



Dakota County, MN

2022 Resident Survey Report of Results

June 2022



polco.us • 2955 Valmont Rd., Suite 300 • Boulder, CO 80301

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	4
Survey Background.....	7
Quality of Life and Community	11
County Characteristics	13
Community-wide Problems.....	15
Most Serious Issue Facing Dakota County	16
Safety in Dakota County.....	18
Health Concerns	20
Environmental Concerns.....	22
Housing Needs	24
Highway Improvements	25
Household Financial Status.....	27
Evaluation of Government Services	28
County Government Performance.....	28
Quality of County Services	31
Interactions with County Government	35
County Property Tax.....	37
Importance of Library Programs and Services	38
County Parks and Greenways.....	39
Current Issues	40
Public Information and Communication	42
Appendix A: Responses to Survey Questions	44
Appendix B: Verbatim Responses to Survey Questions	86
Appendix C: Survey Results by Respondent Characteristics.....	118
Survey Results by District.....	119
Survey Results by Age and Gender of Respondent.....	128
Survey Results by Annual Household Income and Length of Residency.....	135
Survey Results by Housing Unit Type and Housing Tenure (Rent or Own).....	145
Appendix D: Survey Results by Year.....	153
Appendix E: Survey Results Compared to Other Participating Minnesota Counties ..	164
Appendix F: Benchmark Comparisons.....	181
Appendix G: Survey Methodology	186
Appendix H: Survey Materials	195

Table of Figures

Figure 1: Overall Quality of Life, 2022	11
Figure 2: Average Rating of Overall Quality of Life in Dakota County by Year	11
Figure 3: Like Most About Living in County By Year	12
Figure 4: Average Ratings of County Characteristics by Year	14
Figure 5: Community Characteristics Benchmarks	14
Figure 6: Average Ratings of Potential Problems by Year.....	15
Figure 7: Most Serious Issue Facing Dakota County By Year	17
Figure 8: Average Ratings of Perceptions of Safety in Dakota County by Year.....	19
Figure 9: Feelings of Safety Benchmarks	19
Figure 10: Average Ratings of Health Concerns By Year	21
Figure 11: Environmental Concerns, 2022	22
Figure 12: Importance of Investing in Preserved Land by Year	23
Figure 13: Housing Needs, 2022.....	24
Figure 14: Highways Needing Safety Improvements, 2022.....	25
Figure 15: Highways Needing Congestion Improvements, 2022	26
Figure 16: Financial Status by Year.....	27
Figure 17: Average Ratings of County Board Approval by Year	28
Figure 18: Average Ratings of Perception of Government By Year.....	29
Figure 19: Perception of County Government Benchmarks.....	30
Figure 20: Average Ratings of Overall Quality of County Services by Year.....	31
Figure 21: Overall Quality of Services Benchmark.....	31
Figure 22: Average Ratings of County Services By Year	32
Figure 23: Quality of Services Benchmarks	32
Figure 24: Average Ratings of County Services by Recent Users By Year	33
Figure 25: Average Ratings of Access to County Services by Year.....	34
Figure 26: Government Office Contact by Year	35
Figure 27: Overall Impression of Most Recent Contact with Dakota County by Year	35
Figure 28: Average Ratings of County Employees by Year.....	36
Figure 29: County Employee Benchmarks	36
Figure 30: Level of Support for County Property Tax by Year.....	37
Figure 31: Importance of Library Programs and Services by Year	38
Figure 32: Frequency of Use of Parks and Greenways, 2022	39
Figure 33: Reasons for Not Using Parks and Greenways, 2022.....	39
Figure 34: COVID Concerns	40
Figure 35: Driving Factors for Changing Work Situation	41
Figure 36: Preference for Receiving Dakota County Information.....	42
Figure 37: Preferred Methods to Communicate with Residents by Year	43
Figure 38: Dakota County Commissioner Districts.....	119
Figure 39: Map of Dakota County Commissioner Districts	191

Executive Summary

Survey Background

Understanding the needs of residents is important to Dakota County Commissioners and senior leaders, so Dakota County has conducted a regular, periodic survey of residents' opinions. This report includes Dakota County survey results dating back to 2001. In 2022, Dakota County was joined again by four other Minnesota counties (Washington, St. Louis, Olmsted and Scott), working together with Polco / National Research Center, to develop a survey instrument with a set of shared questions, as well as questions unique to each County.

The Dakota County Resident Survey was administered by mail to 4,200 randomly selected households during February and March of 2022, distributed among the seven County Commissioner Districts. Of the approximately 4,055 households that received a survey in the mail (the other surveys were sent to vacant households), 645 surveys were completed, providing a response rate of 16%.

Because Dakota County has administered a resident survey before, comparisons could be made between 2022 responses and those from prior years. The previous survey was conducted in 2019. Generally, comparisons between surveys are made through the conversion of ratings to a 100-point scale. Dakota County also elected to have its results compared to those of 61 other counties around the nation, comparisons made possible through Polco's national benchmark database. This database contains resident perspectives gathered in resident statistically valid surveys from more than 500 jurisdictions, including cities and counties.

Survey Highlights

Quality of life ratings for Dakota County residents remain high.

- ◆ Dakota County residents rated their overall quality of life in the county at 78 points on the 100-point scale, a similar rating to the one received in 2019 and 2016. As in the previous surveys, the current rating stands between "excellent" (100 pts) and "good" (67 pts). The rating for overall quality of life was much higher in Dakota County than in other counties across the nation.
- ◆ Residents also rated most general characteristics of the County positively, including the County as a place to live (79 points, or a rating between "good" and "excellent"), as a place to raise a family (78) and outdoor recreational opportunities (77). Each of these aspects received ratings that were higher or much higher than the national county averages.
- ◆ When identifying what residents liked most about living in Dakota County, about one-quarter of residents selected location, while 21% mentioned the quality of life in general. Parks/lakes/trails was selected by 15% of respondents, while the neighborhood was indicated by 12% of the participants.

While residents generally feel safe in the community, they are increasingly worried about crime and safety issues.

- ◆ Residents were asked how safe they felt from different types of crimes, as well as safety in different county locations. All items with the exception of one received an average rating that was equal to “somewhat” safe or better. Respondents reported feeling the safest while in County office buildings, libraries and courtrooms and while in schools or places of worship in Dakota County (87 and 85 points, respectively, or close to “very safe”).
- ◆ When compared to the 2019 results, feelings of safety in 2022 declined for feeling safe from gang activity, from violent crime, and from property crime; other perceived ratings of safety remained stable since the previous survey iteration.
- ◆ When asked to write in their own words the most serious issue facing Dakota County, crime and safety issues topped the list in 2022. Two in 10 respondents made a comment related to this topic, a notable increase from 9% in 2019.
- ◆ Survey respondents evaluated a list of potential problems as being a “major problem,” a “moderate problem,” a “minor problem,” or “not a problem” in Dakota County. One of the two issues that emerged as most problematic (though still below the threshold of “moderate problem”) was crime (50); this rating has notably increased by 13 points since the 2019 survey.

Evaluations of County services and the County Government remain positive.

- ◆ In 2022, the overall quality of County services received a rating of 69 on the 100-point scale, which was similar to ratings given in 2019 and much higher than the national county average. The rating has been steadily increasing since 2013.
- ◆ As in the past three surveys, County parks and recreation (average rating of 86), County libraries (85), trail and greenway systems (81), Sheriff deputies patrol services (68) and snow and ice removal were rated above 67 points (or above “good”).
- ◆ Ratings of County services remained stable from 2019 to 2022 with only one notable decrease: prosecution of people accused of crimes fell from 62 points in 2019 to 49 points in 2022, becoming the lowest-rated service among the list of options on the 2022 survey.
- ◆ Most residents approved of the job the Dakota County Board is doing, providing an average rating of 71, or just above “somewhat approve.” In percentage terms, only 10% of respondents disapproved of the job the County Board is doing, while 90% approved.
- ◆ Ratings for other aspects of the County Government performance were between “good” and “fair” on the 100-point scale, with the highest ratings going to the job the County does supporting the quality of life in the county (65) and providing information to residents (65).
- ◆ While ratings for most aspects of government performance remained stable, the overall confidence in the Dakota County government has been trending upward over time (58 points in 2013 to 63 in 2022).
- ◆ When compared to ratings given to other counties across the U.S., Dakota County government performance ratings were higher or much higher for each of the five aspects that could be compared.

COVID-19 has had an impact on the economic and health concerns of residents.

- ◆ In 2022, Dakota County included questions regarding how concerned residents were in relation to COVID's impacts within the community. Three-quarters of respondents said they were very or moderately concerned about the economic impact of COVID-19 on the local economy. Meanwhile, two-thirds expressed high or moderate concerns about the overall health and safety of vulnerable populations. Also, about 6 in 10 said they were very or moderately concerned about their community's medical facilities being overwhelmed by COVID-19.
- ◆ As in previous surveys, respondents assessed various potential health concerns in Dakota County. Compared to 2019, the level of concern for several health issues increased in 2022, including for depression, anxiety, and other mental illnesses, the health and support of older adults, the spread of infectious diseases, and social isolation, among others.
- ◆ When asked if they felt their household would be financially better off, worse off, or about the same a year from now, a majority of respondents (53%) felt their household's financial status would be about the same. About one-quarter of residents thought their household would be better off financially in a year and about 2 in 10 said their household would be worse off. The proportion of respondents who felt their financial status would be better in a year has remained stable over time; however, residents in 2022 were less likely to feel it would be the same, and more likely to think it would be worse, when compared to 2019.

Residents enjoy the County's parks and natural spaces and express concern for environmental issues.

- ◆ Two new questions on the 2022 survey asked respondents to indicate how often they had visited Dakota County parks or greenways in the past year, as well as their reasons for not visiting more often. About 75% of residents reported using parks and greenways at least three times in the past year; only 1 in 10 had never used them.
- ◆ When asked why they had not used parks and greenways or had not used them more often, about half reported that they did not have time, while one-quarter said they didn't know enough about them to visit.
- ◆ A new question on the 2022 survey asked respondents to rate how much of a concern, if any, a number of aspects related to the environment were in Dakota County. Residents were most likely to indicate concern about climate change (56% major or moderate concern), energy use (50%), and the quality of water in rivers, lakes, and streams (48%).
- ◆ Residents were asked how important they felt it was for Dakota County to use County funds for various public purposes. About 9 in 10 felt that protecting and improving water quality and natural areas was important, while at least 8 in 10 thought it was to protect and improve wildlife habitat. Increasing public access for outdoor recreation and protecting and improving agricultural land were seen as important by about three-quarters of respondents.

Survey Background

Survey Purpose

The Dakota County Resident Survey provides residents 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 residents to provide feedback about what is working well and what is not, and to share their priorities for community planning and resource allocation.

In 2022, Dakota County collaborated with Olmsted, Scott, St. Louis and Washington Counties on this survey project. The five counties worked together with Polco/National Research Center to develop a survey instrument with a set of shared questions, as well as questions unique to each County. This report presents Dakota County's results. Comparisons of any questions asked by at least one of the other four participating counties can be found in *Appendix E: Survey Results Compared to Other Participating Minnesota Counties*.

