

**Winona Lake Hometown Chat**  
**July 24, 2019**  
**Winona Lake, Indiana**

**Magic Wand Ideas**

1. Pay Increase for Teachers
2. Sidewalks, bike trails and side streets
3. Adequate and safe housing
4. County wide Park and trails system (Tippy Trails tie-in)
5. Family Resource Center **2 Votes**
6. Address and eliminate the drug problems in the community
7. Make Hwy. 30 safer
8. Distribution of Philanthropy with a focus on kids
9. County-wide Early Childhood Learning System **1 Vote**
10. Sidewalk or greenway in front of every house **1 Vote**
11. Completion of limitless Park
12. Expand Arts Programs with focus on community and youth
13. Ice Rink and multi-use facility
14. New Community Center Bldg. and Venue **2 Votes**

**What do you like best about living in Winona Lake and Kosciusko County?**

1. Giving Community
2. Quality of Life and Place, Greenway and Trails
3. Economic Strength of the Community
4. Strong Family Values
5. Education System
6. Lakes
7. Great place to raise a family
8. Sense of community spirit
9. Friendly
10. Social safety net
11. Many ways to engage and collaborate
12. Location

**What is missing?**

1. Better care and awareness of the lake
2. Sidewalks
3. Continued sustained and targeted growth
4. County-wide transportation
5. County level pro-active leadership
6. Pockets of economic growth
7. Long-term county wide plan
8. Economic development in the southern part of the county
9. Services and Resources where the pockets of the greatest need are; need to leverage and identify resources
10. Starter Housing
11. Access to childcare
12. Public Private Partnerships that support childcare, housing and education
13. Pipeline of Teachers due to low pay
14. Elementary School if there is significant population growth
15. Water system

## **Primary Focus Buckets Needs Identified**

### **Workforce Prep\* - Total Votes = 4 Votes**

1. Re-entry and programs for under educated, educate employers, match jobs and people, develop skill-based learning programs **2 Votes**
2. Study between trades and housing costs, offer housing building trade training  
Need to change mindsets and definition of what is success.  
Understand needs of RV corp. recruiter and signing bonuses
3. Educate youth on career options, including Grace College's engineering, lakes & streams and internship programs. **1 Vote**
4. Focus on communication, collaboration and training
5. Promote Orthoworx Programs to 8-10 graders and their parents

\* General Votes on Workforce Prep = **1 Vote**

### **Childcare - Total Votes = 7 Votes**

1. Pipeline for Early Childhood Educators (also workforce issue) **1 Vote**
2. Wages and affordability of Childcare **5 Votes**
3. Quality Childcare **1 Vote**

### **Housing\* - Total Votes = 3 Votes**

1. Hold slum lords accountable for the condition of their rental property
2. Affordable Housing under \$200,000 **1 Vote**
3. Market may be prime for Public/Private Partnership **1 Vote**
4. County wide Housing Code

\* General Votes on Housing = **1 Vote**

### **Planning & Vision - Total Votes = 7 Votes**

1. Recognize the "K" County is Conservative
2. Lack of County Planning **4 Votes**
3. County land maintenance, trails, greenway, KCV Plan
4. Bike Tourism, Rail to Trail
5. No County Park System
6. Lack of County Leadership, so focus on leadership **3 Votes**