



ISLAND COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION AGENDA
November 20, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.
BOCC HEARING ROOM, ROOM 102B, 1 NE 6TH ST COUPEVILLE, WA
ONLINE VIA ZOOM

**Meeting to be held in the Board of Island County Commissioners Hearing Room,
Room 102B, 1NE 6th St., Coupeville, WA and online. Interested parties can attend or join
remotely at the link or via phone number listed below:**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/93636892599?pwd=Y3NicFcrc203OVZBTjBUenJyc21MQT09>

Meeting ID: 936 3689 2599

Passcode: 122086

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma, WA)

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Passcode: 122086

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES –
4. PUBLIC COMMENT – *Submittal of written comments are encouraged prior to the day of the meeting. Public Comment may be submitted via email to PlanningCommission@IslandCountyWA.gov. Please state your name and address when giving public testimony. Public comments are limited to 3 minutes per person.*
5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT
6. WORKSHOP – Presentations by the Camano Island American Legion and Whidbey Environmental Action Network (WEAN) on their work plan in support of the 2025 Comprehensive Plan
7. WORKSHOP – Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) discussion led by Commissioner Julie Ann Jackson
8. ADJOURN

Please visit our website for related documents: <https://www.islandcountywa.gov/235/Planning-Commission>
The public may submit comments in writing to Planning & Community Development at 1 NE 7th St., Coupeville, WA 98239 or PlanningCommission@IslandCountyWA.gov.



Island County Planning and Community Development

Jonathan Lange, AICP, CFM
Director

Physical Address: 1 NE 6th St, Coupeville, WA 98239 Mailing Address: 1 NE 7th St, Coupeville, WA 98239
Ph: Whidbey 360-679-7339 | Camano 360-387-3443 | Fax: 360-679-7306
Email: PlanningDept@islandcountywa.gov | <https://www.islandcountywa.gov/207/Planning-Community-Development>

~MEMORANDUM~

TO: Island County Planning Commissioners

FROM: Emily Neff, Long Range Planning
Island County Planning & Community Development

DATE: November 12, 2024

SUBJECT: Planning Commission Meeting November 20, 2024

The Planning Commission meeting on November 20, 2024, will include the following items:

Workshop 1: Department of Commerce has awarded several Community Based Organizations (CBOs) grants to support our 2025 Comprehensive Plan. The grants are meant to build capacity, allow the organizations to serve as a liaison between local communities and government, and lift up voices of community members.

Two of the CBOs, the Camano Island American Legion and Whidbey Environmental Action Network (WEAN), will present their work plans to the Planning Commission.

Workshop 2: The Planning Commission will discuss Accessory Dwelling units (ADU), led by Commissioner Julie Ann Jackson.

Attachments:

- Camano Island American Legion Support to Island County Comprehensive Planning presentation
- Stanwood-Camano Veteran and Family Survey 2024 Results
- WEAN and Consortium Activities
- WEAN Finding Your Civic Voice

For more information, please contact:
Emily Neff (360) 678-7807 or e.neff@islandcountywa.gov



Camano Island American Legion Support to Island County Comprehensive Planning

Dan Abshere
Camano Island American Legion



Missions and Role

- Our Primary Mission: To reach out to local veterans, access their needs, advocate for resources and support, and provide care to improve the mental, physical, and overall wellness for veterans and their families in the greater Stanwood-Camano area
- Role in Planning: We were contracted by the Department of Commerce to help provide information to Camano residents, and feed residents' input to the county. Established in 1949, and the only veterans' organization in an area with one of the largest percentages of veterans in the state, we are well suited to advocate not only for veterans and their families but the larger Camano Island community.



Liaison for County Planning Staff and Commissioners

Our plan:

- Act as an additional bridge between Camano Island residents and Island County planning staff and commissioners
- Advise on methods to engage with Camano Island residents
- Facilitate communication and coordination to ensure that the needs and concerns of the community are effectively delivered to county officials

From May '24 to November '24:

- Built a relationship of collaboration with Island County Planners, and method to increase Camano residents' input



Helping Inform Residents

Our plan:

- Build a network with additional organizations on Camano
- Advertise Island County planning meetings through various channels including print media and social media
- Organize public information sessions to explain the comprehensive planning process

From May '24 to November '24:

- Stanwood-Camano News article
- Crab cracker advertising
- Advertising on other organizations' websites
- Two community town-hall meetings- Nov 12 & Dec 3
- Follow up phone calls and emails with residents



Facilitating Public Input

Our plan:

- Use a variety of methods to ensure diverse participation
- Conduct surveys to gather input from residents
- Organize meetings to collect input from different demographic groups (e.g., veterans, seniors, businesses)
- Analyze and synthesize community feedback to present to county planning staff and commissioners

From May '24 to November '24:

- Developed a network with various groups (Chamber of Commerce, FOCIP, Camano Pickleball, CLESF, Camano Preparedness, etc)
- Conducted Stanwood-Camano Veteran & Family Survey
- Due to timeline pushed up, town-hall meetings combined



How can we help?