Survey Methods

During February and March of 2022, the Dakota County Resident Survey was administered by mail to 4,200 randomly selected households within the county, distributed among the seven County Commissioner Districts. (A map of the Commissioner Districts can be found on page 191 in *Appendix G: Survey Methodology*.) Of the approximately 4,055 households that received a survey in the mail (the other surveys were sent to vacant households), 645 surveys were completed, providing a response rate of 16%. Typical response rates to a broad resident survey of this type generally range from 10% to 30%.

The survey was available online accessible via a web link provided on the cover letter accompanying each wave of the mailed survey. About 52% of the completed surveys were web-based (334), while 48% were paper-based (311). Of the 334 web-based respondents, 139 received postcards with an URL, while 195 received both a URL plus a paper survey and decided to complete the survey online.

It is customary to describe the precision of estimates made from surveys by a "level of confidence" (or margin of error). The 95 percent confidence interval around *an average* score on the 100-point scale will be no greater than plus or minus two points based on all respondents. The 95 percent confidence level for this survey of 645 residents is generally no greater than plus or minus four percentage points *around any given percent* reported for all survey respondents.

For comparisons among subgroups, the margin of error is less precise and rises to approximately plus or minus 5% around any given *percent* for subgroup sizes of 400 or plus or minus 10% for sample sizes of 100, and for smaller subgroup sizes (i.e., 50), the margin of error rises to 14%. When comparing *average* ratings among subgroups, the margin of error is plus or minus three points for subgroup sizes of 400 and is approximately plus or minus six points for subgroup sizes of 100.

Survey results were weighted so that age, gender, tenure (rent versus own), housing unit type (detached versus attached) and District of residence were represented in the proportions reflective of the entire community. (For more information on the survey methodology, see *Appendix G: Survey Methodology*. A copy of the questionnaire and mailing materials are included in *Appendix H: 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 with four representing the best rating and one the worst, 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 to show average ratings allows for comparison to other jurisdictions, where different question wording and response scales may have been used. (More explanation is provided on page 192 in *Appendix G: Survey Methodology*.)

Rounding

When a figure for a question that only permitted 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 A: 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, the majority of the figures in the body of the report display the responses from respondents who provided an opinion about a specific item.

Comparing Survey Results Over Time

Because this survey was the 9th in a series of resident surveys, the 2022 results are presented along with past ratings when available. Differences between years, as presented in the body of the report, can be considered statistically significant if they are two points or more on the 100-point scale or four percentage points or more around any given percent. Trend data for Dakota County represent important comparisons and should be examined for improvements or declines. Deviations from stable trends over time especially represent opportunities for understanding how local policies, programs or public information may have affected residents' opinions.

Dakota County survey data were collected by telephone in 2001, 2004, 2006 and 2008. In 2011, the County switched data collection from telephone to mail and continued with mail in 2013 and 2016. As a consequence of the switch in methodology, a decline from 2008 to

2011 in virtually all ratings was both expected and observed. In the previous survey administration by telephone in 2008, a small sample of residents was surveyed by mail to explore the magnitude of the differences between telephone and mail survey responses in Dakota County. Using 2008 survey research conducted by National Research Center –NRC- in Dakota County that compared mail and telephone responses, as well as NRC’s analysis of national trends comparing telephone and mail responses, NRC adjusted the findings from 2001 to 2008 to maximize the comparability of results over time. This way the reported trendline data are not influenced by the decline that is attributable to the change in data collection mode from telephone to mail.

Comparing Survey Results by Geographic and Demographic Subgroups

Selected survey results were compared by demographic characteristics of survey respondents and geographic area of residence. Comparisons by geographic area are displayed in graphical form and discussed throughout the body of the report (the full set of results by location and demographic characteristics can be found in *Appendix C: Survey Results by Respondent Characteristics*).

Comparing to Results to Other Jurisdictions

Jurisdictions use the comparative information provided by benchmarks to help interpret their own citizen survey results, to create or revise community plans, to evaluate the success of policy or budget decisions, and to measure local government performance. It is difficult to judge what is small or large without comparing to benchmarks.

Polco’s database of comparative resident opinion is comprised of resident perspectives gathered in statistically valid surveys from more than 500 jurisdictions whose residents evaluated local government services. Conducted with typically no fewer than 400 residents in each jurisdiction, opinions are intended to represent over 30 million Americans.

Jurisdictions in Polco’s normative database are distributed across the country and range from small to large in population size. Comparisons may be made to all jurisdictions or to subsets of jurisdictions within a given region or population category. Despite the differences in jurisdiction characteristics, all are in the business of providing local government services to residents. 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 residents conclude the services are of the highest quality. High ratings in any jurisdiction, like high SAT scores in any teen household, bring pride and a sense of accomplishment.

National county benchmark comparisons have been included in the report when available, and all available benchmarks are shown in *Appendix F: Benchmark Comparisons*.

Benchmark comparisons have been provided when similar questions on the Dakota 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 counties across the country.

Where comparisons for quality ratings were available, the County’s results were generally 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 Dakota County’s rating to the benchmark where a rating is considered “similar” if it is within the margin of error; “higher” or “lower” if the difference between Dakota County’s rating and the benchmark is greater than, but no more than twice the margin of error; and “much higher” or “much lower” if the difference between Dakota County’s rating and the benchmark is more than twice the margin of error.

Additionally, comparisons to the other four Minnesota Counties participating in the survey coalition with Dakota County can be found in *Appendix E: Survey Results Compared to Other Participating Minnesota Counties*.

Quality of Life and Community

Dakota County residents rated their overall quality of life in the county. On a 100-point scale where zero equals “poor” and 100 equals “excellent,” Dakota County’s average rating was 78, similar to the ratings given in 2016 and 2019.

Dakota County’s overall quality of life was much higher than ratings given to other counties across the nation (see *Appendix F: Benchmark Comparisons*).

Figure 1: Overall Quality of Life, 2022

How would you rate your overall quality of life in Dakota County?

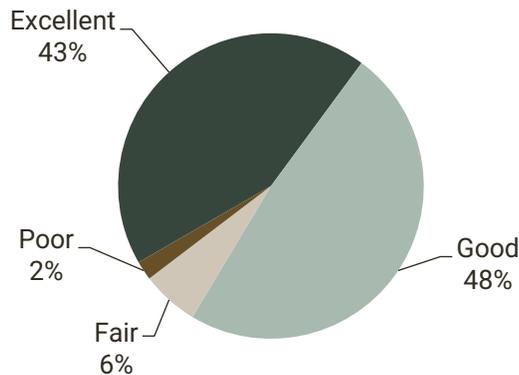
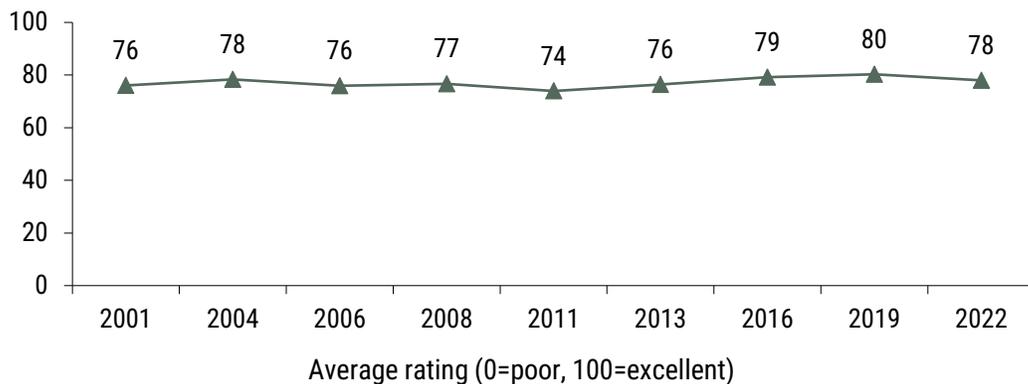


Figure 2: Average Rating of Overall Quality of Life in Dakota County by Year

How would you rate your overall quality of life in Dakota County?



The scale on the 2001 survey was "Excellent," "Good," "Only fair," "Poor."

Respondents in Districts 1 and 2 gave statistically lower ratings to the overall quality of life in Dakota County compared to respondents in most other districts (see Figure 38 for a map of Commissioner Districts in *Appendix C: Survey Results by Respondent Characteristics*).

Survey respondents identified the one thing that they liked most about living in Dakota County. As in previous years, the location of the county topped the list in 2022, with about one-fourth of respondents selecting it as the one thing they liked most about living in Dakota County. Although still at the top of the list, location decreased by nine points since 2019 (27% vs. 36%). About one-fifth of residents said the quality of life in general was what they liked most (21%), while parks and lakes were selected by 15% of respondents. The neighborhood of the residents was selected by 12% of participants, while the rural character of the county was noted by 9%. Fewer than 5% of respondents selected each of the remaining four categories listed on the survey.

Figure 3: Like Most About Living in County By Year

What one thing do you like most about living in Dakota County?	2022	2019	2016	2013	2011	2008	2006	2004	2001
Location	27%	36%	36%	38%	31%	26%	28%	27%	31%
Quality of life in general	21%	23%	21%	16%	22%	5%	4%	3%	0%
Parks/lakes	15%	12%	10%	7%	9%	10%	8%	7%	4%
My neighborhood	12%	9%	9%	10%	11%	4%	5%	4%	7%
Rural character	9%	7%	3%	4%	3%	7%	4%	5%	22%
Schools	4%	6%	4%	6%	6%	6%	8%	6%	9%
Open space	4%	3%	4%	7%	4%	4%	4%	3%	0%
Low taxes	3%	2%	2%	3%	3%	0%	3%	4%	0%
People	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	5%	4%	2%	6%
Small town feel	N/A	N/A	6%	6%	6%	6%	3%	5%	5%
Other*	4%	1%	4%	4%	5%	27%	30%	36%	16%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Prior to 2011, this was an open-ended question where respondents were able to answer using their own words, and the telephone interviewer reported the response in the most appropriate category. The most frequently selected categories from surveys prior to 2011 comprised most of the response options on the mailed surveys, from which respondents were instructed to choose one option from the list provided

In 2019, 'small town feel' was removed as a response option. In 2016, 2013 and 2011, this question was presented as fixed response (i.e., respondents were presented a list of items from which to choose), whereas, between 2008 and 2001, this question was open-ended (i.e., no list presented). It is important to note that "location" was the first item listed (top left) on the survey; while we cannot determine that this placement influenced the results, there is potential that placement of options has an impact on the overall results.

** When a respondent identified an unlisted, or "other," item, the response was captured verbatim. These responses appear in Appendix B: Verbatim Responses to Survey Questions.*

County Characteristics

When asked to rate various characteristics as they related to the County as a whole, six characteristics received average ratings that were between “good” and “excellent” while seven got averages rating between “good” and “fair” on a 100-point scale, where zero is equal to “poor,” 33 equals “fair,” 67 represents “good,” and 100 is equivalent to “excellent.”

