## **Shaping Delaware Revisited**

Views of Delaware Residents 1995-1997

presented by Edward C. Ratledge

Provided as a Public Service by the Center for Applied Demography and Survey Research University of Delaware

## **Survey Footnotes**

Survey conducted January - May 1997

Data gathered by telephone using professional interviewers

Random-digit dialing and within household randomization

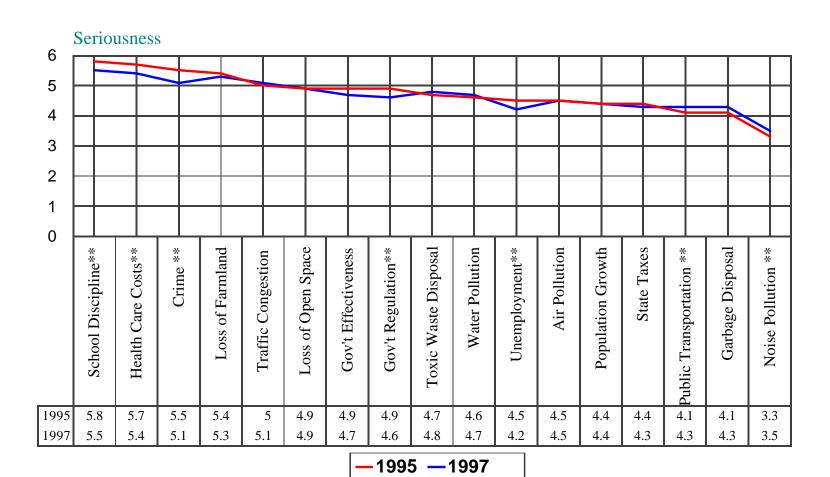
989 interviews with approximately 330 from each county

Accuracy at least +/ - 3%

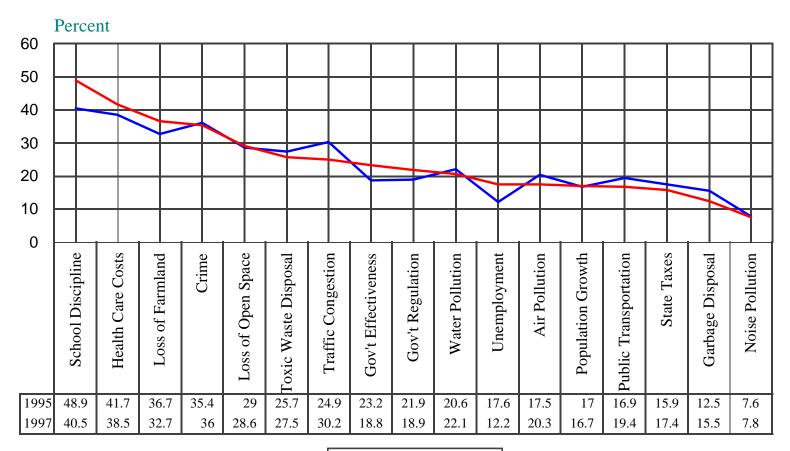
# Section I Seriousness of Selected Problems: List of Slides

- 1. Average Seriousness 1995 vs. 1997
- 2. Percent Classifying Problem as Major
- 3. Average Seriousness 1992-1997
- 4. Seriousness of Selected Problems by Age Group
- 5. Seriousness of Selected Problems by Residence in 1990

#### Average Seriousness 1995 vs. 1997



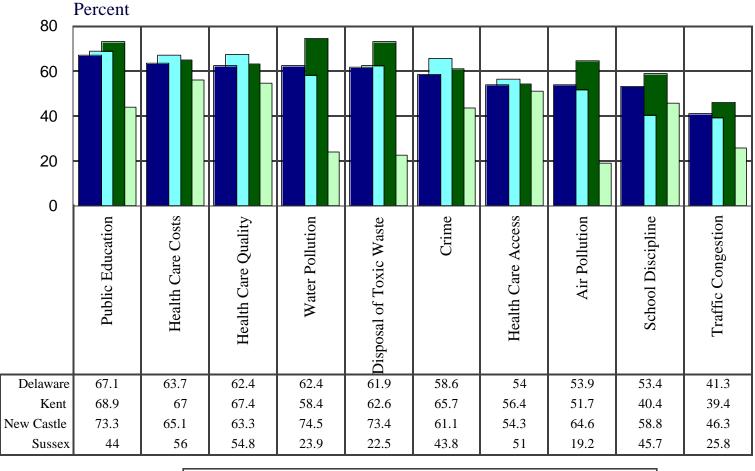
#### Percent Classifying Problem as Major