- Please let us know what else we can do to help.
 - Dan Abshere, Director of Veteran Support, 360-913-1272, walegionpost207@gmail.com
 - Kevin James, President (Commander), 425-501-5390, kjammeron@gmail.com



Stanwood-Camano Veteran and Family Survey 2024 Results



Executive Summary

Survey goal- Find the barriers, service gaps, and strengths in our veteran community in order to drive planning and future services; and advocate with city, county, and state officials

- 106 respondents, 4% of vet population, not atypical
- #1 challenge faced is physical healthcare, #3 is mental healthcare
 - Case management can help vets connect to both of these
- Cost of living is #2 barrier and a challenge for $\frac{1}{3}$ of vets. 9% of our vets are homeless or at risk of homelessness
 - Case management can help connect to Vet Asst Pgm, VA benefits, job placement, housing, and other services
- Vet & family unemployment higher than average. Drives need for career counseling & job placement
- Better internet #1 service need...Digital Equity Grant would help if can find an agency to apply and administer it

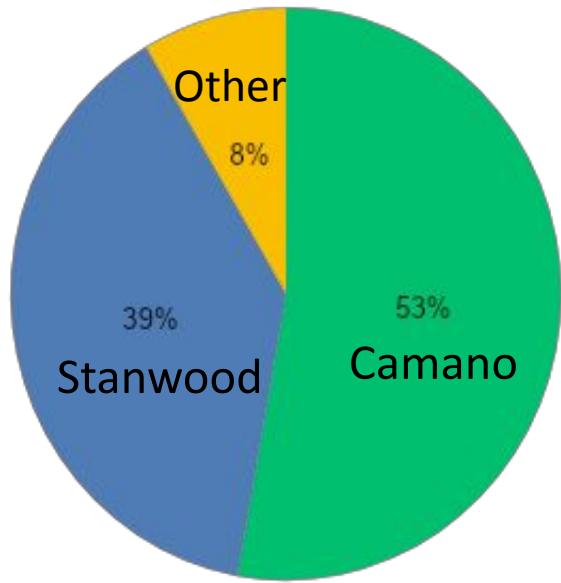


Executive Summary (Continued)

- Social connections...a key component of mental health...are cited as a need by almost ¼ of our vets, but a strength by a few
 - Need to provide social connection opportunities, and find out specifically which ones work best for our vets
- Retirement/career planning is both a challenge and service needed...we can easily connect vets and families with these
- 13% cited barriers that were “convoluted”...points to the need for case management
- Long-term care (7%), parenting (4%), and childcare (4%) are a need for some veteran families
- Transportation is a barrier for 4%, and specifically cited by a few, but none are using Snow Goose Transit nor Medicaid transport. Better advertisement and case management may help.
- While 82% said they can't help other vets or didn't respond, 18 people can and want to help us help others
- Not all bad news...many benefiting from social connections, medical, and other services

