



Wrangell Industry Transformation Initiative Survey Findings



February 27, 2026

INTRODUCTION

The community of Wrangell, Alaska, is currently navigating the profound aftermath of the November 2023 landslide events. Critical to plotting a course forward for Wrangell and building on 20 years of community and economic planning, the City and Borough of Wrangell identified three projects to strengthen community resiliency and create long-term economic diversification. These projects include:

- Redevelopment of the deep-water port for multiple industrial tenants including freight, shipyard, marine services, energy, and data center;
- Downtown waterfront expansion that modernizes the working waterfront for improved operational safety to support fishing, tourism, public access to the waterfront, and marine services; and,
- Reservoir flume replacement that supplies the community's water.

On the evening of February 19, 2026, the City and Borough of Wrangell hosted a “Community Conversation” Town Hall to share and discuss the three proposed projects to be included in the Economic Development Administration (EDA) Disaster Response grant application being submitted by the City and Borough. Key to the meeting's success was the physical presence of all public-private partnership stakeholders who have made a commitment to these projects and participated in a two-way panel discussion with the community. In addition to presentations, facilitated engagement, and the opportunity for the public to ask questions of City and Borough staff and project partners, community members were asked to provide their input through a SurveyMonkey format survey.

Approximately 135 community members attended the Town Hall meeting, and the presentation was made available on the City and Borough's website, with the community encouraged to participate in the survey. The Wrangell Industry Transformation Initiative Survey, which included nine questions and a final open-ended comment option, was designed to understand how the community was impacted by the 2023 landslide and to identify concerns, opportunities, and community priorities related to resiliency and long-term economic development. The survey was open for seven days, starting on the evening of the meeting, and collected responses from 127 unique community members. The findings are summarized within this document.

Wrangell has an overall population of 2,037, with an estimated 1,640 residents aged 16 or older. With 127 survey responses received, these findings are presented with **95% confidence level with an 8.5% margin of error.**

The community survey and this findings document were developed by Corvus Design with assistance from Rain Coast Data and the City and Borough of Wrangell.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Overview and EDA Grant Alignment

The Wrangell Industry Transformation Initiative Survey received responses from 127 community members to assess disaster impacts from the November 2023 landslide and outline priorities for economic stability and community resiliency. The findings of the community survey present a compelling, data-backed case for the community to submit an Economic Development Administration (EDA) Disaster Response grant. The survey demonstrates the profound community toll of the recent natural disaster, highlights the urgent risk of economic decline without intervention, and outlines clear community support for the three infrastructure projects designed to build long-term community resilience and economic growth.

Disaster Impact and Community Need

The November 2023 landslide events severely impacted the Wrangell community, highlighting critical vulnerabilities. **Just over 91% of all survey participants were impacted by the landslide.** The data illustrates the disasters impacts and an urgent need for stabilization and recovery for this small, close-knit community:

- 49.21% experienced the loss of a family or close community member;
- 60.32% of respondents reported increased concern about community safety;
- 50.00% suffered emotional or mental health impacts; and,
- 42.06% expressed increased concern regarding infrastructure reliability.

Economic Vulnerability Without Intervention

Respondents made it clear that failing to secure infrastructure improvements that create new economic opportunities poses an existential threat to Wrangell's future prosperity. **87% state that the need for infrastructure resilience is "extremely or very important".** If key projects are not completed, the community anticipates severe economic fallout:

- 80.80% foresee a loss of population;
- 68.80% anticipate reduced business activity;
- 68.00% expect a loss of local jobs; and,
- 61.60% predict higher long-term infrastructure costs.

Strategic Priorities for Resilient Growth

To counter these vulnerabilities and build a robust, post-disaster economy, Wrangell must invest in infrastructure that supports its most viable sectors. The community identified specific target industries and infrastructure projects that align perfectly with EDA goals of resiliency, capacity building, and economic diversification:

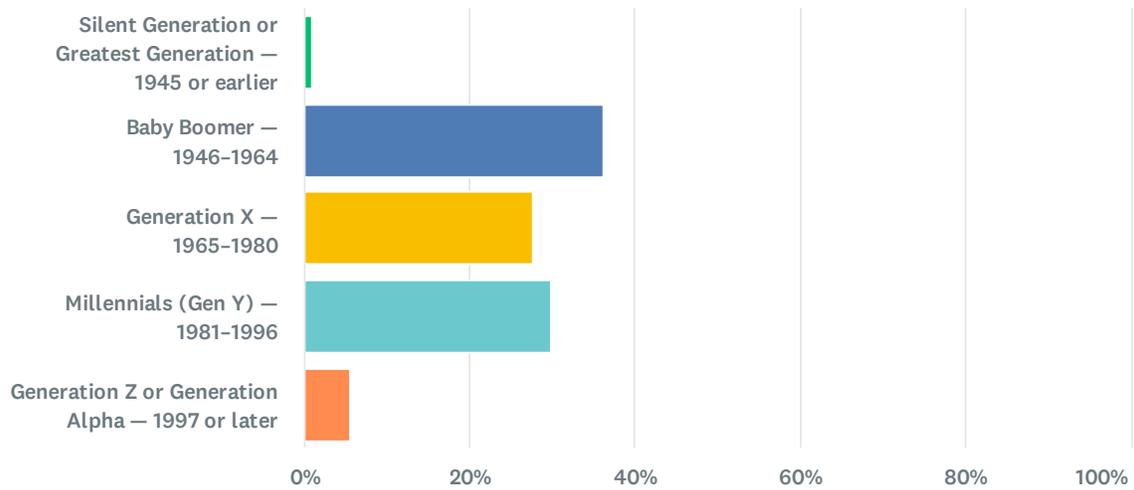
- **Key Industries:** Investment should focus on marine service and vessel repair (79.34%), tourism and recreation services (64.46%), and seafood processing and fisheries (51.24%).
- **Water Infrastructure (Flume Replacement):** 86.78% feel this project is essential to the community, with 63.64% calling it “extremely important” for long-term economic stability.
- **Deep Water Port Redevelopment:** 80.17% believe this project is needed to support Wrangell’s long-term economic stability with 58.68% rating this project as “extremely important”.
- **Downtown Waterfront Expansion:** 63.63% also feel this project supports Wrangell’s long-term economic stability with 43.80% considering it “extremely important”.

