Most metro Atlanta leaders believe it will take a year or more for Georgia’s economy to recover from the coronavirus crisis—once the pandemic fully recedes.

Moreover, more than 40% of those who responded to the Atlanta Power Poll survey say the pandemic has hurt their business or institution, with nearly 35% saying the damage has been significant.

A recent Atlanta Journal-Constitution statewide survey also found community leaders put their optimism on impact and local issues. In Georgia, Power Poll appears sponsored by the AJC and in The Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

The survey, taken between May 11 and May 14, surveyed more than 170 metro Atlanta business, political and civic leaders by email. The response rate was about 20%. The survey does not have the precision of a scientific poll, but it provides insights into the thinking of movers and shakers.

More than 84% said they believe Georgians are serious about precautions such as social distancing, washing hands and wearing face coverings. However, less than 80% said they believe public officials are taking their very seriously.

Meanwhile, the Fulton County school board president, expressed concern that not enough people are taking the precautions to heart. “I feel that people in the ‘business as usual’ category in particular are not taking seriously their responsibility of using social distance, masks and gloves to help prevent further spread of the disease,” she said in written comments to Power Poll. “Until we have discovered a vaccine that will help eliminate us from this virus, it is very Climax that the pandemic has had on our education, but also that we are resilient, and have already witnessed great work to begin the process of education moving forward by parents, teachers and administrators.”

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