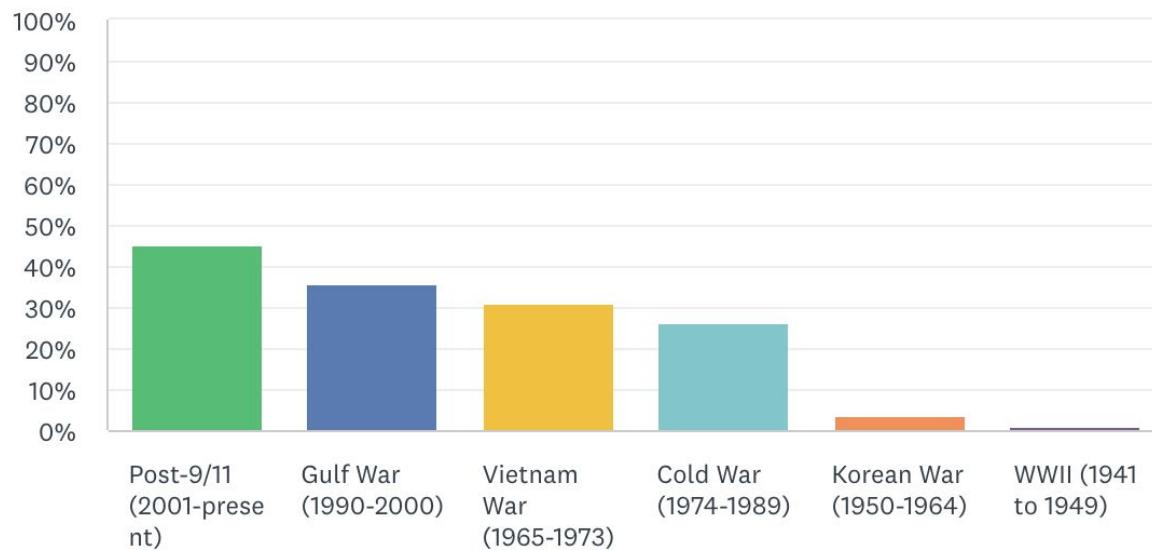


Veteran Location, Age, & Status



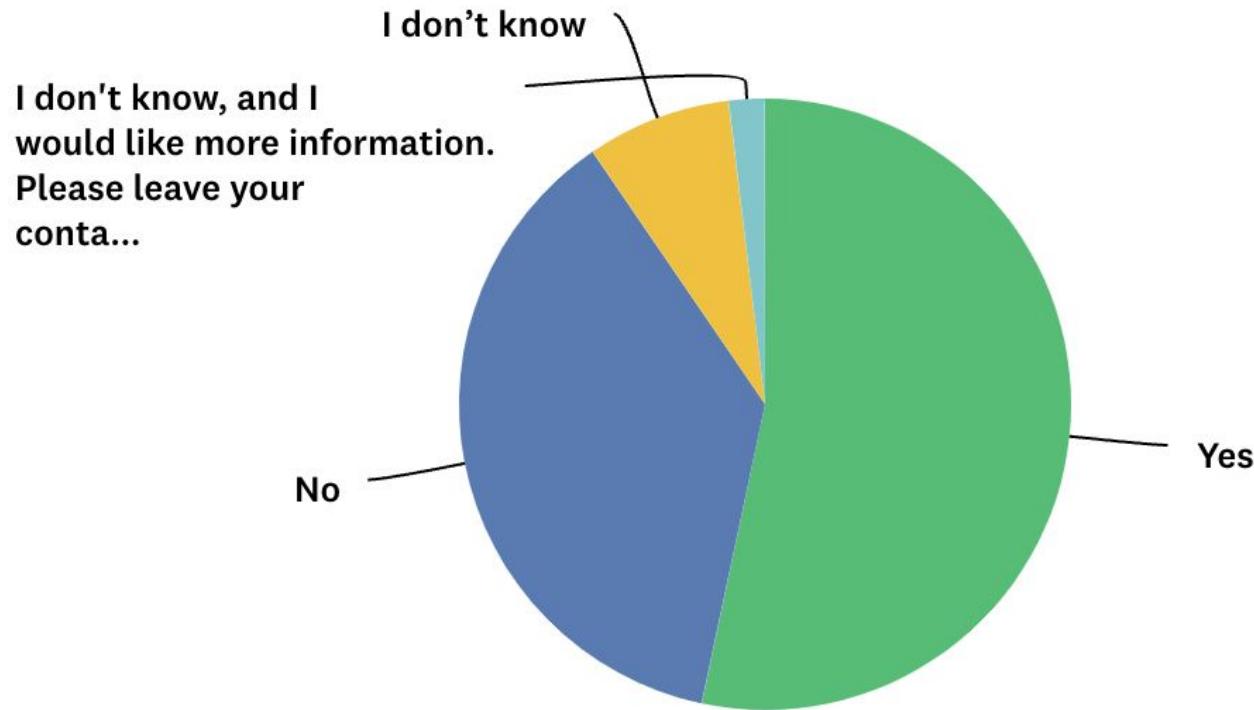
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Separated (traditional)	48.11%
▼ Retired	27.36%
▼ Spouse of a veteran	15.09%
▼ Child of a veteran	4.72%
▼ Active duty	3.77%
▼ Guard/Reserve	0.94%

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ 60+	48.11%
▼ 44-59	30.19%
▼ 28-43	19.81%
▼ 17 or less	0.94%
▼ 18-27	0.94%