**—**1995 **—**1997

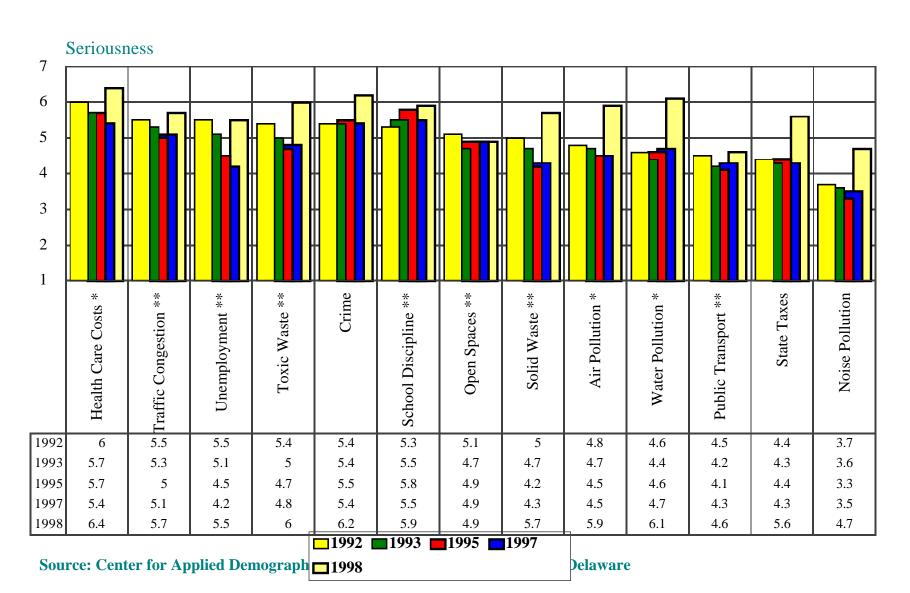
## **Top Ten Issues in 1998**

#### Percent Classifying Issue as Very Important

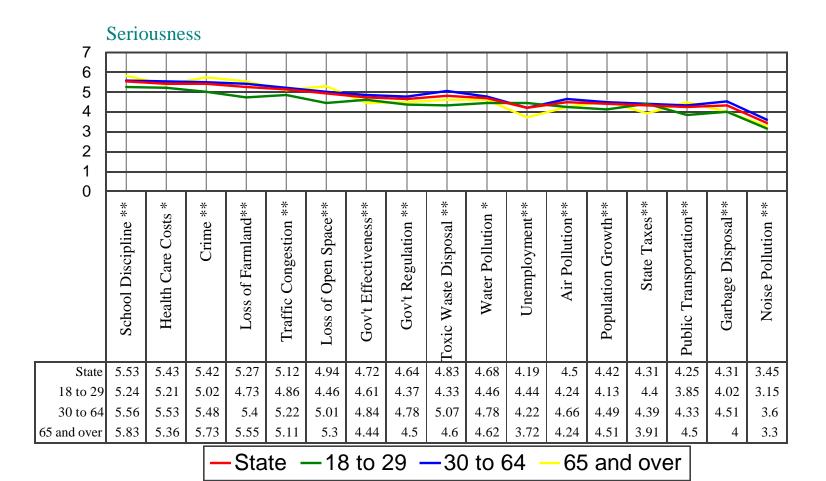


■ Delaware ■ Kent ■ New Castle ■ Sussex

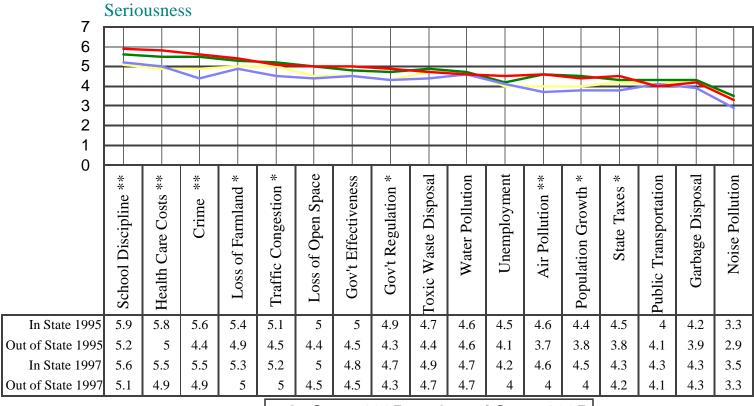
Average Seriousness 1992-1997



#### by Age Group in 1997



#### by Residence in 1990



In State 1995 — Out of State 1995In State 1997 — Out of State 1997

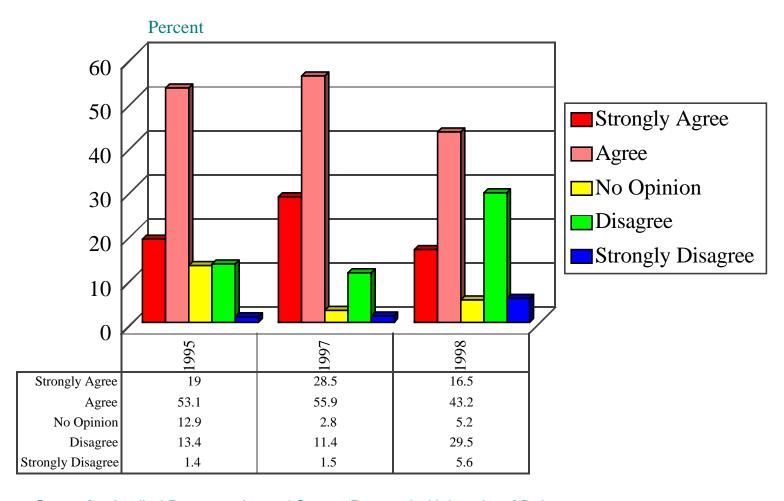
# Section I Seriousness of Selected Problems: Observations

- \* Concern with school discipline, health care costs, crime, government regulation, and unemployment have declined.
- \* Concern about public transportation, and noise pollution have increased.
- \* The proportion classifying loss of farmland as a major problem decreased while that for traffic congestion increased.
- \* Major decrease in concern about unemployment over the last five years. Smaller decreases for traffic congestion and solid waste.
