

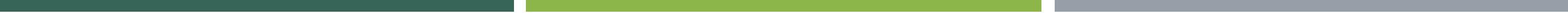


2025 Washington County Community Survey Results



Tuesday, July 8, 2025





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What is the Washington County Community Survey?

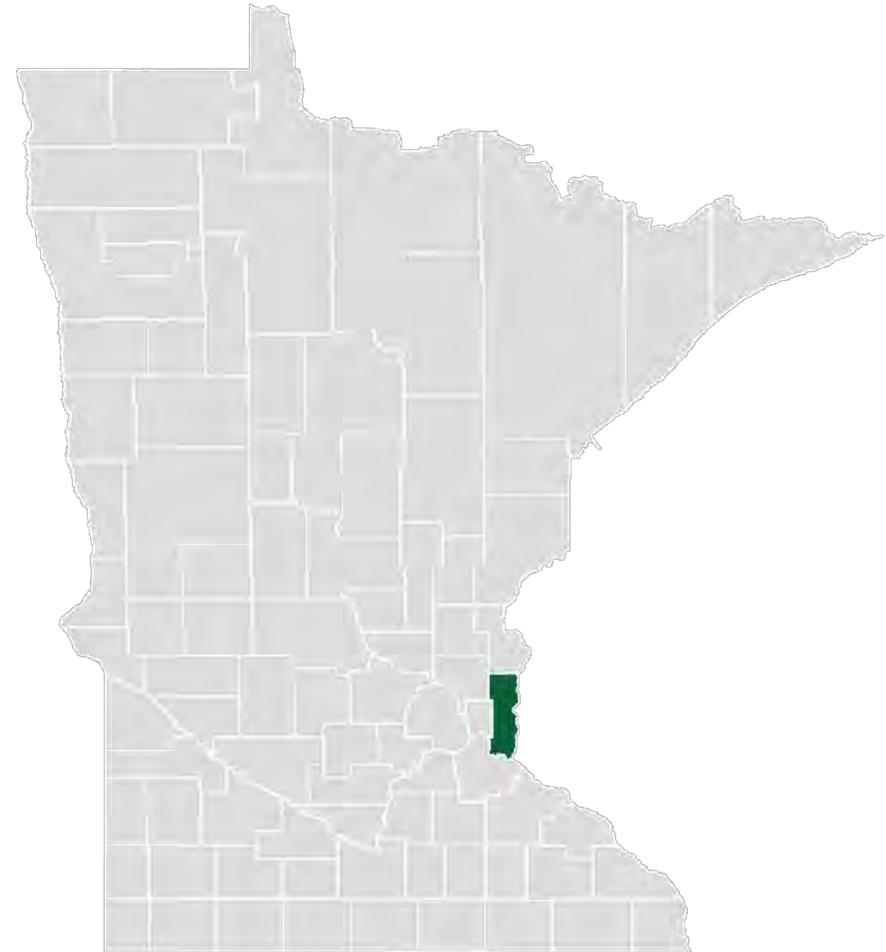
Statistically valid survey of Washington County community members

Scorecard of community livability

Feedback on Washington County services and offices

Community members' opinions on local concerns and issues

Guide for future planning and development



How was the survey administered?