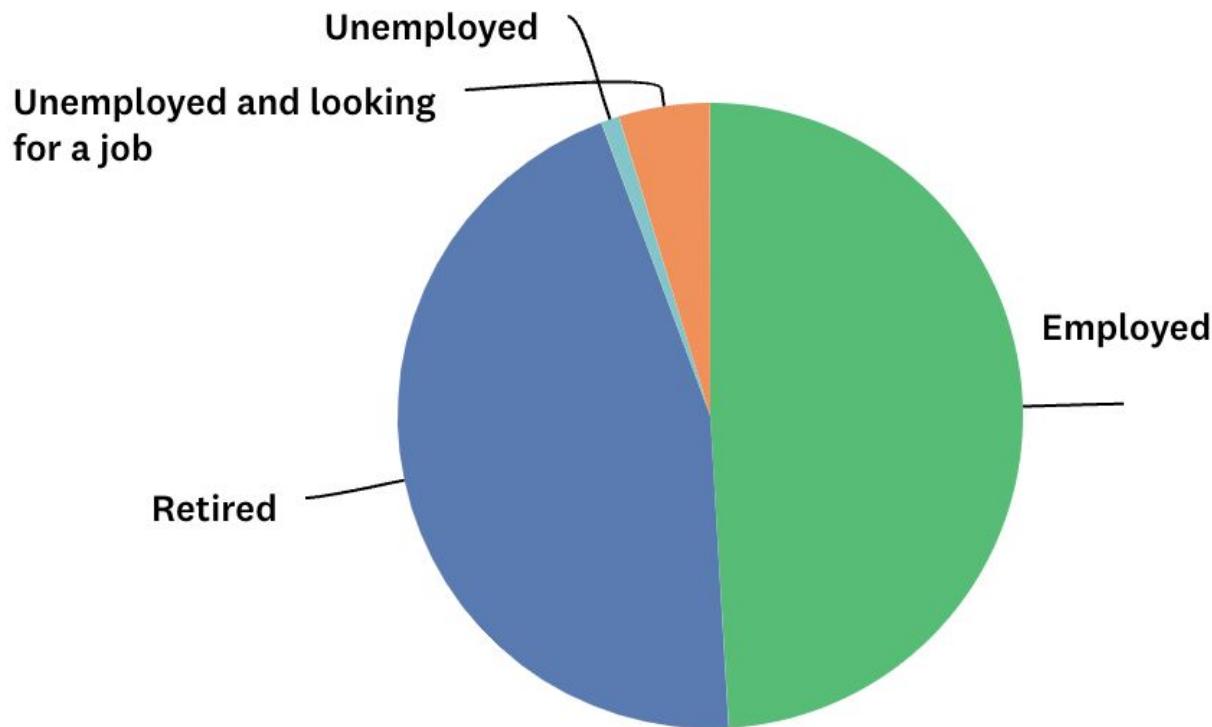
VA Service-connected disability



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ Yes	53.33%	56
▼ No	37.14%	39
▼ I don't know	7.62%	8
▼ I don't know, and I would like more information. Please leave your contact information at the end of this survey, and we will reach out to you.	1.90%	2



