



## Rush County Economic Development

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[www.rushcounty.org](http://www.rushcounty.org)

# Rush County Survey

Do you have thoughts or concerns about the communities in which we live and work? If so, this is your chance to voice your personal opinions. We would like to gather information from residents and businesses alike to ascertain where the community sees itself and what direction Rush County Economic Development should potentially follow. Please be as honest as possible and remember that the successful future of the community lies in the hands of those who choose to call Rush County "home".

The survey is anonymous but we do ask a few questions to compile demographic information. In that respect, we ask that each individual take this survey only once. Please go to [www.rushcounty.org](http://www.rushcounty.org) to print more copies of the survey for other individuals in your household.

This survey should require less than 20 minutes to complete. Please return your completed survey in the enclosed envelope before January 31, 2016. Thank you for your participation.

Please answer every question to ensure that your survey can be counted.

### My Demographic (Please select ONE answer for each question.)

1. My age bracket is:

- ☐ 0-25 years   ☐ 26-35 years   ☐ 36-45 years   ☐ 46-55 years   ☐ 56-65 years   ☐ 66+ years

2. I live in, or, I live closest to:

- ☐ Albert   ☐ Alexander   ☐ Bison   ☐ La Crosse   ☐ Liebenthal   ☐ Loretto   ☐ McCracken   ☐ Nekoma  
☐ Otis   ☐ Rush Center   ☐ Shaffer   ☐ Timken

3. I have lived in Rush County for:

- ☐ 0-5 years   ☐ 6-10 years   ☐ 11-15 years   ☐ 16-20 years   ☐ 21-25 years   ☐ 26+ years

4. I am currently:

- ☐ A student   ☐ Employed full-time   ☐ Employed part-time   ☐ Self-employed   ☐ Retired   ☐ Unemployed

Begin Survey →

## **My Immediate Community** (Please select ONE answer for each question.)

**5. My community provides me with a good quality of life.**

☐ Strongly Disagree   ☐ Disagree   ☐ Neutral   ☐ Agree   ☐ Strongly Agree   ☐ Not Applicable

**6. I know where to, and, with whom to address any problems or concerns within my community.**

☐ Strongly Disagree   ☐ Disagree   ☐ Neutral   ☐ Agree   ☐ Strongly Agree   ☐ Not Applicable

**7. I believe that the county is invested in the future of my community.**

☐ Strongly Disagree   ☐ Disagree   ☐ Neutral   ☐ Agree   ☐ Strongly Agree   ☐ Not Applicable

**8. I believe that we need to implement some changes to safeguard the future of our community.**

☐ Strongly Disagree   ☐ Disagree   ☐ Neutral   ☐ Agree   ☐ Strongly Agree   ☐ Not Applicable

**9. I would be willing to take an active role in the prospective success of our community.**

☐ Strongly Disagree   ☐ Disagree   ☐ Neutral   ☐ Agree   ☐ Strongly Agree   ☐ Not Applicable

**10. I would be interested to learn about the establishment of community gardens.**

☐ Strongly Disagree   ☐ Disagree   ☐ Neutral   ☐ Agree   ☐ Strongly Agree   ☐ Not Applicable

**11. I believe that we have adequate daycare/childcare facilities in my immediate community.**

☐ Strongly Disagree   ☐ Disagree   ☐ Neutral   ☐ Agree   ☐ Strongly Agree   ☐ Not Applicable

## **Housing** (Please select ONE answer for each question.)

**12. There is enough affordable, quality housing in my community.**

☐ Strongly Disagree   ☐ Disagree   ☐ Neutral   ☐ Agree   ☐ Strongly Agree   ☐ Not Applicable

**13. We would benefit from more low income housing.**

☐ Strongly Disagree   ☐ Disagree   ☐ Neutral   ☐ Agree   ☐ Strongly Agree   ☐ Not Applicable

**14. We would benefit from more moderate income housing.**

☐ Strongly Disagree   ☐ Disagree   ☐ Neutral   ☐ Agree   ☐ Strongly Agree   ☐ Not Applicable

**15. The responsible community departments do a good job of enforcing residential ordinances.**

☐ Strongly Disagree   ☐ Disagree   ☐ Neutral   ☐ Agree   ☐ Strongly Agree   ☐ Not Applicable

**16. I take pride in my residential community.**

☐ Strongly Disagree   ☐ Disagree   ☐ Neutral   ☐ Agree   ☐ Strongly Agree   ☐ Not Applicable