Surveys mailed to 4,500 households

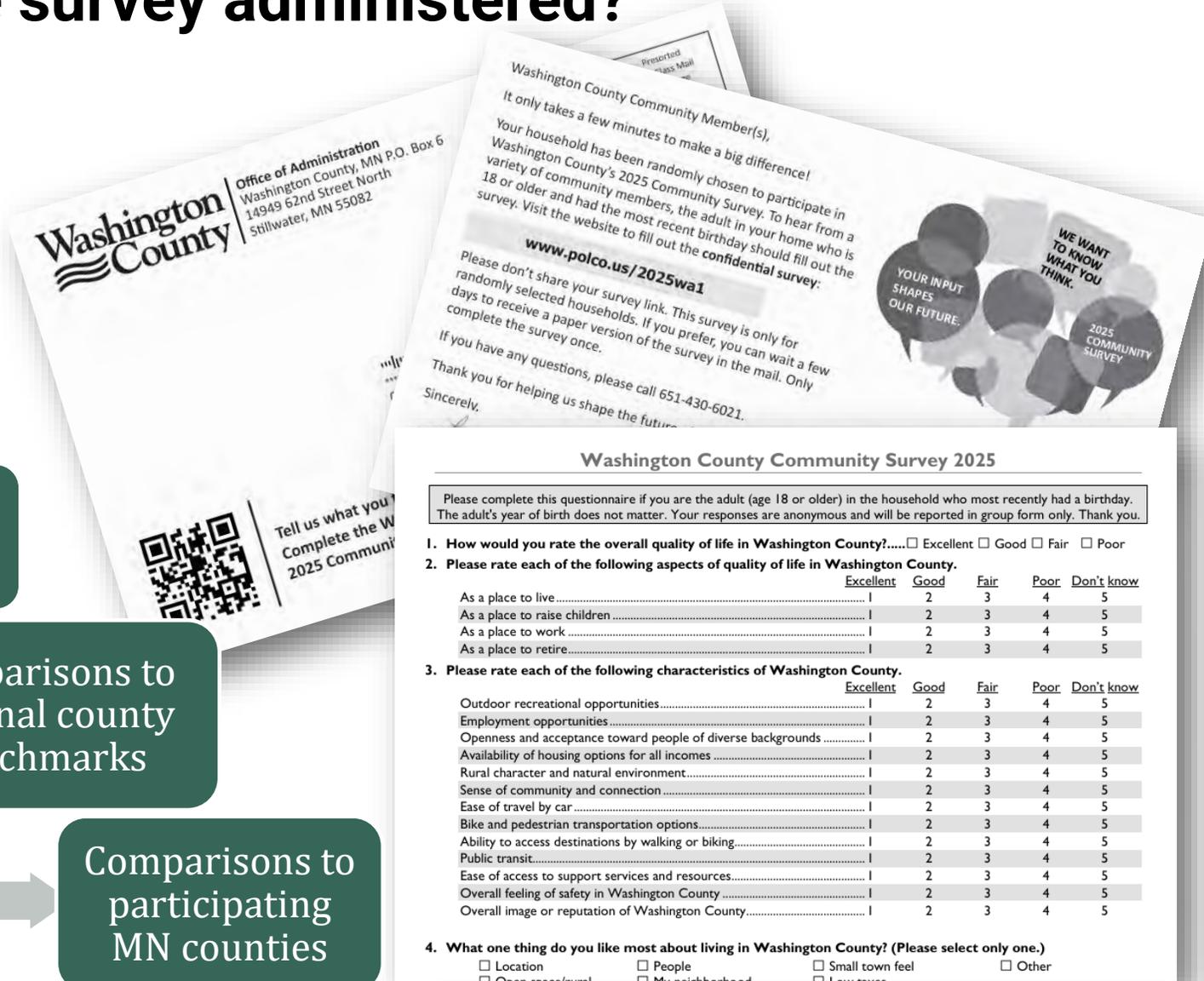
Survey available online in English, Spanish, and Hmong

673 completed
15% response rate

Results weighted to reflect community

Comparisons to national county benchmarks

Comparisons to participating MN counties



How to interpret the survey results

- **Many responses on a 100-point scale:**
 - Average rating (not percent)
 - Excellent = 100; Good = 67; Fair = 33; Poor = 0
- **Margin of error:**
 - +/- 2 points for results reported on the 100-point scale
 - +/- 4 percentage points for results reported as percentages
- **Significant differences from 2022 to 2025:**
 - 2 points or more for results reported on the 100-point scale
 - 4 percentage points or more for results reported as percentages
- **National County Benchmark Comparisons:**
 - 'Similar' when within five points of the average
 - 'Lower' or 'Higher' when the difference is greater than five points
 - 'Much Lower' or 'Much Higher' when the difference exceeds ten points

OVERVIEW OF THE 2025 SURVEY RESULTS



Summary of Key Findings

- 1. Washington County community members report a much higher quality of life than most other counties across the nation, with its rating improving since 2022.**
- 2. Tax concerns have risen while concerns about crime have decreased.**
- 3. Community concerns about overweight children and adults, along with water quality, top the list of health and environmental issues.**
- 4. Washington County services and government performance are rated positively by community members.**
- 5. Community members' experience with county employees and Service or License Centers have improved since 2022.**

Key Finding #1

Washington County community members report a much higher quality of life than most other counties across the nation, with its rating improving since 2022.

