

2025 COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS



Table of Contents

Executive Summary	4
Survey Background	7
Quality of Life and Community	11
Quality of Life in Washington County.....	11
County Characteristics.....	14
Issues Facing the Community	16
Community Safety.....	16
Potential Problems.....	18
Most Serious Issue Facing Washington County.....	20
Health Concerns.....	21
Environmental Concerns.....	23
Evaluation of Government Services	24
County Government.....	24
Quality of County Services.....	27
Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Policies.....	30
Contact with County Government.....	31
Fiscal Management and Planning	36
Importance of Activities and Services in Washington County Parks.....	36
Importance of Services at County Libraries.....	38
Public Information Sources	40
County Diversity Ratings	41
Appendix A: Respondent Demographics	42
Appendix B: Responses to Survey Questions	46
Appendix C: Verbatim Responses to Survey Questions	73
Appendix D: Survey Results by Respondent Demographic Characteristics	98
Survey Results by Age and Gender of Respondent.....	99
Survey Results by Annual Household Income and Length of Residency.....	109
Survey Results by Type of Housing Unit and Housing Tenure (Rent or Own).....	119
Survey Results by Race / Ethnicity.....	129
Appendix E: Survey Results by Commissioner District	138
Appendix F: Survey Results by Year	149
Appendix G: Survey Results Compared to Other Participating Minnesota Counties	160
Appendix H: Benchmark Comparisons	172
Appendix I: Survey Methodology	176
Appendix J: Survey Materials	182

Table of Figures

Figure 1: Overall Quality of Life, 2025 11

Figure 2: Average Rating of Overall Quality of Life by Year 11

Figure 3: Average Ratings of Additional Quality of Life Characteristics by Year 12

Figure 4: Additional Quality of Life Characteristics Comparison to Benchmarks 12

Figure 5: Like Most about Living in Washington County Compared by Year 13

Figure 6: Additional Community Characteristics Comparison to Benchmarks 14

Figure 7: Average Ratings of Additional Community Characteristics by Year 15

Figure 8: Safety Comparison to Benchmarks 16

Figure 9: Average Ratings of Perception of Safety by Year 17

Figure 10: Average Ratings of Potential Problems by Year 19

Figure 11: Most Serious Issue Facing Washington County by Year 20

Figure 12: Average Ratings of Health Concerns by Year 22

Figure 13: Average Ratings of Environmental Concerns by Year 23

Figure 14: Average Ratings of County Board Approval Compared by Year 24

Figure 15: Government Performance Comparison to Benchmarks 25

Figure 16: Average Ratings of Government Performance by Year 26

Figure 17: Average Ratings of Overall Quality of County Services by Year 27

Figure 18: Overall Quality of County Services Comparison to Benchmark 27

Figure 19: County Services Comparison to Benchmarks 28

Figure 20: Average Ratings of County Services by Year 29

Figure 21: Average Ratings of Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Policies, 2025 30

Figure 22: Government Office Contact by Year 31

Figure 23: Government Office Contact Comparison to Benchmark 31

Figure 24: Average Ratings of Employee(s) in Most Recent Contact by Year 32

Figure 25: Employee(s) in Most Recent Contact Comparison to Benchmarks 32

Figure 26: Overall Quality of the Most Recent Washington County Service or License Center Experience by Year 33

Figure 27: Washington County Service or License Center More Recently Visited by Year 34

Figure 28: Reasonableness of Wait Time at Washington County Service or License Centers by Year 35

Figure 29: Average Rating of Importance of Washington County Park Activities and Services by Year 36

Figure 30: Regional Park and Trail Visitation by Year 37

Figure 31: Reasons for Not Visiting Regional Parks and Trails by Year 37

Figure 32: Washington County Library Visitation by Year 38

Figure 33: Reasons for Not Visiting Washington County Library, 2025 38

Figure 34: Average Rating of Importance of Washington County Library Services by Year 39

Figure 35: Potential Information Sources Compared by Year 40

Figure 36: Average Ratings of County Diversity and Acceptance by Year 41

Executive Summary

Survey Context

Washington County's government conducts a regular, periodic survey of community members' opinions to understand their needs, with trends going back to 2001. In 2006, Washington County joined Dakota and Scott counties to form a "coalition" of Minnesota counties to survey their community members in a similar timeframe and compare survey results. In 2025, the coalition included Dakota, Olmsted, Scott, St. Louis, and Washington counties. These counties worked together with Polco to develop a survey instrument with a set of shared questions, as well as questions unique to each county.

The 2025 Washington County Community Survey was administered by mail to 4,500 randomly selected households in February 2025 and was distributed equally among the five county commissioner districts. Of the 4,347 households that received a survey in the mail (153 were returned undeliverable), 673 surveys were completed for a response rate of 15%.

To make the survey results comparable to other years and other jurisdictions, many ratings were converted to average scores on a 100-point scale. Comparisons were made to Washington County's past survey results, to the other Minnesota counties mentioned above, and to other counties around the nation. The national comparisons were made through Polco's benchmark database of resident perspectives gathered in surveys from approximately 500 jurisdictions, including cities and counties.

The margin of error for the total sample (N = 673) is $\pm 4\%$ for results reported as percentages and ± 2 points for results on the 100-point scale.

Survey Highlights

Washington County community members enjoy a higher quality of life than those in most other counties across the nation and its rating has improved since 2022.

- ◆ Survey respondents were asked to rate their overall quality of life in Washington County. On a 100-point scale, where zero equals "poor" and 100 equals "excellent," Washington County received an average rating of 80 — slightly above its 2022 rating. This score is significantly higher than the average rating reported by other counties in the national benchmark dataset.
- ◆ When asked to identify the one thing they liked most about living in Washington County, the most frequently selected responses in 2025 were the overall quality of life (26%) and the location (25%). Other top reasons included the open space and rural character (15%) and the neighborhood in which the respondent lives (10%).

Tax concerns have risen while concerns about crime have decreased.

- ◆ Washington County community members responding to the survey evaluated a range of potential issues, rating each as a "major problem," "moderate problem," "minor problem," or "not a problem" in Washington County. The highest rated concerns were taxes and the

availability of stable, affordable housing, which received average ratings of just 57 and 53, respectively, on a 100-point scale.

- ◆ Community members were also asked to describe, in their own words, what they felt was the most serious issue currently facing Washington County. Taxes emerged as the most commonly cited concern, with nearly one-fifth of respondents commenting on the topic. Other frequently mentioned issues included affordable housing (13%), development (11%), and water quality (8%). Crime —previously the top concern in 2022— saw a significant decline, with only 4% of respondents now identifying it as the most serious issue in Washington County.

Community concerns about overweight children and adults and water quality are top health and environmental issues.

- ◆ As in previous years, respondents were asked to rate potential health concerns in Washington County. The average ratings for nearly all concerns fell between the categories of “minor concern” and “moderate concern.” The exception was access to parks and open space, which received an average rating of 19 points on a 100-point scale—placing it between “not at all a concern” and “minor concern.”
- ◆ Of greater concern were the problems of overweight adults and children (59 and 55, respectively), mental health (53), heart disease (51), and access to mental healthcare (50). Community members' concerns decreased for most of the listed health issues in 2025 compared to 2022.
- ◆ When asked how much of a concern a variety of potential environmental issues were in Washington County, the quality of drinking water and the quality of water in lakes and streams were —as in 2022— the items of the greatest concern to community members.
- ◆ A new question added to the 2025 survey asked respondents to rate how well Washington County is performing in eight areas related to climate adaptation and mitigation. Among the lowest-rated areas was protecting groundwater quality.

County services and government performance are satisfactory to community members.

- ◆ Survey respondents were asked to rate several aspects of Washington County government performance. When converted to the 100-point scale where zero represents “strongly disapprove” and 100 equals “strongly approve,” the average rating for how well the Washington County Board is doing was 67, equivalent to “somewhat approve.”
- ◆ The county’s performance in listening to community members and the value of services provided for the taxes paid were both rated higher than the averages reported in other counties across the United States.
- ◆ When evaluating the overall quality of county services, community members gave an average rating of 67 on the 100-point scale, a rating that was much higher than the national benchmark for counties and slightly above Washington County’s 2022 rating.
- ◆ Washington County also received ratings that were higher or much higher than the national benchmark for each of the six county services where comparisons were available: county libraries, county parks and recreation, recycling and drop-off services

at the Environmental Centers, snow and ice removal on county highways, disaster preparedness and response, and services provided to older adults.

Community members' experience with county employees and Service or License Centers have improved since 2022.

- ◆ As in past years, respondents were asked whether they had visited, called, or emailed any Washington County government office within the previous 12 months. About half of the respondents reported having contacted Washington County during that time. The proportion of community members who reached out to county government increased compared to 2022 but was similar to contact rates in other counties nationwide.
- ◆ Respondents who reported having contacted a county government office were asked to provide their impression of the employee with whom they had contact. On a 100-point scale, average ratings were 86 for courtesy and respect, 80 for knowledge, and 77 for responsiveness. All of these ratings were well above the “good” threshold. Compared to previous years, the courtesy rating experienced an improvement (from 79 in 2022 to the current rating of 86), while knowledge and responsiveness remained stable.
- ◆ As in previous surveys, respondents were also asked to rate the overall quality of their most recent experience at a Washington County Service and License Center. In 2025, this rating was above “good” (75 on the 100-point scale), marking an improvement over the 2022 score.

Survey Background

Survey Purpose

In completing the Washington County Community Survey, community members were asked to rate the quality of life in the county, as well as their satisfaction with service delivery and the county government. Community members also provided feedback about what is working well and what is not, and shared their priorities for community planning and resource allocation.

In 2025, Washington County collaborated with Dakota, Olmsted, Scott, and St. Louis counties on this survey project. This was the seventh time Washington County has formed a coalition with other Minnesota counties to conduct a survey in a similar time frame and compare survey results. The five counties worked together with Polco to develop a survey instrument with a set of shared questions, as well as questions unique to each county.

Survey Methods

A total of 4,500 household addresses were selected at random and contacted twice by mail over the course of about two weeks starting in February 2025. First, a postcard was mailed, notifying community members that they had been chosen to participate in the survey and inviting recipients to complete the survey online. A survey packet followed in the mail one week after the postcard. The survey packet contained a letter from the household's county commissioner inviting the household to participate in the 2025 Community Survey, the survey questionnaire, and a postage-paid return envelope. The cover letter also contained a QR code and a link to a URL where recipients could choose to complete the survey online if they preferred not to complete a hard copy survey.

The online survey was available in English, Spanish, and Hmong. All mailings contained instructions in English, Spanish, and Hmong on how to access the online survey. About 47% percent of the complete surveys were web-based.

Of the approximately 4,347 households that received a survey in the mail (the other surveys were undeliverable), 673 surveys were completed, providing a response rate of 15%.

It's common to show how accurate survey results are by using something called a "confidence level" or "margin of error." For this survey, the average score on the 100-point scale is accurate within about ± 2 points, 95% of the time. For percentages reported from all 673 respondents, the margin of error is typically no more than ± 4 percentage points.

Survey results were weighted so that housing tenure (rent or own), gender, age, and district were represented in the proportions reflective of the entire community (for more information on the survey methodology, see [Appendix I: Survey Methodology](#). A copy of the questionnaire and mailing materials are included in [Appendix J: Survey Materials](#)).

Reporting the Results

Putting Responses on a 100-Point Scale

Although responses to many of the evaluative questions were made on a four-point scale (4=excellent, 3=good, 2=fair, and 1=poor), many of the results in this summary are reported on a common scale where zero is the worst possible rating and 100 is the best possible rating. If everyone reported “excellent,” then the result would be 100 on the 100-point scale. Likewise, if all respondents gave a “poor” rating, the result would be zero on the 100-point scale. If the average rating for quality of life was “good,” then the result would be 67 on a 100-point scale; “fair” would be 33 on the 100-point scale. Use of this converted scale allows for comparisons to other jurisdictions, where different question wording and response scales may have been used (see [Appendix I: Survey Methodology](#)).

Rounding

When a figure for a question that required a single response does not total to exactly 100%, it is due to the common practice of percentages being rounded to the nearest whole number.

Don't Know Responses

On many of the questions in the survey, respondents gave an answer of “don't know.” The proportion of respondents giving this reply is shown in the full set of responses included in [Appendix B: Responses to Survey Questions](#) and is noted in the tables and figures in the body of this report if it is 20% or greater. However, these responses have been removed from the analyses presented in the body of the report, unless otherwise indicated. In other words, most of the figures in the body of the report display responses from participants who had an opinion about the specific item.

Comparing Survey Results Over Time and by Geographic and Demographic Subgroups

Comparisons by demographic characteristics and district of residence can be found in [Appendix D: Survey Results by Respondent Demographic Characteristics](#) and [Appendix E: Survey Results by Commissioner District](#). Disparities may point to a need for refinement to communications, policies, or programs.

Survey results from 2025 that could be compared to previous Washington County surveys can be found in [Appendix F: Survey Results by Year](#). Trend data for Washington County represent important comparisons and should be examined for improvements or declines. Deviations from stable trends over time represent opportunities for understanding how local policies, programs, or public information may have affected community members' opinions.

Each table in these appendices includes the results of ANOVA¹ tests to determine whether results between specific subgroups are statistically different. An explanation of how the statistical differences are denoted can be found on page 98.

¹ *The Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) is a statistical method used to compare the means of two or more groups to determine if there's a significant difference between them.*

Comparing Results to Other Jurisdictions

Jurisdictions use the comparative information provided by benchmarks to help interpret their own community survey results, to create or revise community plans, to evaluate the success of policy or budget decisions, and to measure local government performance. It can be difficult to interpret whether ratings should be perceived as positive, neutral, or negative without comparing them to benchmark averages.

Polco's database of comparative resident opinions is comprised of resident perspectives gathered in community member surveys from approximately 500 jurisdictions whose community members evaluated local government services. Conducted with typically no fewer than 400 community members in each jurisdiction, opinions are intended to represent over 30 million Americans. Polco has innovated a method for quantitatively integrating the results of surveys that we have conducted with those that others have conducted. These integration methods have been described thoroughly in "Public Administration Review, Journal of Policy Analysis and Management," and in Polco/NRC's first book on conducting and using citizen surveys, "Citizen Surveys: how to do them, how to use them, what they mean," published by the International City/County Management Association (ICMA). Scholars specializing in the analysis of community surveys regularly have relied on Polco's work.² The methods described in these publications are refined regularly and statistically tested on a growing number of community surveys in Polco's proprietary databases.

Jurisdictions in Polco's database are distributed across the country and range from small to large in population size. Most commonly, comparisons are made to all jurisdictions within the database; comparisons may also be made to subsets of jurisdictions within a given region or population range, if desired. Washington County, as well as the other four counties in the survey cohort, elected to have benchmark comparisons made to all other counties in the national database. Despite the differences in jurisdiction characteristics, all are in the business of providing local government services to community members. Though individual jurisdiction circumstances, resources, and practices vary, the objective in every community is to provide services that are so timely, tailored, and effective that community members conclude the services are of the highest quality. High ratings in any jurisdiction should bring pride and a sense of accomplishment.

National benchmark comparisons have been included in the report when available, and all available benchmarks are shown in [Appendix H: Benchmark Comparisons](#). Benchmark comparisons have been provided when similar questions on the Washington County survey are included in Polco's database and there are at least five jurisdictions in which the question was asked, though most questions are compared to more than five other jurisdictions across the country.

Where comparisons for quality ratings were available, the county's results were generally noted as being "higher" than the benchmark, "lower" than the benchmark, or "similar" to the

² e.g., Kelly, J. & Swindell, D. (2002). "Service quality variation across urban space: First steps towards a model of citizen satisfaction, *Journal of Urban Affairs*," 24, 271-288.; Van Ryzin, G., Muzzio, D., Immerwahr, S., Gulick, L. & Martinez, E. (2004). *Drivers and consequences of citizen satisfaction: An application of the American Customer Satisfaction Index Model to New York City*, *Public Administration Review*, 64, 331-341.

benchmark. In instances where ratings are considerably higher or lower than the benchmark, these ratings have been further demarcated by the attribute of “much,” (for example, “much lower” or “much higher”).

Quality of Life and Community

Quality of Life in Washington County

Survey respondents were asked to rate their overall quality of life in Washington County. On a 100-point scale where zero equals “poor” and 100 equals “excellent,” Washington County’s average rating was 80, slightly above the 2022 rating. Washington County’s overall quality of life rating was much higher than the average ratings given by other counties in the national benchmark dataset (see [Appendix H: Benchmark Comparisons](#)).

Ratings were compared across selected demographic characteristics of the survey respondents. Washington County community members living in detached unit homes, homeowners, and those in wealthier households were more likely than renters and those in attached homes and less wealthier households to give favorable ratings to their overall quality of life (see [Appendix D: Survey Results by Respondent Demographic Characteristics](#)).

Figure 1: Overall Quality of Life, 2025

How would you rate the overall quality of life in Washington County?

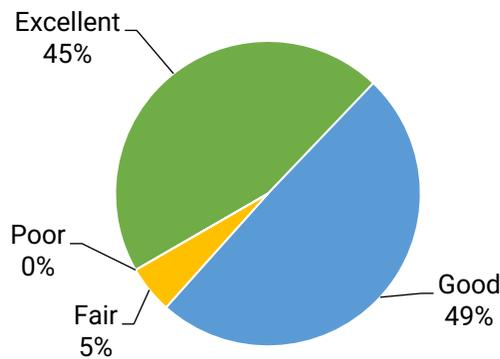
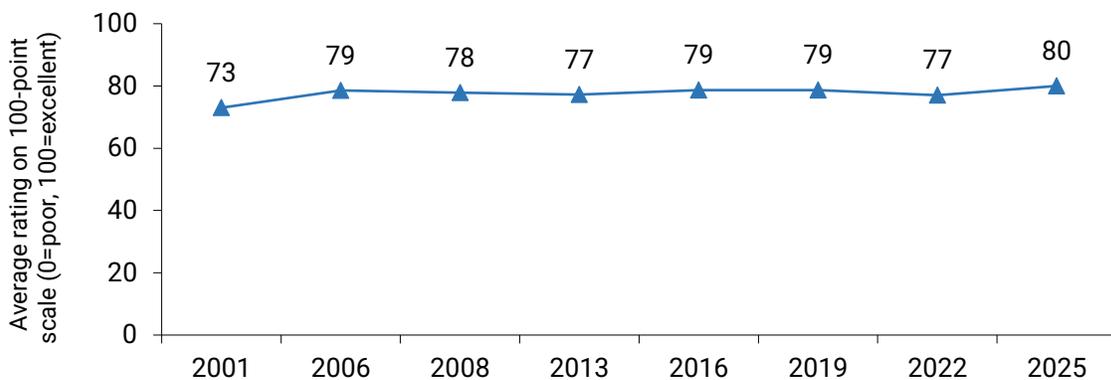


Figure 2: Average Rating of Overall Quality of Life by Year

How would you rate the overall quality of life in Washington County?



Community members were asked to rate additional quality of life characteristics in Washington County. On a 100-point scale where zero equals “poor” and 100 equals “excellent,” Washington County had ratings close to or above “good” (67). The highest rating was Washington County as a place to live (81), while the lowest was Washington County as a place to retire (64).

Compared to 2022, ratings were on par except for Washington County as a place to retire, which experienced a slight increase. Ratings for Washington County as a place to live, as a place to raise children, and as a place to work were much higher than the average ratings given by other counties in the national benchmark dataset.

County community members living in detached unit homes, homeowners, and those in wealthier households were more likely than renters, those in attached homes, and less wealthier households to give favorable ratings to Washington County as a place to live, as a place to raise children, and as a place to work (see [Appendix D: Survey Results by Respondent Demographic Characteristics](#)).

Figure 3: Average Ratings of Additional Quality of Life Characteristics by Year

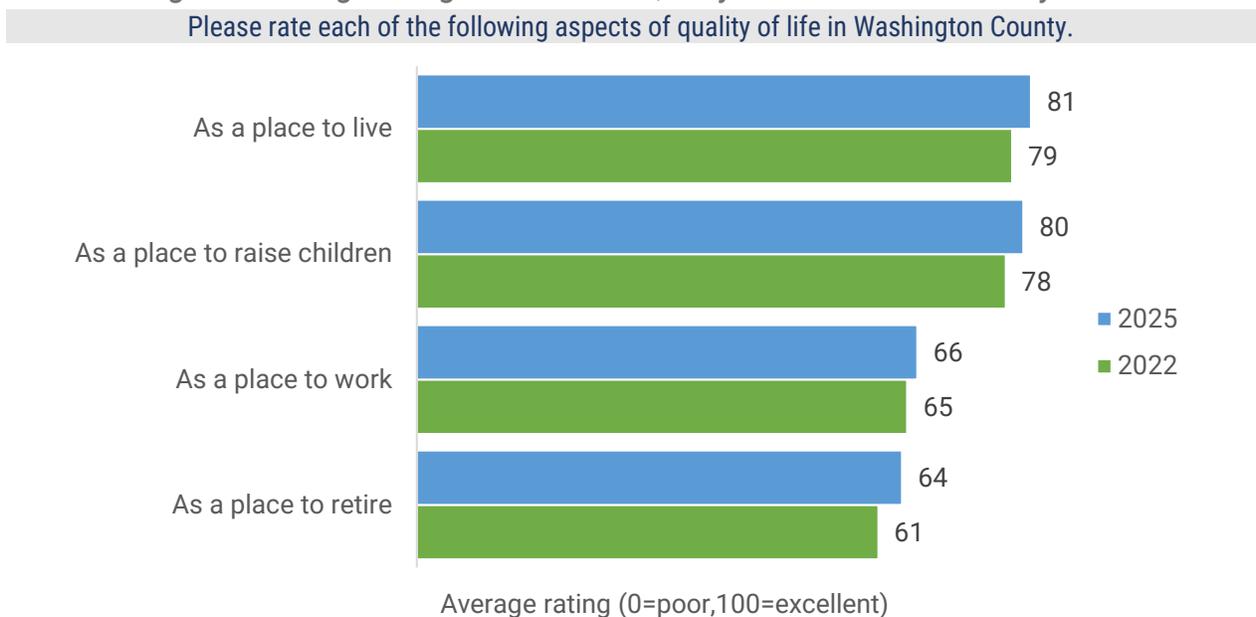


Figure 4: Additional Quality of Life Characteristics Comparison to Benchmarks

Please rate each of the following characteristics of Washington County.	Comparison to benchmark
As a place to live	Much Higher
As a place to raise children	Much Higher
As a place to work	Much Higher
As a place to retire	Similar

As in previous years, community members participating in the survey were given a list of potential attributes of Washington County and asked to identify one thing that they liked most about living in the county. As in 2022, the most frequently selected categories in 2025 were quality of life in general (26%) and location (25%). Other top reasons for living in Washington County were the open space/rural nature (15%) and the neighborhood in which they lived (10%).

Figure 5: Like Most about Living in Washington County Compared by Year

What one thing do you like most about living in Washington County? (percent of respondents)	2025	2022	2019	2016	2013
Quality of life in general	26%	26%	27%	24%	21%
Location	25%	21%	25%	29%	25%
Open space/rural	15%	13%	11%	12%	14%
My neighborhood	10%	12%	13%	12%	13%
Parks/lakes	8%	9%	8%	6%	7%
Small town feel	7%	9%	9%	8%	8%
Schools	3%	5%	5%	4%	5%
Low taxes	2%	2%	1%	3%	3%
People	1%	2%	2%	1%	2%
Other	3%	2%	1%	1%	3%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

** Note: Totals may not equal 100% due to rounding to the nearest whole number.*

County Characteristics

When asked to rate various community characteristics as they related to the county, most characteristics received average ratings that were between “fair” and “good” on a 100-point scale, where zero is “poor,” 33 is “fair,” 67 is “good,” and 100 is “excellent.”

There were several characteristics rated above 67 or “good.” Outdoor recreational opportunities, the overall image or reputation of Washington County, the overall feeling of safety in Washington County, and ease of travel by car received the highest average ratings (between 74 and 77 on the 100-point scale).

As in previous years, availability of housing options for all incomes and public transit were rated least positively (43 and 32 points on the 100-point scale, respectively, or around “fair”). Despite that, the average rating for the availability of housing options for all incomes was much higher than the national benchmark.

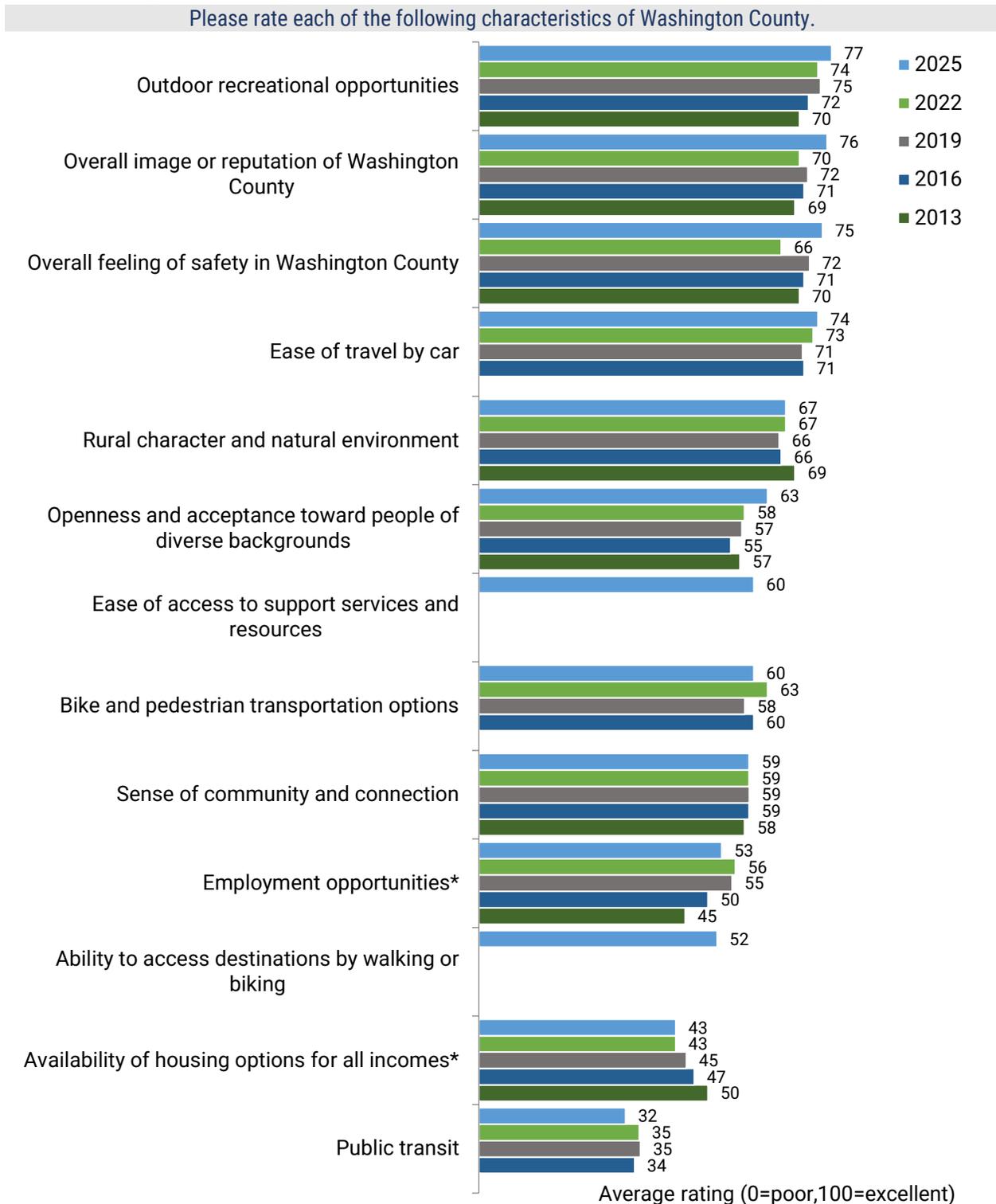
In general, Washington County ratings were much higher than other counties across the country. When comparisons over time were available, ratings were generally stable; however, feelings of overall safety increased from 66 to 75 between 2022 and 2025, the overall image or reputation of Washington County increased from 70 to 76, and the openness and acceptance toward people of diverse backgrounds increased from 58 to 63 (see *Figure 7* on the next page).

Ratings given by respondents living in the five Washington County Commissioner Districts were also compared. Survey respondents from Districts 1 and 3 were more likely to positively rate the rural character and natural environment and the sense of community and connection compared to community members in most other districts. Meanwhile, survey respondents from Districts 2 and 5 were more likely to positively rate public transit options than community members in other districts. Bike and pedestrian transportation options were rated higher by community members of District 5 than by those in other parts of the county (see *Appendix E: Survey Results by Commissioner District*).

Figure 6: Additional Community Characteristics Comparison to Benchmarks

Please rate each of the following characteristics of Washington County.	Comparison to benchmark
Outdoor recreational opportunities	Much Higher
Employment opportunities	Much Higher
Openness and acceptance toward people of diverse backgrounds	Much Higher
Availability of housing options for all incomes	Much Higher
Ease of travel by car	Much Higher
Overall feeling of safety in Washington County	Much Higher
Overall image or reputation of Washington County	Much Higher
Rural character and natural environment	Similar
Sense of community and connection	Similar

Figure 7: Average Ratings of Additional Community Characteristics by Year



* Note: In 2025, these items received a “don’t know” answer of 20% or above. The ratings shown in the figure are from those who had an opinion. In 2025, “Availability of affordable housing” was changed to “Availability of housing options for all incomes,” “Sense of community” to “Sense of community and connection,” and “Public transit (bus, rail, etc.)” to “Public transit.” In 2022, “Availability of public transportation options” was changed to “Public transit.” In 2013, “Recreational opportunities” was changed to “Outdoor recreational opportunities.”

Issues Facing the Community

To help assess pressing issues the community may face, questions about safety and possible problems in the county were included in the survey, along with questions about health concerns.

Community Safety

Community members were asked how safe they felt from different types of crimes and situations. Responses to this question were converted to the 100-point scale where zero equals “very unsafe,” 33 is equal to “somewhat unsafe,” 67 represents “somewhat safe,” and 100 is equivalent to “very safe.”

Most items received an average rating that was equal to “somewhat safe” or better. Average ratings for feeling safe in county government buildings (92 on the 100-point scale), in their neighborhood (88), and from violent crimes (85) were highest. Respondents felt the least safe while biking or walking along roads in the county (64) and from distracted drivers on roads in the county (57).

Two ratings were compared to safety ratings in other counties across the country: feeling safe from property crimes and from violent crimes. On both, Washington County was rated higher than the benchmark.

When compared to 2022, 2025 safety ratings were higher for most items. There were particularly strong increases in the rating for safety from property crimes (+12 points), in your neighborhood, from violent crime, from illegal drug activity, and in Washington County regional parks or trails (+7 points each).

Community members from Districts 1 and 3 reported feeling safer in their neighborhoods and from violent crimes than community members from Districts 2 and 4, while community members from District 5 felt less safe from distracted drivers than elsewhere in the county. Also, older community members and those who have been living in the county for more than 20 years were less likely to report feeling safe from various crimes and illegal activities than their counterparts (see [Appendix D: Survey Results by Respondent Demographic Characteristics](#)).

Figure 8: Safety Comparison to Benchmarks

Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel in Washington County.	Comparison to benchmark
From property crimes (e.g., burglary, theft)	Higher
From violent crimes (e.g., rape, assault, domestic violence, robbery)	Higher

Figure 9: Average Ratings of Perception of Safety by Year

Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel in Washington County. Average rating (0=very unsafe,100=very safe)	2025	2022	2019	2016	2013	2008	2006
In county government buildings (e.g., County Government Center, libraries)	92	87	88	NA	NA	NA	NA
In your neighborhood	88	81	84	82	79	NA	NA
From violent crimes (e.g., rape, assault, domestic violence, robbery)	85	78	84	83	81	78	82
From human trafficking	82	76	78	NA	NA	NA	NA
In Washington County regional parks or trails	82	75	76	NA	NA	NA	NA
From property crimes (e.g., burglary, theft)	80	68	73	75	72	72	73
From illegal drug activity (e.g., manufacturing or selling drugs)	79	72	73	70	68	NA	NA
From the opioid epidemic	78	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
While driving on roads in the county	76	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
From drivers under the influence on roads in the county	69	64	62	64	62	63	63
From identity theft (e.g., fraud, scams, credit card theft)	65	62	60	62	60	NA	NA
While biking or walking along roads in the county	64	64	61	66	67	NA	NA
From distracted drivers on roads in the county	57	53	47	54	53	NA	NA

** Note: In 2025, “From being injured while biking or walking along roads in the county” was changed to “While biking or walking along roads in the county” and “From drunk drivers on roads in the county” was changed to “From drivers under the influence on roads in the county.” In 2016, “(e.g., fraud, scams, credit card fraud)” was added to “From identify theft.” In 2008, “From drunk drivers on county roads” was changed to “From drunk driving when traveling within the County” and was “Traveling on County roads” in 2006.*

Potential Problems

Community members responding to the survey assessed whether each in a set of potential problems was a “major problem,” a “moderate problem,” a “minor problem,” or “not a problem” in Washington County. When converted to the 100-point scale, where zero equals “not a problem,” 33 is equal to “minor problem,” 67 represents “moderate problem,” and 100 equals “major problem,” most items in the list of potential problems were thought to be between “minor problems” and “moderate problems,” with only violent crime (32), homelessness (27), and access to trails and sidewalks (21) below the mark of a minor problem (33 points in the 100-point scale).

The most problematic issues, taxes and availability of stable, affordable housing, received an average rating of 57 and 53 respectively on the 100-point scale, not even reaching the level of a “moderate problem.” Community members’ assessments of how much of a problem they consider taxes to be increased from 2022 to 2025, while most others remained stable or decreased.

Respondents from District 2 tended to be more likely to indicate that homelessness was a problem compared to community members from Districts 1, 4, and 5, while those living in Districts 1 and 4 were less likely to rate roadways congestion in Washington County as a problem. Access to trails and sidewalks was also considered a lesser problem among community members from Districts 2 and 5 than in the rest of the county.

Community members who were 55 or older, or who had lived in Washington County for more than 20 years, tended to rate many of the potential issues in the survey as more problematic than younger community members or those who had lived in the county for a shorter time (see [*Appendix D: Survey Results by Respondent Demographic Characteristics*](#)).

Figure 10: Average Ratings of Potential Problems by Year

Please rate to what degree, if at all, each of the following is a problem in Washington County. Average rating (0=not a problem, 100=major problem)	2025	2022	2019	2016	2013	2008	2006	2001
Taxes	57	52	47	48	50	53	52	NA
Availability of stable, affordable housing*	53	56	48	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Availability of livable wage jobs*	51	49	44	47	NA	NA	NA	NA
Access to public transit *	49	50	54	52	55	NA	NA	NA
Transportation options*	43	47	52	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Property crime (e.g., burglary, theft)	41	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Roadway congestion	40	40	41	36	39	40	49	28
Roadway safety	36	40	36	33	36	NA	NA	NA
Poverty*	35	37	34	30	34	29	28	NA
Drug dealing*	35	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Violent crime (e.g., rape, assault, domestic violence, robbery)*	32	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Homelessness*	27	28	26	20	24	NA	NA	NA
Access to trails and sidewalks	21	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

* Note: In 2025, these items received a “don’t know” answer of 20% or above. The ratings shown in the figure are from those who had an opinion. The complete set of responses to this question appears in [Appendix B: Responses to Survey Questions](#). Before 2025, “Roadway safety” was “Traffic safety,” “Roadway congestion” was “Traffic congestion,” and “Availability of stable, affordable housing” was “Affordability of housing.” In 2025 four new categories were added: “Property Crime” and “Violent Crime” (in place of “Crime”), “Drug dealing,” and “Access to trails and sidewalks.” In 2001, traffic congestion was a separate question: How would you rate traffic congestion in Washington County? Response options were “very serious,” “somewhat serious,” “not too serious,” “not at all serious.”

Most Serious Issue Facing Washington County

Community members were asked to describe, in their own words, what they felt was the most serious issue currently facing Washington County. Taxes was the most-commonly cited issue in 2025, with nearly one-fifth of respondents writing a comment on that topic (18%). Other frequently mentioned issues were affordable housing (13%), development (11%), and water quality (8%). Crime, which topped the list of the most serious issues in 2022, saw a sharp decline, with only 4% considering it the most serious issue in Washington County in 2025. Verbatim responses can be found in [Appendix C: Verbatim Responses to Survey Questions](#).

Figure 11: Most Serious Issue Facing Washington County by Year

What would you say is the most serious issue facing Washington County at this time? (percentage of respondents)	2025	2022	2019	2016	2013	2008	2006	2001
Taxes	18%	5%	16%	18%	22%	13%	9%	10%
Affordable housing	13%	11%	11%	10%	9%	3%	2%	3%
Too much growth/development	11%	14%	23%	20%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Water quality	8%	5%	11%	5%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Public transportation / Walkability	5%	3%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Reckless driving	5%	2%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Crime	4%	31%	3%	1%	2%	4%	1%	3%
Inflation / Cost of living	4%	1%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Schools	3%	4%	6%	9%	6%	6%	0%	12%
Politics / Political division	3%	2%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Public spending	2%	0%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Environmental issues	2%	1%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Diversity, equity, and inclusion	2%	3%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Drugs	2%	1%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Maintaining the rural feel	2%	1%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Condition of roads	1%	3%	7%	11%	8%	6%	5%	2%
Traffic congestion	1%	2%	11%	6%	8%	6%	8%	5%
Economic development	1%	2%	3%	8%	12%	3%	1%	NA
Poverty / Homelessness	1%	0%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Jobs	0%	2%	4%	5%	11%	2%	1%	NA
Other*	10%	11%	4%	8%	5%	12%	8%	NA

* Note: Totals may not equal 100% due to rounding to the nearest whole number. Prior to 2013, and since 2022, this was an open-ended question in which respondents were able to answer in their own words. Because of the methodological change (open-ended question versus fixed-response options), it is recommended that the reader use caution when interpreting any differences between years. When provided a list to choose from, a respondent may bypass their first thought (say, “taxes”) as the list reminds them of a more serious issue (like their job), while with an open-ended question, a respondent may be more likely stay with their first thought. When a respondent identified an unlisted, or “other” reason, the response was captured verbatim. These responses appear in [Appendix C: Verbatim Responses to Survey Questions](#).

Health Concerns

As in previous years, respondents were asked to rate potential health concerns in Washington County. The average ratings for nearly all concerns fell between the categories of “minor concern” and “moderate concern” (between 33 and 67 points). The exception was access to parks and open space, which received an average rating of 19 points on a 100-point scale—placing it between “not at all a concern” and “minor concern.”

Of greater concern were the problems of overweight adults and children (59 and 55, respectively), mental health (53), heart disease (51), and access to mental healthcare (50).

Many of the health concerns listed could be compared to data from previous survey iterations. Community members’ concerns decreased for most of the listed health issues in 2025 compared to 2022 including: access to healthcare and support for seniors, illicit drug use, misuse of prescribed medications, depression/anxiety, accidental drug overdose, tobacco use, access to healthcare and support for people with disabilities, excessive alcohol use among adults, loneliness, spread of infectious diseases, and suicide/attempted suicide, among others (see *Figure 12* on the following page).

When differences emerged, community members who were 55 or older, had lived in Washington County for 20 years or more, or identified as non-Hispanic White were more likely than their counterparts to report higher levels of concern on many of the listed potential health issues (see *Appendix D: Survey Results by Respondent Demographic Characteristics*).