Strong Mandate for Federal Support

There is overwhelming community consensus on the path forward and support for the three projects and their inclusion in a EDA Disaster Response grant application. When asked if the City and Borough should pursue **federal funding for these infrastructure improvements, 86.73% of respondents answered “Yes”**. Open-ended feedback as part of the survey emphasizes that these projects are vital for creating jobs, retaining and attracting young families, and transitioning Wrangell into a forward-thinking, resilient community that has struggled economically for decades.

Q1 What generation are you? (Birth year by generation provided)

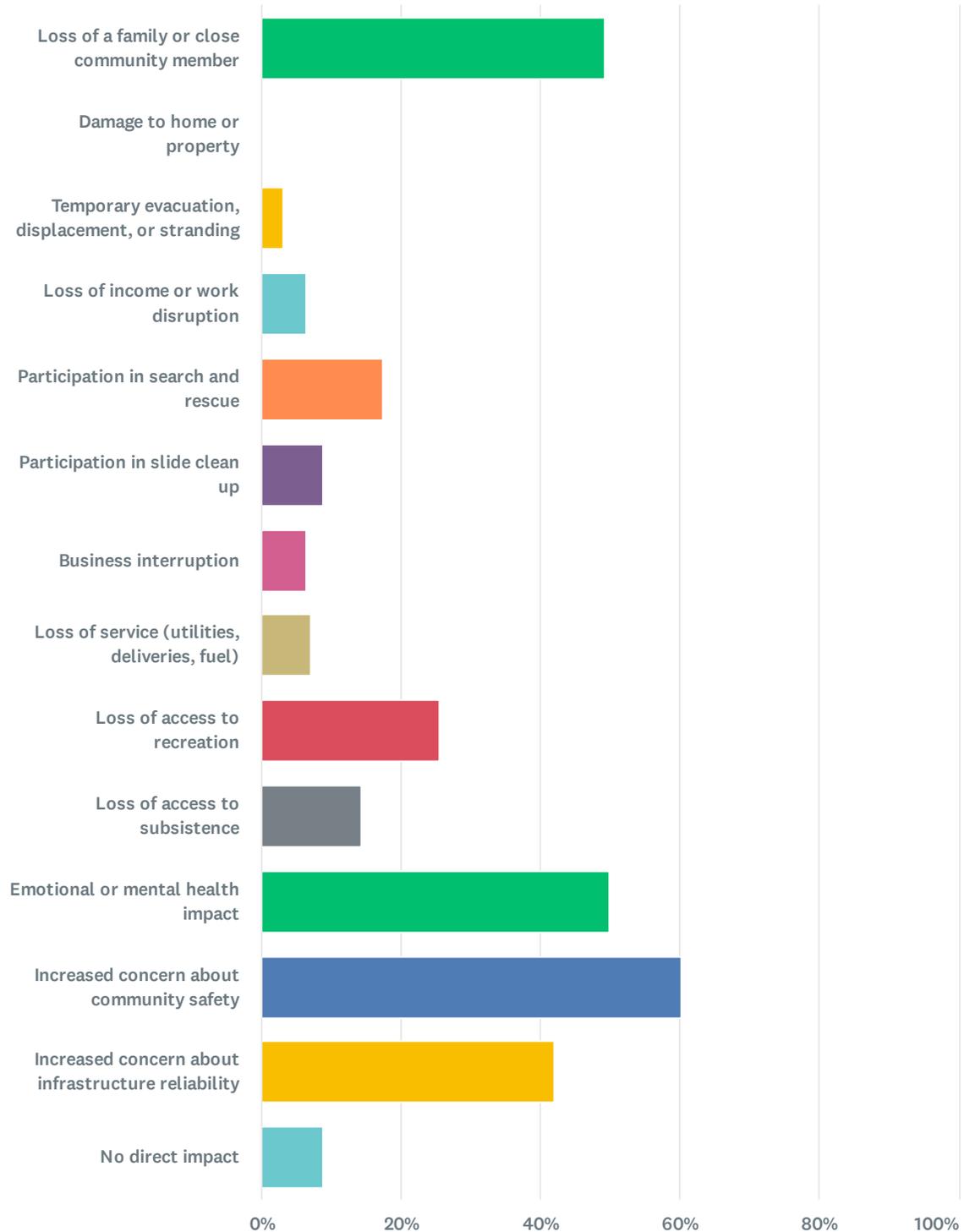
Answered: 127 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Percentage	Responses
● Silent Generation or Greatest Generation — 1945 or earlier	0.79%	1
● Baby Boomer — 1946-1964	36.22%	46
● Generation X — 1965-1980	27.56%	35
● Millennials (Gen Y) — 1981-1996	29.92%	38
● Generation Z or Generation Alpha — 1997 or later	5.51%	7
Total		127

