

# Appendix 8: Regional Public Meetings

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VISION 2030: SHAPING OUR REGION'S FUTURE TOGETHER  
**FINAL REPORT**

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# Summary of Results of Regional Public Meetings

## Introduction to Regional Public Meetings

In April and May 2002, 17 Regional Public Meetings were held as part of Vision 2030. Presentations were made, questionnaires administered, and small group idea gathering sessions were conducted. A brief overview of the output of these meetings is summarized below.

## Results of Choices for the Future Questionnaire

The Choices for the Future Questionnaire presented a number of quality of life and transportation indicators related to the four different prototypical development scenarios that were developed as part of the Vision 2030 process. The four scenarios are Current Trends and Plans, Emphasis on Road Capacity, Emphasis on Mass Transit, and Emphasis on Redevelopment.

Participants were first asked to select the scenario that they preferred according to the effect each had on each indicator. For example, the indicator “acres of new land consumed by development from the year 2000 to the year 2030” had a range of 41,242 acres to 138,316 acres, depending on the scenario. There were 10 indicators in all. Participants then ranked the indicators on a scale from one to four. No two indicators would receive the same rank.

Outlined below is a summary of the participants’ responses to the questionnaire.

### Quality of Life

- Respondents indicate a desire to consume less land to accommodate future growth in the region. Eighty-seven percent of participants preferred the Redevelopment (47%) and Emphasis on Mass Transit (40%) scenarios, which would consume less than half the amount of land to accommodate future development as opposed to the other two scenarios.
- Ninety-one percent of respondents want to see new neighborhoods that provide choice of housing types and a range of prices.
- Respondents overwhelmingly support a reduction in air pollution (95%) as well as the best possible water quality (72%).
- Out of the four Quality of Life indicators, respondents ranked land consumption as the most important issue. Their ranking revealed the respondents were basically equally concerned about air pollution and water quality in the Chesapeake Bay. The least important of the four indicators was the percentage of new neighborhoods that provide choice of housing types and a range of prices.

### Transportation

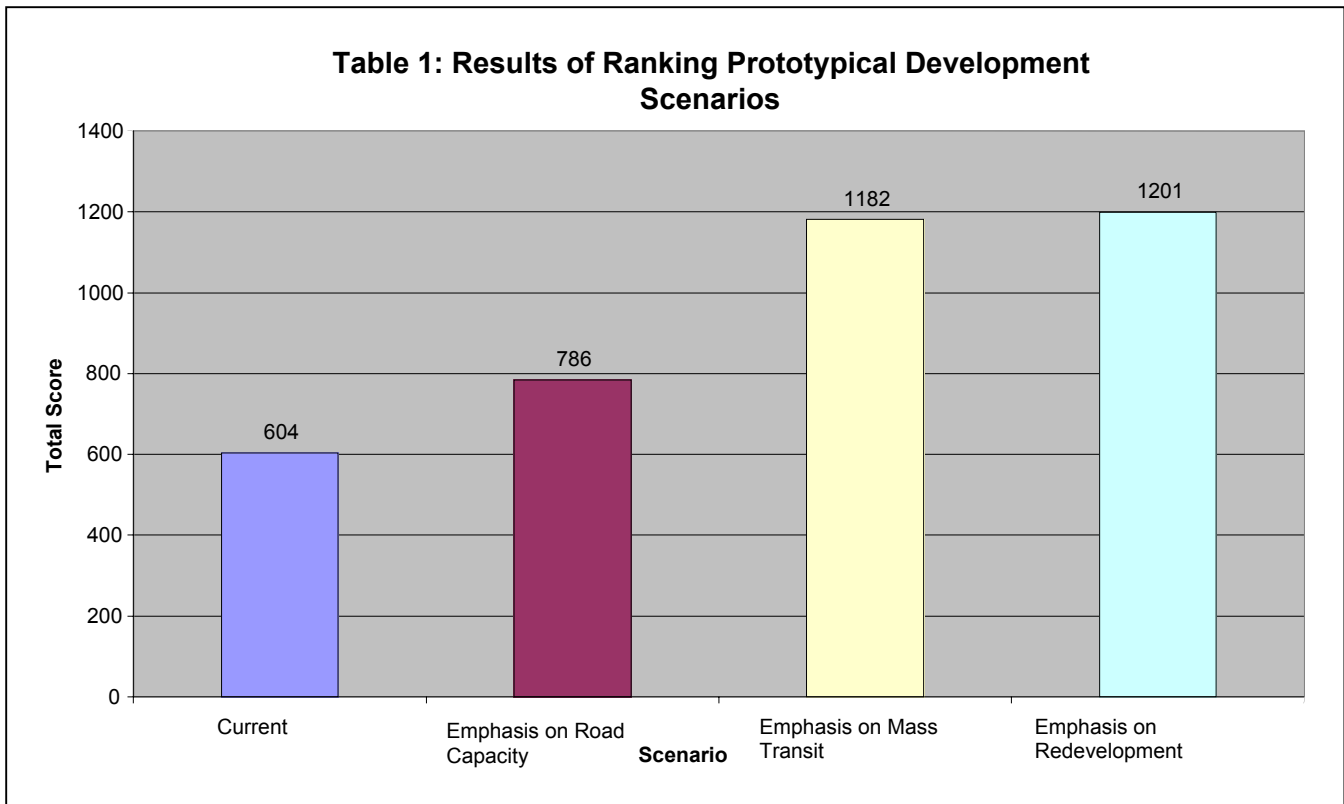
The vast majority of participants expressed a preference for the Emphasis on Mass Transit and Redevelopment Scenarios because of their effects on transportation indicators. The respondents prefer these two scenarios because they want to:

