	I am a retired teacher. I taught in the City for 18 years. My partner and I were able to buy a home in the City 13 years ago because we participated in a special project that the city offered. In the last 5 years the City has exploded. Our taxes are so high, we are thinking of selling. I continue to work and so does my partner. We love Decatur, but we do not recognize the City we began to teach in years ago. There is almost zero diversity. Economically, racially. The homes in Oakhurst can sell for almost a million dollars. In our development, the one set up for city workers with middle class incomes, we are one of the few original owners left. Folks were bound, by contract for 12 years. Some people are renting out their homes, but most are selling. This has become a City of extremely wealthy folks. I am afraid we have lost our soul.	8/16/2015 10:47 AM
45	Retired with no school children in DCS. Feel my wife and I should be exempt from school taxes.	8/16/2015 10:29 AM
46	I am a teacher in City Schools of Decatur and live outside of Decatur	8/15/2015 4:52 PM
47	college grad	8/14/2015 8:46 PM
48	i lived in Decatur for 28 years before moving a year ago to a smaller house outside the city limits.	8/14/2015 2:59 PM
49	I'm a board member of the Oakhurst Recovery Program and an active member of Oakhurst Baptist Church since 1982. In addition to my home off Scott Blvd., I own a condo in downtown Decatur and lived there for six years.	8/14/2015 10:10 AM
50	empty nesters	8/14/2015 9:34 AM
51	I live in Decatur mailing address (East Lake)	8/14/2015 9:33 AM
52	I am an honors degree holder from NYU.	8/14/2015 9:28 AM
53	Member, Oakhurst Baptist Church	8/14/2015 7:02 AM

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54	Retiree	8/13/2015 9:24 PM
55	I identify as: gay; atheist.	8/13/2015 8:12 PM
56	I own the home in which I live but I also own other homes in the city which I rent out.	8/13/2015 3:36 PM
57	sometimes I argue for the opposing side just to bring out the opposing view on things...but city of decatur is a great place to live work and shop/dine....	8/13/2015 2:30 PM
58	I have lived in Decatur my entire life and my family has lived in Decatur for four generations	8/13/2015 2:29 PM
59	Board Chair, Slow Food Atlanta Curator, Lexicon of Sustainability	8/13/2015 2:24 PM
60	Low/no-car household.	8/13/2015 11:03 AM
61	Moved to Georgia 1977 from U.S. Virgin Islands Worked 23yrs at fortune 500 company 1977-2000 Early retirement + additional 5ys as exec admin Divorced1976/mother to 3 & grandmother to 5	8/13/2015 10:05 AM
62	i live in a condo, which is a neighborhood in itself, within the city.	8/13/2015 8:08 AM
63	I'm moving out of Decatur, to Grant Park, next month.	8/12/2015 6:26 PM
64	Kids went to Decatur schools. Practiced law in Decatur for over 50 years. Served on committee(s) to intergrate schools.Served on DDA for over 30 years.Co-president of Westchester PTA. Helped organize and attorney for DBA.	8/12/2015 4:59 PM
65	I own a math tutoring center that caters to children in the Decatur area. My business is located just outside of city limits on Clairmont near n decatur road.	8/12/2015 1:59 PM
66	wheelchair user requiring handicap access	8/12/2015 1:36 PM
67	I am basically retired.	8/12/2015 1:26 PM
68	I'm a veteran, voter	8/12/2015 12:23 PM
69	I am disabled	8/12/2015 9:59 AM
70	Grew up in Decatur on Lockwood Terrace and Willow Lane	8/12/2015 9:25 AM
71	I am very proud to say that I live in the City of Decatur.	8/12/2015 8:55 AM
72	I live in Forrest Hills	8/12/2015 8:48 AM
73	More involved in the past than currently, as a condo board member; less than open response to many board issues during that time was VERY discouraging. We felt our issues/ opinions/needs did not count.	8/12/2015 8:36 AM
74	The above map is not clear and I could not properly identify my street. Next time, pls use an interactive map that one can enlarge or can at least see street names clearly	8/12/2015 7:12 AM
75	Professor at GSU. Bi-cultural/bi-lingual family, Latino and white. Children identify as latino in school district. We are aware that the divides in our neighborhood are class divides that result in the unfortunate patterns of the color divides of our past and present. As a family, we are trying to do our part of connecting to our neighbors-all our neighbors-like us or not like us.	8/12/2015 4:21 AM
76	My family owned property in Oakhurst for over 30 years. I grew up there. I have rented my current apartment for 8 years.	8/12/2015 2:01 AM
77	Sad to see the whitening and gentrification of Decatur along with the obliteration of landmarks of historic Black areas in Decatur on both sides of the tracks	8/12/2015 12:31 AM
78	I lived in Decatur from age for until age 15,in which my family and I became homeless.	8/11/2015 11:54 PM
79	Single mom	8/11/2015 10:19 PM
80	I am a gay male with children	8/11/2015 10:16 PM
81	We are a Jewish family	8/11/2015 9:57 PM
82	I am a married graduate student. My husband is also a graduate student.	8/11/2015 9:38 PM
83	Gay female couple	8/11/2015 9:30 PM
84	I live and work in Decatur and find that as I near retirement I can't afford to make improvements on my property and continue to live here. I am contemplating selling my home and moving to a more affordable neighborhood.	8/11/2015 9:17 PM
85	Student has just moved in to Decatur from California	8/11/2015 8:36 PM
86	Retired from 30 years in education; active in organizing neighborhood (Pinetree) activities	8/11/2015 8:13 PM

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87	I am a Navy Veteran.	8/11/2015 6:24 PM
88	Our neighborhood was annexed last year.	8/11/2015 6:16 PM
89	2 children who have never attended city schools, currently private and Catholic High School.	8/11/2015 5:42 PM
90	I grew up in Decatur.	8/11/2015 5:24 PM
91	I live in the East Lake neighborhood in Atlanta, but I routinely visit Decatur, especially the Oakhurst neighborhood.	8/11/2015 5:05 PM
92	I served on the Downtown Development Authority Board for 13 years, have volunteered for numerous events and activities throughout my 40+ years in the City.	8/11/2015 4:39 PM
93	I rented in Oakhurst for several years before moving to buy a house about a mile away.	8/11/2015 3:08 PM
94	LGBT	8/11/2015 1:24 PM
95	I lived in the city of Decatur for approximately 5 years as a renter from 2004-2009.	8/11/2015 12:52 PM
96	We moved in to College Heights in 2002 at 22 years old. We have watched the neighborhood change dramatically over the past 13 years. While we love that we are now surrounded by other young families, we miss the diversity that caused us to choose this as our neighborhood.	8/11/2015 11:56 AM
97	Born and raised in city of Decatur. Taught 19 years in CSD schools.	8/11/2015 10:35 AM
98	The school system is a big part of why we moved to Decatur.	8/11/2015 10:26 AM
99	We are a blended family, in that our child is adopted from Africa.	8/11/2015 7:58 AM
100	Single mom with preschool and elementary age kids	8/10/2015 11:05 PM
101	I am married to an African American and have two mixed race children.	8/10/2015 10:46 PM
102	Housing needs to be more affordable	8/10/2015 10:32 PM
103	Mother, involved parent in the school system	8/10/2015 10:17 PM
104	Started and still moderate the Lamont-Vidal newsgroup.	8/10/2015 9:58 PM
105	Na	8/10/2015 9:31 PM
106	My address is Decatur but I live in unincorporated Dekalb in East Lake Terrace	8/10/2015 9:07 PM
107	I have seen the rapid decline in diversity over the last 9 years. Gentrification, in my view, is the number one cause.	8/10/2015 9:06 PM
108	I grew up in Decatur, moved away for high school and college, and moved back after college.	8/10/2015 9:04 PM
109	We have two kids in Elementary school	8/10/2015 8:52 PM
110	nonprofit employee; desired homeowner who is being shut out by rapidly escalating prices and taxes	8/10/2015 8:52 PM
111	CSD parent, Oakhurst Presbyterian member, Venetian Pools member	8/10/2015 8:48 PM
112	I rent because I can't afford to buy. We plan on moving in the next year	8/10/2015 8:45 PM
113	My wife and I live in Kirkwood, but on the line with Oakhurst.	8/10/2015 8:45 PM
114	I am a lesbian and I have a mixed race child with special needs.	8/10/2015 7:29 PM
115	I'm tall.	8/10/2015 7:23 PM
116	We have had strong Agnes Scott connections and my grandfather was centrally involved in Decatur civic and business communities.	8/10/2015 6:57 PM
117	Parent of 3 children. 1 is at Renfroe and 1 is at DHS	8/10/2015 6:50 PM
118	This is a vital conversation, and I'm pleased it's being taken seriously. Thank you.	8/10/2015 6:23 PM
119	Married gay male couple here...	8/10/2015 6:06 PM
120	I am not defined purely by my race and income.	8/10/2015 5:57 PM
121	Diversity is one of the best things about Decatur. The special needs community here is amazing and supportive.	8/10/2015 5:41 PM
122	Live in the area called Medlock Park and part of our property is city of Decatur	8/10/2015 5:27 PM
123	www.warpraptor.com	8/10/2015 5:11 PM
124	Parent of a child with a disability who attends CSD.	8/10/2015 5:10 PM