Q2 How did the November 2023 landslide events impact you personally? (Select all that apply)

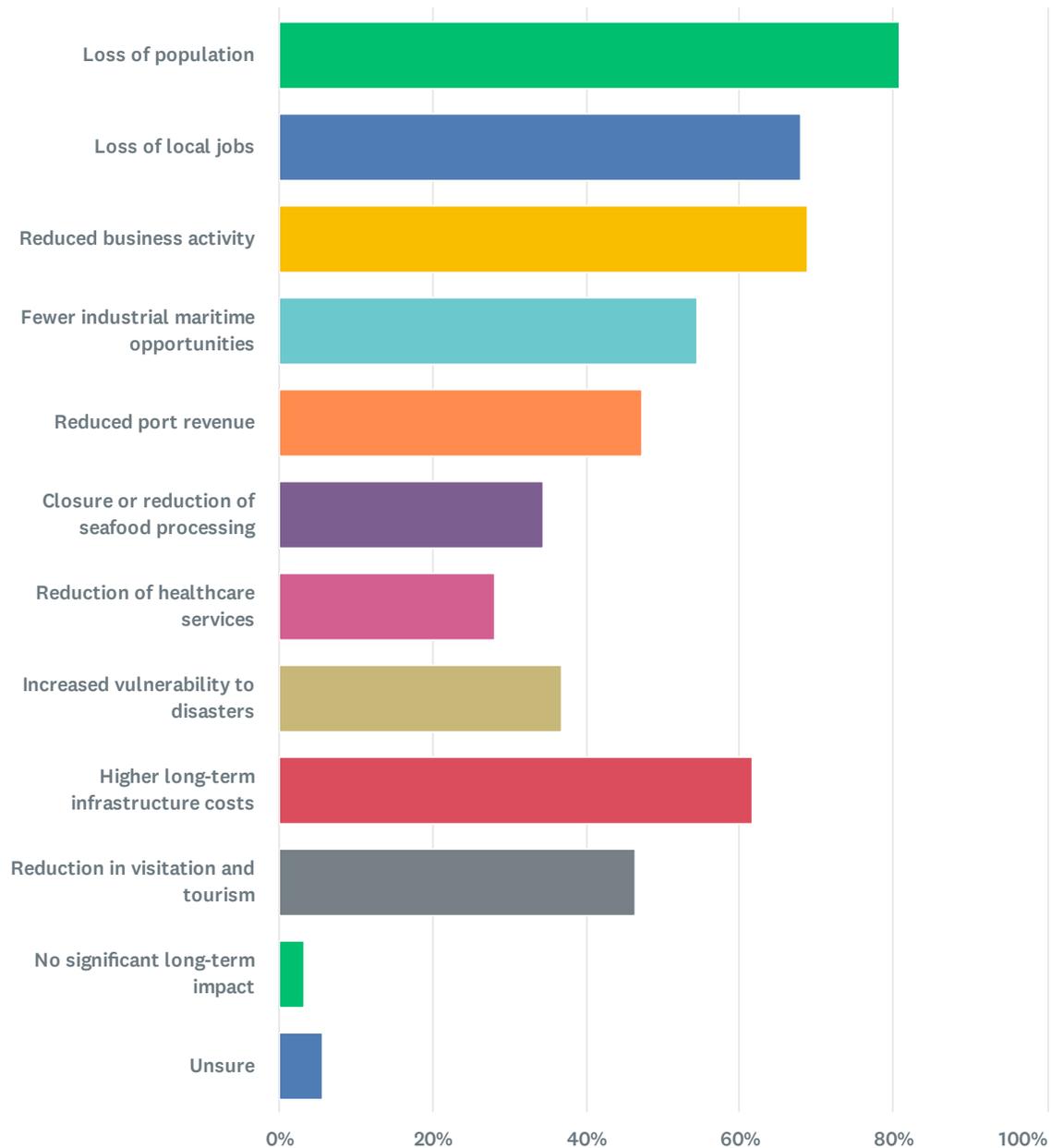
Answered: 126 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Percentage	Responses
● Loss of a family or close community member	49.21%	62
● Damage to home or property	0%	0
● Temporary evacuation, displacement, or stranding	3.17%	4
● Loss of income or work disruption	6.35%	8
● Participation in search and rescue	17.46%	22
● Participation in slide clean up	8.73%	11
● Business interruption	6.35%	8
● Loss of service (utilities, deliveries, fuel)	7.14%	9
● Loss of access to recreation	25.40%	32
● Loss of access to subsistence	14.29%	18
● Emotional or mental health impact	50.00%	63
● Increased concern about community safety	60.32%	76
● Increased concern about infrastructure reliability	42.06%	53
● No direct impact	8.73%	11
Total		377