Overall Quality of Life



* 100-point scale (0=poor, 100=excellent)

★ *Much higher than the national benchmark*

What Community Members Like Most

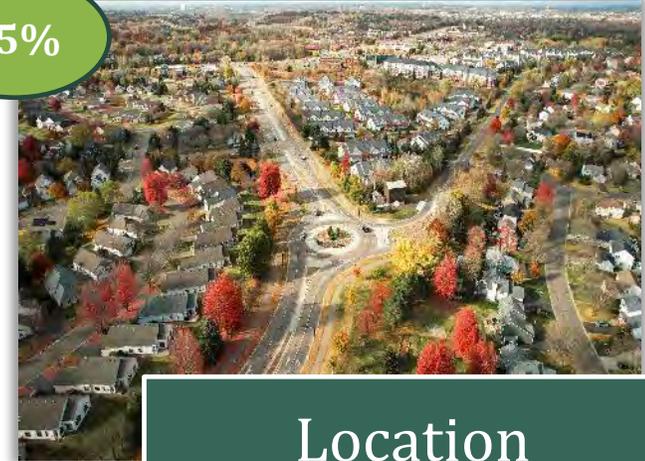
What one thing
do you like most
about living in
Washington
County?

26%



Quality of life in general

25%



Location

15%



Open space/rural

