

# Le Sueur County BBC Registration Survey

*Updated 6/19/20 – Responses 1-6 added*

*Updated 6/10/20 – Responses 7-9 added*

*Updated 6/05/20 – Responses 10-18 added*

**Broadband is now foundational to our everyday lives - for economic development, education, health care and social interaction. Please describe how your home or business Internet connection supports or hinders your online world.**

1. I live and work in rural Minnesota, and for years have had a variety of challenges in accessing quality stable network connections. At my residence, piecemeal rural P2P Microwave networks have come and gone over the past 20 years. Cellular Networks have improved, but use of these for home service comes at a high cost. Reliable, wired home connections, and/or efficient, fast and affordable wireless networks are needed to perform common daily tasks required to live and work in today's world. As much as possible, I access my personal and business accounts, pay bills, access health information, work from home, and do my shopping online. Lastly, there either needs to be competition between multiple providers, or regulation similar to utilities.
2. Hinders our family, loses connection, only one or two people on at a time, sometimes days without any WiFi. Horrible.
3. Hinders the amount of youth I can reach with programming.
4. I live in the country and have only found one option for unlimited internet which is a wireless broadband option. It took almost a year for them to figure out a steady connection, and I still have issues, my thought is that when there's a lot of people pulling off the tower, it's running out of bandwidth.
- 5.
- 6.
7. Prior to COVID-19, my job allowed me the flexibility to work from home. My employer has all our files on the "cloud" which is only accessible via the internet. Also, I do Zoom-type meetings almost daily, so I need access. Once COVID-19 hit, our household transitioned to 2 adults working full-time from home, doing regular Zoom calls, and 3 kids needing broadband for school. We mostly were able to manage everything. Our internet will still bog down from time to time, meaning I miss parts of conversations.
8. We only have one option and it's pricey, but our internet is actually excellent.
9. Business (in Scott County, but serves Le Sueur): It is critical in healthcare - our patient medical record system requires access or we cannot use it or access our information
10. Equity concerns for students when we do e-learning or distance learning. Also, staff sometimes can't connect to students due to connection concerns.
11. We provide adult basic education classes, and if adults do not have internet at home, they are not able to do any of our remote classes or work on their skills in our online platforms.
12. Where we live and work our internet connection is good.
13. We are in the country and our internet is not good! Connection drops a lot and there are only certain places in the house where internet works if it works and we pay 65 dollars a month for this! I can't work from home when I need to because of this so have to drive to my office to sit there and attend the virtual meeting that everyone else can attend from home.

14. I serve as the Executive Director for the Le Sueur Housing & Redevelopment Authority. Part of my role is to communicate with HUD in Minneapolis and nationally. This correspondence is generally via email or the www. Our current internet connection is fairly reliable - but does have the occasional outage. The HRA owns and manages the Hillside Court Apartments and utilizes the internet connection for our phones, both live and dedicated lines. The dedicated lines are utilized as an emergency phone connected to our elevator and our fire / smoke alarm system. Internet outages can be detrimental to the ongoing safety of those residing in the apartments when the phones are not communicating with the fire alarm service panel and alarm monitoring company.
15. My current broadband has replace my paid TV provider, and has allowed working from home a reality.
16. Both my wife and I now work from home. Without high-speed this would not be possible.
17. Everyday I conduct my work supporting agriculture and operate a business also in the ag industry, that benefits from broad band connection. Since March, 2020 - we have had 3 children completing their school work - grades 2,4 & 6 from our home-school environment. Also there are three of us that are working from home also at least 4 of 5 days per week. This would not be possible with out internet connection. Over the past 3 months - I have observed and participated in an average of 3-5 hours per day of Zoom meetings and at times the connections are good - at times they are quite dysfunctional.
18. We have limitations in service providers for our area, and our current provider's service has been sub-optimal. I had worked at home in the past however in the last 3 years it has been very difficult to work at home due to slow and interrupted service. My children also have had difficulty completing all school/college work at home due to the same connectivity issues.
19. From a professional standpoint, the county does have pretty good technology resources and supports. Systems can run slowly and affect the speed of work on occasion. We do not have a lot of staff support as far as training staff on all of the features of their technology. Serving customers is a challenge in greater MN where we have had "dead zones" and spotty connectivity. We have to rely on community libraries which pushes issues toward transportation challenges. Distance learning highlighted the many challenges with secure and reliable connection to the internet and personally, it is a challenge to have college aged children home trying to use their various platforms that require high speed internet/fiber optics when we have very limited options and frequently endure interruptions to service.
20. My internet connection is vital for my business, work and everyday life
21. We use internet connection to work from home, watch TV, pay bills, & shopping.
22. Work from home employment, education for a next year Senior, Doctor on Demand, source for news and entertainment. Connection to business, farm commodity pricing
23. We are not able to do live streaming for Sunday Worship from our rural church. Internet is necessary for we as a congregation to stay connected in a timely manner in a fast changing world. Good reliable internet is necessary for church leadership to stay connected when urgent situations arise in our rural communities.
24. Our connection to the WWW is critical for communication with both our domestic and international clients. Virtually 100% of our orders for product are received via internet communication. Also video conferencing is now becoming the norm for business meetings allowing us a more economical way of communicating with both staff and clients. On a personal level, being able to video conference with our families and friends during the current Covid pandemic lends some normalcy to our lives.

25. I work 100% remotely for an online publisher and the lack of true high-speed, affordable, and reliable internet providers in this region is truly third-world level.
26. I am fortunate enough to have good internet access at both my home and my two offices (one in Le Center). I use the internet frequently in my job to communicate with clients, as well as use it for researching questions.
27. When it works it's fine. We have had many times in the past when it did not work. Also they charge for high speed and I am getting a speed of three only. One example would be that everything from Friday did not load on my phone until today. Another would be that when I am teleworking the connection makes everything work very slowly because it is not at the speed it should be. It is not consistent and on reliable.
28. During the Covid-19 stay at home, 3 students and 2 adults have been online working and distance learning. During normal times, both adults work from home several days per week. Our current provider experiences too many outages to be reliable. Additionally, speeds are barely adequate to support reliable video conferencing and entertainment media.
29. We use the internet to connect with our children and grandchildren on a regular basis. It is also used to provide assistance to the grandchildren with their school work and projects. We have begun using it more as an alternative for our tv providers.
30. Volunteering and keeping in touch with family
31. My spouse works from home 90% of her time and I 50% of the time, during the COVID-19 stay at home order the both of us were working from home while our two children also attended school via distance learning. We had no hinders, social activities such as streaming and gaming were also uninterrupted.
32. We are both in need of reliable internet access as a teacher and nurse & unable to do so effectively from our property
33. I work in healthcare and currently do as much work from home as possible. However, I am unable to conduct video visits with patients from home due to inadequate internet speeds and unpredictable connection interruptions.
34. Reliable high speeds is critical for my ability to work. I am in medical field and take overnight and weekend call that requires access to internet for remote access to provide patient care. Current options at our home near elysian do not provide adequate speeds. Additionally, given the current global pandemic we are having to do remote education of our young children that also requires internet.
35. Currently and possibly permanently working at home for the next year and more
36. Data very limited. Speed limited. Cannot stream efficiently.
- 37.
38. My internet connection supports everything I do to my satisfaction. I live in Le Sueur and use Mediacom. They have improved greatly over the last ten years or so.
39. I have a family of 5 and our internet really was hindered during the Covid outbreak with 2 adults working from home, 3 students doing online learning in grades 6, 9, 12 and two adults taking grad school courses. The internet bogs down to very slow speeds and we end up using our hot spot. We cannot stream very well either for entertainment.
40. In most cases we do pretty well as we live on the County Road 36 and have service through Century Link. The connection can be pretty spotty during bad weather so that is very frustrating especially on days when deadlines are firm with work.