Q3 If these infrastructure improvements are not completed, which of the following could affect Wrangell's ability to exist and prosper in the future? (Select all that apply)

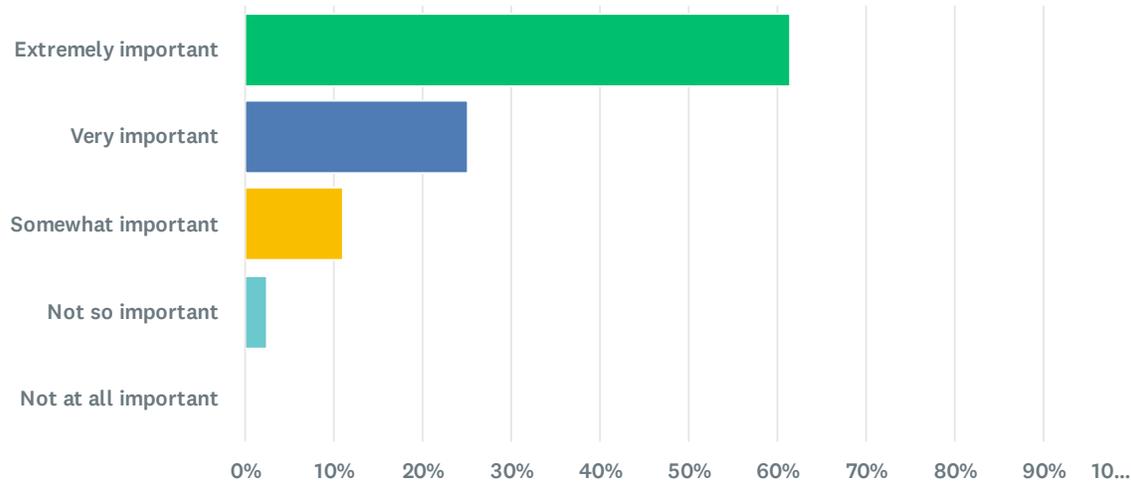
Answered: 125 Skipped: 2



Answer Choices	Percentage	Responses
● Loss of population	80.80%	101
● Loss of local jobs	68.00%	85
● Reduced business activity	68.80%	86
● Fewer industrial maritime opportunities	54.40%	68
● Reduced port revenue	47.20%	59
● Closure or reduction of seafood processing	34.40%	43
● Reduction of healthcare services	28.00%	35
● Increased vulnerability to disasters	36.80%	46
● Higher long-term infrastructure costs	61.60%	77
● Reduction in visitation and tourism	46.40%	58
● No significant long-term impact	3.20%	4

Q4 Following recent disaster events, how important is infrastructure resilience to you personally?

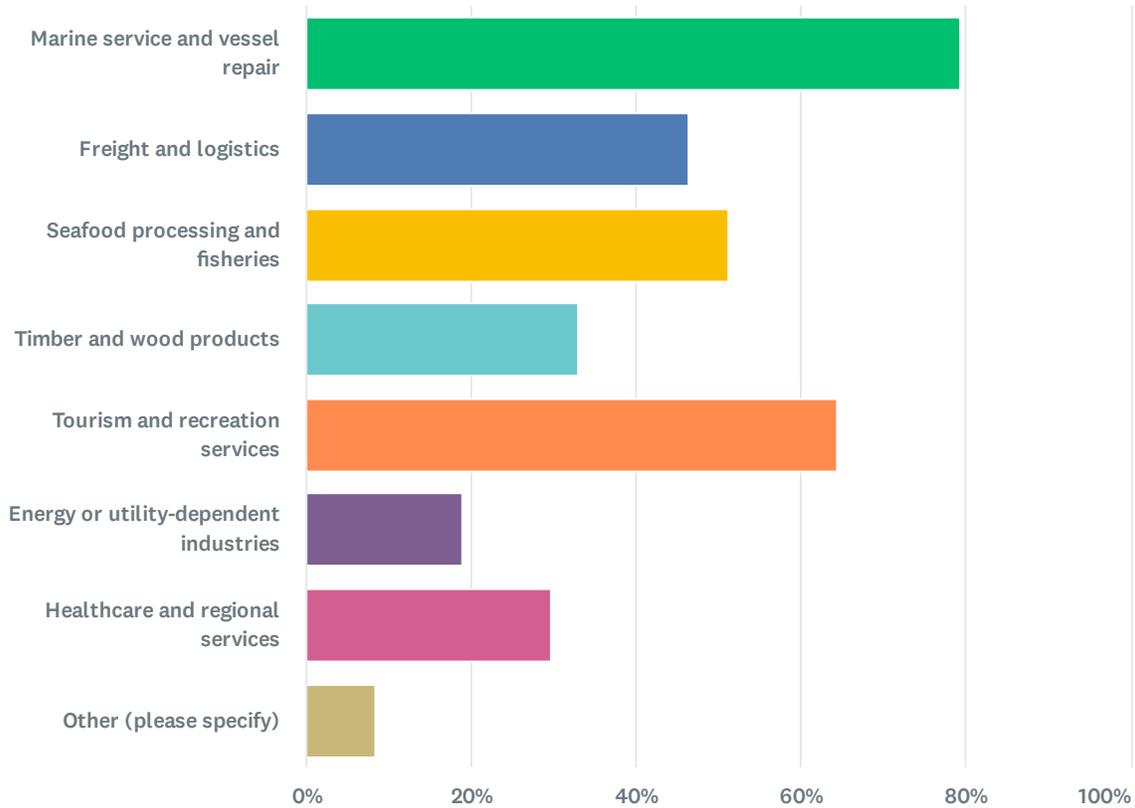
Answered: 127 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Percentage	Responses
● Extremely important	61.42%	78
● Very important	25.20%	32
● Somewhat important	11.02%	14
● Not so important	2.36%	3
● Not at all important	0%	0
Total		127

