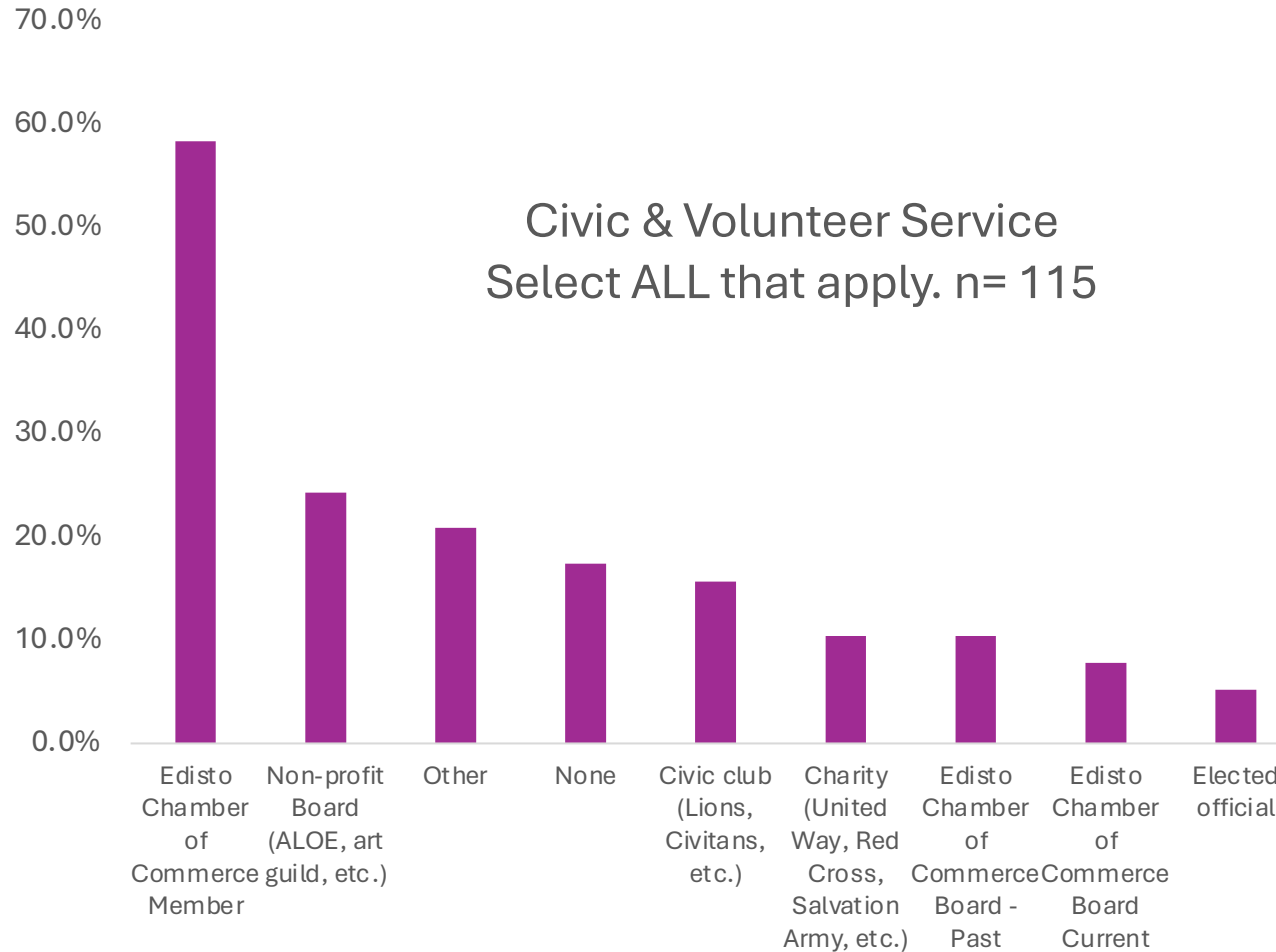
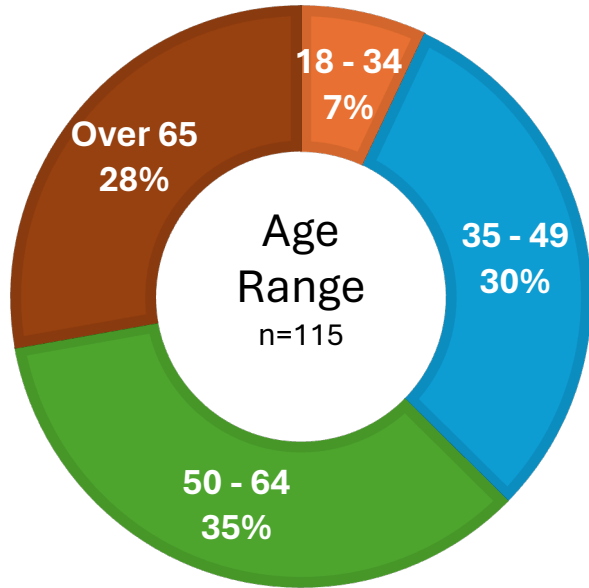


Community Leader Survey

April 8, 2023

Board Planning Workshop



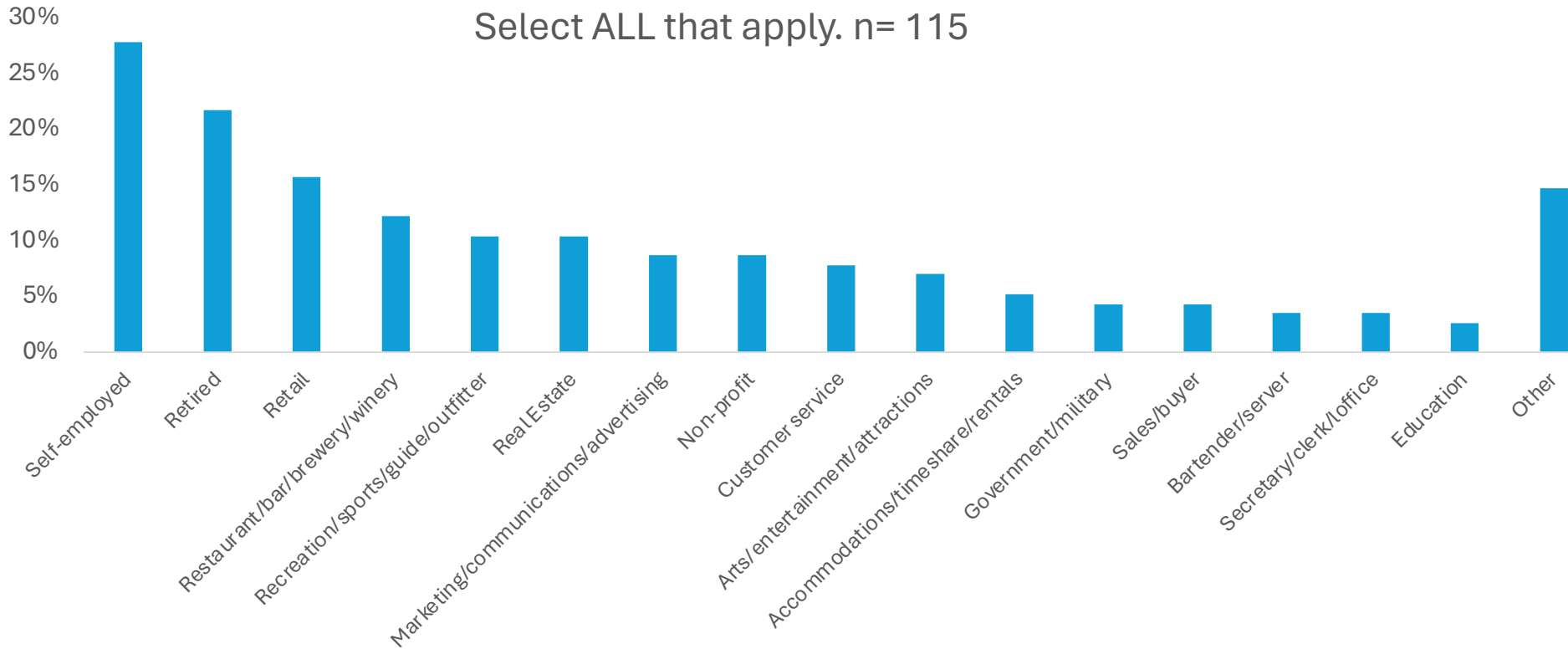


OTHER:

- Church
- ATAX Board Member
- Chief in Charge
- Church community
- Church music team, help with youth, etc
- Church, Bridge Club
- Civic but not on EB

- EB volunteer fire, EB loggerhead turtle project
- Edisto Beach Loggerhead Project coordinator
- Edisto Beach Vol FD
- Edisto Misfits
- Former Edisto Chamber Director
- King's Daughters president.
- Museum Docent, Foodbank volunteer
- Non-board volunteering
- Ocean Ridge MPOA Board
- PCEI
- Past Director of LTL
- Precinct & Political involvement
- Sea turtle volunteer
- Town Staff
- Volunteer
- Youth group at Edisto Beach Baptist Church.