41. We only have one internet company that serves our home. The download and upload speeds are very slow, so it makes it difficult for multiple people to be online at once (like we need when we are doing online school and work). The service also drops out frequently, which makes it difficult for planning scheduled activities like online meetings. We have to drive into town to get internet speeds that allow us to download or upload bigger files required for work and school.
42. We use internet daily for work, school, and for pleasure. It is essential for families that I work with to have access to reliable internet. If the internet is not reliable, we cannot connect to the world and do our work.
43. I currently have frontier. (On a scale of 0-10-- 10 being the worst) it is a 10 or worse than that. Slow, unreliable, and expensive given the down Time. Fiber optics would help but not coming soon enough..I am currently looking at LTD Broadband
44. i am able to work from home with internet access.
45. In our house we use the internet for everything we YouTube tv so we stream everything. My wife is a teacher and she has had trouble with the internet cutting out all the time
46. I very seldom have internet that works. It has become a large problem now while I am working from home. I had to get an additional internet drive thru Verizon so I am able to have service. This is a large additional expense for me.
47. As we do not have broadband availability where we live, my spouse, Debra, and I use the hotspot from our smartphones through Verizon to access the internet. She maintains a business as an artist, and I maintain a business as a psychologist. Without internet access, neither of us could operate our businesses. Without internet access, we would not be able to be competitive in our professions. Our current Verizon account has many limitations aside from the cost with overage fees. We check our account religiously to ensure we don't go over our allotted gigabyte usage.
48. I work from home and need to conduct on-line meetings and the DSL connection I have does not have enough band width. This along with my children being on line has made my online experience very difficult.
- 49.
50. We have sought out multiple internet providers, but unfortunately only have Frontier as an option with minimal speeds at best. We went without internet for over 3 months arguing with them to get it fixed last summer. With multiple agribusinesses, and one of them being extremely data heavy, we upload a ton of data to the cloud and utilize web based resources for our operations. When we can't readily access the information we need or get it to customers in a timely manner, this causes us to lose work hours and be unproductive. Time is money and our internet costs us a lot of both. With small children at home, streaming services are also utilized however we often find it buffering or having to reset the router. If we are working at home with children watching TV, it is very seldom we can all be utilizing the internet and someone is firing up their phone as a hotspot. Although the internet allows us to do our job and operate businesses in a rural setting, it is also extremely frustrating when simple tasks can't be completed due to the speed or lack of internet.
51. We have a Verizon hot spot which is slow and expensive to get enough broadband to stream or zoom.
52. Home connection enables me to research any topic and get current information on events happening near me. It connects us globally to places, people, and products. As far as hindering

goes, spotty connection, very slow service, and lack of service in parts of our state make it very difficult to even get contact information so that one could use other ways to communicate.

53. We are organic farmers living in a rural area. Although we host a broadband antenna on our silo, weather can interrupt the signal. Nearly all the research, marketing and ordering is done electronically.
54. The internet is the doorway to the world. Without access, or limited access, we cannot work from home, actively participate in distance learning, or have the same opportunities as areas with strong internet.
55. I live in a remote part of the county where no broadband goes (no matter how much I've begged), so I am forced to pay very high costs for satellite internet that barely qualifies as "high speed" (I average ~10 Mbps here). I am a college professor, and I use the internet virtually every day for work-related tasks. Since COVID-19 sent us all online, I use my home internet for work purposes even more, and spend a large percentage of my work time (sometimes more than 8 hours/day) online. This means I must have unlimited internet versus a set amount of data. I had been getting by -- barely -- with 10 gigs of data every month for personal internet use from my satellite provider, but now that I'm working exclusively from home have had to upgrade to unlimited data which costs \$100/month \*more\* than the other plan cost. In terms of the quality of my service, 10 Mbps isn't all that fast, so video often starts-stops-starts-stops or gets that spinning wheel of waiting, and forget about streaming services like Netflix. :(
56. In this time of crisis, we rely on our internet connection for a contact to the world. Being elderly, we can see these connections continuing to a certain extent even when the covid issues end.
57. At home our internet cuts out many times a day. When this happens, many times projects that we are working on either become delayed or lost completely. With the Safe Minnesota project webinars are essential. The lack of band width makes this difficult and sometimes impossible.
58. I can do many things, although I repeatedly lose connection, and have to keep switching back to the 5G network.
59. I work from home. Have to be online all day long to do that. I have not local internet and have to purchase satellite internet. There is a maximum 50MB monthly usage. If I go beyond that my next choice is to use a Cellular wireless hotspot, which I do. The satellite and the wireless hotspot are both impacted by either weather (satellite) or weak signal (hotspot), so, for online meetings (which comprise the majority of my day) I also have to call from a separate cell phone for the audio portion of the online meeting. This is just for work. The necessity to save bandwidth for work means I use the internet very sparingly for things like entertainment. For example, I never watch online movies, don't use any type of music streaming, service, and am careful about watching content on sources such as YouTube so as not to use up my monthly 50 GB allocation.
60. I work from home 3 days a week normally and now full time.
61. We have frontier in our location with very limited speeds. I have a home business and can't even download any large files. We need to travel to Mankato if large downloads are needed. Video conferencing is not an option for us, we need to use our cell services.
62. We use a Fixed Wireless solution, over Jaguar Le Center CVC Tower. When good it is OK. Often unreliable. Lots of restarts/resets.
- 63.
64. The signal is weak and limits my ability to work from home. Particularly when using video conferencing.

65. Switched from Frontier to Jaguar for phone and internet. Have had no phone problems and great speed on the internet.
66. Don't have internet at home other than through the cell phone. The kids and I have needed it to access school, work, and participate in meetings. Many times the signal strength was not enough to stay connected or be productive with limited connection.
67. I can run one device from my Internet currently. I pay \$50 a month to stream roku
68. We have been trying to get reasonably priced vhigh speed internet for 9 years. We have been on the list since February 2019 to have DSL wire run from our neighbors site to in front of our house Frontier is ridiculous, bit no other choice
69. We only have dsl service thru one provider and the speeds are far from adequate to support at home learning, work from home or small business traffic. Much less streaming anything.
70. Very slow connection with frontier, but it is all we get so I would say it hinders as we do a lot of sit and wait
71. I have been working from home since March due to Covid 19. I have found broadband coverage, however it would be very nice to have a faster coverage for a more competitive price. I believe it would benefit everyone in rural LeSueur County to have better options for internet coverage. This pandemic has shown that this is a necessity and could be an important tool for education and business development.
- 72.
- 73.
74. We have very limited coverage through Verizon hotspot and during the summer it becomes even less because the trees block us from getting a strong signal. I was told too many people are using the tower and the trees and houses block the signal from reaching us. Our iPads run very slow and we aren't able to complete some tasks. People stream movies etc, which we can't do with our accessibility. Plus we would be paying for more internet to use it for such things
75. We use satellite (Wildblue) from Northland Connect. It is acceptably fast (for our use), but expensive and limited in GB/month. This prevents us from using cloud-based backup/retrieval of business/personal data & limits our options for cloud-based software options. That said, it is probably slightly more secure than using cloud-based options. (Remains to be seen.)
76. High speed internet is critical for being able to work, especially important as work from home orders have been extended and our firm is likely working remotely well into 2021.
77. I rely on internet for work and entertainment
78. I will not be able to attend your online meetings because my hot spot internet is not reliable much of the time! I attempted to participate in 2 other local meetings within the past 2 weeks and could not maintain internet connections!! I have Verizon which is the only service that works at all at pur rural home.
79. We definitely use our internet, daily, for work and for personal. Sometimes this is put on hold because our internet isn't working, isn't fast enough, or simply is over run by too many devices.
- 80.
- 81.
- 82.

83. I have a home business and rely on the internet to work with clients in MN and in other states. I have been zooming with my 98 year old mother who is in a memory unit in WSP. Very cool way to interact with her and keep my social distance.

**The creation, attraction and retention of a skilled workforce is more important than ever to support community economic vitality. Please share your thoughts on how Le Sueur County is positioned to provide the high-quality workforce.**

1. We see our county creep "closer" to the metro every year, with new road improvements, further reaching suburban development, and part-time work from home becoming more common. We have an abundance of affordable living and workplace options, but these spaces need to come with similar network amenities to our urban MN centers.
- 2.
3. Agriculture has always been an essential pillar of society. With new innovations and new needs, I think Le Sueur County is positioned to be an epicenter of the agricultural field.
4. At the moment with the lack of high speed internet options, I would think it would be hard to attract businesses that require it. However once we have higher speed internet, I think Le Sueur County could be attractive for companies that are looking for lower cost rent options for their business, with close proximity to the cities and Mankato.
- 5.
- 6.
7. I think LS county is in an excellent situation. Our location is a huge advantage. We are close enough to the cities to get to a major mall, sporting event, or cultural event in an hour. However, we still have the rural living plus lakes that people desire. We have great county parks and other assets. I think we could attract more families with remote workers to our community. That would help our schools with enrollment too.
8. Not sure
9. I'm not sure I can speak to this - I'm not familiar with this project or the aspects of what this is about.
10. If schools are not able to to serve the families of skilled workforce, they won't move here or send their students here.
11. Many of our adult basic ed. (ABE) students are employees at several Le Sueur County businesses, the skills they learn through ABE make them more valuable to their business as well as helps them earn higher wages.
12. no comment
13. People are not going to want to live in a place that doesn't have up to date technology
14. Le Sueur County is filled with great manufacturing. Which brings about many great job opportunities. Le Sueur County (and nationwide really) - could make great strides in encouraging young people to explore jobs in the trades (mechanic, construction, etc). We have great trade schools in the area that offer wonderful training for skilled workers.
15. Le sueur is populated by educated professionals ready to make change in the workd for good.
16. Not sure.
17. The County is supported by agriculture in many key aspects, for farmers and agribusinesses to conduct their work and find quality workers and effective education and training for their workers and for entrepreneurs - a high quality workforce is essential for families and

communities and our county. Le Sueur County can be in a better position when the ability and capability to attract high quality workers and sustain and grow their opportunities is provided for within the boundaries of the county and beyond in southern MN.

