Delaware Speaks Out!

A survey of citizens on key issues facing Delaware

SURVEY RESULTS

A Focus on Growth, Sprawl and Livable Delaware

The survey was administered from May 2 through July 1, 2003. The initial sample was 1,200 Delaware residents, but 101 names were removed because of death or a bad address. Of the remaining people in the sample, 604 people responded for an adjusted response rate of 55 percent.

This booklet contains the results of the survey. Each question is presented in its original form along with the breakdown of percentages for each answer. In some cases, such as year of birth, the responses are given as a mean value. A final narrative report can be obtained by contacting the name below, or at the web site given below.

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Information can also be found at our web site:
www.udel.edu/FREC/DSORESULTS

1. How would you rate the seriousness of the following issues in your community, from NOT A PROBLEM (1) to a SERIOUS PROBLEM (4). By community we mean the town, city, or residential area where you reside and call home. (Circle your response)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>NOT A PROBLEM</th>
<th>SMALL PROBLEM</th>
<th>PROBLEM</th>
<th>SERIOUS PROBLEM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Quality of instruction in the local schools</td>
<td>26.0%</td>
<td>36.8%</td>
<td>28.7%</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Traffic congestion</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
<td>26.4%</td>
<td>36.7%</td>
<td>26.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Employment opportunities</td>
<td>18.4%</td>
<td>35.8%</td>
<td>27.6%</td>
<td>18.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Crime and vandalism</td>
<td>15.6%</td>
<td>46.9%</td>
<td>27.5%</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. Drug and alcohol abuse</td>
<td>13.7%</td>
<td>38.1%</td>
<td>31.8%</td>
<td>16.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. Quality of the air</td>
<td>23.3%</td>
<td>33.9%</td>
<td>24.5%</td>
<td>18.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g. Quality of water</td>
<td>29.3%</td>
<td>30.8%</td>
<td>26.6%</td>
<td>13.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h. Availability of water</td>
<td>59.8%</td>
<td>24.0%</td>
<td>10.7%</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i. Loss of open spaces due to development</td>
<td>14.0%</td>
<td>27.7%</td>
<td>27.1%</td>
<td>31.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>j. Loss of farm land due to development</td>
<td>17.4%</td>
<td>22.7%</td>
<td>24.3%</td>
<td>35.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Are there other issues in your community about which you are concerned? Please write in any concerns.
3. Please indicate how satisfied you are with each of the following aspects of your community, from **VERY SATISFIED** (1) to **VERY DISSATISFIED** (6). (Circle your response)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aspect</th>
<th>VERY SATISFIED</th>
<th>SATISFIED</th>
<th>SOMEWHAT SATISFIED</th>
<th>SOMEWHAT DISSATISFIED</th>
<th>DISSATISFIED</th>
<th>VERY DISSATISFIED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The variety of housing choices in my community (i.e. starter homes, apartments, single family dwellings)</td>
<td>17.2</td>
<td>48.3</td>
<td>19.5</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The closeness of my home to stores, public schools, and public facilities</td>
<td>36.8</td>
<td>45.6</td>
<td>11.7</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The beauty of my community</td>
<td>19.0</td>
<td>40.0</td>
<td>25.9</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The quality of schools in my community</td>
<td>9.6</td>
<td>37.3</td>
<td>25.0</td>
<td>14.9</td>
<td>8.9</td>
<td>4.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The preservation of historic homes and sites within my community</td>
<td>12.3</td>
<td>42.7</td>
<td>26.5</td>
<td>10.4</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Availability of sports facilities nearby</td>
<td>11.3</td>
<td>42.8</td>
<td>23.0</td>
<td>9.6</td>
<td>8.4</td>
<td>4.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Availability of recreational facilities nearby</td>
<td>14.4</td>
<td>40.4</td>
<td>21.2</td>
<td>10.2</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>6.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taking all things into consideration, what is your overall satisfaction with your community?</td>
<td>13.3</td>
<td>48.9</td>
<td>27.0</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. From your perspective, is the current growth in your **community**:  
   - Too Much: 48.3%  
   - About Right: 48.8%  
   - Too Little: 2.8%