- \* Small but significant differences by age group in 1997.
- \* 17% of adult Delawareans lived in other states in 1990. Differences between those who lived here in 1990 and those that did not still persist.

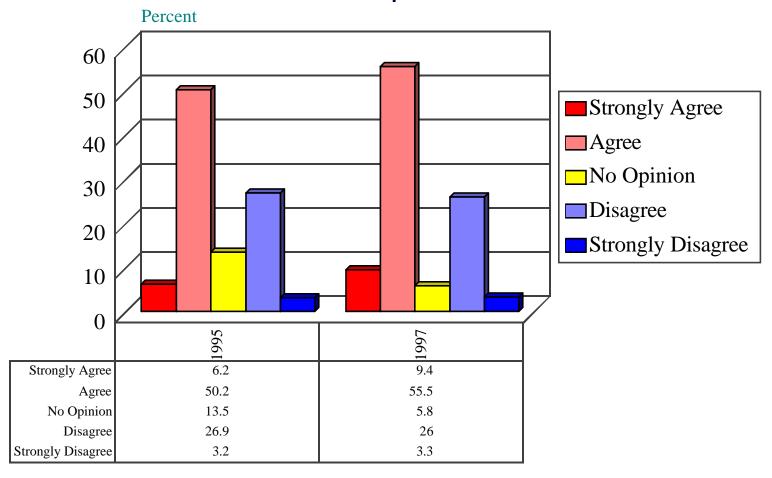
# Section 2 Policy Options List of Slides

- 6. Price of development should include full cost of infrastructure.
- 7. Mix appropriate commercial services with residential development.
- 8. Pay owners of farmland to keep in agricultural use.
- 9. State should actively buy openspace, parks and greenways.
- 10. Tax breaks for those who move into preferred growth areas.
- 11. Expand public transit, bikeways, and walkways.
- 12. More money for highways.
- 13. More for transit, less for highways.
- 14. Increase the gas tax by 10 cents.
- 15. Choose higher gas tax or more congestion.
- 16. What action should be taken.