Dakota County as a place to live received the highest average rating (79 on the 100-point scale or between “good” and “excellent”) and has remained stable since 2013 (see Figure 4 on the following page). Dakota County as a place to raise a family and outdoor recreational opportunities in the County received the next highest average ratings (78 and 77, respectively, on the 100-point scale, or just above “good”).

Availability of affordable housing (44 points) and availability of quality and affordable child care (46) were rated less positively, between “good” and “fair” on the 100-point scale.

When compared to 2019, ratings were generally stable. However, the economic health of the county increased 10 points in the last 10 years (from 60 points in 2013 to 70 points in 2022), while outdoor recreational opportunities rose nine points in the same time span.

Ratings of Dakota County characteristics were compared to those given by residents in other counties nationwide. Where comparisons were available, ratings tended to be higher or much higher in Dakota County compared to the benchmark (see Figure 5 on the following page).

Ratings given by respondents living in the seven different County Commissioner Districts were compared. Residents who lived in Districts 3, 4 and 6 tended to give higher ratings to Dakota County as a place to raise a family than those who lived in other districts, while District 5 respondents gave more positive ratings to the availability of affordable quality child care than others.

Ratings were also compared by a selection of demographic characteristics of survey respondents. Those aged 35 and older, who lived in detached housing, or who owned their homes tended to give higher ratings to County characteristics than their counterparts (see *Appendix C: Survey Results by Respondent Characteristics*).

Figure 4: Average Ratings of County Characteristics by Year

Please rate each of the following characteristics of Dakota County.	Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)								
	2022	2019	2016	2013	2011	2008	2006	2004	2001
Dakota County as a place to live	79	80	78	77	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Dakota County as a place to raise a family	78	79	76	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Outdoor recreational opportunities in Dakota County	77	76	75	68	67	NA	NA	NA	NA
Overall image or reputation of Dakota County	70	71	68	66	67	NA	NA	NA	NA
Economic health of Dakota County	70	67	65	60	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Dakota County as a place to work †	69	71	67	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Availability of bike and pedestrian transportation options	66	66	64	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Sense of community	62	63	61	57	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Availability of employment opportunities †	61	59	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Dakota County as a place to retire †	61	64	58	60	58	NA	NA	NA	NA
Openness and acceptance of people with diverse backgrounds	59	59	57	58	60	NA	NA	NA	NA
Availability of quality, affordable child care †	46	49	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Availability of affordable housing †	44	43	49	53	49	47	46	50	NA

† Note: in 2022, at least 20% of respondents answered "don't know" to these items. Proportions shown in the figure are of those who had an opinion. Prior to 2016, 'outdoor recreational opportunities' was 'recreational opportunities' and 'availability of affordable housing' was 'availability of quality affordable housing.' New questions in 2016 were "Dakota County as a place to work," "Dakota County as a place to raise a family," and "Availability of bike and pedestrian transportation options." All other questions were new in 2011 except for "Availability of affordable housing." Several question parts were worded differently in earlier surveys. In 2006 and 2004, availability of affordable housing was affordable housing; availability of quality, affordable child care was access to affordable quality childcare. These questions were not asked in 2001.

Figure 5: Community Characteristics Benchmarks

Please rate each of the following characteristics of Dakota County.	Comparison to benchmark
Dakota County as a place to live	Higher
Dakota County as a place to work	Much higher
Dakota County as a place to retire	Similar
Dakota County as a place to raise a family	Much higher
Sense of community	Higher
Openness and acceptance of people with diverse backgrounds	Higher
Outdoor recreational opportunities in Dakota County	Much higher
Economic health of Dakota County	Much higher
Availability of employment opportunities	Much higher
Availability of quality, affordable child care	Higher
Availability of affordable housing	Much higher
Overall image or reputation of Dakota County	Much higher

Community-wide Problems

Survey respondents evaluated a list of potential problems as being a “major problem,” a “moderate problem,” a “minor problem,” or “not a problem” in Dakota County. When converted to the 100-point scale where zero equals “not a problem” and 100 equals “major problem,” many of the potential issues were thought to be between a “moderate” problem and “minor problem” (between 47 and 35).

The two issues that emerged as most problematic (though still below the threshold of “moderate problem”) were the affordability of housing (60) and crime (50); the latter has notably increased 13 points since the 2019 survey.

Homelessness and poverty also experienced increased mentions as problems. Homelessness grew from a rating of 26 in 2019 to the current 36, while poverty increased from an average rating of 34 three years ago to 43 in the current survey.

Residents who lived in District 1 were more likely to rate taxes as a problem than residents who lived in other districts, while those who lived in Districts 4 and 6 tended to rate poverty as less of a problem. Residents who were female tended to rate poverty, homelessness, affordability of housing, availability of living wage jobs, and traffic congestion as more of a problem than residents who were male (see *Appendix C: Survey Results by Respondent Characteristics*).

Figure 6: Average Ratings of Potential Problems by Year

Please rate, to what degree, each of the following is a problem in Dakota County.	Average rating (0=not a problem, 100=major problem)								
	2022	2019	2016	2013	2011	2008	2006	2004	2001
Affordability of housing	60	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Crime	50	37	38	39	39	35	44	38	NA
Availability of living wage jobs †	47	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Poverty †	43	34	40	39	36	32	36	33	NA
Taxes	43	45	47	48	51	50	NA	45	NA
Traffic congestion	38	39	41	40	42	43	50	52	NA
Homelessness †	36	26	27	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Traffic safety	35	33	36	34	36	NA	NA	NA	NA

† Note: in 2022, at least 20% of respondents answered “don’t know” to poverty, availability of living wage jobs and homelessness. Proportions shown in the figure are of those who had an opinion. The scale differed between years. In 2008, the bottom of the scale read “not at all a problem,” whereas in 2004, 2006, 2011, 2013 and 2016, it read “not a problem.” These questions were not asked in 2001.

Most Serious Issue Facing Dakota County

Respondents identified, in their own words, the most serious issue facing Dakota County. The responses were captured verbatim and grouped into categories that best fit the response. Crime and safety (19%) was the most frequently mentioned issue and topped the list for the first time since the County began to conduct the resident survey in 2001. The level of concern about crime and safety increased 10 points in comparison with the 2019 survey.

Affordable housing, which was the top concern three years ago, was the second most-commonly mentioned topic in 2022 with 13% of the mentions, followed by growth and development (9%), taxes (8%), sense of community (6%) and schools (5%).

Three new categories were created in 2022 to fit respondents' written answers were: COVID impact (3%), inflation (3%), and political division (2%).

With 3% or fewer responses also appeared categories such as jobs, traffic congestion, infrastructure and the preservation of natural areas. Economic development mentions went down from 6% in 2019 to the current 1%, while 8% of respondents made a comment outside of the established categories, coded as "other". The "other" responses, along with all comments, appear in *Appendix B: Verbatim Responses to Survey Questions*.

Because of a methodological change (fixed-response options in 2011 versus an open-ended question in all other years), it is recommended that the reader make little of the differences between the 2011 responses and the responses for all other survey years.

Figure 7: Most Serious Issue Facing Dakota County By Year

What do you feel is the most serious issue facing Dakota County at this time?	Percent of respondents								
	2022	2019	2016	2013	2011*	2008	2006	2004	2001
Crime and safety issues	19%	9%	12%	14%	3%	5%	6%	4%	8%
Affordable housing	13%	20%	11%	6%	5%	4%	4%	3%	0%
Growth/development	9%	10%	8%	0%	12%	17%	24%	22%	27%
Taxes	8%	12%	10%	16%	20%	17%	13%	10%	16%
Sense of community, diversity, etc.	6%	4%	6%	9%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Schools	5%	4%	5%	3%	13%	7%	10%	12%	22%
Pollution/environmental concerns	3%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Jobs	3%	0%	2%	7%	17%	3%	2%	2%	0%
COVID impact	3%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Inflation	3%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Traffic congestion	2%	9%	5%	9%	6%	7%	8%	9%	7%
Homelessness and poverty	2%	3%	5%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Updating infrastructure	2%	1%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Preserving natural areas/protecting natural resources	2%	0%	1%	3%	0%	1%	1%	2%	0%
Political divisions	2%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Economic development	1%	6%	4%	6%	12%	3%	2%	3%	0%
Condition of roads	1%	4%	6%	2%	8%	6%	4%	5%	4%
Quality of county services	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Teen drug/alcohol use	1%	0%	1%	1%	0%	2%	1%	2%	0%
Public transportation	0%	2%	4%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Government spending	0%	1%	2%	4%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Noise pollution	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
No issue	0%	0%	2%	2%	0%	4%	6%	5%	0%
Other	5%	13%	10%	7%	2%	14%	7%	14%	14%

These percentages represent the 484 respondents who chose to write in a response. In 2011, this question was presented as fixed response (i.e., respondents were presented a list of items from which to choose), whereas, between 2008 and 2001 along with 2013 and 2016, this question was open-end. In 2013, "crime and safety issues" was "crime" and "sense of community, diversity, etc." was "sense of community." New items in 2016 were "pollution/environmental concerns," "quality of county services," "homelessness and poverty," "public transportation," and "noise pollution."

*This question was a single response question in 2011 but an open-ended question in all other survey years, so any differences should be interpreted cautiously. 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 jobs), while in an interview or given the opportunity to write anything, a respondent would more likely stay with their first thought.

Safety in Dakota County

Residents were asked how safe they felt from different types of crimes, as well as safety in different county locations (see Figure 8 on the following page). 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.”

All items with the exception of one received an average rating that was equal to “somewhat” safe or better. Respondents reported feeling the safest while in County office buildings, libraries and courtrooms and while in schools or places of worship in Dakota County (87 and 85 points, respectively, or close to “very safe”). Residents felt less safe from electronic crimes (e.g., identity theft, phone scams), providing an average rating of 57 or between “somewhat safe” and “somewhat unsafe.”

When compared to the 2019 results, feelings of safety in 2022 declined for feeling safe from gang activity, from violent crime, and from property crime; other perceived ratings of safety remained stable since the previous survey iteration.

Two of the 11 safety ratings could be compared to safety ratings in other counties across the country; Dakota County was rated similar to the benchmark for feelings of safety from property crimes and violent crimes.

Generally, residents living in Districts 1 and 2 reported lower feelings of safety from illegal drug activities, from domestic violence, and from gang activity than residents living in other areas. Respondents aged between 35 and 55 or who earned more than \$100,000 per year indicated higher feelings of safety than other residents (see *Appendix C: Survey Results by Respondent Characteristics*).