What is your occupation? Select ALL that apply. n= 115

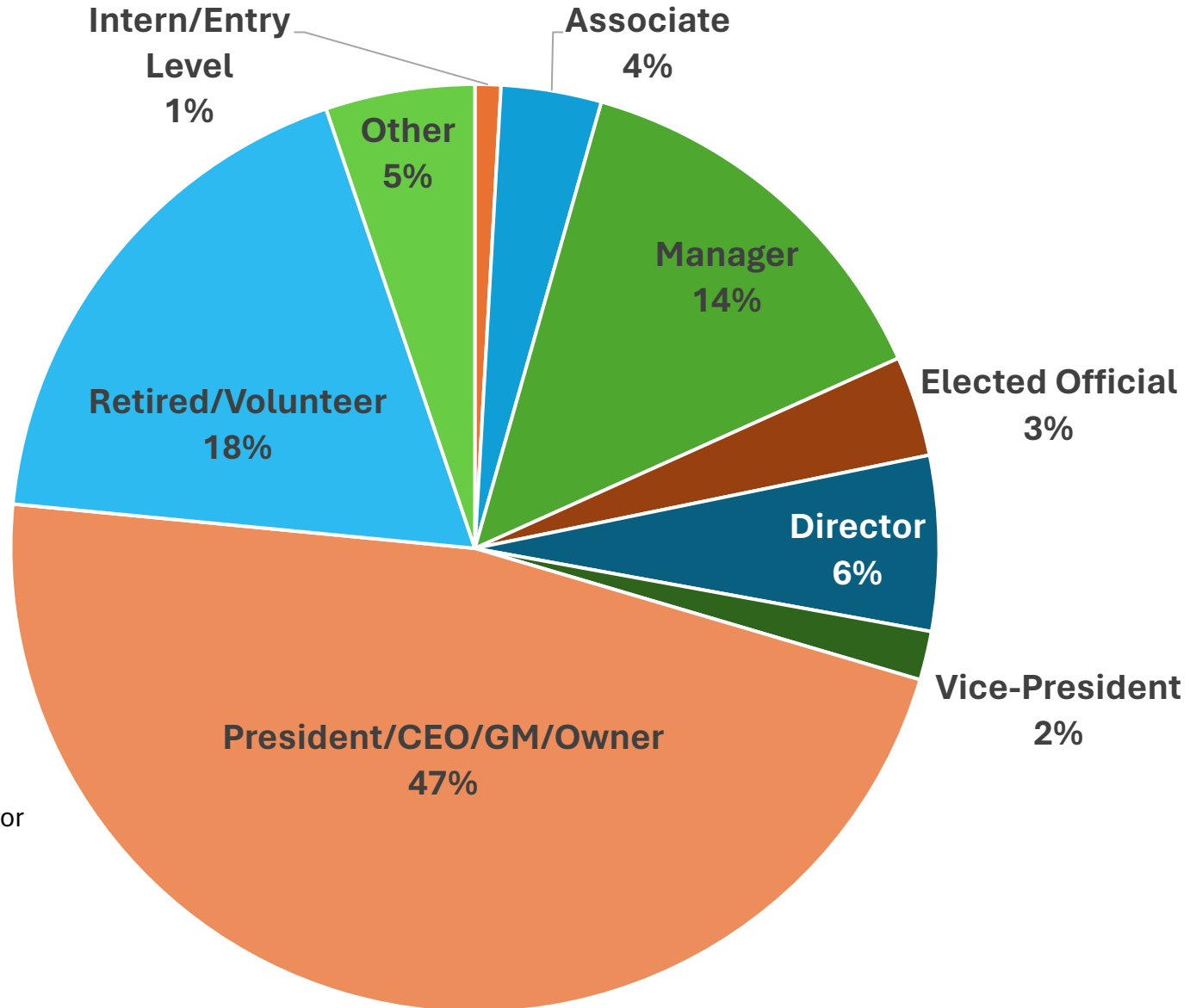


OTHER:

- Agriculture
- Business service industry
- CPA
- Construction - Custom Residential Homes
- Custom cabinet shop
- Museum
- Photographer
- Pool Maintenance
- Property management
- Retired
- Retired nursing instructor.
- Specialty grocer
- cake designer and photographer
- church volunteer
- non-profit (need to add)

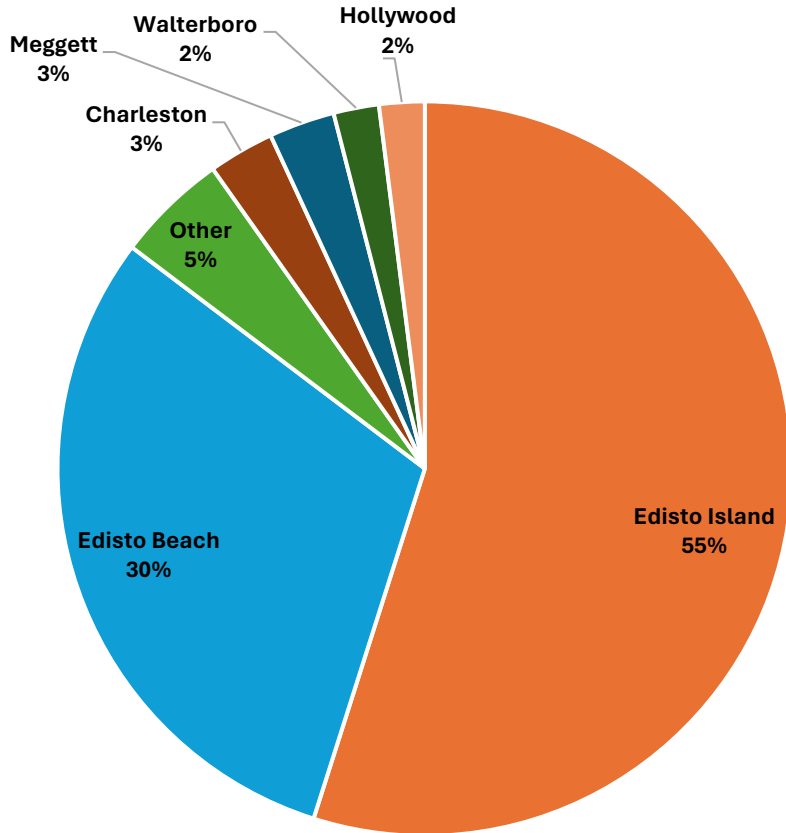
Which of the following most closely matches your CURRENT JOB TITLE?