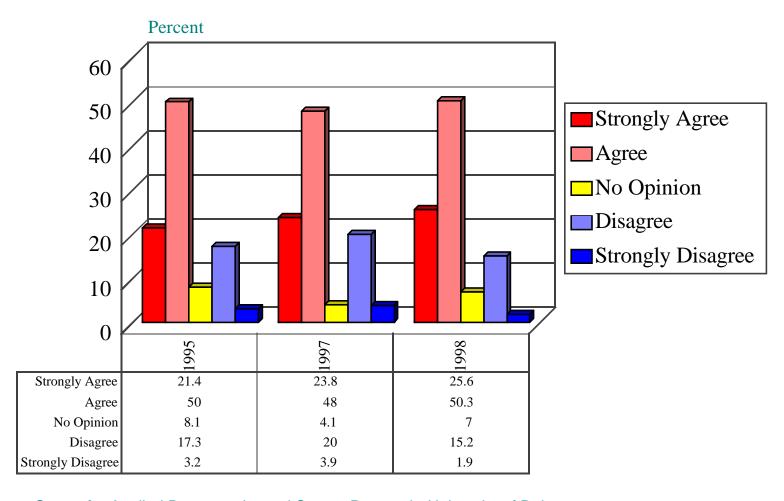
## Price of Development should include Full Cost of Infrastructure



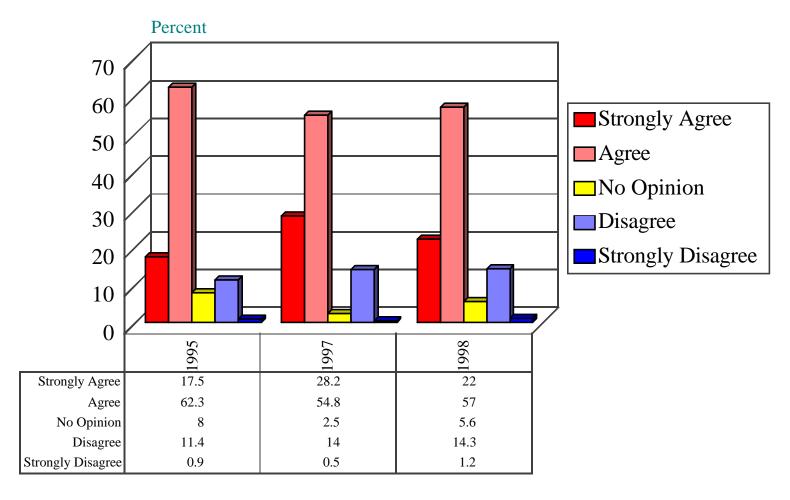
## Mix Appropriate Commercial Services with Residential Development



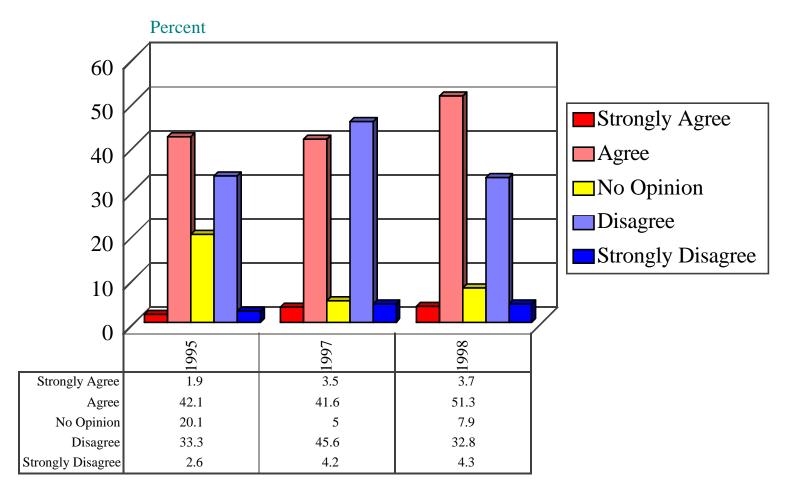
#### Pay Owners of Farmland to Keep in Agricultural Use