- Spend less time in their automobiles (91%),
- Consume less gasoline (91%),
- New households that can walk to a rail or bus stop (83%),
- New jobs accessible to transit (83%),
- Increase walking trips (82%), and
- Increase trips by bus and rail (85%).

The participants also ranked these transportation indicators by their level of importance. The most important indicator was the percentage of new jobs accessible by transit followed by the percentage of new households within walking distance to a rail or bus stop. Participants expressed the least important indicator was the additional amount of time spent in automobiles.

**Ranking**

At the end of the questionnaire, participants were asked to rank each of the scenarios according to level of preference. The results of the ranking correlate to the results to the Quality of Life and Transportation Indicators. The most preferred scenario is Emphasis on Redevelopment. Emphasis on Mass Transit is the second most preferred scenario. Current Trends and Emphasis on Road Capacity were the least preferred of the scenarios (see Table 1).



**Results of the Values Questionnaire**

The Values Questionnaire presented the work of the four subcommittees on Livable Communities, Economic Development, Environment, and Government and Public Policy. The statements of values represent fundamental and basic outcomes that the subcommittees want to see addressed by Vision 2030. Participants were asked to indicate their level of agreement or disagreement to the statements. An overwhelming majority agreed with all of the 17 value statements – in all cases over 80 percent of respondents agreed with the value statement.

Ninety-five percent and more agreed or strongly agreed with the following value statements:

- Opportunities for quality education at all levels, from early childhood to life-long learning, should be available to all our people (98%).
- The region should have a highly trained, educated and flexible workforce (97%).

- Each person should have reasonable and safe access from home to a job that pays a family-supporting wage with benefits, to educational and retail facilities, to open space and recreation, to quality medical care, and to personal and social services (96%).
- The region should have strong public policy mechanisms that balance environmental protection, manage future growth and redevelopment and generate economic vitality (95%).
- The region should strive for a mixed base of land use that includes agriculture, open spaces, forests, small towns (95%).
- There should be strong public policy mechanisms that balance environmental protection, manage future growth and redevelopment and generate economic vitality (95%).

Ninety to 94 percent agreed or strongly agreed with the following value statements:

- The region should have a vibrant, dynamic and economically and culturally strong core (94%).
- The region should achieve universal mobility through a comprehensive, multi-modal transportation system (92%).
- All people should be involved members of their communities, actively participating in the civic process to make well-informed and just decisions and to choose leaders who responsibly consider the needs and desires of all the people of our region (90%).
- Vision 2030 should develop a clear definition of regionalism and of the specific areas where regional solutions have a role (90%).

Eighty to 84 percent agreed or strongly agreed with the following value statements:

- The region should have stronger integration of local and regional decision-making (including inter-jurisdictional cooperation) (89%).
- Communities in all jurisdictions of the region should include housing opportunities for all people that maximize diversity of racial, social and economic backgrounds and minimize segregation or concentration of population by race or class (88%).
- Vision 2030 should identify equitable implementation mechanisms, policies and funding priorities for its goals (88%).
- The region should have a common environmental ethic (87%).
- There should be increased public awareness, understanding and buy-in of regionalism (86%).
- Implementing the vision over the next 30 years should require substantial changes in the way we make regional decisions (86%).
- There should be more diverse involvement in regional decision-making by communities, non-profit organizations and businesses (84%).

