

RESIDENT WELL BEING:

Transportation

- Public transit
- Increase countywide access to public transit
- Excellent, electrified affordable public transit allows everyone access to jobs and recreation

Equity/Inclusion

- Equity
- Focus/understand equity – more and more people of color will be moving into county
- Racial/Equity training for county staff
- People are a cultural asset. We need goals to keep our families healthy, out of poverty, to end the racial wealth divide of racial achievement gap and out of jail.
- Increase the availability of a Buncombe that is inclusive; equitable with policy that reflects all of the people who live/work here.

Education/Schools

- Decreasing the achievement gap and reducing the school-to-prison pipeline – start training

Community (sense of, access to services, place-making)

- Give resident's concerns a higher standing when considering the impact of new developments
- Provide things to do for the black community (will decrease crime and problems)
- Add "arts"
- Expand and maintain cultural, arts and recreational assets (making them increasingly accessible to all community member across language, race, ethnicity, age and county geography)
- Educate all community members about trauma and resilience strategies to increase community wellbeing, violence prevention, population health and increased connection.

Housing

- Affordable housing/address homeless
- 0 Homeless population long-term
- Affordable housing
- Provide housing for homeless
- Significantly more investment in affordable housing, by taking a much stronger partnership role with the city of Asheville and other municipalities.
- Safe, affordable housing
- *Affordable housing and childcare over hotels*

Criminal Justice/Public Safety

- Justice Rehabilitation
 - DV
 - Restorative justice
 - No cash bail
- Reducing jail population – economic job training opportunity

Employment, Econ Development & Partnerships

- Increase funding to support black businesses
- Support individuals interested in opening in-home childcare (Community members)
- Living wage

Children/Youth/Pre-K & Childcare

- Do not put black kids in preschool – it is an early path to the school-to-prison pipeline.
- *Affordable housing and childcare over hotels*
- Early Childhood Education/Care options

Funding (taxes, alternate sources, add'l investment)

- Provide sufficient funding to maintain government facilities at a high level and expand the recreational opportunities
- Infrastructure

Health/Substance Abuse/Mental Health

- Effectively collaborate with other entities in healthcare to improve public health (Dogwood Trust, YMCA, UNCA, MAHEC)
- Access to healthcare from birth to grave
- Free (or affordable) healthcare
- No more fossil fuel emissions – decrease asthma
- Access to mental health services/Medicaid

Collaboration/Public Engagement

- Collaborate in planning with other major entities in town to help plan for the community's future (City, TDA, UNCA, AB Tech, HCA, Dogwood)
- Increase public trust by ensuring that all residents participate in planning processes, set goals and evaluate, use equity lens in outreach and engagement.
- Full participation of all citizens on issues that impact them

Natural Resources (water & air quality, greenspace, farmland & food)

- Cultural and rec assets – clean rivers

Accountability & Performance Measurement

- Hold agencies that receive county money accountable. Focus on successes!
- Missing an analysis of the trends to then identify goals and outcomes.
- Increase public trust through accountability and action
- I do not think increased public trust should be a goal. It will be an outcome of our goals.
- Public Trust
 - Stop telling us it is all about money or Raleigh
 - Raise taxes on hotel rooms – put back into county – not hotel ads
 - Racial justice and equity – affordable housing (tiny houses), police sensitivity training
 - Get guns off street
 - Opioid treatment/prevention

VIBRANT ECONOMY:

Transportation

- Provide access to transportation 24/7 to jobs

Equity/Inclusion

- Equity
- Increase median income. Address raising income through equity lens
- More jobs in diverse industries with a focus on the POC community.
- Create a formula/equation that will result in equitable median income

Housing

- Determine how county revenues will be spent on affordable housing opportunities – subsidize, etc.
- Change housing policies to allow tiny homes and mother-in-law units in single family neighborhoods
- Significantly more investment in affordable housing, and equitable opportunities for employment throughout the community.
- Affordable housing for impoverished communities. Economic inclusion and opportunities.

Criminal Justice/Public Safety

- Reduce jail population with job training, living wage, placement, portals of opportunity

Employment, Econ Development & Partnerships

- Break free of the tourism economy
- Create economic diversity by attracting new business to the community
- Attract national businesses who understand the recreational and health/wellness benefits of national forest, access/transportation, and greenspace.
- Support tourism and controlled growth
- Augment innovative aspects to create greater economic vibrancy. (Healthcare innovation – Dogwood Trust, environmental – Blue Horizons, Craft Beer innovation. What’s next?)
- Recruit businesses with higher wages
- Focus on ending poverty by specifically raising the lowest wage – not focusing on median income.
- Living wage
- Grants for entrepreneurs for all ages
- Second chance for employing felons/criminal history
- Promote worker-owned cooperative businesses to provide vitally important services such as transportation supplements, alternatives, growing more food, transitions to locally made products vs. being a tourist economy. Help POC owned businesses.
- Local business – intentional minority inclusion with training and technical assistance
- Expand demographics and provide possible training diversity and support for lower income individuals in order to improve median income
- Increase minimum wage to a living sustainable income
- Sustainable minority business development/incubators. Black Buncombe residents can only be part of a thriving community if they themselves are economically stable.
- Getting more industry/tech/living wage positions and industries back into Buncombe.
- Create a living wage (minimum) expectations for businesses in Buncombe County.
- Living wage is the norm