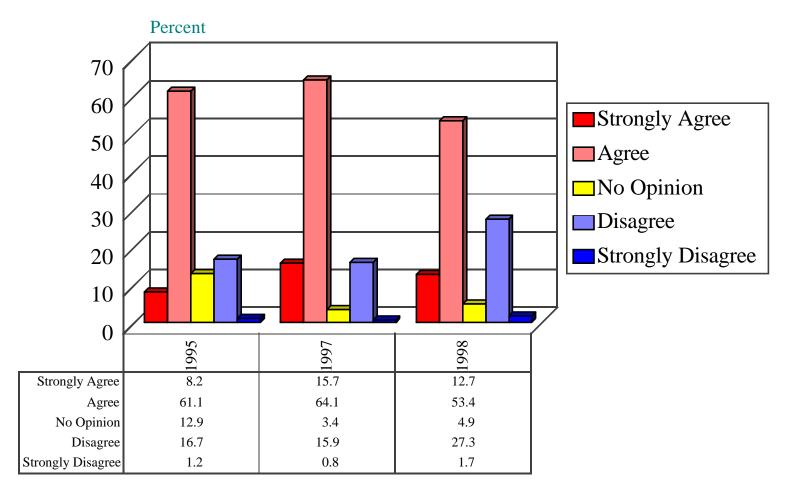
State should actively buy openspace, parks and greenways



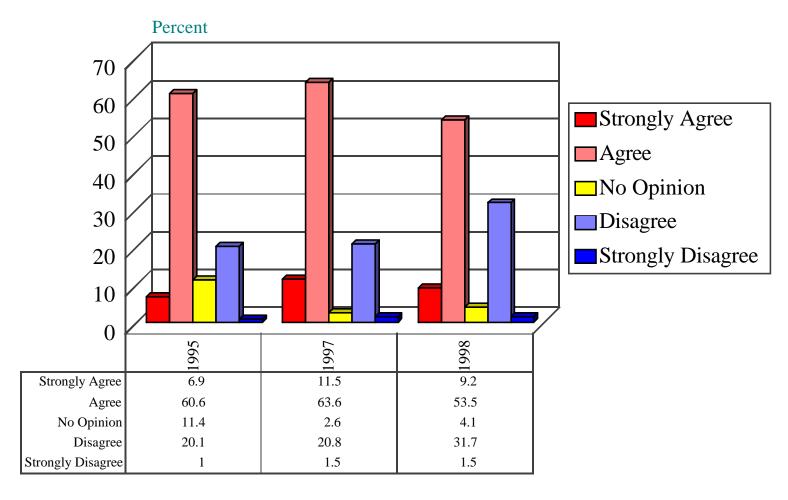
Tax breaks for those who move into preferred growth areas



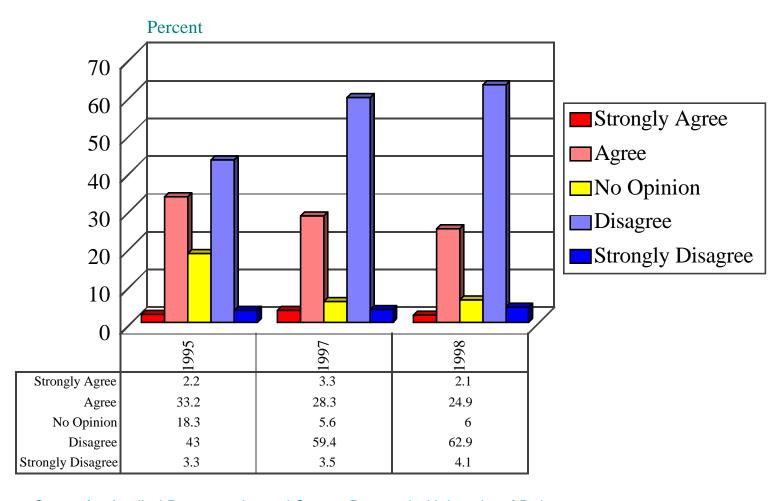
Expand Budget for Public Transit, Bikeways, and Walkways