5. From your perspective, is the current growth in your **county**:  
   - Too Much: 61.8%  
   - About Right: 35.1%  
   - Too Little: 3.2%

6. From your perspective, is the current growth in Delaware:  
   - Too Much: 55.1%  
   - About Right: 41.9%  
   - Too Little: 3.0%

7. From your perspective, how have the following aspects of life in your community improved or worsened over the past five years?

   a. **Your quality of life**  
      - Improved: 29.2%  
      - Remained the Same: 53.8%  
      - Worsened: 17.0%

   b. **Traffic in your community**  
      - Improved: 4.3%  
      - Remained the Same: 25.3%  
      - Worsened: 70.4%

   c. **Employment opportunities for you and/or your family**  
      - Improved: 8.3%  
      - Remained the Same: 62.0%  
      - Worsened: 29.7%
FUTURE GROWTH: Now we would like to get your perspective on ways to manage future growth in Delaware.

8. To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements concerning growth in your community in the future, from STRONGLY AGREE (1) to STRONGLY DISAGREE (6)?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Somewhat Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Somewhat Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. The state should provide more oversight and coordination in land use planning</td>
<td>30.3</td>
<td>40.6</td>
<td>21.8</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. We should allow free market forces to shape future growth in Delaware</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>18.0</td>
<td>25.8</td>
<td>19.9</td>
<td>20.1</td>
<td>11.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. We already have too much land use regulation</td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>11.2</td>
<td>26.4</td>
<td>25.3</td>
<td>22.8</td>
<td>7.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Continued growth will hurt the quality of life in my community</td>
<td>21.4</td>
<td>28.9</td>
<td>25.7</td>
<td>14.6</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. My community should require developers to pay impact fees to cover the cost of roads and schools from new development</td>
<td>42.7</td>
<td>33.9</td>
<td>15.5</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. We should promote development or redevelopment within the built up areas of existing communities</td>
<td>23.4</td>
<td>40.2</td>
<td>24.8</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g. I support Delaware’s effort to preserve farmland by purchasing development rights from farmers</td>
<td>34.5</td>
<td>35.0</td>
<td>19.3</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h. Strict laws should protect rural areas from unplanned development</td>
<td>37.4</td>
<td>35.2</td>
<td>17.9</td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i. Public spending on schools, roads, and utilities should favor existing communities rather than new development</td>
<td>28.8</td>
<td>33.8</td>
<td>22.5</td>
<td>7.8</td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION: The next section asks questions about your opinions on alternative strategies for housing in your community and on transportation needs.

9. To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about housing and transportation in your community, from STRONGLY AGREE (1) to STRONGLY DISAGREE (6)?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Somewhat Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Somewhat Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. My community should offer affordable housing choices for all income groups</td>
<td>19.8</td>
<td>29.7</td>
<td>22.0</td>
<td>11.0</td>
<td>10.7</td>
<td>6.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. We should manage growth by encouraging higher density housing in existing neighborhoods</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>15.1</td>
<td>20.5</td>
<td>20.5</td>
<td>25.3</td>
<td>13.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. We should use compact building designs as an alternative to designs that use a lot of land</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>19.9</td>
<td>31.2</td>
<td>18.7</td>
<td>16.0</td>
<td>7.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. We should provide more options for public transportation</td>
<td>27.5</td>
<td>41.7</td>
<td>20.5</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. There are adequate sidewalks and pedestrian paths in my community</td>
<td>10.6</td>
<td>35.6</td>
<td>13.6</td>
<td>12.2</td>
<td>15.4</td>
<td>12.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. My community does a good job in connecting pedestrian, bike, transit and road facilities</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>23.2</td>
<td>23.1</td>
<td>16.6</td>
<td>19.7</td>
<td>11.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g. People should be free to use their cars and not be pressured to use public transportation</td>
<td>15.8</td>
<td>32.8</td>
<td>25.9</td>
<td>15.1</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>2.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h. There should be a mixture of housing in my community, from high density apartments/duplexes to low density single family dwellings</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>22.2</td>
<td>24.7</td>
<td>15.2</td>
<td>16.8</td>
<td>12.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
IMPORTANT COMMUNITY ATTRIBUTES: This section asks you to think about how important are certain aspects of a community when choosing a place to live.