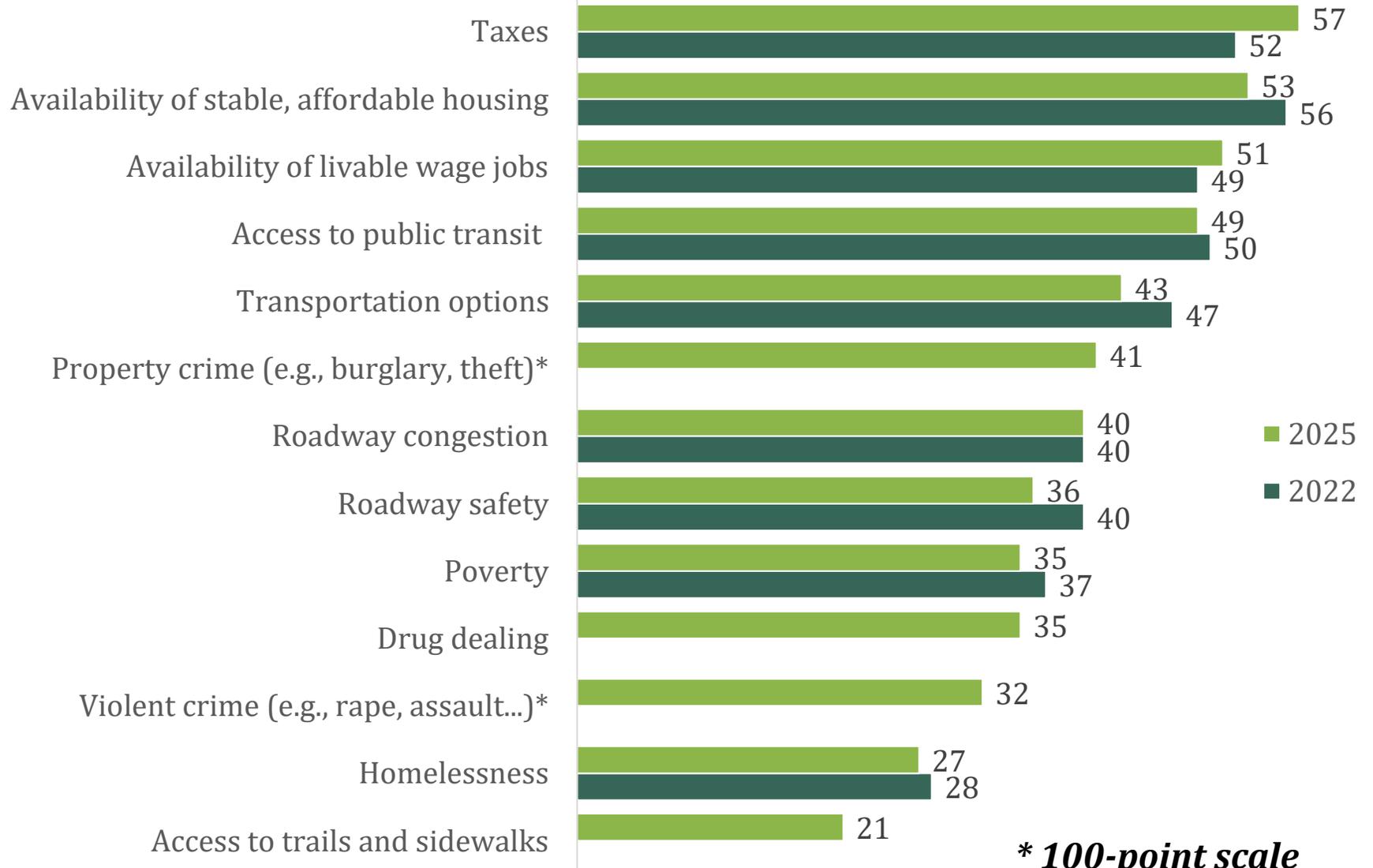
10%



My neighborhood

Tax concerns have risen while concerns about crime have decreased.

Potential Problems



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

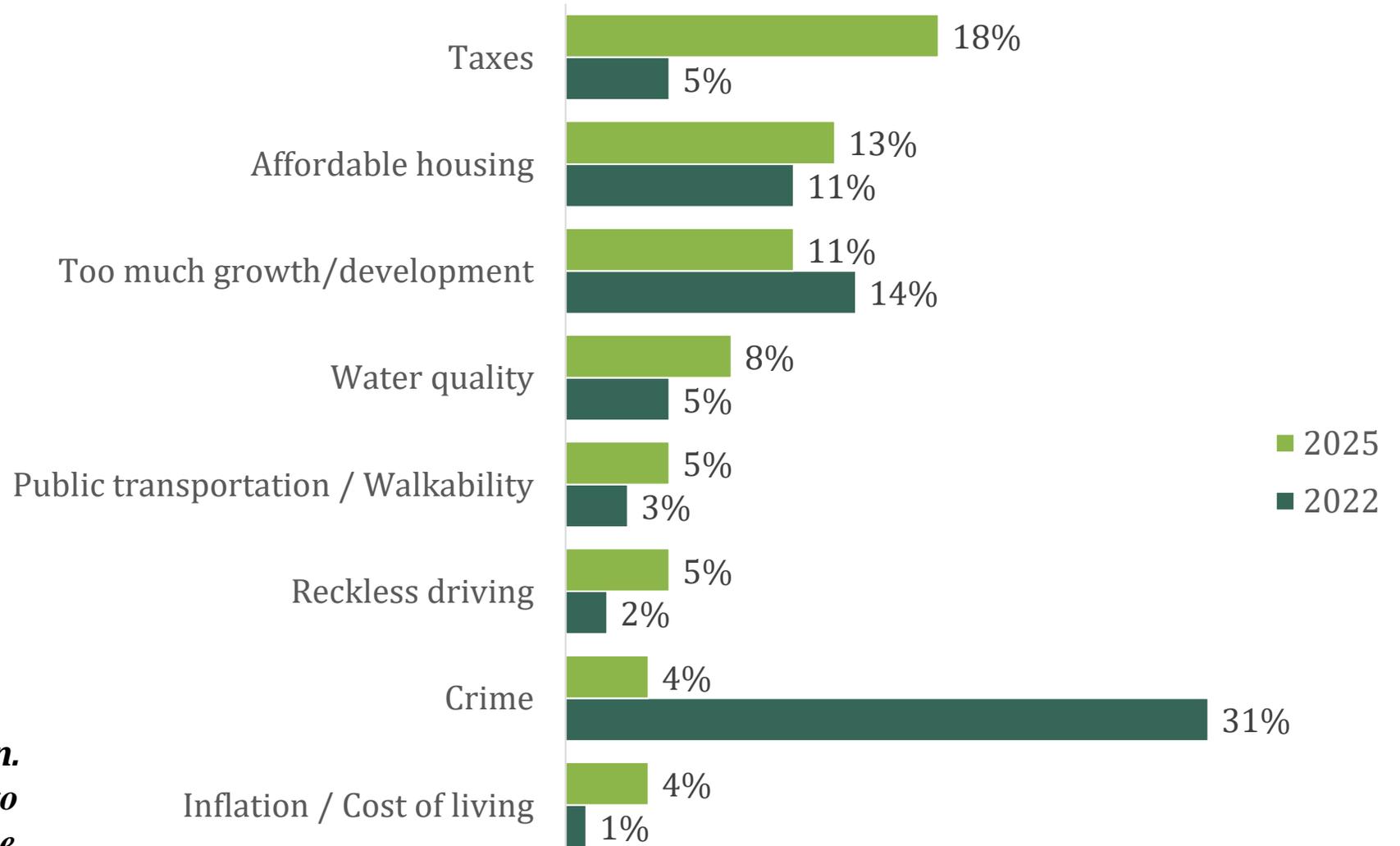
** The 2022 survey included the item "Crime," which received an average rating of 51 points.*