Q5 Which industries do you believe are most important to Wrangell's next phase of economic stability and growth? (Select up to three)

Answered: 121 Skipped: 6



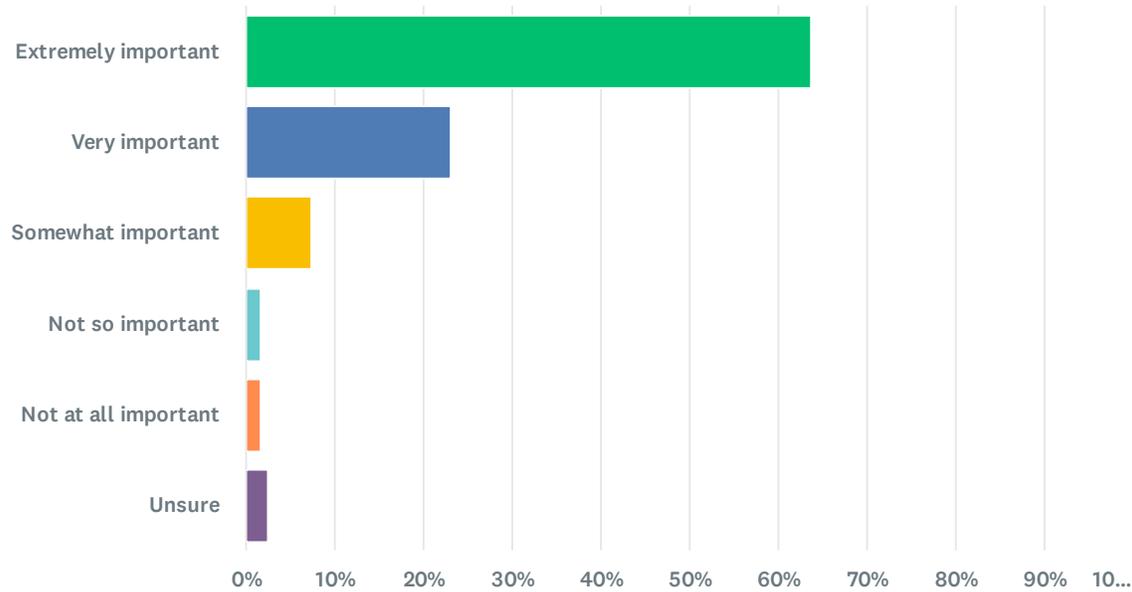
Answer Choices	Percentage	Responses
● Marine service and vessel repair	79.34%	96
● Freight and logistics	46.28%	56
● Seafood processing and fisheries	51.24%	62
● Timber and wood products	33.06%	40
● Tourism and recreation services	64.46%	78
● Energy or utility-dependent industries	19.01%	23
Total		401

Answer Choices	Percentage	Responses
● Healthcare and regional services	29.75%	36
● Other (please specify) Show responses	8.26%	10
Total		401

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Clean water	2/26/2026 4:25 PM
2	Education	2/22/2026 5:59 PM
3	Manufacturing	2/22/2026 3:24 PM
4	Educational resources	2/21/2026 5:25 AM
5	Education	2/20/2026 8:48 PM
6	Reintroduce Bradfield Road proposal	2/20/2026 4:28 PM
7	Glass bottle to sand recycling plant	2/19/2026 9:55 PM
8	Need to be well balanced	2/19/2026 7:55 PM
9	Mariculture	2/19/2026 7:53 PM
10	Education	2/19/2026 7:53 PM

Q6 How important is reliable water infrastructure (flume replacement) to Wrangell's long-term economic stability?

