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Charlottesville, Virginia—July 30, 2007—Charlottesville Tomorrow releases results of public opinion research project. Charlottesville Tomorrow has completed a major non-partisan public opinion research project which included focus groups and a telephone survey to assess the views of voters related to Albemarle County’s rural countryside, community infrastructure, and satisfaction with local government leadership on these issues.

Between February and June of this year, Charlottesville Tomorrow conducted four focus groups and a telephone survey of over a thousand County voters. “Our goal was to get an in-depth and accurate assessment of the public’s views on the rural countryside,” comments Brian Wheeler, Charlottesville Tomorrow’s Executive Director. “However, after the focus groups, we identified strong dissatisfaction about community infrastructure and the belief that legitimate citizen concerns were not getting adequate attention by local government.” Wheeler comments, “We wanted our scientific survey to quantify that sentiment in the community, and evaluate policy ideas related to land use, taxation, and transportation.”

Highlights of the survey results

- Less than half of the voters are satisfied with government efforts to protect the rural countryside.
- Voters support the use of tax dollars for the purchase of conservation easements as a tool to permanently protect the rural countryside.
- More than three-fourths of voters would be likely or very likely to support policies that set a schedule for the creation of new lots in our rural countryside.
- Voters are dissatisfied with government efforts to ensure infrastructure is in place for new development. When concerns are raised by the public, officials pay too little attention.
- A little more than half of the voters surveyed would support a modest increase in taxes to pay for our transportation needs. Fewer than half would like the tax increase for transportation to be in the form of an additional 3 cents on the property tax. If there had to be a tax increase, more than half would support increases in gas taxes or sales taxes for transportation.

Charlottesville Tomorrow is a nonpartisan organization dedicated to informing public opinion and policy on land use, transportation, and community design issues to ensure sensible growth and to realize the best possible future for the Charlottesville-Albemarle area.

The complete survey results are available online here: www.cvilletomorrow.org/survey

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