n=115

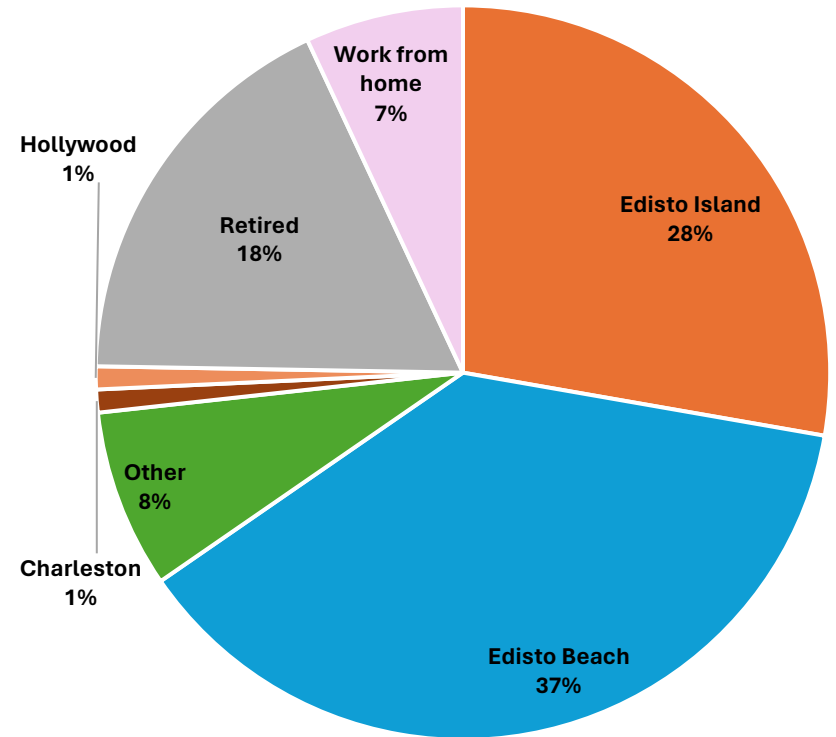


- OTHER:**
- Administrator
 - Board member,
 - Project Coordinator
 - Owner
 - Owner/Operator
 - Solopreneur

Where do you reside? n=102



Where do you work? n=102

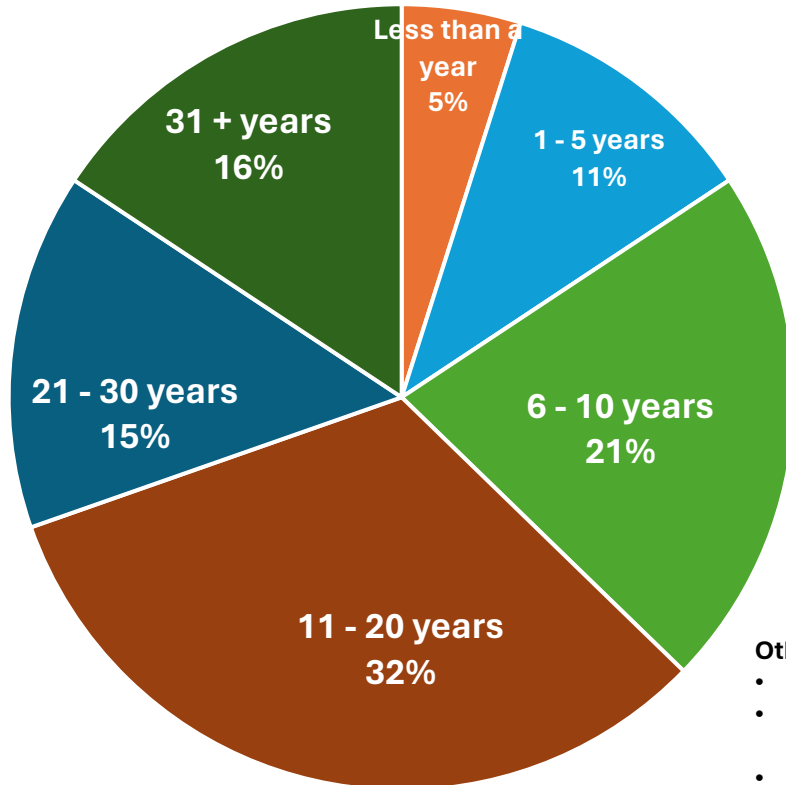


- Other:**
- Alabama, own property at Edisto Island
 - Beaufort
 - Isle of Palms
 - North Charleston
 - Ridgeville

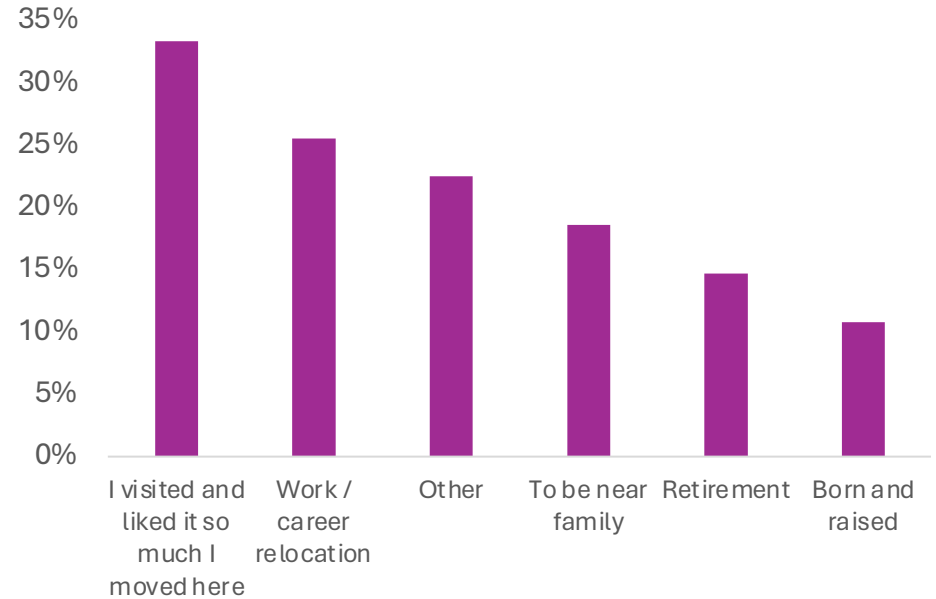
- Other:**
- All of the coastal areas
 - All over
 - Edisto Beach & Island mostly, but travel to other areas for weddings/sessions.
 - Edisto Beach, Charleston, Edisto Island
 - Edisto Beach/Island
 - I work the entire Tri-County areas with Edisto as a focus
 - Lowcountry region
 - Same