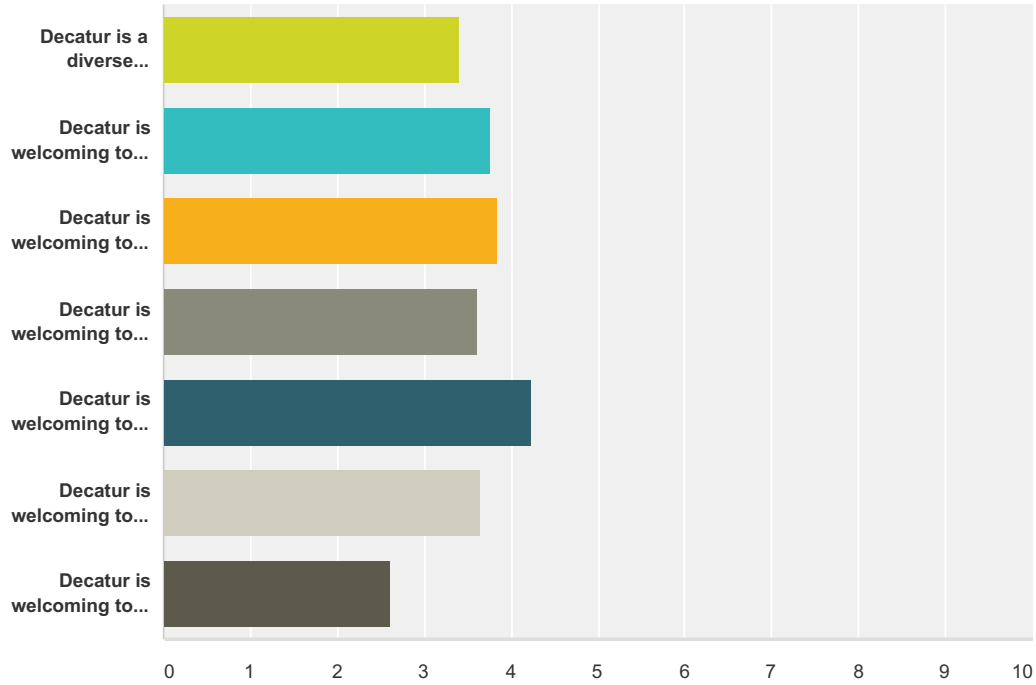


## Better Together Community Survey

125	Though I recently moved to Decatur, I have lived in the City of Atlanta, walking distance to Oakhurst, for 12 years.	8/9/2015 4:41 PM
126	Social Worker at Philips Tower	8/8/2015 4:38 PM
127	I'm on the Steering Committee for Create Community 4 Decatur: Black Lives Matter. I'm a member of Oakhurst Baptist Church.	8/8/2015 4:20 PM
128	I've lived in the area all my life (e.g. Medlock, Inman Park, etc.)	8/8/2015 7:23 AM
129	I am a single woman who always thought I'd have a partner to share expenses, but that hasn't happened, thus Decatur might not be affordable to stay here much longer with the recent tax hikes, etc. I would hate to lose my home. I want the old Decatur back with nothing but the library and Mick's if this is what progress looks like.	8/8/2015 12:10 AM
130	I am taking music composition lessons and have been accepted @GSU62 and plan to enroll in MUS theory and composition courses this Fall 2015.	8/7/2015 9:35 PM
131	I am really interested in becoming very active in this project	8/7/2015 4:42 PM
132	Recently retired. Would really like the opportunity to use my past business skills as a facilitator to help make my community "Better Together"	8/7/2015 4:10 PM
133	I live with three roommates (one of whom is my partner — we're unmarried).	8/7/2015 3:51 PM
134	I'm not sure if I checked the right place I live. I couldn't read the street names on the small map. I live on E. Hancock St. right behind Agnes Scott. I actually grew up on W. Parkwood Road and the address was Decatur but it was not actually in the city of Decatur.	8/7/2015 2:28 PM
135	I am a professional in real estate. I do not like to have solutions in search of a problem. When things work, leave them alone!	8/7/2015 11:18 AM
136	Moved from Kirkwood for the schools; have 3 girls aged 8, 5 and 1 with the older girls attending Westchester elementary.	8/6/2015 3:40 PM
137	I lived in Decatur for four years as a graduate student at the seminary. I've worked in Decatur professionally since 2008.	8/6/2015 3:40 PM
138	I am a member of a mixed race family.	8/6/2015 11:08 AM
139	I'm part of Atlanta Friends Meeting (Quakers), which is located in Decatur. I'm part of Create Community 4 Decatur: Black Lives Matter.	8/5/2015 11:04 AM
140	Board Member, Decatur Cooperative Ministry	8/4/2015 11:47 PM
141	Married with no kids yet	8/4/2015 8:37 PM
142	member of a transracial family	8/4/2015 12:49 PM
143	children in CSD	8/4/2015 12:25 PM
144	I've worked or lived in Decatur area since 1969.	8/4/2015 11:07 AM
145	I have lived here for a long time and have seen our city become a vibrant community. I am concerned, however, that Decatur is very quickly becoming a place that is becoming unaffordable to those of us who have helped make it the great place to live that it has become. If I was not committed to sending my children to CSD, I would have to move out of Decatur.	8/3/2015 5:33 PM
146	Gay	8/3/2015 5:24 PM
147	Very involved in community affairs as it relates to housing and economic development, senior issues and taxes.	8/3/2015 3:46 PM
148	Gay, married, child free household	8/3/2015 3:25 PM
149	A work with a regional non-profit that provides services throughout the City of Decatur to multiple "partner agencies" Am also connected with the CompassionateAtlanta org. that encouraged the City Council to adopt the international Charter for Compa	8/3/2015 12:20 PM
150	My husband, daughter, mother-in-law and I all graduated from DHS.	8/3/2015 10:55 AM
151	I am also self-employed.	8/3/2015 9:21 AM
152	Have a child with special needs and feel that diversity needs to go beyond race and ethnicity.	8/2/2015 9:51 PM

**Q12 In this section, please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding the city as a whole.**

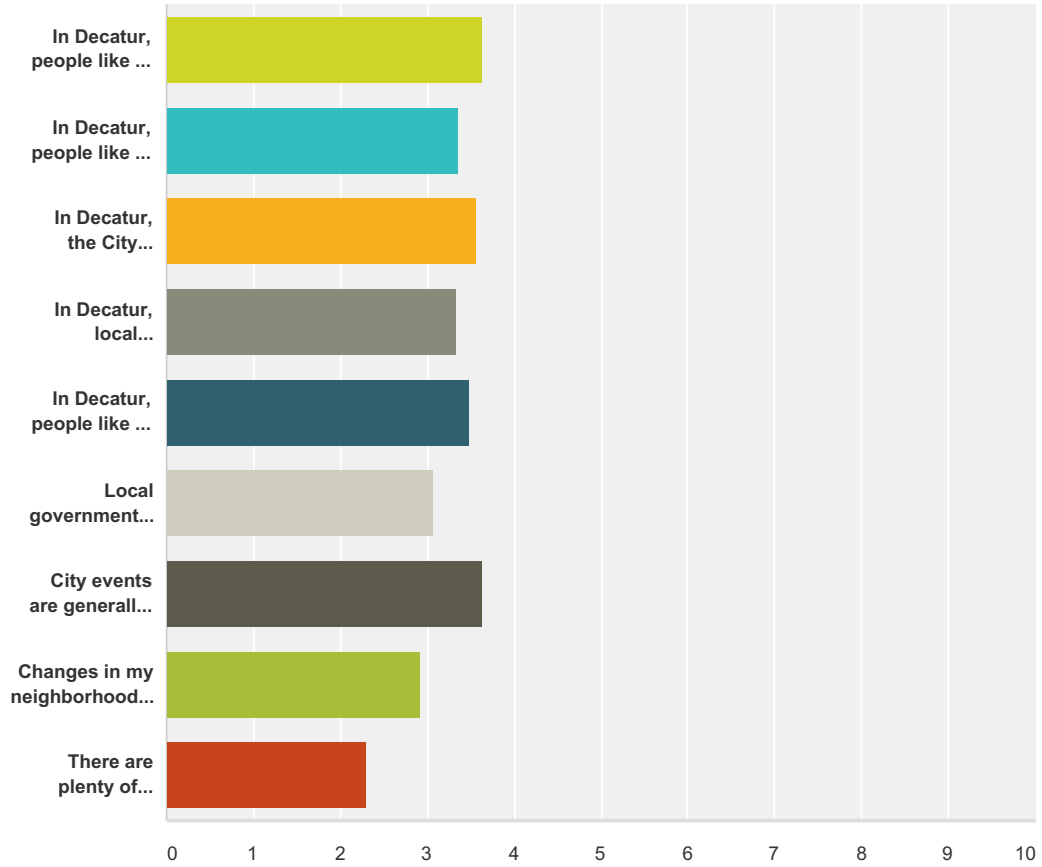
Answered: 699 Skipped: 25



	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral: Neither Agree or Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total	Weighted Average
Decatur is a diverse community.	5.44% 38	20.03% 140	19.89% 139	38.05% 266	16.60% 116	699	3.40
Decatur is welcoming to people of all ages.	2.72% 19	10.87% 76	17.45% 122	45.92% 321	23.03% 161	699	3.76
Decatur is welcoming to people of all beliefs.	2.29% 16	5.87% 41	21.89% 153	45.78% 320	24.18% 169	699	3.84
Decatur is welcoming to people of all races.	4.15% 29	12.30% 86	21.75% 152	40.77% 285	21.03% 147	699	3.62
Decatur is welcoming to people of all sexual orientations.	1.14% 8	1.43% 10	10.30% 72	46.07% 322	41.06% 287	699	4.24
Decatur is welcoming to people of all abilities.	1.86% 13	8.01% 56	29.90% 209	42.49% 297	17.74% 124	699	3.66
Decatur is welcoming to people of all income levels.	18.88% 132	36.19% 253	18.60% 130	18.88% 132	7.44% 52	699	2.60

**Q13 In this section, please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding the city as a whole.**

Answered: 684 Skipped: 40



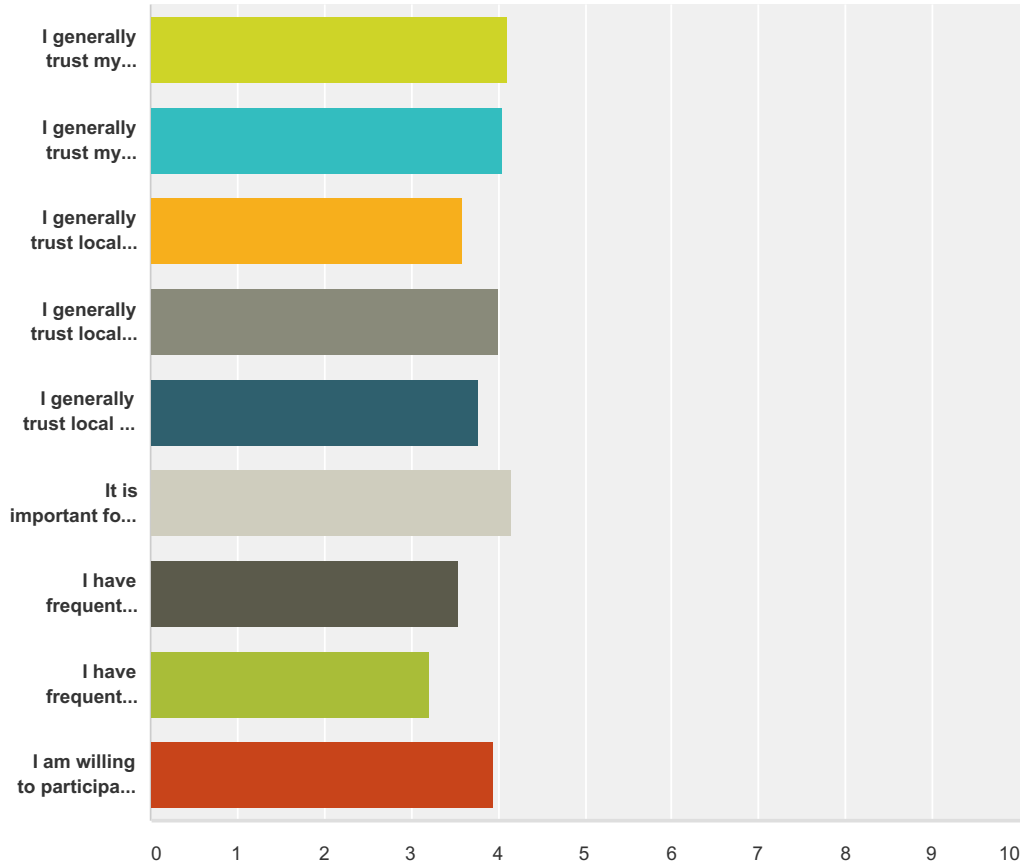
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral: Neither Agree or Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total	Weighted Average
In Decatur, people like me are often involved as community volunteers and organizers.	2.92% 20	9.80% 67	22.51% 154	50.29% 344	14.47% 99	684	3.64
In Decatur, people like me are seen as community and neighborhood leaders.	5.85% 40	12.87% 88	29.97% 205	42.11% 288	9.21% 63	684	3.36
In Decatur, the City employs a diverse staff.	2.05% 14	7.31% 50	34.94% 239	43.57% 298	12.13% 83	684	3.56
In Decatur, local businesses are owned by people like me.	6.73% 46	12.72% 87	29.24% 200	43.42% 297	7.89% 54	684	3.33
In Decatur, people like me are often represented in arts, culture and entertainment.	4.53% 31	11.40% 78	26.46% 181	46.05% 315	11.55% 79	684	3.49
Local government generally makes decisions based on input from people like me.	9.06% 62	19.74% 135	33.92% 232	30.70% 210	6.58% 45	684	3.06
City events are generally attended by people like me.	3.51% 24	10.09% 69	20.76% 142	50.29% 344	15.35% 105	684	3.64