Employment Status

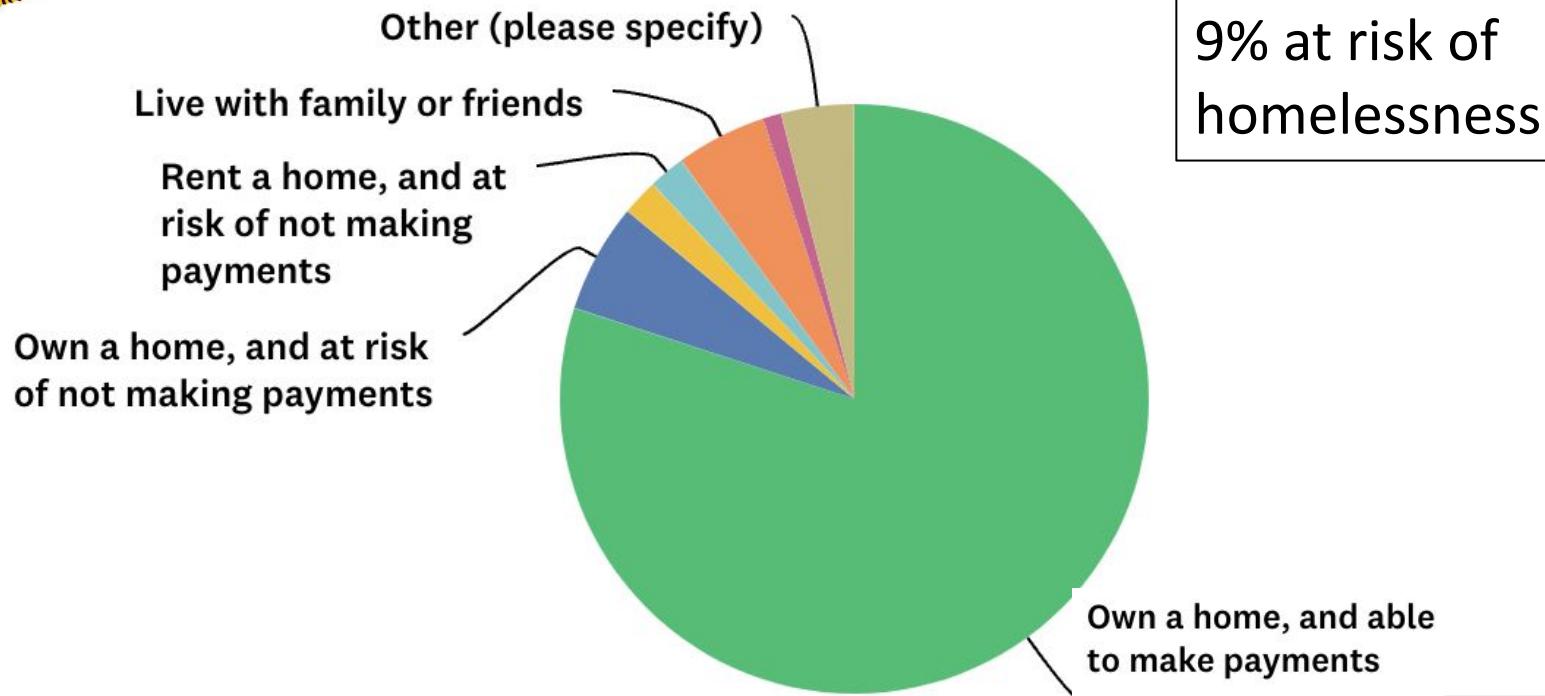


5.6% veteran
unemployment is above
Washington State, Island
County, and Snohomish
County rates

ANSWER CHOICES	▼	RESPONSES
▼ Employed		49.06% 52
▼ Retired		45.28% 48
▼ Unemployed and looking for a job		4.72% 5
▼ Unemployed		0.94% 1
▼ Student		0.00% 0



Housing



Housing Status	Responses	Percentage
Own a home, and able to make payments	80	80.00%
Live with family or friends	6	6.00%
Rent a home, and able to make payments	2	2.00%
Rent a home, and at risk of not making payments	2	2.00%
Other (please specify)	4	4.00%
Unable to find a home due to availability	0	0.00%
Experiencing homelessness due to financial circumstances	1	1.00%