56% live and work on Edisto Island/Beach

Please tell us how many years you have lived in the Edisto Island area. n=102



What brought you to Edisto? n=102

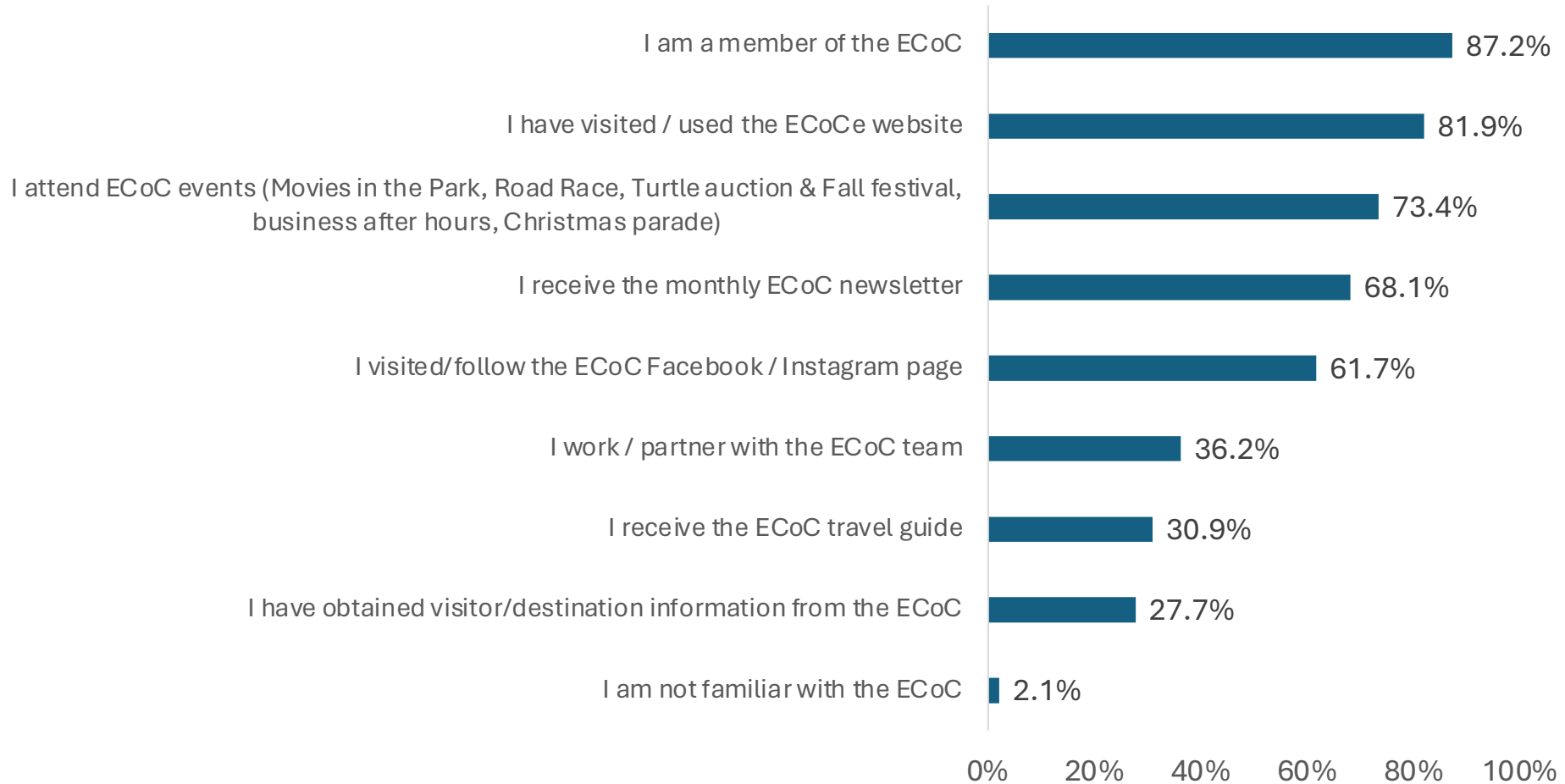


Other:

- Beach and golf
- Been here since I was 6 years old
- Born and raised in Charleston, so only moved across town
- Came to stay in my families home while writing for a magazine in Charleston....got a summer job at a rental company and decided to stay
- Divorce. Edisto reminded me so much of home every
- time I've been here for tournaments. After divorce was final I made the move.
- Fell in love with a boy
- Graduate school
- Grew up coming here
- Grandparents engaged here in 1941
- Grew up spending summers at EB
- Have always had a family home here
- Health and wellbeing
- Husband's connections
- I do not currently live in Edisto but have visited all my life and currently work in the area
- I married a long time Edisto resident
- In business for 20 years.
- Lifelong member on the Edisto community
- Loved it all my life
- Married an ED resident
- Moved with parents
- Planned to move from Mt. Pleasant
- Raised nearby
- Weather. Laidback lifestyle. People. Nature.

Do you utilize the services of the Edisto Chamber of Commerce?

n=82



Are there any programs, events or services that you would like to have the Edisto Chamber of Commerce add to its program of work? n= 38

slide 1 of 2

No / Keep it up (22)

- Actually need to do less or keep the same unless it's a fundraiser for local charities or local student scholarships
- **Chamber Staff has done an excellent job** as far as promoting Edisto. Being retired, I do not have a lot of contact with certain elements of entertainment, etc. on the island, but the chamber provides a very good face for our community.
- Folks at the **Chamber are doing a great job!!!**
- **I appreciate the current work of the Chamber!**
- I believe at this time the **Chamber goes above and beyond** to provide a variety of events and activities that cover a broad range of demographics and does a great job of keeping the community informed of such events.
- I think **Chelsea and the Chamber crush it with events!** Just a thought - Greenwood, has The Festival of Flowers each year and they do a Wine Walk. Not sure how that would work with the Town, but something similar might be fun incorporated with the Turtle Auction as an additional fundraiser for the Chamber? "Turtles, Tastings and Tunes" ?! I'm pasting a link <https://scfestivalofflowers.org/schedule/topiaries-tastings-wine-walk>
- I think the **Chamber is a very active, very important part of our community**
- I think **they do a fantastic job.**
- I'll talk to Chelsea about that. 😊
- No/None (5)
- **Thank you for doing this survey.** The residents of Edisto need to understand that the growth is going to come and we need to plan for it otherwise we will end up like Folly Beach.
- Off the top of my head, no....**you are doing a great job!** but there is probably something!!!!
- The **Chamber does a great job for our community.** They have added events and services over the years and will continue to do so as the need and opportunity becomes available.
- **The chamber does a phenomenal job!**
- **They do an excellent job!**

Are there any programs, events or services that you would like to have the Edisto Chamber of Commerce add to its program of work? n= 38

slide 2 of 2

Events (13)

- After Hours should happen every month. Focus on the National Scenic Byway, and participate in developing educational stopping points. More focus on Edisto Island businesses and connecting vacationers to businesses off of the Beach.
- Facebook stupidity moderation services would be cool.
- Good job with Chamber after hours. I would join again as an individual if I were asked to participate and volunteer. The Christmas parade needs some work and music. I could work on that. And other projects.
- Gullah cultural programs
- Job Fairs, Career Development Opportunities
- Maybe some sort of quarterly tourism professional's daytime function that would help coordinate efforts, talk about successful and non-successful events and generally help tourism business collaborate. Perhaps with a speaker/facilitator that could speak for only 20-30 minutes about new trends or digital marketing, etc
- More cultural events
- Programs that unite the middle island and the rest of the Edisto. We have got to find a way to connect.
- Bring back shrimp fest!
- Something in the dead of winter for traffic.
- The events you do provide should not infringe on the existing businesses, e.g. having a coffee/pastry vendor at fall festival
- The triathlon, Governor's Cup, Golf, taste of Edisto, and fishing, Museum, History and wildlife.
- When planning chamber after hours, etc, check with other organizations that they aren't on the evening. No conflicts

Advertising / Partners (3)

- In my opinion the chamber is doing a great job - if there's one thing that is becoming more noticeable as the town grows there are more and more outside vendors working within the town of Edisto beach. If the chamber and town could work together to help ensure those who are profiting from the town have their business license that would help the local crowd that are doing things by the books.
- Maybe a fresh guide highlighting the local produce, seafood, etc in season?
- More advertising local businesses and all upcoming events on the Island and Beach

Please rate Edisto on each of the following statements using the scale provided.

n=102

	Rating: 5- Excellent 1- Very Poor
A fishing destination	4.8
A beach destination	4.7
An active outdoors destination	4.5
A place to retire	4.5
A weekend getaway destination	4.5
A place to live and work	4.4
A year-round destination	4.3
A bicycle friendly destination	4.0
A place to raise a family	3.5
A place with unique dining	3.3
A meeting/conference destination	2.8
A sports/events destination	2.6

When friends, family or business guests visit you, please rate Edisto overall on each of the following using the scale provided. n=100

	Rating: 5- Excellent 1- Very Poor
Outdoor recreation- beach (marinas, boating, fishing, etc.)	4.6
Outdoor recreation- land (trails, parks, cycling, golf, etc.)	4.4
Unique guided experiences (tours, activities, lessons, etc.)	3.8
Adequate supply of short-term rentals	3.4
Cultural arts experiences	3.4
Unique dining	3.3
Unique shopping	3.2
Event facilities to host weddings, reunions, small meetings, etc.	3.1
Evening activities / entertainment	3.0
Children's activities	2.9

Edisto would be a better place for residents if it had the following: n=83	Rating: 5- Strongly agree 1- Strongly disagree
Better access to public high-speed internet	4.1
More / better dining options	4.0
More outdoor recreation facilities	3.7
More affordable dining	3.6
More special events / festivals	3.5
Additional parking for beach access points	3.4
More indoor attractions / activities	3.4
More / better ball fields for sports teams	3.4
More / better shopping options	3.3
Additional meeting / event / social space	3.0
More affordable shopping	3.0
Hotel / motel lodging	1.8