** 100-point scale
(0=not at a problem, 100=major problem)*

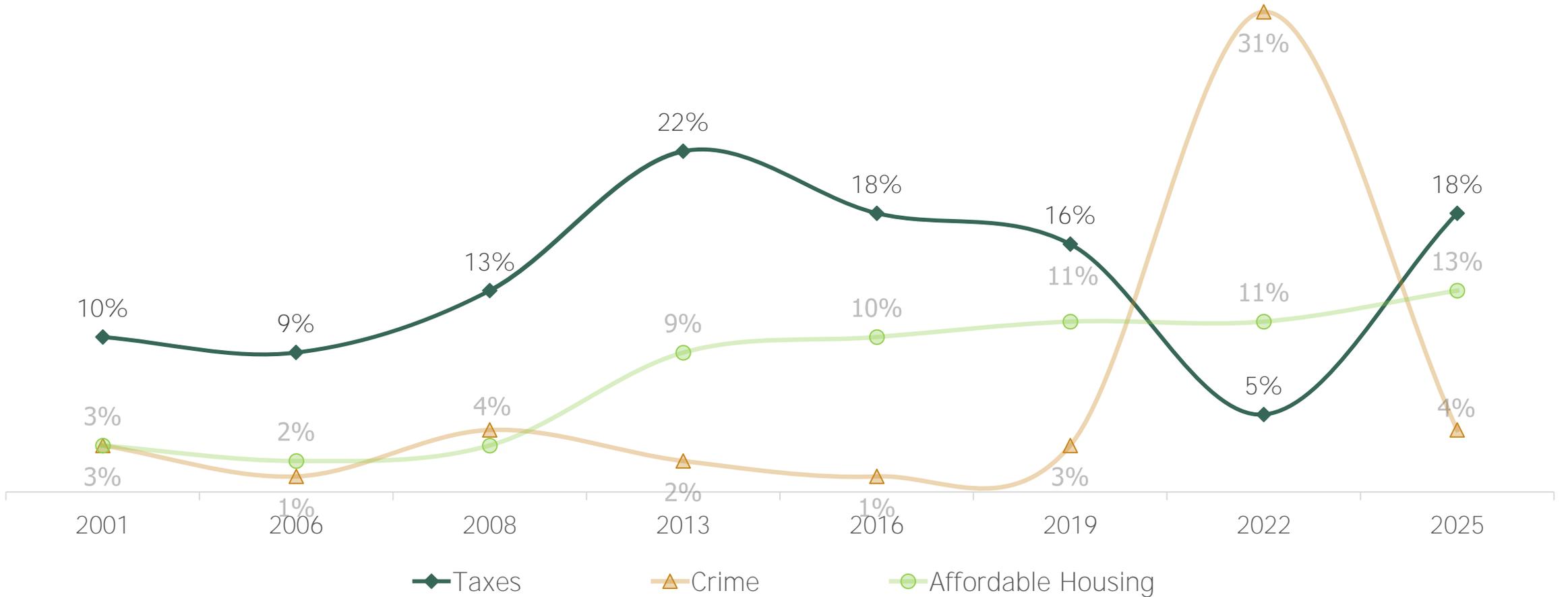
Most Serious Issue Facing Washington County

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

** This was an open-ended question. Verbatim responses were grouped into categories. Categories receiving more than 3% of all responses are displayed.*