Figure 8: Average Ratings of Perceptions of Safety in Dakota County by Year

Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel from the following in Dakota County.	Average rating (0=very unsafe, 100=very safe)								
	2022	2019	2016	2013	2011	2008	2006	2004	2001
While in County office buildings, libraries, courtrooms	87	90	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
While in schools or places of worship in Dakota County	85	88	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
From domestic violence	85	86	84	83	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
While in your neighborhood	84	87	83	80	75	83	84	86	78
From gang activity	78	83	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
While using Dakota County parks, trails and greenways	78	80	78	78	78	76	77	78	NA
From violent crimes (e.g., rape, assault, robbery)	77	83	81	80	80	80	73	79	NA
While driving on roads within Dakota County	74	76	72	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
From illegal drug activity (e.g., manufacturing or selling drugs)	68	69	68	66	67	NA	NA	NA	NA
From property crimes (e.g., burglary, theft)	67	74	72	70	72	72	67	72	NA
From electronic crimes (e.g., identity theft, phone scams)	57	58	61	62	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Respondents could identify an unlisted, or "other," type of activity or location. The response was captured verbatim and appear in Appendix B: Verbatim Responses to Survey Questions. Prior to 2019, 'from illegal drug activity (e.g., selling drugs)' included 'manufacturing' in parenthesis and 'from electronic crimes (e.g., identity theft, phone scams)' was 'from identity theft (e.g., fraud, scams, credit card theft).' Several question parts were worded differently in earlier surveys. 'From identify theft (e.g., fraud, scams, credit card theft)' was 'From identify theft.' 'While driving on roads within Dakota County' was "From drunk or impaired drivers on County roads" in 2013, 'From drunk drivers on County roads' in 2011 and "from drunk driving when traveling within the county" in 2008 and "traveling on county roads" in 2006; safety "While in your neighborhood" was a separate question in 2008; "In Dakota County parks" and "on trails in Dakota County parks" were combined in 2006 as follows: "on Dakota County parks and trails" and remained for 2008 and 2011 but was reworded in 2013 to "While using Dakota County parks and trails". In 2022 it was changed to "While using Dakota County parks, trails and greenways". "From identity theft" was a new question in 2013. In 2001, a question was asked about "How safe would you feel walking alone in your neighborhood in general?" with a response scale of "very safe," "reasonably safe," "very unsafe." 'Other, please specify' was a new question in 2016.

Figure 9: Feelings of Safety Benchmarks

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

Health Concerns

As in previous surveys, respondents assessed various potential health concerns in Dakota County (see Figure 10 on the following page). Average ratings for all listed health concerns, where zero equals “not at all a concern” and 100 equals “major concern,” fell between a “moderate” and “minor” concern.

Depression, anxiety, and other mental illnesses, at 57 points, topped the list of health concerns in Dakota County in 2022. Overweight adults and children (56 points) and bullying (52) were also of concern among respondents, with average ratings closer to a “moderate” concern than a “minor” concern.

Compared to 2019, many health concerns showed increases in 2022, including depression, anxiety, and other mental illnesses, quality of parenting skills, the health and support of older adults, the spread of infectious diseases, social isolation, and the abuse and neglect of older adults or vulnerable adults. The surge of at least some of these concerns is possibly linked to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Residents of District 1 tended to express higher levels of concern with tobacco use, illegal drug use, and illegal use of prescribed medications than those who lived elsewhere in the County. Residents who were age 55 or older, were female, or who rented their homes tended to rate various health concerns in Dakota County as more of a concern than their counterparts.

Figure 10: Average Ratings of Health Concerns By Year

Please rate to what degree, if at all, each of the following is a health concern in Dakota County.	Average rating (0=not at all a concern, 100=major concern)								
	2022	2019	2016	2013	2011	2008	2006	2004	2001
Depression, anxiety, and other mental illnesses †	57	48	47	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Overweight adults and children	56	54	56	58	59	58	55	54	NA
Bullying †	52	52	48	49	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Quality of parenting skills of parents of children ages 0-17 †	51	46	50	51	42	38	46	37	NA
The health and support of older adults †	51	45	46	42	53	47	56	NA	NA
Spread of infectious diseases †	51	37	38	36	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Abuse and neglect of children †	50	46	48	47	52	46	38	37	NA
Social isolation †	50	37	35	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Illegal drug use (e.g., heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine) †	49	49	50	49	55	57	63	NA	NA
The health and support of persons with disabilities †	49	45	45	41	49	NA	NA	NA	NA
Abuse and neglect of older adults or vulnerable adults †	49	44	45	43	49	NA	NA	NA	NA
Illegal use of prescribed medications (such as opioids) †	48	49	44	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Alcohol abuse among adults †	45	41	44	44	48	46	NA	NA	NA
Underage alcohol use †	42	43	47	48	55	60	61	57	NA
Environmental hazards (e.g., polluted water or toxic waste)	40	36	36	37	38	NA	NA	NA	NA
Tobacco use (including E-cigarettes and chewing tobacco)	33	38	36	31	32	40	52	49	NA

† Note: in 2022, at least 20% of respondents answered "don't know" to these items. Proportions shown in the figure are of those who had an opinion.

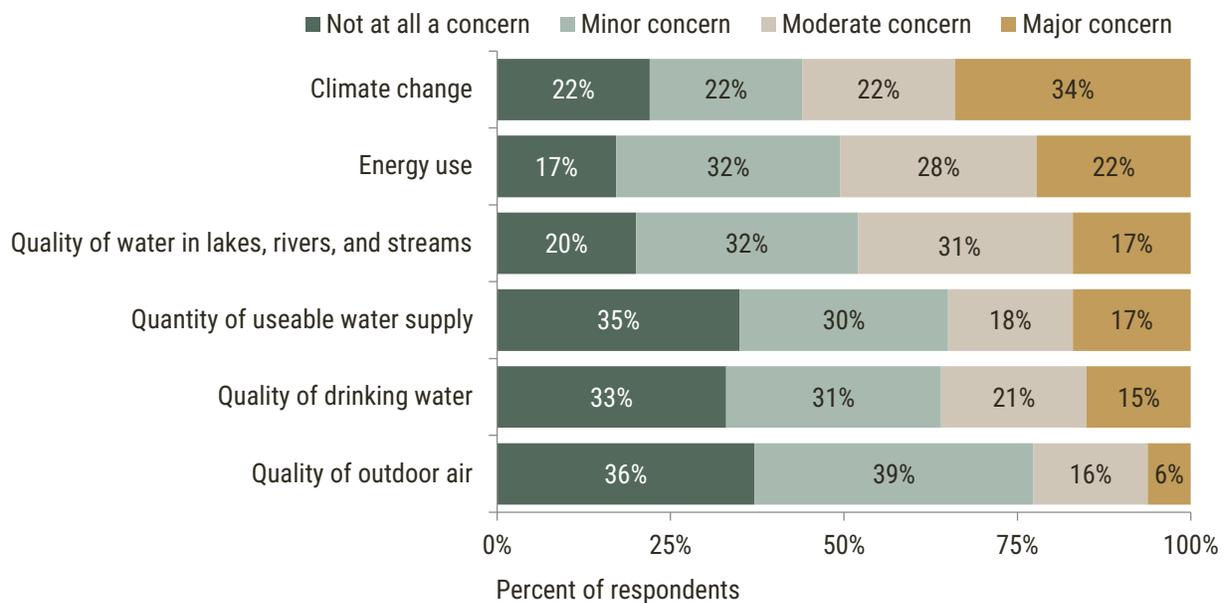
Prior to 2019, 'illegal drug use' and 'illegal use of prescribed medications' did not include any items in parenthesis and 'abuse and neglect of older adults or vulnerable adults' did not include 'vulnerable adults.' Several question parts were worded differently in earlier surveys. In 2013, 'Tobacco use (including E-cigarettes and chewing tobacco)' was 'Tobacco use' and in 2006, 'tobacco use' was 'youth tobacco use'; in 2006 and 2004 'underage alcohol use' was 'underage drinking'; 'overweight adults and children' was 'obesity'. Neither illegal drug use nor 'the health and support of older adults' and 'The health and support of persons with disabilities' was asked in 2004 and "older adults" was "elderly" in 2011. In 2004, "Quality of parenting skills of parents of children ages 0-17" was inadequate care and parenting for infants and young children and in 2006, 2008 and 2011 was inadequate care and parenting for infants and young children. In 2006 and 2004, 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, not a problem. These questions were not asked in 2001. "Suicide," "Bullying" and "Spread of infectious disease" were new questions in 2013. New questions in 2016 included 'Depression, anxiety, and other mental illnesses,' 'Social isolation,' and 'Illegal use of prescribed medications.'

Environmental Concerns

A new question on the 2022 survey asked respondents to rate how much of a concern, if any, a number of aspects related to the environment were in Dakota County. Residents were most likely to indicate concern about climate change (56% major or moderate concern), energy use (50%), and the quality of water in rivers, lakes, and streams (48%). Survey participants were least likely to be concerned with the quality of outdoor air, with about 2 in 10 rating this as a major or moderate concern and 8 in 10 rating it as a minor concern or not a concern.

Figure 11: Environmental Concerns, 2022

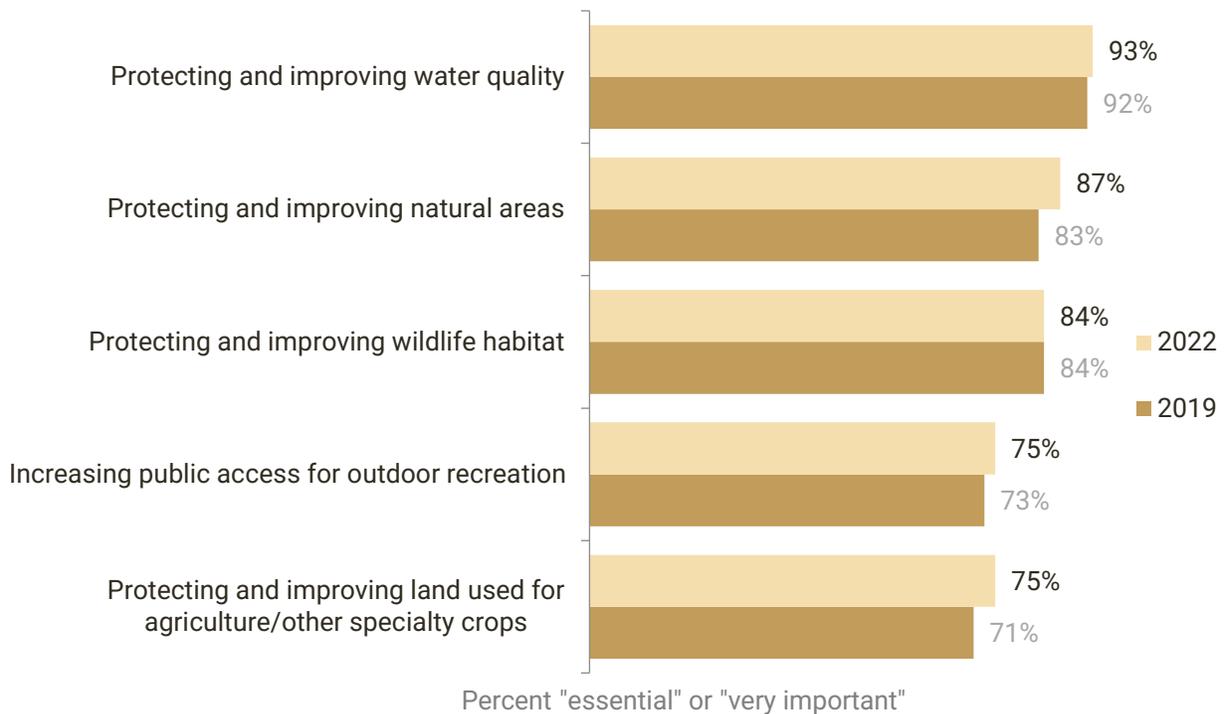
Please rate to what degree, if at all, each of the following is an environmental concern in Dakota County.