## Demographic Survey Results

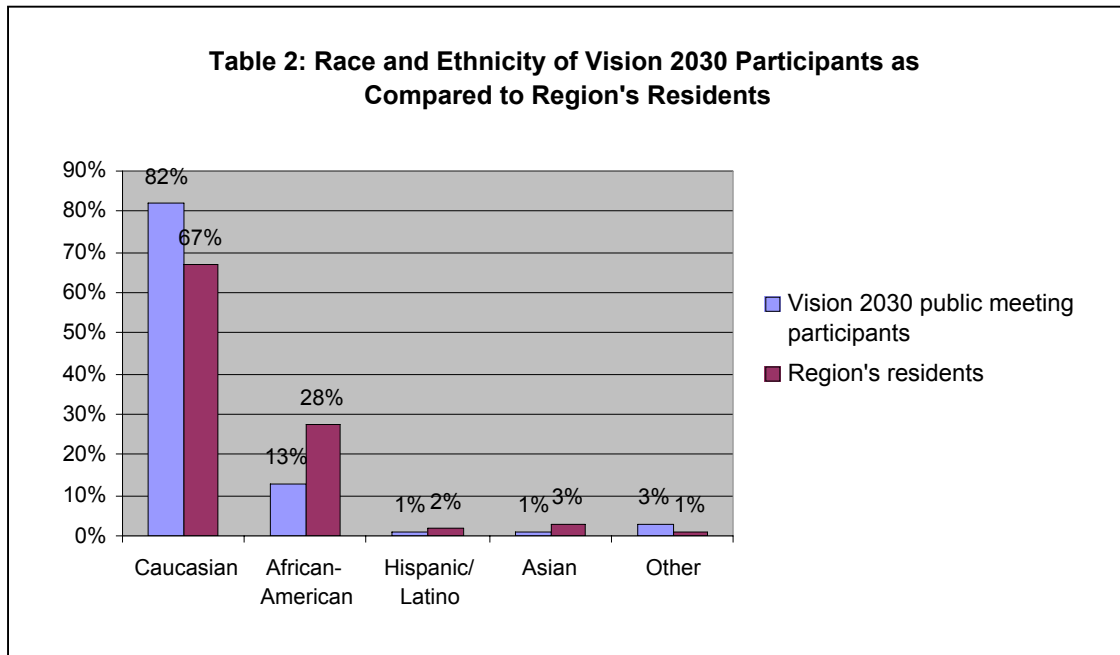
Meeting participants were also asked to complete a demographic survey. In most cases the information was compared to the region's population according to data from Census 2000.

In general, public meeting participants were older, better educated and had higher incomes than the region's population as a whole. A higher share of Caucasians participated in the meetings than live in the region, and a lower share of African Americans. The geographic distribution of participants' place of residence and place of work was very close to the distribution of population across the region.

When asked about whether the quality of life in the region had gotten better, worse or stayed the same, 51% answered that, in their opinion, it had gotten worse. Twenty seven percent believed it had stayed the same, and 22% believed it had improved.

### Race and Ethnicity

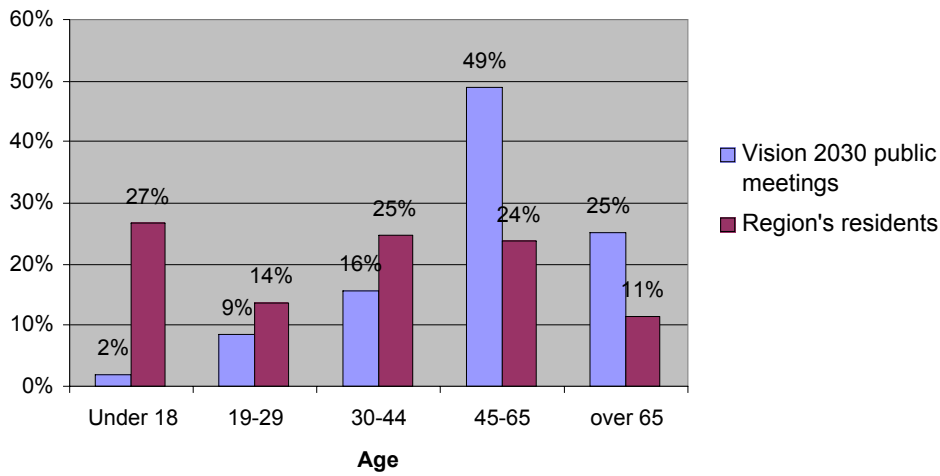
As shown in Table 2 below, the percentage of Caucasians that participated in the public meetings was greater than the percentage of Caucasians in the region, and the percentage of African Americans who participated was lower than the percentage of African Americans in the region. Eighty-two percent of the public meeting participants were Caucasian, compared to 67% of the region’s population. Thirteen percent of the meeting participants were African American, compared with 28% of the region’s population. One percent of the participants were Hispanic, compared to 2% of the region, and 1% were Asian, compared to 3% of the region.



