

Citizen Survey Feedback- *Constant Contact* **(27 Respondents - November)**

Camden County Successes

- Funding for the JDA (increased investment for ED, 1 mil to JDA)
- Spaceport Progress
- Public cooperation with other local entities
- Fiscal responsibility
- More funding for libraries
- Continuing education courses at college/rec center
- TAD district & economic growth potential
- Increase in arts availability
- Child Advocacy Center
- Successful prosecution of offenders against children
- Law Enforcement and Fire Protection
- Increased motion industry presence, including online productions
- Hiring of new JDA Executive Director
- Co-location of the JDA, Chamber and The Camden Partnership
- Opening of the GA Radio Museum
- New business growth
- Committed investment in the future- Planning Board, Spaceport, Exit 3 Project
- Adult Education Courses presented at CC Library
- 600 Internships at Kings Bay
- Community events such as Shrimp, Crawfish and Catfish Festivals
- Combining of Altamaha and Okefenokee Colleges
- Fire and Rescue consolidation
- Increased Social Media coverage of community and government events and information
- Sheriff Proctor's transformation of office operations to be transparent and effective
- Addition/purchase of 2 new fire tankers
- More job opportunities
- Extension of bike trail
- Additional library funding
- Continuing education courses

What makes Camden County "A Great Place to Live"?

- Climate
- Geography
- Proximity to International airport/Quality Restaurants/big city
- Welcoming people
- History
- Great schools
- Family Friendly
- Low key
- No traffic congestion
- Diversity
- Natural beauty
- Crooker River State Park
- Cumberland Island National Park Service
- Public Services Authority
- Local Governments working to improve life for citizens
- St. Marys Waterfront

- Support from Kings Bay Naval Subbase
- Quaint cities like Woodbine and St. Marys
- Low crime/safe area
- Close-knit community
- Camden County Art League/Old Towne Gallery
- Solid infrastructure
- Affordable homes
- Proximity to beaches
- Moderate cost of living

What would you like to see in Camden in 2030?

- More Businesses/Industry
- More diversified economy
- Broader tax base w/homeowners paying a lower percentage of property taxes
- Top-rated technical college and robust higher education facility
- Clean environment/environmental activities/recycling
- Georgia's Space Coast with thriving spaceport
- Better balance between private/public businesses
- New industry at Old Gilman Paper Mill site
- Higher salaries to attract better qualified employees
- Greater health and mental health access
- Cohesion between social service agencies- all under one umbrella of service
- Increased missions at Kings Bay Naval Subbase
- Cooperation amongst local governments
- Collective message about Camden County from all citizens
- More jobs
- Shared services where applicable among government entities
- One tourism entity to serve the entire county
- Walkable, bikable, artistic community (ample greenspace community)
- More shopping, restaurants, etc.
- Tourist destination
- Amusement destination
- "Complete Streets" Public Transportation program
- More boat ramps with ample boat parking
- Uninterrupted access to all public waterways
- Vibrant downtowns for St. Marys and Kingsland
- Single police force county-wide
- More community parks/recreation centers
- Consistent signage standards for area businesses
- Improvements to major roads and gateways into Camden
- Lower property taxes
- More cooperation b/w natives and newcomers
- Additional financial support for tourism industry
- Aerospace industries supporting a space corridor
- Library annex at the North end of the county
- Intern partnership program with the CCHS

Camden's Major Challenges to how we want to see us in 15 years:

- Providing low cost family and adult oriented entertainment
- Unreasonable classification of developable lands as wetlands by the federal govt.
- Lack of readily available ready-to-build land for industry
- Lack of highly qualified workforce who are presently unemployed
- Competition from Florida and surrounding communities/states