**17. If there were programs available to assist with home improvements, I would consider using them.**

☐ Strongly Disagree   ☐ Disagree   ☐ Neutral   ☐ Agree   ☐ Strongly Agree   ☐ Not Applicable

**18. I would be interested to learn about options for energy efficiency in my home.**

☐ Strongly Disagree   ☐ Disagree   ☐ Neutral   ☐ Agree   ☐ Strongly Agree   ☐ Not Applicable

## **Retail** (Please select ONE answer for each)

**19. Rush County provides for the majority of my retail requirements.**

☐ Strongly Disagree ☐ Disagree ☐ Neutral ☐ Agree ☐ Strongly Agree ☐ Not Applicable

**20. I try to shop locally where possible.**

☐ Strongly Disagree ☐ Disagree ☐ Neutral ☐ Agree ☐ Strongly Agree ☐ Not Applicable

**21. I frequently shop on the Internet.**

☐ Strongly Disagree ☐ Disagree ☐ Neutral ☐ Agree ☐ Strongly Agree ☐ Not Applicable

**22. I take trips to shop outside of Rush County:**

☐ Never ☐ Once every couple of months ☐ Once per month  
☐ Twice per month ☐ Three or more times per month

**23. I am happy to pay a higher premium for products if I don't have to leave town to purchase them.**

☐ Strongly Disagree ☐ Disagree ☐ Neutral ☐ Agree ☐ Strongly Agree ☐ Not Applicable

**24. I would like to see a wider variety of retail stores in Rush County.**

☐ Strongly Disagree ☐ Disagree ☐ Neutral ☐ Agree ☐ Strongly Agree ☐ Not Applicable

**25. I am opposed to having larger, branded retail stores in Rush County.**

☐ Strongly Disagree ☐ Disagree ☐ Neutral ☐ Agree ☐ Strongly Agree ☐ Not Applicable

## **Agriculture** (Please select ONE answer for each question.)

**26. I feel that the county could do more to support the agricultural community.**

☐ Strongly Disagree ☐ Disagree ☐ Neutral ☐ Agree ☐ Strongly Agree ☐ Not Applicable

**27. We have the same resources and assistance available to us as our neighboring counties.**

☐ Strongly Disagree ☐ Disagree ☐ Neutral ☐ Agree ☐ Strongly Agree ☐ Not Applicable

**28. I am opposed to the introduction of Corporate Farming in the area.**

☐ Strongly Disagree ☐ Disagree ☐ Neutral ☐ Agree ☐ Strongly Agree ☐ Not Applicable

**29. I would look at the options of diversification if assistance was available.**

☐ Strongly Disagree ☐ Disagree ☐ Neutral ☐ Agree ☐ Strongly Agree ☐ Not Applicable

**30. I would be interested in the potential of establishing a local food cooperative to potentially include aquaponic and hydroponic industries.**

☐ Strongly Disagree ☐ Disagree ☐ Neutral ☐ Agree ☐ Strongly Agree ☐ Not Applicable



## Industry (Please select ONE answer for each question.)

**31. I would like to see more industrial/commercial businesses and jobs in Rush County.**

☐ Strongly Disagree   ☐ Disagree   ☐ Neutral   ☐ Agree   ☐ Strongly Agree   ☐ Not Applicable

**32. I would like to see more technology businesses and jobs in Rush County.**

☐ Strongly Disagree   ☐ Disagree   ☐ Neutral   ☐ Agree   ☐ Strongly Agree   ☐ Not Applicable

**33. There are NOT enough jobs in Rush County that match my level of education.**

☐ Strongly Disagree   ☐ Disagree   ☐ Neutral   ☐ Agree   ☐ Strongly Agree   ☐ Not Applicable

**34. I have considered starting my own business in Rush County.**

☐ Strongly Disagree   ☐ Disagree   ☐ Neutral   ☐ Agree   ☐ Strongly Agree   ☐ Not Applicable

**35. We have enough available property for new business in Rush County.**

☐ Strongly Disagree   ☐ Disagree   ☐ Neutral   ☐ Agree   ☐ Strongly Agree   ☐ Not Applicable

**36. There should be more done to help our existing businesses in Rush County.**

☐ Strongly Disagree   ☐ Disagree   ☐ Neutral   ☐ Agree   ☐ Strongly Agree   ☐ Not Applicable