## Better Together Community Survey

Changes in my neighborhood reflect the preferences of people like me.	<b>10.96%</b> 75	<b>23.68%</b> 162	<b>33.04%</b> 226	<b>25.58%</b> 175	<b>6.73%</b> 46	684	2.93
There are plenty of affordable housing options available in Decatur for people like me.	<b>30.26%</b> 207	<b>32.02%</b> 219	<b>19.15%</b> 131	<b>14.18%</b> 97	<b>4.39%</b> 30	684	2.30

**Q14 In this section, please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding the city as a whole.**

Answered: 675 Skipped: 49



	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral: Neither Agree or Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total	Weighted Average
I generally trust my neighbors including those different from me.	1.63% 11	2.22% 15	9.33% 63	56.59% 382	30.22% 204	675	4.12
I generally trust my neighbors to treat me and people like me fairly.	1.48% 10	4.59% 31	8.74% 59	57.48% 388	27.70% 187	675	4.05
I generally trust local government to treat me and people like me fairly.	4.44% 30	10.81% 73	21.63% 146	47.11% 318	16.00% 108	675	3.59
I generally trust local businesses to treat me and people like me fairly.	2.37% 16	3.26% 22	11.41% 77	56.89% 384	26.07% 176	675	4.01
I generally trust local law enforcement to treat me and people like me fairly.	4.30% 29	9.19% 62	14.07% 95	48.89% 330	23.56% 159	675	3.78
It is important for the people of Decatur and local government to focus on creating a diverse, inclusive and fair city.	4.59% 31	3.85% 26	9.93% 67	34.81% 235	46.81% 316	675	4.15
I have frequent conversations about diversity and fairness with people like me.	3.85% 26	14.07% 95	23.56% 159	40.89% 276	17.63% 119	675	3.54

## Better Together Community Survey

I have frequent conversations about diversity and fairness with people different from me.	<b>4.15%</b> 28	<b>24.89%</b> 168	<b>28.30%</b> 191	<b>30.67%</b> 207	<b>12.00%</b> 81	675	3.21
I am willing to participate in community conversations and activities focused on diversity and fairness.	<b>2.22%</b> 15	<b>4.30%</b> 29	<b>16.74%</b> 113	<b>49.93%</b> 337	<b>26.81%</b> 181	675	3.95

## Better Together Community Survey

### Q15 Please share any additional thoughts you have regarding what does or does not make the City of Decatur a welcoming, inclusive and fair city for all.

Answered: 241 Skipped: 483

#	Responses	Date
1	City officials are dismissive of residents who do not support them 100%	9/16/2015 11:16 PM
2	Income disparities are an increasing issue for this city. The lack of affordability of housing, the trend toward building oversized houses on small lots, and the pricing out of lower, middle and upper middle-class residents is concerning. As are the uncertainties with the city school system - we chose to purchase a house in the city of Decatur largely because of the reputation of the school system, but with the changes in housing (more rentals, etc.) and system leadership, we're nervous about the future. The municipal services - fire-fighters, recycling, etc. are phenomenal and accessible to residents.	9/7/2015 1:59 PM
3	The City of Decatur appears to value young families more than the aging population. In fact, there is little focus on the elderly and their needs in strategic planning including taxation. The City is, by default, obsessed with the demands of young families and their children's education. Needs to be a better balance and a total review of taxes required of the elderly if, in fact, the City values them.	9/3/2015 4:23 PM
4	Housing! We wanted in CoD for the great community and schools, yet housing is so expensive that the cheapest house we could find to live inside the district was at the top tier of our budget.	9/2/2015 10:47 AM
5	Housing prices are making the city affordable to a few. Constant approval of permits to tear down mid size homes to build 3,400+SF homes are making the city significantly less socioeconomically diverse.	8/31/2015 10:54 AM
6	Losing affordable housing to \$700,000 new builds. I could not buy in Decatur today.	8/30/2015 11:00 PM
7	Cultural events, concerts, etc. :)	8/29/2015 10:22 PM
8	I am very concerned about long-time residents, primarily African-Americans, losing their homes because they can't afford increasing tax, utility, etc. rates. Not fair.	8/29/2015 3:41 PM
9	I am finding that the city is making and approving changes that are having adverse effects on the quality of life of its tax-paying residents. Schools, roads, sewers- the entire infrastructure WILL crumb under the weight of the 1000s of apartments recently built or being built in Decatur. A moratorium on apartment complexes is called for and FAST. What is a curing is UNFAIR to a very diverse, once liveable community.	8/28/2015 4:58 PM
10	Cost of housing is likely the major factor in the declining diversity in the City of Decatur. This is both a positive and a negative for the city. To have diversity outside of just racial diversity, there has to be diversity in housing prices. With home prices in the City >500,000 in many areas, this limits the many types of diversity (age, education, profession, etc)	8/28/2015 2:51 PM
11	CoD is very welcoming and tolerant of most people based on conversations I have had with people who live in Atlanta area and even from out of state. I think one of the driving forces in being a resident of Decatur is the school system and the city should insure they do everything they can to promote and continue the high level of education. Part of that education is being in a city that values individuals of all races, beliefs, socioeconomics.	8/28/2015 2:07 PM
12	Instead of trying to mandate some idea of diversity, let the authentic experience play out. Diversity is more than a black or white issue. There was almost no representation of Asian or Hispanic people in Decatur until recently. I say welcome people from all cultures by presenting ourselves as educated, decent, hardworking folk who love their children, and love our community, THEN we will attract like-minded citizens regardless of race. I definitely have concerns regarding elderly citizens aging in place, I have lived it with my own parents. However, the personal choices, circumstances, consequences of many are difficult to assign a set solution. Many of our elderly may have difficulty paying Decatur's notorious high taxes, (but it has always been! Our own police and fire dept! Our own school system- what we achieved there IS because we were independent!!! Decatur Rec, etc.). Many of the same who struggle against the taxes, have also seen an almost unbelievable rise in property values. My parents were forced to take out a reverse mortgage on their home to extract some of the value they had acquired on their home for financial responsibilities. I think more personal responsibility is warranted than another orchestrated "social solution".	8/28/2015 10:37 AM

## Better Together Community Survey

13	-Look into having better buttons for crosswalks. The current buttons hurt to press, they are too small. -Look into crosswalks talking to let hard of seeing people hear when it is safe to walk along with giving the name of the street. This also helps tourists find their way around the city.	8/27/2015 7:24 PM
14	Housing prices affects diversity in income. The lack of smaller, affordable Housing options also affects retired folks like me, as there's no place to downsize and stay in Decatur.	8/27/2015 6:22 PM
15	There needs to be fairer treatment of people of color by the police. There needs to be more inclusion of parents of color in school organizations and decision making. There needs to be affordable housing and efforts to maintain diverse neighborhoods so that elderly African American residents are not forced out by high taxes. There needs to be more community discussion about how race and class affect people in Decatur and positive actions we can all take toward the city being more welcoming and equitable. We need to look at the negative sides of gentrification, not just the fancier neighborhoods and restaurants and appealing to "people like me- i. e. white middle & upper middle class".	8/27/2015 1:33 PM
16	My family is white with a good income so I find Decatur to be a welcoming city. I do not think that Decatur is so welcoming to people with limited incomes that are not senior citizens.	8/26/2015 4:36 PM
17	Gentrification, because of housing and other policies has often worked against diversity and fairness.	8/26/2015 4:21 PM
18	As a parent of a child with special needs, I would like to see people of all abilities be included more under the umbrella of diversity. There tends to be a focus on ethnic, economic and age diversity in our city and in the CSD school system.	8/26/2015 2:13 PM
19	Neighborhood list serves often reflect "self-righteous" opinions of participants responding to others--- lacks tolerance and respect for people that may not be as aware, knowledgeable, green, etc. as they are.	8/26/2015 11:23 AM
20	Having lived here for some time, i see our community becoming less diverse and it becomes more expensive to live here. There is very little affordable housing and there will be less as taxes continue to go up. You cannot have a diverse community if the only way to live here is to be able to afford to pay thousands a month in rent or a mortgage. Seniors are being pushed out, single parents are being pushed out, out own teachers and police officers can't afford to live here.	8/26/2015 10:44 AM
21	this is a weird survey. Does "people like me" mean people of my same race, age, income level? Or does it mean people who share my values? How can you evaluate the responses when the questions will have such different meanings to different people? I will be very dubious about the results of this survey. I hope it isn't used as "proof" of our attitudes and beliefs.	8/26/2015 8:17 AM
22	The home values (and therefore taxes) are pushing out people of middle to lower and fixed incomes. This does not make for an inclusive and fair city.	8/25/2015 11:11 PM
23	Fear of crime, fear of difference. Association of criminality with racial identity. These things happen daily in my neighborhood, and it is racist and divisive. The real estate market, the tearing down of older, smaller homes to be replaced by bungalows on steroids. I could write a book about all the things that do not make Decatur welcoming, inclusive, or fair these days.	8/25/2015 10:37 PM
24	affordable housing is limited. High real estate taxes & sales prices are limiting access to Decatur homes	8/25/2015 3:01 PM
25	People like me are low income and therefore cannot afford housing throughout Decatur. We are all cornered off in one location. Unless home buying is available for all income in all areas.	8/25/2015 12:35 PM
26	I think the city is very diverse by most standards EXCEPT for economic diversity. So, regardless of race, religion, orientation, ability, etc, if you have enough money you can live here and be surrounded by kind, inclusive people. Unfortunately, economics and race tend to be intertwined (don't know why, but the data shows it clearly) so that means blacks are leaving the city for economic reasons not active lack of diversity or inclusion. With respect the City employee diversity, it seems city employees are largely black, police and fire are white. Is that observation supported with data? If so, is that really diverse?	8/25/2015 12:33 PM
27	I see it as a city of people of all walk of life. The first time I ever seen my tax dollar work to my advantage.	8/25/2015 12:29 PM
28	Most people I live with still have old school ideas!!! White vs. Black.	8/25/2015 12:24 PM
29	Decatur all way help everybody any way they can.	8/25/2015 12:21 PM
30	I would like there to be lots of recreational coaching for seniors to transition to lower impact sports.	8/25/2015 11:41 AM
31	I have no idea at present.	8/25/2015 10:46 AM
32	I do not understand why the city believes their is a need to spend significant tax dollars on this project and what specific items the city will implement as a result of this initiative	8/25/2015 10:33 AM
33	none at this time	8/25/2015 10:29 AM
34	I think Decatur is very fair city.	8/25/2015 10:00 AM



