

Your Voice Ohio: Vibrant Euclid

**Exploring how to
make Euclid a thriving
community for all**

October 4, 2018



A lot has changed about Ohio's economy over the last 20 years. There are nearly 152,000 fewer jobs, there's a lower average household income and higher student debt, and the state is falling behind in education. For the first time in at least a half century, Ohio did not recover from one recession before it entered the next recession. Complicating matters, the correlation between economic struggle and the addiction crisis, which is claiming lives and sucking financial vibrancy from families, communities and the state, has become clear.

But many people don't need to read these statements to tell them what's going on. We see it in our neighborhoods, from vacant blocks to payday lenders to shuttered factories.

Euclid, Ohio, draws many people because of its close proximity and easy access to downtown Cleveland, its waterfront location, and bikeways and hiking trails. But, many residents think there's room for improvement, as we heard at Your Voice Ohio: Vibrant Euclid. At the event, on Thursday October 4, 2018, at the Slovenian Society Home, local journalists joined together to help their community explore what Euclid would look like if it was thriving for everyone. Many residents wanted to see the community come together to address poverty, safety concerns, and to strengthen the public school system.

The word "economy" can be intimidating to many because it means different things, including jobs, the overall economy, debt, poverty, income inequality, trade, and perhaps even the cost of health care. This can make it difficult for community members to easily find and provide information about what they're experiencing.

Our goal, through these community conversations, is to put people at the center of local reporting. Our collaborative aims to supply people with the information and resources they need to create smart, shared, and sustainable solutions to the struggles facing folks across Ohio.

EVENT SUMMARY

On October 3, 2018, community members gathered at the Slovenian Society Home, and over the course of 2 hours, discussed their experiences and identified local economic solutions.

We asked these four questions to prompt the discussion:

- 1. What would Euclid look like if it was thriving for everyone in the community?**
- 2. What's one thing you would improve or change in Euclid to make it more vibrant?**
- 3. What assets, resources, and strengths exist in Euclid?**
- 4. What actions might we take to make Euclid more vibrant?**

The conversation generated important questions for the local media to explore. In the following pages, you'll find stories and ideas shared by participants during the event.

RESPONSES

WHAT WOULD EUCLID LOOK LIKE IF IT WAS THRIVING FOR EVERYONE IN THE COMMUNITY?

- » It would bring more people to live and here and to spend money.
- » Diverse
- » Growing
- » New construction → better infrastructure/transportation
- » Thriving economy
- » Education
- » Understand local history -- the past paid for the quality of life here today.
- » Kids graduating from high school with a “winning” attitude.
- » It would be safe
- » Varied retail
- » Good home ownership
- » Lower taxes
- » Good school
- » Excellent schools
- » Administration thinking realistically
- » No or low poverty
- » Increased housing values and increased home ownership
- » Better schools
- » Fiscal responsibility
- » Better safety forces
- » An affordable Chicago

WHAT'S ONE THING YOU WOULD IMPROVE OR CHANGE IN EUCLID TO MAKE IT MORE VIBRANT?

Individuals wrote...

- » Need more police
- » More businesses (not so much empty spaces)
- » Literacy rate
- » Transportation system
- » Safety
- » More nightlife choices
- » More restaurants and wider variety of businesses
- » I wish more people cared more.
- » Responsive city government → schools, allocation of taxes, poverty
- » Increased home ownership and values
- » Improved schools
- » Safety
- » Be more fiscally responsible
- » Trail network
- » Accountability (lax enforcement)
- » Ø political party
- » Equity: transportation, taxes, home
- » Schools
- » Safety forces
- » Maintaining properties
- » Safety
- » Recreation
- » Nightlife
- » City government
- » Attitude
- » Add something to curriculum

Large group responses...

- » Safety
- » Create more opportunities and equal access to opportunities
- » More nightlife opportunities
- » Create programming/curriculum in schools related to local history (social studies curriculum)
- » More responsive city government
- » Finding solutions to growing poverty
- » “Neverending” recreational trails

The group prioritized these categories for change:

- » More responsive city government – 6 votes
- » Safety – 5 votes
- » Finding solutions to growing poverty – 4 votes
- » Create more opportunities and equal access to opportunities – 1 vote
- » “Neverending” recreational trails – 1 vote
- » Create programming/curriculum in schools related to local history (social studies curriculum) – 1 vote
- » More nightlife opportunities – 0 votes

WHAT ASSETS, RESOURCES, AND STRENGTHS EXIST IN EUCLID?

Individuals wrote...