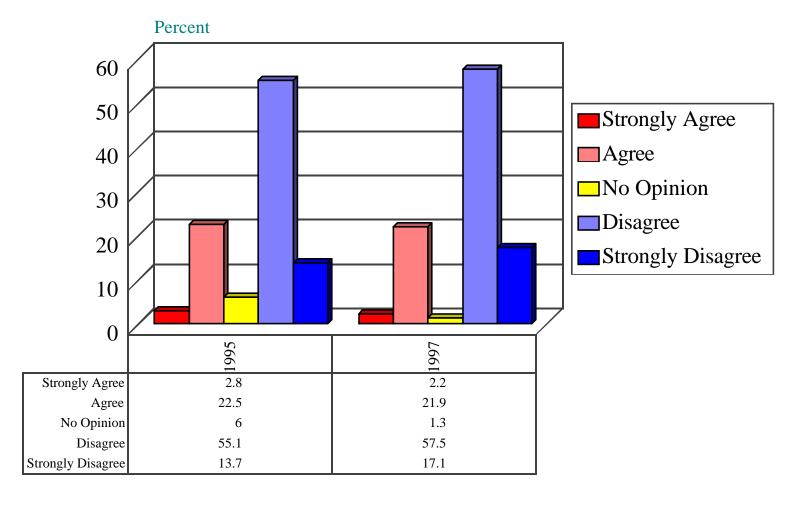
#### More Money for Highways



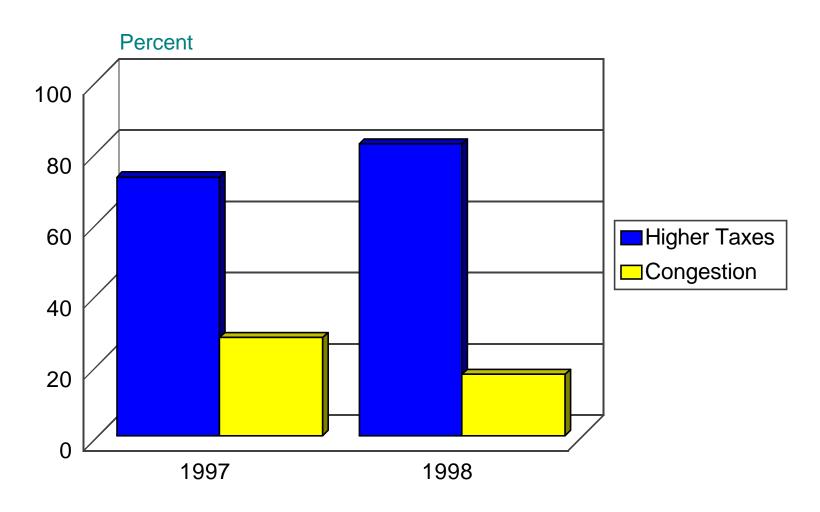
#### More for Transit Less for Highways



#### Increase the gas tax by 10 cents

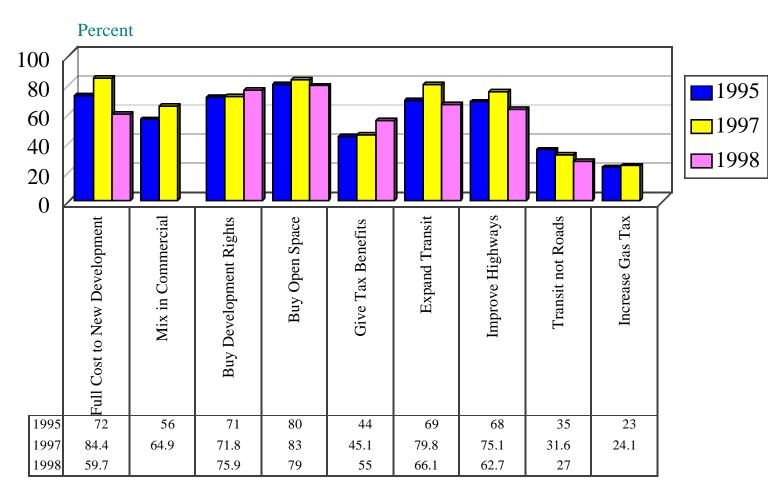


#### Choose Higher Gas Tax or More Congestion



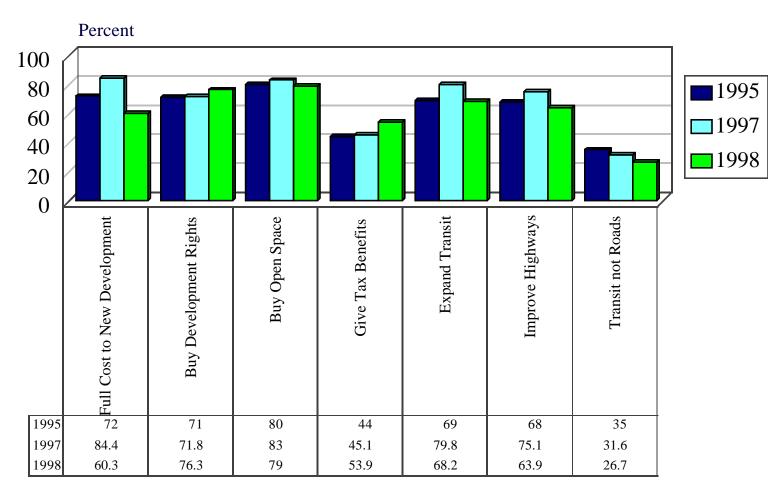
### What Action should be taken?

#### **Percent Agreeing**



### What Action should be taken?

#### **Percent Agreeing**



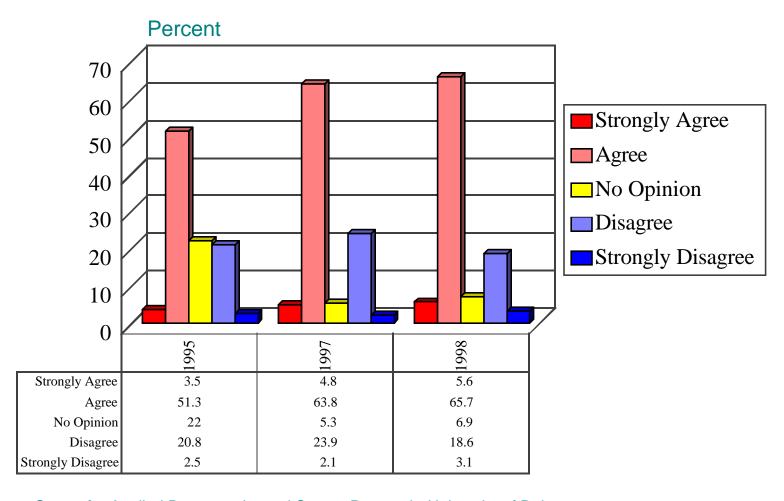
# Section 2 Policy Options Observations

- \* In general, fewer people have no opinion. They got off the fence in the last two years.
- \* More favor payment for infrastructure, mixing commercial and residential, and buying open space.