## Better Together Community Survey

35	It seems that people with lower incomes are slowly being pushed out of the city due to rising home taxes and lack of affordable housing. New housing development seems to be geared towards those with high incomes.	8/25/2015 9:15 AM
36	I work as a teacher and can not afford to live in the City of Decatur.	8/25/2015 8:52 AM
37	Decatur is very inclusive. We are the most liberal voting district in the state. Decatur targets families for most events. It could be more LBGT focused.	8/25/2015 12:12 AM
38	NOT enough affordable housing	8/24/2015 8:19 PM
39	We have to come together and treat each other equally. Love one another . We should not blame only one side of the problems.	8/24/2015 4:34 PM
40	If I had black skin instead of white skin, my answers would be different. I take for granted the privileges I did nothing to earn. I am aware that 90% of the people in my neighborhood are just like me - privileged and white. I see this disparity as socio-economic-based, stemming from intrinsic, systemic racial biases.Decatur is not 'immune' to these biases and will have to work diligently to overcome them.	8/24/2015 2:45 PM
41	Decatur is becoming an enclave for wealthy families. Gentrification negatively affects families of color and elderly residents living on a fixed incomes. It is difficult from families of color to relocate to Decatur as the property values are so high.	8/24/2015 2:04 PM
42	I witness occasions where black people are treated with more suspicion than those of their white counterparts for the same action.	8/24/2015 12:15 AM
43	Lack of affordable housing; economic segregation creates racial segregation	8/23/2015 8:54 PM
44	Decatur is a very sanitized city -- sanitized of its diversity intentionally. Nearly 20 years ago, when gentrification began, along with the process of pushing out its black citizens, this effort was not a concern. Why is it now? Why is "diversity" valued now? The destruction of public housing at the corner of Commerce and Trinity was part of Decatur's 10 or 20 year plan back then, and its demolition decreased the city's diversity. Are the people behind this movement, the same people who organized that change? If so, I wonder what their idea of diversity looks like. "We should be able to live wherever we can afford to live, but we don't get to choose our neighbors." Maryann Russ, Dallas Housing Authority	8/23/2015 6:54 PM
45	The City of Decatur is too welcoming to developers and to their infill building. My home has become less valuable but more highly taxed because of this. For a while the development had been beneficial but that point has been past and it is time to put the brakes on the McMansion building. Neighbors like me are becoming marginalized. I couldn't afford to move into my neighborhood today and if I knew the current tearing down trend was continuing I wouldn't want move in.	8/23/2015 6:35 PM
46	Can you imagine in the past the City of Decatur giving licenses for beer, wine, etc. festivals to people of color??? Now, to tie up the city.. Kecia cunningham, I feel very bad for her. I do not know Tony Powers or the other two running for the comm. seat, but I hope that T. Powers wins.	8/23/2015 9:27 AM
47	Please stop allowing all these historic homes to be torn down . It is ridiculous how unaffordable our neighborhood is becoming. The new apartments which are going to fill our schools even more are a bad idea too. We moved here for the small town feel. We are quickly going to lose that charm with all the new developments.	8/22/2015 5:02 PM
48	Housing is becoming very expensive. We could not afford to move into Decatur today. This over time will threaten the diversity of our community, which is one of the primary reasons why Decatur is a great place to live and raise a family.	8/22/2015 4:59 PM
49	Plan to become more involved in City activities.	8/22/2015 9:15 AM
50	Decatur's current property taxes and values are making it challenging for some long-time residents to stay in their homes. This concerns me.	8/21/2015 11:13 PM
51	I love the City of Decatur; I was glad to be able to buy in the city and set down roots. I think Decatur is amazingly welcoming. I wanted to have a community my family could take ownership of. I'm very happy to be here! What makes the city "work" is that its citizens are actively involved in growing it.	8/21/2015 3:14 PM
52	City's issue with losing diversity has to do with cost of taxes and increasing value of property. Decatur places a great value on diversity and I've spoken about the great ideas that Decatur has used to help minority or lower income children in the Decatur school system. It's a great model and one other school systems should emulate.	8/21/2015 11:07 AM
53	I have concerns about what I perceive as a change in the demographic (i.e., income and race/ethnicity) make-up of Decatur. I fear that increasing home prices leave little room for affordable housing and the diversity that once existed here.	8/20/2015 7:58 PM

## Better Together Community Survey

54	<p>The City of Decatur is fast becoming a residence of affluence and privilege, largely based on the housing market and the drive to be part of the school system. The city has marginal services for people with disabilities and the schools and the schools are trying to keep up with the demand to accommodate more students including those with disabilities. The city does not feel welcoming of people with intellectual disabilities or mental illness. There are few city employees who look like this. Businesses do not seem to employ people with disabilities, though there have been a few internship opportunities through the high school that are within the City of Decatur. None have been lasting that I know of with the exception of Ace Hardware. Even the rec center, though open to having my girls in their program as campers for many years, declined to work with me to help one of them become a counselor-in-training. There is no real affordable housing for people with low income, including those with disabilities. In fact, a group meeting place in our neighborhood was disparaged and the neighbors fought to allow it to operate. L'Arche is the only exception that I am aware of. The police Department does seem accepting of persons with disabilities. Both my girls have taken the self-defense training they offer and the staff was very accommodating. We see them in the community along with the Dec Rec staff and their is genuine connection. I am single mom and have been so swamped raising these girls, I have not been involved as much as I would like to be in the City Planning and activities. This issue of creating inclusiveness in Decatur is, however, an issue I would like to be part of.</p>	8/20/2015 1:58 PM
55	<p>I think Decatur' trajectory has been determined by the demand for the schools. Currently I believe builders and developers are causing gentrification that extends beyond the traditional boundaries. As an older person without kids I feel the taxes are excessive-- that I am being "gentrified" by my age (retiring next year). I hope to stay in Decatur-- but let's see what happens to my property appeal!</p>	8/20/2015 1:01 PM
56	<p>The income shift in Decatur is really shocking. If my husband and I were trying to buy a home today starting out the way we did 14 years ago, we would not be buying in Decatur because we could not afford it.</p>	8/20/2015 12:10 PM
57	<p>I am wholeheartedly supporting this initiative for diversity and fairness, but it seems impossible to me to have this discussion without also addressing the economic connections, especially the construction of new mansions, and the environmental aspect of using more and more green space/trees for these new buildings that benefit, people who can afford huge houses, which again affects diversity issues. My vote goes for addressing all of these intersecting issues together before Decatur has changed into a typical, clearly non-diverse suburb in the country.</p>	8/20/2015 11:37 AM
58	<p>Beyond racial and ethnic diversity, I think Decatur could be more forward thinking about keeping our city, its schools and all its benefits accessible to individuals and families of lower economic status. Often in gentrification, this gets lost and poorer people get pushed out of communities.</p>	8/20/2015 11:23 AM
59	<p>Sullivan Homes are changing the fabric of our neighborhoods. Tearing down affordable homes in place of mcmansions. Where are the limits??</p>	8/20/2015 11:20 AM
60	<p>I have never seen "sign language interpreters available on request." And almost no signs indicating wheelchair access.</p>	8/20/2015 7:31 AM
61	<p>Offer more affordable housing, stop allowing mega mansions to be built. Make Eddie's put in an elevator for accessibility. Take "churches/houses of worship" out of the motto and logo. It is way past time to do that with all of the religions and nonbelievers represented in Decatur.</p>	8/19/2015 8:19 PM
62	<p>Being from Decatur, I have always viewed the city of Decatur as being somewhat of a city that excludes lower to middle class people if you will. Housing is not affordable to those like me and taxes are ridiculous. If you are not of the top tier income, you would either rent or live right outside the city of Decatur. Parking is a nightmare and the fact that you have to pay for parking is another way to keep people like me away. I love the city of Decatur and what it has to offer but only have felt like a visitor rather than someone that could potentially be a resident.</p>	8/19/2015 9:52 AM
63	<p>One of the things I have noticed is the inconsistent quality or total lack of curb cuts and sidewalks in areas outside the town center of Decatur. I do not feel particularly safe trying to be a pedestrian and use public transportation. One specific example of a physical aspect is: The intersection of South Candler Rd and College Street, - where the train track crosses Candler Rd and there is now a large construction project - is a very dangerous crossing for a walking person, and even more so for me in my wheelchair. There is no sidewalk of any kind, and a steep hill, as well as the railroad tracks and the construction zone. Regarding non-physical aspects: In the past i have struggled with trying to participate in such endeavors. I find that while many people are well-meaning, the myths and stereotypes about people with disabilities are still very prevalent. So many people are covertly condescending and patronizing, or even downright rude. From my perspective, this kind of behavior belies any claims made concerning acceptance, inclusion, tolerance and respect being the values and principles at the heart of the work.</p>	8/19/2015 7:54 AM
64	<p>People here are friendly, welcoming, and willing to discuss important issues: culture, politics, sexual preferences, sports, theater, art, religion, etc. It's easy to make friends and make network connections here, to share with and learn from strangers in all walks of life. My concerns about Decatur are these: the sporadic pedestrian traffic signals, the cracked sidewalks, and the propensity of Decatur construction projects and repairs to block access to curb cuts and ramps without forewarning. As a pedestrian, it is disconcerting to receive right-of-way from traffic signals and yet be nearly hit by drivers who are overly anxious to turn right or else are overconfident that we will not collide. Efforts to speak to city officials about the need for level sidewalks, access to curb cuts, and more consistent traffic signals and communication in general about repairs have gone unanswered by city officials.</p>	8/18/2015 12:12 PM

## Better Together Community Survey

65	Decatur has become too expensive. I have friends who think about moving here, and when I tell them the tax implications--that it will cost \$500-\$800 per MONTH just for the privilege of living here, they change their mind. Now I am opposed to subsidized housing . Decatur is getting too expensive--like Buckhead. Nothing that can be done about it--people just want to live here for many reasons.	8/18/2015 9:32 AM
66	Becoming very expensive; changes the demographic of who can live here.	8/17/2015 4:22 PM
67	Older people like me are finding it more difficult to live here since almost everything caters to young people including business, restaurants, housing, etc.	8/17/2015 3:54 PM
68	The city does not focus on automobile traffic. It is difficult to get in and out of the city especially at rush hour. With the influx of people it's getting worse. This affects working people who PAY TAXES. While it cannot be defined as racist or sexist or ageist. It is a REAL problem.	8/17/2015 3:14 PM
69	I'm being priced out of the market. I'm genuinely concerned about this.	8/17/2015 2:38 PM
70	It has things for everyone and is inclusive of everyone. Great city.	8/17/2015 2:17 PM
71	Diverse people work to build a great community. Rich people see it and want and have the means to buy it. Byproduct= bye-bye poor people. Its the system we have and it is contrary to the goals here. Unfortunately it is too late to reverse this in a meaningful way. Economic equality and systems that don't allow people with wealth to exploit people without aren't going to get solved in time to address these concerns. You can still tinker with "identity politics," but the economic equity ship has sailed for Decatur.	8/17/2015 11:57 AM
72	We need more affordable housing and culturally diverse programs.	8/17/2015 8:06 AM
73	I moved here thinking there was diversity on all levels, religious, economic, education, race, background. I was wrong, it is becoming more monocultural and only one economic level of access. It is unaffordable and we are driving people away. It's very upsetting.	8/16/2015 8:48 PM
74	Not enough lower-priced housing accommodations- there's low income/subsidized, but not enough affordable for graduate students, newly employed, and lower paid people. The housing market is drifting toward the high income couple. The less well-off families are not able to get into Decatur's school system, making it less diverse than it should be.	8/16/2015 6:58 PM
75	Even though we've only been official COD residents for less than a decade, we've lived in the area for almost 20 years. We waited a long time to be able to buy in Decatur, and it wasn't for the schools, it was for all the walkable activities & civic events, plus the feeling of community. That feeling has been eroding for the past 5 or so years, as we've been flooded with too many families with children who couldn't care less about anything except the schools, and make this very clear. Many of these people don't care to associate with others who aren't just like them, and it's cast a pall of "us & them" feeling over the City that I didn't feel before. The City didn't do much of anything to curb the rampant over-development in Oakhurst until it was too late to save most of our lower-income families & seniors from being priced out. It further contributes to the lessened feeling of community that so many of these new upper-income families seem oblivious or uncaring about pushing long-timers out.	8/16/2015 3:46 PM
76	If we do not have special developments for middle income folks there will be no economic diversity.	8/16/2015 10:51 AM
77	Explosive growth is going to start having a negative impact on quality of life here.	8/16/2015 10:33 AM
78	I was more than willing to participate in this survey, however I felt I had to take a neutral stance because I teach in Decatur and live in Cobb county. However, I do want to become involve with the conversation about Diversity. I have noticed a change in the student population in Decatur in the years I have taught here.	8/15/2015 4:58 PM
79	Enough emphasis on fairness & diversity, its time to step it up with some self-discipline and start some nutrition & health education for citizens. Drive on Ponce during lunch and there are obese women waddling up and down the street, not very welcoming. Lets start some education & awareness towards health & nutrition.	8/15/2015 2:41 PM
80	The lack of affordable housing is the biggest issue. Sure there is "low income" housing for those in poverty and there is plenty of affluent housing for those making 80,000 plus a year, but where is the affordable housing for the middle class - working families making \$30,000-\$60,000 a year? There isn't any - not even in the apartments. Decatur is building three new apartment complexes - all of which the apartments start at a minimum of \$1300 a month for a one bedroom. That is certainly not inclusive or welcoming to anyone working as a teacher or a nurse. Sure it's ok to teach City of Decatur children or save a life at Dekalb Medical, but no, you aren't welcome to live here.	8/15/2015 2:26 PM
81	Racial profiling.	8/15/2015 8:09 AM
82	Housing prices have been strategically inflated to shut out older citizens and lower/fixed income residents.	8/14/2015 8:59 PM