18. inadequate internet service is impeding education, businesses and opportunities for residents to obtain jobs that are telework positions.
19. We would need to continue to grow employment opportunities that attract a skilled workforce, but housing affordability will keep residents in our area if they can work from home and thrive in that environment. We are working on more transportation options that will support travel to and from work settings as well. Broadband is very key to a thriving local economy especially supporting farmers, small business and self-employment.
20. working on better broadband
21. The quality of broadband in the county is not in the position to support the skilled workforce for community economic vitality.
22. TCU is a renowned school, it needs to be advanced in technology to remain there. Graduates will need access to on-line classes to further their education in every trade
23. Previously the home of Green Giant, just an hour outside the metro Twin Cities area, school system in place, hospital and medical systems in place, beautiful area to live and raise a family.
24. Le Sueur County will need to demonstrate and market that it has a robust & reliable High speed internet access in order to attract high technical talent to the County.
25. Le Sueur County's infrastructure and overall approach is truly backwoods. This region "despite its overall proximity to the Twin Cities as well as regional commerce centers" makes it feel like the region is located in the Alaskan tundra. This area has seemingly thrown in the towel and appears to have decided that they can do no better than being a haven for low-paying manufacturing jobs. The economic disparities will only continue to grow without true infrastructure, technology, and jobs growth in the tech sector. Le Sueur County is seen as an area of last resort by potential residents and has a negative reputation due to the lack of a strong technological backbone which could actually support stronger schools, higher paying jobs and actual economic growth.
26. Le Sueur County is unique in that commutes to large towns such as Mankato and to the Twin Cities suburbs are both reasonable. Improving access to internet can attract more young people to still largely rural Le Sueur County, and therefore attract added business.
27. I do not know.
28. Le Sueur does not have an abundance of technical employment opportunities. However, with the ever broadening usage of working remotely, it is a great place to be able to reside and still be able to work for metro companies. Additionally, small businesses can setup on more affordable real estate and still provide online services, provided a reliable broadband connection is available. Without it, it is very difficult to stay in business.
29. Many of the students at Cleveland School are going on to study technical and science after high school. The ability for them to work from home with a high speed connection may draw many of them back to make this area their home later in life.
30. Rural LeSueur needs more internet access - broadband!!!
31. A workforce of skilled employees is more of a direct result of companies and businesses willing to compensate for quality staff, until that happens the workforce will remain the same.
32. Not sure



33. Providing optimal internet to rural areas is crucial for attracting and retaining talent to the area. Without this, it may be challenging to attract young professionals and families to the area.
34. Residents of the county have excellent and world class skills. Additionally, it is a great place to live and raise families. Adequate high speed internet is critical to retain world class individuals in the area while allowing them to work locally, nationally and internationally from Le Sueur county.
35. Increase salary ranges to compete with metro
36. Below average
- 37.
38. Knowledge workers have a bright future. With decent connections they can work from anywhere. Excellent internet connection is essential for that.
39. I think we have excellent schools and access to post secondary training and education in close proximity. We have housing although cheaper housing is tough to find I am told.
40. I feel Le Sueur County, like many others, suffers from available inventory of affordable housing to support a wholesome workforce of high skills and support services and retail. As a resident of the Le Sueur area, I am deeply concerned that our local community is not welcoming, stuck in past hurts and not well managed by leadership. We are also hampered by a school district spit between two counties and two communities with old wounds exacerbating the problems. Accurate communication is at a bare minimum without a newspaper or radio station. I also feel communication from governmental entities (city, township, school and county) is suffering. It's as if we residents are cut off from what is happening unless we attend meetings. With this in mind, it seems citizens are removed from the process of what is happening and why. In the past, these entities have relied on local commercial communications (radio and newspaper) to get their message across. This is no longer happening. This effort is an example of something positive happening for sure. I realize communication can, but not always, cost money and can be viewed as a luxury. I feel it is a basic need. I also know that residents of the county who do not live on paved county highways have very limited reliable internet access and therefore that hampers their ability to work, study and play from home. However, even with reliable, door-to-door internet access, I do not feel that will be the magic bullet to position the community for success. Without working on cohesion, communication and the citizens' interests and needs, the community will continue to fracture.
41. Although LeSueur County is fairly rural, it is next to lots of mid to large cities, which means that there are a lot of people who live in the county but commute into work in nearby communities (St. Peter, Mankato, etc.).
42. Le Sueur County is in a position to be able to think outside of the box on how to best meet the needs of the community and to be able to provide a high-quality workforce.
43. It is imperative that we provide top of the line technology for all 3. I don't know that we are in that position yet
44. I feel that if we could tie communities together with a central, affordable theme, we could grow this area and have the ability to attract stronger skill sets to the area.
45. I am a sub-contractor for bev-com it would be really neat to work in my own backyard
46. As more of LeSueur County develops, the growth should attract more business and jobs to the area.

47. I don't have full enough knowledge to answer this question. It is my opinion that a skilled workforce usually will not consider Le Sueur County as a viable location to establish and maintain a vital economic community.
48. Le Sueur County offers many lakes that attract people for quality of life. This quality of life can only be achieved if people can balance their work and life activities. Today's world is on line. Without broadband speeds that can support the work side you will not attract the future generations of workers.
- 49.
50. Le Sueur County is positioned well within a 30-40 minute drive of many technical colleges and universities to meet their talent pipeline. Understanding the jobs that are there will need to push at the high school level for some of those trades. Along with attracting a high quality workforce includes retaining through community offerings such as housing, community ed & schools. Communities also need to truly think about how they are laying out their towns for growth - Le Center did a great job at creating their industrial zone whereas Cleveland put houses right next to theirs. This limits opportunities for companies as most anticipate pushbacks on expansions and locations from home owners. It's all a catch-22 at the end of the day, but promotion and marketing along with looking at long term planning and growth are key.
51. There are several broadband providers already in parts of the county. The townships and county support investing in high speed broadband.
52. Le Sueur County has a mature work-force with a great work-ethic. When I worked at Scott County, they wanted to hire people from Le Sueur County because of that work ethic. We are close to Northfield and Mankato colleges so also have access to the next generation of workers. Our high schools are excellent in preparing our youth for the future.
53. We love living in this county. We love that it is rural. What we see is young people leaving to pursue higher education but many of them return to raise their families here. It is affordable to live here. Great schools. It is safe. It is home.
54. Le Sueur county is a wonderful place to live. It is positioned 1 hour away from the Twin Cities and yet its strong agricultural ties keep the feeling of a rural community with rural values. However, in order for Le Sueur County to stay relevant and continue to attract a skilled workforce, it must provide services that people want and demand. The availability of internet is one of these key services. A strong internet connection is key to education, commerce, and entertainment. Without this backbone, the skilled workforce will seek out other areas to settle that offers these services.
55. Le Sueur County is situated near several institutions of higher education within a 50 mile radius, as well as the multiple K-12 schools (education = high-quality work force). Likewise, there are multiple trade, agriculture, and other skilled labor vocational opportunities, as well civic (county, state) jobs here. And those are just the ones that already exist, there are untold others yet to create. One other point about the attraction of this county: the lakes are what brought me here to live, and they plus other natural/wildlife features of the county are other obvious reasons people want to live here.
56. "Working from home" will probably increase when the virus issues end as employers find it a workable system.
57. Le Sueur County has everything to offer. The people and cost of living make it an excellent place to live.