Most Serious Issue by Year: Taxes v. Crime v. Affordable Housing

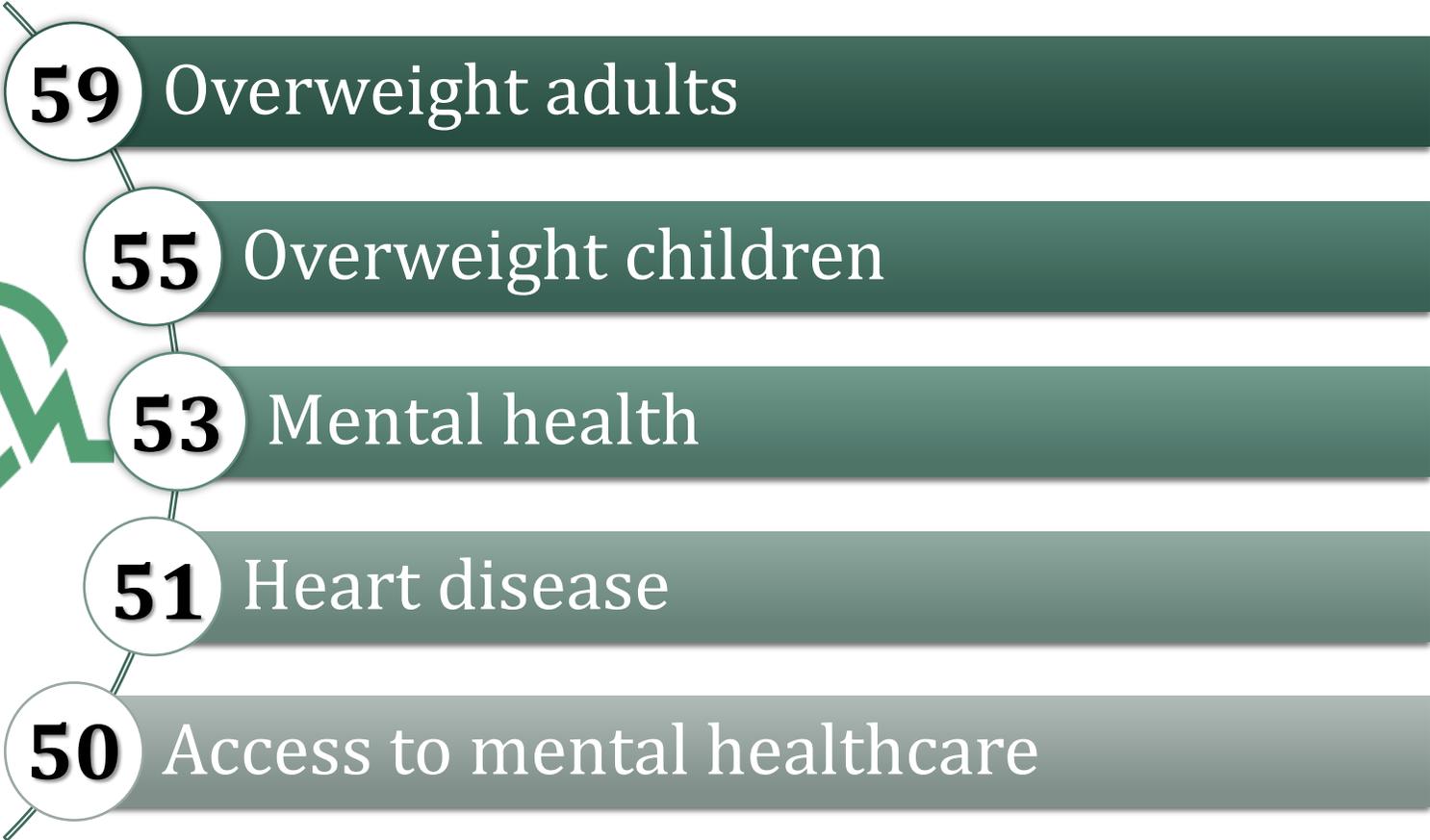


Community concerns about overweight children and adults, along with water quality, top the list of health and environmental issues.

Ratings of Health Concerns

Top Five

** 100-point scale
(0=not at all a concern,
100=major concern)*



Ratings of Environmental Concerns

Quality of drinking water

62

Quality of water in lakes and streams

57

Climate change

54

Quantity of useable water supply

52

Exposure to radon

37

Quality of outdoor air

30

Safety of food in public establishments

28

Yard waste disposal

26

Access to recycling

23

Management of garbage

19

Service by waste collection providers

16

** 100-point scale (0=not at all a concern, 100=major concern)*

Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Policies

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

** 100-point scale
(0=poor, 100=excellent)*

71

Land conservation through regional parks

66

Diverting waste from landfills

64

Land protection through conservation easements

61

Infectious disease preparedness and response

61

Response to food insecurity

59

Road maintenance

46

Promoting clean transportation options

44

Protecting groundwater quality

Washington County
services and government
performance are rated
positively by
community members.