## Better Together Community Survey

83	There is a lack of gay males represented at all levels of government. There is a smugness amongst many 20 and 30 year-olds that they don't have to go out of their ways to be inclusive with people of color, lesbians, gays, the elderly, and those of different income levels. These younger couples with children are often insensitive to the needs of anyone but themselves and those like them. If you try to engage them in serious conversation about diversity they arrogantly refuse to do so and fail to recognize their own biases.	8/14/2015 7:30 PM
84	In the last 10 years, household income has increased exponentially among many, and decreased radically among those who may have been middle class or lower class, while the businesses and services added in the city have catered mainly to the upper middle class and higher, making it difficult to live in the city for those whose means are less. Also, housing for first time home buyers of middle or lower class is almost non-existent. Many of these new and small families do not want to live in an apartment or condo. Why can't there be prohibitions against tearing down good quality small one and two story homes to build a 5-6 bedroom house? After paying high taxes for the schools for 14 years after the graduation of our youngest child from Decatur city schools, we felt we had paid enough taxes to the city when there was no housing that appealed to us as seniors, except condos or apartments with no yard. We have always been environmentally conscious, so we appreciated the interest in community gardens. Keep that up.	8/14/2015 3:15 PM
85	Lack of free parking in downtown Decatur keeps many Decatur citizens from enjoying downtown businesses. Downtown restaurants have become too expensive for many citizens. Decatur is becoming too exclusive while it tries to present itself as diverse. High property taxes are ousting older people--both black and white. Decatur favors young, upper middle-class couples with children.	8/14/2015 10:23 AM
86	As with most of Atlanta, there is no reliable public transportation from the further reaches of the City of Decatur to its heart. However, for those of us with lower incomes, we are priced out of living near what makes this city so special. Help make what is so wonderful about our city more accessible to all its residents.	8/14/2015 9:36 AM
87	need to pay attention to lower income folks - lowest classes are covered, now think about lower middle class	8/14/2015 9:36 AM
88	Gentrification by (class-ism) income inequality in affordability housing and employment opportunities which gives employees financial incentives to help them with rental and home ownership opportunities to continue to live or purchase in the community.	8/14/2015 9:32 AM
89	Decatur needs to take the word "churches" off its "A community of..." sign(s) because it gives the unfair impression that this is primarily a faith-base city. It risks alienating people of other religions and, like me, atheists. Also, although Decatur is an LGBT welcoming city by general knowledge, the city needs to officially host more LGBT-specific events, especially during Pride Month in June and in conjunction with Atlanta Pride in October. Decatur needs to promote itself more actively as a gay-welcoming city. Need more gay-owned businesses here.	8/13/2015 8:27 PM
90	For clarification, I do not think City Government treats anyone fairly regardless of race - so my answer is more reflective of poor customer service than racial commentary in that area. As for inclusivity of people of various ages - I believe that the strong uptick in home prices / taxes in the area pose a serious risk to diversity. I am not sure I would be willing to buy a home here if I was in the market now (and I represent what is considered a top 5%er when compared to other US households based on income.) Also, as a landlord, I am finding that my tenant base is becoming less diverse due to sharp increases in property tax valuations. My tenants are no longer as racially diverse as 10 years ago, not do they span as great an age range - especially with regards to seniors. To demonstrate the issue, I've had two homes "increase" in value by as much as 600% over the last 5 years (according to county assessors) - for my tenants that translates to dramatic increases in rental price which is out of my control - in both cases the increase amounted to over \$1000/month. The correlation of rising housing prices to decreasing diversity is not new. To further the point, I was out walking recently and met an older woman who was selling due to inability to afford taxes after 45 years in the community - I may be her one day. I appreciate all of the progress that Decatur has made in the last 16 years I've resided here, but I am starting to question if we are trading one of the best parts of our community (an accepting and diverse demographic) for loads of shiny new buildings and million dollar homes... I for one was okay with a little less shine and a more diverse set of neighbors. While I don't have a solution to the problem as a whole, as a landlord I offer the following. Why not implement a tax break program for landlords willing to offer affordable rents. You could limit the break to apartments with 1 bedroom or less (working off the assumption that most families with children would forgo a space that small and therefore not create a burden of loss due to school taxes). In addition, any provision could exclude developments / structures with greater than 4 units to ensure large development tax revenue was not lost - just a thought...	8/13/2015 4:11 PM
91	Decatur is a wonderful place but it's really only easy to fit in as an upper middle class to wealthy white well educated homeowner. I applaud Decatur for working toward a goal of inclusion and diversity but question whether the city can succeed based on the cost of living based on real estate prices and taxes. I regularly volunteer for big Decatur events and I see that most of the volunteers and attendees are often well educated, well off, and white. That was much less the case in the 80s and early 90s while I was growing up on the edge of Decatur in unincorporated DeKalb.	8/13/2015 4:09 PM
92	I don't want my taxes to subsidize low income housing. I work to hard to scrape by my own property taxes.	8/13/2015 2:53 PM

## Better Together Community Survey

93	Seniors and lower income residents are being taxed out of Decatur as home valuations increases are not offset by tax decreases, resulting in net higher taxes paid. Seniors are selling, tear downs are happening and replacement homes are two+ times larger and out of character with the houses on the street and in the neighborhoods. 1000 new apartments are targeted towards young professionals and don't have sliding scale rents based on income to attract a more diverse population. Just look at the fence around the Arlo on Trinity, not a face of color in the pictures.	8/13/2015 2:33 PM
94	Decatur has bent over backwards to provide a safe, pleasant atmosphere for almost any kind of person you can imagine. Decatur has, in fact, probably done too much to encourage "diversity." You can't change people's opinions, and some of what Decatur and the City Commission are trying to do now feels like Big Brother.	8/13/2015 2:33 PM
95	I have experienced overzealous acts by local law enforcement targeting minorities.	8/13/2015 12:16 PM
96	Housing prices are astronomical. My husband and I make more than \$200K per year and still found Decatur prices out of our range. It has led to changes in the city that mean most people are white and middle class. This is very different from the Decatur I moved into in 2002.	8/13/2015 11:48 AM
97	the "gentrification" - hate that term - is shifting the socio-economics of the population away from the "blue-collar" and less materially advantaged citizens, which I find detracts from true diversity.	8/13/2015 8:15 AM
98	Parking is expensive and it limits what I do downtown	8/13/2015 8:13 AM
99	While our household has a high income, I am concerned about housing options for those who do not. I'm also concerned about future housing options for me when I want to downsize and my income decreases. I would like to continue living in a single-family home (not condo), and I see the smaller home being replaced by large homes. I fear there will be no other choice for me when I want to downsize than to move out of the city. There needs to be diversity in sizes of single-family homes. Not everyone wants to live in a large house, Keep those of us in our 50s and 60s and older in Decatur!	8/13/2015 5:34 AM
100	I think we need more public space in Decatur. Areas where we can interact with all types of people more	8/12/2015 8:25 PM
101	The African American poor are welcomed and provided for. The older and lower income whites are not entitled to such programs and opportunities.	8/12/2015 7:05 PM
102	Many of my neighbors are new to me. The city is changing so fast, and not in a good way.	8/12/2015 6:29 PM
103	The price of housing has become that many cannot afford to live here. Restaurants and shops follow...	8/12/2015 5:14 PM
104	Way to much Confederate imagery. Makes me feel uncomfortable and that people are bigoted	8/12/2015 5:05 PM
105	Decatur exerts great effort to being a welcoming and fair city for all but it is a very difficult task but I think the citizens are willing to try.	8/12/2015 5:04 PM
106	While there are people of many different background indicator, the overarching and dominant culture seems to be white and Anglo.	8/12/2015 2:02 PM
107	.this is a great city run it like it's 1 maintenance system important	8/12/2015 1:44 PM
108	Some businesses are not handicap accessible (Eddie's Attic) and some are so crowded, they are functionally inaccessible. Sidewalks are pot-holed and cracked, forcing wheelchairs into street. Traffic goes too fast down Ponce, creating dangerous crossings, and police are not around to enforce lower speeds, stopping at crosswalks, etc. Property taxes are slowly making it too expensive for middle class people or seniors to continue living in Decatur.	8/12/2015 1:41 PM
109	I'm not sure I would have answered positively for #13 and #14 for people not like me. Decatur has become way too white and upper class for my tastes!	8/12/2015 1:32 PM
110	Capitalism and a free market will dictate the value of property, and that in turn will dictate who lives in Decatur. So, unfortunately for poor folks, the American way has spoken. Welcome to our free market economy	8/12/2015 1:03 PM
111	Lower income & people who live too far from downtown to walk it seem to be discouraged.	8/12/2015 12:45 PM
112	When I see the Decatur police pull someone over for a traffic stop, it is pretty much always a black person. When I read about a burglary report, the suspect is usually always a black male. I don't know if this is because these are the folks who are disproportionately committing traffic violations and property crimes, or if this is because of their race.	8/12/2015 12:40 PM
113	young adults who grew up in the city can't afford to buy a house.	8/12/2015 11:58 AM
114	the high property taxes! They are excluding singles and older citizens. You will soon have a very homogeneous city of young couples with children.	8/12/2015 11:11 AM
115	Decatur is for rich people who like to tear all the older, smaller houses down. I could never afford to live here, even though I work here. Parking costs also make the place unwelcoming to those with tight budgets, and I hear you're about to make that worse.	8/12/2015 10:25 AM