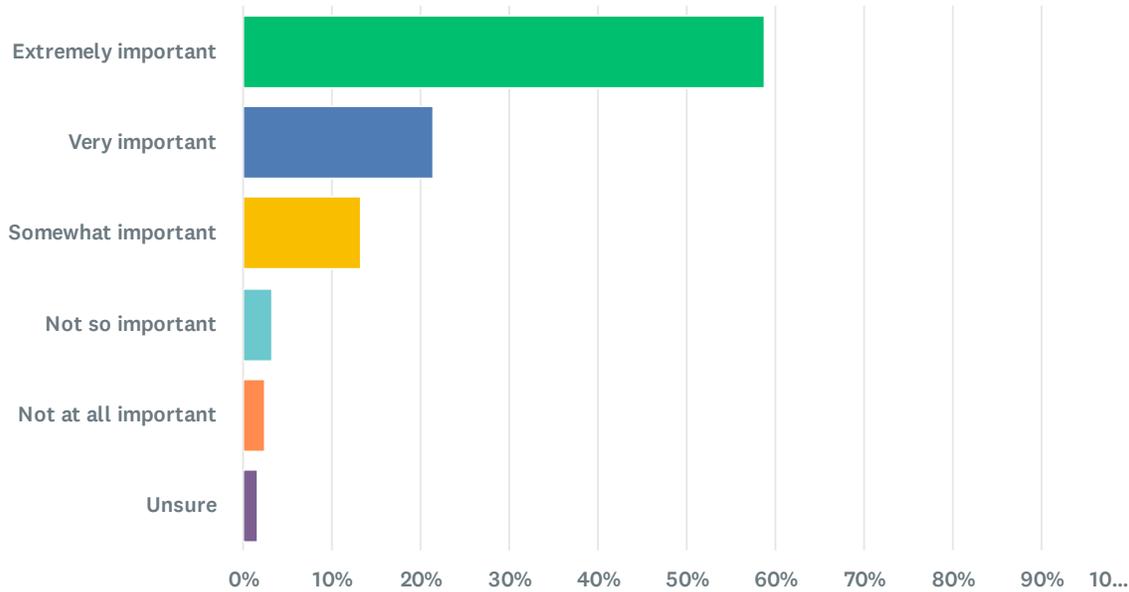
Answered: 121 Skipped: 6



Answer Choices	Percentage	Responses
● Extremely important	63.64%	77
● Very important	23.14%	28
● Somewhat important	7.44%	9
● Not so important	1.65%	2
● Not at all important	1.65%	2
● Unsure	2.48%	3
Total		121

Q7 How important is the Deep Water Port Redevelopment (Six Mile Site) to Wrangell's long-term economic stability?

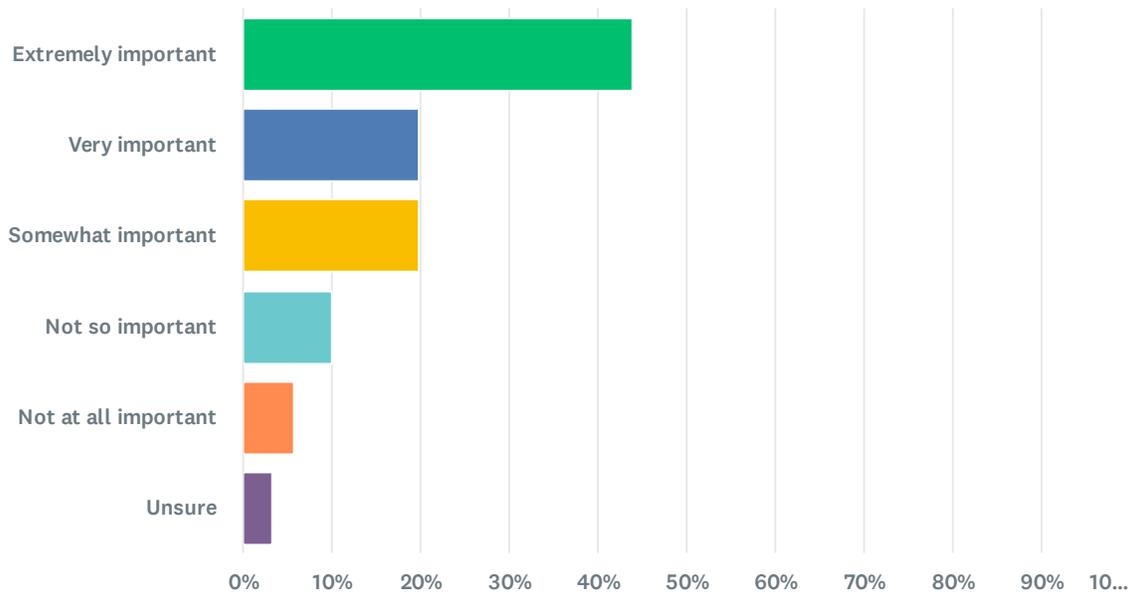
Answered: 121 Skipped: 6



Answer Choices	Percentage	Responses
● Extremely important	58.68%	71
● Very important	21.49%	26
● Somewhat important	13.22%	16
● Not so important	3.31%	4
● Not at all important	2.48%	3
● Unsure	1.65%	2
Total		122

Q8 How Important is the Downtown Waterfront Expansion (City Dock, Waterfront Revitalization, American Cruise Line Dock, Park) to Wrangell's long-term economic stability?