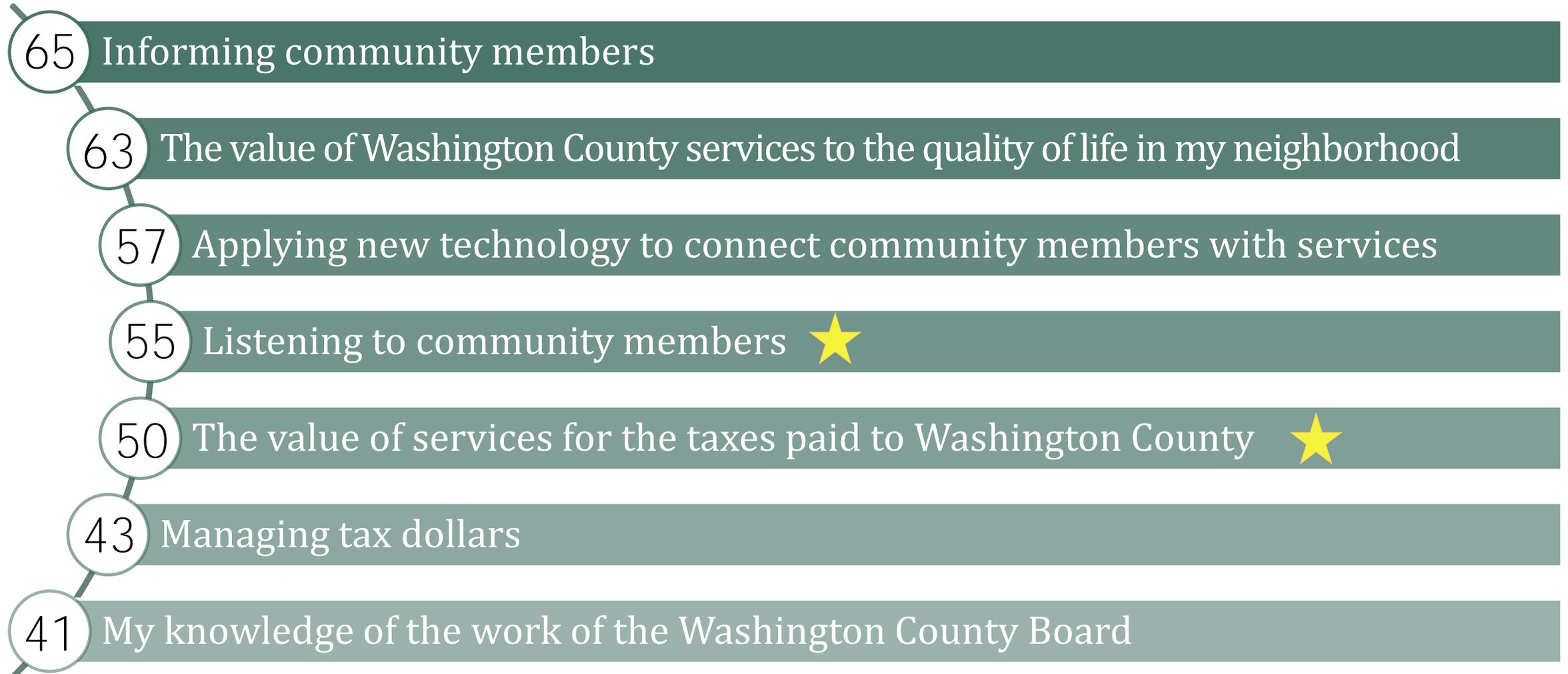
Ratings of County Board Approval



** 100-point scale
(0=strongly disapprove,
100=strongly approve)*



Ratings of Government Performance



* **100-point scale**
(0=poor, 100=excellent)

★ Higher or much higher than the national benchmark

Ratings of Overall Quality of County Services



* 100-point scale (0=poor, 100=excellent)

 Much higher than the national benchmark

County Services Above the Benchmark



Largest increases compared to 2022:

- Disaster preparedness and response (+13)
 - Mental health services (+8)
 - Services for veterans (+7)