## Better Together Community Survey

116	There is an "invisible" history of racism that shapes Decatur today, that most of us understand, but few talk about openly. The city has already effectively erased the black history of Decatur, from the 1960s backward, and created an idyllic, "timeless" white village. Only the stubborn presence (and utter effectiveness) of our Housing Authority prevents a clean sweep of all signs of blackness. The dismal current housing situation--rapid replacement of affordable housing with housing for the social elite--is a gentrification from which the city may never recover. Any notion of Decatur being an "integrated" or "diverse" city was lost in the housing rush of last 10 years, when affordable housing preservation was pushed off the city's radar, and development was un-checked. Combine that with a tenuous racial climate in our city, in which race and class-based animosity hovers barely below the surface, and you have Decatur today: a city that proclaims progressive values, but is only progressive next to the blatantly racist and classist northern suburbs.	8/12/2015 9:46 AM
117	The COD doesn't care who buys those \$700,000 houses being built. They just want them sold so they can begin collecting the obscene ad valorem taxes. As far as I know, no one from the city welcomes any one who moves here. They just take your tax money and laugh all the way to the bank. You know, I love Decatur, I grew up here in the forties and fifties and then it was a nice friendly place to live. Now, it's just a PLACE where I happen to live. It's not the same. The city has become too focused on money, money, money. It's not the nice, friendly place you portray it to be.	8/12/2015 9:38 AM
118	Due to the rising tax base, not all families who wish to live here can afford to live here.	8/12/2015 8:58 AM
119	income inequality is becoming more problematic. Some people are being priced out of their neighborhoods due to housing demand and developers.	8/12/2015 8:53 AM
120	Rents, taxes, housing costs are all very high.	8/12/2015 8:41 AM
121	Planning or lack thereof has stripped away community and diverse living options. We have allowed Decatur to become Snellville	8/12/2015 8:14 AM
122	The need for more affordable housing to insure that people of all socioeconomic levels are able to live in Decatur.	8/12/2015 7:46 AM
123	I feel the city has already achieved this goal. We are very diverse and welcoming here, especially compared to other areas of Atlanta such as East Cobb or Buckhead. I am more concerned about rising crime, our horrible traffic issues, support of our schools and economic growth. I feel we are wasting city resources on a problem that doesn't exist.	8/12/2015 7:40 AM
124	City taxes are too high. Thus, people of lower incomes or fixed incomes can't afford to live here. So no Decatur is not diverse economically.	8/12/2015 7:14 AM
125	I think you need to be careful about the term 'people like me'. I am black and our family is fortunate enough to be an upper middle class family, income over \$200,000.00. When I answer the 'people like me question' sometimes I mean people like me, who are black, sometimes I mean 'people like me who, irrespective of their race are upper middle class'. It is sometimes hard to determine which of those 2 parts of who I am is informing the experiences that I am having.	8/12/2015 6:54 AM
126	As I said, I grew up in Oakhurst and I'm pretty friendly; I even have a child in school here. But walking my dog down the street, or taking my son to the park, I feel invisible to my neighbors. They simply don't tend to engage with black people as much from what I've observed.	8/12/2015 2:08 AM
127	I don't think Decatur is any of these: welcoming, inclusive or fair. I hear about and have actually seen a couple of instances of police stopping persons for WWB [Walking While Black] in Decatur.	8/12/2015 12:37 AM
128	Decatur is a very diverse place compared to other places in Georgia, and even Dekalb, but it isn't a global type of diversity. Also it is hard for people with low income to visit Decatur and have a safe and good time.	8/11/2015 11:58 PM
129	It is becoming almost impossible for persons of modest means to live anywhere in the city.	8/11/2015 10:21 PM
130	Decatur's success as a desirable housing and school community is raising costs of homeownership beyond modest income families	8/11/2015 10:19 PM
131	There are not many options for middle class people to buy (or rent) homes in the city anymore. It seems that there are many housing options for affluent people, as well as some decent "low-income affordable housing" for those who need it. The options in between these two groups is getting smaller and smaller. Having rich white people and poor Black people does not make for a diverse city. In our city, where are the Hispanics? Asians? Indians? Non-Christians? Having decent representation from all of these groups is true diversity.	8/11/2015 10:02 PM
132	The have-nots do not count for much.	8/11/2015 9:40 PM
133	Decatur is being taken over by condo projects, apartment buildings and especially, very pricey houses. It is becoming unaffordable for older retiring people like me and low income families.	8/11/2015 9:25 PM
134	as the older residents pass away or move to other living arrangements, many of the older houses are being torn down or added on to. This increases the home prices making them out of the price range for some people. As a result, Decatur is becoming slightly less diverse than it has been in the past.	8/11/2015 9:12 PM

## Better Together Community Survey

135	City has a completely different agenda on what a successful city looks like.	8/11/2015 8:22 PM
136	My concern, like many long time residents, is the lack of affordable housing for middle income families. The city is attracting a homogeneous group of white, upper middle class families with children. I fear we have lost our economic diversity. Tear downs of smaller homes are happening on a seemingly daily basis. Why must every rebuild be a \$700,000 home?	8/11/2015 6:54 PM
137	I've never thought Decatur had a racial or discrimination problem - not now or in the last 25 years. Everyone gets along and receives equal treatment. I hate to see isolated issues get blown out of proportion. One thing that has kept us as residents of Decatur is the small but efficient police and fire departments. I love that the police respond so quickly to any and everyone. They are concerned about all crime from vandalism and petty theft to more serious events. They don't choose the crimes or the criminals, but they have to respond to the facts. I would much rather see time, effort and resources spent on preventing and solving crimes rather than worrying about one person's overreaction to being questioned due to fitting a description of a suspect. No harm was done just like the older white man who was suspected of following a young girl walking home. An incorrect assumption by a young girl, but no harm and no outrage by the innocent man, only an attitude of better safe than sorry. Like your questions earlier, we do trust our neighbors in the city to do the right thing.	8/11/2015 6:13 PM
138	The city commission seems to have a near hatred of families with school age children. Activities are not scheduled with working parents in mind. How am I supposed to get my child to something at 3:30? How am I supposed to participate in something that is at 10am in Thursdays?!?!? If you work outside the city of decatur to afford to live in the city, you are S.O.L in terms of many activities.	8/11/2015 5:10 PM
139	Probably the most obvious problem is that housing costs are getting so high that lower income folks and retired folks are having a hard time living and/or staying in their homes.	8/11/2015 5:07 PM
140	Very concerned about continued housing costs increase in City of Decatur. There is not enough low-mid income housing for families that are not on public assistance. Smaller homes are being torn down at an alarming rate with huge new construction homes replacing them. This is making it difficult to downsize since it is such a competitive market with developers. Older Long time residents are moving outside the city limits because the new demographic with higher income are causing property value to soar resulting in higher assessments and taxes with the new construction large homes being built in existing neighborhoods.	8/11/2015 4:57 PM
141	The increase in families and expensive homes is hurting the older generations and single dwellers.	8/11/2015 4:49 PM
142	Affordable housing is a very large void in the City. Even with all the new apartments being built, our teachers, policemen, firemen, service workers typically cannot afford to live here.	8/11/2015 4:43 PM
143	It is becoming a city of have or have nots - nothing in between	8/11/2015 4:43 PM
144	I think Decatur, and just Georgia and the South as a whole is just less diverse and less inclusive than the NE. There are physical lines of segregation (south of Memorial, etc.). It is very strange and I wish it weren't the case.	8/11/2015 2:43 PM
145	To me, the city of Decatur has become another representation of what is happening all over this country: gentrification in its purist form. The only blacks I ever see on the city sidewalks are those pushing the baby carriages of white children or living in the lower income housing (the only one tolerated and highly monitored by your police) near Decatur High School. Many residents say they want diversity, but are not willing to do the heavy lifting to make that happen and honestly, they don't seem to mind not having it. This is a main reason why I moved. I feel since the people of Decatur have the income to make it the way they want it look, they have forgotten what it really means to make an entire city inclusive.	8/11/2015 1:05 PM
146	I fear we are not focused on "Income Diversity". We are driving away young people, older people on fixed incomes, and those just not as well off because of high taxes and a lack of affordable housing. We will soon become another Alpharetta if we are not careful.	8/11/2015 1:04 PM
147	Spending over \$100,000 on The Art of Community is a shameful waste of tax dollars.	8/11/2015 12:57 PM

## Better Together Community Survey

148	<p>All of the reasons we love living in Decatur are the same ones that make it such a popular place to live for young families. This has driven up property values to a point where access is limited to those with hefty budgets (full disclaimer we would not be able to afford our house now- what a difference 13 years makes.) It has also caused many long term, elderly residents (or their families) to sell their homes to make way for another new home or renovation for a young family. While I certainly cannot blame them one bit (\$350,000 covers a lot of long term care and expenses) it has really changed the fabric of our neighborhood. We are lucky that our immediate neighbors are still in their homes but I fear it won't stay that way for long. Moving into their neighborhood, and having them welcome us as the new kids on the block made our life so rich. My toddler daughter loves her surrogate grandparents, but so few kids in the neighborhood have that. Conversely, we also love that our daughter has five friends within walking distance of our front door, so it is hard to complain, but the richness and complexity of the neighborhood is waning. We are "all the same," mid to late 30's, white, 1.5 kids, professional jobs. I understand that nature is taking its course and the folks that have been in the neighborhood since the early 60's are leaving (or passing away) but how do we attract more diversity among the young families that find Decatur so appealing? How do we stay unique and diverse and not become Ashford Park, or Brookhaven? I have spoken to friends who have said that Oakhurst is too homogeneous, that while they love the neighborhood and can afford the houses, they don't want their child to be the only child of color in their classes, at church, etc. That is an issue that needs to be addressed. Unfortunately, I don't think we can rewind the clock and go back to the day where we had vast socioeconomic diversity, that train seems to have left the station. There will be some leveling out of home values of course, but the strength of the schools, the activities, the proximity to the city, etc. are a reality that make this a popular place to live. Therefore, working within the current reality, what can be done to attract more racial and ethnic diversity among those that can afford to move here?</p>	8/11/2015 12:28 PM
149	<p>Decatur has a very welcoming, considerate overall culture. However, the high cost of living because of house prices and city taxes will sabotage efforts for a truly diverse community. I hope the city leadership will push for an annexation plan that will relieve the tax burden on residents, push for generous homestead exemptions for the elderly and low-income residents and work with developers and realtors to promote diverse housing options that come in various price points. I hope that the city leadership will consider working with a lobbyist in the state legislature so that the loud voices of those forming new cities and those opposed to Decatur's annexation plan will not have control of the conversation and thus the direction of Decatur's future.</p>	8/11/2015 10:35 AM
150	<p>For me the issue is primarily an economic one. Poor and working class people are being priced out of the city. That then reflects in the racial/ethnic makeup of the city. Gentrification needs to be managed in order for the city to remain a welcoming, inclusive and fair city.</p>	8/11/2015 10:31 AM
151	<p>You cannot engineer a diverse community. Most city employees seem to be non-white. This is a waste of money and the ultimate example of political correctness gone out of control.</p>	8/11/2015 10:31 AM
152	<p>People make their own choices of where and how they live. It is none of City of Decatur's business to decide who should live here.</p>	8/11/2015 10:04 AM
153	<p>I have lived in the COD since I was a child and so did both of my parents. My grandparents moved to Oakhurst in the 50s. I remember COD being a much kinder city that represented people my same complexion, but that has all changed. The city caters strictly to investors and developers who ALL clearly want to keep the city majority one race. The city allows the developers to build houses that minorities cannot afford but turn right around and on paper label the city diverse and progressive. It is NO coincidence that there are not many if at all any minority-owned businesses. Racism is blatant in the schools and is never addressed but condoned. It is amazing how this city is continuously placed on pedestal that they clearly are not worthy of. This city is not as progressive or diverse or even welcoming to diversity as it says that is. The property taxes alone, testifies to this.</p>	8/11/2015 9:44 AM
154	<p>Diversity is more than black and white. Please consider other races and ethnicities when you are putting together your "plan." Asians and Latinos deserve a voice too.</p>	8/11/2015 9:00 AM
155	<p>lack of housing, programs and supports for older low-income adults</p>	8/11/2015 8:40 AM
156	<p>Decatur has become a financially gated community. It used to be diverse, both racially and socioeconomically. Not today. The rampant teardowns and skyrocketing property assessments are driving out older residents at an alarming rate. Those houses then get filled with three kids from an upper-middle-class family making \$250K/year. There is no more room in Decatur for working class families. It's gone, and meeting are not going to bring it back. Developers have had their way, and the damage is done. The people that helped make this a great place to live are no longer welcome because they can't afford the taxes, and don't have a voice because they don't have kids.</p>	8/11/2015 8:24 AM
157	<p>The city staff could use more whites. The staff has a disproportional number of non-whites. Also religious individuals and gun owners feel out of place in Decatur.</p>	8/11/2015 8:14 AM
158	<p>The obstacle to inclusion that is most evident in my neighborhood is the disappearance of affordable housing options. This is an urgent issue for CoD.</p>	8/11/2015 8:01 AM
159	<p>Not enough affordable housing. Longtime residents are being pushed out.</p>	8/11/2015 7:47 AM