Figure 12: Average Ratings of Health Concerns by Year

Please rate to what degree, if at all, each of the following is a health concern throughout Washington County. Average rating (0=not at all a concern, 100=major concern)	2025	2022	2019	2016	2013	2008	2006
Overweight adults	59	57	61	55	59	NA	NA
Overweight children	55	54	58	52	58	56	51
Mental health	53	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Heart disease	51	52	52	NA	NA	NA	NA
Access to mental healthcare	50	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Depression/anxiety	48	55	52	NA	NA	NA	NA
Loneliness	45	50	45	NA	NA	NA	NA
Bullying	44	47	50	44	47	NA	NA
Underage alcohol use	44	48	50	53	56	71	65
Domestic violence	43	47	48	44	48	NA	NA
Spread of infectious diseases	43	48	38	30	36	NA	NA
Electronic cigarettes/vaping	43	46	56	NA	NA	NA	NA
Abuse and neglect of children	42	46	45	38	45	41	48
Access to healthcare and support for people with disabilities	41	47	49	42	44	NA	NA
Abuse and neglect of seniors	41	44	47	36	41	NA	NA
Access to healthcare and support for seniors	40	48	49	42	45	50	51
Excessive alcohol use among adults	40	46	49	48	50	NA	NA
Illicit drug use	39	47	52	54	55	NA	NA
Suicide/attempted suicide	39	44	48	39	40	NA	NA
Access to healthcare for all community members	38	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Misuse of prescribed medications	36	44	54	48	47	NA	NA
Accidental drug overdose	35	42	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Cannabis use	34	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Tobacco use	33	40	44	44	46	44	48
Access to parks and open space	19	20	20	NA	NA	NA	NA

* Note: For almost all items, at least one in five respondents said “don’t know” when asked if each was a health concern in Washington County (see [Appendix B: Responses to Survey Questions](#)). The ratings shown in the figure are from those who had an opinion. Several questions were worded differently in earlier surveys. Before 2025, “Access to healthcare and support for seniors” was “The health and support of seniors,” “Access to healthcare and support for people with disabilities” was “The health and support of people with disabilities,” and “Access to parks and open space” was “Lack of access to parks and open space.” In 2025, four new categories were added: “Mental health,” “Access to mental healthcare,” “Access to healthcare for all community members,” and “Cannabis use.” In 2022, “Abuse of prescribed medications,” “Illegal drug use,” and “Alcohol abuse among adults” were changed to “Misuse of prescribed medications,” “Illicit drug use,” and “Excessive alcohol use among adults,” respectively. In 2013, “Abuse of prescribed medications” was “Prescription drug abuse” and “/attempted suicide” was added to “Suicide.” In 2006, “Tobacco use” was “Youth tobacco use,” “Underage alcohol use” was “Underage drinking,” “Overweight adults and children” was “Obesity.” In 2006, “Abuse and neglect of children” and “Drinking and driving” were included in a different question set and used a different scale: “major problem,” “moderate problem,” “minor problem,” or “not a problem.”

Environmental Concerns

As in past survey years, respondents to the 2025 survey were asked about potential environmental issues and asked how much of a concern, if at all, each was in Washington County. The quality of drinking water and the quality of water in lakes and streams were again rated of highest concern, although each rating did not reach the level of a “moderate concern” with average ratings of 62 and 57 respectively.

Of the eight environmental concerns that could be compared to 2022, the rating for yard waste disposal decreased seven points, while the ratings of climate change (+4) and quality of drinking water (+3) increased. The rest were similar to previous years.

Community members in District 5 tended to be more worried about the quantity of usable water supply and the quality of drinking water compared to community members of other districts. Washington County community members 55 years or older were more likely to be concerned about many of the listed environment concerns than younger community members (see [Appendix D: Survey Results by Respondent Demographic Characteristics](#)).

Figure 13: Average Ratings of Environmental Concerns by Year

Please rate to what degree, if at all, each of the following is an environmental concern in Washington County. Average rating (0=not at all a concern, 100=major concern)	2025	2022	2019	2016	2013	2008	2006
Quality of drinking water	62	59	57	41	46	54	47
Quality of water in lakes and streams	57	57	57	48	55	55	53
Climate change	54	50	51	NA	NA	NA	NA
Quantity of usable water supply	52	50	50	40	NA	NA	NA
Exposure to radon*	37	38	41	30	37	32	34
Quality of outdoor air	30	31	32	28	30	37	37
Safety of food in public establishments	28	28	27	28	34	37	36
Yard waste disposal	26	33	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Access to recycling	23	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Management of garbage	19	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Service by waste collection providers	16	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

* Note: In 2025, these items received a “don’t know” answer of 20% or above (see [Appendix B: Responses to Survey Questions](#)). The ratings shown in the figure are from those who had an opinion. In 2025, three new categories were added: “Access to recycling,” “Management of garbage,” and “Service by waste collection providers.”

Evaluation of Government Services

The survey also included a series of questions related to Washington County government performance and the quality of county services.

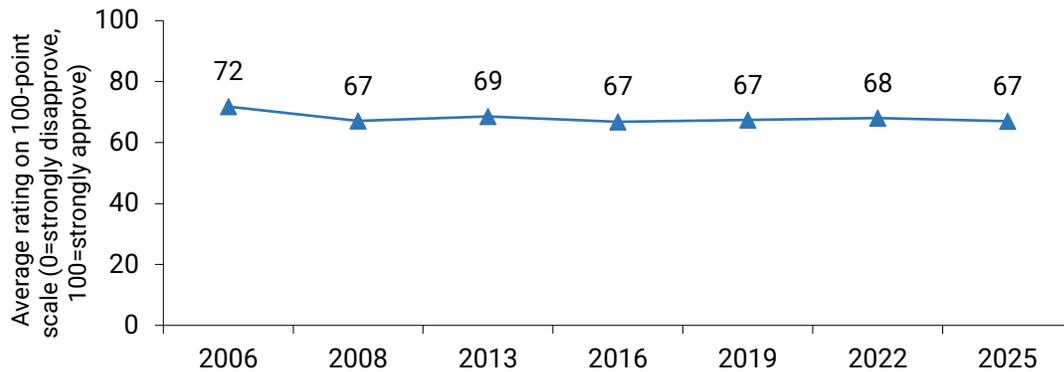
County Government

As in previous years, respondents were asked to what extent they approved of or disapproved of the job the Washington County Board of Commissioners was doing. When converted to the 100-point scale where zero represents “strongly disapprove” and 100 equals “strongly approve,” the average rating for how well the Washington County Board of Commissioners is doing was 67, equivalent to “somewhat approve.” This rating was similar to ratings given in previous years.

Washington County community members who identified as White alone, not Hispanic, were more likely to rate the job the Washington County Board is doing positively, compared to Hispanic and/or other race community members (see [Appendix D: Survey Results by Respondent Demographic Characteristics](#)).

Figure 14: Average Ratings of County Board Approval Compared by Year

To what extent do you approve or disapprove of the job the Washington County Board is doing?*



* Note: 31% of respondents reported “don’t know” when asked this question. The ratings shown in the figure are from those who had an opinion. See: [Appendix B: Responses to Survey Questions](#) for a complete set of frequencies for this question.

Survey respondents were asked to rate specific aspects of Washington County’s government. Ratings for all aspects of the county government were between “fair” and “good,” where zero equals “poor,” 33 is “fair,” 67 is “good,” and 100 is “excellent” (see *Figure 16* on the following page).

Respondents rated the job the county does informing its community members close to “good,” with an average rating of 65 on the 100-point scale. The value of Washington County services to the quality of life in the neighborhood was also rated favorably with an average rating of 63. A new item, applying new technology to connect community members with services, was also given a rating close to “good,” with an average score of 57 on the 100-point scale.

The lowest-rated items were related to community members’ knowledge of the work of the Washington County Board and the job Washington County government does in managing tax dollars, with “fair” ratings of 41 and 43, respectively. Where comparisons to 2022 were available, most ratings showed slight increases, while the rating for the job the Washington County government does in managing tax dollars declined moderately.

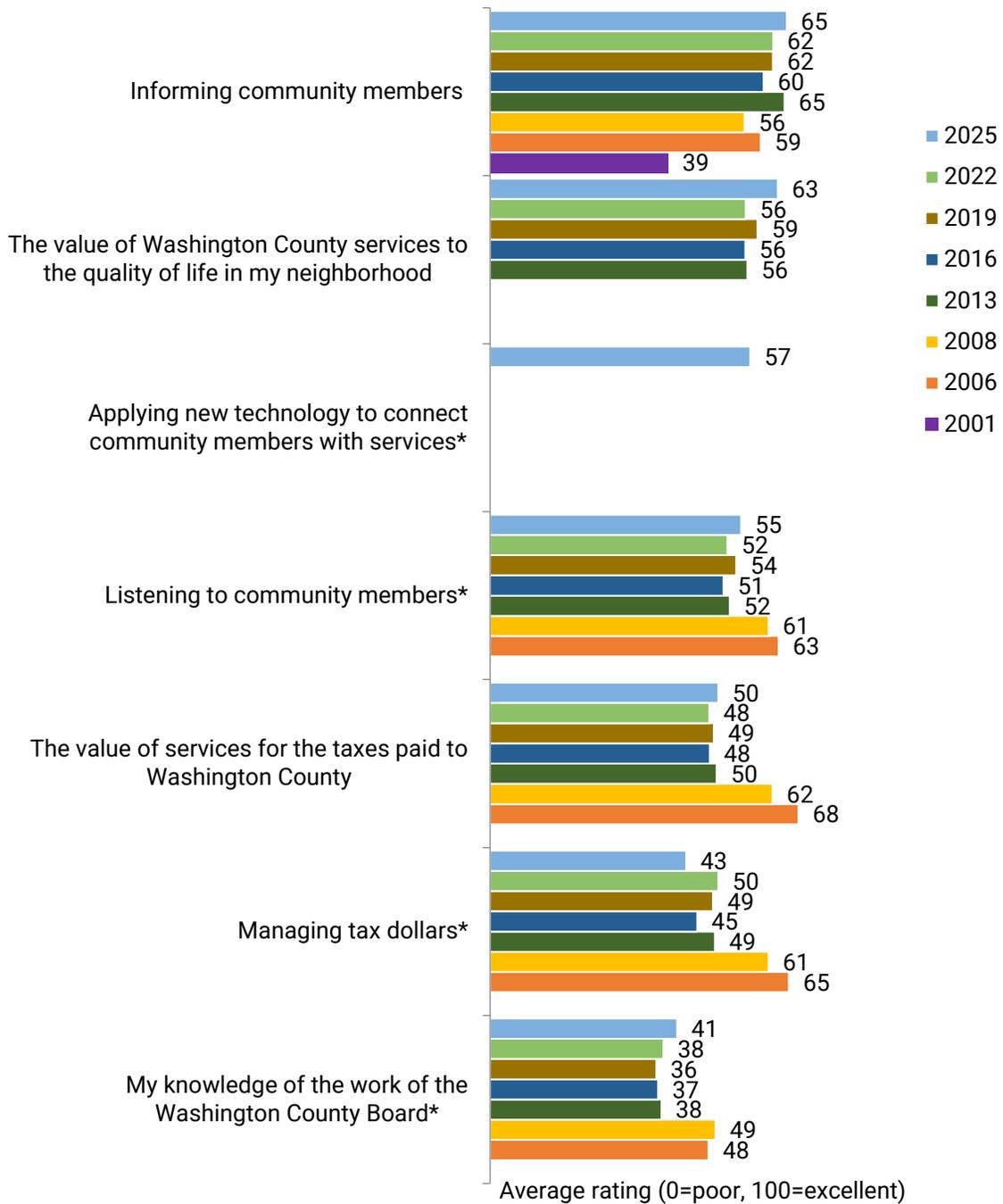
Three government performance items could be compared to benchmark ratings in other counties across the country. Washington County was rated much higher than the benchmark for how well it listens to community members, higher for the value of services for the taxes paid, and similar to the benchmark for how well it manages tax dollars.

Figure 15: Government Performance Comparison to Benchmarks

Please rate the following categories related to Washington County government performance:	Comparison to benchmark
Listening to community members	Much Higher
The value of services for the taxes paid to Washington County	Higher
Managing tax dollars	Similar

Figure 16: Average Ratings of Government Performance by Year

Please rate the following categories of Washington County government performance:



* Note: At least 2 in 10 community members indicated “don’t know” to these items (see [Appendix B: Responses to Survey Questions](#)). The ratings shown in the figure are from those who had an opinion. In 2025, “The job Washington County government does at informing residents” changed to “Informing community members,” “The job Washington County government does at listening to residents” changed to “Listening to community members,” and “The job Washington County government does at managing tax dollars” changed to “Managing tax dollars.” Also, a new category was added: “Applying new technology to connect community members with services.” In 2001, “Informing community members,” was asked, “How informed do you feel about Washington County government and its activities?” and the scale response options were “very informed,” “somewhat informed,” “not too informed,” and “not at all informed.”

Quality of County Services

Community members rated both specific county services and the overall quality of services provided by Washington County. For the overall quality of county services, community members gave an average rating of 67 on the 100-point scale, a rating that was much higher than the county benchmark and slightly above the previous survey iteration in 2022.

Renters and community members who've lived in Washington County from six to 20 years were more likely to provide a higher rating compared to their counterparts (see [Appendix D: Survey Results by Respondent Demographic Characteristics](#)).

Figure 17: Average Ratings of Overall Quality of County Services by Year

Please rate the overall quality of services provided by Washington County.

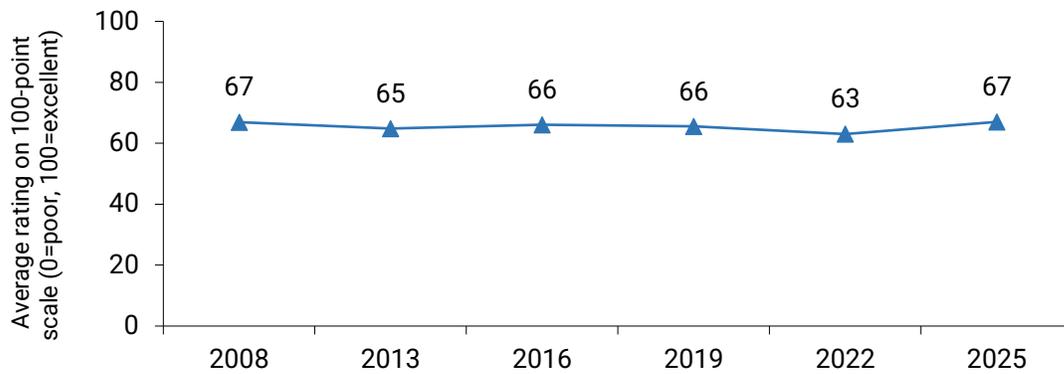


Figure 18: Overall Quality of County Services Comparison to Benchmark

Overall Quality of County Services	Comparison to benchmark
Overall quality of services provided by Washington County	Much Higher

Respondents were also asked to rate the quality of 20 county services. When converted to a 100-point scale where zero is equal to “poor” and 100 represents “excellent,” average scores for 10 services were 67 or above, considered “good” or better. Those services included: county parks and recreation, county libraries, trail and bikeway system, 911 dispatch services, recycling and drop-off services at the Environmental Centers, disaster preparedness and response, snow and ice removal, records and vehicle registration, crisis response services, and public health services. Average ratings for the remaining county services were rated between “fair” and “good” on the 100-point scale.

Washington County received ratings that were higher or much higher than the county benchmark for each of the six services for which a comparison was available: county libraries, county parks and recreation, recycling and drop-off services at the Environmental Centers, snow and ice removal on county highways, disaster preparedness and response, and services provided to older adults.

Compared to ratings in 2022, many services saw improved ratings, with the most notable increases in services for veterans, mental health services, and disaster preparedness and response—rising by seven, eight, and 13 points, respectively.

Community members from District 4 were more likely to rate the condition of county highways and the support in obtaining housing positively, while community members from Districts 1 and 3 were less likely to rate snow and ice removal on county highways positively compared to community members in other districts. Community members aged 34 or younger tended to give more positive ratings across several services, including services for older adults, protecting children and vulnerable adults, mental health services, crisis response services, support in obtaining housing, and healthcare assistance services, than their older counterparts (see *Appendix D: Survey Results by Respondent Demographic Characteristics*).

Figure 19: County Services Comparison to Benchmarks

Please rate the quality of each of the following services provided by Washington County.	Comparison to benchmark
County parks and recreation	Much Higher
Recycling and drop-off services at the Environmental Centers	Much Higher
Snow and ice removal on County highways	Much Higher
County libraries	Much Higher
Disaster preparedness and response	Much Higher
Services provided to older adults	Higher

Figure 20: Average Ratings of County Services by Year

Please rate each of the following services provided by Washington County. Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)	2025	2022	2019	2016	2013	2008	2006
County parks and recreation like Big Marine Park Reserve, Lake Elmo Park Reserve, or St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park	86	84	82	83	82	77	77
County libraries	85	81	81	80	81	79	78
Trail and bikeway system like Hardwood Creek Regional Trail and Point Douglas Regional Trail*	82	80	80	78	78	76	75
911 dispatch services*	82	77	77	77	77	NA	NA
Recycling and drop-off services at the Environmental Centers	79	74	74	73	72	NA	NA
Disaster preparedness and response*	74	61	64	66	59	55	52
Snow and ice removal on county highways	72	68	64	67	59	68	68
Records, vital statistics, licensing, and vehicle registration	67	64	62	72	72	70	73
Crisis response services	67	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Public health services (immunizations, WIC, family health home visits)	67	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Condition of county highways such as 170th St N. (County Rd. 4), 10th Street (County Rd. 10), or Bailey Road (County Rd. 18)	66	62	62	63	59	49	54
Services provided to veterans*	64	57	58	63	58	NA	NA
Employment support*	63	60	64	66	54	52	60
Protecting children and vulnerable adults*	61	55	60	61	NA	NA	NA
Healthcare assistance services	61	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Services provided to older adults*	59	56	59	61	57	61	62
Chemical health services	59	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Mental health services*	56	48	55	56	NA	NA	NA
Economic support services	53	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Support in obtaining housing	49	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

*Note: At least 2 in 10 community members indicated “don’t know” to these items (see [Appendix B: Responses to Survey Questions](#)). The ratings shown in the figure are from those who had an opinion. Before 2025 “Mental health services” was “Mental and chemical health services,” “Disaster preparedness and response” was “Disaster preparedness,” “Snow and ice removal on county highways” was “Snow and ice removal on county roads,” and “Employment support” was “Employment support/career force services.” Six new categories were also added in 2025. In 2022, “Employment support/workforce center services” was changed to “Employment support/career force services.” New items in 2016 were “Protecting children and vulnerable adults” and “Mental and chemical health services.” In 2013, “Employment support services” was changed to “Employment support/workforce center services.” In 2008 and 2006, “Services provided to older adults” was “Social services to seniors” and “County parks and recreation,” “Trail and bikeway system,” and “Condition of County roads” did not include listed items as they have since 2013.

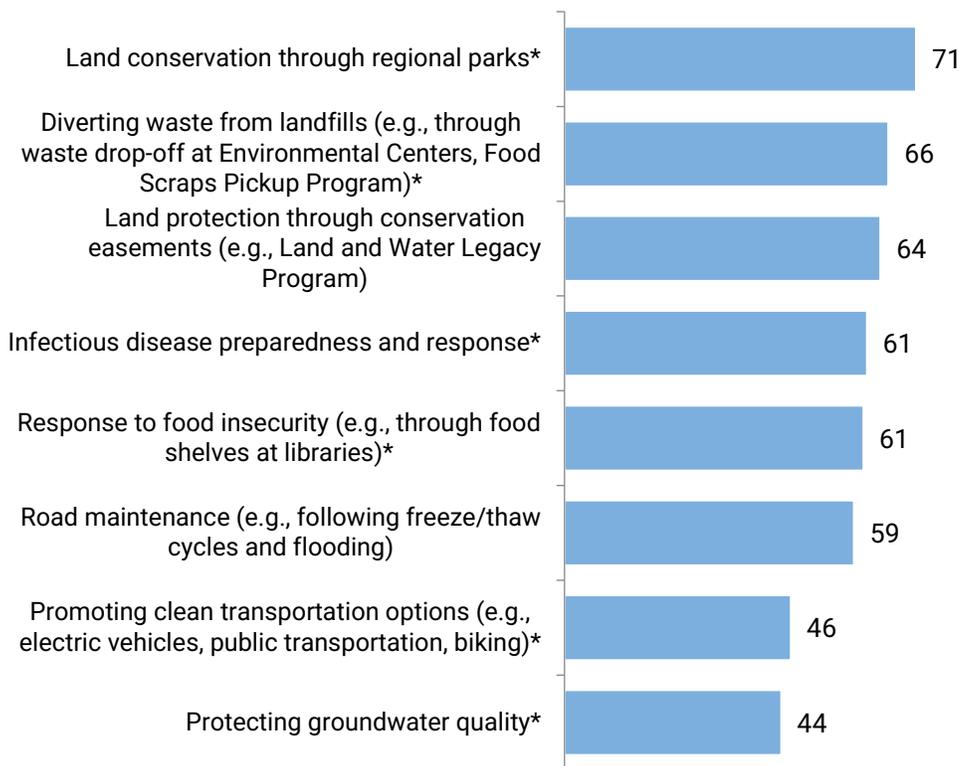
Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Policies

A new question included in the 2025 survey asked respondents to rate how well Washington County performs in eight areas related to climate adaptation and mitigation. When converted to a 100-point scale, where zero equals “poor” and 100 represents “excellent,” average scores for seven of the eight areas were between “fair” and “good.” The sole exception was land conservation through regional parks, which was rated with an average score of 71.

Other well-evaluated areas included diverting waste from landfills (66), land protection through conservation easements (64), infectious disease preparedness and response (61), and response to food insecurity (61). Among the less well-evaluated areas were promoting clean transportation options (46) and protecting groundwater quality (44).

Figure 21: Average Ratings of Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Policies, 2025

Please rate how well Washington County does at climate adaptation and mitigation in the following areas.



Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)

**Note: At least 2 in 10 community members indicated “don’t know” to these items (see [Appendix B: Responses to Survey Questions](#)). The ratings shown in the figure are from those who had an opinion.*

Contact with County Government

As in past years, respondents were asked if they had visited, telephoned, or emailed any Washington County government offices within the previous 12 months. About half of the respondents reported having contacted the county in the 12 months prior to the survey. The proportion of community members contacting the county was higher than in 2022 but similar to levels of contact reported in other counties across the nation.

Figure 22: Government Office Contact by Year

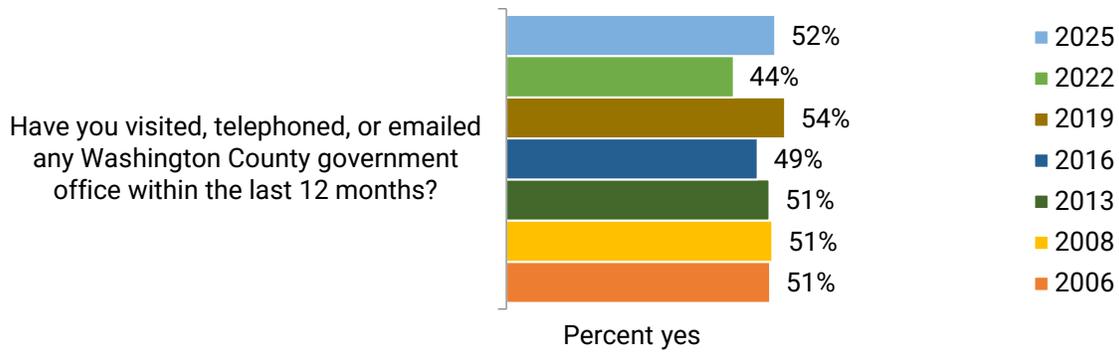


Figure 23: Government Office Contact Comparison to Benchmark

Interacted with County Office	Comparison to benchmark
Have you visited, telephoned, or emailed any Washington County government office within the last 12 months?	Similar

The 52% of respondents who reported contacting a county government office were subsequently asked to share their impressions of the employee they interacted with. The average ratings for courtesy and respect were 86 on the 100-point scale, followed by knowledge at 80, and responsiveness at 77. Each of these ratings were well above “good” (67) on the 100-point scale.

Compared to previous years, the courtesy rating experienced an improvement (from 79 in 2022 to the current rating of 86), while knowledge and responsiveness remained stable. Compared to the national benchmark, the average rating for courtesy was much higher, knowledge was higher, and responsiveness was similar to other counties around the country.

Figure 24: Average Ratings of Employee(s) in Most Recent Contact by Year

What was your experience with the employee(s) of Washington County in your most recent contact? Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)	2025	2022	2019	2016	2013	2008	2006
Courtesy	86	79	76	74	75	80	79
Respect	86	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Knowledge	80	78	77	75	75	76	80
Responsiveness	77	76	72	72	74	75	77

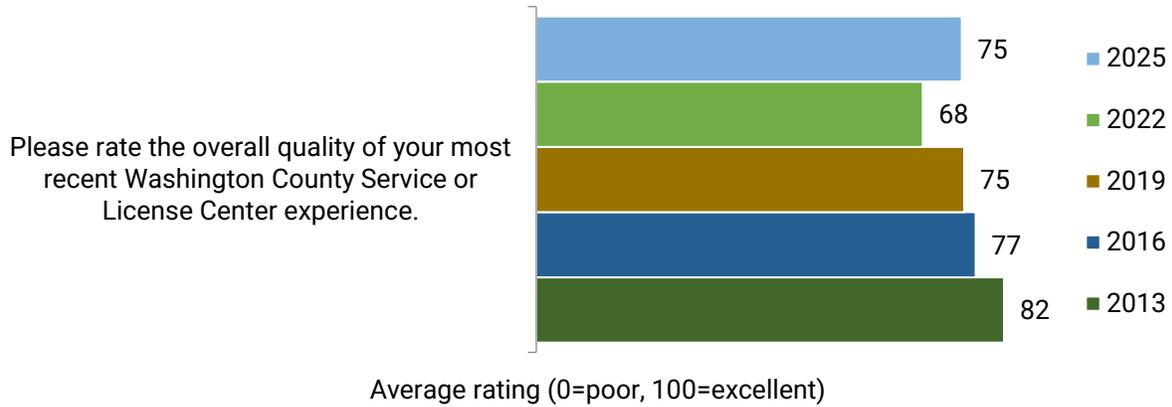
Figure 25: Employee(s) in Most Recent Contact Comparison to Benchmarks

What was your experience with the employee(s) of Washington County in your most recent contact?	Comparison to benchmark
Courtesy	Much Higher
Knowledge	Higher
Responsiveness	Similar

Washington County Service or License Center

Of the 673 survey respondents, 576 reported visiting a Washington County Service or License Center. As in previous years, respondents were asked to rate the overall quality of their most recent experience. In 2025, this rating was 75 points on a 100-point scale, an increase from the rating given in 2022.

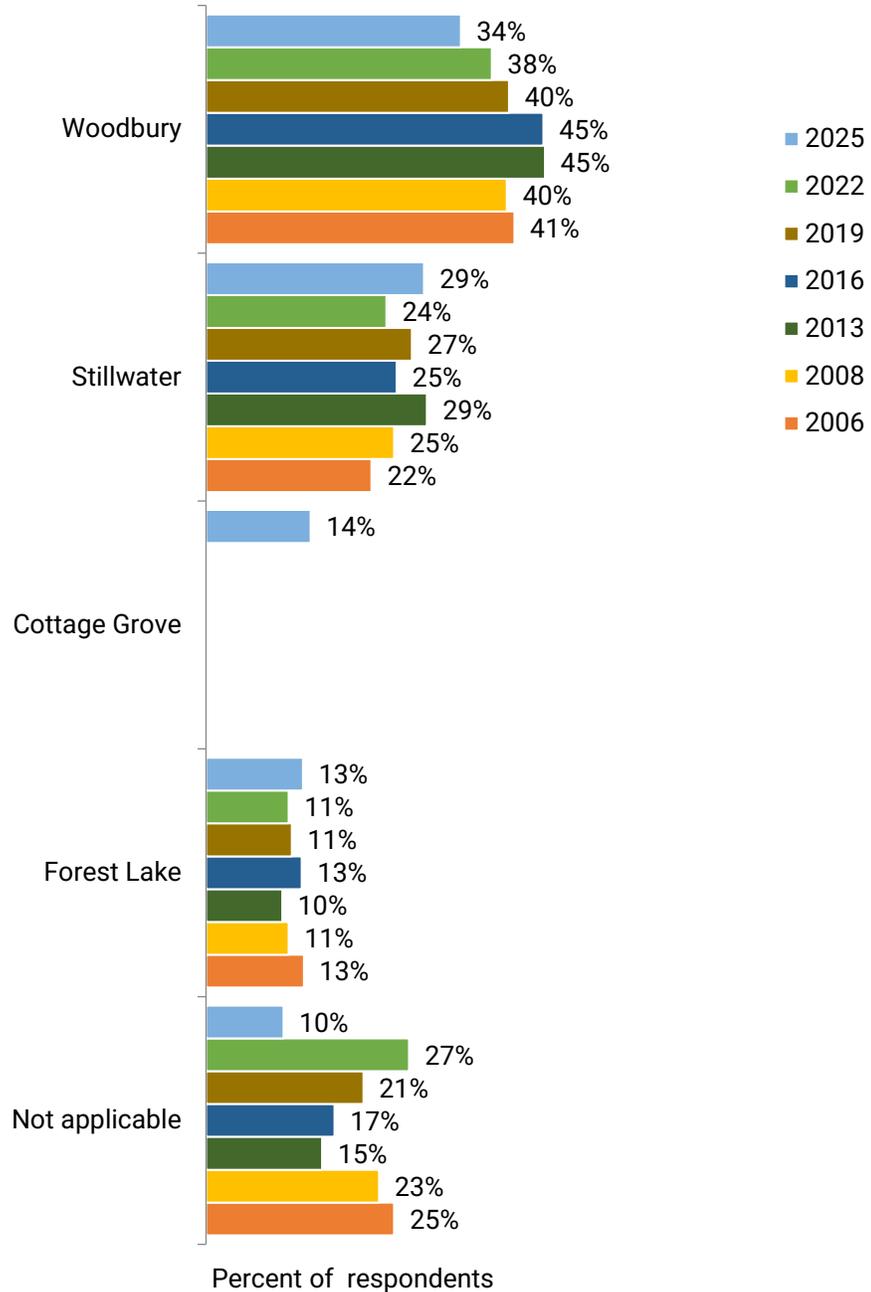
Figure 26: Overall Quality of the Most Recent Washington County Service or License Center Experience by Year



Respondents were asked if they had visited a Washington County Service or License Center, and which location they went to on their most recent visit. In 2025, respondents who had visited a County Service or License Center were most likely to have gone to the Woodbury License Center (34%), which also was the most visited in previous years. Despite that, the 34% that selected the Woodbury location was the lowest percentage since this question was first asked in 2006.

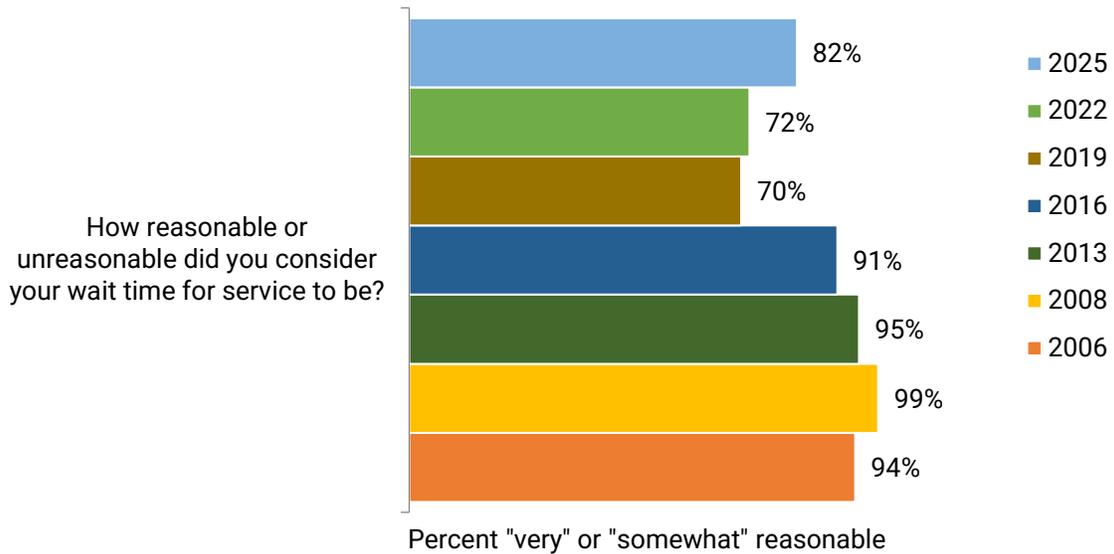
Figure 27: Washington County Service or License Center More Recently Visited by Year

If you have visited a Washington County Service or License Center for services like a driver's license renewal, car registration, passport, or to pay property taxes, which location did you go to on your most recent visit?



When asked how reasonable their wait time was during their most recent visit to a Washington County Service or License Center, 82% of respondents thought it was “very reasonable” or “somewhat reasonable.” About 2 in 10 thought it was “somewhat unreasonable” or “very unreasonable” (see *Appendix B: Responses to Survey Questions* for the full frequency of responses).

Figure 28: Reasonableness of Wait Time at Washington County Service or License Centers by Year



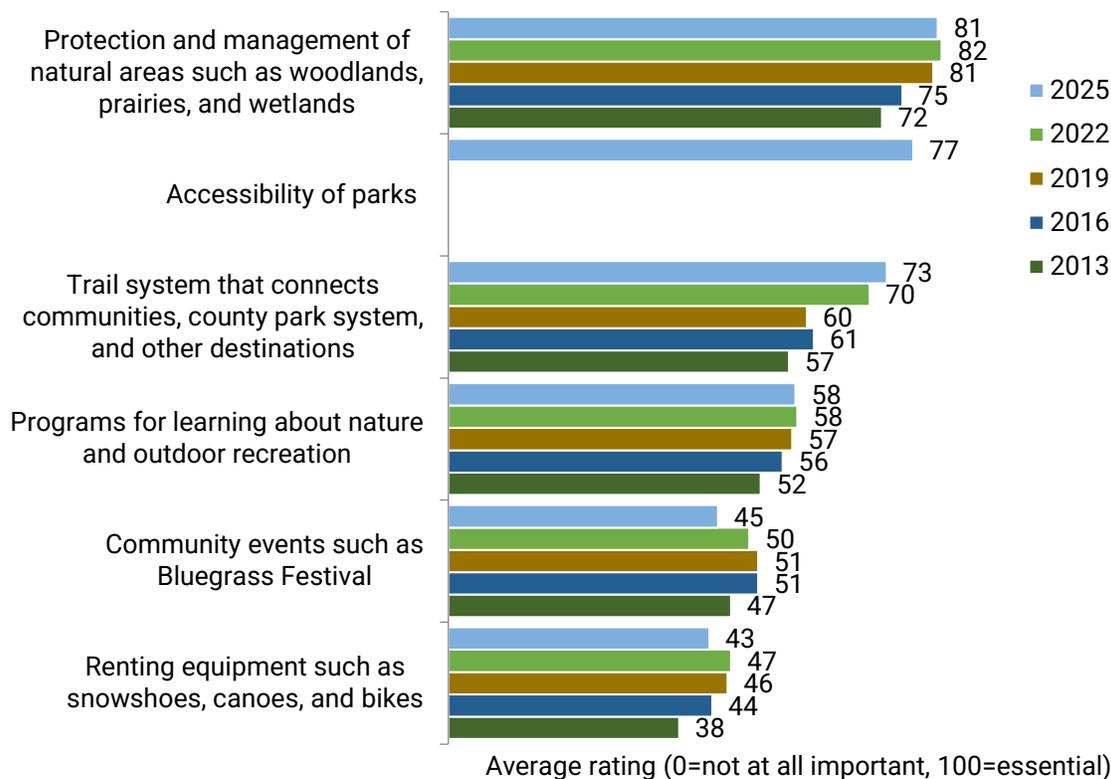
Fiscal Management and Planning

A number of questions on the 2025 survey were aimed at helping the county prioritize programs and services. Knowing where community members feel officials could trim and where resources should remain will aid the county government in making key decisions.

Importance of Activities and Services in Washington County Parks

As in previous years, the survey asked community members about the importance of providing various activities and services in Washington County parks. When converted to a 100-point scale—where 0 means “not at all important” and 100 means “essential”—renting equipment such as snowshoes, canoes, and bikes (43), community events such as the Bluegrass Festival (45), and programs for learning about nature and outdoor recreation (58) received average ratings between “somewhat important” (33) and “very important” (67). The highest-rated services, which were above “very important,” included the protection and management of natural areas (81), accessibility of parks (77), and a trail system that connects communities and other destinations (73). Most ratings were consistent with 2022, except for community events, which saw a decrease from 50 to 45 on a 100-point scale.

Figure 29: Average Rating of Importance of Washington County Park Activities and Services by Year
 How important, if at all, is it for each of the following parks activities and services to be provided by Washington County?



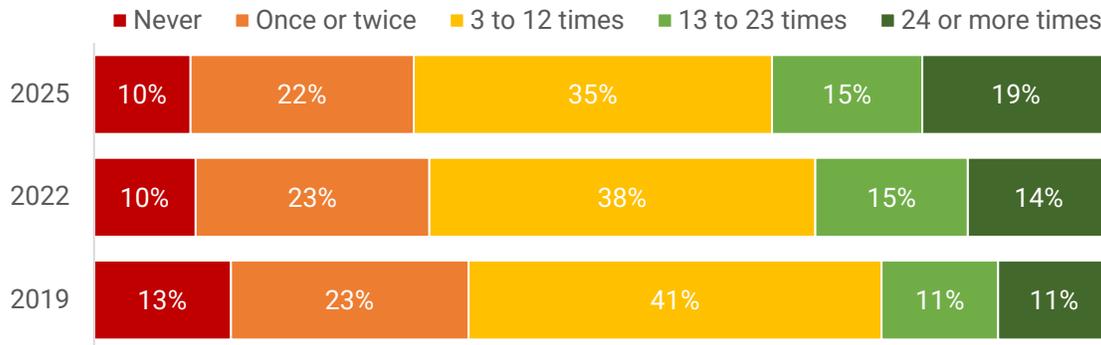
**Note: Respondents were permitted to write in an “other” activity or service that they would like to see in Washington County parks and rate the importance of it. The “other” responses appear verbatim in [Appendix C: Verbatim Responses to Survey Questions](#). Before 2025, “Community events such as Bluegrass Festival” was “Community events such as Bluegrass Festival and Explore Your Parks Day.”*

Parks and Trails

About 2 in 10 community members reported visiting a regional park or trail 24 times or more in the past year, while 5 in 10 had visited between three and 23 times. Another 2 in 10 had visited once or twice, and only 1 in 10 had not visited a regional park or trail at all. Visitation levels remained largely stable from 2022 to 2025.

Figure 30: Regional Park and Trail Visitation by Year

In the past year, how many times have you visited a regional park or trail?

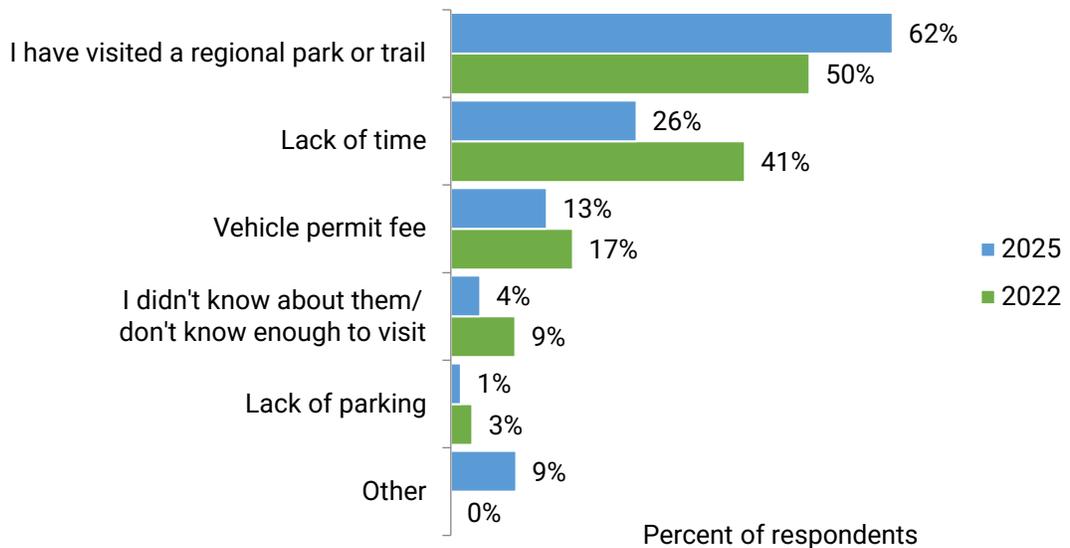


* Note: Totals may not equal 100% due to rounding to the nearest whole number.

Respondents were asked to select from a list of reasons why they had not visited a regional park or trail, or why they hadn't visited more frequently, with the option to choose multiple answers. The most common reason for not visiting was a lack of time, selected by 26% of respondents, followed by the need for a vehicle permit, which 13% of respondents noted as a barrier.

Figure 31: Reasons for Not Visiting Regional Parks and Trails by Year

Why haven't you visited a regional park or trail, or visited more often? (Please check all that apply.)



