

Community Voice

Perspectives on Affordable Housing

RVA THRIVES 2018 COMMUNITY SURVEY

The 2018 community survey asked respondents questions about affordable housing, gentrification, and changes to the neighborhood as well as access to jobs. Of those who responded, 47% were renters and 41% are homeowners.

Most respondents said paying for housing is harder (30%), while 28% say paying for housing has always been hard, but it has not gotten any harder in the last two years. This is not a huge difference, suggesting long-term affordable housing struggles and a potential cost increases (for a good portion of respondents).

Of those that indicated paying for housing has gotten harder in the last two years, 37% said they are paying more for rent but their apartment size hasn't changed, 18% said they've moved into a smaller or lower quality apartment to afford rent, and 25% said their property taxes are increasing.

Neighbors were asked what is important to preserve as changes happen in their neighborhood. Respondents were evenly split on what they felt was most important to preserve along the JDC. Ensuring current community members can still afford to live here, and that they still have a voice during and after the changes were the most frequent answer (22%). This was followed by history and culture, and other, both at 21%. See table below.

WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO PRESERVE?	PERCENT	NUMBER
Current community members can afford to live here	22%	96
Long-term community still has a voice	22%	95
The history and culture	21%	91
Other	21%	91
Helping current favorite neighborhood businesses expand	12%	53
TOTAL	100%	426