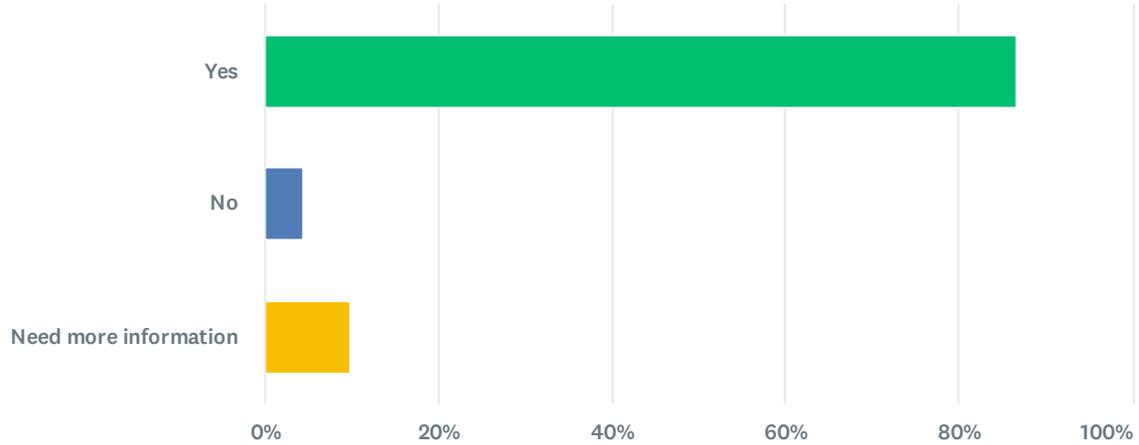
Answered: 121 Skipped: 6



Answer Choices	Percentage	Responses
● Extremely important	43.80%	53
● Very important	19.83%	24
● Somewhat important	19.83%	24
● Not so important	9.92%	12
● Not at all important	5.79%	7
● Unsure	3.31%	4
Total		124

Q9 Based on what you heard tonight, do you believe pursuing federal funding for these infrastructure improvements is appropriate?

Answered: 113 Skipped: 14



Answer Choices	Percentage	Responses
● Yes	86.73%	98
● No	4.42%	5
● Need more information	9.73%	11
Total		114

Q10 What is the most important outcome you hope to see from these investments for Wrangell? (Optional)

Answered: 73 Skipped: 54

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Safe, healthy environment.	2/26/2026 4:27 PM
2	Lower freight cost, more viability for the marine service center and ports and harbor, more job opportunities.	2/26/2026 10:12 AM
3	The financial stability of this community.	2/25/2026 7:17 PM
4	Stability for future generations	2/25/2026 5:22 PM
5	Wrangell needs economy. We need to stop lamenting about the past and become a forward-thinking community, building a community for generations to come.	2/25/2026 5:21 PM
6	Stability within all sectors and an emphasis on investing in existing sectors who have not traditionally seen support in their opportunities for growth.	2/24/2026 5:07 PM
7	Wrangell is slowly dying. If we, as a community, do not do something soon, it will be gone. It's becoming increasingly harder to justify staying here to raise a family. I believe these initiatives will begin to grow the community and direct it in the direction it needs to go.	2/24/2026 9:43 AM
8	Increased good paying year-round jobs and the population increases that will come with it, particularly of younger people. This will be the key to a positive economic upturn for the community.	2/23/2026 2:18 PM
9	New business coming to town. Jobs. Population increase rather than decrease.	2/23/2026 11:41 AM
10	job opportunities, grow our population	2/23/2026 10:03 AM
11	That Young people and Young families can stay in Wrangell and have stable year round employment that is adequate for the cost of living and overall prosperity.	2/23/2026 6:41 AM
12	Growth	2/22/2026 6:00 PM
13	Increased private sector funding.	2/22/2026 3:08 PM
14	Decent employment.	2/21/2026 3:45 PM
15	steady work for me and my wife and a future for my three children	2/21/2026 3:11 PM
16	implementing multiple past community plans for movement of barges out to six-mile, development of deep water port at six-mile, addition of large vessel repair/construction at six-mile, additional docks, green space, and commercial shop space downtown	2/21/2026 11:27 AM
17	I would like to see businesses, like William Tongsuards, supported as he has done so much to clean up Wrangell and if treated fairly could bring lots of business to Wrangell. Other businesses such as fishing related make sense but please don't bring a data center here. We don't need another environmental clean up and we dont need to stress our energy resources.	2/21/2026 11:11 AM
18	The most important outcome we seek from these investments is a stronger, more resilient Wrangell—one where economic growth directly enhances the quality of life for residents, supports the long-term stability of local businesses, and strengthens the fabric of our community. These investments will help create a thriving local economy with increased job opportunities, improved infrastructure, and expanded services that meet the needs of families, workers, and visitors alike. By supporting initiatives that reflect Wrangell's unique identity and values, this funding will foster a more vibrant, connected community and encourage sustainable growth that benefits current and future generations. Ultimately, our goal is to ensure that Wrangell remains a place where people feel proud to live, work, and invest.	2/21/2026 10:29 AM
19	The additional tour dock isn't as important as revitalization of the waterfront. So, that item	2/21/2026 8:35 AM

could've been separated from that particular question. Same as deep water port at 6mile. Yes to that but not to a data center which will have a devastating effect on resources and operating frequencies that may cause harm to neighbors and wildlife, marine life. Also important would be road development from "spur" road around the island to allow development on the east side of the island and emergency access to the south island via another route when another disaster happens. This would also hopefully eventually lead to a bridge and connection to the main land and Canadian road system. With this transportation link, the deep port would become a distribution site for all of Southeast AK. This would reduce cost of shipping, substitute transportation to and from the island due to reduction of ferry services (and possible end of ferry), bring further tourism, and remove the isolated limited access so that it will bring more professionals to the island so that the medical center can boost its services. Development of the old hospital site should be a joint effort with wca and unions to obtain grants to develop the site into a trades school with some student housing.