* Note: Total may exceed 100% as respondents could select more than one response. When a respondent identified an unlisted, or "other," reason, they were asked to write in a response in their own words. The responses that appear in the "other" responses appear verbatim in [Appendix C: Verbatim Responses to Survey Questions](#).

Importance of Services at County Libraries

About 2 in 10 community members reported visiting a Washington County Library Branch more than 12 times in the past year, while nearly 6 in 10 had visited between one and 12 times. Only one-fourth of respondents had not visited a Washington County Library branch in the past year.

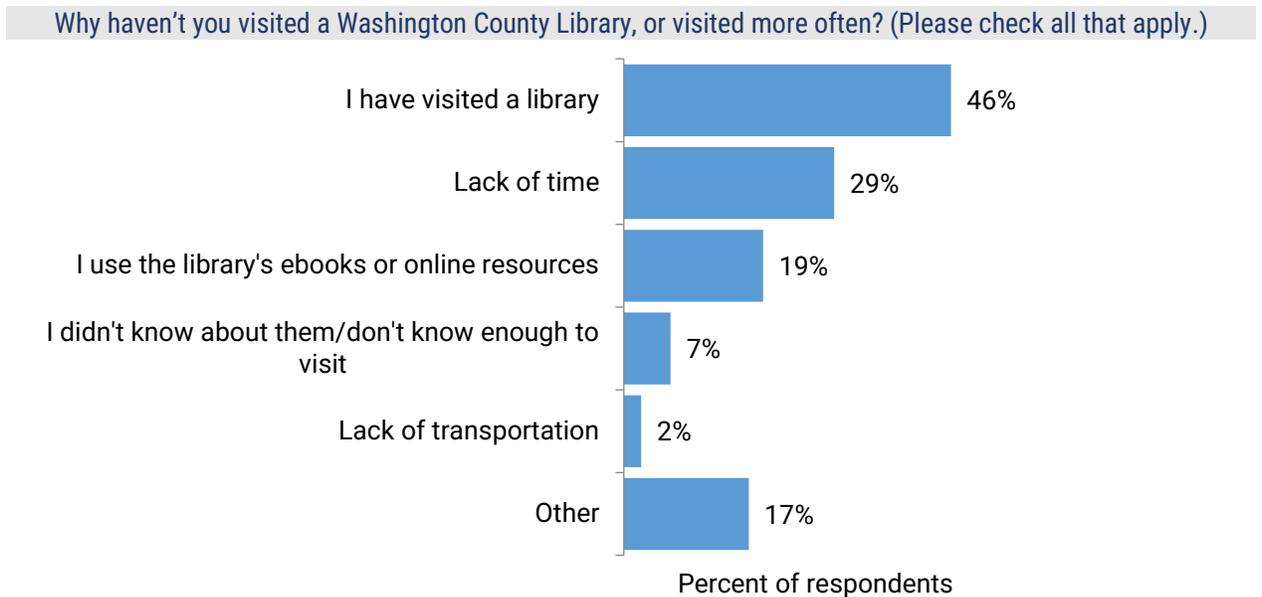
Figure 32: Washington County Library Visitation by Year



* Note: Totals may not equal 100% due to rounding to the nearest whole number.

Respondents were asked to select from a list of reasons why they had not visited a Washington County Library branch, or why they hadn't visited more frequently, with the option to choose multiple answers. The most common reason for not visiting was lack of time, selected by 29% of respondents, followed by the use of the library's resources online, chosen by 19% of respondents.

Figure 33: Reasons for Not Visiting Washington County Library, 2025



* Note: Total may exceed 100% as respondents could select more than one response. When a respondent identified an unlisted, or "other," reason, they were asked to write in a response in their own words. The responses that appear in the "other" responses appear verbatim in [Appendix C: Verbatim Responses to Survey Questions](#).

As in previous years, the 2025 survey sought input about the importance of investing public funds into a variety of services provided at Washington County Libraries. Ten of the 13 library services rated received importance ratings above 50 on the 100-point scale, with early literacy programs (69, a new item included in the 2025 survey), safe space in your community (69, another new item), and access to government information and forms such as tax forms (64) topping the list. Meeting and conference room use (46) and library express, pickup of library materials in automated lockers (41) were given ratings of lower importance.

Figure 34: Average Rating of Importance of Washington County Library Services by Year

Washington County Library offers a variety of services and loans materials in multiple formats. How important, if at all, is it to you for the County to invest public funds in each of the following services? Average rating (0=not at all important, 100=essential)	2025	2022	2019	2016	2013
Early literacy programs	69	NA	NA	NA	NA
Safe space in your community	69	NA	NA	NA	NA
Access to government information and forms such as tax forms	64	59	60	58	55
Programs and classes for all ages for learning, connection and entertainment	63	61	NA	NA	NA
Free computer and wireless access	62	57	56	60	55
Other services available at libraries (e.g., food shelves, naloxone access points)	57	NA	NA	NA	NA
Adult programs and classes	56	56	55	53	48
Downloadable e-books/e-audiobooks (e.g., for a smartphone, Kindle, iPad, or tablet)	56	53	46	47	43
Online access to magazines, newspapers and research and learning resources	54	48	49	49	47
Technology training and classes	52	51	48	NA	NA
Extended library hours	47	46	42	46	NA
Meeting and conference room use	46	42	42	44	39
Library express, pickup of library materials in automated lockers	41	42	36	38	32

** Note: Before 2025, "Online access to magazines, newspapers and research and learning resources" was "Online access to magazines, newspapers and research databases," and "Downloadable e-books/e-audiobooks (e.g., for a smartphone, Kindle, iPad, or tablet)" was "Downloadable e-books (e.g., for a smartphone, Kindle, iPad, or tablet)." Three new items were added in 2025: "Early literacy programs," "Safe space in your community," and "Other services available at libraries (e.g., food shelves, naloxone access points)." In 2022, one item was added: "Programs and classes for all ages for learning, connection and entertainment."*

Public Information Sources

To understand the best ways to communicate with and inform community members about Washington County’s government and its services, community members were asked which potential sources of information about Washington County government they used as a “major source,” “minor source,” or if they were “not a source.” Washington County Newsletter – Staying in Touch topped the list, with 89% of community members saying it was a “major source” or “minor source” of information. This was followed by word of mouth (85%) and the Washington County website (83%).

Other widely used sources of information were communications from their city or township (75%), social media (65%), and television news broadcasts (53%). Among the least used sources were community meetings (35%) and cable access programming (22%).

When compared to ratings given in 2022, the usage of many information sources increased in 2025, among them were the Washington County Newsletter (+15%), social media (+11%), county subscription list and electronic newsletters (+10%), and the Washington County website (+8%).

When analyzed by age group, social media preferences were stronger among younger community members, while daily newspapers, newsletters, television, communications from my city or township, and phone calls were more commonly used by older respondents.

Figure 35: Potential Information Sources Compared by Year

Please rate the extent to which you use each of the following as sources of information about Washington County government, if at all. (Percent “major source” or “minor source”)	2025	2022	2019	2016	2013	2008	2006
Washington County Newsletter – Staying in Touch	89%	74%	77%	77%	80%	80%	81%
Word of mouth (from friends, family, neighbors)	85%	83%	89%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Washington County website (www.washingtoncountymn.gov)	83%	75%	70%	74%	68%	67%	60%
Communications from my city or township	75%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Social Media (Facebook, Instagram, NextDoor, LinkedIn, etc.)	65%	54%	55%	44%	25%	NA	NA
Television news broadcasts	53%	54%	61%	64%	66%	NA	NA
Weekly community newspapers (online or in print)	47%	51%	61%	65%	69%	80%	81%
Daily newspapers (online or in print)	43%	49%	52%	63%	67%	79%	77%
Phone calls to Washington County	39%	31%	36%	37%	38%	NA	NA
County subscription list and electronic newsletters	36%	26%	27%	25%	27%	NA	NA
Community meetings	35%	27%	27%	35%	28%	50%	50%
Cable access programming	22%	25%	31%	33%	33%	59%	52%

* Note: “Communications from my city or township” was added in 2025. Before 2025, “Washington County website (www.washingtoncountymn.gov)” was “Washington County website (www.co.washington.mn.us),” “Weekly community newspapers (online or in print)” was “Weekly community newspapers,” “Daily newspapers (online or in print)” was “Daily newspapers,” and “County subscription list and electronic newsletters” was “County listservs and other County electronic newsletters.”

County Diversity Ratings

The 2025 survey had a question to explore how well the county was doing related to diversity and inclusion. When converted to a 100-point scale where zero is equal to “poor” and 100 represents “excellent,” average scores ranged from 57 to 67, or around “good.”

Treating all community members with respect was the top evaluated item, receiving an average rating of 67. Meanwhile, welcoming community members from all backgrounds to participate in community decision-making received an average rating of 62. Addressing disparities in the community was the lowest rated diversity item, receiving an average value of 57.

Renters rated all three items more favorably than homeowners, while younger community members gave higher ratings than older respondents for efforts to address disparities in the community (see [Appendix D: Survey Results by Respondent Demographic Characteristics](#)).

Figure 36: Average Ratings of County Diversity and Acceptance by Year

Please rate the following categories related to Washington County government performance:



** Note: Before 2025, “Treating all community members with respect” was “Treating all residents with respect” and “Welcoming community members from all backgrounds to participate in community decision-making” was “Creating a community welcoming of residents of all backgrounds and cultures.” “Addressing disparities in the community” was a new item added in 2025.*

Appendix A: Respondent Demographics

Table 1: Question D1

How long have you lived in Washington County?	Percent of respondents	Number
Less than 2 year	10%	N=69
2-5 years	15%	N=102
6-10 years	14%	N=92
11-15 years	10%	N=64
16-20 years	6%	N=41
More than 20 years	45%	N=296
Total	100%	N=664

Table 2: Question D2

Which of the following best describes you?	Percent of respondents	Number
Employed full-time	58%	N=382
Employed part-time	4%	N=28
Retired	30%	N=201
Student	1%	N=8
Unemployed, looking for work	3%	N=17
Unemployed, not looking for work	3%	N=22
Total	100%	N=659

Table 3: Question D3

Which best describes the building you live in?	Percent of respondents	Number
One family house detached from any other houses	70%	N=467
House attached to one or more houses (e.g., a duplex or townhome)	16%	N=106
Building with two or more apartments or condos	12%	N=79
Manufactured or mobile home	0%	N=3
Other	1%	N=10
Total	100%	N=665

Table 4: Question D4

Is this house, duplex, townhome, apartment or mobile home...	Percent of respondents	Number
Rented	18%	N=116
Owned (including with an outstanding mortgage)	82%	N=530
Total	100%	N=646

Table 5: Question D5

Are you Hispanic or Latino?	Percent of respondents	Number
No, not Hispanic or Latino	95%	N=619
Yes, I consider myself to be Hispanic or Latino	5%	N=30
Total	100%	N=650

Table 6: Question D6

What is your race? (Check as many as apply.)	Percent	Number
American Indian or Alaskan Native	1%	N=6
Asian	4%	N=25
Black or African American	4%	N=29
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	1%	N=5
White or Caucasian	84%	N=555
Other	4%	N=25
Prefer not to answer	7%	N=46

Total may exceed 100% as respondents could select more than one response.

Table 7: Question D7

Which category contains your age?	Percent of respondents	Number
18-24	5%	N=36
25-34	17%	N=116
35-44	18%	N=117
45-54	18%	N=120
55-64	12%	N=78
65-74	16%	N=103
75+	14%	N=92
Total	100%	N=661

Table 8: Question D8

What is your gender?	Percent of respondents	Number
Female	48%	N=319
Male	48%	N=315
Non-binary	0%	N=0
Prefer not to answer	4%	N=26
Total	100%	N=661

Table 9: Question D9

Please indicate your household's annual income:	Percent of respondents	Number
Under \$25,000	5%	N=32
\$25,000-\$49,999	8%	N=48
\$50,000-\$74,999	16%	N=97
\$75,000-\$99,999	11%	N=67
\$100,000-\$124,999	15%	N=93
\$125,000-\$149,999	12%	N=73
\$150,000-\$199,999	14%	N=88
\$200,000 or more	20%	N=125
Total	100%	N=622

Table 10: Commissioner District

Area of Residence	Percent of respondents	Number
District 1	21%	N=144
District 2	19%	N=127
District 3	22%	N=145
District 4	19%	N=125
District 5	20%	N=132
Total	100%	N=673

Appendix B: Responses to Survey Questions

The full set of responses to each survey question are displayed in the tables in this appendix. Many survey questions included a “don’t know” response option. Most of the analyses in the body of the report were for respondents who had an opinion as eliminating “don’t know” responses allows for easier comparison between evaluative responses. For questions that included a “don’t know” response, two sets of tables are provided in this appendix; the first with the “don’t know” responses included, to allow examination of the magnitude of unfamiliarity with certain items; and the second with the “don’t know” responses excluded, to show the proportion of respondents with an opinion giving a response.

Table 11: Question 1

How would you rate the overall quality of life in Washington County?	Percent of respondents	Number
Excellent	45%	N=294
Good	49%	N=322
Fair	5%	N=36
Poor	0%	N=1
Total	100%	N=653

Table 12: Question 2 - Including Don't Know Responses

Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in Washington County.	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Don't know		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
As a place to live	49%	N=328	46%	N=309	5%	N=32	0%	N=1	0%	N=1	100%	N=671
As a place to raise children	42%	N=282	34%	N=228	7%	N=45	1%	N=6	16%	N=103	100%	N=663
As a place to work	18%	N=121	34%	N=222	16%	N=103	2%	N=14	31%	N=202	100%	N=662
As a place to retire	26%	N=169	29%	N=189	18%	N=119	7%	N=46	21%	N=138	100%	N=661

Table 13: Question 2 - Excluding Don't Know Responses

Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in Washington County.	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
As a place to live	49%	N=328	46%	N=309	5%	N=32	0%	N=1	100%	N=670
As a place to raise children	50%	N=282	41%	N=228	8%	N=45	1%	N=6	100%	N=560
As a place to work	26%	N=121	48%	N=222	22%	N=103	3%	N=14	100%	N=460
As a place to retire	32%	N=169	36%	N=189	23%	N=119	9%	N=46	100%	N=524

Table 14: Question 3 - Including Don't Know Responses

Please rate each of the following characteristics of Washington County.	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Don't know		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Outdoor recreational opportunities	42%	N=281	44%	N=293	9%	N=62	1%	N=9	3%	N=22	100%	N=668
Employment opportunities	7%	N=44	29%	N=190	24%	N=160	5%	N=31	35%	N=232	100%	N=657
Openness and acceptance toward people of diverse backgrounds	21%	N=138	41%	N=274	20%	N=130	6%	N=39	12%	N=81	100%	N=662
Availability of housing options for all incomes	8%	N=56	26%	N=169	27%	N=176	19%	N=128	20%	N=130	100%	N=659
Rural character and natural environment	31%	N=206	42%	N=281	20%	N=131	5%	N=32	2%	N=17	100%	N=666
Sense of community and connection	17%	N=115	46%	N=307	27%	N=183	6%	N=41	3%	N=20	100%	N=666
Ease of travel by car	39%	N=260	44%	N=293	15%	N=97	2%	N=13	0%	N=2	100%	N=665
Bike and pedestrian transportation options	24%	N=156	37%	N=242	20%	N=134	11%	N=76	8%	N=52	100%	N=660
Ability to access destinations by walking or biking	20%	N=131	31%	N=205	27%	N=181	16%	N=109	6%	N=38	100%	N=665
Public transit	6%	N=41	13%	N=85	20%	N=132	28%	N=187	33%	N=216	100%	N=661
Ease of access to support services and resources	13%	N=86	34%	N=224	19%	N=125	4%	N=27	30%	N=195	100%	N=657
Overall feeling of safety in Washington County	37%	N=241	51%	N=333	10%	N=65	2%	N=11	0%	N=2	100%	N=653
Overall image or reputation of Washington County	35%	N=238	53%	N=358	7%	N=49	1%	N=4	3%	N=21	100%	N=671

Table 15: Question 3 - Excluding Don't Know Responses

Please rate each of the following characteristics of Washington County.	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Outdoor recreational opportunities	43%	N=281	45%	N=293	10%	N=62	1%	N=9	100%	N=646
Employment opportunities	10%	N=44	45%	N=190	38%	N=160	7%	N=31	100%	N=425
Openness and acceptance toward people of diverse backgrounds	24%	N=138	47%	N=274	22%	N=130	7%	N=39	100%	N=581
Availability of housing options for all incomes	11%	N=56	32%	N=169	33%	N=176	24%	N=128	100%	N=529
Rural character and natural environment	32%	N=206	43%	N=281	20%	N=131	5%	N=32	100%	N=650
Sense of community and connection	18%	N=115	48%	N=307	28%	N=183	6%	N=41	100%	N=646
Ease of travel by car	39%	N=260	44%	N=293	15%	N=97	2%	N=13	100%	N=662
Bike and pedestrian transportation options	26%	N=156	40%	N=242	22%	N=134	12%	N=76	100%	N=609
Ability to access destinations by walking or biking	21%	N=131	33%	N=205	29%	N=181	17%	N=109	100%	N=626
Public transit	9%	N=41	19%	N=85	30%	N=132	42%	N=187	100%	N=445
Ease of access to support services and resources	19%	N=86	49%	N=224	27%	N=125	6%	N=27	100%	N=462
Overall feeling of safety in Washington County	37%	N=241	51%	N=333	10%	N=65	2%	N=11	100%	N=650
Overall image or reputation of Washington County	37%	N=238	55%	N=358	8%	N=49	1%	N=4	100%	N=650

Table 16: Question 4

What one thing do you like most about living in Washington County? (Please select only one.)	Percent of respondents	Number
Location	25%	N=165
Open space/rural	15%	N=101
Parks/lakes	8%	N=53
People	1%	N=8
My neighborhood	10%	N=69
Schools	3%	N=21
Small town feel	7%	N=49
Low taxes	2%	N=11
Quality of life in general	26%	N=172
Other	3%	N=18
Total	100%	N=667

Table 17: Question 5 - Including Don't Know Responses

Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel in Washington County.	Very safe		Somewhat safe		Somewhat unsafe		Very unsafe		Don't know		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
From property crimes (e.g., burglary, theft)	47%	N=312	45%	N=297	6%	N=42	1%	N=7	0%	N=2	100%	N=661
From violent crimes (e.g., rape, assault, domestic violence, robbery)	60%	N=400	32%	N=213	4%	N=27	1%	N=10	2%	N=13	100%	N=664
From illegal drug activity (e.g., manufacturing or selling drugs)	44%	N=291	39%	N=258	7%	N=45	2%	N=14	9%	N=59	100%	N=667
From the opioid epidemic	42%	N=275	31%	N=206	10%	N=65	2%	N=11	16%	N=104	100%	N=661
While driving on roads in the county	40%	N=262	49%	N=325	10%	N=63	1%	N=4	1%	N=3	100%	N=658
From drivers under the influence on roads in the county	25%	N=169	52%	N=344	15%	N=97	2%	N=11	6%	N=43	100%	N=665
From distracted drivers on roads in the county	15%	N=97	48%	N=319	26%	N=175	8%	N=51	4%	N=26	100%	N=668
While biking or walking along roads in the county	21%	N=142	45%	N=303	19%	N=127	5%	N=33	9%	N=63	100%	N=667
From identity theft (e.g., fraud, scams, credit card theft)	23%	N=152	38%	N=254	19%	N=126	4%	N=29	16%	N=105	100%	N=665
From human trafficking	43%	N=286	24%	N=160	5%	N=32	2%	N=14	26%	N=171	100%	N=664
In your neighborhood	67%	N=441	29%	N=194	3%	N=19	1%	N=5	1%	N=5	100%	N=663
In Washington County regional parks or trails	48%	N=318	40%	N=267	5%	N=32	1%	N=4	7%	N=47	100%	N=668
In county government buildings (e.g., County Government Center, libraries)	71%	N=465	21%	N=136	1%	N=6	0%	N=1	7%	N=48	100%	N=656

Table 18: Question 5 - Excluding Don't Know Responses

Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel in Washington County.	Very safe		Somewhat safe		Somewhat unsafe		Very unsafe		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
From property crimes (e.g., burglary, theft)	47%	N=312	45%	N=297	6%	N=42	1%	N=7	100%	N=659
From violent crimes (e.g., rape, assault, domestic violence, robbery)	62%	N=400	33%	N=213	4%	N=27	2%	N=10	100%	N=650
From illegal drug activity (e.g., manufacturing or selling drugs)	48%	N=291	42%	N=258	7%	N=45	2%	N=14	100%	N=608
From the opioid epidemic	49%	N=275	37%	N=206	12%	N=65	2%	N=11	100%	N=557
While driving on roads in the county	40%	N=262	50%	N=325	10%	N=63	1%	N=4	100%	N=654
From drivers under the influence on roads in the county	27%	N=169	55%	N=344	16%	N=97	2%	N=11	100%	N=622
From distracted drivers on roads in the county	15%	N=97	50%	N=319	27%	N=175	8%	N=51	100%	N=642
While biking or walking along roads in the county	23%	N=142	50%	N=303	21%	N=127	6%	N=33	100%	N=604
From identity theft (e.g., fraud, scams, credit card theft)	27%	N=152	45%	N=254	22%	N=126	5%	N=29	100%	N=560
From human trafficking	58%	N=286	33%	N=160	6%	N=32	3%	N=14	100%	N=493
In your neighborhood	67%	N=441	29%	N=194	3%	N=19	1%	N=5	100%	N=658
In Washington County regional parks or trails	51%	N=318	43%	N=267	5%	N=32	1%	N=4	100%	N=621
In county government buildings (e.g., County Government Center, libraries)	76%	N=465	22%	N=136	1%	N=6	0%	N=1	100%	N=608

Table 19: Question 6 – Including Don't Know Responses

What would you say is the most serious issue facing Washington County at this time?	Percent of respondents	Number
Too much growth/development	11%	N=56
Taxes	17%	N=91
Schools	3%	N=13
Condition of roads	1%	N=8
Crime	4%	N=22
Affordable housing	13%	N=69
Economic development	1%	N=4
Traffic congestion	1%	N=7
Water quality	8%	N=41
Politics / Political division	3%	N=18
Drugs	2%	N=10
Poverty / Homelessness	1%	N=4
Public transportation / Walkability	5%	N=25
Inflation / Cost of living	4%	N=19
Reckless driving	5%	N=24
Public spending	2%	N=9
Environmental issues	2%	N=10
Diversity, equity, and inclusion	2%	N=9
Maintaining the rural feel	2%	N=13
Other	10%	N=53
Don't know	4%	N=19
Total	100%	N=523

Table 20: Question 6 - Excluding Don't Know Responses

What would you say is the most serious issue facing Washington County at this time?	Percent of respondents	Number
Too much growth/development	11%	N=56
Not enough growth/development	0%	N=0
Taxes	18%	N=91
Schools	3%	N=13
Condition of roads	2%	N=8
Crime	4%	N=22
Affordable housing	13%	N=69
Economic development	1%	N=4
Jobs	0%	N=0
Traffic congestion	1%	N=7
Water quality	8%	N=41
Politics / Political Division	3%	N=18
Drugs	2%	N=10
Poverty / Homelessness	1%	N=4
Public Transportation / Walkability	5%	N=25
Inflation / Cost of living	4%	N=19
Reckless Driving	5%	N=24
Public Spending	2%	N=9
Environmental Issues	2%	N=10
Diversity, equity, and inclusion	2%	N=9
Maintaining the rural feel	3%	N=13
Other	11%	N=53
Total	100%	N=504

Table 21: Question 7 - Including Don't Know Responses

Please rate to what degree, if at all, each of the following is a problem in Washington County.	Not a problem		Minor problem		Moderate problem		Major problem		Don't know		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Violent crime (e.g., rape, assault, domestic violence, robbery)	23%	N=155	37%	N=242	17%	N=112	2%	N=14	21%	N=140	100%	N=662
Property crime (e.g., burglary, theft)	16%	N=104	38%	N=253	26%	N=174	5%	N=31	15%	N=98	100%	N=661
Drug dealing	20%	N=133	28%	N=187	17%	N=112	4%	N=24	31%	N=203	100%	N=660
Taxes	17%	N=110	20%	N=131	32%	N=213	27%	N=176	5%	N=31	100%	N=660
Roadway safety	27%	N=180	40%	N=267	26%	N=173	5%	N=33	1%	N=9	100%	N=662
Roadway congestion	25%	N=161	40%	N=260	24%	N=155	10%	N=65	2%	N=13	100%	N=655
Poverty	19%	N=128	33%	N=222	19%	N=123	3%	N=18	26%	N=171	100%	N=662
Homelessness	28%	N=184	31%	N=203	12%	N=76	1%	N=7	29%	N=190	100%	N=660
Availability of stable, affordable housing	14%	N=95	23%	N=149	25%	N=167	18%	N=117	20%	N=132	100%	N=661
Availability of livable wage jobs	12%	N=81	19%	N=126	28%	N=186	10%	N=69	30%	N=199	100%	N=659
Access to public transit	20%	N=132	19%	N=122	20%	N=130	18%	N=118	23%	N=150	100%	N=651
Access to trails and sidewalks	54%	N=359	27%	N=178	9%	N=57	5%	N=33	5%	N=33	100%	N=660
Transportation options	25%	N=165	21%	N=140	19%	N=129	14%	N=93	20%	N=136	100%	N=663

Table 22: Question 7 - Excluding Don't Know Responses

Please rate to what degree, if at all, each of the following is a problem in Washington County.	Not a problem		Minor problem		Moderate problem		Major problem		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Violent crime (e.g., rape, assault, domestic violence, robbery)	30%	N=155	46%	N=242	21%	N=112	3%	N=14	100%	N=522
Property crime (e.g., burglary, theft)	18%	N=104	45%	N=253	31%	N=174	6%	N=31	100%	N=563
Drug dealing	29%	N=133	41%	N=187	25%	N=112	5%	N=24	100%	N=456
Taxes	17%	N=110	21%	N=131	34%	N=213	28%	N=176	100%	N=629
Roadway safety	28%	N=180	41%	N=267	27%	N=173	5%	N=33	100%	N=654
Roadway congestion	25%	N=161	40%	N=260	24%	N=155	10%	N=65	100%	N=642
Poverty	26%	N=128	45%	N=222	25%	N=123	4%	N=18	100%	N=491
Homelessness	39%	N=184	43%	N=203	16%	N=76	2%	N=7	100%	N=470
Availability of stable, affordable housing	18%	N=95	28%	N=149	32%	N=167	22%	N=117	100%	N=529
Availability of livable wage jobs	18%	N=81	27%	N=126	40%	N=186	15%	N=69	100%	N=461
Access to public transit	26%	N=132	24%	N=122	26%	N=130	23%	N=118	100%	N=501
Access to trails and sidewalks	57%	N=359	28%	N=178	9%	N=57	5%	N=33	100%	N=627
Transportation options	31%	N=165	27%	N=140	25%	N=129	18%	N=93	100%	N=527

Table 23: Question 8 - Including Don't Know Responses

Please rate to what degree, if at all, each of the following is a health concern throughout Washington County.	Not at all concern		Minor concern		Moderate concern		Major concern		Don't know		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Bullying	16%	N=104	18%	N=117	18%	N=116	9%	N=60	39%	N=253	100%	N=650
Suicide/attempted suicide	16%	N=107	17%	N=112	17%	N=115	4%	N=25	45%	N=298	100%	N=657
Domestic violence	12%	N=78	20%	N=133	20%	N=131	5%	N=30	43%	N=283	100%	N=655
Underage alcohol use	13%	N=84	22%	N=144	20%	N=134	6%	N=42	38%	N=251	100%	N=654
Excessive alcohol use among adults	17%	N=113	26%	N=168	19%	N=127	6%	N=40	32%	N=207	100%	N=655
Illicit drug use	16%	N=105	24%	N=156	17%	N=108	5%	N=31	39%	N=254	100%	N=654
Accidental drug overdose	17%	N=109	23%	N=150	11%	N=73	4%	N=26	45%	N=291	100%	N=650
Misuse of prescribed medications	16%	N=104	22%	N=142	13%	N=84	4%	N=27	45%	N=293	100%	N=649
Tobacco use	26%	N=169	27%	N=179	14%	N=93	5%	N=33	28%	N=180	100%	N=654
Cannabis use	28%	N=185	23%	N=153	13%	N=86	9%	N=57	27%	N=175	100%	N=656
Electronic cigarettes/vaping	21%	N=136	24%	N=155	20%	N=128	12%	N=78	24%	N=156	100%	N=653
Overweight children	14%	N=90	19%	N=122	26%	N=172	19%	N=125	22%	N=144	100%	N=653
Overweight adults	12%	N=77	18%	N=121	29%	N=188	23%	N=150	18%	N=116	100%	N=652
Heart disease	14%	N=89	17%	N=112	22%	N=142	13%	N=85	34%	N=225	100%	N=654
Spread of infectious diseases	15%	N=100	27%	N=178	21%	N=137	8%	N=53	28%	N=183	100%	N=651
Abuse and neglect of children	14%	N=91	22%	N=147	14%	N=91	7%	N=46	43%	N=280	100%	N=655
Abuse and neglect of seniors	15%	N=98	23%	N=151	14%	N=91	7%	N=46	41%	N=267	100%	N=653
Access to healthcare and support for seniors	23%	N=150	20%	N=134	20%	N=129	9%	N=57	29%	N=188	100%	N=658
Access to healthcare and support for people with disabilities	19%	N=121	22%	N=142	18%	N=115	8%	N=51	35%	N=226	100%	N=654
Access to healthcare for all community members	24%	N=155	26%	N=170	20%	N=128	8%	N=51	23%	N=149	100%	N=653
Access to parks and open space	60%	N=396	20%	N=129	11%	N=69	4%	N=26	5%	N=35	100%	N=655
Depression/anxiety	13%	N=86	23%	N=149	22%	N=142	11%	N=73	31%	N=205	100%	N=656
Loneliness	15%	N=100	22%	N=146	22%	N=142	8%	N=53	33%	N=214	100%	N=654
Mental health	12%	N=81	19%	N=127	24%	N=157	15%	N=97	29%	N=192	100%	N=654
Access to mental healthcare	16%	N=103	19%	N=123	21%	N=138	14%	N=95	30%	N=198	100%	N=657

Table 24: Question 8 - Excluding Don't Know Responses

Please rate to what degree, if at all, each of the following is a health concern throughout Washington County.	Not at all concern		Minor concern		Moderate concern		Major concern		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Bullying	26%	N=104	30%	N=117	29%	N=116	15%	N=60	100%	N=397
Suicide/attempted suicide	30%	N=107	31%	N=112	32%	N=115	7%	N=25	100%	N=359
Domestic violence	21%	N=78	36%	N=133	35%	N=131	8%	N=30	100%	N=372
Underage alcohol use	21%	N=84	36%	N=144	33%	N=134	10%	N=42	100%	N=403
Excessive alcohol use among adults	25%	N=113	37%	N=168	28%	N=127	9%	N=40	100%	N=448
Illicit drug use	26%	N=105	39%	N=156	27%	N=108	8%	N=31	100%	N=401
Accidental drug overdose	30%	N=109	42%	N=150	20%	N=73	7%	N=26	100%	N=359
Misuse of prescribed medications	29%	N=104	40%	N=142	23%	N=84	8%	N=27	100%	N=357
Tobacco use	36%	N=169	38%	N=179	20%	N=93	7%	N=33	100%	N=474
Cannabis use	38%	N=185	32%	N=153	18%	N=86	12%	N=57	100%	N=481
Electronic cigarettes/vaping	27%	N=136	31%	N=155	26%	N=128	16%	N=78	100%	N=497
Overweight children	18%	N=90	24%	N=122	34%	N=172	25%	N=125	100%	N=509
Overweight adults	14%	N=77	22%	N=121	35%	N=188	28%	N=150	100%	N=536
Heart disease	21%	N=89	26%	N=112	33%	N=142	20%	N=85	100%	N=428
Spread of infectious diseases	21%	N=100	38%	N=178	29%	N=137	11%	N=53	100%	N=468
Abuse and neglect of children	24%	N=91	39%	N=147	24%	N=91	12%	N=46	100%	N=375
Abuse and neglect of seniors	25%	N=98	39%	N=151	24%	N=91	12%	N=46	100%	N=386
Access to healthcare and support for seniors	32%	N=150	29%	N=134	27%	N=129	12%	N=57	100%	N=471
Access to healthcare and support for people with disabilities	28%	N=121	33%	N=142	27%	N=115	12%	N=51	100%	N=429
Access to healthcare for all community members	31%	N=155	34%	N=170	25%	N=128	10%	N=51	100%	N=504
Access to parks and open space	64%	N=396	21%	N=129	11%	N=69	4%	N=26	100%	N=620
Depression/anxiety	19%	N=86	33%	N=149	32%	N=142	16%	N=73	100%	N=451
Loneliness	23%	N=100	33%	N=146	32%	N=142	12%	N=53	100%	N=440
Mental health	17%	N=81	27%	N=127	34%	N=157	21%	N=97	100%	N=462
Access to mental healthcare	22%	N=103	27%	N=123	30%	N=138	21%	N=95	100%	N=459

Table 25: Question 9 - Including Don't Know Responses

Please rate to what degree, if at all, each of the following is an environmental concern in Washington County.	Not at all concern		Minor concern		Moderate concern		Major concern		Don't know		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Exposure to radon	21%	N=138	27%	N=180	15%	N=101	6%	N=41	30%	N=196	100%	N=656
Quality of outdoor air	37%	N=244	34%	N=227	17%	N=109	6%	N=40	6%	N=39	100%	N=660
Safety of food in public establishments	41%	N=269	29%	N=194	16%	N=104	6%	N=38	9%	N=58	100%	N=662
Management of garbage	58%	N=381	25%	N=165	8%	N=55	5%	N=31	4%	N=27	100%	N=660
Service by waste collection providers	66%	N=436	20%	N=130	7%	N=46	4%	N=26	3%	N=22	100%	N=659
Quality of drinking water	19%	N=127	15%	N=97	23%	N=152	40%	N=261	3%	N=22	100%	N=660
Quality of water in lakes and streams	17%	N=111	22%	N=149	25%	N=164	29%	N=192	7%	N=48	100%	N=664
Quantity of useable water supply	23%	N=151	20%	N=135	20%	N=131	28%	N=182	9%	N=59	100%	N=659
Climate change	28%	N=184	13%	N=88	20%	N=130	33%	N=217	6%	N=43	100%	N=661
Access to recycling	56%	N=375	23%	N=151	11%	N=70	8%	N=51	3%	N=17	100%	N=665
Yard waste disposal	49%	N=322	23%	N=153	14%	N=94	7%	N=45	7%	N=49	100%	N=663

Table 26: Question 9 - Excluding Don't Know Responses

Please rate to what degree, if at all, each of the following is an environmental concern in Washington County.	Not at all concern		Minor concern		Moderate concern		Major concern		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Exposure to radon	30%	N=138	39%	N=180	22%	N=101	9%	N=41	100%	N=460
Quality of outdoor air	39%	N=244	37%	N=227	18%	N=109	6%	N=40	100%	N=620
Safety of food in public establishments	44%	N=269	32%	N=194	17%	N=104	6%	N=38	100%	N=604
Management of garbage	60%	N=381	26%	N=165	9%	N=55	5%	N=31	100%	N=632
Service by waste collection providers	68%	N=436	20%	N=130	7%	N=46	4%	N=26	100%	N=638
Quality of drinking water	20%	N=127	15%	N=97	24%	N=152	41%	N=261	100%	N=638
Quality of water in lakes and streams	18%	N=111	24%	N=149	27%	N=164	31%	N=192	100%	N=616
Quantity of useable water supply	25%	N=151	22%	N=135	22%	N=131	30%	N=182	100%	N=600
Climate change	30%	N=184	14%	N=88	21%	N=130	35%	N=217	100%	N=619
Access to recycling	58%	N=375	23%	N=151	11%	N=70	8%	N=51	100%	N=648
Yard waste disposal	52%	N=322	25%	N=153	15%	N=94	7%	N=45	100%	N=614

Table 27: Question 10 - Including Don't Know Responses

Please rate how well Washington County does at climate adaptation and mitigation in the following areas.	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Don't know		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Land protection through conservation easements (e.g., Land and Water Legacy Program)	18%	N=116	34%	N=222	13%	N=85	5%	N=33	30%	N=195	100%	N=651
Land conservation through regional parks	28%	N=183	41%	N=267	12%	N=75	3%	N=16	16%	N=106	100%	N=647
Protecting groundwater quality	8%	N=49	26%	N=170	24%	N=154	17%	N=114	25%	N=164	100%	N=651
Promoting clean transportation options (e.g., electric vehicles, public transportation, biking)	11%	N=70	24%	N=157	23%	N=147	17%	N=113	25%	N=162	100%	N=649
Diverting waste from landfills (e.g., through waste drop-off at Environmental Centers, Food Scraps Pickup Program)	22%	N=146	37%	N=242	14%	N=90	5%	N=35	21%	N=139	100%	N=651
Infectious disease preparedness and response	11%	N=70	28%	N=184	13%	N=86	3%	N=20	44%	N=286	100%	N=646
Response to food insecurity (e.g., through food shelves at libraries)	14%	N=90	30%	N=193	16%	N=105	5%	N=30	36%	N=231	100%	N=649
Road maintenance (e.g., following freeze/thaw cycles and flooding)	16%	N=107	48%	N=312	22%	N=144	8%	N=55	5%	N=33	100%	N=650

Table 28: Question 10 - Excluding Don't Know Responses

Please rate how well Washington County does at climate adaptation and mitigation in the following areas.	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Land protection through conservation easements (e.g., Land and Water Legacy Program)	25%	N=116	49%	N=222	19%	N=85	7%	N=33	100%	N=456
Land conservation through regional parks	34%	N=183	49%	N=267	14%	N=75	3%	N=16	100%	N=541
Protecting groundwater quality	10%	N=49	35%	N=170	32%	N=154	23%	N=114	100%	N=488
Promoting clean transportation options (e.g., electric vehicles, public transportation, biking)	14%	N=70	32%	N=157	30%	N=147	23%	N=113	100%	N=486
Diverting waste from landfills (e.g., through waste drop-off at Environmental Centers, Food Scraps Pickup Program)	28%	N=146	47%	N=242	18%	N=90	7%	N=35	100%	N=513
Infectious disease preparedness and response	19%	N=70	51%	N=184	24%	N=86	6%	N=20	100%	N=360
Response to food insecurity (e.g., through food shelves at libraries)	21%	N=90	46%	N=193	25%	N=105	7%	N=30	100%	N=418
Road maintenance (e.g., following freeze/thaw cycles and flooding)	17%	N=107	50%	N=312	23%	N=144	9%	N=55	100%	N=618

Table 29: Question 11 - Including Don't Know Responses

Please rate the quality of each of the following services provided by Washington County.	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Don't know		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
County libraries	53%	N=346	31%	N=202	4%	N=24	0%	N=3	12%	N=75	100%	N=649
County parks and recreation like Big Marine Park Reserve, Lake Elmo Park Reserve, or St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park	56%	N=365	29%	N=189	5%	N=30	0%	N=1	10%	N=67	100%	N=652
Trail and bikeway system like Hardwood Creek Regional Trail and Point Douglas Regional Trail	39%	N=256	32%	N=206	4%	N=27	0%	N=3	25%	N=161	100%	N=653
Condition of county highways such as 170th St N. (County Rd. 4), 10th Street (County Rd. 10), or Bailey Road (County Rd. 18)	21%	N=137	46%	N=300	18%	N=119	2%	N=13	12%	N=77	100%	N=646
Snow and ice removal on county highways	34%	N=219	49%	N=318	14%	N=89	2%	N=12	3%	N=17	100%	N=655
Employment support	9%	N=56	17%	N=108	9%	N=57	2%	N=12	64%	N=413	100%	N=647
Recycling and drop-off services at the Environmental Centers	42%	N=269	34%	N=221	7%	N=44	2%	N=15	15%	N=95	100%	N=645
Records, vital statistics, licensing, and vehicle registration	27%	N=175	43%	N=279	16%	N=105	4%	N=29	10%	N=66	100%	N=654
911 dispatch services	29%	N=188	24%	N=159	3%	N=19	0%	N=2	44%	N=285	100%	N=653
Disaster preparedness and response	14%	N=90	22%	N=139	5%	N=30	0%	N=2	59%	N=380	100%	N=642
Services provided to veterans	9%	N=59	11%	N=72	6%	N=40	3%	N=18	71%	N=456	100%	N=645
Services provided to older adults	9%	N=55	18%	N=117	13%	N=86	2%	N=15	58%	N=373	100%	N=645
Protecting children and vulnerable adults	8%	N=51	23%	N=148	10%	N=66	2%	N=15	57%	N=367	100%	N=647
Mental health services	8%	N=49	18%	N=117	14%	N=89	4%	N=26	57%	N=366	100%	N=648
Chemical health services	7%	N=45	15%	N=100	10%	N=65	2%	N=16	65%	N=425	100%	N=651
Crisis response services	12%	N=78	21%	N=136	9%	N=60	1%	N=7	56%	N=360	100%	N=641
Support in obtaining housing	6%	N=39	12%	N=77	12%	N=76	7%	N=43	64%	N=418	100%	N=652
Economic support services	7%	N=44	13%	N=82	13%	N=86	4%	N=27	63%	N=407	100%	N=646
Healthcare assistance services	10%	N=64	20%	N=133	11%	N=69	3%	N=21	56%	N=361	100%	N=647
Public health services (immunizations, WIC, family health home visits)	12%	N=79	23%	N=147	9%	N=60	1%	N=8	54%	N=348	100%	N=642
Overall quality of services provided by Washington County	18%	N=115	51%	N=335	15%	N=99	1%	N=6	15%	N=99	100%	N=653

Table 30: Question 11 - Excluding Don't Know Responses

Please rate the quality of each of the following services provided by Washington County.	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
County libraries	60%	N=346	35%	N=202	4%	N=24	1%	N=3	100%	N=575
County parks and recreation like Big Marine Park Reserve, Lake Elmo Park Reserve, or St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park	62%	N=365	32%	N=189	5%	N=30	0%	N=1	100%	N=585
Trail and bikeway system like Hardwood Creek Regional Trail and Point Douglas Regional Trail	52%	N=256	42%	N=206	5%	N=27	1%	N=3	100%	N=492
Condition of county highways such as 170th St N. (County Rd. 4), 10th Street (County Rd. 10), or Bailey Road (County Rd. 18)	24%	N=137	53%	N=300	21%	N=119	2%	N=13	100%	N=569
Snow and ice removal on county highways	34%	N=219	50%	N=318	14%	N=89	2%	N=12	100%	N=638
Employment support	24%	N=56	46%	N=108	25%	N=57	5%	N=12	100%	N=233
Recycling and drop-off services at the Environmental Centers	49%	N=269	40%	N=221	8%	N=44	3%	N=15	100%	N=550
Records, vital statistics, licensing, and vehicle registration	30%	N=175	47%	N=279	18%	N=105	5%	N=29	100%	N=588
911 dispatch services	51%	N=188	43%	N=159	5%	N=19	1%	N=2	100%	N=368
Disaster preparedness and response	35%	N=90	53%	N=139	11%	N=30	1%	N=2	100%	N=262
Services provided to veterans	31%	N=59	38%	N=72	21%	N=40	10%	N=18	100%	N=189
Services provided to older adults	20%	N=55	43%	N=117	31%	N=86	5%	N=15	100%	N=272
Protecting children and vulnerable adults	18%	N=51	53%	N=148	23%	N=66	5%	N=15	100%	N=280
Mental health services	17%	N=49	42%	N=117	32%	N=89	9%	N=26	100%	N=282
Chemical health services	20%	N=45	44%	N=100	29%	N=65	7%	N=16	100%	N=226
Crisis response services	28%	N=78	48%	N=136	21%	N=60	3%	N=7	100%	N=281
Support in obtaining housing	17%	N=39	33%	N=77	32%	N=76	18%	N=43	100%	N=234
Economic support services	19%	N=44	34%	N=82	36%	N=86	11%	N=27	100%	N=239
Healthcare assistance services	22%	N=64	46%	N=133	24%	N=69	7%	N=21	100%	N=286
Public health services (immunizations, WIC, family health home visits)	27%	N=79	50%	N=147	20%	N=60	3%	N=8	100%	N=294
Overall quality of services provided by Washington County	21%	N=115	60%	N=335	18%	N=99	1%	N=6	100%	N=554

Table 31: Question 12

Have you visited, telephoned, or emailed any Washington County government office within the last 12 months?	Percent of respondents	Number
Yes	52%	N=338
No	48%	N=317
Total	100%	N=655

Table 32: Question 13 - Including Don't Know Responses

What was your experience with the employee(s) of Washington County in your most recent contact? (Rate each characteristic below.)	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Don't know		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Knowledge	53%	N=180	35%	N=121	8%	N=28	2%	N=7	2%	N=6	100%	N=341
Responsiveness	54%	N=185	28%	N=93	11%	N=36	6%	N=22	1%	N=4	100%	N=340
Courtesy	65%	N=219	29%	N=97	4%	N=15	2%	N=7	0%	N=2	100%	N=339
Respect	68%	N=229	23%	N=79	7%	N=23	2%	N=6	0%	N=2	100%	N=339

This question was only asked of those who reported having contact with a Washington County government office.