Respondents were asked how important they felt it was for Dakota County to use County funds for various public purposes. About 9 in 10 felt that protecting and improving water quality and natural areas was important, while at least 8 in 10 thought it was important to protect and improve wildlife habitat. Increasing public access for outdoor recreation and protecting and improving agricultural land were seen as important by about three-quarters of respondents. These proportions were similar to those observed in 2019.

Figure 12: Importance of Investing in Preserved Land by Year

Since 2003, Dakota County and partners have preserved land outside of County parks for many public purposes. How important, if at all, is it to continue using County funds for these purposes?



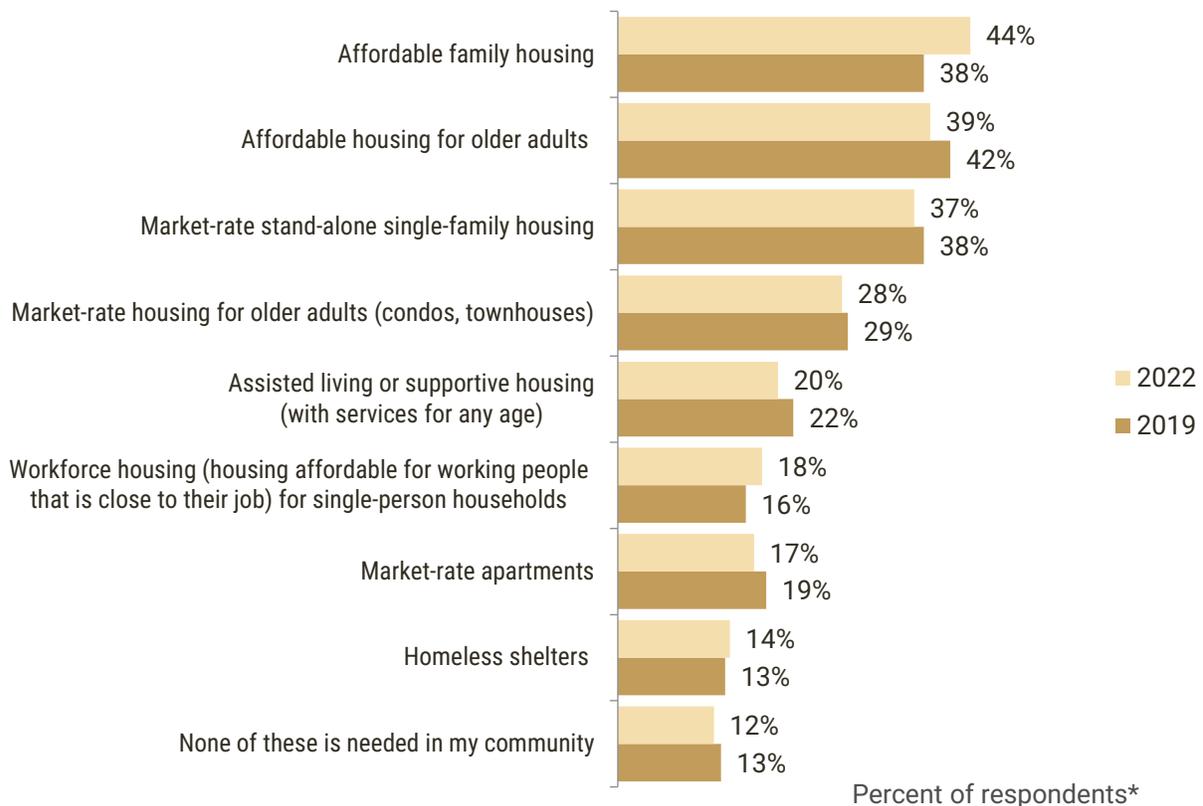
Housing Needs

In 2019 County and CDA staff worked together to develop a new question about a mutual interest: what type of housing County residents felt was most needed in their community. There were eight housing types presented (as well as an option to say none of them were needed), and respondents could choose up to three types.

Affordable family housing topped the list of most-needed housing in Dakota County in the 2022 survey, gathering 44% of the respondents' selections, a 6% increase since 2019. Affordable housing for older adults (39%) and market-rate stand-alone single-family housing (37%) were the next most-frequently selected housing types.

Figure 13: Housing Needs, 2022

What type of housing is most needed in your community? Choose up to three (3).



* Totals exceed 100% as respondents could select up to three options.

** In the launch of the web-based survey, an error of programming limited to one the number of accepted responses. The error was fixed promptly although the first 25 respondents could choose one item from the list, and not three as intended. The validity of the results shouldn't be affected by the error.

Highway Improvements

Respondents were asked which highway they thought was most in need of **safety** improvements, and could write in whatever highway came to mind (there were no response options to choose from). Among the 342 respondents who named a highway, the most frequently mentioned one was Co Rd 42, named by 21% of respondents. MN-77, Hwy 3 and I-35 were the next most-frequently mentioned, by 12%, 10% and 7% of respondents, respectively.

Those completing the survey were also asked which highway in Dakota County was most in need of **congestion** improvements (see Figure 15 on the following page). Of the 645 survey participants, 329 respondents named a highway. The highway mentioned most frequently was again Co Rd 42; it was mentioned by 23% of respondents. The next most commonly cited highways were MN-77, mentioned by 10% of respondents and I-35, named by 7% of respondents. MN-3, Highway 13 and US-52 were mentioned by 6% to 8% of respondents.

Figure 14: Highways Needing Safety Improvements, 2022
Which highway in Dakota County needs the most safety improvements?

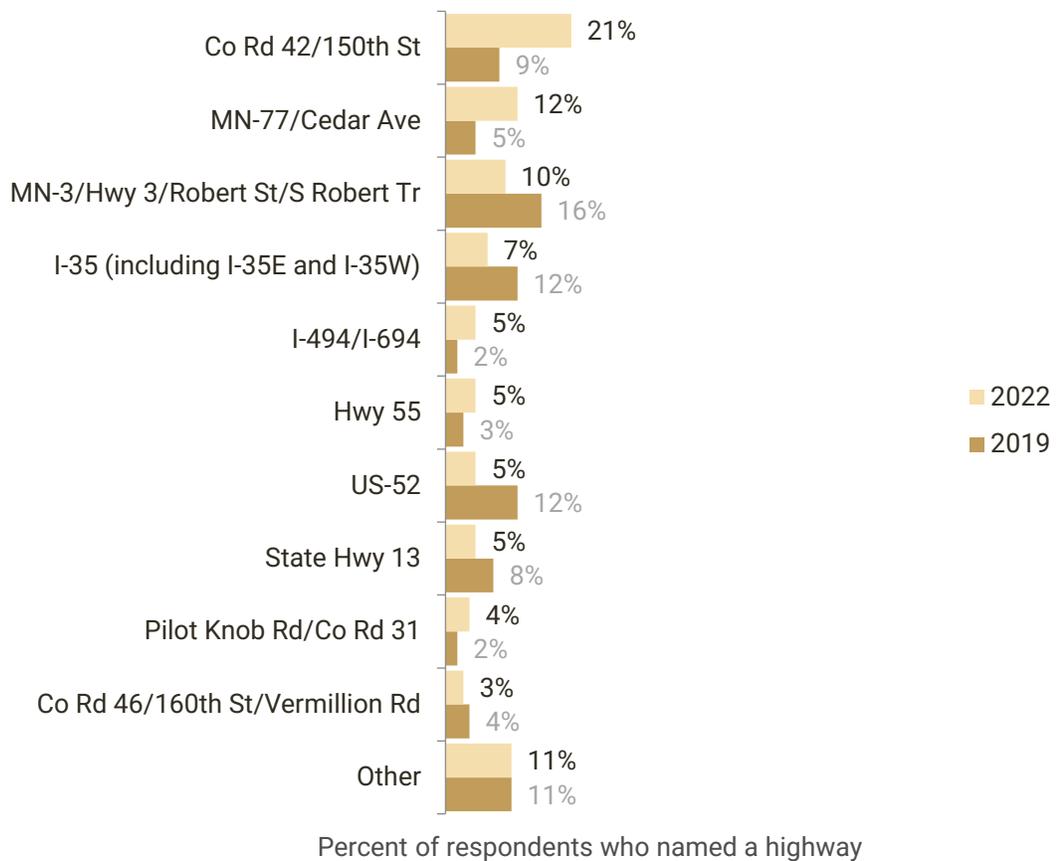
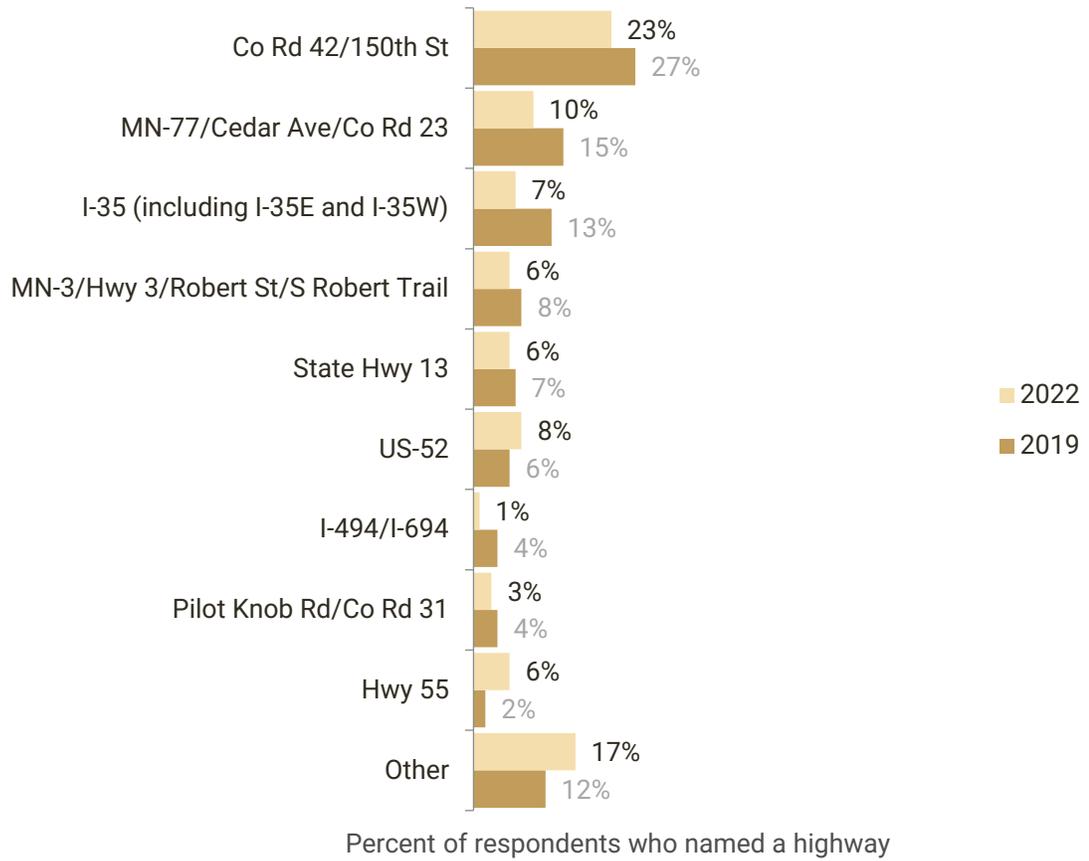


Figure 15: Highways Needing Congestion Improvements, 2022

Which highway in Dakota County needs the most *congestion* improvements?