10. If you were looking for a new community in which to live, how important would the following attributes be in selecting a residence, from VERY IMPORTANT (1) to Very Unimportant (6)?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attribute</th>
<th>VERY IMPORTANT</th>
<th>IMPORTANT</th>
<th>SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT</th>
<th>SOMEWHAT UNIMPORTANT</th>
<th>UNIMPORTANT</th>
<th>VERY UNIMPORTANT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. The closeness of my home to my current place of work (or a householder’s place of work)</td>
<td>27.6</td>
<td>39.5</td>
<td>24.5</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. The closeness of my home to stores and facilities</td>
<td>22.5</td>
<td>45.5</td>
<td>25.7</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Available employment opportunities within the community</td>
<td>26.0</td>
<td>37.3</td>
<td>24.0</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. The quality of the public schools in the community</td>
<td>52.9</td>
<td>29.9</td>
<td>9.5</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. The attractiveness of the downtown/shopping area</td>
<td>23.2</td>
<td>36.8</td>
<td>29.2</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. Availability of sports and recreation facilities nearby</td>
<td>17.6</td>
<td>37.1</td>
<td>30.6</td>
<td>9.2</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g. Low crime rate and a sense of personal safety</td>
<td>77.9</td>
<td>19.1</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h. Availability of public transportation</td>
<td>22.8</td>
<td>27.9</td>
<td>27.9</td>
<td>11.9</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11. Of the 8 attributes listed above (a through h), which are your top three choices for importance in selecting a residence from highest to lowest choice? (Please enter the letter for each choice - for example, enter d for “The quality of the public schools in the community.”)

Most Important: g (54.0%) enter letter
Second Most Important: d (25.4%) enter letter
Third Most Important: b (18.7%) enter letter

LIVABLE DELAWARE: Livable Delaware is a state program that encourages better planning and coordination and the use of planning tools such as Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) and impact fees to manage growth (see box below).

12. Have you heard about the state’s Livable Delaware Agenda (see box below)?

☐ No               77.2%
☐ YES, A LITTLE    21.3%
☐ YES, A LOT       1.5%

Livable Delaware Agenda Website
www.state.de.us/planning/livedel/index.htm

“Livable Delaware is a positive, proactive strategy that seeks to curb sprawl and direct growth to areas where the state, counties and local governments are most prepared for it in terms of infrastructure investment and thoughtful planning. It builds on the foundation laid by the Strategies for State Policies and Spending which were adopted in 1999.

Livable Delaware is not anti-growth and attempts to use carrots rather than sticks to guide growth.”

13. Please indicate your level of support for the Livable Delaware Agenda?

☐ STRONGLY SUPPORT     21.3%
☐ SUPPORT              67.7%
☐ DO NOT SUPPORT        10.4%
☐ STRONGLY DO NOT SUPPORT 0.7%

14. How effective do you think this agenda will be in managing Delaware’s growth?

☐ VERY EFFECTIVE        6.3%
☐ EFFECTIVE             33.5%
☐ PARTIALLY EFFECTIVE   49.1%
☐ INEFFECTIVE           10.1%
☐ VERY INEFFECTIVE      1.1%

15. Prior to this survey, have you visited the Livable Delaware web site?

☐ No              97.7%
☐ YES             2.3%
If you have other comments about the Livable Delaware Agenda, please list them below.

COMPUTER USAGE: To help us better understand computer usage in Delaware, please answer the following questions about your access to a computer and the Internet.