Table 33: Question 13 - Excluding Don't Know Responses

What was your experience with the employee(s) of Washington County in your most recent contact? (Rate each characteristic below.)	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Knowledge	54%	N=180	36%	N=121	8%	N=28	2%	N=7	100%	N=336
Responsiveness	55%	N=185	28%	N=93	11%	N=36	6%	N=22	100%	N=336
Courtesy	65%	N=219	29%	N=97	4%	N=15	2%	N=7	100%	N=338
Respect	68%	N=229	23%	N=79	7%	N=23	2%	N=6	100%	N=337

This question was only asked of those who reported having contact with a Washington County government office.

Table 34: Question 14 - Including Don't Know Responses

If you have visited a Washington County Service or License Center for services like a driver's license renewal, car registration, passport, or to pay property taxes, which location did you go to on your most recent visit?	Percent of respondents	Number
Not applicable	10%	N=66
Woodbury	34%	N=217
Forest Lake	13%	N=83
Stillwater	29%	N=186
Cottage Grove	14%	N=89
Don't know	0%	N=3
Total	100%	N=645

Table 35: Question 14 - Excluding Don't Know Responses

If you have visited a Washington County Service or License Center for services like a driver's license renewal, car registration, passport, or to pay property taxes, which location did you go to on your most recent visit?	Percent of respondents	Number
Not applicable	10%	N=66
Woodbury	34%	N=217
Forest Lake	13%	N=83
Stillwater	29%	N=186
Cottage Grove	14%	N=89
Total	100%	N=642

Table 36: Question 15 - Including Don't Know Responses

How reasonable or unreasonable did you consider your wait time for service to be?	Percent of respondents	Number
Very reasonable	43%	N=249
Somewhat reasonable	38%	N=219
Somewhat unreasonable	11%	N=62
Very unreasonable	7%	N=43
Don't know	1%	N=6
Total	100%	N=579

Table 37: Question 15 - Excluding Don't Know Responses

How reasonable or unreasonable did you consider your wait time for service to be?	Percent of respondents	Number
Very reasonable	43%	N=249
Somewhat reasonable	38%	N=219
Somewhat unreasonable	11%	N=62
Very unreasonable	8%	N=43
Total	100%	N=573

Table 38: Question 16

Please rate the overall quality of your most recent Washington County Service or License Center experience.	Percent of respondents	Number
Excellent	44%	N=255
Good	40%	N=231
Fair	12%	N=71
Poor	3%	N=20
Total	100%	N=577

Table 39: Question 17 - Including Don't Know Responses

Please rate the following categories related to Washington County government performance:	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Don't know		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Informing community members	20%	N=135	43%	N=282	20%	N=134	3%	N=17	14%	N=91	100%	N=658
Listening to community members	10%	N=68	29%	N=192	20%	N=128	7%	N=47	34%	N=221	100%	N=655
Applying new technology to connect community members with services	11%	N=73	25%	N=164	19%	N=125	4%	N=29	40%	N=259	100%	N=650
Managing tax dollars	6%	N=41	26%	N=170	29%	N=185	17%	N=107	22%	N=144	100%	N=646
Treating all community members with respect	18%	N=120	36%	N=232	13%	N=85	2%	N=15	31%	N=201	100%	N=653
Addressing disparities in the community	11%	N=72	19%	N=122	17%	N=110	5%	N=32	48%	N=313	100%	N=649
Welcoming community members from all backgrounds to participate in community decision-making	14%	N=90	24%	N=158	13%	N=81	5%	N=32	44%	N=284	100%	N=645
My knowledge of the work of the Washington County Board	7%	N=43	13%	N=86	22%	N=140	14%	N=92	44%	N=288	100%	N=648
The value of services for the taxes paid to Washington County	9%	N=59	37%	N=238	26%	N=169	13%	N=85	15%	N=97	100%	N=647
The value of Washington County services to the quality of life in my neighborhood	21%	N=137	42%	N=276	19%	N=125	6%	N=38	12%	N=78	100%	N=652

Table 40: Question 17 - Excluding Don't Know Responses

Please rate the following categories of Washington County government performance:	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Informing community members	24%	N=135	50%	N=282	24%	N=134	3%	N=17	100%	N=567
Listening to community members	16%	N=68	44%	N=192	29%	N=128	11%	N=47	100%	N=434
Applying new technology to connect community members with services	19%	N=73	42%	N=164	32%	N=125	7%	N=29	100%	N=390
Managing tax dollars	8%	N=41	34%	N=170	37%	N=185	21%	N=107	100%	N=503
Treating all community members with respect	27%	N=120	51%	N=232	19%	N=85	3%	N=15	100%	N=452
Addressing disparities in the community	21%	N=72	36%	N=122	33%	N=110	10%	N=32	100%	N=336
Welcoming community members from all backgrounds to participate in community decision-making	25%	N=90	44%	N=158	22%	N=81	9%	N=32	100%	N=361
My knowledge of the work of the Washington County Board	12%	N=43	24%	N=86	39%	N=140	25%	N=92	100%	N=361
The value of services for the taxes paid to Washington County	11%	N=59	43%	N=238	31%	N=169	15%	N=85	100%	N=550
The value of Washington County services to the quality of life in my neighborhood	24%	N=137	48%	N=276	22%	N=125	7%	N=38	100%	N=575

Table 41: Question 18 - Including Don't Know Responses

To what extent do you approve or disapprove of the job the Washington County Board is doing?	Percent of respondents	Number
Strongly approve	14%	N=94
Somewhat approve	43%	N=280
Somewhat disapprove	9%	N=59
Strongly disapprove	3%	N=17
Don't know	31%	N=206
Total	100%	N=656

Table 42: Question 18 - Excluding Don't Know Responses

To what extent do you approve or disapprove of the job the Washington County Board is doing?	Percent of respondents	Number
Strongly approve	21%	N=94
Somewhat approve	62%	N=280
Somewhat disapprove	13%	N=59
Strongly disapprove	4%	N=17
Total	100%	N=450

Table 43: Question 19 - Including Don't Know Responses

Please rate the extent to which you use each of the following as sources of information about Washington County government, if at all.	Not a source		Minor source		Major source		Don't know		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Cable access programming	64%	N=408	13%	N=84	4%	N=27	19%	N=123	100%	N=643
Washington County website (www.washingtoncountymn.gov)	16%	N=104	39%	N=256	36%	N=235	9%	N=56	100%	N=651
Community meetings	57%	N=368	27%	N=174	3%	N=21	12%	N=80	100%	N=643
Washington County Newsletter - Staying in Touch	11%	N=69	30%	N=195	53%	N=346	6%	N=42	100%	N=652
Phone calls to Washington County	53%	N=342	25%	N=162	8%	N=55	14%	N=92	100%	N=651
Communications from my city or township	22%	N=143	37%	N=241	29%	N=185	12%	N=74	100%	N=643
Daily newspapers (online or in print)	50%	N=321	23%	N=151	14%	N=94	13%	N=81	100%	N=647
Weekly community newspapers (online or in print)	46%	N=299	27%	N=176	13%	N=84	14%	N=88	100%	N=647
Television news broadcasts	41%	N=267	31%	N=201	16%	N=104	12%	N=80	100%	N=653
County subscription list and electronic newsletters	54%	N=346	20%	N=128	10%	N=63	17%	N=107	100%	N=645
Social Media (e.g., Facebook, Instagram, NextDoor, LinkedIn, etc.)	32%	N=206	33%	N=210	27%	N=174	9%	N=56	100%	N=646
Word of mouth (from friends, family, neighbors)	14%	N=88	51%	N=330	29%	N=189	6%	N=40	100%	N=648

Table 44: Question 19 - Excluding Don't Know Responses

Please rate the extent to which you use each of the following as sources of information about Washington County government, if at all.	Not a source		Minor source		Major source		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Cable access programming	78%	N=408	16%	N=84	5%	N=27	100%	N=520
Washington County website (www.washingtoncountymn.gov)	17%	N=104	43%	N=256	39%	N=235	100%	N=595
Community meetings	65%	N=368	31%	N=174	4%	N=21	100%	N=563
Washington County Newsletter - Staying in Touch	11%	N=69	32%	N=195	57%	N=346	100%	N=610
Phone calls to Washington County	61%	N=342	29%	N=162	10%	N=55	100%	N=559
Communications from my city or township	25%	N=143	42%	N=241	32%	N=185	100%	N=568
Daily newspapers (online or in print)	57%	N=321	27%	N=151	17%	N=94	100%	N=566
Weekly community newspapers (online or in print)	53%	N=299	31%	N=176	15%	N=84	100%	N=559
Television news broadcasts	47%	N=267	35%	N=201	18%	N=104	100%	N=573
County subscription list and electronic newsletters	64%	N=346	24%	N=128	12%	N=63	100%	N=538
Social Media (e.g., Facebook, Instagram, NextDoor, LinkedIn, etc.)	35%	N=206	36%	N=210	30%	N=174	100%	N=591
Word of mouth (from friends, family, neighbors)	15%	N=88	54%	N=330	31%	N=189	100%	N=608

Table 45: Question 20 - Including Don't Know Responses

Washington County Library offers a variety of services and loans materials in multiple formats. How important, if at all, is it to you for the county to invest public funds in each of the following services?	Essential		Very important		Somewhat important		Not at all important		Don't know		Total	
Downloadable e-books/e-audiobooks (e.g., for a smartphone, Kindle, iPad, or tablet)	26%	N=171	26%	N=172	22%	N=141	16%	N=106	10%	N=66	100%	N=656
Online access to magazines, newspapers and research and learning resources	21%	N=140	29%	N=187	26%	N=171	15%	N=95	9%	N=58	100%	N=651
Access to government information and forms such as tax forms	33%	N=213	32%	N=207	18%	N=120	10%	N=68	7%	N=43	100%	N=650
Free computer and wireless access	33%	N=214	29%	N=186	17%	N=111	15%	N=97	6%	N=42	100%	N=651
Programs and classes for all ages for learning, connection and entertainment	29%	N=187	33%	N=216	22%	N=141	9%	N=58	8%	N=50	100%	N=652
Early literacy programs	35%	N=229	34%	N=220	13%	N=84	8%	N=55	10%	N=62	100%	N=650
Adult programs and classes	18%	N=118	36%	N=235	29%	N=188	9%	N=60	8%	N=52	100%	N=653
Meeting and conference room use	14%	N=91	21%	N=134	35%	N=230	17%	N=109	13%	N=85	100%	N=648
Library express, pickup of library materials in automated lockers	11%	N=73	20%	N=127	28%	N=179	22%	N=145	19%	N=123	100%	N=648
Technology training and classes	16%	N=104	31%	N=199	32%	N=208	11%	N=75	10%	N=65	100%	N=650
Extended library hours	14%	N=89	24%	N=155	38%	N=244	15%	N=97	10%	N=64	100%	N=648
Safe space in your community	40%	N=258	27%	N=177	15%	N=95	10%	N=65	9%	N=58	100%	N=652
Other services available at libraries (e.g., food shelves, naloxone access points)	22%	N=140	30%	N=195	19%	N=124	14%	N=91	15%	N=96	100%	N=645

Table 46: Question 20 - Excluding Don't Know Responses

Washington County Library offers a variety of services and loans materials in multiple formats. How important, if at all, is it to you for the County to invest public funds in each of the following services?	Essential		Very important		Somewhat important		Not at all important		Total	
Downloadable e-books/e-audiobooks (e.g., for a smartphone, Kindle, iPad, or tablet)	29%	N=171	29%	N=172	24%	N=141	18%	N=106	100%	N=590
Online access to magazines, newspapers and research and learning resources	24%	N=140	32%	N=187	29%	N=171	16%	N=95	100%	N=593
Access to government information and forms such as tax forms	35%	N=213	34%	N=207	20%	N=120	11%	N=68	100%	N=607
Free computer and wireless access	35%	N=214	30%	N=186	18%	N=111	16%	N=97	100%	N=609
Programs and classes for all ages for learning, connection and entertainment	31%	N=187	36%	N=216	23%	N=141	10%	N=58	100%	N=602
Early literacy programs	39%	N=229	37%	N=220	14%	N=84	9%	N=55	100%	N=588
Adult programs and classes	20%	N=118	39%	N=235	31%	N=188	10%	N=60	100%	N=601
Meeting and conference room use	16%	N=91	24%	N=134	41%	N=230	19%	N=109	100%	N=563
Library express, pickup of library materials in automated lockers	14%	N=73	24%	N=127	34%	N=179	28%	N=145	100%	N=525
Technology training and classes	18%	N=104	34%	N=199	36%	N=208	13%	N=75	100%	N=585
Extended library hours	15%	N=89	26%	N=155	42%	N=244	17%	N=97	100%	N=584
Safe space in your community	43%	N=258	30%	N=177	16%	N=95	11%	N=65	100%	N=594
Other services available at libraries (e.g., food shelves, naloxone access points)	25%	N=140	35%	N=195	23%	N=124	17%	N=91	100%	N=549

Table 47: Question 21

In the past year, how many times have you visited a Washington County Library branch?	Percent of respondents	Number
Never	23%	N=152
Once or twice	22%	N=147
3 to 12 times	36%	N=238
13 to 23 times	12%	N=77
24 or more times	7%	N=44
Total	100%	N=658

Table 48: Question 22

Why haven't you visited a Washington County Library, or visited more often? (Please check all that apply.)	Percent of respondents	Number
I have visited a library	46%	N=288
I didn't know about them/don't know enough to visit	6%	N=41
Lack of time	29%	N=185
Lack of transportation	2%	N=15
I use the library's e-books or online resources	19%	N=123
Other	17%	N=110

Total may exceed 100% as respondents could select more than one response.

Table 49: Question 23 - Including Don't Know Responses

How important, if at all, is it for each of the following park activities and services to be provided by Washington County?	Essential		Very important		Somewhat important		Not at all important		Don't know		Total	
	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent	N
Trail system that connects communities, county park system, and other destinations	44%	N=284	32%	N=209	19%	N=122	3%	N=22	2%	N=14	100%	N=651
Protection and management of natural areas such as woodlands, prairies, and wetlands	59%	N=382	28%	N=185	9%	N=56	3%	N=21	1%	N=7	100%	N=651
Renting equipment such as snowshoes, canoes, and bikes	11%	N=71	24%	N=159	39%	N=254	18%	N=119	7%	N=46	100%	N=650
Community events such as Bluegrass Festival	9%	N=59	30%	N=196	36%	N=231	17%	N=110	8%	N=55	100%	N=651
Programs for learning about nature and outdoor recreation	20%	N=128	38%	N=248	30%	N=198	8%	N=49	4%	N=26	100%	N=648
Accessibility of parks	47%	N=306	35%	N=228	14%	N=94	2%	N=15	1%	N=7	100%	N=650
Other (please specify)	26%	N=55	5%	N=11	3%	N=6	5%	N=11	61%	N=131	100%	N=214

Table 50: Question 23 - Excluding Don't Know Responses

How important, if at all, is it for each of the following park activities and services to be provided by Washington County?	Essential		Very important		Somewhat important		Not at all important		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Trail system that connects communities, county park system, and other destinations	45%	N=284	33%	N=209	19%	N=122	3%	N=22	100%	N=636
Protection and management of natural areas such as woodlands, prairies, and wetlands	59%	N=382	29%	N=185	9%	N=56	3%	N=21	100%	N=645
Renting equipment such as snowshoes, canoes, and bikes	12%	N=71	26%	N=159	42%	N=254	20%	N=119	100%	N=603
Community events such as Bluegrass Festival	10%	N=59	33%	N=196	39%	N=231	18%	N=110	100%	N=596
Programs for learning about nature and outdoor recreation	21%	N=128	40%	N=248	32%	N=198	8%	N=49	100%	N=622
Accessibility of parks	48%	N=306	35%	N=228	15%	N=94	2%	N=15	100%	N=642
Other (please specify)	66%	N=55	14%	N=11	7%	N=6	13%	N=11	100%	N=83

Table 51: Question 24

In the past year, how many times have you visited a regional park or trail?	Percent of respondents	Number
Never	9%	N=62
Once or twice	22%	N=144
3 to 12 times	35%	N=232
13 to 23 times	15%	N=97
24 or more times	18%	N=121
Total	100%	N=656

Table 52: Question 25

Why haven't you visited a regional park or trail, or visited more often? (Please check all that apply.)	Percent of respondents	Number
I have visited a regional park or trail	62%	N=356
I didn't know about them/don't know enough to visit	4%	N=24
Lack of time	26%	N=150
Vehicle permit fee	13%	N=78
Lack of parking	2%	N=10
Other	9%	N=53

Total may exceed 100% as respondents could select more than one response.

Appendix C: Verbatim Responses to Survey Questions

The following are responses to open-ended questions on the survey. Because these responses were written by survey participants, they are presented here in verbatim form, including any typographic, grammar, or other mistakes. Within each question the responses are in alphabetical order.

Question 6: What would you say is the most serious issue facing Washington County at this time?

Too much growth/development

- ◆ Ability to expand w/resources w/ the population growth.
- ◆ Becoming too densely populated.
- ◆ development
- ◆ Expansion of apartment buildings
- ◆ Getting too crowded
- ◆ Growing cities, loss of rural landscape.
- ◆ Growth
- ◆ Growth and planning. As new neighborhoods grow and school needs are forecasted what happens to the older buildings? What happens to builders and developers who should be more responsible for additional tax burdens and levies?
- ◆ GROWTH.
- ◆ High density low income housing and busing (new line) bringing down safety in community and overcrowded roads and establishments. Over build now! You have filled every inch with housing, no be.
- ◆ Housing taking over green spaces.
- ◆ Infrastructure to be able to supply need for all the new construction, ie Water, roads, tax base.
- ◆ managing development and growth while ensuring equal access to services and amenities to all
- ◆ managing growth
- ◆ new housing developments taking over previously rural land
- ◆ Over developing to compensate for the current housing shortage, after the bubble burst our property values will drop significantly.
- ◆ Over development
- ◆ Over development and loss of natural space
- ◆ Over development.
- ◆ Over development.
- ◆ Over population
- ◆ Over population.
- ◆ Over-development in Wisconsin straining our infrastructure

- ◆ Overbuilding and associated traffic
- ◆ Overcrowding.
- ◆ Overdevelopment
- ◆ Overdevelopment & losing the peaceful rural character.
- ◆ overdevelopment and strain on utilities
- ◆ Overdevelopment.
- ◆ Overgrowth too quickly, especially Woodbury and Hugo
- ◆ Overpopulation causing a reduction in our natural landscape and resources For wildlife, clean air and water.
- ◆ Pending over development
- ◆ POPULATION - MET COUNCIL MANDATES - intentional destruction of our way of life from rural to forced urban sprawl. We should have fought much harder against forced development. It is tragic that our community is being destroyed by development, lack of planning, highway 36 expansions and overcrowding of our beloved schools. Long time residents deserve a better voice BEFORE choices are made that create light pollution (Gerten's ownership of Houle's Feed on hwy 36 installed huge spotlights facing Lake Elmo residents). We used to see stars- now we only hear the highway. Planing to eliminate issues at hwy 36 & Lake Elmo Avenue takes private property and turns it into a frontage road. This adds highway noise to residents south of hwy 36 without regard to damage to our quality of life.
- ◆ population growth
- ◆ Population growth
- ◆ Population growth and the use of land. The changing neighborhood populations and how that affects the school numbers. Planned growth and our leadership.
- ◆ Preparing for population growth.
- ◆ Rapid development.
- ◆ Rapid expansion of new housing lacks city resources line policing. Oakdale police dept. is consistently understaffed yet my property taxes have gone up 10-15% year over year. What are you spending the money on?
- ◆ RAPID EXSPANSION.
- ◆ Rapid growth & water.
- ◆ Rapid growth without sufficient infrastructure, particularly roads
- ◆ Rapid growth.
- ◆ Sprawl of cities like Woodbury and Lake Elmo into surrounding rural areas.
- ◆ The increase of homes being built. Which has an impact on the schools/roads and safety.
- ◆ The push to increase housing without the infrastructure to handle it
- ◆ Threat of urbanization
- ◆ To many houses being built and over priced.
- ◆ To much growth.
- ◆ Too congested.
- ◆ Too many people! Liked the small town feel & we have last that.

- ◆ Too much development. We need more park and wildlife spaces.
- ◆ Too much expansion, car traffic and speeding.
- ◆ too much growth too quickly
- ◆ Too much growth. Losing it's community feel.
- ◆ Vanishing farms and open space.
- ◆ Woodbury is expanding too fast and school sizes are too big.

Taxes

- ◆ Continual raising of taxes.
- ◆ Continuing increase in taxes
- ◆ Escalating taxes.
- ◆ Hi taxes-especially for seniors are property taxes.
- ◆ High property tax!
- ◆ High Property Taxes & Taxes in General
- ◆ HIGH PROPERTY TAXES FOR SENIORS HOPING TO AGE IN PLACE IN THEIR OWN HOMES.
- ◆ High property taxes.
- ◆ High property taxes.
- ◆ High property taxes.
- ◆ high taxes
- ◆ High taxes on property, gas, sales tax, and other taxes imposed by the state government.
- ◆ HIGH TAXES-PROPERTY AND SALES TAX.
- ◆ High taxes, public schools poorly managed.
- ◆ High taxes!!
- ◆ High taxes.
- ◆ Increase business tax base
- ◆ INCREASE IN TAXES.

- ◆ increasing property taxes and real estate taxes
- ◆ Increasing taxes.
- ◆ Keeping property taxes low for people to afford single family housing
- ◆ Keeping property taxes lower.
- ◆ Keeping taxes low while investing in public infrastructure
- ◆ Keeping taxes low, affordable living keeping drugs + crime out.
- ◆ Keeping taxes stable.
- ◆ Lower taxes!!
- ◆ Property tax
- ◆ Property tax very high.
- ◆ property taxes are getting out of hand
- ◆ PROPERTY TAXES ARE TOO HIGH.
- ◆ rise in property taxes
- ◆ RISING PROPERTY TAXES.
- ◆ Rising real estate taxes
- ◆ Rising taxes
- ◆ Rising taxes
- ◆ Rising taxes and crime
- ◆ Sales tax increased a couple years ago. Tax is a percentage of income and therefore should never be raised. It increases as incomes increase. Yes, inflation increased faster than incomes in the past handful of years, but that unfortunately means things have to be cut.
- ◆ Seniors are being taxed out of their homes. Our taxes keeps being increased without any improvements. My taxes and home insurance are way more than my house payment, but my income doesn't increase even close to that amount. How long can seniors continue to live in Washington Co? Our services in northern WC continue to go down. We have lost our school and library but our taxes go up.
- ◆ Tax increases -- especially for fixed income seniors
- ◆ Tax levels and efficient use of tax dollars
- ◆ Tax to benefit ratio is uneven. Verses amities provided.
- ◆ taxes
- ◆ Taxes & inflation.

- ◆ Taxes and interference by Met Council or the state to levy taxes for initiatives that aren't relevant to our County.
- ◆ Taxes and property value/costs.
- ◆ Taxes and turning a blind eye to a certain "type" of criminal
- ◆ Taxes are too high and roads are in disrepair.
- ◆ Taxes can always be lower
- ◆ Taxes keep going up, yet improvements promised are not seen.
- ◆ Taxes out of hand -
- ◆ Taxes too high.
- ◆ TAXES-REFERENDUMS ADDED TO PROPERTY TAXES & ALSO WATER QUALITY.
- ◆ Taxes, housing for first time home buyers and seniors
- ◆ Taxes? I don't mind paying them. I wish they were more affordable.
- ◆ Taxes.
- ◆ Taxes.
- ◆ Taxes.
- ◆ THE ADDITION OF LOW INCOME HOUSING/TAXES.
- ◆ The cost of taxes.
- ◆ The Property Taxes growth is not sustainable for families to stay in their houses
- ◆ Too high property taxes.
- ◆ Too high taxes.
- ◆ Too much property tax.
- ◆ Unaffordable. City, County (and state) Sales Taxes, and Property Taxes are forcing me out after 27 years. Unsustainable
- ◆ VERY HIGH TAXES.

Schools

- ◆ Academic achievement in the schools.
- ◆ Classroom size and teacher support
- ◆ Education of our children
- ◆ Improving academic achievement in school
- ◆ Lack of support in our schools for our teachers, staff and students
- ◆ Need for schools.
- ◆ Over crowded schools.
- ◆ Quality of education and safety spending wisely.
- ◆ Quality of schools, disconnected school board, lack of care for young children or families with young children.
- ◆ School Board decisions
- ◆ School security and funding
- ◆ School system (public) is a disaster.
- ◆ Schools and the boundaries.

Condition of roads

- ◆ (1) Creating a direct, usable trail near 95-Afton to Stillwater, broken in Bayport, significant elsewhere. (2) Interchange of stage coach and I94 -alternative to 95.
- ◆ A few dangerous intersections. all intersection on hwy 36 should be upgraded.
- ◆ maintaining county roads that are falling apart
- ◆ Maintenance of services, facilities, infrastructure and roads.
- ◆ Need bridges on Hwy 36 on Keats and by feed store.
- ◆ Need more paved roads from Stillwater Rd to Hwy 36 besides Hilton Trail. Jamaca? - Keats? How much traffic is going to be on Hilton when you start building the new Lakeview hospital! Heard rumors about Hilton Trail becoming 4 lanes. Very disappointing.
- ◆ Our roads - ther is no reason we should still have so many crappy roads/dirt roads especially in Grant. Our road by Mann lake is atrocious,
- ◆ POOR ROADS FRONTAGE RD ALONG 35 NORTH OF 97.
- ◆ So much building & unsafe roads! (Not enough roads for all the new homes a population growth!!!).
- ◆ To much traffic-need more roads.

Crime

- ◆ Burglaries in our community!!
- ◆ Car breakins, car jacking, drugs.
- ◆ Child/teen crimes thinking they won't have any consequences.
- ◆ Crime
- ◆ Crime coming from the city.
- ◆ Crime, likely due to low income housing forced upon the county.
- ◆ Crime.
- ◆ CRIME.
- ◆ Feeling that my things will get stolen and nothing happens about it.
- ◆ Fraud-mostly online scams.
- ◆ Increase in property crimes, homes and cars being broken into.
- ◆ Increased crime cases
- ◆ Increased crime due to the transit center.
- ◆ increased crimes
- ◆ Mail theft, high home prices + property taxes + grocery making it difficult for one parent to stay home to raise children.
- ◆ Poviding public transportation the criminal element easy access to our community. Larger government in general
- ◆ Property crimes.
- ◆ Rise in criminal activity
- ◆ Safety of the residents
- ◆ Safety, too many new residents too quickly.
- ◆ Safety.
- ◆ unwarranted fear

- ◆ Vandalism.
- ◆ Violent crimes..
- Affordable housing*
- ◆ Ability to access housing resources based on income line
- ◆ Affordability for young families.
- ◆ Affordable and sustainable housing options
- ◆ affordable housing
- ◆ Affordable housing & water pollution
- ◆ Affordable housing and affordable TAXES
- ◆ affordable housing and services for seniors
- ◆ AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR OUR 30-SOMETHING CHILDREN.
- ◆ affordable housing options
- ◆ Affordable housing, health insurance, and child care
- ◆ AFFORDABLE HOUSING; BOTH RENTING & BUYING.
- ◆ Affordable housing.
- ◆ Affordable living
- ◆ Affordable Senior Housing.
- ◆ Cost of affordable housing
- ◆ Cost of housing
- ◆ Cost of housing and lack of professional well paid jobs. I have a friend who cannot afford to move here as a single teacher. We are bringing in jobs to Cottage Grove that are blue collar, but we don't have any housing so they can live and work in the same location. I am including this here not as a top priority but didn't see another comment box. I'd love to see a compost facility for yard waste etc. on the south end of town. My taxes go towards paying for the ones up north and by stillwater, but I have to pay to use the privately owned one in Cottage Grove. Instead, I end up driving up to St Paul through that reciprocity agreement, but would much rather see my taxes go towards services that are equal regardless of location in this county!

- ◆ Expensive housing
- ◆ EXPENSIVE HOUSING + HIGH TAXES.
- ◆ Help with cheaper housing/rentals hold landlords responsible.
- ◆ Housing
- ◆ Housing - road maintenance.
- ◆ Housing affordability and accessibility
- ◆ Housing affordability.
- ◆ housing costs
- ◆ Housing prices
- ◆ Housing.
- ◆ Housing.
- ◆ I really do not know how much the county can do about this, but rent prices are increasingly challenging. I dont want to move my family, this is an excellent area where we genuinely feel safe.
- ◆ Inflated housing prices & high cost of rentals.
- ◆ lack of affordable housing
- ◆ Lack of affordable housing
- ◆ Lack of smaller, affordable, single family homes on private property that could be part of housing developments.
- ◆ Low housing capacity and high expense
- ◆ price of housing vs. average income of county residents
- ◆ Property value is not affordable
- ◆ Quality housing/childcare options for middle/lower income families.
- ◆ The cost of housing is prohibitive for many
- ◆ There are no affordable homes being built (not since the 1990's, The Highlands & the 1970's, Croixwood). Homes are WAY overpriced. HOA's should be banned for homes valued at under \$1 million. The HOA's are exorbitant & are a major barrier to housing affordability, & are functionally a second property tax being forced on residents by an unelected property management company. Fully 80% of new-builds in the state of Minnesota now have HOA's attached. That's outrageous!
- ◆ There are very few affordable homes. Not apartments, or townhomes - single family homes. The costs for a single family home are insane. The sizes of the homes being built are excessive.

Economic development

- ◆ \$.
- ◆ Economy
- ◆ FINANCES.
- ◆ Lack of business development
- ◆ Money.
- ◆ Opportunities of employment.

Traffic congestion

- ◆ "Traffic." I am old and a lot of these things do not apply to me anymore.
- ◆ Ensuring our roads and streets don't get too congested and remain safe for drivers, bikers and pedestrians with the expanding population. Highway 15/Manning Avenue is a good example of how busy this road has become.
- ◆ Future traffic situations with the growing number of apartment dwellings.
- ◆ LOCAL TRAFFIC LEVELS.
- ◆ Mass transit.
- ◆ Too much traffic
- ◆ township governance limiting alternative housing possibilities, density rules on housing, public transportation
- ◆ Traffic congestion.
- ◆ Traffic issues
- ◆ Traffic on highway 36
- ◆ Traffic on Hwy 36.
- ◆ TRAFFIC YOU TAKE YOUR LIFE IN YOUR HANDS CROSSING THE ROAD TO GET MAIL.
- ◆ Traffic.
- ◆ traffic/congestion.

Water quality

- ◆ Access to clean water
- ◆ Access to water, PFAS
- ◆ Aging water lines, PFAS, lead in water lines.
- ◆ Clean and adequate supply of water.
- ◆ Clean water (drinking).
- ◆ Drinking water (Lake Elmo).
- ◆ Drinking water quality
- ◆ Drinking Water Safety, Traffic Managment
- ◆ Drinking water.
- ◆ Ensuring water quality and preserving democracy.
- ◆ Flouorocarbons.
- ◆ Forever chemicals in the water supply
- ◆ Ground water protection
- ◆ Ground water.
- ◆ New Wells or city water drying up my well.
- ◆ PFAs - clean, safe water.
- ◆ PFAS contamination
- ◆ PFAS in water systems (wells).
- ◆ PFAs in water.
- ◆ Safe drinking water
- ◆ Safe drinking water
- ◆ unsafe water

- ◆ water contamination
- ◆ Water issues!
- ◆ water quality
- ◆ Water quality & safety from 3M pollution.
- ◆ Water quality and housing cost
- ◆ Water quality and long-term effects of that.
- ◆ water quality improvement
- ◆ Water quality in the environment and in our homes
- ◆ Water quality.
- ◆ Water quality.
- ◆ Water Scarcity
- ◆ WATER.
- ◆ Worried about if we will have enough water with all the construction..

Politics / Political division

- ◆ All those in leadership positions not working together for a common goal.
- ◆ Being led by Democrats.
- ◆ DIVISIVENESS AMONG NEIGHBORS.
- ◆ FEDERAL BUDGET CUTS LOSING FUNDING.
- ◆ Federal government intervention
- ◆ Governmental divide.
- ◆ I've noticed big tracks with Trump support indicated that purposely make interrupting very loud, obnoxious noise. Many have WI plates. They concern me as possible sources of violence.
- ◆ Liberal policies.
- ◆ lots of changes due to new administration in the White House, not certain how it will all trickle down to other levels of government.
- ◆ Met concil.
- ◆ Met Council demand for high-density housing
- ◆ Political polarization.
- ◆ President Trump.
- ◆ The influence of Donald Trump and his administration on state and local governments, e.g. environmental issues.

- ◆ The rise of populism and far right wing attacks on our culture, schools and neighborhoods.
- ◆ TOO MANY LIBERALS/DEMOCRATS.
- ◆ Trump
- ◆ Trump
- ◆ Trump and MAGA; also expanding housing and making existing homeowners foot the bill for expanding public services to accommodate the additional population (part of it is insurance, but my house payments are going up 10% per year)
- ◆ Trump becoming a dictator
- ◆ Trump era cuts to services, schools, etc. police, everything.
- ◆ TRUMP!

Drugs

- ◆ drug use
- ◆ Drug use.
- ◆ Drug use.
- ◆ Drugs and crime.
- ◆ Drugs, fraud.
- ◆ Drugs?
- ◆ Drugs.
- ◆ Illegal drugs
- ◆ Illegal drugs and opioid epidemic.
- ◆ Illegal drugs and violence that goes with it.
- ◆ Influence of driving will drugs/[?].

Poverty / Homelessness

- ◆ As a COUNTY, those experiencing homelessness.
- ◆ Families with food shortages.
- ◆ Homelessness.
- ◆ Housing for homeless.
- ◆ Safe places to be for unhoused and public transportation

Public transportation / Walkability

- ◆ Access to public transit
- ◆ Lack of bike trails and sidewalks
- ◆ Lack of public transportation
- ◆ NEW BUS LINE SERVICE WILL BRING IN A LESS DESIRABLE GROUP OF THIEVES TAXES? TO HIGH.
- ◆ No city bus around my neighborhood
- ◆ Not enough safe connectivity between neighborhoods/locations for walking and biking. Need more interconnected off-road trails instead of on-road use.
- ◆ Not having a safe way to walk along Bald Eagle Lake due to not having a one way road or designated bike and pathway along Bald Eagle Lake. Our community has grown significantly in the past twenty years and people are drawn to the Bald Eagle lake for the

view and calmness of the lake. We have changes coming to HWY 61 in the near future and having the one way road along Bald Eagle Lake instead of along the frontage road which is loud and open. Bringing the bike and walking path to Bald Eagle Lake would bring more JOY to all residents of Washington County. There is extra wide sidewalk/path along Europa Trail N and Fenway Blvd N which then could be connected to the Hardwood Trail at 146th Street N. Again due to the increase of the population in Hugo/Washington County there is a need for this pathway along Bald Eagle Lake.

- ◆ Not having sidewalks along the busy roads in Saint Paul Park
- ◆ Public transport.
- ◆ Public transportation and community.
- ◆ PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION-LOCAL.
- ◆ Public transportation.
- ◆ Public transportation.
- ◆ Ride bike serious issue no bike road
- ◆ Safe biking and pedestrian transportation and public transportation.
- ◆ the bus line
- ◆ This community is set up to be driver friendly. Would be great to have more of a walkable neighborhood vibe it's totally lacking. Also the trails are nice but don't compare to Dakota County. The new open space abutting St John's and Powers Lake is a hot mess. Kids are crossing St John's and cars are going 55 mph. Someone needs to go to Dakota county and survey Lebanon Hills. Drivers in Woodbury are driving too fast. Real lack of coffee shops neighborhood restaurants.
- ◆ Transportation/traffic/roads.
- ◆ Very car dependent. Many trails for recreation but walkability from housing to commercial amenities is very limited.