What would make Edisto more appealing as a destination for your friends and family? n=59 (slide 1 of 4)

Dining (15)

- Better dining
- Better dining and grocery
- better restaurants (current could be better with more reliable staff options)
- Extended hours at many of the locations. Or perhaps a coordinated effort for say "Late Night Tuesdays".
- For food places to open on Monday.
- Less expensive restaurants.
- More diversity in dining options More focus on local food, farms, etc...
- More of a variety of restaurants
- More restaurants that take reservations
- More varied restaurant choices.
- Restaurants with good food and service
- To have better quality restaurants with local seafood options.
- Would like a little more variety of restaurants
- A more diverse and current dining experience. More restaurants that serve locally, sourced, seafood, and dishes. Not just fried. In the peak business months it seems that there is a need for 3 to 6 more relevant restaurants. It feels like we can't meet demand. It may be since Covid but unless you're going to a full-on bar restaurants aren't really open late with things to do here. Here at XXXXXXXX, I have thought of staying open later on a Friday and or Saturday evening with acoustic entertainment or game nights or karaoke etc. But staffing is an issue. And the cost of insurance serving alcohol after 5 o'clock is quite an increase. It would be nice to have options in the evening.
- Unique dining

Year-round (3)

- Maybe more ideas of things to do in the winter months. Our season continues to stretch well into fall and spring. It would be nice to have something say in January or February as a draw to come here.
- More things to do in off season
- If more businesses opened up, it could affect January February, and create less income for the businesses that are already here With all the growth and Hollywood and Ravenel that could help with making Edisto a better option for younger people. If there are more children in that area and kids don't have to drive so far to go to school possibly down the road a school closer could open that would attract more people to Edisto. A daycare on the island would be a great addition for working families here. Also, there's really not much activities for younger children.

What would make Edisto more appealing as a destination for your friends and family? n=59 (slide 2 of 4)

Sustainable Managed Growth (14)

- Controlling the growth. Edisto is no longer the family-oriented beach it was when I was growing up unfortunately. It has been discovered by Investors and they have hiked up pricing to the point average families cannot afford to buy here anymore. Cash is king and investors are happy to pay to get the rental income they can longer buy in the Charleston area beaches. This makes housing unaffordable for our workers, a trickle affect. We need the tourism but should be careful not to over sell our paradise or we'll lose it. We're getting close.
- Sustainable - Finding ways to grow without losing the heart and soul of the island. Some growth is inevitable and usually for the good of the town and island. But we will lose our unique charm that everyone loves if our growth is targeted in such a way that we "lose" Edisto.
- Highly managed commercial growth More one-two night stay options, but not hotels.
- I like it the way it is.
- I think you really have to define what you want Edisto to be ... It is unique and its own way, and that we are lacking venues and facilities that might not be a direction that all would want anyway
- It's fine like it is!
- More music concerts but the more we make it more attractive, the more people will come and the more infrastructure we will need. We will become overcrowded. Taxes will go up and we will drive locals away like Hilton Head and Cashiers NC. Do we really want this?
- My friends & family like Edisto the way it is and wouldn't change a thing. It is a place to get away from what we can get anywhere else.
- Nothing (2)
- Nothing. It is fine the way it is. More cultural activities would be a plus. Not the flashiness of a tourist beach town that looks just like the next one
- To maintain the Edisto feel, the culture and keep development to a bare minimum. No chain stores, restaurants etc.
- We love it just the way it is. More and varied restaurants, nice boutique stores and less touristy stores.
- It's pretty appealing already because it has a nice beach and you can rent a big house.
- They come to visit frequently now.

Housing (7)

- More long-term affordable rentals for employees to live at Edisto.
- Affordable long-term rentals for those wishing to live here but unable to buy a home
- More affordable long-term rentals
- More affordable options for rent to stay
- More affordable rentals and restaurants
- Outdoors - Astro and eco tourism focus.
- Outdoors - Everything should be more accessible to pedestrians/bicyclist. The beach appears that is has no room for any more commercial units for shopping/dining etc. So naturally it will have to move to the island. Most beaches are not car only dependent, it would be nice to park your car for the week and never need to get in it the island is only 6 miles.

What would make Edisto more appealing as a destination for your friends and family? n=59

(Slide 3 of 4)

Family (9)

- Affordable weekend getaways. More family activities.
- Edisto is a great destination for families. We love it because it's quiet and has not changed a lot over the years. We would like for it to continue to be low key and EDISLOW. That's the draw of this beautiful island. We do not want business "chains" to come in. We want tourists to feel welcome and that they have truly chosen a little slice of heaven for their vacation time to relax, rest, and enjoy. It's a unique place and we want to keep it that way.
- Honestly my friends and family love Edisto for Edisto. In some ways, I think they "hate" (strong word) to see the growth and changes, but that can't be stopped -- but in working with families, the biggest things I hear are long wait times at restaurants and low quantities of items at Food Lion. First World Problems!! Although long waits could be tied to not having adequate kitchen/wait staff. Doesn't seem like a super helpful response, but my people anyways see the appeal in Edisto already.
- I find Edisto to be very appealing as do my friends and family. I am not sure you can add much more without changing the culture or dynamics of the Island.
- More activities for children.
- More family/kid events.
- More family-oriented destinations.(Not necessarily events)
- More recreational activities for children. The children need more sports.
- My friends and family love Edisto just the way it is, but if I had to say something, it might be access to a public pool. But overall, we are good just the way we are!

Retail (5)

- Better grocery store
- Have more store choices besides Food Lion
- I feel it's the perfect place especially for multi-generational vacays. Maybe one more grocery store off island.
- Improve the quality of retail and restaurant offerings.
- The retail on the island is relevant and well run. We could just stand to have a few more options.

Traffic (2)

- Less traffic on highway 174
- Reducing speed limits for safer walking and cycling - also it's proven that at less speed limits visitors are more likely to stop and shop. Side walks

What would make Edisto more appealing as a destination for your friends and family? n=59

(Slide 4 of 4)

Outdoors (4)

- Getting rid of the campground.
- More ecotourism and
- There's lots of nature but not activities.
- A boater friendly destination, with more options for food, gatherings, etc.

Entertainment (3)

- Evening Activities/Entertainment
- More live music
- Outdoor concerts.

Services (2)

- A car wash would be a fantastic idea and a laundromat! As much as people resist commercialization here, I agree with those favoring a pharmacy. Many elderly are on medication's and there's not really a place to get band bandages, first aid, toothbrushes, toiletries, etc. This doesn't need to be a major corporation, but it is an necessity if people are to live and raise families and thrive here Sorry if there are typos, I am voice entering this!
- A good gym/fitness center would be cool

Miscellaneous (6)

- Accommodations - More short-term rentals
- Activities - More variety
- Advertise - as a place to rest and unwind. A place to get away from your hectic lifestyle. Get into an Edislow pace and attitude.
- Affordable - More affordable
- Arts focus.
- Beach to relax and enjoy family. Not commercial so when you are at Edisto you are supporting local businesses and local residents.