- » Citizens that are interested in making changes
- » Lake Erie
- » People who care
- » Lake
- » Highway
- » Railroads
- » City workers
- » Police and firemen
- » Easy access to freeway (good location)
- » Great history and pride
- » Economic opportunities
- » Lake Erie
- » Cost of living
- » Lake
- » People
- » Accessibility
- » Unlimited talent
- » “Give back to your community”
- » Down-to-Earth activists
- » Lake access
- » Transportation
- » Former industrial base
- » Community activists
- » Affordable housing
- » Solid neighborhoods
- » Good transportation

Large group responses:

- » Lake
- » Lakefront
- » People: good work ethic
- » Parks / Metro Parks
- » Accessibility / Location: close to downtown, railroads, easy to get around
- » City workers / safety force / police / fire
- » Cost of living
- » Affordable housing
- » Strong neighborhoods / pride
- » Healthcare industry
- » More jobs than people to fill them, at least in the greater Euclid/Cleveland area

WHAT ACTIONS MIGHT WE TAKE TO MAKE EUCLID MORE VIBRANT?

More responsive city government

- » Switch to city manager form of government
- » Less ward council members, more at-large council members
- » Citizen action
- » Common source of information in the community
- » Community forums

Safety

- » More home ownership / fewer rentals
- » More police presence (132 officers in 1998, 86 in 2018)
- » Improved 911 dispatch system
- » More neighborhood watch presence
- » Get to know your neighbors
- » Consistent community forum (outside of city council)
- » Focused community goals → define them
- » Group to address police use of force
- » Rec center → alternative opportunities
- » Better education in community around role of police and how to interact with police

STATEMENT TO NEIGHBORS

At the end of the conversation, we asked participants to write down a statement they would want their neighbors to know about community vibrancy, to share with those that couldn't attend the event:

- Residents can create a vibrant community if they get involved in government.
- Change the attitude of kids in schools -- why all F's?
- Be positive.
- Reforming City government should be a top priority.
- I want everyone to be more open and friendly and not shy and to get to know their neighbors and neighborhood.
- We need to improve the concern of others

PERSONAL ACTIONS

Using the discussion as a guide, here are the personal actions attendees will take to make Euclid a more vibrant place for everyone in the community.

- My focus in the next two weeks is to get the word out on the 3 tax levies on the ballot.
- Link my project with a 501(c)(3). Local history.
- Get more involved with upcoming elections and local tax issues.
- File suits.
- Stop unfair tax issues.
- I am going to reach out to more people.
- I am going to contact someone from the Police Department and find out if I can recruit from internet for people for neighborhood watch.

PROJECT MEDIA PARTNERS

[Akron Beacon Journal/Ohio.com](http://AkronBeaconJournal.com)

AKRON BEACON JOURNAL
@OHIODOTCOM
BJNEWS@THEBEACONJOURNAL.COM

The Akron Beacon Journal is a morning newspaper in Akron, Ohio, and is distributed throughout Northeast Ohio.

CantonRep.com
CONNECTING STARK COUNTY

THE CANTON REPOSITORY
@CANTONREPDOTCOM
NEWS@CANTONREP.COM

The Repository is an American daily local newspaper serving the greater Canton, Stark County, Ohio, area.

CLEVELAND Jewish News

CLEVELAND JEWISH NEWS
@CLEVELANDJEWISHNEWS
ENEWS@CJN.ORG

The Cleveland Jewish News is a weekly Jewish newspaper covering local, national, and international news of Jewish interest.

THE PLAIN DEALER

 cleveland.com

CLEVELAND PLAIN DEALER
@THEPLAINDEALER
NEWS@CLEVELAND.COM

The Plain Dealer is the major daily newspaper of Cleveland, Ohio, United States.

THE DEVIL STRIP
AKRON MUSIC, ART & CULTURE

THE DEVIL STRIP
@AKRONDEVILSTRIP
ROSALIE@THEDEVILSTRIP.COM

The Devil Strip is an Akron news, arts, music and culture organization.

The Vindicator

THE YOUNGSTOWN VINDICATOR
@VINDICATOR
NEWS@VINDY.COM

The Youngstown Vindicator is a daily newspaper serving Youngstown, Ohio, United States and the Mahoning County region as well as southern Trumbull County and northern Columbiana County.

Tribune Chronicle

THE WARREN TRIBUNE CHRONICLE
@TRIBTODAY
CONTACT@TRIBTODAY.COM

The Tribune Chronicle is a daily morning newspaper serving Warren, Ohio and the Mahoning Valley area.



WKSU
@WKSU
NEWS@WKSU.ORG

WKSU is a non-commercial educational radio station licensed to Kent, Ohio, primarily serving the Akron metro area, and is a service of Kent State University.



WKYC 3 CLEVELAND
@WKYC
CHANNEL3@WKYC.COM

WKYC is an NBC-affiliated television station licensed to Cleveland, Ohio, United States.

NEXT STEPS

Reporters across these organizations are dividing up the questions now and reporting answers back to the community.

For up-to-date information and reporting, visit:

YOURVOICEOHIO.ORG

[@YOURVOICEOHIO](https://twitter.com/YOURVOICEOHIO)