58. We have people here of all education and experience levels in many industries from farming to manufacturing, health care, education, retail, restaurant, natural resource management, government and recreation, among others. We have educational systems in place and many, many opportunities/resources for youth to learn new skills, be exposed to different activities, and be supported in their careers. The same applies to adults entering/re-entering the workforce, retirees sharing their wisdom and time, and strong sense of community.
59. I think it's a conundrum. Le Sueur County has so many ideal places for people to enjoy - many of which people inhabit seasonally. Better connectivity might enable these people to spend whole work weeks instead of weekends in the county, which would increase dollars spent in the local economy. I don't have enough insight into capabilities of current residents, but, I do think that if we have capable people, many of them probably face the choice of moving to nearby cities such as the twin cities in order to work, whereas they might choose to stay in the county if they could work from home most of the time and only need to drive to the office occasionally.
60. Internet may exist but it needs to be upgraded; especially where there are clusters of homes in rural areas such as around lakes and new rural developments.
61. I have three engineers that work for me but because of poor internet they work from their homes in the south metro.
62. TCU Schools has very strong School-to-Work, CTE, Med Tech, Business Professionals of America, Engineering, Robotics, Project Lead The Way, Early Learning & Community Education programs that have grown to be the choice for student opportunity in our region. The school is ready and willing to engage other Economic Development, Chambers of Commerce and Community development leadership, when and as time and circumstances allow.
- 63.
64. As more and more businesses and schools develop remote work strategies. location of the work place is less important than the internet speed. Le Sueur county can provide provide affordable and desirable lifestyle that can encourage more residents to settle here.
65. People with an education don't want to live here because of the pay, mostly low skilled jobs so you need to drive to the Twin Cities or Mankato area and Montgomery isn't a town to draw people to live in town. We live in the country.
66. I believe it takes more than a strong internet connection to have a high-quality workforce but I don't feel very much of Le Sueur County is positioned to provide its workforce the tools to become highly skilled and quality.
67. Every county needs to have the ability to utilize technology run by the internet.
68. I work from home ... very poor quality internet
69. We are centered around Mankato, Keaton and Minneapolis metro areas. This provides a great spot for families to thrive and have good options for high quality work opportunities.
70. The lack of quality internet adds to the achievement gap between rural vs city individuals
71. I do not know a lot about county workers, however those that I do know are very skilled and knowledgeable about their positions. I would love to learn more about the different departments and the qualifications for those positions.
- 72.
- 73.
74. In our section of the county the support for a reliable internet is very limited and expensive. It would be very risky to rely on a service

75. No opinion (not familiar w/what LS County is doing or not doing.
76. As more high skilled positions can be done remotely, Le Sueur County will be able to attract talent to live and work within its communities which would otherwise have been too long of a daily commute to the Twin Cities.
77. Unsure
78. Le Sueur city has many professionals, highly trained and skilled workers, and could, need more if online, at home education, working was available. It will be very difficult to sell our rural property without adequate internet service!!
79. ...
- 80.
- 81.
- 82.
83. Many people are challenged with working at home with unreliable internet, but it is also apparent that upgrades in hardware is needed for many was well as training in using technology for a home business. I often hear that kids coming home from college can't do there homework and don't want to move back due to lack of access.

**To remain competitive, communities must support an environment of *innovation*; especially in the local business community, but also in health care, government and education. This can be demonstrated by support of new businesses and industries and smart use of technology across the community. How do you think Le Sueur County is doing in this area?**

1. The gap between those that are willing and able to utilize available online resources and those who are not will only continue to grow. Having worked with multiple industry groups in the past 5 years, it is clear to me we need to continue educating and empowering people to leverage even simple website tools available to anyone with internet access. Having access is a hurdle, but understanding how to leverage that access daily is a huge hurdle!
- 2.
3. I think Le Sueur County is doing well in supporting new businesses and industry. I would like to see more work in the smart use of technology, especially for education.
4. I don't think the County is doing well in this area at all. There is not a county Economic Development Director that is looking to attract businesses to the county. Also the communication from the county to its residents is lacking. Every department has their own Facebook page for example. The county needs one place to be disseminating information.
- 5.
- 6.
7. We could do better here. In terms of the community being able to see technology in action, I think our libraries might be our biggest advantage. They do fairly well in providing computers and internet access. They also are pushing kids with robotics and tablet usage. However, we could do a lot of cool things to showcase technology through our libraries. There is a pilot program in Oklahoma where libraries check out hot spots for the less connected, for example.
8. Fair
9. I cannot speak to thisUnsure

10. It's very tough to provide access to all with the high cost, with the coronavirus, we had to be creative with distance learning within the schools, we were able to pull it off, but there is much more to do.
11. I think Le Sueur County is doing well. More resource is out there for businesses. Having community functions people share ideas.
12. Not well
13. I believe Le Sueur County could make great strides in this area if the technology (internet connections) were more reliable. Just as I said, we have great industry and manufacturing, but I'm unsure how technology is used in these environments.
14. I think it has areas to grow. There are areas that broad band is not available at all, and this hinders small business growth and forces people closer to the metropolis to engage in commerce on a level playing field.
15. Adding fiber across the county.
16. In my view and experiences (35 + years in agriculture/education) we are doing okay. Room for growth and improvement. A first time "State of Agriculture" Survey conducted last year and findings revealed on March 24th, 2020 - National Ag Day - 42% think "Growth" is likely the change we will experience in business, 7% said they did not know, 37% shared no real change, and 15% indicated a decline. (134 respondents participated in the Survey. (<https://www.centerofagriculture.org/farm-business-manage>) I know we have people with sound work ethic, we have good resources, the human resources may be available - depending on how well persons are invited to participate, and the support and services that are provided or made available for them - things like health care, childcare, housing and broadband will influence the competitiveness and effectiveness of our County.
17. I think there are several areas in the county, outside of city limits that are under served due to adequate internet service-lack of service providers in the area as well as adequate speed internet for business and education.
18. I do think that across the county, our communities have very good plans for economic development and strong chambers of commerce. There is leadership in the county around supporting technology and working with local and state leaders on funding and support as well. However, this county could greatly benefit from innovative thinking and connecting stakeholders with one another such as this Blandin Foundation effort and there is a long way to go in achieving improved outcomes to serve the public in different ways.
19. can do better
20. Working with Bevcomm & Jaguar in expanding fiber to the county is a start to supporting the community.
21. OK, but it needs more, develop a business incubator, expand the Winco to generators for wind. still every farm operation needs high speed internet to make all of the business decisions.
22. Unsure
23. LeSueur County will need to show its adaptability to a changing work environment. They have demonstrated this by working with my company to allow us to establish ourselves in LeSueur County. Again, marketing this adaptability will position LeSueur County. Also helping the Agricultural industry by supporting technology improvements for their industry.
24. Le Sueur County is doing extremely poorly. The availability of technology simply isn't supported due to a poor internet backbone dominated by two archaic telecom companies who refuse to put resources into improving speed and access while lowering prices. The new businesses in the

area continue to be low paying manufacturing jobs. This does little to nothing to lift many out of borderline poverty.

25. I think the County really needs better support in health care and to some extent education. Unfortunately property tax increases to improve aspects such as these have fallen mostly on farmers, fueling tension where there really shouldn't be.
26. I do not know.
27. I believe that Le Sueur County is falling behind the times. The bandwidth and reliability is insufficient to reliably run a business or attract the workforce to reside here. Additionally, the lack of competition does not inspire the current providers to improve.
28. There is currently limited manufacturing in the county, but the ability to do the support work for health care and other industries from their homes will encourage workers to live in the area.
29. I truly do not know.
30. I believe overall the county as a whole has a positive outlook for this initiative.
31. Not great
32. While there are clearly areas that are served by high speed internet within the country, there are also areas that have very few options aside from dial-up
33. This is an opportunity for continued growth. Much excellent work has been done, but seems incomplete at this time.
34. Improving! Broadband will be great. Website has improved so much. GIS and property tax information is great
35. Average
- 36.
37. I have been a resident here for ten years, I that time I have seen businesses close and infrastructure deteriorate.
38. I think it would be great if we had more partnerships between communities. Le Center as a municipality is very difficult to work with. New Prague chamber is also very difficult and does not think outside the box. I think the education is good.
39. I believe there are individuals and organizations in the county that do support innovation but, in my view, are somehow hampered. Is that because they are not joined together across the miles? I don't really know. It's really hard to know what is happening within the local community and how it relates to the rest of the county. There are some fantastic new industries in Le Center but I have no idea if they are supported by the local business community. In the Le Sueur area, one situation getting a lot of attention in the business community is the mall. The EDA has been at work on attracting a developer from outside of the community to renovate it and supposedly has secured an option. This has been an abiding issue in the community. But, the EDA doesn't even timely publish its minutes on the city's website. At one point this winter they were behind by at least 6 months. I understand technology and its use is really up to par at the new justice center and at TCU schools. I know that St. Anne's School in Le Sueur recently received a donation for hardware and as they went about buying Chromebooks a parent interceded and found a way for them to leverage their dollars for more machines through his business connections. I believe Cambria gets a lot of media attention for its use of technology. And, as for health care, I really don't hear much. We are fortunate to have a hospital in Le Sueur and in New Prague. I realize I've rambled through this answer...so...perhaps we're not doing as well as we could.