## Better Together Community Survey

160	The simple fact is that the current development in the city has pushed housing prices through the roof, and this seems to come at the expense of our minority communities.	8/11/2015 7:44 AM
161	On a teacher's salary it has been hard to afford to live here. I've been here since college (ASC c/o '95). Decatur is losing its quiriness and diversity. It used to be a city of little houses and big ideas. I loved that people drove old cars and intentionally chose smaller houses in exchange for living in Decatur. Are we losing the heart of who we are? As a veteran teacher, I left the classroom in large part due to huge enrollment increases. I worry that Decatur's successes will lead to Decatur's failure. My students and their families began to look more and more homogenous. What are we doing to keep our economic and racial diversity? Do the new Decaturites value these things, too? How do we make sure the people who work in Decatur (teachers, firefighters, city workers) can afford to live in Decatur? How can we make sure our elderly citizens don't get pushed out? Thanks!!!!	8/11/2015 1:24 AM
162	my biggest concern is the housing market. Young, lower income people soon will not have any choices for affordable living	8/10/2015 11:09 PM
163	It is too expensive to live here. Unfortunately lower incomes follow a color line here in GA, and thus people of color cannot afford to live in such a well educated and highly desirable area like Decatur.	8/10/2015 10:51 PM
164	We bought the house when this was a much more diverse and inclusive community. Black/white gay/straight middle class/low income all coexisted with certain harmony. It has changed drastically and my family and I are beginning to feel that the city, if not the community per se, will tax us out of the neighborhood. I don't think even middle class people of any race or age are feeling comfortable. People who have recently moved in see that the easy answer is just for us to sell and move away - to take advantage of how much our houses have increased in value. They think that Decatur is following a natural evolution that comes with higher property value and good schools. There is little empathy for the people who have spent over a decade or two making this city their home. I feel sad and excluded.	8/10/2015 10:22 PM
165	Lack of planning to maintain and support socioeconomic and racial/ethnic diversity has made Decatur more homogenous and less welcoming.	8/10/2015 10:19 PM
166	The city needs more affordable low income housing.	8/10/2015 10:10 PM
167	seniors and those of low to moderate income have been priced out of housing.	8/10/2015 9:47 PM
168	Na	8/10/2015 9:33 PM
169	Mainly the house prices. We are renters, and could not afford to buy at this point, even though we have lived in Decatur City for 7 years. I gravitated to Decatur as an adult because I grew up here, but the Decatur of now is not like the Decatur of my youth -- not that it should be, but the trend toward near-million dollar houses and tear down/build big is edging out people like me, who have modest-paying jobs. I am so grateful that we have a great school system to send our kids to here, but I worry that something important is being lost in the mad rush to fill up every inch with condos or two-story new build. I don't want to leave Decatur, but I don't want it to continue down this path toward overpopulation and gentrification, either. I'd like to help be a part of the solution to this, however I can, and plan to keep my eyes and ears open for opportunities to do so. We have a 5th and 1st grader, and a 3 year old, so we'll be part of this system and this city for a long time yet. I have great hope that things will find an even keel, but it's not happening yet.	8/10/2015 9:16 PM
170	My husband and I have been trying to buy a house for a while and there is absolutely nothing we can buy within our price range. We both have master's degrees and jobs. Still cannot afford houses in the city we love so much.	8/10/2015 9:10 PM
171	I think the general attitudes and beliefs of people who live here would make a welcoming and inclusive city, but housing has become more and more expensive. I feel like Decatur used to be a nice, liberal, diverse middle class neighborhood and now it's becoming more and more affluent. I have seen several instances in my neighborhood where a family of color has moved out, their house is torn down and a \$750k house is built in its place. This concerns me b/c I want my children to go to school with other races, income levels, family structures, religious beliefs, etc. I'm concerned that Decatur is becoming a bubble of privilege.	8/10/2015 8:58 PM
172	Cost of living; negative attitude of many towards renters (responsible, single professional who was hammered by the housing crisis) I am UNWILLING to own yet and be tied down And if I wanted to cant afford it anymore.	8/10/2015 8:55 PM
173	The school reconfiguration made some people who cared about diversity bitter and less likely to stay involved	8/10/2015 8:51 PM
174	My greatest concern is for affordable housing in the area along with gentrification. With the high cost of housing, community organizers, writers, teachers, activists or artists are no longer going to be able to live in the city, taking away a creative and diverse group of people. For an interesting case study see: <a href="http://www.citylab.com/housing/2015/07/whats-the-matter-with-san-francisco/399506/?utm_source=twitter&amp;utm_campaign=socialflow&amp;utm_medium=tweet">http://www.citylab.com/housing/2015/07/whats-the-matter-with-san-francisco/399506/?utm_source=twitter&amp;utm_campaign=socialflow&amp;utm_medium=tweet</a>	8/10/2015 8:49 PM
175	Housing prices are out of control	8/10/2015 8:48 PM
176	I'm new. This is my first step at getting involved. Diversity in the workplace is part of my professional expertise.	8/10/2015 8:47 PM

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177	There is nothing that the City of Decatur does that discourages people of different races from living in the city. This whole effort is a waste of my tax dollars.	8/10/2015 8:46 PM
178	The city is fine. Stop trying to impose your white guilt on everyone!	8/10/2015 8:45 PM
179	The astronomical property prices and by extension taxes are the first thing that keeps out economically diverse people out. The general elitist and racist attitudes of the neighborhood keeps out racially diverse populations.	8/10/2015 8:38 PM
180	We need to treat older people without children better & be more inclusive. Not just about CSD.	8/10/2015 7:33 PM
181	I'm in a new home in Decatur. Neighbors are either really nice or completely don't speak. Our neighborhood list serve is often critical of new home owners. Folks here are VERY change resistant.	8/10/2015 7:32 PM
182	We have good bars.	8/10/2015 7:26 PM
183	We have racial diversity, though not ethnic. Racially, though we are pretty darn segregated. And our African-American neighbors get stopped by police in our neighborhood. The segregation can be seen at Decatur high as well. Kids are friendly with each other, a real strength, but the classes can be generally racially segregated. We have some economic diversity, but middle-income earners like us are leaving within the 5 years after our kids finish Decatur High (that is worth looking at - surely the city can see that only high-income earners can afford to move here (except for a percentage of people in subsidized housing), and others of us are leaving after we no longer need the schools and are being replaced by families who do). We cannot afford Decatur anymore. Finally, there is a cultural cliquishness of "Old Decatur" that holds the power structure, politically and socially, and even ecclesiastically. People are expected to conform to a white norm. And finally, our sidewalks and street crossings can be pretty scary for people with disabilities. Having said all that, Decatur still is one of the best places to live to be around people who care about and value the many forms of diversity, including sexual orientation and gender identification. We may not live up to our ideals, but at least we talk about it and try. That is our biggest strength. Thank you for doing this study.	8/10/2015 7:18 PM
184	Housing is unaffordable except for the very well off. Developers run rampant making money. The city is not confer AT ALL about long time citizens being forced out due to taxes and uncontrolled development	8/10/2015 7:10 PM
185	As we have lived here we have observed a shift in housing to meet the needs of the very rich or the very poor. The middle class is stuck. I don't have a good solution but only very wealthy and very poor does not seem to be a healthy mix.	8/10/2015 6:56 PM
186	Taxes are too high for middle class and working class families to own and rentals seem to be diminishing.	8/10/2015 6:40 PM
187	Rising property taxes are an issue for some people. We must find ways to not lose what little true diversity we have remaining.	8/10/2015 6:26 PM
188	As a white business owner with what is considered a higher income, I feel like my opinion is last one wanted in these forums- we are considered the problem and the enemy.	8/10/2015 6:08 PM
189	Decatur allows for those that want safety and security to be able to have it through their income. That is the reason they come. They can have nice homes and be safe without the nuisance of general crime they see in the lower economic areas.	8/10/2015 6:08 PM
190	The city government is too beholden to the economic interests of real estate developers.	8/10/2015 5:46 PM
191	You can only live in the city if you can afford a 500k home or want to live in a condo. Not enough options for middle class, creating a huge socioeconomic and racial divide. We no longer feel welcome and choose to spend our money elsewhere.	8/10/2015 5:31 PM
192	Decatur is all about people with children. Events, new businesses, dining are all geared toward people with families. My money often goes elsewhere when I'm not up for a kid friendly activity.	8/10/2015 5:30 PM
193	The lack of affordable housing and the rapidly decreasing diversity make me want to leave Decatur.	8/10/2015 5:24 PM
194	The housing prices (or maybe it's the size of these new construction homes) have gotten out of control, directly affecting increase in property values which is effecting property taxes and making it difficult for older residents (and those on fixed income) to afford to continue to live here. I know that if I needed to move to a bigger home to accommodate my growing family, I would not be able to afford a home in my own neighborhood. And after 8 years as a Decatur resident I would have to move. I think that is the opposite of welcoming, inclusive and fair.	8/10/2015 5:22 PM
195	Decatur is a great place to live if you earn more than \$100K a year. Otherwise, it's not affordable.	8/10/2015 5:19 PM
196	The important phrase is "people like me." Yes, I can afford any housing unit in Decatur, but people who aren't like me cannot.	8/10/2015 5:16 PM
197	My husband and I are Veterans. We have had multiple negative interactions with people who live and work in Decatur due to our service to our country. We were yelled outside of our house in front of our children by a 'neighbor' and were told that we were unfit parents because we had served in the military. I am not comfortable wearing my military shirts etc in downtown Decatur.	8/10/2015 5:14 PM

