



**OUR VALLEY OUR FUTURE  
ONE COMMUNITY ROUNDTABLES  
SEPT. 18, 2019**

Here are the comments (combined) from the three roundtables during the OVOF One Community Working Group event on Sept. 18:

**Q1: This region has changed a lot since 1990. What do you think will be different in the community in 2050?**

- The region will be 50 to 60 percent Latino and will be more fully integrated.
- Less water will be available.
- Climate change will negatively impact fisheries and other natural resources.
- Recreational opportunities will be more spring, summer and fall oriented. And there will be greater pressure on limited recreational resources (parks, trails, fields, rivers, mountains).
- The retirement community will grow, along with businesses catering to that demographic.
- The tech sector will grow.
- Wenatchee Valley will become increasingly known as a lifestyle community.
- The number of cultural, arts, and entertainment options will grow. (more amenities)
- Neighborhood density will increase, with smaller lots and fewer single-family homes.
- Some homes will be built on hillsides.
- Work of the Land Trust (land conservation) will still be seen.
- Only the more affluent and privileged will be able to afford to live in the Wenatchee area if affordable housing is not required as part of new developments.
- Population in the Wenatchee area will increase significantly.
- East Wenatchee will be larger in population than Wenatchee.
- Douglas County will grow faster in population than Chelan County.
- Smaller communities like Cashmere, Entiat, Malaga, Rock Island and Orondo will increasingly become bedroom communities.
- Population growth will cause traffic issues.
- A third bridge will be built across the Columbia River.
- High-speed transportation will become available.
- Quincy will increasingly be viewed as Wenatchee's industrial area.
- Aging infrastructure (roads, water, sewer) will have been replaced.

- More people will be more connected to other locations because of Pangborn Airport improvements.
- Foundational economic drivers — such as medical, utilities, agriculture — will grow in importance.
- The agriculture and health care industries will be increasingly automated and will employ fewer humans. Those employed will be highly skilled and tech-literate.
- There will be a reduction in orchard acreage throughout the Wenatchee Valley.
- The pear industry may decline.
- Rural communities will increase in poverty and decline in student enrollment.
- Communicating will be faster, easier and more available.
- More business will be conducted online. Where an employer is based will become less relevant. Work styles will change, including how and where people do their work, access services, and how they travel.
- Technical training will be different.
- There will be a growing elder population.
- Homeless people will be faced with age-related issues.
- The political landscape will be more moderate and progressive and focused on health care and senior citizen needs.

**Q2: What specific challenges (and tasks) will we face as a result of these changes?**

- Providing efficient infrastructure across jurisdictional boundaries and the costs associated with that
- Providing efficient services across jurisdictional boundaries and the costs associated with that (Having two of everything is not efficient.)
- Determining governance models that are fair and equitable
- Being proactive and foreseeing challenges in advance
- Regularly identifying community barriers and gaps so they can be acted upon
- Communicating effectively
- Responding to increased demand for housing, medical services, and post-secondary education and training
- Connecting and learning from others — and across generations and cultures
- Utilizing festivals and gathering spots to break down economic and cultural barriers
- Generating community buy-in for change
- Developing public recreation resources to give people reasons to be here
- Developing a thriving education system
- Making up for not having a four-year university
- Saying no to things that don't fit — such as big-box stores
- Staying true to our core values even if there are incentives like money being offered
- Ensuring there is housing for all income levels
- Dealing with labor shortages, particularly in agriculture
- Dealing with loss of jobs due to automation
- Building out the local angel investor's network
- Generating more trades jobs and training
- Finding land for homes and businesses in outlying communities

- Providing infrastructure and opportunities for small towns so they retain their identities
- Cultivating a continuing culture of caring

**Q3: Are there other examples of regional thinking, collaboration and inclusion that should be in the matrix?**

- Regional health care system (Confluence, CVCH, ACH)
- Mental health services
- Chelan County Tri-Commission
- Douglas County Leadership Group
- Collaboration occurring among nonprofits over the housing crisis
- Emergency Operations Center being built at WVC
- Link Transit (created by voters from both counties)
- Rivercom
- Greater Wenatchee Area Public Facilities District
- Higher education partnerships between WVC and four-year schools
- Methow Valley angel investors group
- Wenatchee River Institute expanding geographically
- TREAD
- Cascadia Conservation District
- Confluence Parkway transportation project
- Pinnacles Prep
- North Star Opportunity Zone
- Legislative liaison through the Wenatchee Valley Chamber
- Economic Development District of NCW
- Severe weather response team organized by faith leaders
- Wenatchee Senior Center
- Rory Turner and his downtown visioning and redevelopment efforts
- Co-working spaces such as the Mercantile, Mission Street Commons and Wenatchee Workspace

**Q4: Going forward, what opportunities exist for additional regional thinking, collaboration and inclusion?**

- Blend the NCW Hispanic Chamber with the Wenatchee Valley Chamber
- Encourage and nurture collaboration among Anglos and Latinos around economic development
- Have one entity organize Apple Blossom Festival and Fiestas Mexicanas
- Bring cultural and bilingual expertise to the community table and share it with others
- Certify the community as a Blue Zone to make it easier for people to live healthy lives
- Provide the buildings for a four-year university or branch campus
- Repurpose the Chelan County PUD's property at Fifth Street and the Lineage Co. buildings along Columbia Street
- Co-located schools and educational programs

- Improve early childhood learning opportunities, leading to better outcomes for youth
- Build a STEM high school that is operated by both the Wenatchee and Eastmont school districts
- Coordinate calendars of school districts
- Consolidate entities that provide the same services in the region
- Improve connections between agriculture and the tech sector
- Develop a way for rural and urban areas to share resources
- Conduct regional land-use planning, opening up more land for housing
- Ask the state to allocate population projections jointly for Chelan and Douglas counties, rather than for each county individually
- Develop transit-oriented housing and neighborhoods, featuring mixed uses
- Transform downtowns in smaller communities into vibrant districts
- Streamline business relocation efforts
- Align building codes
- Offer one-stop permit services