Inflation / Cost of living

- ◆ Affordability
- ◆ cost of living
- ◆ Cost of living
- ◆ Cost of Living
- ◆ Cost of living and declining school outcomes
- ◆ Increase in homeowners insurance
- ◆ Increasing cost of living
- ◆ Inflation
- ◆ Inflation. High taxes
- ◆ rising costs - difficult to live here

Reckless driving

- ◆ Distracted drivers.
- ◆ Distracted drivers.
- ◆ Distracted driving.
- ◆ Distracted driving.

- ◆ Drivers over speed limit on county roads.
- ◆ Driving skills by others and crime.
- ◆ Driving. I have almost been hit multiple times by people speeding and going through red lights.
- ◆ Excessive speed and distracted driving on roads and highways.
- ◆ Lack of state, county & local traffic enforcement provided by peace officer's union.
- ◆ Many drivers go through red lights. Also, we do not have a right turn lane going into our neighborhood; many of our neighbors are worried that they may be rear-ended.
- ◆ My most important issue is when kids are riding around on our streets with golf carts and electric bikes that when this is reported nothing is being done. I fear for the safety when the golf carts are loaded with kids without seat belts on and not stopping for stop signs that someone will get seriously hurt the same thing for those electric small bikes. This might seem to some people trivial but when they get hit and seriously hurt who will share the blame, especially when parents don't see the problem.
- ◆ Quite a few, but distracted driving needs to be dealt with
- ◆ Reckless driving.
- ◆ Reckless driving/distracted drivers.
- ◆ Safety on round-a-bouts.
- ◆ speeding
- ◆ SPEEDING / CARELESS / HAZARDOUS DRIVING
- ◆ Speeding cars, lack of sidewalks on so many streets.

Public spending

- ◆ Budget issues
- ◆ BUDGET.
- ◆ Controlling spending, especially as so many expensive and marginally beneficial sustainability initiatives are being brought forward
- ◆ High state, county and public school spending and the high taxes such spending causes.
- ◆ inefficient government spending
- ◆ Over spending of resources on police.
- ◆ Rate of spending in the county.
- ◆ Spending on useless issues e.g. Bus route to St Paul \$520 million total waste, walking paths on both sides of streets i.e. Lake Road, infrastructure needs trimming, running red lights on county 19, 13 and valley creek road, theft and crime in Woodbury.
- ◆ Spending. Need to trim the fat!!!!
- ◆ Washington County is not a good steward of the citizens tax dollars, wasteful spending.

Environmental issues

- ◆ 3M pollution
- ◆ Climate Change
- ◆ Continuing to protect our local environment for all to see/use.
- ◆ Environmental changes.
- ◆ Environmental issues, cutbacks and mandates from D.C.

- ◆ Environmental issues, especially water quality concerns due to PFAS contamination and the knock-on human health impacts caused by degraded environmental quality that threaten Washington County as being a good, safe, and healthy place to live, recreate, and/or work. The thought that living here could disproportionately expose my young child to cancer or other issues is honestly something that keeps me up at night :(
- ◆ Harm to our environment & concern that without federal funds & backup everything will become more dangerous-from food to water supply, to earth, to death of many animals, to the air we breath.

Diversity, equity, and inclusion

- ◆ Acceptance of diversity
- ◆ Acceptance of people from all walks of life.
- ◆ Diversity
- ◆ How to work to have a more diverse population.
- ◆ Lack of diversity
- ◆ Lack of diversity, history of racism
- ◆ Limited diversity within our governing body
- ◆ Racism
- ◆ Racism

Maintaining the rural feel

- ◆ I wish they would leave some land to nature & stop building everywhere.
- ◆ Losing green space and building of million dollar homes.
- ◆ Losing the rural character.
- ◆ Loss of green space/habitat for wildlife
- ◆ Loss of small town feel.
- ◆ Maintaining rural feel
- ◆ maintaining the rural nature of parts of Washington county while also providing affordable housing
- ◆ Management of natural resources and public utilities
- ◆ Not sure, but really want to see the park above library updated & kept in an easily accessible location for walkers & bikers.....not out of city.
- ◆ Protecting natural resources and children
- ◆ Recreational parks for families like water park and indoor mall.
- ◆ The lack of open land and natural space. Land is being "gobbled-up" for Monster houses on "itty-bitty" pieces of land. There's no space between houses to provide a comfortable "openness"!
- ◆ We have enough low income housing, We moved here to avoid too much of that so we can shift our focus to other important issues (eg., keep more open nature space).

Other

- ◆ -20 outside.
- ◆ "POLICE" (DON'T LISTEN)" ERRIGANT.

- ◆ (1) Unable to develop a transition from a general anti-tax bluff to a "better value investment" approach. (2) Too many transportation investments that ignore. The reality that we are a car community, and walkability and transit will never be as permanent as we are investing in them.
- ◆ A better mix of business, and especially restaurants.
- ◆ All the construction work.
- ◆ Bec of my age I see 8 big issue w/senior places and esp. the inbetween" people making more 55+ places but not assisted living.
- ◆ Being dependent on state & federal funding for projects given the federally government leadership & in traditional governing.
- ◆ Child care, local activities/business for entertainment.
- ◆ Community involvement
- ◆ Dark streets.
- ◆ Equitable access to resources
- ◆ Exclusiveness.
- ◆ FOR ME IT IS THAT THE PLOWS DONT PLOW THE SIDE STREETS UNTIL "LATE" AFTERNOON.
- ◆ I AM CONCERNED ABOUT THE GOLD LINE BRINGING IN PEOPLE WHO ARE LOOKING TO CAUSE PROBLEMS.
- ◆ ILLEGALS AND HIGH TAXES.
- ◆ IN OUR AREA - FOOD CHOICES & SHOPPING (NOT TARGET/WALMART BUT SMALL BUSINESS).
- ◆ INFLUX OF NON-TAXPAYERS AND THE DEMAND THEY PUT ON PUBLIC RESOURCES.
- ◆ Keeping seniors engaged and safe.
- ◆ Lack of artistic venues, theaters, ballet, children's theater, children's museum. Good restaurants that are not owned by a chain.
- ◆ Lack of broadband fiber optic internet in northern Washington county
- ◆ Lack of citizen interest in investing in schools, libraries, or other community improvements (specifically referencing failed initiatives in Cottage Grove)
- ◆ Lack of public community pool center
- ◆ Lack of things for young people to do (i.e., movie theater, etc.)
- ◆ Law Enforcement staffing
- ◆ Maintaining decent public services while keeping tax rates low.
- ◆ Maintaining infrastructure, including sheriff, parks, streets, green areas, etc.
- ◆ Money abuse for home care handycap children and last of rural environment and f [?] congestion.
- ◆ Narrow streets, dark coming out of nowhere, lack of seclius safty wall-ba [?] on manney [?] by fup [?].
- ◆ Need more destinations a sense of community is missing from most towns. Too suburban.
- ◆ Need more fire stations, quality of drinking water, road conditions after winter months

- ◆ No issues, but the Sheriff uses his siren, frequently. (2)
- ◆ Not a lot of good restaurants to eat at night.
- ◆ Not helping when trying to make a police report
- ◆ Oak Park Heights Prison.
- ◆ Our biggest concern is letting our kids walk to the park and have to cross round-a-boat and people FLY through on Dale road.
- ◆ People who have a lack of care or concern for people neighbors. The "me first and only" mentality.
- ◆ Personally would like to see another HealthEast facility with more ice / field space for youth athletics
- ◆ Public access endangers what is Washington County. This place is known for its safety and maintenance, but people have allowed access to it, making this place accessible to everyone and with little security for everyone. In addition to the low investment in roads in rural areas, in new places recently built, the roads are leaving much to be desired, which can cause damage to cars.
- ◆ resources and support for residents who need in home support for mental and physical health
- ◆ The amount of big business openings vs housing and small business.
- ◆ The decision to add the Gold Line. Will never make money and was pushed through when people did not want it.
- ◆ too many deer
- ◆ Unfortunately. Inability to find a competent proof reader for this survey! Good Bye...
- ◆ What effect the gold line will have on Oakdale.
- ◆ Workers working with people with disability.

Don't know

- ◆ Any ones guess on that issue.
- ◆ Can't identify one single thing.
- ◆ Couldn't say.
- ◆ Don't know
- ◆ Don't know.
- ◆ Don't know.
- ◆ Don't know.
- ◆ Don't know.
- ◆ Dont know.
- ◆ Haven't been here long enough to know
- ◆ I am not certain.
- ◆ I don't know; there are probably issues I don't know about that are actually the most serious issue. I guess it may be funding?if that's still an issue, due to the current freeze?
- ◆ Ningun problema
- ◆ No comment.
- ◆ No opinion.

- ◆ None I can think of.
- ◆ Nothing
- ◆ Unknown.
- ◆ Unsure.

Question 22: Why haven't you visited a Washington County Library, or visited more often? (Other, please specify:)

- ◆ Access information through other formats
- ◆ Book selection -I find Ramsey Co. has a larger selection.
- ◆ books at home and internet at home
- ◆ Buy books-read a lot.
- ◆ Children are grown, used to go all the time.
- ◆ Construction area.
- ◆ Construction at Woodbury makes it very difficult to go.
- ◆ Construction, lack of parking.
- ◆ Construction.
- ◆ Construction.
- ◆ didn't need anything
- ◆ Didn't need.
- ◆ Disabled/housebound.
- ◆ Does not open early enough.
- ◆ Don't care to go
- ◆ Don't need one
- ◆ don't need to go
- ◆ Don't need to.
- ◆ DON'T NEED.
- ◆ Don't read.
- ◆ Don't use it
- ◆ Dont care to
- ◆ Dont need anything from the library.
- ◆ Dont' have need to
- ◆ Find most online.
- ◆ Friends, church stores.
- ◆ Google it
- ◆ google provides all of my research requirements.
- ◆ Got information I needed from online sources
- ◆ Have computer access at home
- ◆ HAVE PLENTY BOOKS AT HOME.
- ◆ Haven't had a major necessity to use the library
- ◆ Haven't had a need in the past year.

- ◆ Haven't had a specific need
- ◆ Haven't thought of it, but want to.
- ◆ I buy books to read
- ◆ I buy my own books
- ◆ I can now self-fund many of the services like internet but this is a critical service for those who cannot. Also there are not programs that fit my family such as reading groups or author speakers.
- ◆ I did go to the Stillwater Library several times in 2023, I just don't think I went there at all last year, I think I was too busy figuring out/working on a lot of other things for me last year, like housing, health insurance, transportation (and more); and because I use Libby a lot now, too.
- ◆ I don't go to libraries.
- ◆ I don't have a branch in my area and I don't know how to use the electronic services.
- ◆ I don't need to borrow books. I wish they would bring back the museum passes to help provide adorable tickets to local places.
- ◆ I don't read.
- ◆ I don't register for programs because I can't predict my health too far in advance. I have purchased books to read.
- ◆ I get my reading material online
- ◆ i have a computer and get info online
- ◆ I have a Kindle that I use for my books
- ◆ I have a tendency to buy the books I want to read, and then put them in a little free library to share. This is what works best for me. My husband uses a Kindle and downloads books to read.
- ◆ I haven't had a specific need to use the library but i may use it in the future if i have more time to read.
- ◆ I just don't go
- ◆ I love Bayport library!
- ◆ I moved most of year.
- ◆ I own several books & magazines + apartment bldg has a small library.
- ◆ I purchase books.
- ◆ I purchase or download what I read
- ◆ I read and gather knowledge at home via internet
- ◆ I read books that I have bought from the store
- ◆ I use my own on line resources
- ◆ I usually "read" audible books
- ◆ I check online to see if the library carries a book or author i am interested in and, well they dont. I go to entertain my grandchildren.
- ◆ Immune suppressed - have to avoid places where people without masks congregate.
- ◆ In nursing home.
- ◆ Internet.

- ◆ It's an essential service to our community, I am not currently in the situation where I need these as much as I once did (young family) or will again eventually (retirement)
- ◆ Just moved to area.
- ◆ Kindle or buy.
- ◆ Lack of interest.
- ◆ Lack of interest.
- ◆ Major if no personal internet.
- ◆ Marines is closer.
- ◆ No need
- ◆ No need for it literally at all
- ◆ NO NEED FOR IT.
- ◆ No need for library services most of the time
- ◆ NO NEED FOR LIBRARYS IN TODAY'S WORLD.
- ◆ No need have materials to read @ home.
- ◆ no need to
- ◆ No need to [?] the library.
- ◆ No need to go.
- ◆ No need to.
- ◆ No need.
- ◆ No need... kids are all grown
- ◆ No personal interest
- ◆ None.
- ◆ NORTH ST. PAUL LIBRARY IS CLOSER.
- ◆ NOT A READER.
- ◆ Not aware of programs.
- ◆ Not enough options for kids-youth.
- ◆ not interested in going to the library
- ◆ Not interested.
- ◆ NOT INTERESTED.
- ◆ Not intrested.
- ◆ Not needed at this time.
- ◆ Often don't have a need to go there

- ◆ ONLINE INFORMATION
- ◆ Open hours are limited.
- ◆ Other sources
- ◆ Other sources avail. for me.
- ◆ OTHER SOURCES FOR INFO.
- ◆ Parking at Stafford Library in Woodbury is terrible at the moment
- ◆ Parking.
- ◆ Past treatment sucked. (Fees and runaround about). A couple bad experiences when my children were young and I went back.
- ◆ Purchase my books.
- ◆ Purchase my own books most of the time.
- ◆ Puzzles.
- ◆ Read on-line.
- ◆ Really haven't had a need to go to the library. Get most of what I need from the internet.
- ◆ Recently moved here.
- ◆ REMODELING CENTRAL PARK.
- ◆ Research materials.
- ◆ Space for card games.
- ◆ The internet has almost all of the same services that the library has, except that you can access it anywhere. Libraries should be closed or limited operations.
- ◆ The library I use is in Woodbury. It's had a lot of construction work in and around the building.
- ◆ These are not services that I need.
- ◆ Too busy trying to find housing.
- ◆ Too loud.
- ◆ Use Bayport
- ◆ Use church library.
- ◆ Use computer at home.
- ◆ Use my own computer
- ◆ Use of internet resources.
- ◆ USED RAMSEY CO. LIBRARIES.
- ◆ Usually buy books
- ◆ VISIT OTHER LIBRARIES.
- ◆ Was sick.
- ◆ We do go regularly.
- ◆ Woodbury Library building is under construction. Hard to park and enter.
- ◆ Woodbury library is a chaste playground for teens.

Question 23: How important, if at all, is it for each of the following park activities and services to be provided by Washington County? (Other, please specify)

- ◆ ability to travel or commute between locations safely by bike
- ◆ Access for astronomy overnight.
- ◆ ARCHERY OUTDOOR RANGE.
- ◆ Campgrounds with electricity and water at campsites. Access to trails at the various campgrounds. In recent years it has been difficult to reserve a campsite due to lack of availability.
- ◆ Can't afford.
- ◆ Community Pool that isn't membership based. YMCA do not have equitable, fair accessibility practices. We travel to inver grove, shoreview and sometimes maple grove to use their resources.
- ◆ Connect county park bike paths to roadways outside of the parks, so the park is part of the biking transit system.
- ◆ Connecting neighborhoods to park trails
- ◆ DISABILITY ACCESS.
- ◆ Dog parks.
- ◆ Dog parks.
- ◆ don't know
- ◆ Fishing info.
- ◆ Free access
- ◆ Free admission.
- ◆ Funds.
- ◆ Good job
- ◆ Handicap accessibility of parks.
- ◆ have not used
- ◆ I don't know why I'm being asked this
- ◆ I love Bayport parks!
- ◆ Improving the Lake Links Trail system
- ◆ Increased signage at intersections for bike safety-> Valley Creek.
- ◆ keep expanding bike trails. It would be awesome if the stillwater bridge bike trail could loop down to hudson Wi. Possibly lighting the trail better at night would be good too - it really encourages people to get out and bike or run or walk. This could extend into the evening if the trails were better lit. Also - you did not offer a comments box in general. I believe it is important in Washington county to preserve the safety of the community and

helping our seniors live more comfortably. It is atrocious that some have to pay 10,000 a month to reside in a care facility if they are in assisted living. Totally unreasonable. Many of our seniors cannot even afford to pay a monthly rent.

- ◆ Keeping and maintaining what we have - we don't always need to look for more until we easily handle what we have
- ◆ Keeping criminals out.
- ◆ Keeping the cost low for park fees
- ◆ Less housing & development.
- ◆ More free programs at parks
- ◆ Native plant restoration efforts
- ◆ No
- ◆ none
- ◆ none
- ◆ None
- ◆ None.
- ◆ NONE.
- ◆ OUR TAX DOLLARS SHOULD NOT FUND PEOPLES WISH LIST-FINANCIALLY IMMORAL.
- ◆ Outdoor swimming pools for youth (not just splash pads for toddlers)
- ◆ Park pass to residents
- ◆ Park safety and access to camping opportunities and hiking activities
- ◆ Reduce traffic congestion and residential overbuilding
- ◆ Safe place for families to enjoy outdoors
- ◆ SAFETY FOR SOLO HIKERS.
- ◆ SAFETY ON TRAILS.
- ◆ SAFETY.
- ◆ Security, cleanliness.
- ◆ Side walk connections on streets.
- ◆ Signage.
- ◆ Ski trails for winter recreation.
- ◆ Snowmaking for Lake Elmo
- ◆ Spending time outdoors is important and crucial for everyone's physical and mental well-being
- ◆ Too many trail systems and/or those that have little use are a waste of taxpayer dollars.
- ◆ Unknown
- ◆ We spend too Much, Spend the \$ better
- ◆ We use trails everyday.
- ◆ Where & how to meet single old people.
- ◆ YOUTH ATHLETICS AND ACTIVITIES.

**Question 25: Why haven't you visited a regional park or trail, or visited more often?
(Please check all that apply) (Other, please specify:)**

- ◆ Age.
- ◆ Age.
- ◆ AGE.
- ◆ been sick most of the year
- ◆ Boat launches too busy/lack of parking.
- ◆ Can't walk very well.
- ◆ Chose to visit other places
- ◆ Difficulty walking.
- ◆ DISABILITY.
- ◆ Disabled.
- ◆ Disabled/housebound.
- ◆ DO OTHER THINGS.
- ◆ Don't need one for myself
- ◆ Feeling comfortable by myself.
- ◆ Gateway can be crowded and rough surface.
- ◆ Handicap assesibility.
- ◆ HANDYKAPPED.
- ◆ have no use
- ◆ Health issue.
- ◆ HEALTH ISSUES
- ◆ Health issues.
- ◆ Health.
- ◆ High rental fees and parking fees
- ◆ Home bound.
- ◆ I always attend the annual Bluegrass Festival. My schedule is otherwise filled with attending live music events or performing as a musician.
- ◆ I am a widow and don't really care to go on my own. Prior to my husbands death we used the parks frequently.
- ◆ I do other things
- ◆ I don't have anyone to go with.
- ◆ I have other places to walk and recreate
- ◆ I live in the country on some acreage
- ◆ I use a walker or wheelchair
- ◆ I usually don't leave my house.
- ◆ I would more often if dogs were allowed on all
- ◆ I'd like to get there by walking or riding a bike but there's no way to do that from my house.
- ◆ I'm old.

- ◆ In nursing home.
- ◆ Just moved to area.
- ◆ Lack of engaging activities like hosted hikes
- ◆ Lack of interest.
- ◆ Lack of snow for cross country skiing
- ◆ Lack of trails connecting the parks to neighborhoods
- ◆ LIMITED MOBILITY.
- ◆ Low priority
- ◆ Mobility.
- ◆ Motivation.
- ◆ Mourning loss of portion.
- ◆ My ambulation is assistant if not young to use regularly.
- ◆ no desire to
- ◆ No interest in it.
- ◆ No interest/age.
- ◆ NO NEED FOR IT.
- ◆ No need.
- ◆ No transportation.
- ◆ NOT CLOSE BY.
- ◆ Not interested.
- ◆ NOT INTERESTED.
- ◆ Not my thing
- ◆ Not sure of safety if alone.
- ◆ Old age, difficulty walking , lack of transportation.
- ◆ Older citizen
- ◆ Other trail systems preferred, lack of snow for winter recreation.
- ◆ Physical accessibility issues.
- ◆ Powerline park-clean weeds & thistles.
- ◆ PREFER OTHER RECREATION.
- ◆ Punk Kid's.
- ◆ Recent physical problems.
- ◆ Recently moved here.
- ◆ SAFETY.
- ◆ Same as above.
- ◆ State park is closer to me.
- ◆ The City of Woodbury has good parks, too
- ◆ There isn't one close enough for me to use.
- ◆ Too costly.
- ◆ Too old.

- ◆ Too old.
- ◆ Trouble walking.
- ◆ Use a walker.
- ◆ Use Bayport Parks
- ◆ WALK DAILY IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD.
- ◆ WALKING.
- ◆ Want to do more.
- ◆ Wanted to visit a camper for 2 hours & had to pay!
- ◆ we just moved here.
- ◆ Weather.
- ◆ Weather conditions
- ◆ Wheel chair.
- ◆ WORKING.

Appendix D: Survey Results by Respondent Demographic Characteristics

Understanding the Tables

For most of the questions, for ease of comparison, responses have been condensed to show only the average rating on the 100-point scale across all response options (0=poor and 100=excellent or 0=very unsafe and 100=very safe).

Chi-square or ANOVA tests of significance were applied to these breakdowns of survey questions. A “p-value” of 0.05 or less indicates that there is less than a 5% probability that differences observed between groups are due to chance; or in other words, a greater than 95% probability that the differences observed in the selected categories of the sample represent “real” differences among those populations. As subgroups vary in size and each group (and each comparison to another group) has a unique margin of error, statistical testing is used to determine whether differences between subgroups are statistically significant.

For each pair or set of subgroup ratings within a row (a single question item) that has a statistically significant difference, an upper-case letter denoting significance is shown in the cell with the larger column proportion. The letter denotes the subgroup with the smaller column proportion from which it is statistically different. Subgroups that have no upper-case letter denotation in their column and that are also not referred to in any other column were not statistically different.

For example, on the next page, respondents who were ages 18 to 34 years old (designated as Column A) gave higher ratings to Washington County as a place to raise children than did those who were 35 to 54 years old (designated as Column B) and those aged 55+ (designated as Column C). This result is indicated by the “B C” found in the cells for respondents aged 18 to 34.

In some cases, survey results are displayed for subgroups within two characteristics, e.g., within gender and age of respondent. The lettering of the columns begins again on the next characteristic. So female is Column A, male is Column B, while age 18 to 34 years old is Column A again, followed by 35 to 54 years old in Column B and 55+ years old in Column C. The letters in the cells only refer to differences within that characteristic, not to differences within the other characteristic.

Survey Results by Age and Gender of Respondent

Table 53: Ratings of Overall Quality of Life by Respondent Demographic Characteristics

Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)	Age			Gender		Overall (A)
	18-34	35-54	55+	Female	Male	
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	
How would you rate the overall quality of life in Washington County?	81	78	80	79	81	80

Table 54: Ratings of Quality of Life by Respondent Demographic Characteristics

Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in Washington County. Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)	Age			Gender		Overall (A)
	18-34	35-54	55+	Female	Male	
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	
As a place to live	84	81	81	82	81	81
As a place to raise children	86 B C	80	78	81	80	80
As a place to work	62	63	71 A B	65	66	66
As a place to retire	62	57	69 B	66	63	64

Table 55: Ratings of Community Characteristics by Respondent Demographic Characteristics

Please rate each of the following characteristics of Washington County: Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)	Age			Gender		Overall (A)
	18-34	35-54	55+	Female	Male	
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	
Outdoor recreational opportunities	70	77 A	80 A	78	77	77
Employment opportunities	45	54 A	57 A	50	55	53
Openness and acceptance toward people of diverse backgrounds	69 B C	60	61	60	66 A	63
Availability of housing options for all incomes	33	45 A	47 A	39	45 A	43
Rural character and natural environment	67	66	68	69	66	67
Sense of community and connection	57	57	61	60	58	59
Ease of travel by car	74	73	74	74	73	74
Bike and pedestrian transportation options	49	61 A	65 A	58	61	60
Ability to access destinations by walking or biking	38	56 A	58 A	51	53	52
Public transit	29	34	32	28	35 A	32
Ease of access to support services and resources	61	61	58	59	61	60
Overall feeling of safety in Washington County	83 B C	74	70	74	76	75
Overall image or reputation of Washington County	78 C	77	74	76	76	76

Table 56: Ratings of Safety by Respondent Demographic Characteristics

Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel in Washington County. Average rating (0=very unsafe, 100=very safe)	Age			Gender		Overall (A)
	18-34	35-54	55+	Female	Male	
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	
From property crimes (e.g., burglary, theft)	88 B C	79	76	80	80	80
From violent crimes (e.g., rape, assault, domestic violence, robbery)	90 B C	85 C	81	85	85	85
From illegal drug activity (e.g., manufacturing or selling drugs)	87 B C	79 C	73	80	79	79
From the opioid epidemic	84 C	79 C	74	81 B	76	78
While driving on roads in the county	77	78	75	77	77	76
From drivers under the influence on roads in the county	74 C	73 C	63	70	70	69
From distracted drivers on roads in the county	63 C	59 C	52	57	58	57
While biking or walking along roads in the county	68 C	67 C	59	63	65	64
From identity theft (e.g., fraud, scams, credit card theft)	84 B C	64 C	56	67	64	65
From human trafficking	91 B C	79	78	82	82	82
In your neighborhood	92 C	90 C	84	90 B	86	88
In Washington County regional parks or trails	87 C	84 C	76	81	83	82
In county government buildings (e.g., County Government Center, libraries)	95 C	93 C	89	92	92	92

Table 57: Ratings of Problems by Respondent Demographic Characteristics

Please rate to what degree, if at all, each of the following is a problem in Washington County. Average rating (0=not a problem, 100=major problem)	Age			Gender		Overall (A)
	18-34	35-54	55+	Female	Male	
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	
Violent crime (e.g., rape, assault, domestic violence, robbery)	22	33 A	39 A B	33	31	32
Property crime (e.g., burglary, theft)	25	42 A	49 A B	40	41	41
Drug dealing	18	35 A	47 A B	36	34	35
Taxes	48	58 A	62 A	53	60 A	57
Roadway safety	32	35	40 A	36	36	36
Roadway congestion	33	39	45 A B	41	38	40
Poverty	31	36	38 A	38 B	33	35
Homelessness	23	25	31 A B	29	25	27
Availability of stable, affordable housing	54	51	54	54	53	53
Availability of livable wage jobs	53	50	51	54	49	51
Access to public transit	42	48	54 A	53 B	45	49
Access to trails and sidewalks	31 B C	16	20	21	20	21
Transportation options	39	40	47	48 B	38	43

Table 58: Ratings of Health Concerns by Respondent Demographic Characteristics

Please rate to what degree, if at all, each of the following is a health concern throughout Washington County. Average rating (0=not at all a concern, 100=major concern)	Age			Gender		Overall (A)
	18-34	35-54	55+	Female	Male	
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	
Bullying	39	48 A	43	48	42	44
Suicide/attempted suicide	27	42 A	43 A	40	38	39
Domestic violence	32	45 A	49 A	44	43	43
Underage alcohol use	29	43 A	55 A B	45	42	44

Please rate to what degree, if at all, each of the following is a health concern throughout Washington County. Average rating (0=not at all a concern, 100=major concern)	Age			Gender		Overall (A)
	18-34	35-54	55+	Female	Male	
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	
Excessive alcohol use among adults	27	42 A	48 A	40	39	40
Illicit drug use	17	38 A	55 A B	39	38	39
Accidental drug overdose	21	35 A	45 A B	36	34	35
Misuse of prescribed medications	25	39 A	43 A	40	34	36
Tobacco use	25	31	39 A B	33	32	33
Cannabis use	23	31 A	47 A B	32	35	34
Electronic cigarettes/vaping	33	41 A	53 A B	44	42	43
Overweight children	43	55 A	63 A B	52	58	55
Overweight adults	47	58 A	67 A B	57	61	59
Heart disease	35	52 A	60 A	49	52	51
Spread of infectious diseases	37	41	50 A B	43	44	43
Abuse and neglect of children	26	44 A	50 A	41	43	42
Abuse and neglect of seniors	28	40 A	49 A B	40	41	41
Access to healthcare and support for seniors	29	40 A	45 A	42	38	40
Access to healthcare and support for people with disabilities	35	40	45 A	43	38	41
Access to healthcare for all community members	32	38	44 A	40	37	38
Access to parks and open space	23 B C	17	17	18	19	19
Depression/anxiety	47	50	48	52 B	46	48
Loneliness	37	45 A	49 A	48	42	45
Mental health	45	56 A	56 A	57 B	49	53
Access to mental healthcare	39	53 A	54 A	55 B	44	50

Table 59: Ratings of Environmental Concerns by Respondent Demographic Characteristics

Please rate to what degree, if at all, each of the following is an environmental concern in Washington County. Average rating (0=not at all a concern, 100=major concern)	Age			Gender		Overall (A)
	18-34	35-54	55+	Female	Male	
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	
Exposure to radon	24	34 A	44 A B	36	35	37
Quality of outdoor air	26	28	34 A B	30	30	30
Safety of food in public establishments	24	27	32 A B	29	28	28
Management of garbage	16	17	24 A B	21	17	19
Service by waste collection providers	11	15	18 A	17	14	16
Quality of drinking water	53	67 A	62 A	62	61	62
Quality of water in lakes and streams	42	62 A	61 A	56	58	57
Quantity of useable water supply	42	55 A	56 A	55	50	52
Climate change	53	53	55	56	52	54
Access to recycling	24	21	23	25	20	23
Yard waste disposal	21	27	26	27	24	26

Table 60: Ratings of Climate Adaptation by Respondent Demographic Characteristics

Please rate how well Washington County does at climate adaptation and mitigation in the following areas. Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)	Age			Gender		Overall (A)
	18-34	35-54	55+	Female	Male	
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	
Land protection through conservation easements (e.g., Land and Water Legacy Program)	61	66	64	64	64	64
Land conservation through regional parks	67	74 A	72	72	71	71
Protecting groundwater quality	47	41	46	46	42	44
Promoting clean transportation options (e.g., electric vehicles, public transportation, biking)	47	44	48	43	48	46
Diverting waste from landfills (e.g., through waste drop-off at Environmental Centers, Food Scraps Pickup Program)	62	65	69 A	64	67	66
Infectious disease preparedness and response	65 C	63	57	64	60	61
Response to food insecurity (e.g., through food shelves at libraries)	62	61	59	59	62	61
Road maintenance (e.g., following freeze/thaw cycles and flooding)	63 B	56	59	58	59	59

Table 61: Ratings of County Services by Respondent Demographic Characteristics

Please rate the quality of each of the following services provided by Washington County. Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)	Age			Gender		Overall (A)
	18-34	35-54	55+	Female	Male	
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	
County libraries	85	87	84	86	84	85
County parks and recreation like Big Marine Park Reserve, Lake Elmo Park Reserve, or St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park	85	88 C	84	88 B	84	86
Trail and bikeway system like Hardwood Creek Regional Trail and Point Douglas Regional Trail	82	85 C	80	83	82	82
Condition of County highways such as 170th St N. (County Rd. 4), 10th Street (County Rd. 10), or Bailey Road (County Rd. 18)	66	66	66	67	66	66
Snow and ice removal on County highways	70	71	75 A B	70	74	72
Employment support	68 C	65	57	63	64	63
Recycling and drop-off services at the Environmental Centers	78	80	78	77	80	79
Records, vital statistics, licensing, and vehicle registration	67	65	70	68	67	67
911 dispatch services	82	82	82	81	83	82
Disaster preparedness and response	77	75	71	76 B	71	74
Services provided to veterans	70	63	62	68	60	64
Services provided to older adults	70 B C	59	56	61	58	59
Protecting children and vulnerable adults	70 B C	60	56	62	61	61
Mental health services	72 B C	54	48	54	58	56
Chemical health services	65 C	59	54	59	59	59
Crisis response services	73 B C	65	64	67	67	67
Support in obtaining housing	59 B C	41	48	54 B	44	49
Economic support services	56	53	51	54	53	53
Healthcare assistance services	72 B C	57	57	60	63	61
Public health services (immunizations, WIC, family health home visits)	71 C	68	63	65	70	67
Overall quality of services provided by Washington County	71	66	66	66	68	67

Table 62: Ratings of Washington County Government Performance by Respondent Demographic Characteristics

Please rate the following categories related to Washington County government performance: Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)	Age			Gender		Overall (A)
	18-34	35-54	55+	Female	Male	
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	
Informing community members	64	64	67	67	63	65
Listening to community members	58	53	56	58	53	55
Applying new technology to connect community members with services	54	57	61	61 B	53	57
Managing tax dollars	39	41	48 A B	46 B	41	43
Treating all community members with respect	71	65	68	68	67	67
Addressing disparities in the community	65 B C	52	54	56	57	57
Welcoming community members from all backgrounds to participate in community decision-making	67 C	60	58	61	63	62
My knowledge of the work of the Washington County Board	43	39	41	42	38	41
The value of services for the taxes paid to Washington County	51	49	51	52	50	50
The value of Washington County services to the quality of life in my neighborhood	71 B C	61	61	64	64	63

Table 63: Ratings of County Board Approval by Respondent Demographic Characteristics

Average rating (0=strongly disapprove, 100=strongly approve)	Age			Gender		Overall (A)
	18-34	35-54	55+	Female	Male	
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	
To what extent do you approve or disapprove of the job the Washington County Board is doing?	67	64	69 B	68	66	67

Table 64: Ratings of Sources of Information about the County by Respondent Demographic Characteristics

Please rate the extent to which you use each of the following as sources of information about Washington County government, if at all. Average rating (0=not a source, 100=major source)	Age			Gender		Overall (A)
	18-34	35-54	55+	Female	Male	
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	
Cable access programming	8	12	18 A B	14	12	13
Washington County website (www.washingtoncountymn.gov)	57	67 A C	57	67 B	56	61
Community meetings	11	20 A	23 A	20	18	19
Washington County Newsletter - Staying in Touch	63	72 A	78 A B	74	71	73
Phone calls to Washington County	16	20	33 A B	25	23	24
Communications from my city or township	45	52	60 A B	57	51	54
Daily newspapers (online or in print)	15	26 A	41 A B	30	29	30
Weekly community newspapers (online or in print)	21	32 A	35 A	32	29	31
Television news broadcasts	17	33 A	48 A B	37	35	36
County subscription list and electronic newsletters	9	32 A C	24 A	22	26	24
Social Media (e.g., Facebook, Instagram, NextDoor, LinkedIn, etc.)	67 B C	49 C	35	53 B	44	47
Word of mouth (from friends, family, neighbors)	60	58	58	60	57	58

Survey Results by Annual Household Income and Length of Residency

Table 65: Ratings of Overall Quality of Life by Respondent Demographic Characteristics

Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)	Respondent length of residency			Household income			Overall
	5 years or less	6-20 years	More than 20 years	Less than \$50,000	\$50,000 to \$99,999	\$100,000 or more	(A)
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	(C)	
How would you rate the overall quality of life in Washington County?	79	80	80	71	77 A	83 A B	80

Table 66: Ratings of Quality of Life by Respondent Demographic Characteristics

Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in Washington County. Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)	Respondent length of residency			Household income			Overall
	5 years or less	6-20 years	More than 20 years	Less than \$50,000	\$50,000 to \$99,999	\$100,000 or more	(A)
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	(C)	
As a place to live	79	83	81	73	80 A	84 A B	81
As a place to raise children	80	79	81	69	78 A	83 A B	80
As a place to work	60	67 A	68 A	60	62	69 A B	66
As a place to retire	62	69 C	62	62	67	62	64

Table 67: Ratings of Community Characteristics by Respondent Demographic Characteristics

Please rate each of the following characteristics of Washington County: Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)	Respondent length of residency			Household income			Overall (A)
	5 years or less	6-20 years	More than 20 years	Less than \$50,000	\$50,000 to \$99,999	\$100,000 or more	
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	(C)	
Outdoor recreational opportunities	69	81 A	79 A	70	78 A	78 A	77
Employment opportunities	40	58 A	56 A	45	51	54 A	53
Openness and acceptance toward people of diverse backgrounds	62	62	63	58	63	63	63
Availability of housing options for all incomes	35	49 A	43 A	37	37	45 B	43
Rural character and natural environment	71 C	69	65	72 B	62	68 B	67
Sense of community and connection	56	62	59	58	55	61 B	59
Ease of travel by car	72	77	73	73	69	76 B	74
Bike and pedestrian transportation options	50	61 A	63 A	56	57	61	60
Ability to access destinations by walking or biking	42	61 A C	53 A	55	53	51	52
Public transit	21	36 A	35 A	26	35	32	32
Ease of access to support services and resources	57	63	60	54	56	64 A B	60
Overall feeling of safety in Washington County	77 C	76	73	73	71	77 B	75
Overall image or reputation of Washington County	75	79 A C	75	70	75 A	78 A	76

Table 68: Ratings of Safety by Respondent Demographic Characteristics

Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel in Washington County. Average rating (0=very unsafe, 100=very safe)	Respondent length of residency			Household income			Overall (A)
	5 years or less	6-20 years	More than 20 years	Less than \$50,000	\$50,000 to \$99,999	\$100,000 or more	
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	(C)	
From property crimes (e.g., burglary, theft)	85 C	81	77	77	80	80	80
From violent crimes (e.g., rape, assault, domestic violence, robbery)	89 C	86	82	80	85	87 A	85
From illegal drug activity (e.g., manufacturing or selling drugs)	88 B C	78	74	71	78	81 A	79
From the opioid epidemic	86 B C	79	74	69	77 A	80 A	78
While driving on roads in the county	77	76	76	71	76	78 A	76
From drivers under the influence on roads in the county	74 C	72 C	66	62	69 A	72 A	69
From distracted drivers on roads in the county	66 B C	59 C	52	58	58	58	57
While biking or walking along roads in the county	65	66	62	64	66	63	64
From identity theft (e.g., fraud, scams, credit card theft)	76 B C	68 C	59	59	69 A	66	65
From human trafficking	87 C	84	79	77	83	83	82
In your neighborhood	91 C	88	86	78	86 A	91 A B	88
In Washington County regional parks or trails	84 C	84 C	79	75	80	84 A B	82
In county government buildings (e.g., County Government Center, libraries)	90	94 A	92	87	93 A	93 A	92

Table 69: Ratings of Problems by Respondent Demographic Characteristics

Please rate to what degree, if at all, each of the following is a problem in Washington County. Average rating (0=not a problem, 100=major problem)	Respondent length of residency			Household income			Overall
	5 years or less	6-20 years	More than 20 years	Less than \$50,000	\$50,000 to \$99,999	\$100,000 or more	(A)
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	(C)	
Violent crime (e.g., rape, assault, domestic violence, robbery)	25	26	39 A B	37 B	28	32	32
Property crime (e.g., burglary, theft)	33	38	47 A B	40	38	42	41
Drug dealing	22	30 A	44 A B	39	33	34	35
Taxes	43	55 A	65 A B	51	59	57	57
Roadway safety	29	33	41 A B	32	36	36	36
Roadway congestion	33	34	46 A B	34	39	41	40
Poverty	30	34	39 A	39	33	36	35
Homelessness	21	25	31 A B	30	27	27	27
Availability of stable, affordable housing	53	45	57 B	62 C	58	51	53
Availability of livable wage jobs	55 B	43	53 B	60 C	52	50	51
Access to public transit	50	48	49	59 C	50	47	49
Access to trails and sidewalks	25 C	21	19	26	20	20	21
Transportation options	46	43	42	55 B C	41	41	43