## Education/Training (Please select ONE answer for each question.)

**37. I would like to see opportunities for furthering my education in Rush County.**

☐ Strongly Disagree   ☐ Disagree   ☐ Neutral   ☐ Agree   ☐ Strongly Agree   ☐ Not Applicable

**38. If available, I would take part in workshops for professional development (Résumé writing, computer classes etc.).**

☐ Strongly Disagree   ☐ Disagree   ☐ Neutral   ☐ Agree   ☐ Strongly Agree   ☐ Not Applicable

**39. If available, I would take part in local training for Trade Skills (welding, fabrication, healthcare etc.).**

☐ Strongly Disagree   ☐ Disagree   ☐ Neutral   ☐ Agree   ☐ Strongly Agree   ☐ Not Applicable

**40. I feel that Rush County schools provide a quality education for our youth.**

☐ Strongly Disagree   ☐ Disagree   ☐ Neutral   ☐ Agree   ☐ Strongly Agree   ☐ Not Applicable





## Healthcare (Please select ONE answer for each question.)

### 41. My Primary/Family Doctor is located in Rush County.

- ☐ Yes, located in Rush County ☐ No, located outside of Rush County

### 42. I am satisfied with the available healthcare services provided in Rush County.

- ☐ Strongly Disagree ☐ Disagree ☐ Neutral ☐ Agree ☐ Strongly Agree ☐ Not Applicable

### 43. If required, I would be able to travel outside of Rush County to get routine healthcare.

- ☐ Strongly Disagree ☐ Disagree ☐ Neutral ☐ Agree ☐ Strongly Agree ☐ Not Applicable

### 44. I feel that Rush County has adequate emergency medical services available to all residents.

- ☐ Strongly Disagree ☐ Disagree ☐ Neutral ☐ Agree ☐ Strongly Agree ☐ Not Applicable

### 45. I feel that Rush County has adequate assisted living and skilled-care facilities available to all residents.

- ☐ Strongly Disagree ☐ Disagree ☐ Neutral ☐ Agree ☐ Strongly Agree ☐ Not Applicable

## Entertainment (Please select ONE answer for each question.)

### 46. I feel that there are enough entertainment locations and activities in Rush County.

- ☐ Strongly Disagree ☐ Disagree ☐ Neutral ☐ Agree ☐ Strongly Agree ☐ Not Applicable

### 47. I frequently travel outside of Rush County for entertainment activities.

- ☐ Strongly Disagree ☐ Disagree ☐ Neutral ☐ Agree ☐ Strongly Agree ☐ Not Applicable

### 48. There are enough extra-curricular activities and entertainment for our youth.

- ☐ Strongly Disagree ☐ Disagree ☐ Neutral ☐ Agree ☐ Strongly Agree ☐ Not Applicable

### 49. There are sufficient activities for family entertainment in Rush County.

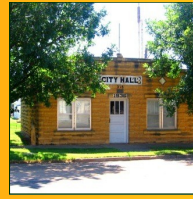
- ☐ Strongly Disagree ☐ Disagree ☐ Neutral ☐ Agree ☐ Strongly Agree ☐ Not Applicable

### 50. I believe that tourism (museums, hunting, festivals) is important to Rush County's economic well-being.

- ☐ Strongly Disagree ☐ Disagree ☐ Neutral ☐ Agree ☐ Strongly Agree ☐ Not Applicable

### 51. I attend local festivals and community events:

- ☐ Whenever Possible ☐ Only when held in my Community ☐ Rarely ☐ Not at all



## Personal Thoughts (Please select ONE answer for each question.)

**52. I think that Rush County has the potential for population growth over the next 10 years.**

☐ Strongly Disagree ☐ Disagree ☐ Neutral ☐ Agree ☐ Strongly Agree ☐ Not Applicable

**53. Rush County needs to modernize in order to maintain or grow our existing population.**

☐ Strongly Disagree ☐ Disagree ☐ Neutral ☐ Agree ☐ Strongly Agree ☐ Not Applicable

**54. I don't want to see any major changes within my community.**

☐ Strongly Disagree ☐ Disagree ☐ Neutral ☐ Agree ☐ Strongly Agree ☐ Not Applicable