- Increase average income
- Countywide living wage (\$15/hour)
- Living wage, rent control

Funding (taxes, alternate sources, add'l investment)

- Totally revamp the TDA: if you have to abolish it/reduce its influence to refocus it to a sustainable economy. Yes we need money from tourism, but it needs to be sustainable.
- Redirect more TDA funds to project geared to benefit residents (less money for marketing; more money retained)
- Focus resources equitably
 - Invest directly to impoverished communities
 - Take out the non-profit middleman
 - Minority business owners
- Have tourist/tourism industry businesses pay taxes (through hotels, etc.) that directly support increased quality of life/accessibility of resources to support housing that is safe and affordable in Buncombe County. (make this available to public servants like public educators, bus drivers, all early educators including head start and early head start, law enforcement, etc.
- Hotel tax distributed more evenly

Collaboration/Public Engagement

- When they do what their mission suggests, they will be working on their exit strategy

Land Use, Development & Public Investment

- Note: Rich people will continue to come and pay taxes and spend money until the infrastructure (service community) collapses under inequities. Focus needs to be on young, affordable housing, transit, equitable solutions.
- Downtown investment (all municipalities)
- Invest in downtown
- Development without displacement. Protect neighborhoods where low income people, communities of color and immigrant communities have created community infrastructure to thrive in spite of barriers.

Natural Resources (water & air quality, greenspace, farmland & food)

- Welcome new technologies for climate

Accountability & Performance Measurement

- Hold non-profits receiving county funds accountable for successful outcomes

EDUCATED AND CAPABLE COMMUNITY:

Equity/Inclusion

- Equity
- Commissioners and staff need equity training. I have been to listening session on various topics with various commissioners. I have heard the word "equity" but I don't think that commissioners understand the word equity.
- Bring equity focus to literacy issues in school/community
 - Look at/address historical social constraints
 - Focus on raising economic levels of folks

- If you focus on elderly, look at it from bottom up, not all the wealthy transplants.
- Eliminating opportunity gap
- Close achievement gap between whites and minorities
- Provide opportunities for higher paying jobs for minorities
- Racial equity training/cultural competency/implicit bias training for all school staff
- Use an equity lens to identify and fund strategies around root causes of the racial achievement gap
- Invest heavily in racial equity and resiliency-trainings in public schools systems – both for educators and admins and parents and students
- Close the racial achievement disparity by eliminating poverty and racism via a \$15 minimum wage and equity measures such as reparations for people of color.
- Study history of colonization to understand how the groundwater was set to dismantle systems of oppression – see how history repeats to disrupt. This one goal for all quadrants
- Discontinue “Poverty Pimping”
- The current draft goals don’t address any of the issue that my community faces

Education/Schools

- Prepare children for increase literacy and employable skills
- Increase pay to teachers while promoting and recognizing teachers who do a great job
- Engage large number of retirees who have specific skill sets and try to get them engaged with the development of the youth – high school aged kids
- Show kids the benefit of strong education
- Tap into retirement population to assist in local school systems – take lead in coordinating those resources
- Expand job training/continuing education opportunities
- Teacher pay, retirees skill sets, show kids benefit
- POC in visible education roles – in classrooms, admin, etc.
- Restorative Justice programs in Middle/High Schools
- Free Community College for residents (regardless of citizenship)
- Engaging elder in public school system
- Recognizing students in poverty/students of color to come to school traumatized – address this!!
- Empower families to be first and best educated.
- Reduce school to prison pipeline
- Eliminate achievement gap
- We cannot increase literacy until we increase the brain development and social emotional capacity of children 0-5 and their parents need the support, education, respect and space for reflection and learning to make that possible. Likewise their childcare providers and early educators need both increased wages and increased professional development and emotional support/education. 85% of brain development happens in first 3 years.
- Parent engagement in schools
- Opportunity gap decreased
- Prepare kids – literacy math and critical thinking
- Vocational training
- Growing racial gaps in educational achievement
- Prepare all kids for success by assuring they have the literacy skills they need
- Discontinue tracking

Community (sense of, access to services, place-making)

- Elderly access to services/programs

Housing

- Affordable housing – financial part
- Significantly more investment in affordable housing, by taking a stronger partnership role with the City of Asheville and other municipalities.
- Decreasing elderly people rent or putting a cap no matter where they live
- New apartments coming – set aside 20% for low income
- Growing housing cost and supply

Criminal Justice/Public Safety

- Racial gap – suspension and restorative justice

Employment, Econ Development & Partnerships

- Provide economic opportunities – especially to small and minority businesses
- Partner with local businesses to provide training opportunities for local individuals in order to build community growth and raise the skill set levels.