### Age

As shown in Table 3 below, the majority (49%) of the Vision 2030 meeting participants were in the 45-65 age group, while 24% of the region’s residents belong to that cohort. A greater percentage of seniors also came out to the meetings than live in the region. Twenty five percent of the meeting’s participants were over 65 years old, compared to 11% of the region’s residents. A much smaller percentage of youth attended the meetings than live in the region. Only 2% of the participants at the meetings were under 18, while 27% of the region is in that age group. Vision 2030 came fairly close to capturing a share of 19-29 and 30-44 year olds similar to the region’s share of residents in those age categories. Nine percent of the public meeting participants are age 19-29, compared to 14% of region’s residents, and 16% of the public meeting participants are 30-44 compared with 25% of the region’s residents.

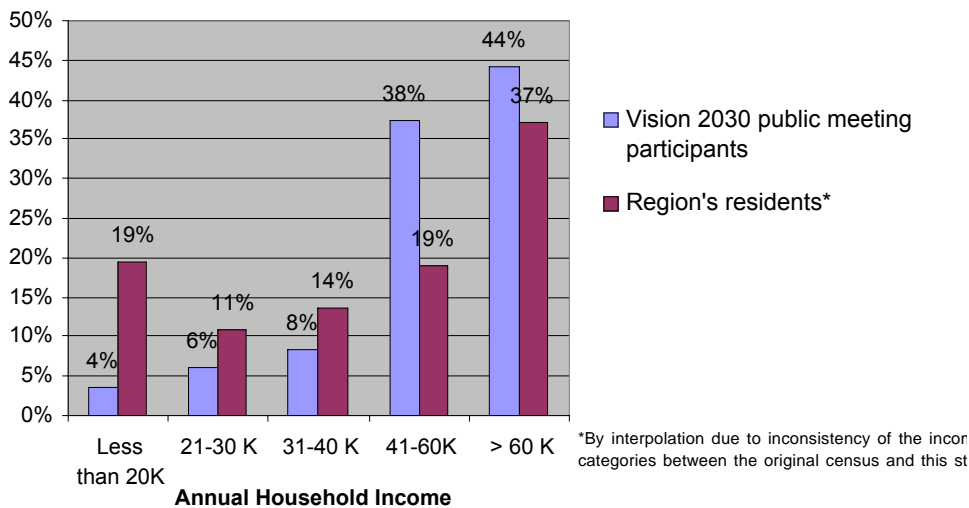
**Table 3: Age of Vision 2030 Public Meeting Participants as Compared to Region's Residents**