## Priorities (Please select ONE answer for each question.)

**55. I think that addressing housing concerns should be one of the top priorities for Rush County.**

☐ Strongly Disagree ☐ Disagree ☐ Neutral ☐ Agree ☐ Strongly Agree ☐ Not Applicable

**56. I think that focusing on our retail sector should be one of the top priorities for Rush County.**

☐ Strongly Disagree ☐ Disagree ☐ Neutral ☐ Agree ☐ Strongly Agree ☐ Not Applicable

**57. I think that support for agriculture should be one of the top priorities for Rush County.**

☐ Strongly Disagree ☐ Disagree ☐ Neutral ☐ Agree ☐ Strongly Agree ☐ Not Applicable

**58. I think that providing resources for new and existing businesses should be one of the top priorities for Rush County.**

☐ Strongly Disagree ☐ Disagree ☐ Neutral ☐ Agree ☐ Strongly Agree ☐ Not Applicable

**59. I think that focusing on the introduction of further education should be one of the top priorities for Rush County.**

☐ Strongly Disagree ☐ Disagree ☐ Neutral ☐ Agree ☐ Strongly Agree ☐ Not Applicable

**60. I think that support for our healthcare systems should be one of the top priorities for Rush County.**

☐ Strongly Disagree ☐ Disagree ☐ Neutral ☐ Agree ☐ Strongly Agree ☐ Not Applicable

**61. I think that entertainment facilities should be one of the top priorities for Rush County.**

☐ Strongly Disagree ☐ Disagree ☐ Neutral ☐ Agree ☐ Strongly Agree ☐ Not Applicable

**Relocation Plans** (Please select ONE answer for each question.)

**62. I will likely move to another property within my immediate community during the next 10 years.**

☐ Strongly Disagree   ☐ Disagree   ☐ Neutral   ☐ Agree   ☐ Strongly Agree   ☐ Not Applicable

**63. I will likely relocate to another area of Rush County during the next 10 years.**

☐ Strongly Disagree   ☐ Disagree   ☐ Neutral   ☐ Agree   ☐ Strongly Agree   ☐ Not Applicable

**64. I will likely relocate outside of Rush County within the next 10 years.**

☐ Strongly Disagree   ☐ Disagree   ☐ Neutral   ☐ Agree   ☐ Strongly Agree   ☐ Not Applicable

**65. If you would like to enter any further comments or have any other ideas, please do so in the box below.**

*Please do not include any identifiable information in this question, should you wish to remain anonymous.*

*(attach extra sheets if necessary)*

*Thank you for completing our survey.*

*Please note that any and all information submitted will be used statistically and the results may be published accordingly.*





# LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER

## Rush County Economic Development

Rush County Economic Development (RCED) is composed of members of the board of directors of Rush County Industrial Development, the Rush County Commissioners, the Rush County Economic Development Administrator, and other community leaders. The purpose of our committee is to work to bring people in the county together as a community, increase the quality of life in order to attract new residents, stimulate business growth and development, make greater opportunity for youth, and promote tourism in Rush County. The committee meets on the last Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Barbed Wire Museum Conference Room in La Crosse. Meetings are open to the public and all interested persons are welcome.

RCED, in cooperation with the Kansas Department of Commerce, provides assistance for business start-up, retention, and expansion, and promotes the resources and assets of the county to potential residents, business, and industry. RCED can provide assistance to retiring entrepreneurs in selling and marketing their business. We also provide grant writing assistance for local government and non-profit agencies. RCED serves as the county tourism bureau by promoting recreational and sporting activities and providing marketing assistance and advertising for county museums, agritourism attractions, lodging, and historical sites. We maintain the county website as well as several other websites and social media for community festivals and organizations.

In recent years, RCED, in cooperation with Rush County Industrial Development, Inc., has provided in excess of \$100,000 in financial assistance and incentives for new business and expansion of existing business and industry. RCED continues to offer free website listings for commercial buildings and sites for sale or lease. We also provide free website design and maintenance, assistance in marketing, and design of promotional materials for communities and public organizations.

**Rush County Economic Development Officers:**

Lawrence Erbes, president  
Jay Jecha, vice-president  
  
Bradley Penka, RCED administrator  
  
Jared Petersilie, Walnut Creek extension agent

**Board of Directors:**

Brian Baalmann  
Kara Jecha  
John Seymour  
Jerilyn Stull  
Terry Warner

**County Commissioners:**

Ken Urban  
Leonard Mastroni  
Dennis Elias