20	A more secure future and growth for our community	2/21/2026 5:39 AM
21	A thriving, long-term sustainability rooted in local opportunity where residents of all ages can live, work, learn, and prosper without sacrificing character, culture, and natural beauty that define Wrangell.	2/21/2026 5:32 AM
22	If the city is going to continue to allow people to sell whatever they choose to without having a permit to sell their items and not pay any city sales tax at all then the small businesses in Wrangell will be forced to close just as I had to close my restaurant this year because of this.	2/21/2026 5:21 AM
23	Jobs, housing, commerce, childcare	2/20/2026 9:42 PM
24	Growth	2/20/2026 9:28 PM
25	Maintain low cost of living for those in fixed income, especially with groceries and taxes. Not lose our town's sovereignty to cruise lines by giving them a foothold and it growing past what has been agreed, more tax money for city.	2/20/2026 8:51 PM
26	More investment in harbor facilities & a town that makes people want to move to.	2/20/2026 7:30 PM
27	Better local economy.	2/20/2026 7:15 PM
28	Better downtown economy	2/20/2026 6:33 PM
29	Population growth	2/20/2026 6:32 PM
30	I'm for federal funding however, a lot of that type of funding has been reduced for applicants.	2/20/2026 6:23 PM
31	Job creation.	2/20/2026 6:06 PM
32	Full funding of projects	2/20/2026 6:04 PM
33	Actually follow through on some of these options. Things that create population (younger) retention and growth.	2/20/2026 6:02 PM
34	New Families moving here as well as high school students having job opportunities	2/20/2026 5:43 PM
35	Revitalization of waterfront infrastructure.	2/20/2026 5:26 PM
36	economic stability, population increase and stability	2/20/2026 5:22 PM
37	Wrangell needs jobs and housing for those wanting to relocate to Wrangell. We need to have a diversified economy and tourism can be a very vital part of that. We need to look at and welcome all sizes of ships to come to port.	2/20/2026 5:22 PM
38	Stability of our community relationships, traditions, and historical relevance.	2/20/2026 5:17 PM
39	More job opportunities to attract younger residents	2/20/2026 5:15 PM
40	Economic stability	2/20/2026 4:29 PM
41	Healthy growth for the community	2/20/2026 4:26 PM
42	Population increases especially young families where child care and good solid paying jobs are available and a diversified economy and workforce!!!	2/20/2026 4:19 PM
43	Increased tourism	2/20/2026 4:07 PM

44	I do not want a data center in Wrangell.	2/20/2026 4:05 PM
45	Increase in population and lowering the average age of population	2/20/2026 11:11 AM
46	Local jobs	2/20/2026 10:39 AM
47	Job creation and community development abd growth	2/20/2026 8:52 AM
48	The 6-mile Deep Water Port in my opinion is the most important for our communities future.	2/20/2026 6:12 AM
49	Retention and attraction of young families and working age people.	2/19/2026 10:20 PM
50	JAG industrial at the 6 mile site	2/19/2026 10:09 PM
51	A diversification of industry and sustainable infrastructure with the least environmental impact possible.	2/19/2026 9:56 PM
52	Jobs for young people to stay for	2/19/2026 9:44 PM
53	Establishing a place for new job growth that enables new working people and families to move to Wrangell.	2/19/2026 9:40 PM
54	A thriving community internally and externally. Able to sustain ourselves and also provide resources to incoming workers and visitors.	2/19/2026 9:23 PM
55	All of these oppotunities will help to diversify Wrangell's economy, which will improve our overall economic climate and attract new families to our community.	2/19/2026 9:22 PM
56	To see the town grow and have oppotunities for the younger generation	2/19/2026 9:21 PM
57	Nicer schools, parks, daycare options for families. So we can be proud to live in Wrangell	2/19/2026 9:19 PM
58	Increased population base and inflow of money	2/19/2026 8:59 PM
59	Job oppotunities and lower energy costs	2/19/2026 8:58 PM
60	Jag needs to be a priority	2/19/2026 8:56 PM
61	Increased economic activity, resulting in population growth and more oppotunities.	2/19/2026 8:51 PM
62	Growing Wrangell back to the point that our families & kids have a sustainable future to remain here & a hope to have good paying jobs where families can dream of having a stay at home parent again, like we did 40-45 yrs ago. A future where ALL kids have the equal oppotunity to play sports & not just the ones that can afford to pay almost \$2,000 (not counting food & spending money) to join all the sports each year.	2/19/2026 8:35 PM
63	More generation for added system strength and more jobs and more desire for the younger generations to stay	2/19/2026 8:11 PM
64	Increased job oppotunities, secure access to fresh water	2/19/2026 8:09 PM
65	Growth so Wrangell doesn't implode.	2/19/2026 8:08 PM
66	Community input/involvement	2/19/2026 8:02 PM
67	The growth of our community	2/19/2026 8:00 PM
68	Water front development and the mill property development	2/19/2026 8:00 PM
69	Mill property development. Specifically JAG	2/19/2026 7:59 PM
70	A thriving and growing population and economy	2/19/2026 7:55 PM
71	The deep water port development	2/19/2026 7:54 PM
72	Increase and younger generation, give an entire generation security to live and work here. This area has become a boomer retirement destination where boomers come to retire, often leaving town for winter, while leaving the younger generation here to maintain the community. No more. We need to recruit and retain the 40 and younger generation.	2/19/2026 7:54 PM
73	Increase in population	2/19/2026 7:53 PM