- \* More disagree with tax breaks for moving into designated growth areas.
- \* More for transit and highways, but don't fund transit at the expense of highways.
- \* Against the gas tax specifically, but would choose it over increased congestion.
- \* For the most part, support for all policy options increased in the last two years.

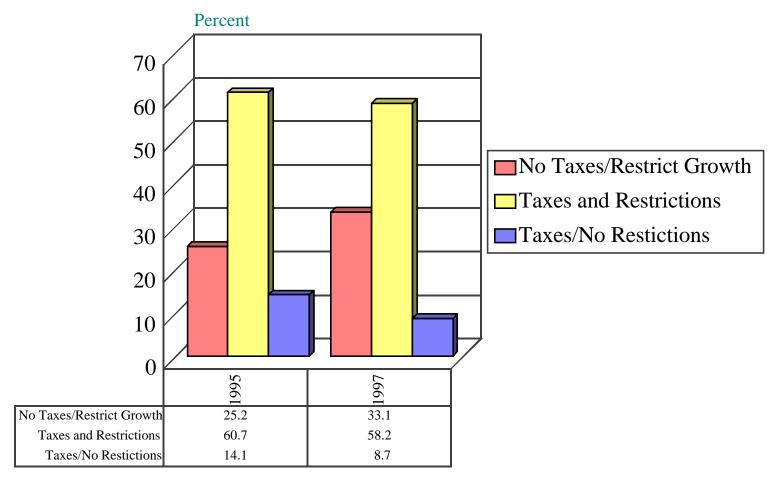
# Section 3 Other Issues List of Slides

- 17. Counties and cities should make landuse/zoning decisions.
- 18. Balance between taxes and control.
- 19. Where would you most like to live?
- 20. Importance of selected quality of life factors.
- 21. State priorities.