Children/Youth/Pre-K & Childcare

- Focus on young people (we love elderly, but I think this will follow). Literacy is too narrow a focus.
- Follow through and pursue the current focus on early childhood education and childcare initiatives.
- Reduce regulatory constraints to allow more affordable childcare
- Providing universal free childcare and support local in-home childcare workers and centers
 - Multilingual capacity-building and training
- Create an environment that allows childcare service providers to lower their fees
- Government should know development milestones

Funding (taxes, alternate sources, add'l investment)

- Develop infrastructure to deal with growing population

Health/Substance Abuse/Mental Health

- Support the capacity for health attachment, optimal brain development and social emotional wellbeing of infant, toddlers and preschoolers and all the adults who hold and raise them.

Collaboration/Public Engagement

- Develop tools to communicate with residents – social media, etc.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP:

Transportation

- Transit – work with city on no-fare transit/expand more
- Increase county access to transit by increasing sales ¼ cent.
- There is a lot of talk about greenways, bicycle lanes and sidewalks as a way to decrease emissions, but if not dealt with as part of a larger context around development and gentrification, they are often strategies that lead to increased gentrification – pushing low income people who currently use public transportation further out to the county where they lose access to public transportation.

- Meaningful investment in public transportation so that it is a dominant and reliable source of transportation through the county
- Expanded and revision public transportation with smaller buses.
- Excellent public transportation

Equity/Inclusion

- Equity

Housing

- Invest in affordable housing stock and solutions such as resident-owned mobile home parks; de-incentivizing expensive housing development, and de-incentivize or prohibit short-term rentals
- Develop affordable housing units instead of hotels
- More affordable home for people trying to buy homes.

Employment, Econ Development & Partnerships

- A decent cost of living wage.
- Jobs/Partnerships – competent

Collaboration/Public Engagement

- Collaboration with County/City/UNCA to leverage problems
- Partner with local institutions (i.e. UNCA) to address environmental concerns. There's a wealth of untapped potential, students, undergraduate research, knowledge of seniors at Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

Land Use, Development & Public Investment

- Promote planning and zoning regulations which promote higher density development while maintaining high quality design
- Repurpose vacant or distressed commercial properties which amazon is crushing. City or County should buy these and do site prep and then resell to developers who can create a combination of market rate and affordable housing.
- Maintain farms and undeveloped lands? Develop a sustainable plan – socially, economic, environment, equitable. Yes, its good to maintain our beauty and development, but it must be based on reality of growing trends.
- Don't approve new development with infrastructure in place to handle it
- Zoning for smart growth throughout the county (storm water, traffic, density)

Natural Resources (water & air quality, greenspace, farmland & food)

- People come to Asheville for its natural beauty, be intentional about protecting one of our most valuable assets, our natural beauty
- Determine how you can grow without reducing acreage of farms and undeveloped land.
- Meaningful investment in clean drinking water access, equitably throughout the community.
- Protect the canopy – build around trees – car-less downtown Asheville with parking garages encircling
- Recognize rights of nature
- River quality/reduce waste water releases into French Broad
- I believe every focus area is impacted by the climate emergency and we must account for that.

Energy & Waste Reduction

- Reduce greenhouse gas emission by:
 - Improve use of electric vehicles
 - Improve housing effectiveness in power usage – insulation
- Good idea “reduce greenhouse gas emissions” – be specific. Develop comprehensive plan to promote (e.g. tax incentives, etc) for private sector to get on board, use leverage of county holdings to put pressure on Duke Power, etc. to move toward clean energy
- Greenhouse gas emission reduction
- Reduce emission while balancing other needs
- Free solar installation for low-income residents
- Promote more solar power use
- Stop greenhouse emissions – set up a county-owned utility in place of Duke
- Solar panels on all county buildings
- 100% renewable goals
- Spearhead and support more renewable energy production, development and conversion away from fossil fuels.
- Decrease carbon emissions
- Green building/infrastructure
- Reduce greenhouse emissions
 - Replace or change animal agriculture
 - Use electric 15 passenger vans for transportation with routes going everywhere 18 hrs/day
 - Because of high costs of housing more people commute – carpool credits/mass transit
 - Maintain acreage
 - Tiny house communities – legal and zoned
 - Vertical agriculture everywhere
 - Energy – clean
 - Stop Duke’s illegal monopoly (state governed but hold accountable)
 - Allow districts to have own electricity via sun/wind/new technologies – use grid
- Duke Power coal ash dump