40. I don't know much about innovation in LeSueur County. I tend to think of it as being more of a reactive county than a proactive county.
41. Mediocre, from what I know, but I may not be well informed.
42. I think better than some counties but much can be improved. Covid19 has taken a dramatic toll and yet people are actually more supportive now. Much of this evolves around communications and making people aware of everything that is happening.
43. overall good, but not as good as it could be. limited, cost effective options for people to access information makes it difficult to have a consistent level of interaction.
44. Good
45. We are behind in the technology in my opinion. I struggle just to get online most days.
46. From my viewpoint after being a resident of Le Sueur County since 1996, Le Sueur County falls short in this area. I frankly see a stagnant business environment.
47. I don't know? If Le Sueur county is doing it they are not advertising it! We need to have an action plan that improves all areas of the online community and then we need to advertise it make sure people know what we have to offer.
- 48.
49. I honestly don't think we do enough to support our small and new businesses. We own a small precision ag company and have never been reached out to by anyone in regards to marketing, support, etc. Small businesses have to be ready to do their own leg work. I do think they do a good job at helping grow and expand established companies in the area.
50. Not anywhere well enough. Both agribusiness and home businesses need better internet service.
51. Le Sueur County is unique in that the northern part is more "metro", and the southern part is more rural/farm. Le Sueur County is now part of the world-renowned Mayo Health Care System. Our government leaders are meeting 7 months each year to collaborate and share ideas and learn together (County and City officials, looking to the future to add Township officials and School Districts) . Our high schools are providing excellent preparation for our youth to succeed. I think that most government entities in the County work to create an environment welcoming and supportive to new businesses and industries, while striving to retain existing businesses. There have been a few times over the last several years where Mankato and/or Normandale have provided classes in Le Sueur County locations.
52. I am embarrassed to say that I do not know everything that the county residents/businesses offer. A local network would be so useful to know what is in our backyard.
53. Le Sueur county has the potential and desire to be innovative and competitive. However, expand or grow, it must have a strong internet network. I believe Le Sueur County needs a stronger internet availability to grow and attract companies and skilled people.
54. I don't see us as particularly innovative (or even \*welcoming\* of innovation) at all. Rather, I see this county as one who likes the keep things as they've always been. The county is conservative politically, but also socially, characteristics and mindsets that are less open to innovation or change. We could do a LOT better in this area, in my opinion.
55. Communication technology improvements can only benefit the businesses and people in rural areas.
56. Le Sueur County is trying but the lack of band width definitely hinders smart technology.

57. Very poorly. There is a lot of cronyism and "old guard" behavior/attitudes. People are afraid of new technology as it seems to represent a loss of their way of life. There is a lot of tribalism.
58. I don't have enough information to answer this question.
59. Le Sueur county is more of a place to live than work as there is a lack of new non-manufacturing and non-government companies offering jobs.
60. Without some major investment in broadband service I think small businesses, especially home business will not flourish.
61. See above. We NEED engagement from Econ Dev Leadership, Community Clubs and C-of-Cs.
- 62.
63. We have work to do in the smaller communities to attract and support businesses large and small. .
64. Not good in job creation. Unskilled workers out here. The skilled workers may live here but drive to Mankato or the Twin Cities for good jobs.
65. Hard to say, the initiatives the county or cities are doing are not always evident.
66. Great
67. Not good
68. Rural LeSueur county lacks sufficient broadband service for education, work from home and home based business requirements. Reliable service will be required for the county to attract and maintain companies that require reliable bandwidth. DSL is NOT sufficient to handle this.
69. Very open to new business, but some areas seem to be over regulated especially in the permits and building areas.
70. I believe there is a significant need for improvement in the technology used in LeSueur County, everyone in LeSueur, no matter their address should have competitive options for high speed internet coverage.
- 71.
- 72.
73. Poorly in this area
74. No opinion (not enough info on this question).
75. Le Sueur County seems to be lacking quality healthcare options do to its rural nature. Future innovation in remote medicine may improve quality of life for residents.
76. Unsure
77. We are seriously lagging behind, especially in our, southwestern corner of the county, Ottawa township in particular!!
78. I love our school, Cleveland. But the internet resources for Kasota are very limited. Most of our other needs are met in St. Peter which is Nicollet co
- 79.
- 80.
- 81.
82. Commercial areas and cities are better set up but even there the strains are being felt with the demands on the capacity. More is needed in more rural points work is being done to identify where the need is.



**We know community residents who lack computers, technology skills and Internet connections are likely to fall behind in economic and social well-being. Please share your perspective on how you see this playing out in Le Sueur County. Please describe the impact on your family and other community members resulting from this digital [equity] divide.**

1. For children and families, access to devices through the school system can be an excellent bridge. Public resources such as libraries are another excellent place for all individuals to gain access. My own personal access to both these resources in my youth fostered development of skills I would otherwise be lacking. That said, access at home is critically important to all families and creative ideas to pair internet access, and hardware to those in need are needed.
- 2.
3. Working with youth, I see the disconnect between those who have access to technology and those who do not. I do fear that in the new digital age, those without tech will fall behind greatly.
4. I think it would be great to have a county wide program working with the various schools and community education programs to help get people these skills that are needed in this day and age.
- 5.
- 6.
7. COVID-19 sure did make this apparent for the school district. Kids need access for school work. If we want minority-owned businesses to thrive, they need access too. Again, COVID-19 put a big shift, for example, to online ordering. How many businesses were left out because they could not make the shift?
8. Rural schools in our County typically have "bring your own technology to school" while some schools in Scott County have 1:1 from second grade and up. This summarized the true difference. Rural students are falling further and further behind today's technologically advanced society.
9. Particularly now with COVID 19, more working at home and our heavy reliance on technology, this is critical for all areas.
10. Lack of connections promotes the social, emotional, and equity concerns we fight to decrease.
11. Our adult students needing to become proficient on the skills fall behind those that have access at home
12. For some residents who lack computers or internet connections it can be expensive.
13. They cannot access information they need when technology is not keeping up in this area of the state. People are not able to acquire jobs if they don't have computer skills
14. I serve a demographic that falls into this category - low income families. Many of them do not have access to internet connections or devices (computers, phones or tablets) due to income shortages. We have learned a great deal on the impacts on this population during the COVID-19 shutdown and how these people stay connected with others outside of this apartment. It's been emotionally trying for them.
15. I have previously lived "out in the country" and did not have access to broadband. I was forced to Drive to Jordan even on weekends to do computer based tasks that could have easily been accomplished from home if broadband was available. I eventually moved into the Le Sueur city limits because of this so I could have access to broadband.
16. Not sure.