Table 70: Ratings of Health Concerns by Respondent Demographic Characteristics

Please rate to what degree, if at all, each of the following is a health concern throughout Washington County. Average rating (0=not at all a concern, 100=major concern)	Respondent length of residency			Household income			Overall (A)
	5 years or less	6-20 years	More than 20 years	Less than \$50,000	\$50,000 to \$99,999	\$100,000 or more	
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	(C)	
Bullying	39	46	46	39	40	48	44
Suicide/attempted suicide	29	38	43 A	28	36	43 A	39
Domestic violence	33	40	48 A B	42	39	45	43
Underage alcohol use	35	39	50 A B	46	42	45	44
Excessive alcohol use among adults	29	38 A	46 A B	38	43	40	40
Illicit drug use	25	33	47 A B	38	41	38	39
Accidental drug overdose	23	33 A	41 A B	30	38	34	35
Misuse of prescribed medications	22	40 A	41 A	28	41 A	37	36
Tobacco use	24	32	37 A	31	36	31	33
Cannabis use	24	30	42 A B	30	36	34	34
Electronic cigarettes/vaping	33	41	49 A B	39	46	42	43
Overweight children	46	47	63 A B	42	57 A	57 A	55
Overweight adults	51	55	65 A B	42	58 A	62 A	59
Heart disease	48	43	56 B	43	49	53	51
Spread of infectious diseases	46	42	44	49 C	49 C	39	43
Abuse and neglect of children	29	40 A	46 A	43	45	40	42
Abuse and neglect of seniors	33	37	45 A B	39	45	39	41
Access to healthcare and support for seniors	34	39	42 A	41	44	38	40
Access to healthcare and support for people with disabilities	34	41	44 A	41	43	40	41
Access to healthcare for all community members	33	37	42 A	39	43	37	38

Please rate to what degree, if at all, each of the following is a health concern throughout Washington County. Average rating (0=not at all a concern, 100=major concern)	Respondent length of residency			Household income			Overall
	5 years or less	6-20 years	More than 20 years	Less than \$50,000	\$50,000 to \$99,999	\$100,000 or more	(A)
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	(C)	
Access to parks and open space	20	20	17	25	18	18	19
Depression/anxiety	48	48	49	51	50	47	48
Loneliness	43	40	47	47	48	43	45
Mental health	50	50	56	43	51	56 A	53
Access to mental healthcare	48	48	52	43	51	51	50

Table 71: Ratings of Environmental Concerns by Respondent Demographic Characteristics

Please rate to what degree, if at all, each of the following is an environmental concern in Washington County. Average rating (0=not at all a concern, 100=major concern)	Respondent length of residency			Household income			Overall
	5 years or less	6-20 years	More than 20 years	Less than \$50,000	\$50,000 to \$99,999	\$100,000 or more	(A)
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	(C)	
Exposure to radon	27	40 A	38 A	33	37	36	37
Quality of outdoor air	29	32	30	34	34 C	27	30
Safety of food in public establishments	24	30	30 A	34 C	32 C	25	28
Management of garbage	14	22 A	21 A	24	23 C	18	19
Service by waste collection providers	11	21 A C	15	14	20 C	14	16
Quality of drinking water	56	64	64 A	50	57	66 A B	62
Quality of water in lakes and streams	50	55	61 A	55	53	59	57
Quantity of useable water supply	47	55	54	48	54	52	52
Climate change	58	53	52	49	50	57	54
Access to recycling	22	29 A C	21	22	27 C	21	23
Yard waste disposal	25	28	25	21	32 A C	24	26

Table 72: Ratings of Climate Adaptation by Respondent Demographic Characteristics

Please rate how well Washington County does at climate adaptation and mitigation in the following areas. Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)	Respondent length of residency			Household income			Overall
	5 years or less	6-20 years	More than 20 years	Less than \$50,000	\$50,000 to \$99,999	\$100,000 or more	(A)
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	(C)	
Land protection through conservation easements (e.g., Land and Water Legacy Program)	62	69 A C	63	74 C	66	62	64
Land conservation through regional parks	68	73	72	76	75	70	71
Protecting groundwater quality	48	47	41	54 C	50 C	39	44
Promoting clean transportation options (e.g., electric vehicles, public transportation, biking)	39	45	50 A	57 C	50 C	42	46
Diverting waste from landfills (e.g., through waste drop-off at Environmental Centers, Food Scraps Pickup Program)	57	68 A	68 A	71	66	64	66
Infectious disease preparedness and response	66	64	59	67	67 C	59	61
Response to food insecurity (e.g., through food shelves at libraries)	60	64	60	66	58	60	61
Road maintenance (e.g., following freeze/thaw cycles and flooding)	61 C	64 C	55	66 B C	57	58	59

Table 73: Ratings of County Services by Respondent Demographic Characteristics

Please rate the quality of each of the following services provided by Washington County. Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)	Respondent length of residency			Household income			Overall (A)
	5 years or less	6-20 years	More than 20 years	Less than \$50,000	\$50,000 to \$99,999	\$100,000 or more	
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	(C)	
County libraries	79	89 A	86 A	83	86	86	85
County parks and recreation like Big Marine Park Reserve, Lake Elmo Park Reserve, or St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park	85	88	85	82	86	86	86
Trail and bikeway system like Hardwood Creek Regional Trail and Point Douglas Regional Trail	80	84	82	82	84	81	82
Condition of County highways such as 170th St N. (County Rd. 4), 10th Street (County Rd. 10), or Bailey Road (County Rd. 18)	65	71 C	65	69	64	67	66
Snow and ice removal on County highways	72	75	71	74	71	73	72
Employment support	62	70 C	59	68	56	66 B	63
Recycling and drop-off services at the Environmental Centers	75	79	79	82	77	79	79
Records, vital statistics, licensing, and vehicle registration	62	73 A C	67	71	71 C	65	67
911 dispatch services	81	86 C	80	84	81	81	82
Disaster preparedness and response	79 C	77 C	71	78	69	75	74
Services provided to veterans	73 C	72 C	58	61	63	66	64
Services provided to older adults	65	65 C	56	60	57	61	59
Protecting children and vulnerable adults	64	68 C	57	62	59	63	61
Mental health services	53	63 C	53	57	55	56	56
Chemical health services	54	64	58	60	57	60	59
Crisis response services	69	71	64	60	62	71 A B	67
Support in obtaining housing	44	57 A	47	58	45	48	49
Economic support services	53	58	51	62 B	47	54	53

Please rate the quality of each of the following services provided by Washington County. Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)	Respondent length of residency			Household income			Overall (A)
	5 years or less	6-20 years	More than 20 years	Less than \$50,000	\$50,000 to \$99,999	\$100,000 or more	
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	(C)	
Healthcare assistance services	61	65	60	66 B	53	64 B	61
Public health services (immunizations, WIC, family health home visits)	64	69	67	65	65	69	67
Overall quality of services provided by Washington County	64	71 A C	66	67	65	68	67

Table 74: Ratings of Washington County Government Performance by Respondent Demographic Characteristics

Please rate the following categories related to Washington County government performance: Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)	Respondent length of residency			Household income			Overall (A)
	5 years or less	6-20 years	More than 20 years	Less than \$50,000	\$50,000 to \$99,999	\$100,000 or more	
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	(C)	
Informing community members	65	68 C	63	69	64	65	65
Listening to community members	59 C	58 C	51	61	52	55	55
Applying new technology to connect community members with services	57	56	58	64 B	49	60 B	57
Managing tax dollars	49 C	45	39	55 B C	40	43	43
Treating all community members with respect	71 C	71 C	64	68	66	68	67
Addressing disparities in the community	57	59	54	64 B	48	59 B	57
Welcoming community members from all backgrounds to participate in community decision-making	62	65	59	66 B	53	65 B	62
My knowledge of the work of the Washington County Board	43	41	40	59 B C	36	39	41
The value of services for the taxes paid to Washington County	54 C	55 C	46	52	50	51	50
The value of Washington County services to the quality of life in my neighborhood	60	69 A C	62	66	62	65	63

Table 75: Ratings of County Board Approval by Respondent Demographic Characteristics

Average rating (0=strongly disapprove, 100=strongly approve)	Respondent length of residency			Household income			Overall (A)
	5 years or less	6-20 years	More than 20 years	Less than \$50,000	\$50,000 to \$99,999	\$100,000 or more	
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	(C)	
To what extent do you approve or disapprove of the job the Washington County Board is doing?	71 C	69	64	67	69	66	67

Table 76: Ratings of Sources of Information about the County by Respondent Demographic Characteristics

Please rate the extent to which you use each of the following as sources of information about Washington County government, if at all. Average rating (0=not a source, 100=major source)	Respondent length of residency			Household income			Overall (A)
	5 years or less	6-20 years	More than 20 years	Less than \$50,000	\$50,000 to \$99,999	\$100,000 or more	
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)	(C)	
Cable access programming	15	16	12	17	16	11	13
Washington County website (www.washingtoncountymn.gov)	60	60	62	59	59	63	61
Community meetings	13	21 A	21 A	15	22	18	19
Washington County Newsletter - Staying in Touch	66	71	77 A	73	70	73	73
Phone calls to Washington County	23	19	27 B	45 B C	25	19	24
Communications from my city or township	47	55	56 A	53	54	53	54
Daily newspapers (online or in print)	23	28	34 A	38 C	37 C	25	30
Weekly community newspapers (online or in print)	29	32	31	43 C	34 C	26	31
Television news broadcasts	27	34	41 A	50 C	40 C	31	36
County subscription list and electronic newsletters	22	27	23	22	22	24	24
Social Media (e.g., Facebook, Instagram, NextDoor, LinkedIn, etc.)	51	53 C	44	44	46	50	47
Word of mouth (from friends, family, neighbors)	58	58	59	61	63 C	56	58

Survey Results by Type of Housing Unit and Housing Tenure (Rent or Own)

Table 77: Ratings of Overall Quality of Life by Respondent Demographic Characteristics

Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)	Respondent housing unit type		Rent or own		Overall
	Detached	Attached	Rent	Own	(A)
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	
How would you rate the overall quality of life in Washington County?	82 B	75	74	81 A	80

Table 78: Ratings of Quality of Life by Respondent Demographic Characteristics

Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in Washington County. Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)	Respondent housing unit type		Rent or own		Overall
	Detached	Attached	Rent	Own	(A)
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	
As a place to live	84 B	75	74	83 A	81
As a place to raise children	82 B	73	74	82 A	80
As a place to work	68 B	61	61	67 A	66
As a place to retire	65	61	59	65	64

Table 79: Ratings of Community Characteristics by Respondent Demographic Characteristics

Please rate each of the following characteristics of Washington County: Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)	Respondent housing unit type		Rent or own		Overall (A)
	Detached	Attached	Rent	Own	
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	
Outdoor recreational opportunities	77	77	75	77	77
Employment opportunities	54	50	47	54 A	53
Openness and acceptance toward people of diverse backgrounds	63	62	68 B	62	63
Availability of housing options for all incomes	47 B	33	31	45 A	43
Rural character and natural environment	69 B	63	66	68	67
Sense of community and connection	60 B	56	60	59	59
Ease of travel by car	75 B	70	72	74	74
Bike and pedestrian transportation options	61	56	60	59	60
Ability to access destinations by walking or biking	53	50	52	53	52
Public transit	33	29	32	32	32
Ease of access to support services and resources	62 B	56	61	60	60
Overall feeling of safety in Washington County	76 B	71	71	75	75
Overall image or reputation of Washington County	78 B	70	70	77 A	76

Table 80: Ratings of Safety by Respondent Demographic Characteristics

Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel in Washington County. Average rating (0=very unsafe, 100=very safe)	Respondent housing unit type		Rent or own		Overall (A)
	Detached	Attached	Rent	Own	
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	
From property crimes (e.g., burglary, theft)	80	78	79	80	80
From violent crimes (e.g., rape, assault, domestic violence, robbery)	86 B	82	83	85	85
From illegal drug activity (e.g., manufacturing or selling drugs)	80 B	75	76	79	79
From the opioid epidemic	80 B	74	77	79	78
While driving on roads in the county	78 B	72	71	77 A	76
From drivers under the influence on roads in the county	71 B	65	72	69	69
From distracted drivers on roads in the county	57	57	62 B	56	57
While biking or walking along roads in the county	63	65	65	64	64
From identity theft (e.g., fraud, scams, credit card theft)	65	64	67	65	65
From human trafficking	82	82	80	82	82
In your neighborhood	90 B	83	83	89 A	88
In Washington County regional parks or trails	83 B	77	82	82	82
In county government buildings (e.g., County Government Center, libraries)	93 B	89	91	92	92

Table 81: Ratings of Problems by Respondent Demographic Characteristics

Please rate to what degree, if at all, each of the following is a problem in Washington County. Average rating (0=not a problem, 100=major problem)	Respondent housing unit type		Rent or own		Overall (A)
	Detached	Attached	Rent	Own	
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	
Violent crime (e.g., rape, assault, domestic violence, robbery)	30	38 A	37	31	32
Property crime (e.g., burglary, theft)	41	41	36	42	41
Drug dealing	36	35	31	37	35
Taxes	59	54	49	58 A	57
Roadway safety	35	40	34	36	36
Roadway congestion	39	42	39	40	40
Poverty	34	40 A	31	36	35
Homelessness	24	34 A	29	26	27
Availability of stable, affordable housing	48	64 A	63 B	50	53
Availability of livable wage jobs	47	61 A	57 B	49	51
Access to public transit	47	55 A	48	49	49
Access to trails and sidewalks	21	22	19	21	21
Transportation options	41	49 A	40	43	43

Table 82: Ratings of Health Concerns by Respondent Demographic Characteristics

Please rate to what degree, if at all, each of the following is a health concern throughout Washington County. Average rating (0=not at all a concern, 100=major concern)	Respondent housing unit type		Rent or own		Overall (A)
	Detached	Attached	Rent	Own	
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	
Bullying	45	44	36	46 A	44
Suicide/attempted suicide	40	37	29	41 A	39
Domestic violence	42	46	38	44	43
Underage alcohol use	42	49 A	42	44	44
Excessive alcohol use among adults	39	44	34	42	40
Illicit drug use	38	40	38	39	39
Accidental drug overdose	35	35	33	35	35
Misuse of prescribed medications	36	40	34	37	36
Tobacco use	29	42 A	32	33	33
Cannabis use	33	39	31	35	34
Electronic cigarettes/vaping	39	54 A	46	42	43
Overweight children	54	60	55	55	55
Overweight adults	59	60	55	60	59
Heart disease	50	53	43	52 A	51
Spread of infectious diseases	41	50 A	45	43	43
Abuse and neglect of children	38	52 A	45	40	42
Abuse and neglect of seniors	38	49 A	47	39	41
Access to healthcare and support for seniors	38	45	37	40	40
Access to healthcare and support for people with disabilities	38	47 A	47	40	41
Access to healthcare for all community members	37	42	35	39	38
Access to parks and open space	18	21	21	18	19
Depression/anxiety	45	58 A	57 B	46	48
Loneliness	40	54 A	48	43	45
Mental health	52	57	54	53	53
Access to mental healthcare	49	53	54	49	50

Table 83: Ratings of Environmental Concerns by Respondent Demographic Characteristics

Please rate to what degree, if at all, each of the following is an environmental concern in Washington County. Average rating (0=not at all a concern, 100=major concern)	Respondent housing unit type		Rent or own		Overall (A)
	Detached	Attached	Rent	Own	
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	
Exposure to radon	35	42 A	34	36	37
Quality of outdoor air	27	38 A	32	30	30
Safety of food in public establishments	24	40 A	37 B	27	28
Management of garbage	18	24 A	21	19	19
Service by waste collection providers	14	19 A	16	15	16
Quality of drinking water	61	63	52	64 A	62
Quality of water in lakes and streams	56	59	49	58 A	57
Quantity of useable water supply	50	57	49	52	52
Climate change	53	55	45	56 A	54
Access to recycling	21	28 A	25	23	23
Yard waste disposal	25	29	21	26	26

Table 84: Ratings of Climate Adaptation by Respondent Demographic Characteristics

Please rate how well Washington County does at climate adaptation and mitigation in the following areas. Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)	Respondent housing unit type		Rent or own		Overall (A)
	Detached	Attached	Rent	Own	
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	
Land protection through conservation easements (e.g., Land and Water Legacy Program)	65	63	70	63	64
Land conservation through regional parks	72	70	76	70	71
Protecting groundwater quality	46	41	57 B	42	44
Promoting clean transportation options (e.g., electric vehicles, public transportation, biking)	43	52 A	61 B	43	46
Diverting waste from landfills (e.g., through waste drop-off at Environmental Centers, Food Scraps Pickup Program)	66	64	69	65	66
Infectious disease preparedness and response	61	64	75 B	58	61
Response to food insecurity (e.g., through food shelves at libraries)	62	58	73 B	58	61
Road maintenance (e.g., following freeze/thaw cycles and flooding)	57	63 A	68 B	57	59

Table 85: Ratings of County Services by Respondent Demographic Characteristics

Please rate the quality of each of the following services provided by Washington County. Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)	Respondent housing unit type		Rent or own		Overall (A)
	Detached	Attached	Rent	Own	
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	
County libraries	85	84	86	85	85
County parks and recreation like Big Marine Park Reserve, Lake Elmo Park Reserve, or St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park	86	86	89	85	86
Trail and bikeway system like Hardwood Creek Regional Trail and Point Douglas Regional Trail	82	81	83	82	82
Condition of County highways such as 170th St N. (County Rd. 4), 10th Street (County Rd. 10), or Bailey Road (County Rd. 18)	67	63	72 B	65	66
Snow and ice removal on County highways	73	71	75	72	72
Employment support	65	59	68	63	63
Recycling and drop-off services at the Environmental Centers	80 B	74	75	80	79
Records, vital statistics, licensing, and vehicle registration	65	73 A	71	67	67
911 dispatch services	84 B	77	80	82	82
Disaster preparedness and response	74	73	82 B	72	74
Services provided to veterans	64	64	57	65	64
Services provided to older adults	61	57	67 B	58	59
Protecting children and vulnerable adults	62	60	63	61	61
Mental health services	56	54	59	55	56
Chemical health services	58	61	62	58	59
Crisis response services	70 B	62	65	68	67
Support in obtaining housing	50	47	49	49	49
Economic support services	51	57	58	52	53
Healthcare assistance services	60	63	70 B	59	61
Public health services (immunizations, WIC, family health home visits)	68	65	67	67	67
Overall quality of services provided by Washington County	67	66	72 B	66	67

Table 86: Ratings of Washington County Government Performance by Respondent Demographic Characteristics

Please rate the following categories related to Washington County government performance: Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)	Respondent housing unit type		Rent or own		Overall
	Detached	Attached	Rent	Own	(A)
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	
Informing community members	66	62	66	64	65
Listening to community members	54	56	63 B	53	55
Applying new technology to connect community members with services	58	55	57	57	57
Managing tax dollars	42	46	45	42	43
Treating all community members with respect	67	68	72 B	66	67
Addressing disparities in the community	56	58	69 B	54	57
Welcoming community members from all backgrounds to participate in community decision-making	61	64	73 B	59	62
My knowledge of the work of the Washington County Board	38	49 A	49 B	39	41
The value of services for the taxes paid to Washington County	49	54	56	49	50
The value of Washington County services to the quality of life in my neighborhood	62	66	72 B	61	63

Table 87: Ratings of County Board Approval by Respondent Demographic Characteristics

Average rating (0=strongly disapprove, 100=strongly approve)	Respondent housing unit type		Rent or own		Overall
	Detached	Attached	Rent	Own	(A)
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	
To what extent do you approve or disapprove of the job the Washington County Board is doing?	66	69	68	66	67

Table 88: Ratings of Sources of Information about the County by Respondent Demographic Characteristics

Please rate the extent to which you use each of the following as sources of information about Washington County government, if at all. Average rating (0=not a source, 100=major source)	Respondent housing unit type		Rent or own		Overall (A)
	Detached	Attached	Rent	Own	
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	
Cable access programming	12	18 A	19	12	13
Washington County website (www.washingtoncountymn.gov)	62	60	64	61	61
Community meetings	19	18	19	19	19
Washington County Newsletter - Staying in Touch	75 B	68	70	73	73
Phone calls to Washington County	23	29 A	29	23	24
Communications from my city or township	58 B	42	44	55 A	54
Daily newspapers (online or in print)	29	31	37	28	30
Weekly community newspapers (online or in print)	30	33	40 B	29	31
Television news broadcasts	34	41 A	47 B	34	36
County subscription list and electronic newsletters	26 B	18	22	24	24
Social Media (e.g., Facebook, Instagram, NextDoor, LinkedIn, etc.)	47	49	59 B	46	47
Word of mouth (from friends, family, neighbors)	58	59	68 B	56	58

Survey Results by Race / Ethnicity

Table 89: Ratings of Overall Quality of Life by Respondent Demographic Characteristics

Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)	Race/ethnicity		Overall
	White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	Hispanic and/or other race	(A)
	(A)	(B)	
How would you rate the overall quality of life in Washington County?	81 B	75	80

Table 90: Ratings of Quality of Life by Respondent Demographic Characteristics

Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in Washington County. Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)	Race/ethnicity		Overall
	White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	Hispanic and/or other race	(A)
	(A)	(B)	
As a place to live	82	79	81
As a place to raise children	81	83	80
As a place to work	68 B	56	66
As a place to retire	66 B	54	64

Table 91: Ratings of Community Characteristics by Respondent Demographic Characteristics

Please rate each of the following characteristics of Washington County: Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)	Race/ethnicity		Overall (A)
	White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	Hispanic and/or other race	
	(A)	(B)	
Outdoor recreational opportunities	79 B	65	77
Employment opportunities	53	48	53
Openness and acceptance toward people of diverse backgrounds	62	62	63
Availability of housing options for all incomes	43	38	43
Rural character and natural environment	68	65	67
Sense of community and connection	60	60	59
Ease of travel by car	76 B	64	74
Bike and pedestrian transportation options	60	58	60
Ability to access destinations by walking or biking	53	48	52
Public transit	33	27	32
Ease of access to support services and resources	62 B	51	60
Overall feeling of safety in Washington County	77 B	68	75
Overall image or reputation of Washington County	77	75	76

Table 92: Ratings of Safety by Respondent Demographic Characteristics

Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel in Washington County. Average rating (0=very unsafe, 100=very safe)	Race/ethnicity		Overall (A)
	White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	Hispanic and/or other race	
	(A)	(B)	
From property crimes (e.g., burglary, theft)	81 B	74	80
From violent crimes (e.g., rape, assault, domestic violence, robbery)	87 B	79	85
From illegal drug activity (e.g., manufacturing or selling drugs)	80	79	79
From the opioid epidemic	79	77	78
While driving on roads in the county	77	76	76
From drivers under the influence on roads in the county	69	76 A	69
From distracted drivers on roads in the county	57	66 A	57
While biking or walking along roads in the county	63	70 A	64
From identity theft (e.g., fraud, scams, credit card theft)	65	68	65
From human trafficking	84 B	77	82
In your neighborhood	89	86	88
In Washington County regional parks or trails	83	82	82
In county government buildings (e.g., County Government Center, libraries)	93 B	86	92

Table 93: Ratings of Problems by Respondent Demographic Characteristics

Please rate to what degree, if at all, each of the following is a problem in Washington County. Average rating (0=not a problem, 100=major problem)	Race/ethnicity		Overall (A)
	White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	Hispanic and/or other race	
	(A)	(B)	
Violent crime (e.g., rape, assault, domestic violence, robbery)	31	35	32
Property crime (e.g., burglary, theft)	40	44	41
Drug dealing	35	35	35
Taxes	56	60	57
Roadway safety	36	30	36
Roadway congestion	40	34	40
Poverty	35	36	35
Homelessness	27	25	27
Availability of stable, affordable housing	52	58	53
Availability of livable wage jobs	50	54	51
Access to public transit	48	50	49
Access to trails and sidewalks	21	21	21
Transportation options	42	48	43

Table 94: Ratings of Health Concerns by Respondent Demographic Characteristics

Please rate to what degree, if at all, each of the following is a health concern throughout Washington County. Average rating (0=not at all a concern, 100=major concern)	Race/ethnicity		Overall (A)
	White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	Hispanic and/or other race	
	(A)	(B)	
Bullying	45	40	44
Suicide/attempted suicide	40	33	39
Domestic violence	44	36	43
Underage alcohol use	45 B	36	44
Excessive alcohol use among adults	42 B	30	40
Illicit drug use	39	31	39
Accidental drug overdose	35 B	26	35
Misuse of prescribed medications	38 B	27	36
Tobacco use	33	29	33
Cannabis use	33	37	34
Electronic cigarettes/vaping	43	40	43
Overweight children	56 B	47	55
Overweight adults	59	56	59
Heart disease	51	42	51
Spread of infectious diseases	46 B	30	43
Abuse and neglect of children	41	38	42
Abuse and neglect of seniors	41	35	41
Access to healthcare and support for seniors	41 B	30	40
Access to healthcare and support for people with disabilities	41	34	41
Access to healthcare for all community members	39	32	38
Access to parks and open space	19	17	19
Depression/anxiety	50 B	40	48
Loneliness	46 B	35	45
Mental health	53	50	53
Access to mental healthcare	49	49	50

Table 95: Ratings of Environmental Concerns by Respondent Demographic Characteristics

Please rate to what degree, if at all, each of the following is an environmental concern in Washington County. Average rating (0=not at all a concern, 100=major concern)	Race/ethnicity		Overall (A)
	White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	Hispanic and/or other race	
	(A)	(B)	
Exposure to radon	37	30	37
Quality of outdoor air	30	25	30
Safety of food in public establishments	27	31	28
Management of garbage	19	20	19
Service by waste collection providers	15	19	16
Quality of drinking water	61	64	62
Quality of water in lakes and streams	57	50	57
Quantity of useable water supply	51	54	52
Climate change	55	48	54
Access to recycling	22	28	23
Yard waste disposal	23	37 A	26

Table 96: Ratings of Climate Adaptation by Respondent Demographic Characteristics

Please rate how well Washington County does at climate adaptation and mitigation in the following areas. Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)	Race/ethnicity		Overall (A)
	White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	Hispanic and/or other race	
	(A)	(B)	
Land protection through conservation easements (e.g., Land and Water Legacy Program)	66 B	55	64
Land conservation through regional parks	73 B	65	71
Protecting groundwater quality	44	48	44
Promoting clean transportation options (e.g., electric vehicles, public transportation, biking)	46	46	46
Diverting waste from landfills (e.g., through waste drop-off at Environmental Centers, Food Scraps Pickup Program)	69 B	49	66
Infectious disease preparedness and response	62	62	61
Response to food insecurity (e.g., through food shelves at libraries)	61	57	61
Road maintenance (e.g., following freeze/thaw cycles and flooding)	58	62	59

Table 97: Ratings of County Services by Respondent Demographic Characteristics

Please rate the quality of each of the following services provided by Washington County. Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)	Race/ethnicity		Overall (A)
	White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	Hispanic and/or other race	
	(A)	(B)	
County libraries	87 B	79	85
County parks and recreation like Big Marine Park Reserve, Lake Elmo Park Reserve, or St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park	87 B	78	86
Trail and bikeway system like Hardwood Creek Regional Trail and Point Douglas Regional Trail	83	80	82
Condition of County highways such as 170th St N. (County Rd. 4), 10th Street (County Rd. 10), or Bailey Road (County Rd. 18)	67 B	60	66
Snow and ice removal on County highways	72	73	72
Employment support	64	61	63
Recycling and drop-off services at the Environmental Centers	81 B	68	79
Records, vital statistics, licensing, and vehicle registration	69 B	61	67
911 dispatch services	82	83	82
Disaster preparedness and response	74	76	74
Services provided to veterans	65	59	64
Services provided to older adults	61	56	59
Protecting children and vulnerable adults	63	62	61
Mental health services	57	52	56
Chemical health services	61 B	48	59
Crisis response services	67	68	67
Support in obtaining housing	51	43	49
Economic support services	56 B	41	53
Healthcare assistance services	65 B	50	61
Public health services (immunizations, WIC, family health home visits)	68	65	67
Overall quality of services provided by Washington County	67	65	67

Table 98: Ratings of Washington County Government by Respondent Demographic Characteristics

Please rate the following categories related to Washington County government performance: Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)	Race/ethnicity		Overall (A)
	White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	Hispanic and/or other race	
	(A)	(B)	
Informing community members	66 B	57	65
Listening to community members	57 B	45	55
Applying new technology to connect community members with services	59 B	48	57
Managing tax dollars	45 B	37	43
Treating all community members with respect	69 B	58	67
Addressing disparities in the community	57	57	57
Welcoming community members from all backgrounds to participate in community decision-making	63	56	62
My knowledge of the work of the Washington County Board	41	36	41
The value of services for the taxes paid to Washington County	52 B	40	50
The value of Washington County services to the quality of life in my neighborhood	65 B	58	63

Table 99: Ratings of County Board Approval by Respondent Demographic Characteristics

Average rating (0=strongly disapprove, 100=strongly approve)	Race/ethnicity		Overall (A)
	White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	Hispanic and/or other race	
	(A)	(B)	
To what extent do you approve or disapprove of the job the Washington County Board is doing?	68 B	59	67

Table 100: Ratings of Sources of Information about the County by Respondent Demographic Characteristics

Please rate the extent to which you use each of the following as sources of information about Washington County government, if at all. Average rating (0=not a source, 100=major source)	Race/ethnicity		Overall (A)
	White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	Hispanic and/or other race	
	(A)	(B)	
Cable access programming	12	18	13
Washington County website (www.washingtoncountymn.gov)	63 B	49	61
Community meetings	19	18	19
Washington County Newsletter - Staying in Touch	76 B	56	73
Phone calls to Washington County	24	21	24
Communications from my city or township	55 B	42	54
Daily newspapers (online or in print)	30	25	30
Weekly community newspapers (online or in print)	31	25	31
Television news broadcasts	36	33	36
County subscription list and electronic newsletters	25	20	24
Social Media (e.g., Facebook, Instagram, NextDoor, LinkedIn, etc.)	46	61 A	47
Word of mouth (from friends, family, neighbors)	59 B	51	58

Appendix E: Survey Results by Commissioner District

For most of the questions, for ease of comparison, responses have been condensed to show only the average rating on the 100-point scale across all response options (0=poor and 100=excellent or 0=very unsafe and 100=very safe).

Chi-square or ANOVA tests of significance were applied to these breakdowns of survey questions. A “p-value” of 0.05 or less indicates that there is less than a 5% probability that differences observed between groups are due to chance; or in other words, a greater than 95% probability that the differences observed in the selected categories of the sample represent “real” differences among those populations. As subgroups vary in size and each group (and each comparison to another group) has a unique margin of error, statistical testing is used to determine whether differences between subgroups are statistically significant.

For each pair or set of subgroup ratings within a row (a single question item) that has a statistically significant difference, an upper-case letter denoting significance is shown in the cell with the larger column proportion. The letter denotes the subgroup with the smaller column proportion from which it is statistically different. Subgroups that have no upper-case letter denotation in their column and that are also not referred to in any other column were not statistically different.

For example, on the next page, respondents in districts 1 and 3 (Columns A and C) gave an average rating of 82 on the 100-point scale to their quality of life, and both cells contains the letter “D.” This means that the ratings for districts 1 and 3 are statistically significantly higher than the ratings for District 4 (Column D).

Table 101: Ratings of Overall Quality of Life by Commissioner District

	Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)				
	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)
How would you rate the overall quality of life in Washington County?	82 D	79	82 D	77	79

Table 102: Ratings of Quality of Life by Commissioner District

Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in Washington County.	Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)				
	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)
As a place to live	84 D	80	84 D	77	80
As a place to raise children	82	76	78	82	81
As a place to work	70 B	60	68 B	63	67
As a place to retire	73 B C D E	63	65 E	60	57

Table 103: Ratings of Community Characteristics by Commissioner District

Please rate each of the following characteristics of Washington County:	Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)				
	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)
Outdoor recreational opportunities	72	77	78 A	78 A	80 A
Employment opportunities	53 C	55 C	46	53	58 C
Openness and acceptance toward people of diverse backgrounds	58	65	62	61	68 A D
Availability of housing options for all incomes	45 C	42	36	46 C	47 C
Rural character and natural environment	77 B D E	61	74 B D E	62	60
Sense of community and connection	63 B E	54	64 B E	59	54
Ease of travel by car	75 E	72	77 E	76 E	67
Bike and pedestrian transportation options	59	57	56	57	69 A B C D
Ability to access destinations by walking or biking	51	51	53	48	58 D
Public transit	25	43 A C D	25	29	40 A C D
Ease of access to support services and resources	55	59	59	63 A	65 A
Overall feeling of safety in Washington County	76	73	77	73	73
Overall image or reputation of Washington County	80 B	72	76	75	76

Table 104: Ratings of Safety by Commissioner District

Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel in Washington County.	Average rating (0=very unsafe, 100=very safe)				
	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)
From property crimes (e.g., burglary, theft)	81	76	81	81	78
From violent crimes (e.g., rape, assault, domestic violence, robbery)	88 B E	82	88 B E	83	82
From illegal drug activity (e.g., manufacturing or selling drugs)	81 B	74	83 B E	78	77
From the opioid epidemic	79	75	79	78	78
While driving on roads in the county	77	79 E	76	78	72
From drivers under the influence on roads in the county	66	71	72 A	68	69
From distracted drivers on roads in the county	58 E	58 E	58 E	63 E	50
While biking or walking along roads in the county	65	65	60	63	66
From identity theft (e.g., fraud, scams, credit card theft)	66	64	66	65	62
From human trafficking	87 D E	82	83	77	79
In your neighborhood	90 B D	85	92 B D E	85	86
In Washington County regional parks or trails	85	80	84 E	80	78
In county government buildings (e.g., County Government Center, libraries)	94 E	92	92	91	89

Table 105: Ratings of Problems by Commissioner District

Please rate to what degree, if at all, each of the following is a problem in Washington County.	Average rating (0=not a problem, 100=major problem)				
	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)
Violent crime (e.g., rape, assault, domestic violence, robbery)	29	38 A	33	31	32
Property crime (e.g., burglary, theft)	39	43	40	44	40
Drug dealing	34	41	34	36	32
Taxes	54	54	60	57	62
Roadway safety	36	36	36	35	39
Roadway congestion	31	40 A	46 A D	33	47 A D
Poverty	33	39	38	36	32
Homelessness	25	35 A D E	28 E	26	20
Availability of stable, affordable housing	52	60 C	51	50	52
Availability of livable wage jobs	47	56 A	52	49	51
Access to public transit	53 E	43	55 B E	51	42
Access to trails and sidewalks	21 E	17	24 B E	26 B E	14
Transportation options	46	38	43	49 B E	39

Table 106: Ratings of Health Concerns by Commissioner District

Please rate to what degree, if at all, each of the following is a health concern throughout Washington County.	Average rating (0=not at all a concern, 100=major concern)				
	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)
Bullying	36	54 A	44	43	48 A
Suicide/attempted suicide	32	45 A	37	39	42
Domestic violence	39	51 A D	43	39	46
Underage alcohol use	38	50 A	46	42	47
Excessive alcohol use among adults	37	45	45	37	39
Illicit drug use	35	44	39	36	41
Accidental drug overdose	34	35	37	35	34
Misuse of prescribed medications	36	41	36	33	37
Tobacco use	29	40 A C E	31	33	30
Cannabis use	31	39	38	30	35
Electronic cigarettes/vaping	39	55 A C D E	42	40	42
Overweight children	48	56	61 A	58 A	53
Overweight adults	51	64 A	66 A	58	57
Heart disease	43	63 A C D E	52	48	51
Spread of infectious diseases	39	51 A C	40	43	47
Abuse and neglect of children	39	48	40	39	42
Abuse and neglect of seniors	39	49 C D	38	37	42
Access to healthcare and support for seniors	38	45	39	35	42
Access to healthcare and support for people with disabilities	37	42	39	45	42
Access to healthcare for all community members	36	40	37	42	37
Access to parks and open space	19	14	20	21	18
Depression/anxiety	43	52	45	52 A	51
Loneliness	40	52 A C	39	45	49 A C
Mental health	45	59 A C	48	54	60 A C
Access to mental healthcare	47	54	46	48	54

Table 107: Ratings of Environmental Concerns by Commissioner District

Please rate to what degree, if at all, each of the following is an environmental concern in Washington County.	Average rating (0=not at all a concern, 100=major concern)				
	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)
Exposure to radon	25	45 A C D	35 A	36 A	43 A
Quality of outdoor air	23	34 A C	27	37 A C	32 A
Safety of food in public establishments	25	30	24	33 A C	32 C
Management of garbage	23 C	17	16	21	21
Service by waste collection providers	19 D	13	16	12	17
Quality of drinking water	39	66 A	62 A	69 A	77 A B C
Quality of water in lakes and streams	46	64 A	56 A	62 A	59 A
Quantity of useable water supply	38	55 A	50 A	54 A	67 A B C D
Climate change	45	63 A C E	48	63 A C E	53
Access to recycling	25	20	19	27 C	24
Yard waste disposal	24	27	24	25	30

Table 108: Ratings of Climate Adaptation by Commissioner District

Please rate how well Washington County does at climate adaptation and mitigation in the following areas.	Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)				
	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)
Land protection through conservation easements (e.g., Land and Water Legacy Program)	68 D	68 D	67 D	54	63 D
Land conservation through regional parks	73 D	72	73 D	65	72 D
Protecting groundwater quality	54 B C D E	37	45	39	43
Promoting clean transportation options (e.g., electric vehicles, public transportation, biking)	40	50 A	44	44	51 A
Diverting waste from landfills (e.g., through waste drop-off at Environmental Centers, Food Scraps Pickup Program)	59	71 A	67 A	64	68 A
Infectious disease preparedness and response	62	60	60	59	66
Response to food insecurity (e.g., through food shelves at libraries)	54	58	59	70 A B C	62
Road maintenance (e.g., following freeze/thaw cycles and flooding)	49	59 A	56 A	71 A B C E	60 A

Table 109: Ratings of County Services by Commissioner District

Please rate the quality of each of the following services provided by Washington County.	Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)				
	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)
County libraries	86	84	87	85	84
County parks and recreation like Big Marine Park Reserve, Lake Elmo Park Reserve, or St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park	86 D	83	89 B D	80	88 B D
Trail and bikeway system like Hardwood Creek Regional Trail and Point Douglas Regional Trail	79	85	83	80	83
Condition of County highways such as 170th St N. (County Rd. 4), 10th Street (County Rd. 10), or Bailey Road (County Rd. 18)	60	65	68 A	72 A B E	66
Snow and ice removal on County highways	66	76 A C	68	79 A C	74 A C
Employment support	62	60	60	70	63
Recycling and drop-off services at the Environmental Centers	80	78	77	76	82
Records, vital statistics, licensing, and vehicle registration	70	65	66	71	66
911 dispatch services	82	82	82	85	78
Disaster preparedness and response	72	69	72	79 B	77
Services provided to veterans	58	66	56	72 A C	71
Services provided to older adults	53	60	62	64	58
Protecting children and vulnerable adults	52	66 A	66 A	64 A	59
Mental health services	50	60	57	60	53
Chemical health services	58	63	63	55	56
Crisis response services	60	69	74 A	65	67
Support in obtaining housing	47	44	48	62 A B C E	45
Economic support services	52	52	48	64 C	53
Healthcare assistance services	58	61	57	69 A C	63
Public health services (immunizations, WIC, family health home visits)	62	72 A	66	70	67
Overall quality of services provided by Washington County	65	69	66	69	67

Table 110: Ratings of Washington County Government Performance by Commissioner District

Please rate the following categories related to Washington County government performance:	Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)				
	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)
Informing community members	58	67 A	64 A	72 A C E	65 A
Listening to community members	43	57 A	56 A	61 A	59 A
Applying new technology to connect community members with services	47	54	59 A	64 A B	62 A
Managing tax dollars	39	47	42	46	42
Treating all community members with respect	61	68	67	70 A	69 A
Addressing disparities in the community	42	54 A	59 A	67 A B	59 A
Welcoming community members from all backgrounds to participate in community decision-making	51	58	60	69 A B	68 A B
My knowledge of the work of the Washington County Board	34	37	39	54 A B C E	41
The value of services for the taxes paid to Washington County	47	55 A	49	50	49
The value of Washington County services to the quality of life in my neighborhood	58	66 A	65 A	66 A	61

Table 111: Ratings of County Board Approval by Commissioner District

Average rating (0=strongly disapprove, 100=strongly approve)	Commissioner District				
	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)
To what extent do you approve or disapprove of the job the Washington County Board is doing?	66	73 A C	62	68	67

Table 112: Ratings of Sources of Information about the County by Commissioner District

Please rate the extent to which you use each of the following as sources of information about Washington County government, if at all.	Average rating (0=not a source, 100=major source)				
	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)
Cable access programming	15	15	10	13	14
Washington County website (www.washingtoncountymn.gov)	56	64	63	60	62
Community meetings	19	20	21	19	17
Washington County Newsletter - Staying in Touch	72	75	73	67	76
Phone calls to Washington County	30 C E	23	21	28	20
Communications from my city or township	52	57	56	54	50
Daily newspapers (online or in print)	36 D	29	32	24	28
Weekly community newspapers (online or in print)	39 B D E	27	32	29	26
Television news broadcasts	34	39	35	33	37
County subscription list and electronic newsletters	23	24	21	23	27
Social Media (e.g., Facebook, Instagram, NextDoor, LinkedIn, etc.)	50 C	48	39	56 C E	45
Word of mouth (from friends, family, neighbors)	64 D E	65 C D E	57	55	51

Appendix F: Survey Results by Year

For most of the questions, for ease of comparison, responses have been condensed to show only average rating on the 100-point scale across all response options (0=poor and 100=excellent or 0=very unsafe and 100=very safe). Responses are shown where question wording from previous surveys was identical or similar to what was included in the 2025 survey. If the cells within a table contain an “.” that means that particular item was not asked on that year’s survey.