Please prioritize the four seasons of the year in the rank order for your desired priority for future business growth. n=71

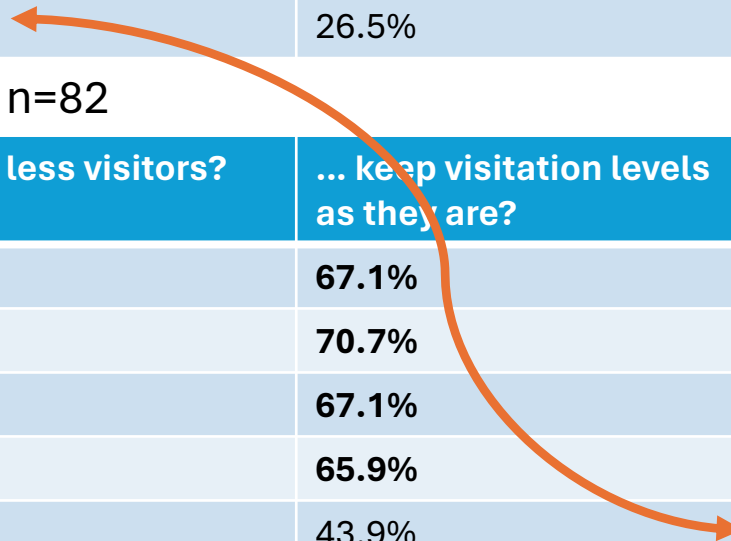


In your opinion, the level of tourism on Edisto is... n=84

	LOW occupancy Few visitors No traffic	AVERAGE OCCUPANCY Some visitors Moderate traffic	HIGH OCCUPANCY Many visitors Heavy traffic
Summer / holiday weekends	0.0%	10.8%	89.2%
Summer weekdays	0.0%	20.2%	79.8%
Spring	10.8%	69.9%	19.3%
Fall	10.7%	79.8%	9.5%
Winter	72.3%	26.5%	1.2%

In your opinion, does Edisto... n=82

	... need less visitors?	... keep visitation levels as they are?	... need more visitors?
Summer / holiday weekends	29.3%	67.1%	3.7%
Summer weekdays	24.4%	70.7%	4.9%
Spring	12.2%	67.1%	20.7%
Fall	8.5%	65.9%	25.6%
Winter	9.8%	43.9%	46.3%



Are there any geographic market areas that you would like the Edisto Chamber to target for future marketing and promotion of Edisto as a travel destination? n=23

South Carolina (19)

- South Carolina 3
- Summerville 3
- Charleston 2
- Hollywood 2
- Ravenel 2
- Adams Run 1
- Bay Creek Park 1
- Beaufort 1
- Columbia 1
- Greenville 1
- Jungle road 1
- North Charleston 1
- West Ashley 1

Georgia (9)

- Atlanta 4
- Georgia 2
- Savannah 2
- Athens 1

North Carolina (7)

- Charlotte 4
- North Carolina 2
- Brevard 1

Tennessee (2)

- Knoxville 1
- Nashville 1

Ohio (2)

- Ohio 2

Virginia (1)

- Charlottesville 1

New York (1)

- New York 1

Rhode Island (1)

- Rhode Island 1

Other / Miscellaneous

- No 6
- African American vacationers
- Astrotourism
- Eco tourism
- Eurpoe
- Locals
- Mid-West
- More
- Pittsburg
- Plenty already
- Small towns and rural counties (touristy counties are already promoted elsewhere)
- Sorry not to me
- Southeast
- Tourists
- Wherever the considerate and nice people are

As an employer in Edisto Beach / Edisto, how important is it to you to address the following issues? n=78	Rating: 5- Very important 1- Very unimportant
Affordable housing for hospitality workers	4.2
Hospitality/customer service training for frontline employees	4.0
The need for more frontline hospitality employees	4.0
Affordable childcare for hospitality workers	4.0
Traffic on primary roadways during holidays and weekends	3.8
Availability of public transportation	2.9

Other:

- Affordable mental health options for frontline workers
- Affordable housing for frontline workers
- Available office rental space
- Bike riders
- Businesses supporting fellow businesses
- Cleaning culvert pipes and ditches in center of beach for better flow from storms
- Commercial zoned land
- Elder care
- Family places
- History/culture
- Insta-cart
- Keeping cars and trucks/ boats off bike paths
- Keeping tourism in check
- More things for children to do
- Public parking & more restrooms
- Qualified employees
- Reducing the speed limit along 174
- Reduction of taxes
- Representation in local government for island residents who own/run businesses in the town of Edisto beach that bring money to the town .
- Road conditions and flooding
- Safer sidewalks/ bike lanes not everyone has a license
- Seasonal employees
- Shared information among businesses of expected tourism
- The need for a restaurant association
- Upcoming volume of day visitors, including the need for parking & restrooms
- Wildlife awareness
- Workers
- Public restroom
- Reducing speed limits

What could the Edisto Chamber do to help your business in terms of workforce? n=46

Slide 1 of 2

Advertising Workforce/Jobs/Employment (17)

- Accessibility to job boards.
- Advertising employment opportunities on multiple platforms. Spreading the word on the benefits of living on the island to attract more viable, skilled workers here
- Continue advertising employment opportunities Offer training opportunities
- Continue helping with posting job openings
- Continue to highlight the local businesses
- find suitable candidates
- Help promote tournaments and special events' need for volunteers.
- Help to initiate a an office with available day labor to sign up, leave their numbers, etc
- Help with getting the word out when we are looking for a new employee at the Museum.
- Highlight members that own businesses without a brick & mortar store.
- Promote employment opportunities more frequently and actively assist with helping potential employees relocate with affordable housing.
- Promote open positions
- The Chamber does a good job of helping restaurants advertise for employment. A possible option would be hosting a job fair.
- We hire mostly retired residents who only work part time for inside sales and cart services but more available people in the workforce would be a big help on our maintenance team
- Job Fairs & Networking Events, Training & Development Programs, Access to Talent Pools, Legislative Advocacy
- Keeping job postings current and up to date.
- Maybe reach out to area high schools and colleges for possible employees. There maybe internships students need for all types of jobs.

Workforce Housing (8)

- Advertising places for rent Creating a job listings page?
- Advocate for affordable housing options. Yes, to include an apartment complex somewhere on or just inland of the island.
- Affordable housing for middle/lower class employees
- Affordable housing most important
- Align public funding to align with builders or developers to subsidize affordable housing.
- allow multi unit building and stop the restrictions of one house per acre island wide it could be a case by case basis.
- Find a way to keep the housing market affordable
- Already are doing a stellar job of informing of current vacancies, promoting openings on the island and beach.

Cost of Living (3)

- Allow more days during the peek tourism season for other food choices besides restaurants on the beach.
- Transportation for workers in WBO and CHS
- Make the cost of living on Edisto go down instead of up

What could the Edisto Chamber do to help your business in terms of workforce? n=46

Slide 2 of 2

Chambers Role

- I personally think you guys do great. If a company puts in the work and effort, you'll succeed.
- Not the Chambers responsibility. Chamber should maintain focus on the mission of the Chamber.
- Since we are a volunteer-based group, the Chamber already does all it can to give us a platform to provide awareness of our services to the community
- Unite business owners/managers to come up with a plan. Focus groups
- You are already doing it
- You can do a Spotlight on a business.
- More opportunities to connect local business with philanthropic activities that engage the public.

Local Communications

- I saw this done in Park City. Most hotels and vacation rental companies were chamber members, and they reported twice monthly what guest numbers they had booked for the upcoming two weeks. This info was shared with other chamber businesses (stores, restaurants, etc.). It was a GREAT help in employee scheduling, inventory planning, and such. The businesses were more prepared, and the guests had better experiences because the businesses were planning for their arrival in advance. If Wyndham and the three rental companies were sold on the idea, it would be a win-win for guest satisfaction and business profitability. Reaching out to the AirBnB type owners would allow them to participate, perhaps offering them a limited membership of some sort for their reporting efforts. It might make the Chamber a bit more money, and it would allow the Chamber to better serve its other businesses. Just a thought.

Volunteers/Community Service

- Assist in identifying and recruiting members that are willing and can become certified fire fighters
- Encourage a diverse array of businesses on the island, which would develop a diverse workforce skill set.