17. Our family will be able to keep up and is currently connected and able to utilize the digital resources. We have the means and the capacity - a good internet connection. So, I anticipate within our family we are okay. Concerns are real with some areas of the county - less infrastructure - cell towers, distribution lines in more remote locations - cause concern and some disparity with residents that are located in certain areas that are more remote. I think the aging population likely will experience more of the digital divide impacts and those that are living less connected to the technology grid - as a result of no or limited access.
18. This could not be more critically evident than in the past few months. Schools went to digital learning only due to the pandemic and there were students without the technology and/or internet to continue learning. In some cases, the school was able to help provide a device, however internet was still a significant barrier. Some had no internet but more common was the lack of adequate internet service to do the digital learning, or families of several students vying for the little bandwidth they have to complete work, in addition to parents who were also ordered to work at home. In addition clinics closed to patients for routine visits and mental health providers. They were encouraging virtual visits. Those without this technology are cut off from care.
19. Technology itself changes so rapidly from year to year and the constant demand for "upgrades" and upkeep with bigger and better can be really scary for the average person that they not only cannot afford it, but do not have the ability to sustain this. There really is a digital divide and we've seen this with those that we serve at the county and try to reduce barriers for them on equity and access but this remains a challenge coupled with other issues such as transportation in greater MN.
20. haves and have nots
21. There are many families with school age kids or college students that are not able to access the studies needed to keep up with others that have the capability of high speed broadband.
22. When the limited internet is out of service, the whole world stops, no education, no productivity from work from home, and limited connection to the outside world. I can't imagine the impact on education alone in a household without internet
23. The confirmation students from our congregation struggled with their internet connection during our Zoom class times. These students already struggle academically. The frustration of the connection decreased their ability to participate, keep their attention, and to learn.
24. For my family this is not a big issue as we are fairly tech savvy. This will be an issue for families who are not well connected or understand how to connect digitally as the world is constantly moving deeper into the digital world.
25. With the advent of distance learning across all Minnesota schools since March of this year, the disconnect of those who have versus those who don't became extremely apparent. The digital divide led to "at many times" only half of students able to attend online group classes and discussions. Grading structure was drastically changed due to the disparities and virtual lack of internet access for a large percentage of students. The lack of available options, again, only stifles that digital lifeline and needed access.
26. Farmers with limited access to internet have trouble participating in our programming online. This is especially difficult during the COVID-19 outbreak, where in-person events cannot be held.
27. Our limited sources of connection that are reliable are putting many businesses behind
28. The rural community is aging. It is tough for the younger generations to consider moving out here to replenish the community because it doesn't have what is deemed as an essential

"Utility" available. Additionally, while it is becoming more available, it is prohibitively expensive. And there are not currently, an abundance of employers to inspire the decision. The level of service provided has never been adequate since we've been out here. Only recently has unlimited access been available. It is still at insufficient speeds and with frequent interruptions.

29. Having been a computer geek for many years, my family has always had access to equipment. For those that don't have that luxury, there needs to be a way for those that are financially in need to be able to get equipment at an affordable price.
30. Less fortunate people will become more behind.
31. I see little impact on my family. I also believe that people who want access regardless of their economic and or social status will find access to it. Most prioritize it for their social media footprint.
32. As a teacher I see first hand that students struggle & fall behind with poor online access
33. We have children who will rely on internet for education as, especially during this time, we are relying on virtual, distant learning. Without that, the education of children will suffer. High speed internet will support the academic foundation needed by children with the hope that they return to the community and give back by sharing their talents and skills. While not currently observed in all areas of Le Sueur country, the message should be one of support of connectivity for citizens throughout the county to friends and loved ones throughout the state, nation, world. The message should also be one of support for young professionals to attract new families and new talent to the area.
34. Having lived in both major urban and remote rural areas I appreciate what internet technology brings and the importance of reliable high speed service. Additionally, with family members in rural areas that have reliable fiber optic i know that they can get as good of service as large urban centers and this helps narrow the opportunity gap between these areas. I enjoy living in our rural areas and need reliable broadband so that my career and my children's education does not fall behind.
35. More and more people are getting ipads.....at all ages. More and more people are working from home and kids may continue to work at home? Snow days etc
36. Most evident during the covid-19 sheltering. Many communications went digital. My internet would not support the added need.
- 37.
38. There is speculation that many urban jobs may become work-from-home after the virus pandemic winds down. That could actually be a good thing for Le Sueur County.
39. I would agree and we are not that far from the Twin Cities
40. Affording a fully functioning computer and internet connection is a challenge economically. How does one afford a computer to enhance one's economic status if one does not earn a wage that supports that? That opportunity is lacking for many individuals in this county. Then commuting for work is the option. That is a major time and money-taker and so that limits one's ability to participate in county life. This shows up in one's ability to find time to participate and to shop in the county for basics and extras. I can only imagine how difficult it would be not to have basic or intermediate technology skills. This is a complete barrier in my mind because I have seen how intimidating that can be to the person. If a person hasn't grown up with computers they are hampered but still have so much to offer! To me, those individuals need one-on-one guidance and even the desire to learn technology. We are missing so much without their input. I am currently unemployed and am working to start two businesses. I am investigating the start up of

a brick and mortar retail business in Le Sueur and am starting a consulting service. The consulting service is basically ready to launch. We own an outdated computer that makes navigating the internet challenging and have planned to upgrade. We get along fine with basic functions like email and some limited web browsing but nothing fancy like video, Zoom or Facebook. Then came corona virus and we are reluctant to spend the dollars. This is hampering my ability to launch the websites and communication/marketing strategy and sales. That's hampering my finances and future. My partner is provided a computer for work and that is going fine but if I use the Internet while my partner is at work that can, at times, inhibit both of our functionality because of the old machine. Zoom takes place on my smartphone and even that is limiting because of being able to see everyone and also work with supporting documents for the meeting. I do know the St. Anne's Parish in Le Sueur has had significant success using digital means to reach out during the health crisis. But, I'm sure they are not reaching those without knowledge or means. I'm frustrated our local grocery store does not address its news on its website regarding covid and its policies nor have they initiated any sort of online ordering or grocery pick-up. My friends are mostly technology educated but I have a few who struggle with communication using online means and one is in business.

41. I don't know much about this.
42. In Le Sueur County, there are many families that fall behind in economic and social well-being due to lack of technology, skills, and connection. I work with many families that follow the crops and reside in the county for a short period of time. There is a high need for internet connections, technology and training. Without these resources families are not able to access education and other resources that they need.
43. It a generational issue..however if all out schools has top of the line technologies those issues will eventually be diluted. Everyone has made progress in this county.
44. Definitely not a consistent message. You either need to have a) cable TV (which only provides some information), b) a form of internet service which is prohibitive in cost for some families or c) word of mouth which isn't consistent. Affordable broadband allows for many to have access they would not otherwise have.
45. We are having trouble working fromhome
46. I am able to go into my work in the evenings so I can use the internet and my daughter can do her online homework. It should not be necessary to do that since we pay for internet service each month.
47. I compare the effects of the digital divide in Le Sueur County on this concern to that of the Navajo Nation. There, our fellow Americans lack clean water, adequate housing, poor roads, and a deplorable access to healthcare and education to name a few things. Our broadband access in Le Sueur County is like the food desert in the Navajo Nation.
48. It seems to me that people with little or no internet are having a hard time gather information and facts. The digital divide is bringing people farther apart due to a lack of good information.
- 49.
50. I think we are quick to assume all families and children have access to technology and internet at home when many do not. With current changes to schooling, we should be able to have a better picture of how many students needed to check out chromebooks, iPads, etc. from the data schools will now have. With not being given the ability to learn both the technology itself and have access to information, we know students will continue to just be playing catch-up rather than excelling.

51. Our neighbors children were unable to do some of their homework and this was before the pandemic. We are unable to zoom with our children who live in the Pacific Northwest.
52. I would see our public library system and community education programs in Le Sueur County needing to step up by offering beginning level classes in the use of technology (internet) so that the older folks do not feel left out. There are many residents here in Montgomery with no internet or smart phone and no intention of every having them. This makes it very difficult when you have the younger generation starting to move into leadership roles in government and community organizations, and using social media and the internet as their primary, and sometimes only way of communicating. People feel left out. The digital divide is very evident and I think more training at all levels to explain the need for using alternate methods of communication is crucial at this time. In a generation or two, this may not be needed as everyone will be "online and connected". Until then, we need to educate so that family and community members do not feel left out. Personally, I belong to a couple of organizations where several members do not have email, so I print the notices/newsletters/etc. and U.S. mail them to those without the connections.
53. The recent impact of Distance Learning is giving us a snapshot of the diversity of need in our county. Not just the access to internet connection but the cost associated with it.
54. The lack of internet connection is tied directly to people's choices of where to live. This is an important part of daily life, as well as education. No one wants to live where they cannot connect to the internet, or the internet availability is limited. This limited internet ability drives friends and employees to locations that have strong internet connectivity. Unfortunately, the local schools, and businesses miss out as these people settle and grow in areas that offer this connectivity.
55. There's no question Le Sueur County, at least my corner of it, is far behind in terms of our online capabilities. As I mentioned in an earlier question, I'm in a remote part of the county, and while I have the career that allows me the technology devices I need, my internet access options are severely limited and highly over-priced, which makes that digital divide even wider.
56. We fall in the demographic of elderly farm families. Modern communication technologies are increasingly necessary in business and social situations. Even medical issues are now dealt with over the internet - it would be helpful for the doctor to actually see the patient instead of just talking to them as is currently the case in many rural areas.
57. Without consistant web services it make thinking about this very hard.
58. We are only as strong as our weakest link. The digital divide will continue to increase the socio-economic gap, and the "bubble phenomenon". One huge area of need is education on how to successfully sort and use the massive amounts of (dis)information, to think critically and to understand the big picture. Anything we can do to increase connectivity and educate on safe, practical use of digital interactions is good for the community overall.
59. I believe individuals who don't consider this as a place to live might do so they had the conveniences that the internet supports. For example - I am very rural and have no internet infrastructure (but do use a satellite at high cost with poor bandwidth and a limit to my montly usage) yet, I can order items over the internet that are delivered directly to my door. Those deliveries are made by local residents - so more deliveries equals more jobs. It's also possible that more individuals could create and market products directly or through online distributors if they had the same online connectivity as those in populated metropolitan areas. And it's probable that local businesses would increase delivery offerings if there was a robust online ordering infrastructure. That would increase jobs in the county. As far as family impact, I pay