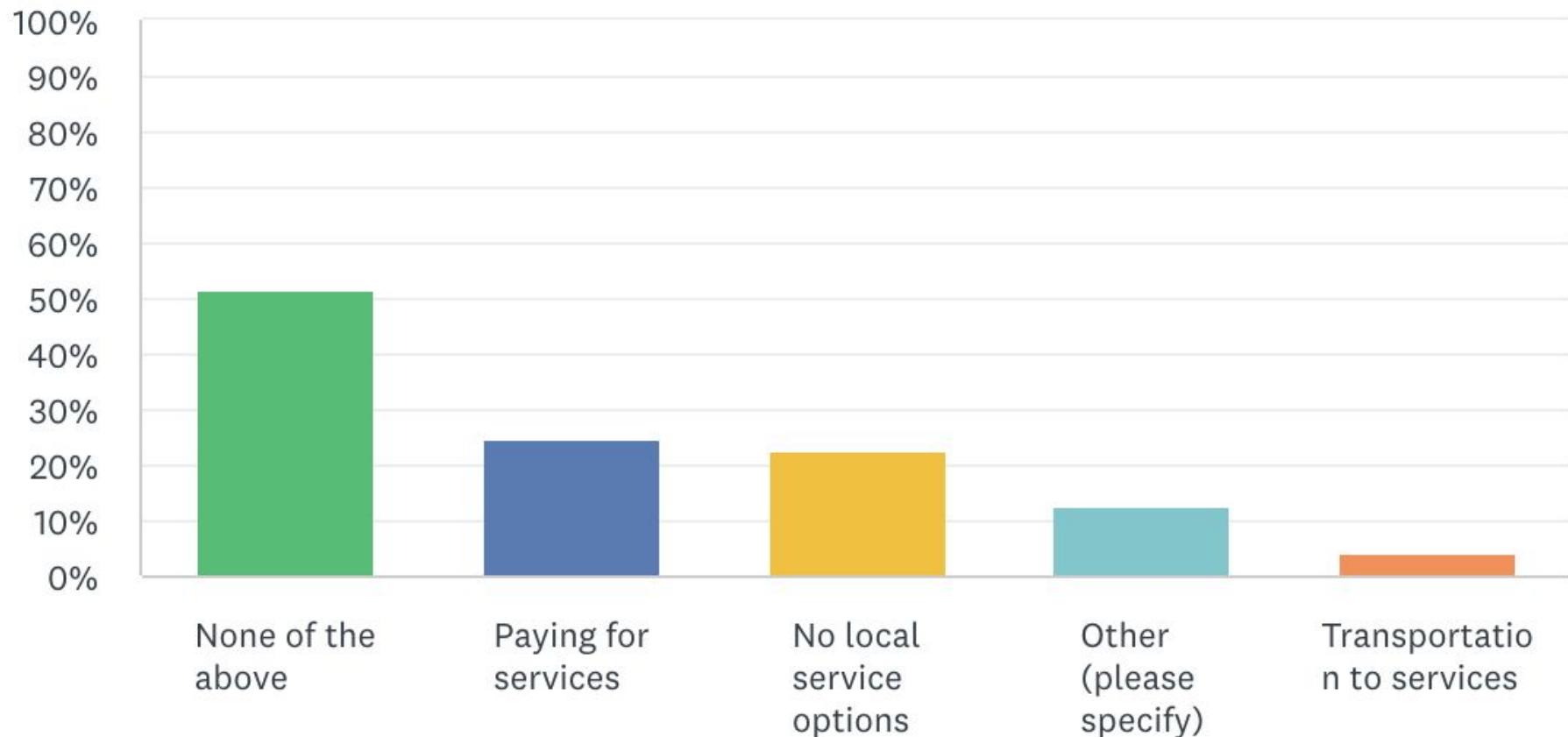


Current Challenges

ANSWER CHOICES	▼	RESPONSES
▼ Physical health		43.40%
▼ Affording increased cost of living		36.79%
▼ Mental health		29.25%
▼ None of the above		22.64%
▼ Lack of friends/social connections		21.70%
▼ Retirement planning		14.15%
▼ Job/career		12.26%
▼ Long-term care		6.60%
▼ Other (please specify)	Responses	4.72%
▼ Parenting		3.77%
▼ Childcare		3.77%



Barriers





Transportation

ANSWER CHOICES	▼	RESPONSES
▼ My (or another person's) car		99.00%
▼ Island transit		7.00%
▼ Other (please specify)	Responses	1.00%
▼ None of the above		0.00%
▼ Snow Goose Transit		0.00%
▼ Medicaid transport		0.00%



What services does Stanwood-Camano need more of?

Better connection to high speed internet	18.60%
Social connection opportunities/support	13.95%
Other (please specify)	Responses 12.79%
Medical services	11.63%
Affordable housing	11.63%
Safe and accessible bicycle and pedestrian paths	10.47%
Mental health services	5.81%
Financial support	5.81%
Career planning	3.49%
Retirement or long-term care planning	3.49%
Parenting support	1.16%
Childcare	1.16%
Long-term care planning	0.00%
End-of-life planning	0.00%