For each pair or set of by-year ratings within a row (a single question item) that has a statistically significant difference, an upper-case letter denoting significance is shown in the cell with the larger column proportion. The letter denotes the year with the smaller column proportion from which it is statistically different. Years that have no upper-case letter denotation in their column and that are also not referred to in any other column were not statistically different from each other.

For example, on the next page, respondents in 2025 (Column G) gave an average rating of 80 on the 100-point scale to their quality of life, and the cell contains the letters “C F.” This means that the 2025 rating is statistically significantly higher than the ratings in 2013 and 2023 (Columns C and F).

Table 113: Ratings of Overall Quality of Life by Year

	2006	2008	2013	2016	2019	2022	2025
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)							
How would you rate the overall quality of life in Washington County?	79	78	77	79	79	77	80 C F

Table 114: Ratings of Quality of Life by Year

Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in Washington County.	2006	2008	2013	2016	2019	2022	2025
Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
As a place to live	79	81 F
As a place to raise children	78	80
As a place to work	65	66
As a place to retire	.	.	58	60	61	61	64 C D

Table 115: Ratings of Community Characteristics by Year

Please rate each of the following characteristics of Washington County: Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)	2006	2008	2013	2016	2019	2022	2025
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
Outdoor recreational opportunities	.	.	70	72	75 C D	74 C D	77 C D F
Employment opportunities	.	.	45	50 C	55 C D	56 C D	53 C
Openness and acceptance toward people of diverse backgrounds	.	.	57	55	57	58	63 CDEF
Availability of housing options for all incomes	46	43	50 ABEFG	47 B F G	45	43	43
Rural character and natural environment	.	.	69 E	66	66	67	67
Sense of community and connection	.	.	58	59	59	59	59
Ease of travel by car	.	.	.	71	71	73	74 D E
Bike and pedestrian transportation options	.	.	.	60	58	63 E	60
Ability to access destinations by walking or biking	52
Public transit	.	.	.	34	35	35	32
Ease of access to support services and resources	60
Overall feeling of safety in Washington County	.	.	70 F	71 F	72 F	66	75 C D F
Overall image or reputation of Washington County	.	.	69	71	72 C	70	76 CDEF

Table 116: Ratings of Safety by Year

Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel in Washington County.	2006	2008	2013	2016	2019	2022	2025
Average rating (0=very unsafe, 100=very safe)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
From property crimes (e.g., burglary, theft)	73 F	72 F	72 F	75 C F	73 F	68	80 ABCDEF
From violent crimes (e.g., rape, assault, domestic violence, robbery)	82 BF	78	81 F	83 B F	84 BCF	78	85 B C F
From illegal drug activity (e.g., manufacturing or selling drugs)	.	.	68	70	73 C D	72 C	79 C D E F
From the opioid epidemic	.	.	.	.	.	.	78
While driving on roads in the county	.	.	.	.	.	.	76
From drivers under the influence on roads in the county	63	63	62	64 E	62	64	69 ABCDEF
From distracted drivers on roads in the county	.	.	53 E	54 E	47	53 E	57 C D E F
While biking or walking along roads in the county	.	.	67 E F G	66 E	61	64	64
From identity theft (e.g., fraud, scams, credit card theft)	.	.	60	62	60	62	65 C D E
From human trafficking	.	.	.	.	78	76	82 E F
In your neighborhood	.	.	79	82 C	84 C F	81	88 C D E F
In Washington County regional parks or trails					76	75	82 E F
In county government buildings (e.g., County Government Center, libraries)	.	.	.	.	88	87	92 E F

Table 117: Ratings of Problems by Year

Please rate to what degree, if at all, each of the following is a problem in Washington County. Average rating (0=not a problem, 100=major problem)	2006	2008	2013	2016	2019	2022	2025
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
Violent crime (e.g., rape, assault, domestic violence, robbery)	.	.	.	.	.	.	32
Property crime (e.g., burglary, theft)	.	.	.	.	.	.	41
Drug dealing	.	.	.	.	.	.	35
Taxes	52 D E	53 D E	50	48	47	52 D E	57 ABCDEF
Roadway safety	.	.	36	33	36	40 CDEG	36 D
Roadway congestion	49 BCDEFG	40 D	39 D	36	41 D	40 D	40 D
Poverty	28	29	34 ABD	30	34 ABD	37 ABD	35 ABD
Homelessness	.	.	24	20	26 D	28 C D	27 D
Availability of stable, affordable housing	.	.	.	.	48	56 E	53 E
Availability of livable wage jobs	.	.	.	47	44	49 E	51 E
Access to public transit	.	.	55 F G	52	54 G	50	49
Access to trails and sidewalks	.	.	.	.	.	.	21
Transportation options	.	.	.	.	52 F G	47 G	43

Table 118: Ratings of Health Concerns by Year

Please rate to what degree, if at all, each of the following is a health concern throughout Washington County. Average rating (0=not at all a concern, 100=major concern)	2006	2008	2013	2016	2019	2022	2025
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
Bullying	.	.	47	44	50 D G	47	44
Suicide/attempted suicide	.	.	40	39	48 C D F G	44 D G	39
Domestic violence	.	.	48 D G	44	48 D G	47	43
Underage alcohol use	65 C D E F G	71 A C D E F G	56 E F G	53 F G	50 G	48	44
Excessive alcohol use among adults	.	.	50 F G	48 G	49 G	46 G	40
Illicit drug use	.	.	55 F G	54 F G	52 F G	47 G	39
Accidental drug overdose	.	.	.	.	.	42 G	35
Misuse of prescribed medications	.	.	47 G	48 G	54 C D F G	44 G	36
Tobacco use	48 F G	44 G	46 F G	44 G	44 G	40 G	33
Cannabis use	.	.	.	.	.	.	34
Electronic cigarettes/vaping	.	.	.	.	56 F G	46	43
Overweight children	51	56 A	58 A D F	52	58 A D F	54	55 A
Overweight adults	.	.	59 D	55	61 D F	57	59 D
Heart disease	.	.	.	.	52	52	51
Spread of infectious diseases	.	.	36 D	30	38 D	48 C D E G	43 C D E
Abuse and neglect of children	48 B D G	41	45 D	38	45 B D	46 B D G	42
Abuse and neglect of seniors	.	.	41 D	36	47 C D G	44 D	41 D
Access to healthcare and support for seniors	51 C D G	50 C D G	45 G	42	49 D G	48 D G	40
Access to healthcare and support for people with disabilities	.	.	44	42	49 C D G	47 D G	41
Access to healthcare for all community members	.	.	.	.	.	.	38
Access to parks and open space	.	.	.	.	20	20	19
Depression/anxiety	.	.	.	.	52 G	55 G	48

Please rate to what degree, if at all, each of the following is a health concern throughout Washington County. Average rating (0=not at all a concern, 100=major concern)	2006	2008	2013	2016	2019	2022	2025
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
Loneliness	45	50 E G	45
Mental health	53
Access to mental healthcare	50

Table 119: Ratings of Environmental Concerns by Year

Please rate to what degree, if at all, each of the following is an environmental concern in Washington County. Average rating (0=not at all a concern, 100=major concern)	2006	2008	2013	2016	2019	2022	2025
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
Exposure to radon	34	32	37 ABD	30	41 ABCDG	38 ABD	37 BD
Quality of outdoor air	37 CDEFG	37 CDEFG	30	28	32 D	31 D	30
Safety of food in public establishments	36 DEFG	37 DEFG	34 DEFG	28	27	28	28
Management of garbage	.	.	.	.	.	.	19
Service by waste collection providers	.	.	.	.	.	.	16
Quality of drinking water	47 D	54 ACD	46 D	41	57 A C D	59 A C D	62 ABCDE
Quality of water in lakes and streams	53 D	55 D	55 D	48	57 AD	57 AD	57 AD
Quantity of useable water supply	.	.	.	40	50 D	50 D	52 D
Climate change	.	.	.	.	51	50	54
Access to recycling	.	.	.	.	.	.	23
Yard waste disposal	.	.	.	.	.	33 G	26

Table 120: Ratings of County Services by Year

Please rate the quality of each of the following services provided by Washington County. Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)	2006	2008	2013	2016	2019	2022	2025
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
County libraries	78	79	81 A	80	81	81 A	85 ABCDEF
County parks and recreation like Big Marine Park Reserve, Lake Elmo Park Reserve, or St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park	77	77	82 A B	83 A B	82 A B	84 A B	86 ABCDE
Trail and bikeway system like Hardwood Creek Regional Trail and Point Douglas Regional Trail	75	76	78 A	78 A	80 A B	80 A B	82 A B C D
Condition of County highways such as 170th St N. (County Rd. 4), 10th Street (County Rd. 10), or Bailey Road (County Rd. 18)	54 B	49	59 A B	63 A B C	62 A B C	62 A B C	66 ABCDEF
Snow and ice removal on County highways	68 C E	68 C E	59	67 C E	64 C	68 C E	72 ABCDEF
Employment support	60 B C	52	54	66 ABCF	64 ABC	60 B C	63 B C
Recycling and drop-off services at the Environmental Centers	.	.	72	73	74	74	79 C D E F
Records, vital statistics, licensing, and vehicle registration	73 E F G	70 E F	72 E F G	72 E F G	62	64	67 E F
911 dispatch services	.	.	77	77	77	77	82 C D E F
Disaster preparedness and response	52	55	59 A	66 ABCF	64 A B C	61 A B	74 ABCDEF
Services provided to veterans	.	.	58	63	58	57	64 E F
Services provided to older adults	62 C F	61 F	57	61 C F	59	56	59
Protecting children and vulnerable adults	.	.	.	61 F	60 F	55	61 F
Mental health services	.	.	.	.	.	.	56
Chemical health services	.	.	.	.	.	.	59
Crisis response services	.	.	.	.	.	.	67
Support in obtaining housing	.	.	.	.	.	.	49
Economic support services	.	.	.	.	.	.	53
Healthcare assistance services	.	.	.	.	.	.	61
Public health services (immunizations, WIC, family health home visits)	.	.	.	.	.	.	67
Overall quality of services provided by Washington County	.	67 F	65	66 F	66	63	67 F

Table 121: Contacted Washington County Office by Year

	2006	2008	2013	2016	2019	2022	2025
Average rating (0=no, 100=yes)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
Have you visited, telephoned, or emailed any Washington County government office within the last 12 months?	51 F	51 F	51 F	49	54 D F	44	52 F

Table 122: Ratings of Employee(s) in Most Recent Contact by Year

What was your experience with the employee(s) of Washington County in your most recent contact? (Rate each characteristic below.) Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)	2006	2008	2013	2016	2019	2022	2025
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
Knowledge	80 C D	76	75	75	77	78	80 C D
Responsiveness	77 D E	75	74	72	72	76	77 D E
Courtesy	79 D	80 C D	75	74	76	79 D	86 A B C D E F
Respect	.	.	.	.	.	.	86

Table 123: Reasonableness of Wait Time at Washington County Service or License Center by Year

Average rating (0=very unreasonable, 100=Very reasonable)	2006	2008	2013	2016	2019	2022	2025
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
How reasonable or unreasonable did you consider your wait time for service to be?	89 D E F G	93 A C D E F G	88 D E F G	81 E F G	64	66	73 E F

Table 124: Overall Quality of the Most Recent at Washington County Service or License Center by Year

Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)	2006	2008	2013	2016	2019	2022	2025
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
Please rate the overall quality of your most recent Washington County Service or License Center experience.	.	.	82 D E F G	77 F	75 F	68	75 F

Table 125: Ratings of Washington County Government Performance by Year

Please rate the following categories related to Washington County government performance: Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)	2006	2008	2013	2016	2019	2022	2025
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
Informing community members	59 B	56	65 A BD	60 B	62 B	62 B	65 ABDEF
Listening to community members	63 CDEFG	61 CDEFG	52	51	54	52	55 D
Applying new technology to connect community members with services	.	.	.	.	.	.	57
Managing tax dollars	65 BCDEFG	61 CDEFG	49 D G	45	49 D G	50 D G	43
Treating all community members with respect	.	.	.	.	.	67	67
Addressing disparities in the community	.	.	.	.	.	.	57
Welcoming community members from all backgrounds to participate in community decision-making	.	.	.	.	.	58	62
My knowledge of the work of the Washington County Board	48 CDEFG	49 CDEFG	38	37	36	38	41 E
The value of services for the taxes paid to Washington County	68 BCDEFG	62 CDEFG	50	48	49	48	50
The value of Washington County services to the quality of life in my neighborhood	.	.	56	56	59	56	63 CDEF

Table 126: Ratings of Sources of Information about the County by Year

Please rate the extent to which you use each of the following as sources of information about Washington County government, if at all. Average rating (0=not a source, 100=major source)	2006	2008	2013	2016	2019	2022	2025
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
Cable access programming	34 CDEFG	39 ACDEFG	21 F G	21 F G	21 F G	16	13
Washington County website (www.washingtoncountymn.gov)	39	45 A	46 A	53 ABCE	48 A	50 ABC	61 ABCDEF
Community meetings	30 CDEFG	30 CDEFG	16	21 C E F	15	16	19 E F
Washington County Newsletter - Staying in Touch	63 D E F	62 D E F	59	57	56	56	73 ABCDEF
Phone calls to Washington County	.	.	24	22	23 F	20	24 F
Communications from my city or township	.	.	.	.	.	.	54
Daily newspapers (online or in print)	61 CDEFG	64 CDEFG	49 EFG	45 E F G	35 G	33	30
Weekly community newspapers (online or in print)	64 CDEFG	60 CDEFG	51 EFG	46 E F G	41 F G	33	31
Television news broadcasts	.	.	45 F G	44 F G	45 F G	35	36
County subscription list and electronic newsletters	.	.	17	15	16	15	24 C D E F
Social Media (e.g., Facebook, Instagram, NextDoor, LinkedIn, etc.)	.	.	17	29 C	38 C D	38 C D	47 C D E F
Word of mouth (from friends, family, neighbors)	.	.	.	.	62	58	58

Appendix G: Survey Results Compared to Other Participating Minnesota Counties

Understanding the Tables

Questions asked by more than one Minnesota county in 2025 are included in the following tables for comparison. Only results from the “scientific survey,” that is, from households that were randomly selected to participate in the survey, are included. For most of the questions, for ease of comparison, the average rating on the 100-point scale is used. If the cells within a table contain a “.” that means that particular item was not asked on that county’s survey.

Chi-square or ANOVA tests of significance were applied to these breakdowns of survey questions. A “p-value” of 0.05 or less indicates that there is less than a 5% probability that differences observed between groups are due to chance; or in other words, a greater than 95% probability that the differences observed in the selected categories of the sample represent “real” differences among those populations. As subgroups vary in size and each group (and each comparison to another group) has a unique margin of error, statistical testing is used to determine whether differences between subgroups are statistically significant.

For each pair or set of subgroup ratings within a row (a single question item) that has a statistically significant difference, an upper case letter denoting significance is shown in the cell with the larger column proportion. The letter denotes the subgroup with the smaller column proportion from which it is statistically different. Subgroups that have no upper case letter denotation in their column and that are also not referred to in any other column were not statistically different.

For example, on the next page, respondents in Washington County (Column E) gave an average rating of 80 on the 100-point scale to their quality of life, and that cell contains the letters “B C D.” This means that the Washington County rating is statistically significantly higher than the ratings for Olmsted County (Column B), Scott County (Column C) and St. Louis County (Column D). The cell for the Dakota County rating also contains the letters “B C D,” indicating that the Dakota County rating was also higher than Olmsted, Scott, and St. Louis. However, differences between Washington County and Dakota County were not statistically significant, as the Dakota County cell does not contain an E, nor the Washington County cell an A. Additionally, the differences between ratings in Olmsted, Scott, and St. Louis counties were statistically significantly different, as Scott contain a “B D,” indicating Scott County values are significantly higher than the ratings for Olmsted County (Column B) and St. Louis County (Column D).

Table 127: Overall Quality of Life by County

Average rating 0=poor, 100=excellent.	Dakota	Olmsted	Scott	St. Louis	Washington
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)
How would you rate your overall quality of life in {this} County?*	78 B C D	65	70 B D	65	80 B C D

*For Scott and Olmsted County, this was an item "Overall quality of life in {this} County" in a grid.

Table 128: Quality of Life by County

How would you rate {this} County . . . Average rating 0=poor, 100=excellent.	Dakota	Olmsted	Scott	St. Louis	Washington
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)
The county as a place to live	78 B C D	67	74 B D	66	81 A B C D
The county as a place to raise a family*	77 B C D	69 D	73 B D	65	80 A B C D
The county as a place to work	68 C	70 C E	64	.	66
The county as a place to retire	63 B D	51	60 B D	51	64 B D

*For Scott, Olmsted, and Washington County, this was "The County as a place to raise children."

Table 129: Quality of Community Characteristics by County

How would you rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to (this) County as a whole: Average rating 0=poor, 100=excellent.	Dakota	Olmsted	Scott	St. Louis	Washington
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)
Outdoor recreational opportunities ¹	75 B C D	60	72 B	71 B	77 B C D
Sense of community ²	59 B	53	.	.	59 B
Employment opportunities ³	56 C D	61 A C D E	50 D	44	53 D
Availability of affordable quality child care ⁴	44 B	37	41	.	.
Availability of affordable health care	.	63 C	51	.	.
Openness and acceptance of the community towards people of diverse backgrounds ⁵	59 C	56	54	.	63 A B C
Welcoming residents from all backgrounds to participate in local government and community decision-making ⁶	.	52	56 B	.	62 A B
County parks and recreation ⁷	86 B C	77 C	72	.	86 B C
Availability of housing options for all incomes ⁸	42 B	26	41 B	.	43 B
Accessibility of biking paths and walking trails ⁹	75	72	.	.	.
Economic health of the county	65 B	61	.	.	.
Overall feeling of safety in the county	.	64	.	.	75 B
Educational opportunities ¹⁰	.	56 C	43	62 B C	.
Ease of travel by car in the county	.	77	.	.	74

¹ For Olmsted and St. Louis County, this was "Recreational opportunities."

² For Olmsted County this was "Overall sense of community" and for Washington County this was "Sense of community and connection."

³ For Dakota County, this was "Availability of employment opportunities."

⁴ For Dakota County, this was "Availability of quality, affordable child care."

⁵ For Washington and Dakota County, this was "Openness and acceptance toward people of diverse backgrounds."

⁶ For Olmsted County, this was "How well Olmsted County welcomes resident involvement" and for Washington County, this was "Welcoming community members from all backgrounds to participate in community decision-making."

⁷ For Scott County, this was "Regional parks and trails."

⁸ For Olmsted County, this was "Availability of affordable quality housing" and for Dakota County, this was "Availability of affordable housing."

⁹ For Olmsted County, this was "Availability of paths and walking trails."

¹⁰ For Scott County, this was "Higher education opportunities for residents" and for Olmsted it was "Adult educational opportunities."

Table 130: Feelings of Safety by County

Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel in {this} County. Average rating 0=very unsafe, 100=very safe.	Dakota	Olmsted	Scott	St. Louis	Washington
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)
From property crime	73 D	75 D	.	64	80 A B D
From violent crime	81 D	80 D	.	71	85 A B D
Illegal drug activity ¹	69 D	.	.	49	79 A D
Intoxicated or impaired drivers ²	.	62 D	.	49	69 B D
From distracted drivers	.	48 D	.	40	57 B D
In your neighborhood ³	85	90 A C E	86	.	88 A
From identity theft ⁴	57	.	.	.	65 A
While driving on roads in the county	73	.	.	.	76 A
While biking or walking along roads in the county	71 E	.	.	.	64
In county government buildings ⁵	90	.	.	.	92 A
In the county regional parks or trails	.	.	78	.	82 C

¹ For Dakota County, this was "From substance use and associated activities (e.g. selling drugs)."

² For Olmsted County, this was "From drunk or impaired drivers on county roads" and for Washington County, this was "From drivers under the influence on roads in the county."

³ For Olmsted County, this was "In your neighborhood during the day."

⁴ For Dakota County, this was "From financial scams (e.g. identity theft, phone scams, cybercrime)."

⁵ For Dakota County, this was "While in County office buildings, libraries, courtrooms."

Table 131: Problems by County

Please rate to what degree, if at all, each of the following is a problem in {this} County: Average rating 0=not at a problem, 100=major problem.	Dakota	Olmsted	Scott	St. Louis	Washington
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)
Crime	44	.	43	58 A C	.
Taxes	54	.	65 A E	65 A E	57
Traffic safety ¹	43 C E	.	39	.	36
Traffic congestion ²	42	.	44 E	.	40
Poverty	43 C E	.	39	70 A C E	35
Homelessness	37 C E	.	32 E	71 A C E	27
Availability of livable wage jobs	52	.	49	.	51
Affordability of housing ³	59 E	.	60 E	.	53

¹ For Scott County, this was "Highway safety" and for Washington County, this was "Roadway safety."

² For Washington County, this was "Roadway congestion."

³ For Washington County, this was "Availability of stable, affordable housing."

Table 132: Health Concerns by County

Please rate to what degree, if at all, each of the following is a health concern in {this} County: Average rating 0=not at all a concern, 100=major concern.	Dakota	Olmsted	Scott	St. Louis	Washington
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)
Pollution ¹	42 C	.	34	.	.
Tobacco use	35 C	.	28	45 A C E	33 C
Suicide/attempted suicide	.	.	42	59 C E	39
Domestic violence	.	.	54 E	65 C E	43
Bullying	56 E	.	56 E	66 A C E	44
Abuse and neglect of children	48 E	.	49 E	61 A C E	42
Abuse and neglect of older adults ²	47 E	.	45	56 A C E	41
Misuse of prescribed medications ³	51 C E	.	46 E	60 A C E	36
Depression, anxiety, and other mental illnesses ⁴	55 E	.	.	67 A E	48

Please rate to what degree, if at all, each of the following is a health concern in (this) County: Average rating 0=not at all a concern, 100=major concern.	Dakota	Olmsted	Scott	St. Louis	Washington
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)
Social isolation/lack of community connections ⁵	45	.	46	.	45
Overweight adults and children ⁶	46	.	60 A	.	.
Sexually transmitted diseases	.	.	26	44 C	.
The health of and support for older adults ⁷	52 C E	.	47 E	60 A C E	40
The health of and support for people with disabilities ⁸	51 E	.	51 E	57 A C E	41
Excessive alcohol use among adults	46 E	.	.	64 A E	40
Illicit drug use ⁹	58 E	.	.	73 A E	39
Underage alcohol use	41	.	.	56 A E	44
Access to mental healthcare ¹⁰	.	.	62 E	62 E	50
Overweight children	.	.	.	60 E	55
Overweight adults	.	.	.	69 E	59
Electronic cigarettes/vaping ¹¹	.	.	.	56 E	43
Spread of infectious diseases	41	.	.	.	43

¹ For Dakota County, this was "Environmental hazards (e.g., polluted water or toxic waste)."

² For Washington County, this was "Abuse and neglect of seniors" and for Dakota County, this was "Abuse and neglect of older adults or vulnerable adults."

³ For Dakota County, this was "Illegal use of prescribed medications (such as opioids)" and for Scott County it was "Abuse of prescribed medications."

⁴ For St. Louis County it was "Depression" and for Washington County it was "Depression/Anxiety."

⁵ For Dakota County it was "Social isolation" and for Washington County it was "Loneliness."

⁶ For Dakota County, this was "Nutrition of adults and children."

⁷ For Washington County, this was "Access to healthcare and support for seniors."

⁸ For Washington County, this was "Access to healthcare and support for people with disabilities."

⁹ For Dakota County, this was "Illegal drug use (e.g., heroin, illicit fentanyl, methamphetamine)."

¹⁰ For Scott County, this was "Mental illness/mental health issues" and for St. Louis County it was "Availability of mental health services."

¹¹ For St. Louis County, this was "Vaping (e-cigarettes)."

Table 133: Ratings of County Services by County

Please rate the quality of each of the following services provided by (this) County. Average rating 0=poor, 100=excellent.	Dakota	Olmsted	Scott	St. Louis	Washington
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)
County libraries ¹	86 C	.	79	.	85 C
Trail and bikeway connectivity ²	81 C	.	64	.	82 C
911 dispatch services	.	.	81 D	76	82 D
Sheriff patrol ³	69	72 D	73 A D	67	.
Employment support ⁴	55 D	.	56 D	44	63 A C D
Snow and ice removal on county roads	70 B C D	66 D	67 D	60	72 B C D
Disaster preparedness and response ⁵	.	66 C D	55	54	74 B C D
Services to low income residents	.	.	52 D	44	.
Services to veterans	.	.	53 D	43	64 C D
Surface condition of county roads ⁶	63 C D	.	59 D	50	66 A C D
Services to people with disabilities	54	.	51	.	.
Services for older adults	56 D	.	51 D	43	59 C D
Overall quality of services provided by the county	69 C D	.	61 D	46	67 C D
Public health services	58 D	67 A D	.	51	67 A D
Mental health services ⁷	48	.	43	.	56 A C
Protecting children ⁸	63 D	.	63 D	43	.
Protecting vulnerable adults ⁹	55	.	59	.	.
Recycling and household hazardous waste disposal ¹⁰	77 B C D	70 C D	62 D	56	79 B C D
Information available on the county website ¹¹	63 D	.	63 D	57	.
Records and vital statistics ¹²	67 D	.	66 D	55	67 D
Regional public transit or bus system ¹³	46 E	56 A C E	42 E	.	32
Overall quality of natural environment in the County ¹⁴	67 B	64	.	.	.

Please rate the quality of each of the following services provided by (this) County. Average rating 0=poor, 100=excellent.	Dakota	Olmsted	Scott	St. Louis	Washington
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)
Overall opportunities for education, culture, and the arts ¹⁵	58	55	55	.	.
Availability of bike and pedestrian options ¹⁶	77 C	.	59	.	60
Overall image or reputation of the county	69 B D	61 D	.	56	76 A B D
Cost of living in the county	.	32	.	39 B	.
Land use services, including building and conditional use permitting ¹⁷	.	51 D	50	46	.
Property assessment and taxpayer services ¹⁸	52 C D	.	47 D	35	.

¹ For Scott County, this was “Public libraries located in the County.”

² For Dakota County, this was “Trail and greenway system.”

³ For Dakota County, this was “Sheriff deputies patrol and park protection services” and for Olmsted County, this was “Sherrif’s Office law enforcement services.”

⁴ For Scott County, this was “Employment and training services.”

⁵ For Olmsted County, this was “Emergency preparedness (services that prepare the community for natural disasters or other emergency situations).”

⁶ For Dakota County, this was “Condition of county roads;” for St. Louis County, this was “Maintenance of county roads and bridges;” for Washington County, this was “Condition of county highways.”

⁷ For Dakota County, this was “Services for people experiencing mental illness.”

⁸ For Dakota County, this was “Services that protect neglected or abused children” and for St. Louis County, this was “Child Protection.”

⁹ For Dakota County, this was “Services that protect neglected, abused, or exploited adults.”

¹⁰ For Dakota County, this was “Services at the Recycling Zone;” for St. Louis County, this was “Landfill, canister sites and recycling programs;” for Washington County, this was “Recycling and drop-off services at the Environmental Centers;” for Olmsted County, this was “Recycling and drop-off services at the Recycling Center Plus.”

¹¹ For Scott County, this was “Self-service options on the County website (e.g., property information, program registration, meeting agendas/materials)” and for St. Louis County, this was “Accessibility and functionality of County website (e.g., property information, program registration, meeting agendas/materials).”

¹² For Scott County, this was “Birth/death/marriage records, licensing, and vehicle registration;” for Dakota County this was “Records, passports, licensing, and vehicle registration;” for Washington County, this was “Records, vital statistics, licensing, and vehicle registration.”

¹³ For Dakota County, this was “Availability of transportation/transit (for work purposes and commuting);” for Olmsted County, this was “Overall quality of the transportation system (auto, bicycle, foot, bus) in Olmsted County;” for Washington County, this was “Public transit.”

¹⁴ For Dakota County, this was “Natural resources.”

¹⁵ For Scott County, this was “Social and cultural opportunities (e.g., arts, entertainment, etc.)” and for Dakota County, this was “Arts and culture countywide.”

¹⁶ For Dakota County, this was “Availability of biking paths and walking trails” and for Washington County this was “Bike and pedestrian transportation options.”

¹⁷ For Scott County, this was “Inspections and zoning services” and for Olmsted County, this was “Land use, planning, and zoning.”

¹⁸ For Dakota County, this was “Administering property tax” and for St. Louis County, this was “Assessment process/property tax system.”

Table 134: Ratings of Government Performance by County

Please rate the following categories of County government performance: Average rating 0=poor, 100=excellent.	Dakota	Olmsted	Scott	St. Louis	Washington
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)
The job the county government does at informing residents ¹	65 B C D	50 D	57 B D	44	65 B C D
The job the county government does at listening to residents ²	54 D	.	50 D	34	55 C D
The value of services for the taxes paid to the county	56 B C D E	42 D	44 D	36	50 B C D
The job the county government does at managing tax dollars ³	53 C D E	.	44 D	35	43 D
The importance of the County services to the quality of life in my community ⁴	62	.	61	.	63
The job the county does at providing access to county government services	.	.	59 D	49	.
Effectively planning for the future of the county	59 D	.	.	38	.
Overall confidence in the county government	62 B D	50 D	.	44	.
Generally acting in the best interest of the community	63 B	51	.	.	.

¹ For Olmsted County, this was “Informing residents about issues facing the community;” for Washington County, this was “Informing community members;” for Dakota County, this was “The job Dakota County government does of providing information to residents.”

² For Washington County, this was “Listening to community members.”

³ For Washington County, this was “Managing tax dollars.”

⁴ For Dakota County, this was “The value of Dakota County services to the quality of life in my neighborhood” and for Washington County, this was “The value of Washington County services to the quality of life in my neighborhood.”

Table 135: Approval Rating of Board by County

To what extent do you approve or disapprove of the job (this) County Board is doing?	Dakota	Olmsted	Scott	St. Louis	Washington
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)
Strongly approve	24% D	.	.	10%	21% D
Somewhat approve	60%	.	.	63%	62%
Somewhat disapprove	14%	.	.	17%	13%
Strongly disapprove	2%	.	.	9% A E	4%
Total	100%	.	.	100%	100%

Table 136: Support for or Opposition to a Property Tax Increase by County

To what extent would you support or oppose an increase in your county property tax if it were needed to maintain County services at their current levels?	Dakota	Olmsted	Scott	St. Louis	Washington
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)
Strongly support	10%	.	9%	.	.
Somewhat support	40%	.	38%	.	.
Somewhat oppose	23%	.	23%	.	.
Strongly oppose	27%	.	29%	.	.
Total	100%	.	100%	.	.

Table 137: Contact with County Employees by County

Have you visited, telephoned, or emailed any county government office within the last 12 months?	Dakota	Olmsted	Scott	St. Louis	Washington
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)
Yes	42%	62% A D E	56% A D	43%	52% A D
No	58% B C E	38%	44%	57% B C E	48% B
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 138: Ratings of Contact with County Employees by County

What was your impression of the employee(s) in your most recent contact? (Rate each characteristic below.) Average rating 0=poor, 100=excellent.	Dakota	Olmsted	Scott	St. Louis	Washington
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)
Knowledge	79 D	.	79 D	71	80 D
Responsiveness	74 D	.	77 D	66	77 D
Courtesy	81 D	.	80 D	72	86 A C D
Overall impression	76 D	.	77 D	68	.

Table 139: County Website Usage by County

Have you visited the County website in the last two years?	Dakota	Olmsted	Scott	St. Louis	Washington
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)
Yes	.	.	62% D	53%	.
No	.	.	38%	47% C	.
Total	.	.	100%	100%	.

Table 140: Ratings of Website by County

Please rate your level of agreement to the following questions related to your visit of the County website: Average rating 0=strongly disagree, 100=strongly agree.	Dakota	Olmsted	Scott	St. Louis	Washington
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)
The website was easy to use	.	.	68	67	.
I was able to find the information needed	.	.	71	71	.
The information was easily accessible through my mobile device (phone, tablet)	.	.	68	67	.

Table 141: Future Financial Situation by County

Do you think that a year from now you and your household will be better off financially, or worse off, or just about the same as now?	Dakota	Olmsted	Scott	St. Louis	Washington
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)
Much better	6%	.	5%	3%	.
Somewhat better	17%	.	18%	18%	.
About the same	56%	.	54%	52%	.
Somewhat worse	17%	.	16%	18%	.
Much worse	4%	.	6%	8% A	.
Total	100%	.	100%	100%	.

Table 142: Sources of Information by County

Please rate the extent to which you use each of the following as sources of information about {this} County government, if at all. Percent reporting "major" or "minor source"	Dakota	Olmsted	Scott	St. Louis	Washington
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)
Daily newspapers (print or online) ¹	.	.	35% E	60% C E	30%
The radio	.	.	20%	42% C	.
Television newscasts ²	.	.	33%	54% C E	36%
Social media (Facebook, Twitter/X, etc.) ³	.	.	47% D	36%	47% D
County employees	.	.	27%	40% C	.
County website	.	.	59%	57%	61% D
Community meetings	.	.	18%	26% C E	19%
Phone calls to the County	.	.	.	34% E	24%
The County newsletter	.	.	56%	.	73% C

¹ For St. Louis County, this was "Newspapers (print or online)."

² For Washington County, this was "Television news broadcasts."

³ For Washington County, this was "Social Media (e.g., Facebook, Instagram, NextDoor, LinkedIn, etc.)."

Appendix H: Benchmark Comparisons

Understanding the Benchmark Comparisons

Communities use the comparative information provided by benchmarks to help interpret their own community survey results, to create or revise community plans, to evaluate the success of policy or budget decisions, and to measure local government or organizational performance. Taking the pulse of the community has little meaning without knowing what pulse rate is too high and what is too low. When surveys of service satisfaction turn up “good” resident evaluations, it is necessary to know how others rate their services to understand if “good” is good enough or if most other communities are “excellent.”

While benchmarks help set the basis for evaluation, resident opinion should be used in conjunction with other sources of data about budget, population demographics, personnel, and politics to help administrators know how to respond to comparative results.

Comparison Data

Polco has designed a method for quantitatively integrating the results of surveys that we have conducted with those that others have conducted. These integration methods have been described thoroughly in “Public Administration Review, Journal of Policy Analysis and Management,” and in Polco’s first book on conducting and using citizen surveys, “Citizen Surveys: how to do them, how to use them, what they mean,” published by the International City/County Management Association (ICMA). Scholars who specialize in the analysis of citizen surveys regularly have relied on Polco’s work.^{3, 4} The method described in those publications is refined regularly and statistically tested on a growing number of citizen surveys in Polco’s proprietary databases.

Communities in Polco’s benchmark database are distributed geographically across the country and range from small to large in population. Comparisons may be made to all jurisdictions in the database or to subsets of jurisdictions (within a given region or population category or that meet select criteria outlined by the community).

³ Kelly, J. & Swindell, D. (2002). “Service quality variation across urban space: First steps towards a model of citizen satisfaction,” *Journal of Urban Affairs*, 24, 271-288.

⁴ Van Ryzin, G., Muzzio, D., Immerwahr, S., Gulick, L. & Martinez, E. (2004). “Drivers and consequences of citizen satisfaction: An application of the American Customer Satisfaction Index Model to New York City,” *Public Administration Review*, 64, 331-341.

Despite the differences in jurisdiction characteristics, all are in the business of providing local government services to community members. Though individual jurisdiction circumstances, resources, and practices vary, the objective in every community is to provide services that are so timely, tailored, and effective that community members conclude the services are of the highest quality. High ratings in any jurisdiction bring pride and a sense of accomplishment.

Polco's database of comparative resident opinion is comprised of resident perspectives gathered in community surveys from more than 500 jurisdictions whose community members evaluated local government services and gave their opinion about the quality of community life. The comparison evaluations are from the most recent survey completed in each jurisdiction; most communities conduct surveys every year or in alternating years. Polco adds the latest results quickly upon survey completion, keeping the benchmark data fresh and relevant. Washington County's survey results were compared to counties across the nation.

Interpreting the Results

Average ratings were compared when questions similar to those asked in Washington County's survey were included in Polco's database, and there were at least five peer jurisdictions in which the question was asked. Where comparisons were available, three numbers are provided in the tables starting on the next page. The first column is Washington County's rating on the 100-point scale. The second column is the rank assigned to Washington County's rating among jurisdictions where a similar question was asked. The third column is the number of jurisdictions that asked a similar question. The fourth column shows the comparison of Washington County's average rating to the benchmark.

Where comparisons for quality ratings were available, Washington County's results were noted as being "higher" than, "lower" than, or "similar" to the benchmark. In instances where ratings are considerably "higher" or "lower" than the benchmark, these ratings have been further demarcated by the attribute of "much," (for example, "much lower" or "much higher"). These labels come from a statistical comparison of Washington County's rating to the benchmark where a rating is considered "similar" if it is within five points of the average; "higher" or "lower" if the difference between Washington County's rating and the benchmark is greater than five points; and "much higher" or "much lower" if the difference between Washington County's rating and the benchmark is more than 10 points.

Comparisons for a number of items in the survey were not available in the benchmark database (e.g., some of the county services or aspects of government performance). These items are excluded from the benchmark tables.

National County Benchmark Comparisons

Table 143: Overall Community Quality Benchmark

	Average rating	Rank	Number of communities in comparison	Comparison to benchmark
As a place to live	81	2	34	Much Higher
As a place to raise children	80	3	35	Much Higher
As a place to work	66	8	34	Much Higher
As a place to retire	64	12	35	Similar
How would you rate the overall quality of life in Washington County?	80	1	35	Much Higher

Table 144: Community Characteristics Benchmarks

	Average rating	Rank	Number of communities in comparison	Comparison to benchmark
Outdoor recreational opportunities	77	4	32	Much Higher
Employment opportunities	53	8	33	Much Higher
Availability of housing options for all incomes	43	5	33	Much Higher
Openness and acceptance toward people of diverse backgrounds	63	2	31	Much Higher
Rural character and natural environment	67	17	30	Similar
Sense of community and connection	59	10	32	Similar
Ease of travel by car	74	3	30	Much Higher
Overall feeling of safety in Washington County	75	4	30	Much Higher
Overall image or reputation of Washington County	76	1	32	Much Higher

Table 145: Safety Benchmarks

	Average rating	Rank	Number of communities in comparison	Comparison to benchmark
From property crimes (e.g., burglary, theft)	80	4	31	Higher
From violent crimes (e.g., rape, assault, domestic violence, robbery)	85	7	31	Higher

Table 146: County Services Benchmarks

	Average rating	Rank	Number of communities in comparison	Comparison to benchmark
County libraries	85	2	33	Much Higher
Snow and ice removal on county highways	72	2	24	Much Higher
Disaster preparedness and response	74	1	31	Much Higher
County parks and recreation like Big Marine Park Reserve, Lake Elmo Park Reserve, or St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park	86	2	33	Much Higher
Services provided to older adults	59	1	5	Higher
Recycling and drop-off services at the Environmental Centers	79	1	32	Much Higher
Overall quality of services provided by Washington County	67	2	34	Much Higher

Table 147: Contact with County Office Benchmark

	Average rating	Rank	Number of communities in comparison	Comparison to benchmark
Have you visited, telephoned, or emailed any Washington County government office within the last 12 months?	52	11	33	Similar

Table 148: Experience with County Employees (Among Those Who Had Contact) Benchmarks

	Average rating	Rank	Number of communities in comparison	Comparison to benchmark
Knowledge	80	2	6	Higher
Responsiveness	77	1	5	Similar
Courtesy	86	1	6	Much Higher

Table 149: Public Trust Benchmarks

	Average rating	Rank	Number of communities in comparison	Comparison to benchmark
Listening to community members	55	1	5	Much Higher
The value of services for the taxes paid to Washington County	50	7	34	Higher
Managing tax dollars	43	3	5	Similar

Appendix I: Survey Methodology

The Washington County Community Survey provides community members with the opportunity to rate the quality of life in the county, as well as service delivery, and their satisfaction with county government. The survey also permits community members to provide feedback to the government about what is working well and what is not, and to share their priorities for community planning and resource allocation. The survey permits county staff and elected officials to hear from a broad range of the population.