about \$100 per month to Visasat for ok bandwidth (but not good enough for online meetings with both audio and visual) and a limitation to 50MB per month. My company pays Verizon another approximately \$100/month for a hotspot. That's out of the reach of most people. But as somebody who moved back to MN, let me be VERY clear - our overall cost of living is lower, we are not taxed on food or clothing. And... internet providers are charging higher fees in metro areas. I pay perhaps \$20 more for satellite than I would for service in a metro area. So the issue isn't price, it's bandwidth and usage limitation. I am thankful that I can work from home under this arrangement and have a job that allows me to live where I do. I know I'm an anomaly, but want to make sure Le Sueur County knows that people like me exist, are very happy to be here. If I was paying my \$100/month for the bandwidth improvements, etc, and that allowed the county to collect taxes or offset infrastructure that is deemed critical, that would be ok with me.

60. Just need faster internet that is dependable and affordable.
61. We as a family and small business have the technical ability but can't leverage these skills with our current service provided by frontier.
62. We are starkly divided by Haves/Have-Nots. We also support and benefit from a very diverse ethnically leveraged and invested region. Many of our population are out of current communication bubbles.
- 63.
64. We are fortunate to have the means to pay for the service that is available. If we do not do something to bridge the digital gap for those who cannot afford or do not have access to services we only widen the divide of the haves and have nots.
65. Since distance learning with TCU, my granddaughters have had some trouble with the Frontier internet and getting their work done. They were at my house and had to have "lunch" with one of the girl's teacher. No problem with my Jaguar connection.
66. I think many how want that skill set over a certain age seek it out otherwise I think the schools of been integrating technology in its curriculum for several years to were most have the necessary skill sets to allow them to do most jobs. For those looking to work in a technology based position it will require for education beyond the traditional k-12 school system.
67. I watch my kids come him from school and utilize our computers at home. They need to be equipped with their own devices.
68. When technology moves fast and broadband initiatives move at a snail pace ... you are never going to be able to keep up
69. It's tough for anyone to embrace new technology when there isn't sufficient bandwidth to support it. Rural residents will not mess with anything requires stronger download speeds like streaming. Those folks who lack the bandwidth are held back from embracing new technology without a struggle.
70. I see this as a true challenge as we struggle to allow our kids keep up with thier peers because of the lack of resources that everyone else has. Homework takes longer and at times has to wait til they are at school to be finished
71. I have seen many individuals who struggle with technology. Most often it is just lack of knowledge, however for others it is due to lack of availability. With the recent events I believe it will be even more important to bridge that gap going forward in order to assist those who fall into this category. Do myself and my family, through a long search we have found internet coverage, however one single option for reliable coverage is truly not acceptable in opt current society.

- 72.
- 73.
74. If children need to do distance learning again, we need to help with a better system. Right now I don't think a business would want to move to the underserved part of the county
75. I do believe having access to fiberoptic or other options rurally (vs just satellite options) HELPS people stay connected & skilled in technology. That said, the cost of installing to each rural home could be prohibitive. (At least that is what Century Link says when we ask about getting "service" here.)
76. I am certain this is true. Providing internet connectivity for students during this recent pandemic is a perfect example of why widely available access to quality internet is so important. Thankfully we have access to both devices and connectivity.
77. It is great
78. Doing facetime with remote families, observing grandchildren's concerts, presentations, and now "virtual" events is nearly impossible...certainly not reliable!
79. Again, Kasota is definitely behind in technology
- 80.
- 81.
- 82.
83. Schools are a huge avenue of support.....but not everyone has kids in school and access to training and support needed to maintain and use technology.

**What do you believe the county's marketing message is as we work to attract people and investment to the area? Does that message match the reality of what you observe? What else should we be doing to strengthen Le Sueur County to make it more attractive for development and to improve the quality of life?**

1. Small town local communities, with close proximity to big regional amenities. From my home outside a town of 4,000 in Le Sueur County, I can be at a major retail center in 25 minutes, a local state park in 30, and the airport and other twin cities destinations in 50. We have access to many of the same resources and a significantly lower cost of living (~\$31,000 less than the 7 county metro for a family of 4 per year). Marketing remote working opportunities with this project would be an excellent way to entice people to consider living here.
- 2.
3. Being new to the county myself, I was surprised at the amount of growth and opportunity in the county. We need to market that better.
4. Again this goes back to communication, I don't see the county marketing itself at all.
- 5.
- 6.
7. I do not see a coordinated message at the county-level. I think the potential is HUGE for the county in this area. Again, we have much to market, especially in and around Le Sueur with our industrial base.
8. Have not really viewed any focus in our County to attract business. - Stronger support for schools - Better promotions to attract new businesses - Investment in our main streets - Diversity training and events

9. Communication - I live in Le Sueur county and was not aware of this, but I also am not having internet access or technology issues. Sorry if I am not more help here.
10. Connecting each day every day around the world. Can the everyday person do that? Most likely not.
11. Great community to live and work in, however, younger families would not move into the area without access to internet.
- 12.
13. If we could bring in a large employer
14. I believe the County's approach to marketing has been very little. Many of the cities in the county have been left to develop marketing plans and work with future developers to make advances locally. I believe a more united effort for marketing would be beneficial. I believe the housing stock in Le Sueur County is very very short. It would be nice to see if a push for increased housing options would accompany or be paired with any marketing done for future development.
15. I don't actually know what the counties marketing message is, I dont recall ever seeing it.
16. The economy will shift to more people working from home in the future. Promote proximity to metro and Mankato, good schools, lower cost of living and the lakes.
17. Our message should be that we are working to support the residents of the county with the best resources we can purchase given the fiscal resources that are available. It is important to negotiate for the best possible resources and also be responsible with the financial funds available. Le Sueur County is located in a productive region of the state and midwest. A great place to live, learn, raise a family and support a productive business. Fertile soils, sufficient water resources make for good growing - location to markets also contributes to the macro climate. Our county is a healthy location, sound education systems and many opportunities for continued life long learning. Come and grow here in Le Sueur County! In terms of the message matching what is observed - not in all instances - if broad band limitations prevent one from tele-work, tele-learning, tele-consumer needs - then ; TELLing people to come to Le Sueur County will not allow us to retain and sustain them. It is important to "Get this right."
18. I think that the messaging should be that this is a county that provides the framework for residents and their families to learn, grow and thrive personally and professionally. I don't think we are there yet, but I like that we have a small rural setting. Adding technology will improve access to education (K-12 and college), opportunities for employment, business development and grow, as well as to improve access to health care
19. A county working to make connections for all! Yes it does, I believe our leaders in business, education, health care and government do want to improve access, equity and affordability in this area and leading the way with efforts such as bringing key people together to connect in this effort is really putting us on the right path!
20. improve access to broadband
21. Enhance Education & local businesses with Fiber
22. Transportation is key, maintaining good roads, for truck traffic. Also the need for social/recreational attractions, but that will follow with business development. Fiber ring is key to bringing economic development
23. Get rid of the Jolly Green Giant - Old News. Accentuate location on Interstate 169. Accentuate churches working together: Big mobile Feed My Starving Children drives.



