

Leadership Greenville Retreat Comments



Education (52 comments)

- **Funding of schools**
 - Broken funding mechanism for education (Sales tax versus property tax)
 - Rising cost of education
 - Cuts (again) to school budget
 - Decreasing funds for education
 - Lack of understanding that charter schools are public schools
 - Repeal Act 388 immediately
 - Budget cuts
 - Budget cuts in public education
 - Equalizing support for schools. Get more help to schools in Berea/Westcliff and less to Eastside/Bell's Crossing
 - Replace legislators who don't support education
 - Support tax reform to ensure adequate funding of public education
 - State education budget crisis needs to stop
 - Higher education accessibility (\$)
- **Early Childhood and School Readiness**
 - Early childhood education and school readiness
 - School readiness
 - School readiness
 - More money into early childhood education
 - Early childhood education/School readiness
 - Empowering/encouraging early childhood reading
 - Early childhood development and school readiness
 - Child literacy and teach a mentor
 - Raising early education and reading levels
- **Improve public education**
 - School district's celebration of mediocrity
 - School district be less defensive and more collaborative
 - Better public education system
 - Improve the image and reputation of city schools
 - Reform State Department of Education
 - "We're not that bad" is not the same thing as being excellent
 - Elect school board/hire superintendant who sees community collaboration as essential to school success
 - SC standard of "minimally adequate" is unacceptable
- **Involve parents and mentors**
 - Parental involvement in some schools
 - Parent involvement in schools
 - Engage homes
 - Parent involvement with public education
 - Lack of mentors for youth
 - Parent involvement from lower economic level families
 - Parental involvement in classroom.
- **Teen pregnancy impact on graduation and health**
 - Improve health of low income single moms
 - Teenage pregnancy
 - Teen pregnancy. Abstinence only education not working
 - Teen pregnancy. Increase in SC 10%, Greenville County 15%
 - How do you combat teen pregnancy? What is the impact on education drop-out rate?
 - Before teenage mom leaves hospital she needs support info, education, parenting class. Something
 - Promote healthy food and ban sodas at all schools

■ Graduation Rate

- Work to prevent kids from dropping out of school
- Fix school drop out. Take another look at zero tolerance policy
- Change credits required for graduation to align with rest of country
- Improving the drop out rate
- Provide different education tracks for skilled workforce and eliminate unnecessary obstacles
- High school graduation rates

■ Teaching

- Not enough male teachers in schools
- More male teachers
- Increase teacher pay
- More science in elementary school
- More males need to be involved in school's PTA

■ Charter schools

- Great disparity between funding for district versus charter schools (\$9,000 for districts, \$4,400 for charter)
- No facility funding for charter schools

Economy/Managed Growth (37 comments.. cards lost)

- **Low cost air carrier/GSP**
- **Smart growth and zoning**
- **Public mass transportation**
- **Economic development and a cohesive voice**

Quality of Life (33 comments)

- **Transportation**
 - Low cost air carrier
 - Low cost air carrier
 - Bus rapid transit
 - Transportation
 - Fix bus system
 - Bike walking
 - Expand public transportation to cover the whole county
 - Improve traffic and aesthetics in main thoroughfares
 - Reduce car dependence
 - Reinvigorate Haywood and Laurens Roads
 - Mass transit for all. Not just those without cars
- **Managed Growth and Impact on Quality of Life**
 - Gap between North Greenville resources and rest of area
 - Creating an identity as a modern city while maintaining our rich traditions
 - Road quality on heavily travelled roads
 - Uncoordinated religious community involvement in city transformation
 - Greenville is growing. Let transportation growth with it. Help people get around
 - Downtown parking
 - Create "Citizenship Greenville" program that is shorter version of Leadership Greenville
 - Identify and reach all people.
 - Lack of role models for teenagers
 - Affordable housing (ownership and rent) in all regions

- Create more youth activities to channel their energy
- Triple convention and tourism budget
- How to increase the hotel tax rate
- Improve standard of living in blighted areas through revitalization projects
- Urban sprawl
- Fix the employment problem in Greenville
- Jobs and the economy

▪ **Branding/Promoting Local Growth**

- Improve the branding of Greenville
- Informing the public about events in the community such as Centre Stage

Government (29 comments... cards lost)

- **Eliminate special purpose districts**
- **Transportation**
- **Diversity in leadership**

Human Services (26 comments)

▪ **Homelessness**

- Reduce homeless
- Do more to solve the homeless problem in Greenville
- Homelessness
- Decrease homeless rates
- Reduce homelessness
- Homelessness
- Improved resources for homeless population
- Affordable housing

▪ **Healthcare**

- Insurability of poverty
- Reducing teen pregnancy
- Mobile clinic for the free clinic
- Healthcare
- Healthcare/Free clinics
- Need more free clinics

▪ **Poverty**

- Increase personal worth
- Poverty
- Partner with ministries, churches, and CDC's to address inter-city poverty
- Poverty in Greenville
- Raise standard of living for the poor by giving money to organizations doing well

▪ **Hunger**

- Supply food
- Food for everyone

▪ **Other**

- More public places for culture
- Mobilize by educating the public
- Educating children/teens and empowering them to learn about situation or change it for the better
- Increase communication between diverse groups
- Raise money better
- Ensure adequate quantity of good quality affordable workforce housing with both ownership and rental opportunities
- Increasing jobs to decrease unemployment rates
- Innovate business models that help those in need by means of inclusion.

Justice (14 comments)

▪ **Overcrowding of prisons/Prison Reform**

- Help transition inmates who are released back into society
- Overcrowding of jails so criminals get in and reformed group get to leave
- Rehabilitation programs and transition programs for ex-offenders
- Help return citizens from prison to reintegrate back into society
- Reform prison parole system
- Rehabilitation in prisons

▪ **Respect for Law Enforcement**

- Education of youth
- Police are our friends
- Helping community to respect police officers not as enemies but servants
- Increase law enforcement personnel or increase community involvement in law enforcement
- Racism and discrimination

▪ **Gangs**

- Gangs
- Mentoring programs with groups to eliminate gang involvement
- Letting kids to dissolve gang life

Leadership and Potpourri (12 comments)

- Find ways to let people know what is going on.
- The lack of branding of Greenville to USA
- Perception of ignorance
- Lack of opportunities to develop board members who represent our community
- Are there people in the community that cannot be reached or changed? How do we deal with that?
- Create better effectiveness among foundations to manage funding of nonprofits
- Engage youth in volunteerism
- More community involvement
- Bring new and old Greenvillians together and find ways to mix it up
- Identify young leaders to continue the vision of past leaders in keeping Greenville a great place to live, work and play.
- Upstate political leadership is not poor, just inexperienced.
- Need program for future politicians.