**Income**

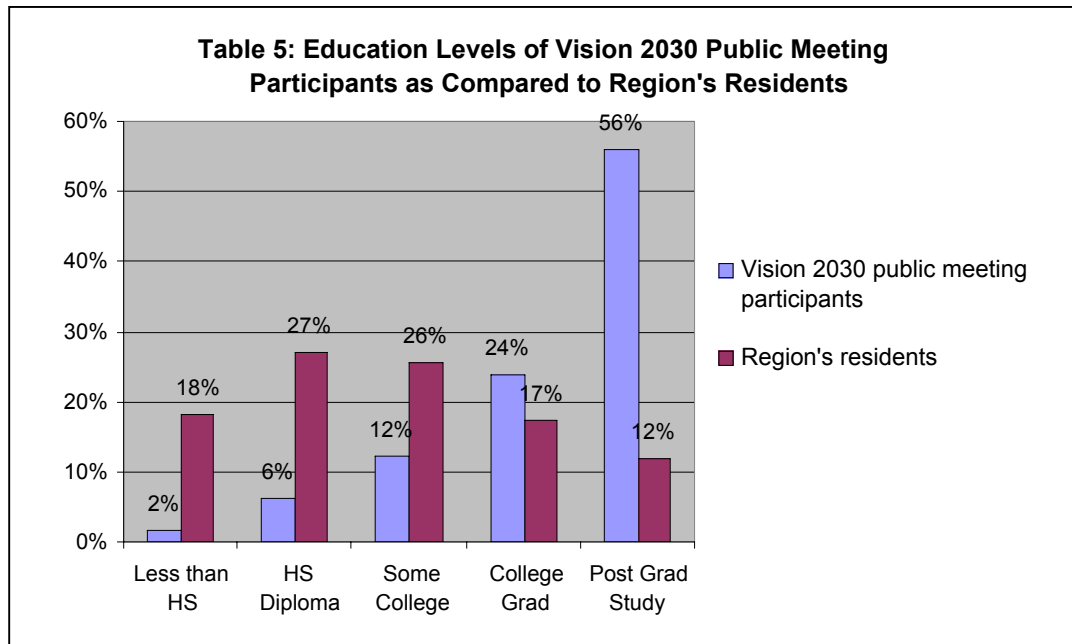
As shown in Table 4 below, far more public meeting participants had an annual household income of \$41,000 or more than the region’s population as a whole. Eighty two percent of the public meeting participants had incomes of \$41,000 or more, and 44% had incomes over \$60,000. In comparison, 56% of the region’s residents have incomes over \$41,000 and 37% have incomes over \$60,000 per year. Only 4% of the public meeting participants had incomes under \$20,000 per year, while 19% of the region’s residents have household incomes that fall into that bracket.

**Table 4: Annual Household Income of Public Meeting Participants as Compared to Region's Residents**



## Education

As shown in Table 5, Vision 2030 public meeting participants had higher educational attainment levels than the region as a whole. Eighty percent of the meeting participants held college degrees or higher, compared to 29% of the region’s population. Fifty-six percent had some level of post-graduate study, compared with only 12% of the regions’ residents. Only eight percent of the meeting participants had a high school education or less, compared with 45% of the region’s population.



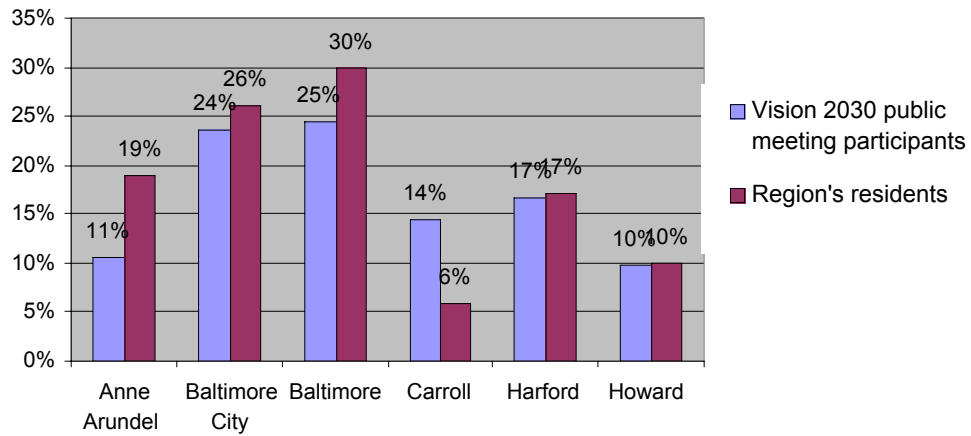
## Place of residence and place of work

As shown in Tables 6 and 7 below, the place of residence and the place of work of the public meeting participants closely mirrors the geographic distribution of the region’s residents. This is especially the case with place of residence. The same percentage of participants came from Harford and Howard Counties as live in those counties, with 17% from Harford and 10% from Howard. A lower percentage of Anne Arundel County residents came to the meetings than live there – 11% of participants versus 19% of the region’s population. A higher percentage of Carroll County residents participated than live there (14% and 6%, respectively). Representation from Baltimore City and County was very close to the percentage of the region’s residents that live in those counties.