24. In my area of the county (Derrynane) getting reliable High Speed internet is critical
25. The area is touted as being a choice for growth and opportunity. However, the reality is very different. With reliable internet access wrongly viewed as an option for entertainment, ISPs price the high speed service tiers out of reach for all but the top 10-25% of earners. Affordability and a change in thinking is needed as the internet is no longer a luxury but an essential utility like electricity and water.
26. I would say that the history of the county, its unique culture from Czech and Irish settlement, and its proximity to large towns/cities can be a powerful attractant to folks. We just need expanded internet infrastructure to bring more young professionals here.
27. I. Have not heard any marketing messages from them.
28. Le Sueur County should be promoting that businesses and families can thrive out here. However, without competitive, affordable, reliable internet access, that just isn't the case in these times. Remaining status quo, which will be falling farther behind is going to make it completely untenable. Businesses and new home development will require high speed internet as surely as they require water, electricity, and a heating fuel source.
29. Need to highlight the strength of the educational systems available. The recreational abilities should be a point of focus.
30. We need more internet access.
31. I believe growth and development does need / require advertisement and support of local governments. I also believe that emphasis on this growth should be at a rate that does not overwhelm the current infrastructure.
32. Allow competition for internet providers
33. High speed internet availability will offer the support needed by young professionals to come to the area and start new businesses. It also allows families to stay connected during the current challenging times. While
34. It is a beautiful area with wonderful people. I think completing and filling in the high speed broadband gaps can help make the area an attractive option for great people and improve the ability of the talent people here to stay.
35. More restaurants and activites. There isnt A ton in the county. Many go to the cities
- 36.
- 37.
38. Don't know how to answer this one
39. The ruralness of our area is great, we have great people and agriculture. I think we need to work more with the diversity of our area and make it a strength and be open to that.
40. I don't believe there is any marketing message at all locally or county-wide. What to do about that? Let's start with communicating with the citizens and among each other and I'm not talking about complaining or continuing to bemoan the situation. I'm talking about meeting each other and finding common ground, heck I know just one person in Waterville and that's the only person I know east or south of Le Center. And, we need the younger citizens (20s, 30s, 40s) and to show them how communities can do for themselves, be cordial and take positive action. I know the willing are out there beyond all of the complaining clutter on Facebook community sites. Our county is ripe for great ideas....we have a major US river, a beautiful lake country, incredible parks and lots to offer for local food production plus modern agriculture, recreation

and economic possibility. Plus, we are right on the edge of two metros where people need outlets. Our location is ripe, seriously.

41. I don't know anything about LeSueur County's marketing message.
42. Le Sueur County: Investing in each other We are one
43. I have no idea what it is, and I read virtually everything. It is apparent at an international LEVEL we need to bring MFG home and where better than in this county. Cut the taxes, sell location of this county , and availability of skilled labor...
44. Truthfully, I haven't seen much.
45. Yes
- 46.
47. I'm unsure what the County's marketing message is at the moment. A focus on investing in the infrastructure is important, and starting with a robust broadband connection throughout the County is extremely important.
48. Le Sueur county is a majority farming county. We need to allow businesses like Westwood to upgrade their facilities. We need to promote/add attractions to the lake community.
- 49.
50. I honestly am not sure what the message is. I did not grow up here, I moved here because it was in the middle of where I worked and where my family lived. I think as a parent, the odd school system structure for the area is one that frustrates me living where I do in the county. I know other parents say the same thing. I also think there needs to be a more cohesive look county wide at businesses and what families want or need to thrive rather than city to city.
51. High speed broadband is now a necessity for everyone. Rural residence deserve the same service that city people are used to.
52. County's marketing message - a great place to live, work, and play. It does match the reality of what I observe -- Le Sueur County has a tourism guide that has been published for many years now highlighting all 10 cities and the county, recreational opportunities, etc. The Le Sueur County Officials Association has been partnering with the publisher since 2016 to make the Guide the best it can be. We have several major industries, and a thriving ag industry. To strengthen and make us more attractive for development and to improve quality of life, we need to actively promote what we have, identify what we need, and provide contacts for inquiries. We could reach out to the Metro/Mankato/Rochester areas to let them know that we are here, we have resources and availability to expand their business in a new location. Bring living-wage jobs and improved recreational opportunities will improve the quality of life. We need to get the word out that the cost of living in Le Sueur County is lower than most metro areas and we have a great "family-oriented" environment that is safe to raise a family in.
53. Le Sueur County is such a good place to live. Small towns, lake country, farmland. There is a balance to encouraging development and and not losing our rural feel. I would welcome industry and business to our county but if we never see a Walmart Superstore I'd be happy. I am more inclined to support local small businesses.
54. EDUCATION! Le Sueur county needs a strong education system. It needs to attract strong, passionate teachers and be known for a strong education system. This will draw more young, skilled families to the Le Sueur area. A strong education system will draw young skilled people to our communities and they will bring energy and innovation with them. We need to focus on our education systems and give people a reason to live / stay / settle in Le Sueur County.

55. I'm actually not that interested in supporting development if that means encroaching on the beautiful, natural parts of the county that attracted me here in the first place. I like the smaller towns and the bucolic wildlife spaces. That said, I also believe we should fully support the commerce we DO have here (i.e. the small businesses in towns) by limiting development of "chain" businesses in the interest of supporting local people and their local offerings (i.e. family stores and restaurants, etc.)
56. Not sure how the county is handling this issue.
57. I think they are trying and gaining ground.
58. This is a huge topic and probably best left to greater minds than mine. That being said, I say worry more about investing in current infrastructure, and families/businesses that are already here, than attracting others to come here. Invite UBI, UHC and free tuition programs to pilot here. Explore county-wide compressed work weeks. Seek out funding to invest in work-from-home, online school, entrepreneurship programs. Double down on recruitment of coaches and therapists who specialize in helping people process change. Make it possible for every high school student who wants to go to college to do so. Analyze needs and trends and encourage young people to train to fill those gaps here. Set up exchange and study/work abroad programs that send students and workers/families to other states and/or countries to broaden their mindsets, experiences and skills, with the understanding that they will use this investment in them to return to their community and improve it; and invite families from other states/countries to spend a year or two here to bring what they know to make a difference here. I don't think we need more outside investors or "do-gooders" who are all about their own interests. That never works to close disparity gaps.
59. I don't know what the message is, so I don't know if it matches any reality that I observe. As stated, I conserve my internet use mostly for work, so I don't really read much about the county. I do think Le Seuer county is close enough to the twin cities to promote that it's a good alternative - living close enough to enjoy the benefits of the twin cities, but enjoying more the natural benefits of MN at an affordable cost. Same rings true for attracting businesses - they are close enough to colleges to get very competent entry level workers, and I assume the county is much more reasonable as far as cost than the twin cities.
60. Leaders in this county do not plan for the future. There is a lack of housing developments and laws that make it difficult to build in the country. The trend is to support the farmers and not the common person.
61. We really enjoy living and working in our community and the only really issue is broadband access at higher speeds than what we currently have.
62. We need to identify and communicate reasons, opportunities to publicly accessible businesses & institutions (existing & potential new) that work together to create a narrative and common story about Le Sueur County. A story that evokes a mind placement sense of 'Destination & Arrival' that gives reason to visit, in the hopes that some choose to stay and become a part of the story and legacy.
- 63.
64. We need to work on building our communities capacity to spark growth and innovation.
65. The towns need to clean themselves up. Lots of trashy looking houses the city doesn't tell people to clean up. The streets in Montgomery are bad. The roads in the county are bad. Most of the road money goes to the Twin Cities not outstate. Good paying jobs.

66. First I would need an understanding of any message they have been sending to then ask what analysis has been done to understand what we do well as a county, our clusters, and what are we trying to attract.
67. Yes
68. Poor
69. Working to build the infrastructure today to help strengthen your position tomorrow. This message is supported by the recent grants and scheduled projects in the county as observed in my area east of Heidelberg. Continuous improvement is key to supporting existing and future businesses looking to move to LeSueur county.
70. Towns seem pretty good, taxes are high that deters development
71. I believe communities in LeSueur County need to do more to assist small businesses and possibly offer tax breaks to large companies who may be interested in creating opportunities within LeSueur County. It may be helpful in the upcoming meetings to brainstorm as to the types of organizations that would be beneficial to the county and then work to determine the best way to attract this organizations.
- 72.
73. jkk
74. We have improved some roads and we have a good deal of lakes to interest people. Cleveland is adding to the school I think we need bike trails, safer intersections for crossing, more single level housing, help for small businesses
75. No experience/opinion.
76. I would suggest focusing on the quality of the rural environment, relative ease of accessing larger business communities such as Mankato, and a County which can provide a technological infrastructure capable of supporting high skilled jobs and individuals able to work remotely.
77. Yes
78. Lack of internet access is a critical obstruction to business and investment in the area.....not to mention personal social interactions!
79. ldk
- 80.
- 81.
- 82.
83. marketing is more focused on cities and some around the lakes more can be done re the county marketing message