16. Do you have a working computer in your home?
   - No (If No, Go to Question 19) 24.9%
   - Yes 75.1%

17. If Yes, do you have Internet access at home?
   - No (If No, Go to Question 19) 5.4%
   - Yes 94.6%

18. If Yes, indicate how you access the Internet. (Check all that apply)
   - Telephone line (Low Speed) 67.2%
   - Cable or High Speed Modem 30.5%
   - Other ____________________ 2.3%

19. Do you have regular access to the Internet outside your home, such as through work or school?
   - No 42.7%
   - Yes 57.3%

20. Do you use e-mail or Instant Messaging? (Check all that apply)
   - E-mail 77.4%
   - Instant Messaging 29.5%

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

We would like to ask you a few questions about yourself and your household for statistical purposes. All information is confidential.

(1) Your sex:
   - Male 53.0%
   - Female 47.0%

(2) Which of the following best describes your present marital status?
   - Never Married 13.6%
   - Married 61.6%
   - Separated 1.4%
   - Divorced 13.4%
   - Widowed 9.0%
   - Other 1.0%

(3) Which of the following best describes your race?
   - African American 10.8%
   - Asian 2.2%
   - Hispanic 2.4%
   - White 82.6%
   - Other 2.1%

(4) In what year were you born? 1952 YEAR

(5) How long have you lived in Delaware? 30.0 YEARS

(6) Including yourself, how many people live in your household? 2.7 PEOPLE
   How many people are under 18? 0.7 PEOPLE

(7) What is the highest level of education that you have completed thus far?
   - Less than High School Degree 3.9%
   - High School Degree or Equivalent Degree 33.3%
   - Post High School Study or 2 Year Degree 23.2%
   - 4-Year College Degree 24.1%
   - Post College Advanced Degree 15.5%
(8) What was your approximate household income (before taxes) last year?

- LESS THAN $25,000: 12.9%
- $25,000 TO $49,999: 30.1%
- $50,000 TO $74,999: 23.1%
- $75,000 TO $124,999: 23.8%
- $125,000 OR MORE: 10.1%

(9) Which of the following best describes your employment status?

- EMPLOYED FULL-TIME: 55.6%
- EMPLOYED PART-TIME: 6.5%
- SELF-EMPLOYED: 8.4%
- UNEMPLOYED (BUT LOOKING): 1.9%
- NOT IN LABOR FORCE (STUDENT, HOMEMAKER, RETIRED): 24.6%
- OTHER: 3.1%

(10) Do you own your home, rent, or have some other arrangement?

- OWN: 81.1%
- RENT: 16.0%
- OTHER ARRANGEMENT: 2.9%

(11) In which county in Delaware do you live?

- KENT: 17.6%
- NEW CASTLE: 65.1%
- SUSSEX: 17.3%

(12) What is the zip code of your primary residence? ___________ ZIP CODE

(13) Which of the following best describes the community in which you live?

- RURAL AREA: 15.8%
- IN OR NEAR A SMALL TOWN (LESS THAN 2,500 PEOPLE): 17.8%
- IN OR NEAR A CITY OF 2,500 TO 9,999 PEOPLE: 18.3%
- IN OR NEAR A CITY OF 10,000 TO 25,000 PEOPLE: 18.3%
- IN OR NEAR A CITY GREATER THAN 25,000 PEOPLE: 29.9%

Comments

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.

Your assistance in providing this information is very much appreciated. If there is anything else you would like to tell us about this survey, growth in Delaware, or the Livable Delaware Agenda, please do so in the space provided below.

Please fold and return your completed questionnaire in the envelope provided and mail it back. If you would like a copy of the results please write your name on the back of the return envelope and a summary report will be sent to you, or visit our website: www.udel.edu/FREC/DSORESULTS

If you have any questions about this survey, call collect to Dr. Tom Ilvento at 302-831-6773 or e-mail at ilvento@udel.edu.