Miscellaneous

- **N/A, I don't know (5)**
- I'm a manager for a national nonprofit and work remotely so none of this really applies.
- I'm sorry but I don't see an answer to this issue

Procreation, Money

- Encourage sex between hard working local community members to breed more employees that want to work
- Hand out bags of money

As a resident of Edisto how important is it to you to have the following issues addressed?

n=84

	Rating: 5- Very important 1- Very unimportant
Affordable housing for hospitality workers	4.3
Affordable childcare for hospitality workers	4.2
The need for more frontline hospitality employees	4.2
Access to public schools K - 12 in closer proximity to Edisto	4.0
Hospitality / customer service training for frontline employees	3.9
Traffic on primary roadways during holidays and weekends	3.8
More restaurants open in the winter months	3.6
Need for ball fields for team sports	3.5

Other:

- Better cell phone service
- Chas Co Sheriff substation for local svcs and speeding control
- Construction of an arts complex for performance, education and exhibits
- Deer carcass pick up
- Flooding
- High speed internet
- Job training
- Litter
- Medical facility
- More medical care
- More county police to control speeding vehicles on 174
- No dogs allowed on certain access of beach where endangered shorebirds gather
- Overdevelopment
- Pet litter/poop
- Pharmacy
- Public transportation
- Remove power lines
- Sea level rise
- Speeding on highway 174.
- Taxes
- Reducing speed limits, side walks

What makes Edisto unique among other coastal destinations? n= 74

Slide 1 of 3

- The bus lines don't reach us
- No traffic lights, no big box stores, no hotels, no movie theaters, no pharmacy, no car repair, no laundromat
- No hotels, chain stores, fast food. Dirt roads are special. Edisto is quiet. Open, undeveloped space to reconnect and be calm.
- Lack of traffic lts, billboards, chain stores/restaurants
- Peaceful and quiet.
- It's a family oriented Island.
- It's the best place for family, friends, couples and single travelers to spend a long weekend or a week's retreat. It is by far the most cost effective place to rent a house and the natural assets are unequaled.
- A quiet small town with all kinds of beautiful nature right here.
- Small town atmosphere with natural beauty
- a local feel and culture. no motels and hotels. no chain stores, restaurants etc. it is a beautiful place in all ways. quiet. locals are well connected and help each other.
- We are truly one of the few remaining family oriented beaches with gentle development, no hi rises and no big box stores. The independent businesses here along with the natural beauty and the aforementioned make us totally unique.
- It's not developed
- Remote destination. Appreciation of history. Gullah Geechee heritage
- Remote
- The natural surroundings, the lack of big development and the people here keeping their friendly laid back attitudes
- None commercial
- It's connection to uncommercialization and conservation of most areas on the island. A history of preservation.
- It is special in its own right with limits on industrialization, commercialization and expansion. Such a beautiful place. It's Edisto!
- Smaller head counts
- Until I was a senior in high school, I had never been to any beach other than Edisto. Needless to say, Dirty Myrtle was culture shock! Thank goodness we don't have high rises and a chain restaurant on every corner. Edisto is unique because it's an escape. Yes, the traffic is picking up, but I spend every Tuesday and random days for sessions in Charleston, and how lucky are we to not sit bumper to bumper, just to get home from work or go to the grocery store. Not to mention the history here, coupled with the natural areas that are protected (Botany, State Park, ACE Basin, etc). I watch other families vacation in highly populated beaches, and it's go go go the whole time. Waterparks, dinner shows. No judgement!! That's clearly what they enjoy -- but how special is Edisto, where you can just sit on the beach until Grandma says dinner is ready in the rental... and then you go back out to watch the sunset as a family. Maybe one Wednesdays, you head over to the market. You pick a morning for breakfast at Seacow, and evening out for dinner. "An escape" and "traditions" -- I think that's what sticks out to me, when I think back on my Edisto memories, before we called Edisto home. I also did a quick google search and "Edisto Beach has one of the lowest violent crime rates of all cities in the United States" ... in the world we live in, I think about that a lot. I don't go to the grocery store in CHS without having my guard completely up at all times ... but at Edisto, I don't fret over whether I locked my door or not. I feel safe eating at Pressley's and letting my boys play at Bay Creek Park while we wait for our order.

What makes Edisto unique among other coastal destinations? n= 74

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- It's off the beaten path, is very historical, and doesn't have food chains, or retail chains, other than gas. Also, it's small, safe, and mostly community friendly. The church community is strong and there's just an overall feeling of relaxation and taking life easy; enjoying the beauty and splendor of God's creation.
- From town, the closest stop light is 25 miles away. I offer that distinction often when talking about Edisto because it encapsulates what makes Edisto different. And that should not change. If you want the nightlife and the crowds, go to Folly or Myrtle Beach. People come here BECAUSE it's different, not IN SPITE OF its differences.
- The lack of development. The quiet, peaceful environment.
- Small town with very little commercial buildings.
- No hotels
- quiet, lack of big box retail, laid back
- A lack of things to do makes it unique;
- Proximity to urban development and emphasis on outdoor/nature related recreation
- Small town charm, no traffic lights, beautiful beach and access to creek
- small town feel
- Non Commercial, and needs to stay that way!
- Edisto is unique to me because my grandparents were engaged here in 1941 at The Historic Pink House. I feel a deep and personal connection because of their union here. The ability to transport back in time to Edisto with family pictures, coupled with the untouched natural beauty is what makes Edisto special to me.
- I Love to see others enjoying our Beautiful town. We Love entertaining our friends on the beach.
- Quiet, non commercialized, family oriented
- Laid back, beautiful, family focused, not commercialized
- Laid back, away from it all, uncommercialized,
- Dog friendly Laid back
- Unspoiled nature, not a lot of traffic, no hotels or motels
- No high-rises. Peaceful beaches.
- No Hotels
- Beautiful and quieter than most
- Small quiet charm
- No hotels No franchise restaurants No drug store but two liquor stores
- Still has a small beach town feel.
- We all know the answer to why we live and work on Edisto - I won't waste your time with a cliché answer
- family atmosphere Commercial, concentration, or hotels
- It is one of the last "family beaches" along the SC coast. Low density zoning has been kept and enforced on the island.

What makes Edisto unique among other coastal destinations? n= 74

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- We have so many outdoor activities that involve the love of nature and being in the great outdoors.
- No hotels! Botany Bay! State Park!
- It's a hidden gem
- A boring person will get bored here. A creative/outgoing/willing person will thrive.
- Little commercialism ACE Basin Conservation efforts
- Nostalgic feel, with no major commercial development, no hotels or resorts. Natural environment and wildlife abundance, free access to the beach for low income, (no parking meters), currently low number of day visitors (but that is about to change).
- It's small town anti hustle and bussel.
- Non-commercial small town. Great access to ACE basin
- Low key, family friendly. I hope we can keep it that way. I would hate to see more development, and the loss of 174 as a scenic highway. I hope we never follow the path of James and John's Islands.
- The lack of commercialization, the safety for families/children, undeveloped natural outdoor areas. No chain restaurants. A simpler, slower pace. Less traffic. Unique local shops and restaurants.
- Edislow
- Edisto doesn't have much development. It's low key. I believe the quiet and quaint feel brings people in. It gives people a space to unwind from the reality of their every day jobs, traffic and overall chaos of everyday life.
- The lack of activities actually makes Edisto unique. A few shops, a few activities available and a lot of beach.
- No stop lights/ bike paths nature trails
- Friendly, Low key, slow, under developed, quiet, slow in its activities and self sustaining.
- There are no chain motels/hotels or restaurant. Definitely unique & wonderful. Please do not change this.
- Authentic coastal town, free from over-commercialization
- Lack of commercialization/big corporations, and fast food. Which is good. Raw undeveloped beauty. Diversity of nature and wildlife. A true place to relax and unwind and have family time.
- The lack of a large sewer system has and will continue to regulate growth.
- Nothing really. As much as people think it is, it's just another beach front community.
- Only beach left in SC that still allows dogs and alcohol. Still has a little small town beach vibe/ character.
- It's relaxing atmosphere. The combination of multiple beach accesses and inland waterways. It is so very friendly and enjoyable.
- It awesome
- Unspoiled beauty. Don't spoil it....
- The fact that there is little to no short-term lodging. It's one of the few sea islands that retains its Gullah culture and history. It hasn't been over developed.
- Quiet in a good way
- It is not over commercialized with chain-stores and restaurants, making it one of the few authentic island destinations left
- The beautiful beaches and the historical home on Edisto.