Washington County funded this research. Please contact Kelli Matzek, Senior Planner in the Washington County Office of Administration, at 651-430-6021 or Kelli.Matzek@WashingtonCountyMN.gov if you have any questions about the survey.

Developing the Questionnaire

The community survey questionnaire for Washington County was developed by starting with the version from the previous implementation in 2022. A list of topics was generated for new questions; items and questions were modified to find those that were the best fit for the 2025 project. In an iterative process between Washington County staff, staff from the coalition of the other counties, the Washington County Board of Commissioners, and Polco staff, the final questionnaire was created. A copy can be found in [Appendix J: Survey Materials](#).

Selecting Survey Recipients

The target population for the survey was adults who live in the limits of Washington County. The survey was designed as a mailed survey with an opportunity to respond online. The list from which survey recipients were selected is referred to as a “sampling frame.” A sampling frame is selected to ensure high coverage, meaning nearly every member of the target population has a chance of being included in the sample.

Because local governments generally do not have inclusive lists of all the residences in the jurisdiction, lists from the United States Postal Service (USPS) used by the postal carriers to deliver the mail and updated every three months, provide the best representation of all households in a specific geographic location. A list of households within the ZIP codes serving Washington County was purchased from Go-Dog Direct, based on updated listings from the United States Postal Service, to provide the best possible representation of all households in the county. Go-Dog Direct provided a list of addresses that were selected using a systematic selection, a procedure where every *N*th item is chosen, a process which closely approximates a random selection. A larger list than needed was sampled, as zip codes generally do not follow municipal boundaries and addresses that were not within county limits were eliminated. Each of the addresses purchased was geocoded, and identified as being inside or outside county boundaries, and, if inside the county, assigned to one of the five county commissioner districts. A random selection was made of addresses within each district to create a final list of 4,500 addresses, with multi-family addresses (identified as those including a unit number) oversampled at a rate of 5:3 compared to single family addresses. This oversampling is done as those who live in multi-family housing tend to respond to surveys at a lower rate than those in single family housing.

An individual within each household was randomly selected to complete the survey using the birthday method.⁵ The underlying assumption in this method is that the day of birth has no relationship to the way people respond to surveys.

Administering the Survey

Households were contacted twice by mail beginning in February 2025. Completed surveys were collected over the following weeks. The first mailing for all households was a prenotification postcard announcing the upcoming survey. The postcard contained a web link and a QR code so that recipients had the opportunity to go online to complete the survey.

The week after the prenotification postcard was sent, a paper survey was sent. The survey mailings contained a letter from the county commissioners inviting the household to participate in the 2025 Community Survey, the survey questionnaire, and a postage-paid return envelope. The cover letter also included a QR code and a URL link, allowing recipients to complete the survey online if they preferred it over the paper version.

The online survey was available in English, Spanish, and Hmong. All mailings contained instructions in English, Spanish, and Hmong on how to access the online survey.

A total of 673 complete surveys were received: 358 hard copy surveys and 315 online surveys. About 3% of the surveys (153) were returned because they either had incorrect addresses or were received by vacant housing units. Of the estimated 4,347 remaining households, 673 completed the survey, providing a response rate of 15%. This method of calculating the response rate is in accordance with the AAPOR's response rate #2.

Confidence Intervals

The 95% confidence interval (or "margin of error") quantifies the "sampling error" or precision of the estimates made from the survey results. A 95% confidence interval can be calculated for any sample size and indicates that in 95 of 100 surveys conducted like this one, for a particular item, a result would be found that is within a certain number of percentage points of the result that would be found if everyone in the population of interest was surveyed. The practical challenges of conducting a community survey may introduce additional sources of error beyond sampling error. Despite the best efforts to boost participation and ensure potential inclusion of all households, some selected households will decline participation in the survey (referred to as non-response error) and some eligible households may be unintentionally excluded from the listed sources for the sample (referred to as coverage error).

The margin of error around an *average score* on the 100-point scale will be no greater than plus or minus two points based on all respondents. The margin of error for this survey of 673 community members is generally no greater than plus or minus four percentage points around any *given percent* reported for all survey respondents.

⁵ The "birthday method" refers to a within-household respondent selection technique where the survey instrument asks the informant to identify the household member who had the most recent birthday. This method aims to select a random sample member within the household.

Survey Processing (Data Entry)

Mailed surveys were returned to Polco directly via postage-paid business reply envelopes. Once received, staff assigned a unique identification number to each questionnaire. Additionally, each survey was reviewed and “cleaned” as necessary. For example, a question may have asked a respondent to pick two items out of a list of five, but the respondent checked three; Polco staff would choose randomly two of the three selected items to be coded in the dataset. Once all surveys were assigned a unique identification number, they were entered into an electronic dataset. This dataset was subject to a data entry protocol of “key and verify,” in which survey data were entered twice into an electronic dataset and then compared. Discrepancies were evaluated against the original survey form and corrected. Range checks as well as other forms of quality control were also performed.

Analyzing the Results

Weighting the Data

The primary objective of weighting survey data is to make the survey sample is reflective of the larger population of the community. This is done by comparing the demographic profile of survey respondents to that of the target population. Weighting is a statistical adjustment where more weight is given to groups who responded at a lower rate than other groups, and less weight is given to those who responded at a higher rate. For example, in nearly all surveys, younger people respond at a lower rate than older people. Weighting rebalances the profile. The theory behind this weighting is that younger people (or other groups who tend to under-respond) who did participate in the survey are more like the younger people who did NOT participate than they are like the older people who did respond to the survey.

Initial weights were calculated using an Iterative Proportional Fitting model via a python raking algorithm plug-in to SPSS — Statistical Package for the Social Sciences. These initial weights were trimmed so that no case was given a weight greater than five. No adjustments were made for design effects.

Table 150: Weighting Table 2025

Characteristic	Population Norm¹	Unweighted Data	Weighted Data
Housing			
Rent home	19%	12%	18%
Own home	81%	88%	82%
Detached unit	69%	72%	71%
Attached unit	31%	28%	29%
Race and Ethnicity			
Not Hispanic	96%	97%	95%
Hispanic	4%	3%	5%
White	84%	91%	87%
Non-white	16%	9%	13%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	83%	90%	85%
Hispanic and/or other race	17%	10%	15%
Gender and Age			
Female	50%	54%	50%
Male	50%	46%	50%
18-34 years of age	26%	6%	23%
35-54 years of age	35%	24%	36%
55+ years of age	39%	70%	41%
District*			
District 1	21%	18%	21%
District 2	19%	19%	19%
District 3	21%	25%	22%
District 4	19%	18%	19%
District 5	20%	19%	20%

¹Source: five-year estimates from the 2023 American Community Survey.

*Source: Sample list purchased from Go-Dog Direct.

Putting Responses on a 100-Point Scale

Although responses to many of the evaluative questions were made on a four-point scale with four representing the best rating and one the worst, many of the results in this document are reported on a common scale where zero is the worst possible rating and 100 is the best possible rating. If everyone reported “excellent,” then the result would be 100 on the 100-point scale. Likewise, if all respondents gave a “poor” rating, the result would be zero on the 100-point scale. If the average rating for quality of life was “good,” then the result would be 67 on a 100-point scale; “fair” would be 33 on the 100-point scale. Use of this converted scale to show average ratings allows for comparison to other jurisdictions, where different question wording and response scales may have been used. This metric can sometimes be a little confusing. It is not the percent who rated the item as “excellent” or “good,” but an average rating spread out over 100 points.

An example is shown in the table below of how survey responses to any particular item can be converted to the average rating on a 100-point scale. In this example, 32% of respondents gave an excellent rating, 46% a good rating, and so on. The first step is to look only at the evaluative responses and eliminate the “don’t know” responses. The percents now total to 100% for just the excellent, good, fair, and poor response options, as shown in the third column. The second step is to assign scale values to each response option. The third step is to create the average using these values — so taking the percent of respondents who gave each response, multiplying that by the value, and then summing them (in Step 4) to calculate the average rating.

Response option	Total with “don’t know”	Step1: Remove the percent of “don’t know” responses	Total without “don’t know”	Step 2: Assign scale values	Step 3: Multiply the percent by the scale value	Step 4: Sum to calculate the average rating
Excellent	32%	= $32 \div (100-11) =$	36%	100	= $36\% \times 100 =$	36
Good	46%	= $46 \div (100-11) =$	52%	67	= $52\% \times 67 =$	35
Fair	9%	= $9 \div (100-11) =$	10%	33	= $10\% \times 33 =$	3
Poor	2%	= $2 \div (100-11) =$	2%	0	= $2\% \times 0 =$	0
Don’t know	11%		--			
Total	100%		100%			74

Statistical Analysis

The electronic dataset was analyzed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS). For the most part, frequency distributions and average (mean) ratings are presented in the body of the report. A complete set of frequencies for each survey question is presented in [Appendix B: Responses to Survey Questions](#).

Also included are results by selected respondent characteristics ([Appendix D: Survey Results by Respondent Demographic Characteristics](#)). Chi-square or ANOVA tests of significance were applied to these breakdowns of selected survey questions. A “p-value” of 0.05 or less indicates that there is less than a 5% probability that differences observed between groups are due to chance; or, in other words, a greater than 95% probability that the differences observed in the selected categories of the sample represent “real” differences among those populations. Where differences between subgroups are statistically significant, they have been marked.

Washington County has up to 24 years of data about community members perceptions of quality of life and quality of services delivered by the county. These comparisons to previous survey results are shown in the body of the report and in [Appendix F: Survey Results by Year](#).

Comparing to Previous Survey Results

Washington County survey data were collected by phone in 2001, 2006, and 2008. In 2013, the county switched data collection from phone to mail and continued with mail in 2025. Switching data collection from phone to mail was done to save costs, allow for more precise geographic sampling, cost-efficiency, include cell phone-only households, gather more candid feedback, and avoid interrupting community members with unwanted phone calls. The growing rate of county households with only a cell phone challenged the county to ensure their inclusion, which is easier, less expensive, and more accurate by mail than phone.

Research is clear that a change in the method of survey data collection by itself will result in a change in results if the shift is from telephone administration to self-administration or vice versa. The change occurs even without change in resident perspectives and is attributed to the different environment that a survey respondent confronts when providing answers to a person on the telephone compared to offering private anonymous opinions. Questions by phone elicit more positive, optimistic, socially desirable responses than do the same questions asked on a written, self-administered questionnaire. The self-administered questionnaire brings out more candid responses.

As a consequence of the switch in methodology, a decline from 2008 to 2013 in virtually all ratings was both expected and observed. In the previous survey administration by phone in 2008, a small sample of community members was surveyed by mail in order to explore the magnitude of the differences between phone and mail survey responses in Washington County. Using the 2008 survey results conducted by Polco in Washington County that compared mail and phone responses, as well as Polco's analysis of national trends comparing phone and mail responses, Polco adjusted the findings from 2001 to 2008 in order to maximize the comparability of results over time. The reported trendline data were not influenced by the decline that is attributable to the change in data collection mode from phone to mail.

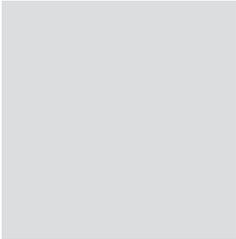
Appendix J: Survey Materials

The following pages contain a copy of the postcards, cover letters, and survey questionnaire.



Office of Administration
Washington County, MN P.O. Box 6
14949 62nd Street North
Stillwater, MN 55082

Presorted
First Class Mail
US Postage
PAID
Boulder, CO
Permit NO. 94



**Tell us what you think.
Complete the Washington County
2025 Community Survey.**

Washington County Community Member(s),

It only takes a few minutes to make a big difference!

Your household has been randomly chosen to participate in Washington County's 2025 Community Survey. To hear from a variety of community members, the adult in your home who is 18 or older and had the most recent birthday should fill out the survey. Visit the website to fill out the **confidential survey**:

www.polco.us/xxplaceholder

Please don't share your survey link. This survey is only for randomly selected households. If you prefer, you can wait a few days to receive a paper version of the survey in the mail. Only complete the survey once.

If you have any questions, please call 651-430-6021.

Thank you for helping us shape the future of Washington County.

Sincerely,



Fran Miron,
Washington County Commissioner, District 1



Para contestar la encuesta en **español**, siga el link adjunto y seleccione la opción 'Español' en el menú desplegable que aparece en la parte superior de la página web.

Txhawm rau ua daim ntauw ntsuam xyuas ua lus Hmoob, ua raws li qhov txuas txuas thiab xaiv 'Hmong' kev xaiv los ntawm cov ntauw qhia zaub mov saum toj ntawm lub vev xaib.

Washington County Community Member(s),

It only takes a few minutes to make a big difference!

Your household has been randomly chosen to participate in Washington County's 2025 Community Survey. To hear from a variety of community members, the adult in your home who is 18 or older and had the most recent birthday should fill out the survey. Visit the website to fill out the **confidential survey**:

www.polco.us/xxplaceholder

Please don't share your survey link. This survey is only for randomly selected households. If you prefer, you can wait a few days to receive a paper version of the survey in the mail. Only complete the survey once.

If you have any questions, please call 651-430-6021.

Thank you for helping us shape the future of Washington County.

Sincerely,



Stan Karwoski,
Washington County Commissioner, District 2



Para contestar la encuesta en **español**, siga el link adjunto y seleccione la opción 'Español' en el menú desplegable que aparece en la parte superior de la página web.

Txhawm rau ua daim ntauw ntsuam xyuas ua lus Hmoob, ua raws li qhov txuas txuas thiab xaiv 'Hmong' kev xaiv los ntauw cov ntauw qhia zaub mov saum toj ntauw lub vev xaib.

Washington County Community Member(s),

It only takes a few minutes to make a big difference!

Your household has been randomly chosen to participate in Washington County's 2025 Community Survey. To hear from a variety of community members, the adult in your home who is 18 or older and had the most recent birthday should fill out the survey. Visit the website to fill out the **confidential survey**:

www.polco.us/xxplaceholder

Please don't share your survey link. This survey is only for randomly selected households. If you prefer, you can wait a few days to receive a paper version of the survey in the mail. Only complete the survey once.

If you have any questions, please call 651-430-6021.

Thank you for helping us shape the future of Washington County.

Sincerely,



Bethany Cox,
Washington County Commissioner, District 3



Para contestar la encuesta en **español**, siga el link adjunto y seleccione la opción 'Español' en el menú desplegable que aparece en la parte superior de la página web.

Txhawm rau ua daim ntauw ntsuam xyuas ua lus Hmoob, ua raws li qhov txuas txuas thiab xaiv 'Hmong' kev xaiv los ntauw cov ntauw qhia zaub mov saum toj ntauw lub vev xaib.

Washington County Community Member(s),

It only takes a few minutes to make a big difference!

Your household has been randomly chosen to participate in Washington County's 2025 Community Survey. To hear from a variety of community members, the adult in your home who is 18 or older and had the most recent birthday should fill out the survey. Visit the website to fill out the **confidential survey**:

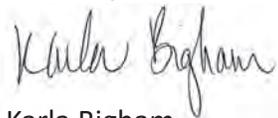
www.polco.us/xxplaceholder

Please don't share your survey link. This survey is only for randomly selected households. If you prefer, you can wait a few days to receive a paper version of the survey in the mail. Only complete the survey once.

If you have any questions, please call 651-430-6021.

Thank you for helping us shape the future of Washington County.

Sincerely,



Karla Bigham,
Washington County Commissioner, District 4



Para contestar la encuesta en **español**, siga el link adjunto y seleccione la opción 'Español' en el menú desplegable que aparece en la parte superior de la página web.

Txhawm rau ua daim ntawv ntsuam xyuas ua lus Hmoob, ua raws li qhov txuas txuas thiab xaiv 'Hmong' kev xaiv los ntawm cov ntawv qhia zaub mov saum toj ntawm lub vev xaib.

Washington County Community Member(s),

It only takes a few minutes to make a big difference!

Your household has been randomly chosen to participate in Washington County's 2025 Community Survey. To hear from a variety of community members, the adult in your home who is 18 or older and had the most recent birthday should fill out the survey. Visit the website to fill out the **confidential survey**:

www.polco.us/xxplaceholder

Please don't share your survey link. This survey is only for randomly selected households. If you prefer, you can wait a few days to receive a paper version of the survey in the mail. Only complete the survey once.

If you have any questions, please call 651-430-6021.

Thank you for helping us shape the future of Washington County.

Sincerely,



Michelle Clasen,
Washington County Commissioner, District 5



Para contestar la encuesta en **español**, siga el link adjunto y seleccione la opción 'Español' en el menú desplegable que aparece en la parte superior de la página web.

Txhawm rau ua daim ntauw ntsuam xyuas ua lus Hmoob, ua raws li qhov txuas txuas thiab xaiv 'Hmong' kev xaiv los ntawm cov ntauw qhia zaub mov saum toj ntawm lub vev xaib.



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Fran Miron, District 1
Stan Karwoski, District 2
Bethany Cox, District 3
Karla Bigham, District 4
Michelle Clasen, District 5

Dear Washington Community Member(s),

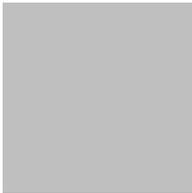
Help us shape the future of Washington County. Your household has been randomly selected to participate in the 2025 Washington County Community Survey. If your household has already completed the survey online, thank you. **Please do not respond twice.**

Please take a few minutes to complete the enclosed survey. Your participation is important because your household is one of only a few selected. Your feedback will help Washington County make decisions that impact our county.

A few things to remember:

- **Your responses are confidential and no identifying information will be collected or shared.**
- To hear from a variety of community members, the adult in your home who is 18 or older and had the most recent birthday should fill out the survey.
- You may return the survey by mail in the enclosed postage-paid envelope, or you can complete the survey online at:

www.polco.us/xxplaceholder



Please do not share your survey link. This survey is for randomly selected households only.

If you have any questions, please call 651-430-6021.

Thank you for your time and participation.

Sincerely,

Fran Miron,
Washington County Commissioner, District 1

Para contestar la encuesta en **español**, siga el link adjunto y seleccione la opción 'Español' en el menú desplegable que aparece en la parte superior de la página web.

Txhawm rau ua daim ntawv ntsuam xyuas ua lus Hmoob, ua raws li qhov txuas txuas thiab xaiv 'Hmong' kev xaiv los ntawm cov ntawv qhia zaub mov saum toj ntawm lub vev xaib.

We strive to provide exceptional services that enhance quality of life and promote a safe, healthy, and welcoming community for all.

Government Center | 14949 62nd Street North | P. O. Box 6 | Stillwater, MN 55082-0006
P: 651-430-6001 | F: 651-430-6017 | TTY: 651-430-6246
www.washingtoncountymn.gov

Washington County is an equal opportunity organization and employer



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Fran Miron, District 1
Stan Karwoski, District 2
Bethany Cox, District 3
Karla Bigham, District 4
Michelle Clasen, District 5

Dear Washington Community Member(s),

Help us shape the future of Washington County. Your household has been randomly selected to participate in the 2025 Washington County Community Survey. If your household has already completed the survey online, thank you. **Please do not respond twice.**

Please take a few minutes to complete the enclosed survey. Your participation is important because your household is one of only a few selected. Your feedback will help Washington County make decisions that impact our county.

A few things to remember:

- **Your responses are confidential and no identifying information will be collected or shared.**
- To hear from a variety of community members, the adult in your home who is 18 or older and had the most recent birthday should fill out the survey.
- You may return the survey by mail in the enclosed postage-paid envelope, or you can complete the survey online at:

www.polco.us/xxplaceholder



Please do not share your survey link. This survey is for randomly selected households only.

If you have any questions, please call 651-430-6021.

Thank you for your time and participation.

Sincerely,

Stan Karwoski,
Washington County Commissioner, District 2

Para contestar la encuesta en **español**, siga el link adjunto y seleccione la opción 'Español' en el menú desplegable que aparece en la parte superior de la página web.

Txhawm rau ua daim ntawv ntsuam xyuas ua lus Hmoob, ua raws li qhov txuas txuas thiab xaiv 'Hmong' kev xaiv los ntawm cov ntawv qhia zaub mov saum toj ntawm lub vev xaib.

We strive to provide exceptional services that enhance quality of life and promote a safe, healthy, and welcoming community for all.

Government Center | 14949 62nd Street North | P. O. Box 6 | Stillwater, MN 55082-0006
P: 651-430-6001 | F: 651-430-6017 | TTY: 651-430-6246
www.washingtoncountymn.gov

Washington County is an equal opportunity organization and employer



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Fran Miron, District 1
Stan Karwoski, District 2
Bethany Cox, District 3
Karla Bigham, District 4
Michelle Clasen, District 5

Dear Washington Community Member(s),

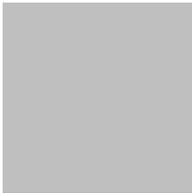
Help us shape the future of Washington County. Your household has been randomly selected to participate in the 2025 Washington County Community Survey. If your household has already completed the survey online, thank you. **Please do not respond twice.**

Please take a few minutes to complete the enclosed survey. Your participation is important because your household is one of only a few selected. Your feedback will help Washington County make decisions that impact our county.

A few things to remember:

- **Your responses are confidential and no identifying information will be collected or shared.**
- To hear from a variety of community members, the adult in your home who is 18 or older and had the most recent birthday should fill out the survey.
- You may return the survey by mail in the enclosed postage-paid envelope, or you can complete the survey online at:

www.polco.us/xxplaceholder



Please do not share your survey link. This survey is for randomly selected households only.

If you have any questions, please call 651-430-6021.

Thank you for your time and participation.

Sincerely,

Bethany Cox,
Washington County Commissioner, District 3

Para contestar la encuesta en **español**, siga el link adjunto y seleccione la opción 'Español' en el menú desplegable que aparece en la parte superior de la página web.

Txhawm rau ua daim ntawv ntsuam xyuas ua lus Hmoob, ua raws li qhov txuas txuas thiab xaiv 'Hmong' kev xaiv los ntawm cov ntawv qhia zaub mov saum toj ntawm lub vev xaib.

We strive to provide exceptional services that enhance quality of life and promote a safe, healthy, and welcoming community for all.

Government Center | 14949 62nd Street North | P. O. Box 6 | Stillwater, MN 55082-0006
P: 651-430-6001 | F: 651-430-6017 | TTY: 651-430-6246
www.washingtoncountymn.gov

Washington County is an equal opportunity organization and employer



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Fran Miron, District 1
Stan Karwoski, District 2
Bethany Cox, District 3
Karla Bigham, District 4
Michelle Clasen, District 5

Dear Washington Community Member(s),

Help us shape the future of Washington County. Your household has been randomly selected to participate in the 2025 Washington County Community Survey. If your household has already completed the survey online, thank you. **Please do not respond twice.**

Please take a few minutes to complete the enclosed survey. Your participation is important because your household is one of only a few selected. Your feedback will help Washington County make decisions that impact our county.

A few things to remember:

- **Your responses are confidential and no identifying information will be collected or shared.**
- To hear from a variety of community members, the adult in your home who is 18 or older and had the most recent birthday should fill out the survey.
- You may return the survey by mail in the enclosed postage-paid envelope, or you can complete the survey online at:

www.polco.us/xxplaceholder



Please do not share your survey link. This survey is for randomly selected households only.

If you have any questions, please call 651-430-6021.

Thank you for your time and participation.

Sincerely,

Karla Bigham,
Washington County Commissioner, District 4

Para contestar la encuesta en **español**, siga el link adjunto y seleccione la opción 'Español' en el menú desplegable que aparece en la parte superior de la página web.

Txhawm rau ua daim ntawv ntsuam xyuas ua lus Hmoob, ua raws li qhov txuas txuas thiab xaiv 'Hmong' kev xaiv los ntawm cov ntawv qhia zaub mov saum toj ntawm lub vev xaib.

We strive to provide exceptional services that enhance quality of life and promote a safe, healthy, and welcoming community for all.

Government Center | 14949 62nd Street North | P. O. Box 6 | Stillwater, MN 55082-0006
P: 651-430-6001 | F: 651-430-6017 | TTY: 651-430-6246
www.washingtoncountymn.gov

Washington County is an equal opportunity organization and employer



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Fran Miron, District 1
Stan Karwoski, District 2
Bethany Cox, District 3
Karla Bigham, District 4
Michelle Clasen, District 5

Dear Washington Community Member(s),

Help us shape the future of Washington County. Your household has been randomly selected to participate in the 2025 Washington County Community Survey. If your household has already completed the survey online, thank you. **Please do not respond twice.**

Please take a few minutes to complete the enclosed survey. Your participation is important because your household is one of only a few selected. Your feedback will help Washington County make decisions that impact our county.

A few things to remember:

- **Your responses are confidential and no identifying information will be collected or shared.**
- To hear from a variety of community members, the adult in your home who is 18 or older and had the most recent birthday should fill out the survey.
- You may return the survey by mail in the enclosed postage-paid envelope, or you can complete the survey online at:

www.polco.us/xxplaceholder



Please do not share your survey link. This survey is for randomly selected households only.

If you have any questions, please call 651-430-6021.

Thank you for your time and participation.

Sincerely,

Michelle Clasen,
Washington County Commissioner, District 5

Para contestar la encuesta en **español**, siga el link adjunto y seleccione la opción 'Español' en el menú desplegable que aparece en la parte superior de la página web.

Txhawm rau ua daim ntawv ntsuam xyuas ua lus Hmoob, ua raws li qhov txuas txuas thiab xaiv 'Hmong' kev xaiv los ntawm cov ntawv qhia zaub mov saum toj ntawm lub vev xaib.

We strive to provide exceptional services that enhance quality of life and promote a safe, healthy, and welcoming community for all.

Government Center | 14949 62nd Street North | P. O. Box 6 | Stillwater, MN 55082-0006
P: 651-430-6001 | F: 651-430-6017 | TTY: 651-430-6246
www.washingtoncountymn.gov

Washington County is an equal opportunity organization and employer

Washington County Community Survey 2025

Please complete this questionnaire if you are the adult (age 18 or older) in the household who most recently had a birthday. The adult's year of birth does not matter. Your responses are anonymous and will be reported in group form only. Thank you.

1. How would you rate the overall quality of life in Washington County?..... Excellent Good Fair Poor

2. Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in Washington County.

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
As a place to live	1	2	3	4	5
As a place to raise children	1	2	3	4	5
As a place to work	1	2	3	4	5
As a place to retire.....	1	2	3	4	5

3. Please rate each of the following characteristics of Washington County.

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
Outdoor recreational opportunities.....	1	2	3	4	5
Employment opportunities	1	2	3	4	5
Openness and acceptance toward people of diverse backgrounds	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of housing options for all incomes	1	2	3	4	5
Rural character and natural environment.....	1	2	3	4	5
Sense of community and connection	1	2	3	4	5
Ease of travel by car	1	2	3	4	5
Bike and pedestrian transportation options.....	1	2	3	4	5
Ability to access destinations by walking or biking.....	1	2	3	4	5
Public transit.....	1	2	3	4	5
Ease of access to support services and resources.....	1	2	3	4	5
Overall feeling of safety in Washington County	1	2	3	4	5
Overall image or reputation of Washington County.....	1	2	3	4	5

4. What one thing do you like most about living in Washington County? (Please select only one.)

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Location | <input type="checkbox"/> People | <input type="checkbox"/> Small town feel | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Open space/rural | <input type="checkbox"/> My neighborhood | <input type="checkbox"/> Low taxes | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parks/lakes | <input type="checkbox"/> Schools | <input type="checkbox"/> Quality of life in general | |

5. Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel in Washington County.

	<u>Very safe</u>	<u>Somewhat safe</u>	<u>Somewhat unsafe</u>	<u>Very unsafe</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
From property crimes (e.g., burglary, theft)	1	2	3	4	5
From violent crimes (e.g., rape, assault, domestic violence, robbery)	1	2	3	4	5
From illegal drug activity (e.g., manufacturing or selling drugs).....	1	2	3	4	5
From the opioid epidemic	1	2	3	4	5
While driving on roads in the county	1	2	3	4	5
From drivers <u>under the influence</u> on roads in the county	1	2	3	4	5
From <u>distracted</u> drivers on roads in the county	1	2	3	4	5
While biking or walking along roads in the county	1	2	3	4	5
From identity theft (e.g., fraud, scams, credit card theft)	1	2	3	4	5
From human trafficking.....	1	2	3	4	5
In your neighborhood.....	1	2	3	4	5
In Washington County regional parks or trails.....	1	2	3	4	5
In county government buildings (e.g., County Government Center, libraries)	1	2	3	4	5

6. What would you say is the most serious issue facing Washington County at this time?

Washington County Community Survey 2025

7. Please rate to what degree, if at all, each of the following is a problem in Washington County.

	Not a problem	Minor problem	Moderate problem	Major problem	Don't know
Violent crime (e.g., rape, assault, domestic violence, robbery).....	1	2	3	4	5
Property crime (e.g., burglary, theft)	1	2	3	4	5
Drug dealing	1	2	3	4	5
Taxes.....	1	2	3	4	5
Roadway safety.....	1	2	3	4	5
Roadway congestion	1	2	3	4	5
Poverty	1	2	3	4	5
Homelessness	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of stable, affordable housing.....	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of livable wage jobs.....	1	2	3	4	5
Access to public transit.....	1	2	3	4	5
Access to trails and sidewalks	1	2	3	4	5
Transportation options	1	2	3	4	5

8. Please rate to what degree, if at all, each of the following is a health concern throughout Washington County.

	Not at all a concern	Minor concern	Moderate concern	Major concern	Don't know
Bullying	1	2	3	4	5
Suicide/attempted suicide	1	2	3	4	5
Domestic violence	1	2	3	4	5
Underage alcohol use.....	1	2	3	4	5
Excessive alcohol use among adults	1	2	3	4	5
Illicit drug use.....	1	2	3	4	5
Accidental drug overdose.....	1	2	3	4	5
Misuse of prescribed medications	1	2	3	4	5
Tobacco use.....	1	2	3	4	5
Cannabis use	1	2	3	4	5
Electronic cigarettes/vaping.....	1	2	3	4	5
Overweight children	1	2	3	4	5
Overweight adults	1	2	3	4	5
Heart disease	1	2	3	4	5
Spread of infectious diseases.....	1	2	3	4	5
Abuse and neglect of children	1	2	3	4	5
Abuse and neglect of seniors	1	2	3	4	5
Access to healthcare and support for seniors.....	1	2	3	4	5
Access to healthcare and support for people with disabilities.....	1	2	3	4	5
Access to healthcare for all community members	1	2	3	4	5
Access to parks and open space	1	2	3	4	5
Depression/anxiety.....	1	2	3	4	5
Loneliness	1	2	3	4	5
Mental health.....	1	2	3	4	5
Access to mental healthcare	1	2	3	4	5

9. Please rate to what degree, if at all, each of the following is an environmental concern in Washington County.

	Not at all a concern	Minor concern	Moderate concern	Major concern	Don't know
Exposure to radon.....	1	2	3	4	5
Quality of outdoor air	1	2	3	4	5
Safety of food in public establishments.....	1	2	3	4	5
Management of garbage.....	1	2	3	4	5
Service by waste collection providers	1	2	3	4	5
Quality of drinking water	1	2	3	4	5
Quality of water in lakes and streams	1	2	3	4	5
Quantity of useable water supply	1	2	3	4	5
Climate change	1	2	3	4	5
Access to recycling.....	1	2	3	4	5
Yard waste disposal.....	1	2	3	4	5

Washington County Community Survey 2025

10. Please rate how well Washington County does at climate adaptation and mitigation in the following areas.

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
Land protection through conservation easements (e.g., Land and Water Legacy Program).....	1	2	3	4	5
Land conservation through regional parks.....	1	2	3	4	5
Protecting groundwater quality.....	1	2	3	4	5
Promoting clean transportation options (e.g., electric vehicles, public transportation, biking).....	1	2	3	4	5
Diverting waste from landfills (e.g., through waste drop-off at Environmental Centers, Food Scraps Pickup Program).....	1	2	3	4	5
Infectious disease preparedness and response.....	1	2	3	4	5
Response to food insecurity (e.g., through food shelves at libraries).....	1	2	3	4	5
Road maintenance (e.g., following freeze/thaw cycles and flooding).....	1	2	3	4	5

11. Please rate the quality of each of the following services provided by Washington County.

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
County libraries.....	1	2	3	4	5
County parks and recreation like Big Marine Park Reserve, Lake Elmo Park Reserve, or St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park.....	1	2	3	4	5
Trail and bikeway system like Hardwood Creek Regional Trail and Point Douglas Regional Trail.....	1	2	3	4	5
Condition of <u>County highways</u> such as 170th St N. (County Rd. 4), 10 th Street (County Rd. 10), or Bailey Road (County Rd. 18).....	1	2	3	4	5
Snow and ice removal on <u>County highways</u>	1	2	3	4	5
Employment support.....	1	2	3	4	5
Recycling and drop-off services at Environmental Centers.....	1	2	3	4	5
Records, vital statistics, licensing, and vehicle registration.....	1	2	3	4	5
911 dispatch services.....	1	2	3	4	5
Disaster preparedness and response.....	1	2	3	4	5
Services provided to veterans.....	1	2	3	4	5
Services provided to older adults.....	1	2	3	4	5
Protecting children and vulnerable adults.....	1	2	3	4	5
Mental health services.....	1	2	3	4	5
Chemical health services.....	1	2	3	4	5
Crisis response services.....	1	2	3	4	5
Support in obtaining housing.....	1	2	3	4	5
Economic support services.....	1	2	3	4	5
Healthcare assistance services.....	1	2	3	4	5
Public health services (immunizations, WIC, family health home visits).....	1	2	3	4	5
Overall quality of services provided by Washington County.....	1	2	3	4	5

12. Have you visited, telephoned, or emailed any Washington County government office within the last 12 months?

- Yes → Go to question 13 No → Skip to question 14

13. What was your experience with the employee(s) of Washington County in your most recent contact? (Rate each characteristic below.)

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
Knowledge.....	1	2	3	4	5
Responsiveness.....	1	2	3	4	5
Courtesy.....	1	2	3	4	5
Respect.....	1	2	3	4	5

14. If you have visited a Washington County Service or License Center for services like a driver's license renewal, car registration, passport, or to pay property taxes, which location did you go to on your most recent visit?

- Not applicable → Skip to question 17 Woodbury Forest Lake Stillwater Cottage Grove Don't know

15. How reasonable or unreasonable did you consider your wait time for service to be?

- Very reasonable Somewhat reasonable Somewhat unreasonable Very unreasonable Don't know

Washington County Community Survey 2025

16. Please rate the overall quality of your most recent Washington County Service or License Center experience.

- Excellent
 Good
 Fair
 Poor

17. Please rate the following categories related to Washington County government performance:

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't know
Informing community members	1	2	3	4	5
Listening to community members	1	2	3	4	5
Applying new technology to connect community members with services	1	2	3	4	5
Managing tax dollars	1	2	3	4	5
Treating all community members with respect	1	2	3	4	5
Addressing disparities in the community	1	2	3	4	5
Welcoming community members from all backgrounds to participate in community decision-making	1	2	3	4	5
My knowledge of the work of the Washington County Board	1	2	3	4	5
The value of services for the taxes paid to Washington County	1	2	3	4	5
The value of Washington County services to the quality of life in my neighborhood	1	2	3	4	5

18. To what extent do you approve or disapprove of the job the Washington County Board is doing?

- Strongly approve
 Somewhat approve
 Somewhat disapprove
 Strongly disapprove
 Don't know

19. Please rate the extent to which you use each of the following as sources of information about Washington County government, if at all.

	Not a source	Minor source	Major source	Don't know
Cable access programming	1	2	3	4
Washington County website (www.washingtoncountymn.gov)	1	2	3	4
Community meetings	1	2	3	4
Washington County Newsletter – Staying in Touch	1	2	3	4
Phone calls to Washington County	1	2	3	4
Communications from my city or township	1	2	3	4
Daily newspapers (online or in print)	1	2	3	4
Weekly community newspapers (online or in print)	1	2	3	4
Television news broadcasts	1	2	3	4
County subscription list and electronic newsletters	1	2	3	4
Social Media (e.g., Facebook, Instagram, NextDoor, LinkedIn, etc.)	1	2	3	4
Word of mouth (from friends, family, neighbors)	1	2	3	4

20. Washington County Library offers a variety of services and loans materials in multiple formats. How important, if at all, is it to you for the County to invest public funds in each of the following services?

	Essential	Very important	Somewhat important	Not at all important	Don't know
Downloadable ebooks/audiobooks (e.g., for a smartphone, Kindle, iPad, or tablet)	1	2	3	4	5
Online access to magazines, newspapers and research and learning resources	1	2	3	4	5
Access to government information and forms such as tax forms	1	2	3	4	5
Free computer and wireless access	1	2	3	4	5
Programs and classes for all ages for learning, connection and entertainment	1	2	3	4	5
Early literacy programs	1	2	3	4	5
Adult programs and classes	1	2	3	4	5
Meeting and conference room use	1	2	3	4	5
Library express, pickup of library materials in automated lockers	1	2	3	4	5
Technology training and classes	1	2	3	4	5
Extended library hours	1	2	3	4	5
Safe space in your community	1	2	3	4	5
Other services available at libraries (e.g., food shelves, naloxone access points)	1	2	3	4	5

Washington County Community Survey 2025

21. In the past year, how many times have you visited a Washington County Library branch?
 Never Once or twice 3 to 12 times 13 to 23 times 24 or more times

22. Why haven't you visited Washington County Library, or visited more often? (Please check all that apply.)
 I have visited a library Lack of transportation
 I didn't know about them/don't know enough to visit I use the library's ebooks or online resources
 Lack of time Other, please specify: _____

23. How important, if at all, is it for each of the following park activities and services to be provided by Washington County?

	Essential	Very important	Somewhat important	Not at all important	Don't know
Trail system that connects communities, county park system, and other destinations.....	1	2	3	4	5
Protection and management of natural areas such as woodlands, prairies, and wetlands	1	2	3	4	5
Renting equipment such as snowshoes, canoes, and bikes	1	2	3	4	5
Community events such as Bluegrass Festival.....	1	2	3	4	5
Programs for learning about nature and outdoor recreation.....	1	2	3	4	5
Accessibility of parks.....	1	2	3	4	5
Other (please specify) _____.....	1	2	3	4	5

24. In the past year, how many times have you visited a regional park or trail?
 Never Once or twice 3 to 12 times 13 to 23 times 24 or more times

25. Why haven't you visited a regional park or trail, or visited more often? (Please check all that apply.)
 I have visited a regional park or trail Vehicle permit fee
 I didn't know about them/don't know enough to visit Lack of parking
 Lack of time Other, please specify: _____

Our last questions are about you and your household.
 Again, all of your responses to this survey are completely anonymous and will be reported in group form only.

D1. How long have you lived in Washington County?

- Less than 2 years 11 to 15 years
 2 to 5 years 16 to 20 years
 6 to 10 years More than 20 years

D2. Which of the following best describes you?

- Employed full-time
 Employed part-time
 Retired
 Student
 Unemployed, looking for work
 Unemployed, not looking for work

D3. Which best describes the building you live in?

- One family house detached from any other houses
 House attached to one or more houses (e.g., a duplex or townhome)
 Building with two or more apartments or condos
 Manufactured or mobile home
 Other

D4. Is this house, duplex, townhome, apartment or mobile home...

- Rented
 Owned (including with an outstanding mortgage)

D5. Are you Hispanic or Latino?

- No, not Hispanic or Latino
 Yes, I consider myself to be Hispanic or Latino

D6. What is your race? (Check as many as apply.)

- American Indian or Alaskan Native
 Asian
 Black or African American
 Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
 White or Caucasian
 Other
 Prefer not to answer

D7. Which category contains your age?

- 18-24 55-64
 25-34 65-74
 35-44 75 +
 45-54

D8. What is your gender?

- Female
 Male
 Non-binary
 Prefer not to answer

D9. Please indicate your household's annual income:

- Under \$25,000 \$100,000-\$124,999
 \$25,000-\$49,999 \$125,000-\$149,999
 \$50,000-\$74,999 \$150,000-\$199,999
 \$75,000-\$99,999 \$200,000 or more

Thank you very much! Please return the completed survey in the postage-paid envelope to:
 National Research Center, Inc.,
 PO Box 549, Belle Mead, NJ 08502