Higher or much higher than the national benchmark

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

Contact with Washington County Government

5 in **10**

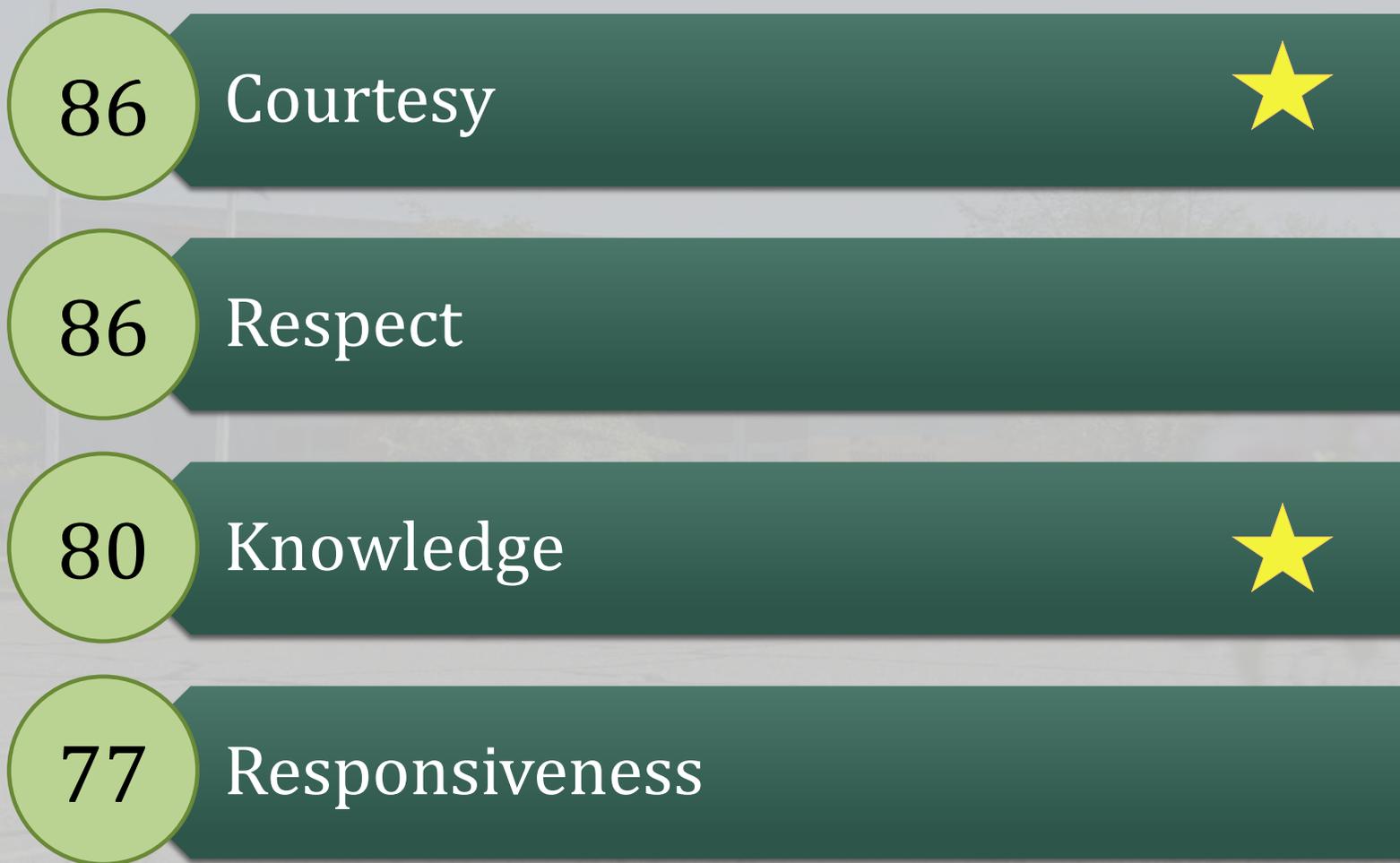
visited, telephoned, or emailed
any Washington County
government office within the
last 12 months.

**Similar to the
national benchmarks.**

**Statistically
significant increase
from 2022 results.**



Average Ratings of Employee(s) in Most Recent Contact



* 100-point scale (0=poor, 100=excellent)



Higher or much higher than the national benchmark

Washington County Service or License Center

Overall quality of the most recent Washington County Service or License Center experience



Reasonableness of wait time at Washington County Service or License Center



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Questions?

Thank you!

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