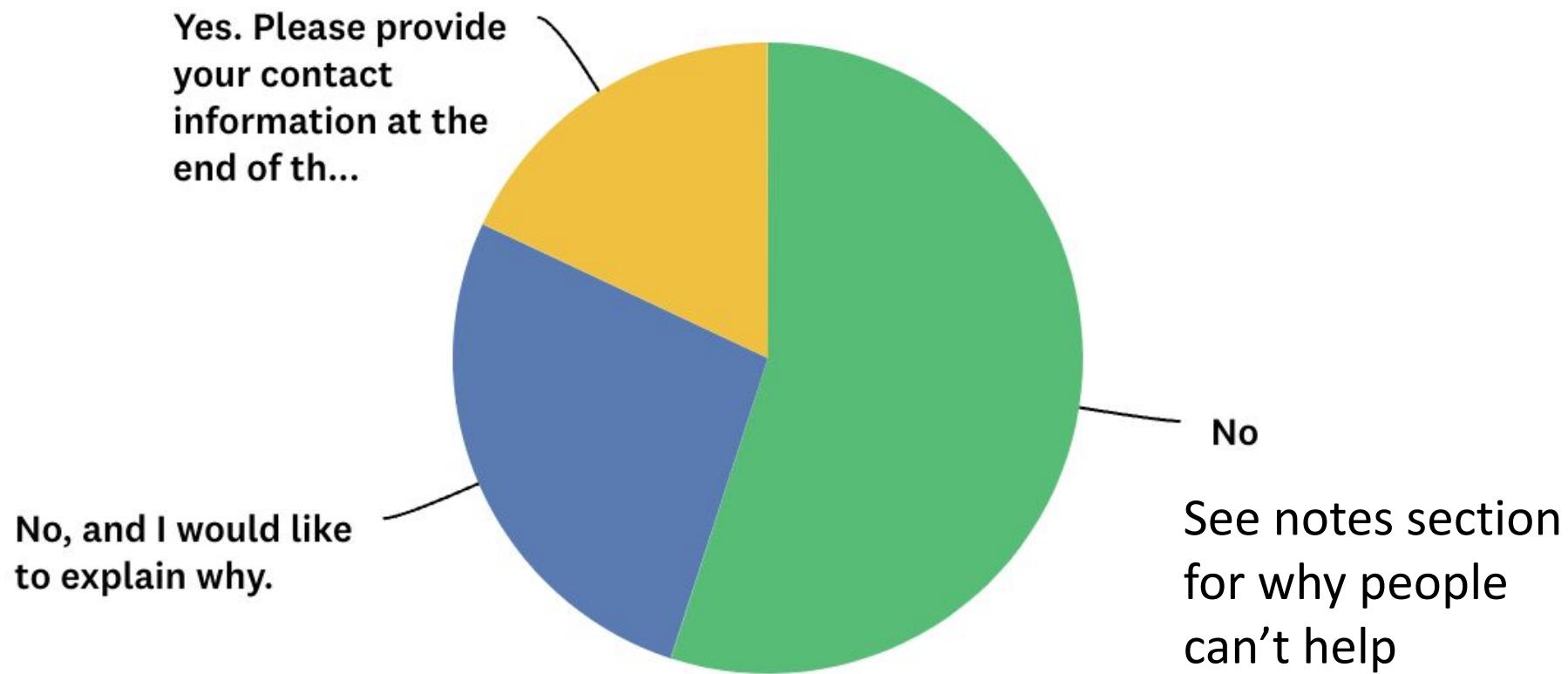
What Stanwood-Camano Services are working well for you?

Less than half of responded, but services our vets enjoy a include:

- Medical x4
- Stanwood American Legion x4
- Social groups x3
- Food bank x2
- Camano Center x2
- First responders x2
- Schools x2
- YMCA x2
- Parks x2
- Local events/activities x2
- Transit x2
- Grocery stores
- Restaurants
- Library
- CERT team
- Church
- New walking/bike paths (Camano?)



Would you like to help other veterans?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ No	55.00%	55
▼ No, and I would like to explain why.	Responses	27.00%
▼ Yes. Please provide your contact information at the end of this survey, and we will contact you.	18.00%	18
TOTAL		100



Would you like to learn more about Island County's Comprehensive Plan?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ No	83.52%	76
▼ Yes. Please provide your contact information and we will reach out to you.	16.48%	15
TOTAL		91



WEAN and Consortium Activities

WA Commerce Planning Grant

Bold indicates where an opportunity for closer collaboration with Island County would uplift public participation

Becoming Ready

✓	Establish Consortium meeting schedules
✓	Refine and formalize internal communications tools, platforms, and procedures
✓	Integrate Island County updates, meeting agendas, and comprehensive planning calendars with Consortium activities
✓	Recruit and retain BIPOC consultation for community outreach aspects Comprehensive Planning engagement