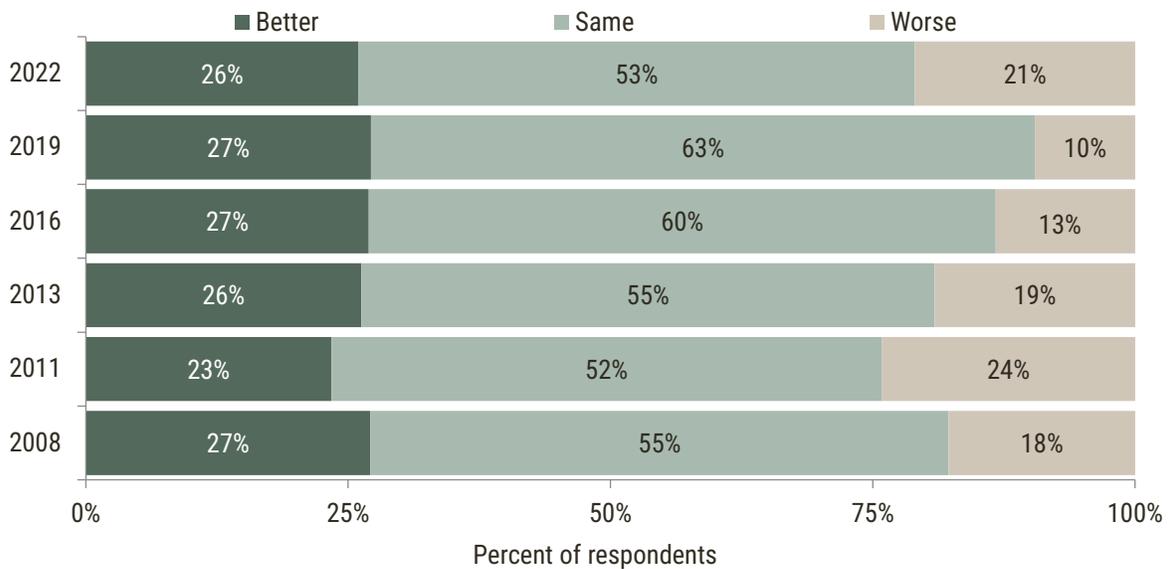


Household Financial Status

When asked if they felt their household would be better off financially, worse off, or about the same a year from now, a majority of respondents (53%) felt their household’s financial status would be about the same. About one-quarter of residents thought their household would be better off financially in a year and about 2 in 10 said their household would be worse off. The proportion of respondents who felt their financial status would be better in a year has remained stable over time; however, residents in 2022 were less likely to feel it would be the same, and more likely to think it would be worse, when compared to 2019.

Figure 16: Financial Status by Year

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?



Evaluation of Government Services

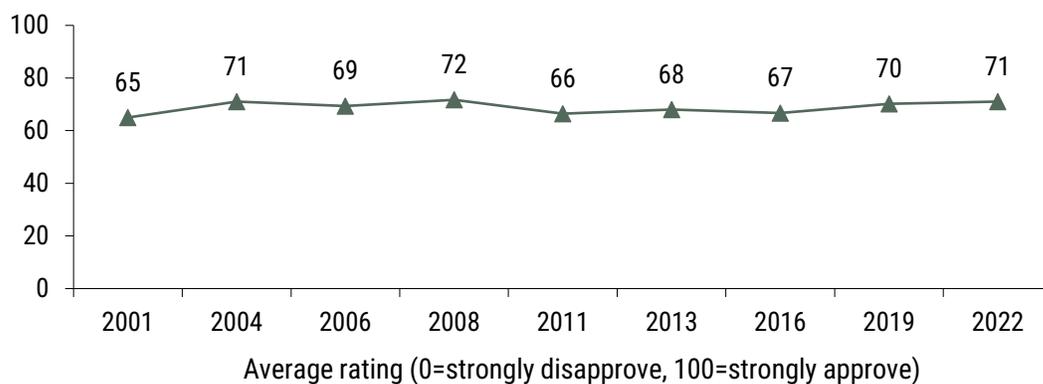
Residents completing the survey responded to a number of questions related to Dakota County government, leadership, employee performance and the quality of County services.

County Government Performance

Most residents in 2022 approved of the job the Dakota County Board is doing, providing an average rating of 71, or just above “somewhat approve.” This rating was similar to the 2019 score and on par with most other survey years.

Figure 17: Average Ratings of County Board Approval by Year

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



† Note: in 2022, at least 20% of respondents answered “don’t know” to this question. Proportions shown in the figure are of those who had an opinion. *In 2001, this question was worded differently: “From what you know, do you approve or disapprove of the job the County board is doing? And do you feel strongly that way?” and the response options were: “approve/strongly,” “approve,” “disapprove,” “disapprove/strongly.”

Resident perceptions about various aspects of the Dakota County government performance were measured through the survey (see Figure 18 on the following page). Ratings for each aspect of the County Government were clustered between “good” and “fair” on the 100-point scale, where zero equals “poor” and 100 equals “excellent.” Respondents rated the job the County does supporting the quality of life in the county and providing information to residents positively, with an average rating of 65 in both cases. Dakota County’s public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic was also rated close to good (63). Residents gave somewhat lower ratings to the job Dakota County government does at listening to residents (54) and managing tax dollars (55).

Ratings for most aspects of County government performance have remained stable over the last four survey iterations with the exception of the overall confidence in the Dakota County government, which has improved over time (58 points in 2013 vs 63 in 2022).

When compared to ratings given to other counties across the U.S., Dakota County government performance ratings were higher or much higher for each of the five aspects that could be compared, including providing information to residents and the value of services for the taxes paid to Dakota County (see Figure 19 on the following page). When compared to the four other Minnesota counties who surveyed with Dakota County in 2022, Dakota County government performance ratings were highest in most categories (see Table 129 in *Appendix E: Survey Results Compared to Other Participating Minnesota Counties*).

Residents who lived in District 6 tended to give lower ratings to the job County government does of providing information to residents and listening to residents, while District 1 residents gave lower ratings to County government supporting the quality of life in the county (see *Appendix C: Survey Results by Respondent Characteristics*).

Figure 18: Average Ratings of Perception of Government By Year

Please rate the following categories of Dakota County government performance.	Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)								
	2022	2019	2016	2013	2011	2008	2006	2004	2001
Supporting the quality of life in Dakota County	65	65	63	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
The job Dakota County government does of providing information to residents	65	64	63	61	57	52	59	60	64
Dakota County's public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic	63	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Generally acting in the best interest of the community	63	63	61	60	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Overall confidence in Dakota County government	63	62	60	58	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
The value of Dakota County services to the quality of life in my neighborhood	62	62	60	60	55	64	53	NA	NA
Effectively planning for the future of the county †	62	61	58	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
The value of services for the taxes paid to Dakota County	57	57	55	54	46	46	48	54	43
The job Dakota County government does at managing tax dollars †	55	54	54	52	44	45	48	51	NA
The job Dakota County government does of listening to residents †	54	55	52	54	48	48	44	47	NA

† Note: in 2022, at least 20% of respondents answered “don’t know” to this question. Proportions shown in the figure are of those who had an opinion. Several question parts were worded differently in earlier surveys. “The job Dakota County government does of providing information to residents” was “the job Dakota County government does at informing residents” in 2011; “the value of Dakota County services to the quality of life in my neighborhood” was “the importance of Dakota County services to the quality of life in my neighborhood” in 2011. Items added in 2016 included “supporting the quality of life in the county” and “effectively planning for the future of the county.” Before 2011, respondents were asked how strongly they agreed or disagreed with several statements. As with the response scale and question wording, the wording of the items also changed: the job Dakota County government does at listening to residents was “feel Dakota government listens to citizens,” the value of services for the taxes paid to Dakota County was “feel I receive good value for the Dakota taxes I pay,”

the job Dakota County government does at managing tax dollars was “overall, I feel that Dakota County does a good job of managing tax dollars,” and “the importance of Dakota County services to the quality of life in my neighborhood” was “feel that the services provided by Dakota County are important to the quality of life in my neighborhood.”

Figure 19: Perception of County Government Benchmarks

Please rate the following categories of Dakota County government performance.	Comparison to benchmark
The job Dakota County government does of providing information to residents	Much higher
The job Dakota County government does of listening to residents	Higher
The value of services for the taxes paid to Dakota County	Much higher
The job Dakota County government does at managing tax dollars	Much higher
Generally acting in the best interest of the community	Much higher

Quality of County Services

Residents rated a number of individual County-provided services as well as the overall quality of services provided by Dakota County. The 2022 rating of 69 on the 100-point scale has shown a steady increase since 2013 (value of 62). The overall quality of County services remains much higher than the national county average.

Figure 20: Average Ratings of Overall Quality of County Services by Year

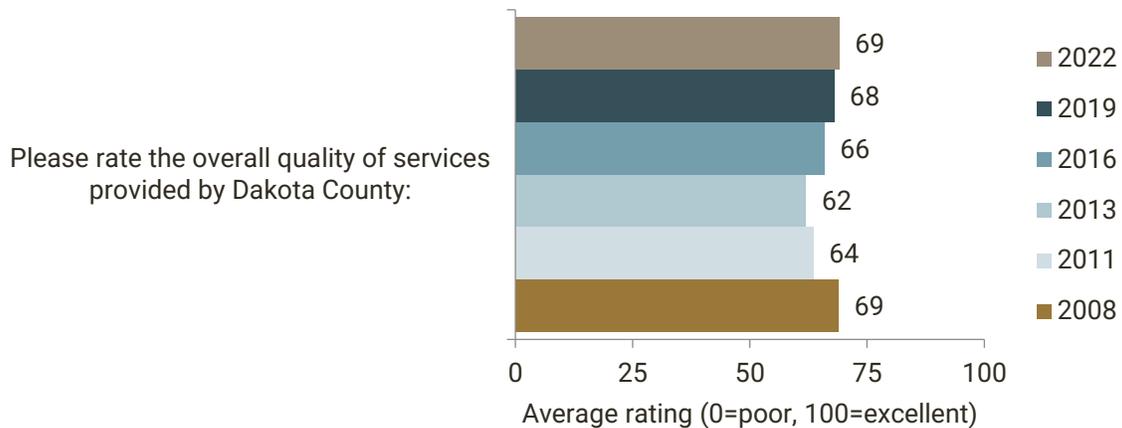


Figure 21: Overall Quality of Services Benchmark

Please rate each of the following services provided by Dakota County.	Comparison to benchmark
Overall quality of services provided by Dakota County	Much higher

Respondents assessed the quality of ten County services (see Figure 22 on the following page) and ratings were converted to a 100-point scale where zero is equal to “poor” and 100 represents “excellent.”

