

# Blackford County Strategic Economic Development Plan Public Questionnaire

This questionnaire is sponsored by the Blackford County Economic Development Corporation, which is in the process of creating a new strategy. The final plan will include a long-term vision of Blackford County's economic future, a set of prioritized goals and objectives with a projected budget, work plans for groups responsible for specific action steps, and a schedule for plan revision and updating.

The strategies will be shaped by a community vision for economic growth and driven by detailed steps for completion for each objective. Please share your opinions and perceptions about Blackford County's business climate, infrastructure, housing, education, commercial opportunities, downtown, and more.

Please complete and submit this questionnaire only once. Thank you for your time.

## **BUSINESS CLIMATE**

### **1) How would you rate Blackford County's overall business climate?**

- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- Don't know

### **2) How would you rate the condition of the following infrastructure areas in Blackford County?**

	Excellent	Adequate	Inadequate	Don't know
Roads				
Rail				
Water				
Sanitary sewer				
Stormwater or drainage mitigation				
Gas				
Electricity				
Broadband access				

**3) What would your priorities be for infrastructure improvements in Blackford County?**

---



---

**4) How would you describe the availability of vacant space under roof for industrial use in Blackford County?**

- Excellent
- Sufficient
- Insufficient
- Don't know

**5) How would you describe the availability of vacant space under roof for non-industrial business (office space) use in Blackford County?**

- Excellent
- Sufficient
- Insufficient
- Don't know

**6) How would you describe the availability of Greenfield sites (undeveloped land) served by infrastructure for industrial or non-industrial business (office space) development in Blackford County?**

- Excellent
- Sufficient
- Insufficient
- Don't know

**HOUSING**

**7) How would you describe Blackford County's supply of housing in the following categories?**

	Excellent	Adequate	Inadequate	Don't know
Executive housing				
Single family homes for the middle class				
Affordable homes for lower income families				
Apartments or other multifamily residential opportunities				
Upper-end condos for retirees				

**SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT**

**8) What resources are available for providing assistance in small business development and entrepreneurship in Blackford County?**

---



---

**9) What additional resources are needed?**

---



---

**EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

**10) How would you rate the schools K through 12 in Blackford County?**

- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- Don't know

**11) How would you rate postsecondary training opportunities in Blackford County?**

- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- Don't know

**12) How would you rate the following workforce characteristics in Blackford County?**

	Excellent	Adequate	Inadequate	Don't know
Basic skill levels				
Attitude toward lifelong learning				
Work ethic				

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES**

**13) How would you rate Blackford County's environment for retaining and expanding existing businesses?**

- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- Don't know

**14) How would you rate Blackford County's attractiveness for new employers?**

- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- Don't know

**RETAIL & DOWNTOWN**

**15) How would you rate Blackford County's retail and commercial shopping opportunities?**

- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- Don't know

**16) Could you describe any specific deficiencies to Blackford County's retail and commercial shopping?**

---

---

**17) How would you rate your community's downtown business climate?**

- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- Don't know

**OVERALL**

**18) Please briefly describe three threats and three opportunities that confront the Blackford County community in its economic development efforts.**

---

---

**19) What would you like your community to be like in 10 years?**

---

---

**DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION**

**20) Your name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **(Optional)**

**21) What is the highest level of education you have completed? (Optional)**

- Less than high school
- High school diploma or GED
- More than high school
- Associate Degree
- Bachelor Degree
- Graduate Degree or higher

**22) How long have you been a Blackford County resident? (Optional)**

- Less than a year
- 1 to 5 years
- 6 to 10 years
- 11 to 20 years
- More than 21 years

**23) What is your zip code?** \_\_\_\_\_

---

We appreciate your comments.