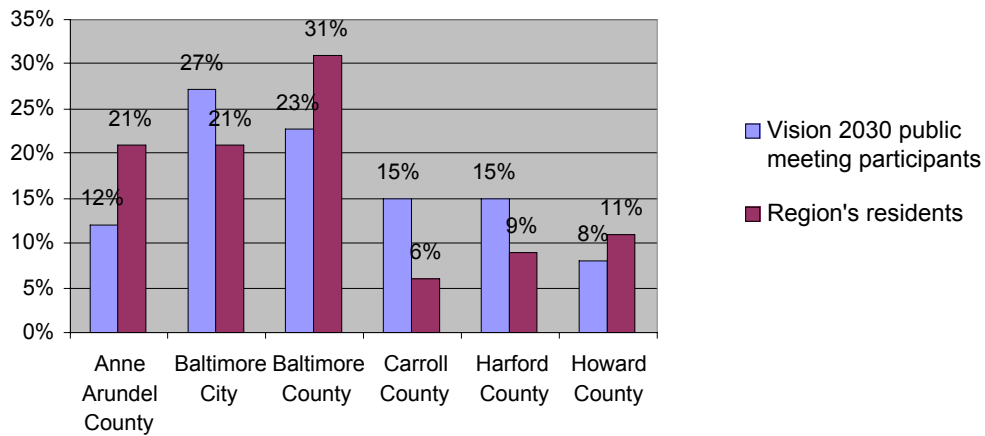
The geographic distribution of meeting participants’ place of work was similar to the region’s population workplace distribution, with slightly higher percentage of meeting participants than region’s residents working in Baltimore City and Carroll and Harford Counties. A slightly lower percentage of meeting participants worked in Anne Arundel, Baltimore and Howard Counties than do in the region as a whole.

The Census data for Anne Arundel included the data for the City Annapolis; therefore, responses from participants who worked and lived in Annapolis is combined with the Anne Arundel data.

**Table 6: Place of Residence of Public Meeting Participants as Compared to the Region's Population**

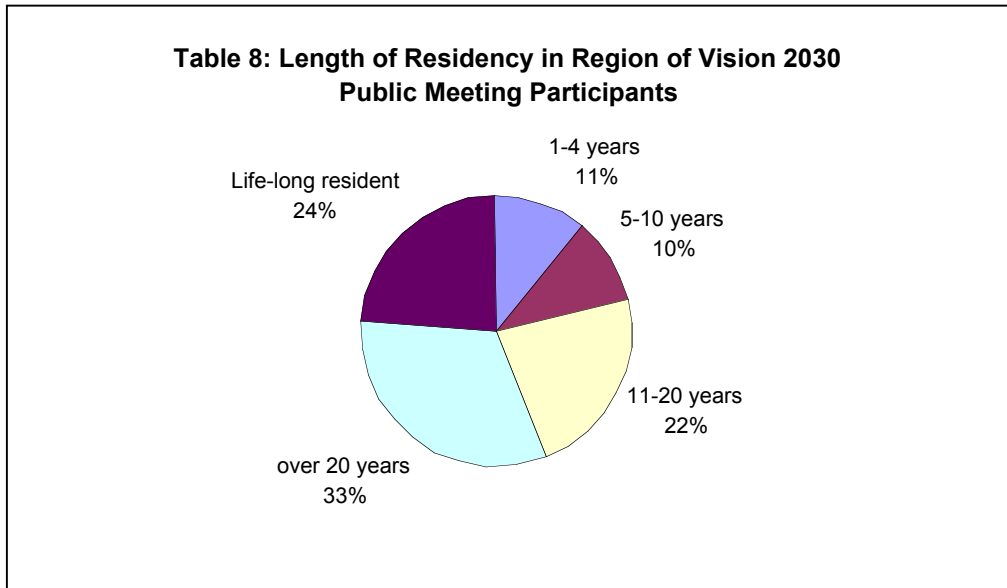


**Table 7: Place of Work of Vision 2030 Public Meeting Participants as Compared to Region's Population**



**Length of residency in the region**

As shown in Table 8, 33% of meeting participants lived in the region for over 20 years, while 24% were life-long residents. Twenty-one percent had lived in the region for less than 10 years and 22% lived in the region 11-20 years. Census data is not available for comparison.



**Quality of Life**

Finally, meeting participants were asked to state, in their opinion, whether the quality of life in the Baltimore Region had gotten better, worse or stayed the same in the last five years. As shown in Table 9, a majority of the participants believed that the quality of life had gotten worse. Twenty-two percent believed that it had gotten better, and 27% believed it had stayed the same.

