



Source: <https://www.s8darchitects.com/moody-air-force-base-idiq>

Economics & Education

- According to the One Valdosta-Lowndes survey, **top community strengths were seen as military presence; opportunities for higher education; connectivity – location, traffic, and roadways; affordability; and education (public and private).** In fact, the State of the Region Report stated that Wiregrass Georgia Technical College saw enrollment increase 66% since January 2018, totaling 5,810 as of 2019.
- **Moody Air Force Base is crucial to the community,** and keeping the base open is a priority. Maintaining a high quality of life for personnel remains a top goal for local Chambers of Commerce, according to the Georgia Trend article, as is ensuring the environment around the base is kept in good condition: addressing nearby blighted areas as well as protecting the base from encroaching development are ongoing goals.
- The Georgia Trend article reports that **significant transportation infrastructure will be funded over the next 10 years** thanks to the passage of the Transportation Investment Act (TIA), which began collecting a 1 percent sales tax last October. This will provide immediate and necessary financing for the construction of infrastructure, road projects, and bridges.
- Most respondents to the One Valdosta-Lowndes survey felt that the **lack of jobs with upward mobility was the biggest challenge to retaining talent,** while the **biggest barriers for growth were lack of entertainment/recreation opportunities, lack of shared vision, and local governments not working together.** Crime and safety, access to technical education, and quality of schools were indicated to be the smallest barriers to growth in the community.
- The respondents to the One Valdosta-Lowndes survey indicated that the top measurable goals for economic and community development should be supporting **ongoing academic and skills improvement in public school systems and diversifying the economic tax base** leading to the creation of new jobs and increased per capita income.

Quality of Place

- Improved quality of place assets such as **parks, bike trails and more diverse entertainment options for residents of all ages were top priorities** to those who participated in the One Valdosta-Lowndes survey.