Shaping the Plan

ongoing. Advanced announcements from Island County have been supportive of this activity	Study Island County public engagement opportunities and their evolving schedule of comprehensive planning activities, and create a calendar of Consortium engagement opportunities and deadlines
ongoing	Identify priority opportunities and schedule meetings with staff, elected officials, and other community-based organizations for Island county's "Shaping the Plan" phase of Comprehensive Planning
Contracted with an independent consultant to connect with and learn from BIPOC and low income community members	Recruit and retain BIPOC consultation for community outreach aspects of Participation Plan for "Shaping the Plan"
ongoing	Attend and participate in Island County Planning Commission and/or Board of County Commissioners regular meetings, work sessions, study sessions, open houses, or public forums during the "Shaping the Plan" phase.
ongoing	Engage in 1:1 or small group meetings with elected officials, planning staff, or others with direct influence on Comprehensive Planning Process for Island County
ongoing	Submit written and/or oral comments at public hearings and during official public comment periods for the "Shaping the Plan" phase of the Comprehensive Plan update
intermittent	Adapt to and integrate any changes to Island County's Comprehensive Planning schedule and adjust expectations and activities as needed
Contracted with an independent consultant to bring an equity lens to this work	Review existing and draft revised Island County Comprehensive Plan for policies, concepts, language, and ways of conveying policy direction that may be perceived as inequitable and submit written and/or oral comments during the "Shaping the Plan" phase, including review under the State Environmental Policy Act
ongoing	Engage with other community-based organizations throughout the "Shaping the Plan" phase of comprehensive planning to ensure a diversity of insights, perspectives, and community needs are represented through our consortium efforts

See attached flyer	Organize and host not less than 3 “Speak Up For The Planet: Find Your Civic Voice” workshops, supporting community members to participate by learning about the public comment process, crafting their own public comments, and workshopping them in front of a supportive audience of peers.
Refining the Plan	
upcoming	Develop and deliver new content, surveys, events, and offerings based on Connecting Community Plan
upcoming	Identify priority opportunities and schedule meetings with staff, elected officials, and other community-based organizations for Island county’s “Refining the Plan” phase of Comprehensive Planning
support retained; work upcoming	Retain BIPOC consultation for community outreach aspects of Participation Plan for “Refining the Plan”
upcoming	Attend and participate in Island County Planning Commission and/or Board of County Commissioners regular meetings, work sessions, study sessions, open houses, or public forums during the “Refining the Plan” phase.
upcoming	Submit written and/or oral comments at public hearings and during official public comment periods for the “Refining the Plan” phase of the Comprehensive Plan update
intermittent	Adapt to and integrate any changes to Island County’s Comprehensive Planning schedule and adjust expectations and activities as needed
Contracted with an independant consultant to bring an equity lens to this work	Review existing and draft revised Island County Comprehensive Plan for policies, concepts, language, and ways of conveying policy direction that may be perceived as inequitable and submit written and/or oral comments during the “Refining the Plan” phase, including review under the State Environmental Policy Act
upcoming	Engage with other community-based organizations throughout the “Refining the Plan” phase of comprehensive planning to ensure a diversity of insights, perspectives, and community needs are represented through our consortium efforts
support retained; work upcoming	Engage BIPOC consultation to ensure implementation aligns with needs of diverse community members through “Refining the Plan” phase
upcoming	Update calendar of Consortium engagement opportunities and deadlines
upcoming	Identify opportunities and needs for further participation in Island county’s “Finalizing the Plan” phase of Comprehensive Planning
upcoming	Steward relationships with elected officials, staff, and other CBOs in order to continue being effective participants in comprehensive planning after completion of grant period
support retained; work upcoming	Retain BIPOC consultation for community outreach aspects of Participation Vision for “Finalizing the Plan” phase
upcoming	Study metrics and impact of deliverables on Comprehensive Planning Process
upcoming	Draft memorandum summarizing experience from this pilot grant
upcoming	Issue comments during public meetings, in writing, and/or in 1:1 and small group meetings with elected officials and staff to communicate learnings from Connecting Community Plan to those leading the Comprehensive Planning Process

WHIDBEY ENVIRONMENTAL
ACTION NETWORK PRESENTS

FINDING YOUR CIVIC VOICE

Speak up for the planet and your communities.

**December 8, 2024
9 am to 4 pm
Bayview Cash Store, Fl 2**

LEARN TO CRAFT YOUR OWN PUBLIC COMMENTS

Participants will spend the morning drafting a public comment 3 minutes in length or less on topics that impact our local environment and communities.

Lead Instructor: WEAN ED Marnie Jackson

PRACTICE PUBLIC SPEAKING

In the afternoon, participants will connect with their breath and speak their comments aloud to the group.

Lead Instructor: WEAN Engagement Director,
Amanda Bullis

This workshop is free and open to the public on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Space is limited and registration is required.

[REGISTER HERE](#) or email engage@whidbeyenvironment.org