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198	Housing. There are very few housing options for families that are affordable - some attached condos, some apartments, but hardly any (if any?) 2+ bedroom single family homes that are under \$300,000. Also more could be done to increase accessibility for people with disabilities in public buildings, with parking availability, and at playgrounds.	8/10/2015 5:13 PM
199	I am concerned about gentrification driving long-term residents of the city to leave the city, and I am concerned that gentrifying whites are contributing to an atmosphere of intimidation towards long-time residents of color, such as by constantly calling police because a person of color looks "suspicious." I would like to see initiatives which regularly bring people into contact with their neighbors of all kinds.	8/10/2015 5:02 PM
200	Rising cost of housing is a legitimate concern. We are probably in one of the higher income levels and have trouble affording a 3 br house for our family of 5. There is also somewhat of a negative reaction from some residents to 1- new residents with children and 2 - new residents who purchase the big new construction homes. If anything, we have noticed bias against rich white conservatives. (We seem to be perceived as middle class white liberals). I have perceived those in our neighborhood to be very open minded and welcoming of everyone (except as mentioned above).	8/10/2015 4:05 PM
201	I worry that discussions of housing "affordability" lead to all sorts of misguided policies (i.e., rent control, low income set-asides) that benefit long-time tenants but make it more expensive for younger people and new residents to buy and interfere with the property rights of owners. The best the city can do on this front is to encourage new development to moderate price increases. There is not much harm in having "conversations" about diversity and fairness, just so long as organizers realize that the people who show up to these kinds of things do not necessarily represent the community as a whole.	8/10/2015 2:11 PM
202	I think Decatur is getting too expensive to stay diverse.	8/10/2015 10:43 AM
203	I have to work more hours to make more money, I do not get raises. Unfair, unequal appraisals and rising property values will probably force me out of the city soon.	8/10/2015 9:10 AM
204	Is anyone unwelcome? Let's say I want to live in Malibu, CA. Should Malibu accomodate me? I am not very comfortable with the City government attempting to influence who should and shouldn't be present in the City - but these questions lead me to believe that they are. If you exclude one group to accomodate another, that is what you are doing. Perhaps the City should just let individual citizens make choices on whether or not they want to be part of Decatur. Is it even legal for the City to be conducting such exercises? Is City of Atlanta doing something similar?	8/9/2015 10:26 PM
205	I think that more education of Decatur City employees (teachers, police, and other public facing employees) about unconscious racial bias would be helpful.	8/9/2015 4:47 PM
206	The City of Decatur touts being a diverse community, but diversity is not a true value. For instance, the makeup of the leadership of the City's administration is a prime example. There is no desire at the City Manager's level to have people of color in those positions, although there are token appointments of one or two people at the director level. In a city where there are at least five Assistant City Managers, not one of them is a person of color. Additionally, the city does not care about creating a diverse community because its housing policies and building requirements are not friendly to anyone who is not at a certain income level. The city says it wants racial, economic, and social diversity, but they do nothing to encourage it; as a matter of fact, they do everything to discourage it.	8/9/2015 12:49 PM
207	Tremendous economic divide and blighted areas of DE facto segregation and crime.	8/8/2015 4:43 PM
208	This city is increasingly inaccessible to people with medium to low incomes. From housing to dining options, and bad parking options in downtown, it is getting worse. Public services are slow to respond to concerns from less affluent residents.	8/8/2015 4:42 PM
209	high property values and taxes are making it hard for low-income and retired people to live here. The city is becoming wealthier and less diverse -- not a positive value for me.	8/8/2015 4:24 PM
210	The demographic pressures resulting from an increased lack of faith in City of Atlanta schools and DeKalb County schools has created a large influx of upper middle class families with school aged children. While not bad on its face (in fact there are certainly good things about this type of "gentrification"), there seems to be a different and less inclusive focus from many of these "newcomers" and it's bigger than just race. But then again, I'm speaking a bit too broadly. Many who move here do so because they do feel it's socially progressive.	8/8/2015 7:32 AM
211	It seems like Decatur is turning into a place for rich people with children. I understand that we all need to pay taxes to support the school system, however, I feel there is a disproportionate burden on people who have never had children and never will have them. Why don't people with more children pay more taxes since it's THEIR children who are going to the great Decatur schools? I know many people who hold this opinion, including people who have children.	8/8/2015 12:16 AM

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212	For the past couple of years, City of Decatur has come across as insincere in many of its efforts-- more "check it off the list" sessions than truly interested in gathering community input. More and more, the City has prioritized the demands of small special interest groups over allowing for full community say in determining policy and direction. The City also tends to focus its energies on residents in the same two or three areas, making little effort to engage residents in the other areas.	8/7/2015 11:42 PM
213	You know this is a small thing, but it affects my quality of life. When I am a pedestrian, I must cross Commerce Ave @Church or Clairemont Ave. to walk into the city to get a coffee or an ice cream or walk to the library. These two crossing spots are so threatening that my natural impulse to walk is stanchued. I DRIVE to the library to avoid the discomfort of crossing Commerce. I often do walk into the city by cutting through the Baptist Church parking lot to Ponce Place to avoid those spots and am I'm grateful for having found this alternate route. Commerce does just what it is intended to do...yet unintentionally stifles pedestrian access from the north side. To get to the airport, I took a cab to get to the MARTA station to avoid crossing Commerce Ave. I deeply appreciate all that this community provides. I feel privileged and joyful living in Decatur. (I am 72 years old; physically fit. I work out with a trainer; run and swim regularly.)	8/7/2015 10:14 PM
214	There are numerous opportunities to get involved and meet people.	8/7/2015 4:46 PM
215	I think many of the people who live in or run the city of Decatur *want* to be sensitive and accommodating to people who are not just white rich people. However, intentions don't mean much when our system is set up to benefit rich developers and the continued success and growth of the community means inadvertently pushing out lower income folks and people of color.	8/7/2015 3:57 PM
216	The property taxes have skyrocketed, which makes the area much less affordable and less diverse.	8/7/2015 3:49 PM
217	I feel the real estate market is getting to a point where lower income individuals and families will have a difficult time finding affordable housing in Decatur. Even the new apartments going up all over town appear to have rents that will be so high as to not truly provide "low-income housing". I also worry about the city being so "child and family" focused that we don't treat our elderly residents very well.	8/6/2015 3:48 PM
218	Like any other government, Decatur should focus on performing its functions in a fair and efficient manner. I believe that government oversteps its role and purpose if it focuses on creating what its elected officials perceive to be fairness, inclusiveness, and diversity. Then government becomes more involved in social engineering than administration.	8/6/2015 3:47 PM
219	Housing prices have sky-rocketed, leaving middle-income and low-income families out of the mix. Middle-income in Decatur now means \$100K+ it seems.	8/6/2015 3:43 PM
220	High property taxes are a disincentive to persons who do not have children in CSD and/or lower income persons. Streets and intersections that are unfriendly to pedestrians are more hazardous to older and younger residents and in general those who do not spend all of their time in cars.	8/6/2015 3:38 PM
221	Decatur is a racist and elitist enclave. This exercise like applying a bandaid to a shotgun wound. Too little, too late.	8/5/2015 4:38 PM
222	I am on the Decatur Housing Authority and we recieve strong support from City Government. We have also had the support of the citizenry in city-wide planning events.	8/5/2015 2:33 PM
223	There is not enough affordable housing in the city limits and the set-asides are impossible to find out about.	8/4/2015 11:50 PM
224	I love living here. I can see the demographics changing and shifting towards more diversity, but not a shift on institutionally. The city may have diverse staff in general but not on a higher executive of leadership level, for example.	8/4/2015 8:56 PM
225	The recent boom in the destruction of reasonably sized and priced homes in favor of large expensive infills has me and my neighbors concerned. There is much talk about the changing face of Decatur as our elementary school becomes less diverse. Discussions with African American residents about racial profiling by both neighbors and police are also troubling. As a parent of an African American child, I have hopes that Decatur retains its diversity but am concerned about the future.	8/4/2015 1:04 PM
226	Thanks for this survey!	8/4/2015 10:08 AM
227	I do agree with many of the above statements as a white woman since they specifically add the "people like me" phrase. While I recognize that "people like me" are a big part of the problem, the lack of diversity in my community saddens me. We moved here because we were drawn by the school statistics highlighting over 20% minority populations. Today's kindergarteners at Oakhurst paint a very different picture.	8/3/2015 9:40 PM
228	First, housing has become too expensive. Second, the schools are getting too big. It's difficult to offer solid education to a diverse student body when the system is growing so quickly and so much.	8/3/2015 3:05 PM
229	The schools are very welcoming and inclusive, which is a huge positive. The housing price point I think could limit this though as people will be priced out of the district.	8/3/2015 12:22 PM
230	Housing and rental prices exclude many lower and middle class families	8/3/2015 12:08 PM

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231	The City of Decatur is becoming more exclusive. Average rental rates of the new apartments are prohibitive for anyone but upper middle class. The traffic is ridiculous with the narrowing of the streets. The people I know who live outside Decatur are very frustrated. There is little parking. It not a handicapped friendly city at all.	8/3/2015 11:06 AM
232	Housing prices are insane. There is no way I could move here now, only here b/c I could afford it 12 years ago. But I feel very left out by all the high income people moving here. Has changed a lot! All the artists and interesting people are cashing out and moving. I would too except my daughter is in school.	8/3/2015 7:21 AM
233	Many older homes are being torn down almost all to build bigger newer homes this inflating real estate prices and raising our taxes. How do you expect families who have been here fo 40 years to stay in their homes when their taxes are so high. Of course they will have to sell move to (I don't know where) so that they don't foreclose on their homes. The polices re wonderful and respond so quickly to anything, but have treated my African American neighbors differently than they would treat me for the same thing. I want to see my street stay diverse I just fear that the older couples with no kids and the less fortunate will be forced to move out making our neighborhood sterile and white. Already I have seen a change in the schools in the 1990s Oakhurst elementary classrooms were 100% African American now there is one African American child in my sons class. Where is the diversity? We are not living in the suburbs nor do we want to. Let's stop forcing people out of their homes.	8/3/2015 2:09 AM
234	We need more affordable housing. I want our teachers to be able to live here	8/2/2015 9:57 PM
235	There is just not enough affordable housing for those that could bring diversity to Decatur. Apartments aren't sufficient. Lower income people want to own their own houses too but the property values and associated taxes have increased to the point that they nearly equal our mortgage payments. It's pushing many of my neighbors, especially those without children, to consider moving. Many of them bought years ago because the property was affordable. I myself stay because the taxes are cheaper than private school but I won't hesitate to sell when they graduate because I'm not sure that very many "people like me" will be around by then.	8/2/2015 9:56 PM
236	The housing options in Decatur are quickly becoming either super expensive or government subsidized housing. There will soon be very little middle class or working class poor in the city. The older African Americans who worked hard to form the neighborhood of Oakhurst feel unwelcome due to regular unsolicited offers to buy their homes and skyrocketing taxes. I desperately want them to be able to stay and feel honored and welcome.	8/2/2015 8:56 PM
237	You mention a lot of topics but ignore political affiliation which makes me feel that there are not a lot of people like me. However, that is ok. I'm a believer in free market and I don't think the cit should interfere too much in diversity.	8/2/2015 8:22 PM
238	I feel safe and trust my local government because I'm a white female. If was a black male I would be afraid for my life and the lives of my family. Racism is strong in Decatur and the rest of the nation...	8/2/2015 8:21 PM
239	It would be nice to see other religious holidays represented more throughout Decatur in December. Red/green wreaths, Christmas trees & lights are all over but the only Hanukkah activity is the menorah lighting on the square. No where else is it decorated for or represented that I know of.	8/2/2015 7:49 PM
240	lower taxes for seniors	8/2/2015 7:41 PM
241	The City spends a lot of money talking about issues and collecting input but often makes decisions based on what Peggy Merris wants. She guides the City Commission and her staff. She has too much power and our city leaders are too weak.	8/2/2015 6:26 PM