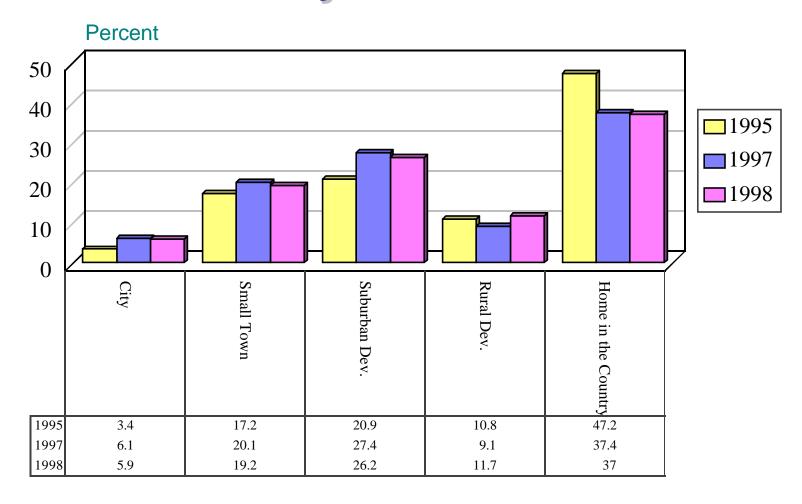
## Counties and Cities should make Landuse/Zoning Decisions



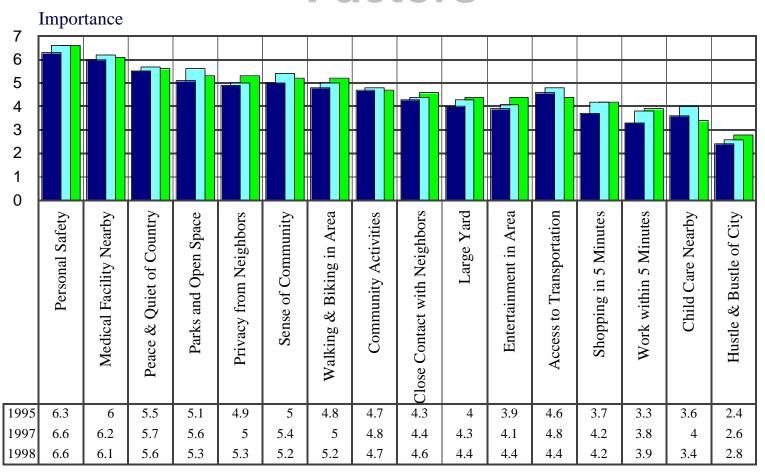
## **Balance between Taxes and Control**



## Where would you most like to live?

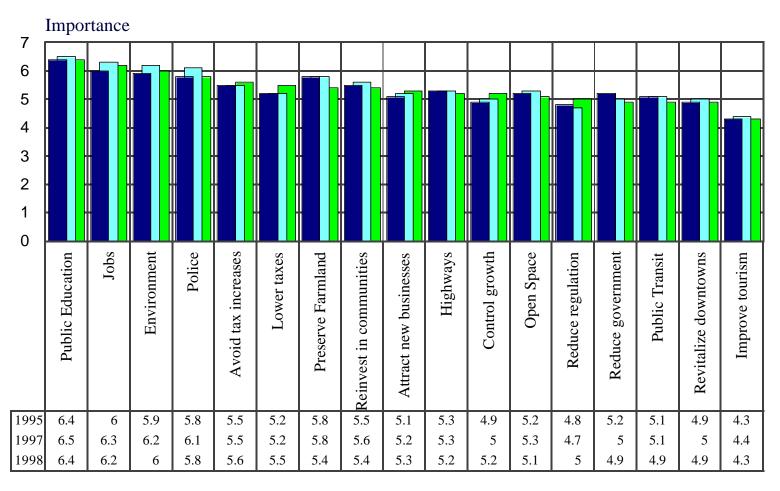


## Importance of Selected Quality of Life Factors



**■**1995 **■**1997 **■**1998

### **State Priorities**



**■1995 ■1997 ■1998** 

# Section 3 Other Issues Observations

- \* More people support county/city landuse decisionmaking than in 1995; the increase came from those undecided.
- \* There was movement toward landuse restriction as a way to avoid tax increases.
- \* The "home in the country" set declined; most moved toward suburban development with slight increases in city/town.
- \* Pattern of quality of life factors similar to 1995. Slight increases in open spaces and issues which save time. Safety issues still lead.
- \* State priorities are for all practical purposes unchanged in two years.