- Federal anti-business policies
- Turf wars/protection- lack of cooperation
- Increased federal and state regulations
- No common strategic plan for county and the cities
- Raising taxes to pay for better services
- Leadership
- Taxes
- Mistrust and loss of control
- Not enough funds devoted to economic development
- Getting messages to DC and ATL about increased missions at Kings Bay
- Communicating one effective message about Camden to the State and big industry
- Lack of a true vision or competing visions
- Budgetary constraints
- Getting developers on board with smart growth
- Providing good, substantial jobs to keep the small business owner up and running
- Individual pride & perceived power w/the unwillingness to combine resources for the greater good of the county
- Unreasonable desire to have a one-upsmanship over the other governmental entities
- Identifying funding sources and the people/leaders to run with vision
- Attract high end businesses
- EPA Regulations
- DNR regulations for waterways
- People relying on the Federal Government make too many decisions about our community that does not affect them in any way.
- Community support
- Competing entities
- Operating on a “good ole boy” system/personal favors for friends and family
- Public leadership that does not value the opinions of its citizens
- Lack of engaged citizens
- County commissioners willing to spend more money in the north end of the county

Most Important Service Responsibilities:

- Police protection/public safety/jail
- Fire/Rescue
- Road Maintenance
- Animal Control
- Children and elder care services
- Exceptional public Library
- Quality education
- Emergency Management/Response/911 service
- Waste disposal/management
- Court-related services
- Proper tax value assessments
- Utility Services-Water/Sewer/Electrical
- Recreation
- Infrastructure/Public Works
- Promoting Tourism
- Social services
- Senior services
- Health services
- Economic development
- Tax collection

- Finance/budgeting
- County Code enforcement
- Customer Service
- Availability/listening to citizens
- Mosquito Control
- Sanitation
- Curbside collection
- Planning and Zoning

Least Important Service Responsibilities

- Full-Time paid EMA director
- JDA
- Wellness Clinic
- Certain expenditures in certain departments
- Support of Charitable enterprises
- Animal control
- Political arguments/divisions resulting in gridlock
- EEO violations resulting in legal action
- Road department
- Solid waste
- Curbside collection
- St. Marys Airport
- Camden County Industrial Park
- Fire and rescue lease agreements with cities
- Spaceport
- Impact fees
- Contractor supplied services
- Landfill management
- Tree trimming along road ways

Willing to pay for more:

- Economic development resulting in quality jobs and tax base
- Libraries
- Education
- Recreation
- Better roads with legible signage
- Recycling pick-up at home
- Increased mental health access for all citizens
- Law enforcement/jail expansion
- Infrastructure
- Youth services
- Re-opening of Gilligan's Island
- Technical college
- Public safety/security
- SPLOST
- To maintain current standard of living
- Multi-use pathways/trails
- Tax breaks for new businesses
- Downtown beautification in St. Marys
- Fire rescue protections
- Law enforcement
- Gateway improvements
- Capital improvements
- Employee salaries
- Marketing the county

What “doable” projects, issues, actions would you recommend in 2015:

- Lower cost resources for elders
- Continue funding for E.D. and increase efforts
- Make exit 1 and the northernmost exit on I95 a welcoming exit (like Daytona Beach)
- Better communication with all government entities
- Participate in ATL and DC fly-ins
- Build closer relationships between the Navy and Commissioners
- Focus on new employment opportunities for Camden citizens
- Offer incentives to attract smart development to increase the tax base
- Strengthen social services- specifically involving suicide
- Recycling program
- Examine all EEO violations/ Remove the individuals responsible for the discrimination
- Spaceport- proceed with EIS, get state more involved, purchase land
- Create true industrial park with facilities to which businesses would like to locate/relocate
- Jail expansion
- Consolidation
- Create a youth council
- Re-open Gilligan’s Island
- Develop Smart growth plan
- Work on developing safer bike riding and walking paths throughout county
- Be good stewards of public money
- Work with local organizations/schools to present 6 music concerts for public
- Amusement Park
- Overall of Gilman Mill site into a public access park
- Tabby Cycling Trail
- Clean up gateways and remove dilapidated buildings
- Secure competent people to fill the director and operations chief for fire department
- Take care of employees
- Increase use of solar energy in the county