In your opinion, what would make Edisto better as a place to live and work? n= 65

Slide 1 of 4

Workforce (19)

- A lot of people come here to retire or as a second home.. So this is a hard one. And this is just what I've noticed in my short time (I could be wrong) unfortunately.. Not only Edisto.. But everywhere.. You're not gonna make 3 figures as an employee at a restaurant and that's what it takes to live comfortably these days. So, unless you know a trade, commute to CHS, or are an owner. Edisto is tough for work.
- A more walkable/ bikeable community. Housing is too expensive for employers to expect anyone working seasonally or even entry level jobs to ever live close. Put a limit on short term rentals so that more families will either live here or forced to sell and maybe we could have a community again.
- Affordable Housing for employees on the island
- Affordable housing for hospitality workers!
- Affordable housing for those that are lucky enough to work here.
- Affordable Housing/Education/Development opportunities
- As far as work is concerned, a larger workforce to choose from. Especially in the retail and restaurant industry. As far as place to live, no improvements needed.
- Better access to affordable housing for workers and families. Better access to a more full time child care/educational facility. More affordable and actual unique dining. Most restaurants serve many of the same options, cooked the same, priced VERY enthusiastically...
- Constricted housing supply and the resulting high prices have made Edisto Island a completely unaffordable place to live. Consequently, it is nearly impossible to attract a talented working class, and even those born here tend to move away.
- For the life of me I do not understand the 50/50 rule on Edisto Beach. This ruling has forced many homeowners to tear down their homes (very old an endeared historical properties, such as the Pink House on front beach where my grandparents were engaged) even if the OWNERS have the funds to make upgrades and code improvements to the structure. This ruling has in part changed the landscape on Edisto Beach. Instead of seeing the old familiar and welcoming beach cottages, we see high rise new homes built to hold 15 or more people. Strangely, in Charleston you can't remove one board from a home without seeking permission. Not on Edisto.... Tear them down! It is heartbreaking and a horrible ruling. Additionally, there is no affordable housing or rentals for our workers, no childcare and no elder care. We need to take care of these three areas and we are not. If there's anything in these areas that I can do to help please let me know. Our elders are living longer and what a heartbreak it is to help them go through a lifetime of stuff, pack and move away because they have no choice. If we could consider a long term facility (insurance will be an issue) then many of our residents could stay longer. They want to. The older I get, the closer I am to being in their shoes. Lastly, I will fight against commercializing this island and beach. I already have used my voice at one hearing and i'll continue to do so, regardless of my job. We need to leave Edisto alone.
- Have more jobs for the residence beside seasonal work.
- If they were more high paying job for everyone.
- It is difficult for "line level" employees to make enough money to live comfortably. The taxes, insurance, etc etc rates are so sky high for both businesses & residents that it's a conundrum.

In your opinion, what would make Edisto better as a place to live and work? n= 65

Slide 2 of 4

Workforce (19) (continued)

- It's already a great place to live, and it should remain that way. A way to reach to and hire qualified workers would be helpful as well as having information available for prospective workers about living accommodations--availability, costs, roommate arrangements, commute times, etc. We often complain about not being able to find quality employees and then basically tell them when interviewing and hiring, "Sorry you're on your own finding a place to live, and good luck!" Having a way to support the workers who are willing to come here to support us is important.
- More affordable long-term rentals and more support from the community for our frontline workers that are sometimes left to fend for themselves against an angry visitor when they are simply trying to do their job.
- More affordable workforce housing, pharmacy, more variety (ethnicity) in dining options, more variety in shopping options....not necessarily more but more variety in what we have.
- More housing for workers.
- More job training to fit the workplace provided in the area.
- We need more affordable housing for our workers. The workforce is very limited and short because of it. We would have more opportunities in retail and food and beverage if the workforce was bigger. Without the housing that can't happen.

Childcare / schools (9)

- Addressing sea level rise and actively adapting to climate change. Bigger preschool/more preschool options. Public transit options to get to Charleston easily and at more convenient times. Financial assistance for my older neighbors who are struggling with home repair, medical care, food access and more.
- As a mother, the only thing that really comes to mind is schooling. My children attend Jane Edwards, and it has been a wonderful experience. The faculty and staff seem happy, and clearly love their jobs and the children. But after 6th grade, the situation is different.
- Better place to raise children in a great school
- Better schools and more options for school
- Keeping our small town feel. Improved schools K-12
- Moderate Working Family Housing Alternative school option
- Public school K-12 Side walks Reduced Speed Limits Beach and the Island to be a part of the same team
- Schools and activities for kids.
- Schools and housing options

Healthcare / Services (9)

- A true pharmacy
- Accessibility to health needs (doctors, pharmacy, etc)
- Better cell service on and off the island. Better health care options (satellite branch of MUSC or similar).
- Better emergency services
- Closer healthcare (hospital and/or urgent care clinic, pharmacy) and closer high school.
- Keeping Edisto, Edisto. It would be nice to have a pharmacy.
- More medical care, pharmacy
- Pharmacy
- Pharmacy. Affordable housing for more quality workers.

In your opinion, what would make Edisto better as a place to live and work? n= 65

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No change (9)

- Edisto Island is a perfect place to live if you like peace and quiet and nature.
- Edisto still is a very good place to reside. There is really no economic base here except for the service industry, we should do what we can to provide them with the resources to make it to look good to those who visit. Word-of-mouth is very important.
- Having those that move here from other areas understand why they moved here in the first place and to not expect where they came from to be transplanted with them. Safety and infrastructure with the town to support day trippers and visitors would be ideal - mitigating traffic patterns across the causeway in conjunction with the state park would help with summer traffic for those that work further on the beach.
- I completely agree with keeping Edisto, quiet and unique. However, so many of the things that we have to travel off of the islands, which were stated in the answers before, would be nice if we had access to closer. Edisto is a great place for retirement but again, I think we need to think of young people and families. What would entice them to stay and want to live here and visit more.
- I have been coming here for over 40 years and lived here for three. I have seen very little change, and to my family, that's the beauty of this island. The world is moving fast and going out of control in many aspects, but here, there's serenity that provides a security and knowledge that being in a place with family and friends just makes life good.
- I like it the way it is. I would prefer fewer people during spring breaks and summer.
- It's good now.
- No suggestions.
- This is about as good as it gets! Those who want more and want change should visit and leave.

Traffic / Infrastructure (8)

- Better water
- High speed internet
- Putting a toll on the bridge and removing the campground.
- Safer travel on the National Scenic Byway 174. Reduce speed and more enforcement of the speed limit on the island portion of 174. It would be ideal if there were more community focused events, not just tourism focused events.
- Slow the vehicles on 174, reduce vehicle traffic in the town, especially the delivery trucks. Turn off the lights at night. A bakery please. I would suggest a focus that includes capitalizing on our strengths and not making changes that visitors and residents can find elsewhere.
- Summer daycare
- The need for public bathrooms is huge. We "want" people to come here and beach it but give them nowhere to go to the bathroom?? Surely there's money somewhere for facilities. No, the day trippers don't spend money with realty companies BUT they DO spend money at the gift shops, a restaurant for lunch or take out, the seafood shop, the marina, the grocery store, the gas station, etc., so we should pay some attention to them and not just the ones who rent. Also helping Jane Edwards elementary adding more grades beyond 6 would be amazing. And as noted before, representation in our towns government from islanders who own businesses and spend money in the town.
- Widening of HWY 174 to four safe lanes. Dedicated cycling and pedestrian lanes. The cycling world would love to be able to bicycle from Charleston to Edisto.

In your opinion, what would make Edisto better as a place to live and work? n= 65

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Amenities (5)

- Better grocery store
- Better grocery store would be very beneficial, more restaurant options
- Curbing growth and tourism. Creating and continuing to host events geared more towards residents, in turn creating/maintaining more of a genuine community versus the transient tourist traffic
- Dollar General, larger grocery store, drug store, better childcare, better school system, less gift shops, less flooding, better storm drainage system, keep people from planting trees under highway 174 main power lines
- More restaurants, a pharmacy, more event and office spaces, better access to internet

Miscellaneous (6)

- Diversity and less chaos of more populated areas
- I do not live there, but I'd like to.
- More outdoor activity / sporting spots
- More user-friendly town government
- People with a work ethic
- Protect wildlife more on beach