As in the past four surveys, in 2022 County parks and recreation (average rating of 86), County libraries (85), trail and greenways systems (81), Sheriff deputies patrol services (68) and snow and ice removal on County roads (68) received scores that were above 67 points (or “good”). Average ratings for other County services in 2022 fell between “fair” and “good” on the 100-point scale, although they were closer to the “good” score of 67.

COVID-19 services such as providing information, testing and vaccines was newly included in the 2022 survey, getting an average rating of 61 points.

Overall, ratings of County services were stable from 2019 to 2022 with one notable drop: the prosecution of people accused of crimes decreased from 62 points in 2019 to 49 points in 2022 (the lowest rating to date).

Three of the 10 services could be compared to the national county averages. Dakota Sheriff deputies patrol services and park protection services were rated similar to the benchmark, while County libraries and snow and ice removal were rated much higher. The benchmark comparison for snow and ice removal is noteworthy, as the survey data were collected in the winter months and the average resident rating was slightly higher for snow and ice removal item than the average rating for condition of county roads.

Residents in Districts 3, 6 and 7, as well as those age 35 and older, tended to give higher quality ratings to County libraries than their counterparts (see *Appendix C: Survey Results by Respondent Characteristics*).

Figure 22: Average Ratings of County Services By Year

Please rate the following services provided by Dakota County.	Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)								
	2022	2019	2016	2013	2011	2008	2006	2004	2001
County parks and recreation (e.g., Lebanon Hills, Thompson County Park, Whitetail Woods, Spring Lake Park, Lake Byllesby or Miesville)	86	85	84	81	80	76	74	77	76
County libraries	85	85	82	84	80	81	78	80	82
Trail and bikeway system like the Mississippi River or Big Rivers Trail †	81	81	78	78	75	72	70	73	70
Sheriff deputies patrol and park protection services †	68	70	68	77	70	69	70	70	72
Snow and ice removal on County roads	68	67	68	65	61	70	67	65	73
Condition of County roads (e.g., Cliff or Pilot Knob Roads, Kenwood Trail, Wentworth Ave., or County Road 42)	65	66	61	63	56	53	57	59	63
COVID-19 services such as providing information, testing, vaccines	61	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Addressing important health issues in communities †	57	59	57	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Administering property tax †	55	54	49	43	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Prosecuting people accused of crimes †	49	62	60	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

† Note: in 2022, at least 20% of respondents answered "don't know" to this question. Proportions shown in the figure are of those who had an opinion. Prior to 2022, 'Administering property tax' was worded as 'Assessment process/property tax system'. Prior to 2019, 'Sheriff deputies patrol and park protection services' did not include 'park protection'. New questions for 2016 included 'Addressing important health issues in communities' and 'Prosecuting people accused of crimes.' "Assessment process/property tax system" was a new item in 2013.

Figure 23: Quality of Services Benchmarks

Please rate each of the following services provided by Dakota County.	Comparison to benchmark
County libraries	Much higher
Snow and ice removal on County roads	Much higher
Sheriff deputies patrol and park protection services	Similar

County Services by Recent Users

Those completing the survey were asked to evaluate several additional services provided by Dakota County but only if they had experienced them within the last two years. For most of these services, between 72% and 86% of respondents did not use the service and selected “don’t know/not applicable.” The exceptions were “Records, passports, licensing, and vehicle registration” (just 13% had not used in the last two years), “Services at the Recycling Zone” (29%) and “Information available on the County website” (32%).

Of those who had used the services within the last two years, the Recycling Zone (75) and employment support and the Workforce Center services (69) were awarded the highest quality ratings, at or above “good” on the 100-point scale. Services for people experiencing mental illness received the lowest average rating (50 on the 100-point scale). Overall, user ratings of these services were similar in 2022 and 2019, although ratings for three services experienced increases: financial assistance for low-income families (+10 points), services for people with disabilities (+8 points), and services provided to older adults (+6 points).

Figure 24: Average Ratings of County Services by Recent Users By Year

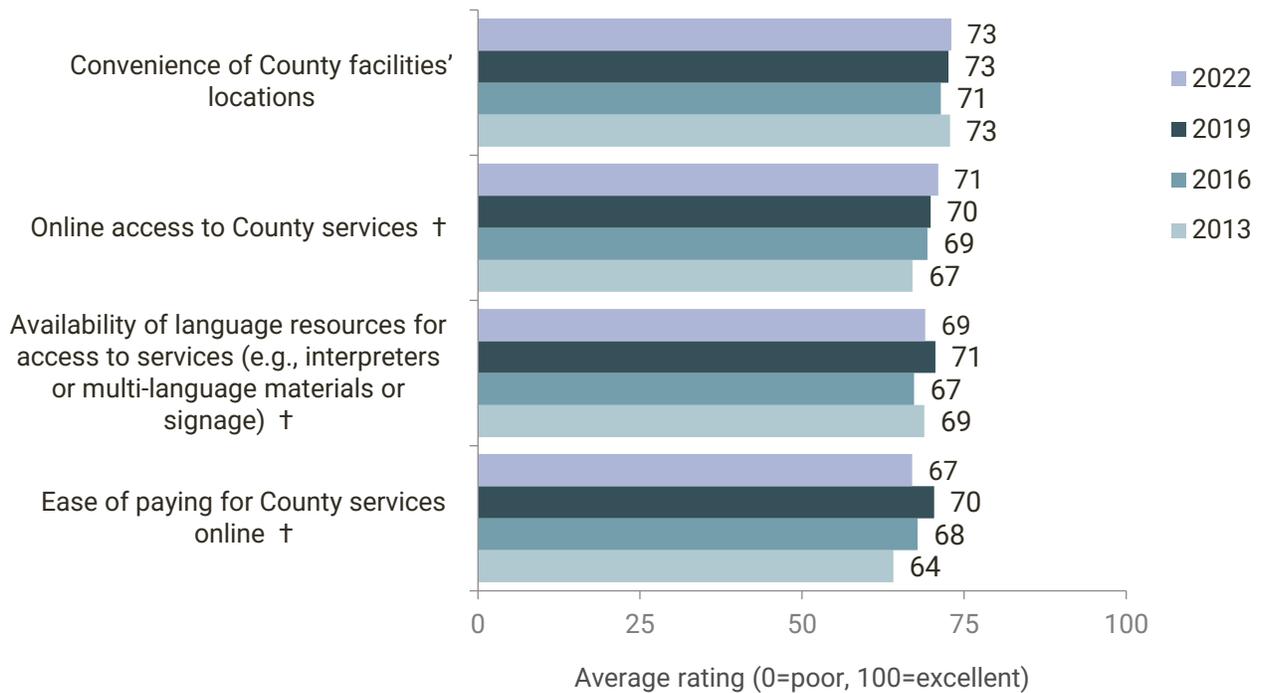
Please rate the following services provided by Dakota County only if you have experienced them within the last two years.	Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)								
	2022	2019	2016	2013*	2011	2008	2006	2004	2001
Services at the Recycling Zone †	75	74	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Employment support/Workforce Center services †	69	68	59	51	49	51	NA	58	NA
Information available on the County website †	63	63	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Financial assistance for low-income families †	63	53	49	57	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Services for people with disabilities †	62	54	56	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Records, passports, licensing, and vehicle registration	61	63	67	65	66	NA	NA	NA	NA
Services provided to older adults †	58	52	50	58	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Services that protect neglected or abused children †	55	56	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Services for people experiencing mental illness †	50	47	40	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

† Note: in 2022, at least 20% of respondents answered “don’t know” to this question. Proportions shown in the figure are of those who had an opinion. Prior to 2021, ‘Records, passports, licensing, and vehicle registration’ was ‘Records, vital statistics, licensing, and vehicle registration’. Prior to 2019, ‘services for people with disabilities’ was ‘services for people with physical disabilities.’ and ‘services at the Recycling Zone’ was included in the previous question about County services (asked of all respondents, not just those with experience). New questions for 2016 included ‘Services for people with physical disabilities’ and ‘Services for people experiencing mental illness.’ ‘Financial assistance for low-income families,’ “Services provided to older adults” and “Assessment process/property tax system were first asked in 2013. In 2013, ‘Employment support/Workforce Center services’ was ‘Employment support services.’ One question part was not included in 2006: “employment support services. *Prior to 2016, many of these items were included in the larger services question but were pulled out in 2016 into a separate question for only those residents who had experienced these services within the last two years.

Access to County Services

Four aspects of accessing Dakota County services were measured on the survey and each was rated highly. The convenience of County facilities’ locations was rated most positively, with an average rating of 73 on the 100-point scale, where zero equals “poor” and 100 equals “excellent”, followed by online access to County services (71), the availability of language resources (69), and the ease of paying for County services online (67). These ratings remained stable from previous survey years.

Figure 25: Average Ratings of Access to County Services by Year



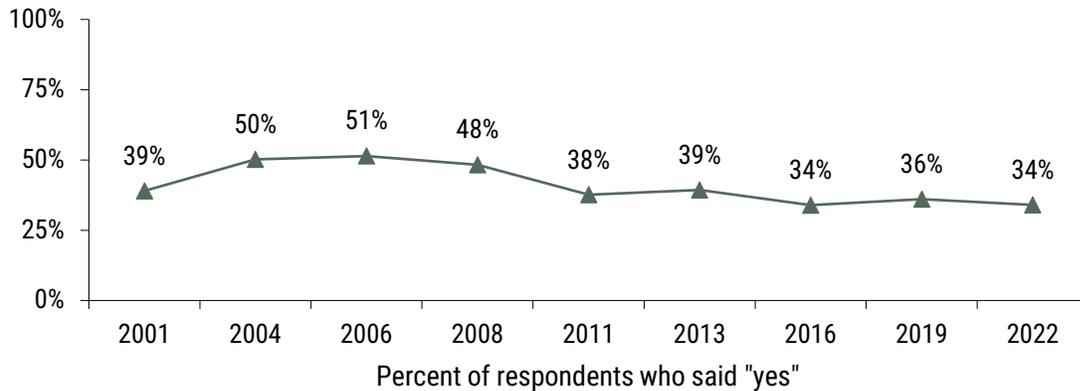
† Note: in 2022, at least 20% of respondents answered “don’t know” to this question. Proportions shown in the figure are of those who had an opinion.

Interactions with County Government

About one-third of Dakota County residents said that they had visited (in-person or virtually), telephoned, or emailed a Dakota County government employee or office within the 12 months prior to the survey. This rate of contact has remained stable since 2011 and was much lower than reported contact in other counties across the nation.

Figure 26: Government Office Contact by Year

Have you visited (in-person or virtually), telephoned, or emailed any Dakota County government office within the last 12 months?

