

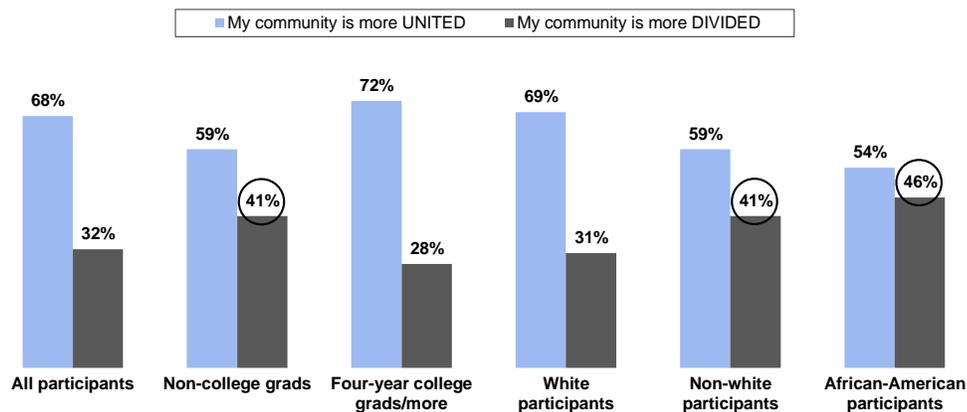
Blue Grass Change-Makers: Optimistic about the Future and Motivated by the Youth in Their Communities

2018 Blue Grass Community Foundation *On the Table* participants are overwhelmingly hopeful about the future, engaged locally, and committed to taking action to ensure a strong community for their youth and future generations. While more feel united than divided, there are common issues around which community bonds can be strengthened.

A positive outlook on their community: Participants are hopeful about the future and articulate a strong sense of community.

- ✓ Eight in 10 (79%) say that the area where they live has a strong sense of community.
- ✓ Three in four (76%) are hopeful about what the future holds for their community.
- ✓ While more than two-thirds (68%) feel that people in their community are more united than divided, there is room to deepen the sense of unity.
 - Participants with less than a four-year college degree and racial and ethnic minorities are less likely to see their community as united.

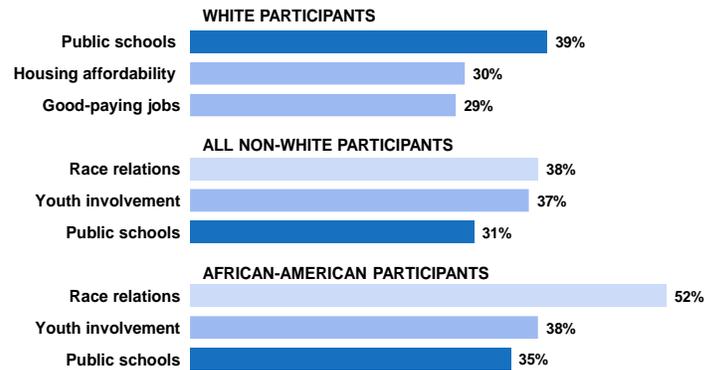
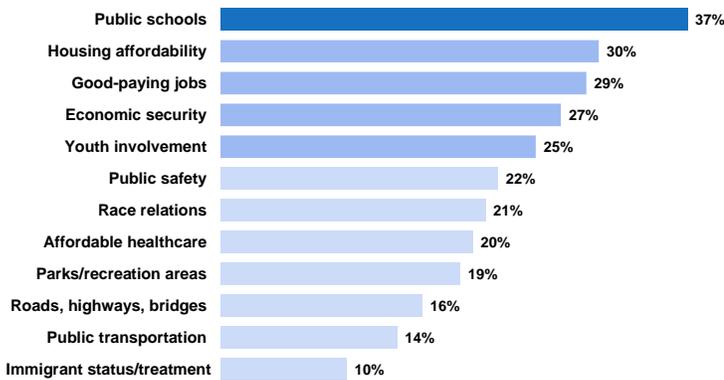
Do you think people in your community are more united or more divided when it comes to addressing important goals and challenges?



Engaged and focused on youth and the future: Participants are engaged in the community, believe they can drive change to improve it, and are motivated primarily by the belief that they can shape the community for today's youth and future generations.

- ✓ More than eight in 10 (82%) report that they are involved in their community.
- ✓ Fully 86% believe they can have an impact on improving their community, including 43% who think they can have a big impact.
- ✓ The two greatest motivators for community involvement are making the community strong for youth and future generations (51%) and being part of the exciting change that will shape the community's future (41%).
- ✓ To these ends, public schools are a top priority across the board, even among participants who do not have school-age children. Race relations and youth involvement are very important priorities among racial and ethnic minorities.

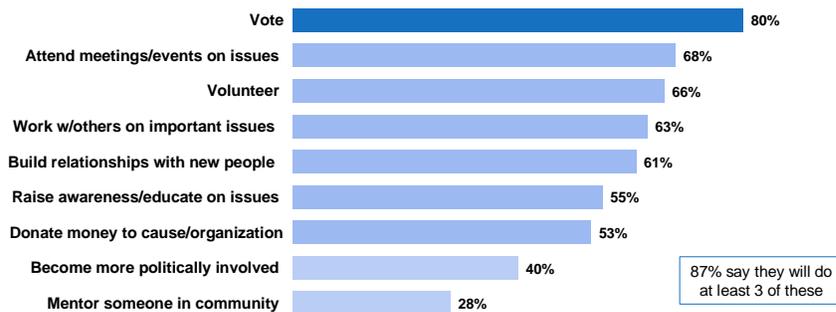
THREE most important issues for my community to address:



Catalysts for change: Nonprofits/community organizations and residents are viewed as having the greatest positive impact on community and participants see many ways to make a difference in their community.

- ✓ Two in three (67%) identify nonprofits and community organizations as having the greatest impact on making their community a better place to live and over half (52%) identify community residents as doing the same.
- ✓ Nine in 10 (91%) participants say they are likely to take specific actions regarding issues they discussed at 2018 *On the Table* conversations.
- ✓ In addition to voting, other actions that significant majorities expect to take to address local challenges and make their community better include attending meetings on issues, volunteering, working with others on important issues, and building relationships with new people.
- ✓ Many of these actions also are the ones that participants see as having the greatest potential to make a positive change in their community.

Realistically, which of these will you do during the next year to help address local issues and challenges and to make your community a better place to live?



On March 26, 27, and 28, 2018, Blue Grass Community Foundation hosted its 2018 *On the Table* conversations in association with its partners in Fayette, Woodford, Franklin, and Clark counties with generous support from the Knight Foundation. An estimated 12,155 adults participated in the conversations. Hart Research Associates and Public Opinion Strategies conducted an online survey among 1,061 adult participants.