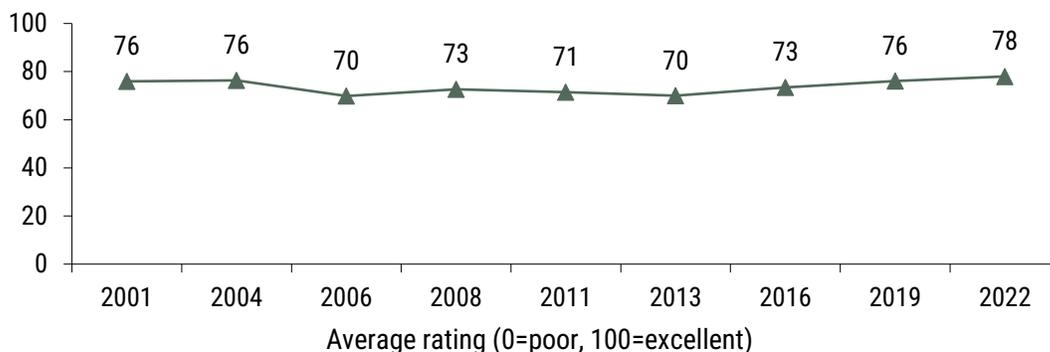


In 2001, this question was “During the past year, have you visited or telephoned one of these service centers [locations preceded the question]. Response scale was: “no;” “yes, visited;” “yes, telephoned;” “yes, both.” In 2011, “email” was added as an additional method of contact. In 2022 “(in-person or virtually)” was added after “Have you visited”.

The 34% of respondents who reported having contacted a County government office were asked about their impression of the employee with whom they had recently had contact. Ratings of the overall impression of the interaction have been steadily increasing since 2013, securing in 2022 an all-time average rating record of 78 on the 100-point scale. This rating was much higher than the national county benchmark comparison (see Figure 29 on the next page).

Figure 27: Overall Impression of Most Recent Contact with Dakota County by Year

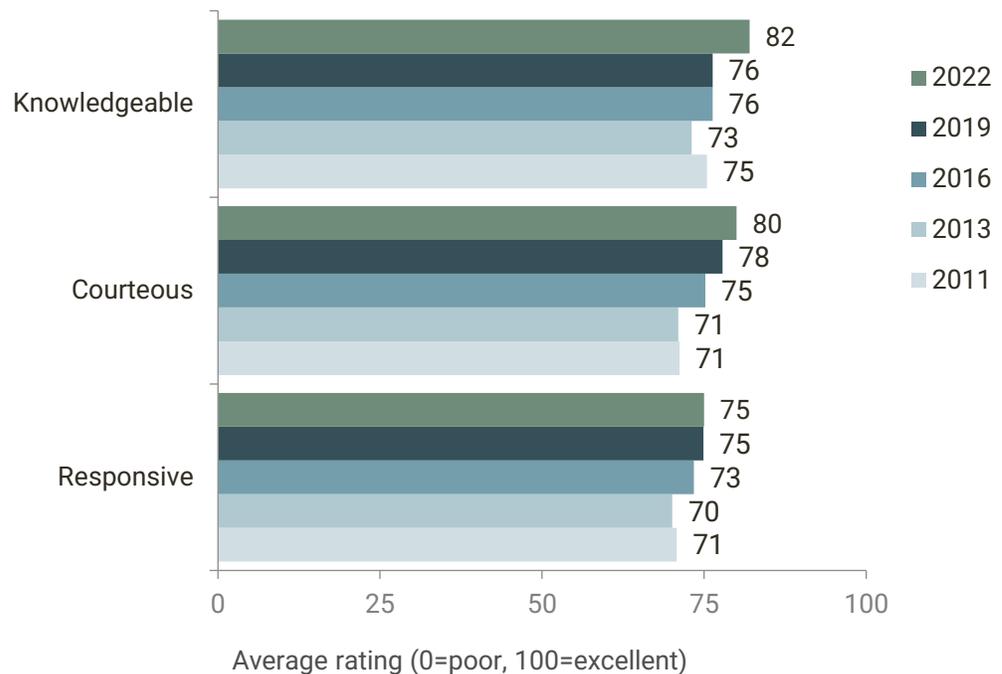
What was your impression of the employee(s) of Dakota County in your most recent contact?



In 2001, the survey contained a question asking, “Which department [in a government service center] did you contact or visit?” This question was then followed by how would you rate the service overall? Overall service had a response scale ranging from 1 to 5, with only values 5 (excellent) and 1 (poor) labeled.

Average ratings for how knowledgeable, responsive and courteous county employees were during the interaction were also high, ranging from 75 to 82 in each of the three categories in 2022. For the knowledgeable and courteous categories, the 2022 scores were the highest ratings observed in any of the previous surveys. The courteous and responsive ratings were similar to the national county benchmark comparisons, while the knowledgeable and overall impression categories were much higher than the benchmark.

Figure 28: Average Ratings of County Employees by Year



Knowledge, courtesy and responsiveness were new survey items in 2011. In 2013, "Knowledge" was changed to "Knowledgeable," "Courtesy" to "Courteous" and "Responsiveness" to "Responsive."

Figure 29: County Employee Benchmarks

What was your impression of the employee(s) of Dakota County in your most recent contact? (Please rate each characteristic below.)	Comparison to benchmark
Knowledgeable	Higher
Responsive	Similar
Courteous	Similar
Overall impression	Much higher

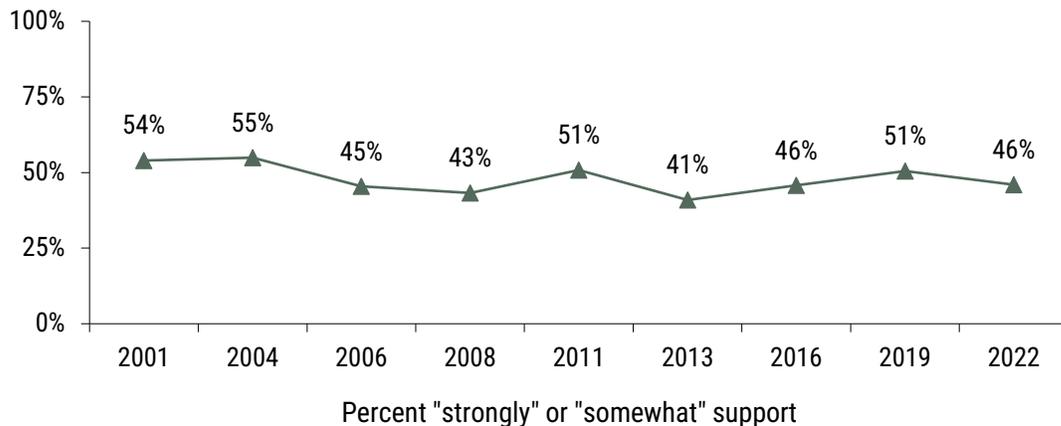
County Property Tax

When asked about support for, or opposition to, increasing property taxes to maintain services at current levels, Dakota County residents have remained divided, with roughly half opposed to the idea and roughly half supporting it in every survey since 2001. However, after back-to-back increases in 2016 and 2019, support has shrunk in 2022 to 46%, the same value as in 2016 and 5 points below 2019.

While support for increasing property taxes in order to maintain services at current levels is significant, much of the opposition standing is “strong” (20% strongly oppose), with much of it coming from residents who have lived in Dakota County for 20 years or more. On the other hand, the support to increase taxes is mostly weak, with only 9% of the participants strongly supporting a property tax increase.

Figure 30: Level of Support for County Property Tax by Year

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?



Importance of Library Programs and Services

The survey asked residents about the importance of maintaining 10 library programs and services. Responses were converted to a 100-point scale where zero equals “not at all important” and 100 equals “essential.”

The items deemed of greatest importance were providing popular title/current library materials (with an average rating of 71 on the 100-point scale) as well as providing access to computers and the Internet (71). Other items of higher importance included information about jobs, skills, literacy and careers (70), small business and economic development resources and services (65), and English as second language resources and services (65), each with an average rating of about “very important.”

The importance placed on providing resources for English as a second language and small businesses/economic development resources and trends increased from 2019 to 2022, continuing the upward trends experienced for both of these items between 2016 and 2019.

Figure 31: Importance of Library Programs and Services by Year

How important, if at all, is it to provide the following library programs and services?	Average rating (0=not at all important, 100=essential)			
	2022	2019	2016	2013
Popular titles/current library materials	71	74	71	69
Access to computers and the Internet	71	70	62	65
Information about jobs, skills, literacy, and careers	70	67	63	61
English as a second language resources and services	65	61	55	48
Small business/economic development resources and services	65	60	55	55
Community gathering space	62	65	NA	NA
Classes and events around health and wellness	58	60	60	55
Streaming digital materials (movies, music, e-books, e-audio books)	57	62	35	NA
Access to creative maker technology, equipment, or classes	57	56	33	NA
Library materials in other languages (Spanish, Somali, Russian, others)	56	53	44	43

Prior to 2022 'Classes and events around health and wellness' was worded 'Health and wellness programs and resources'. Prior to 2019, 'streaming digital materials (movies, music, e-books, e-audio books)' was 'streaming movies and music (online)', 'access to computers and the Internet' was 'technology access, computer classes and training,' and 'access to creative maker technology, equipment, or classes' was 'technology to create and edit music and videos'. In 2013, 'Library materials in other languages (Spanish, Somali, Russian, others)' was 'World language resources (Spanish, Somali, Russian, others)'. This was a new question in 2013.

Respondents were also given the option to rate an “other” program or service and write in a response. These responses can be found in *Appendix B: Verbatim Responses to Survey Questions*.

County Parks and Greenways

Two new questions on the 2022 survey asked respondents to indicate how often they had visited Dakota County parks or greenways in the past year, as well as their reasons for not visiting more often. About 75% of residents reported using parks and greenways at least three times in the past year; only 1 in 10 had never used them. When asked why they had not used parks and greenways or had not used them more often, about half reported that they did not have time, while one-quarter said they didn't know enough about them to visit. Residents could also write in an "other" response to this question; the verbatim responses can be found in *Appendix B: Verbatim Responses to Survey Questions*.

Figure 32: Frequency of Use of Parks and Greenways, 2022

In the past year, how many times have you visited a Dakota County park or greenway?

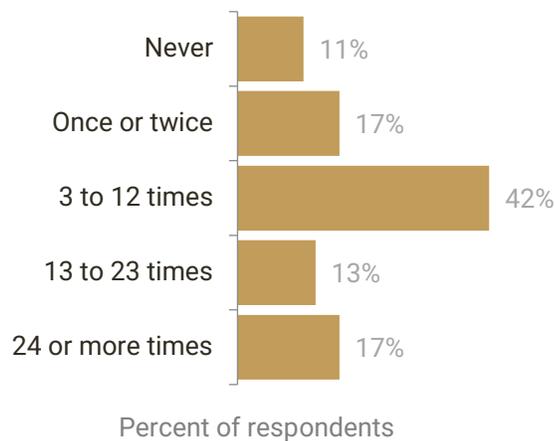
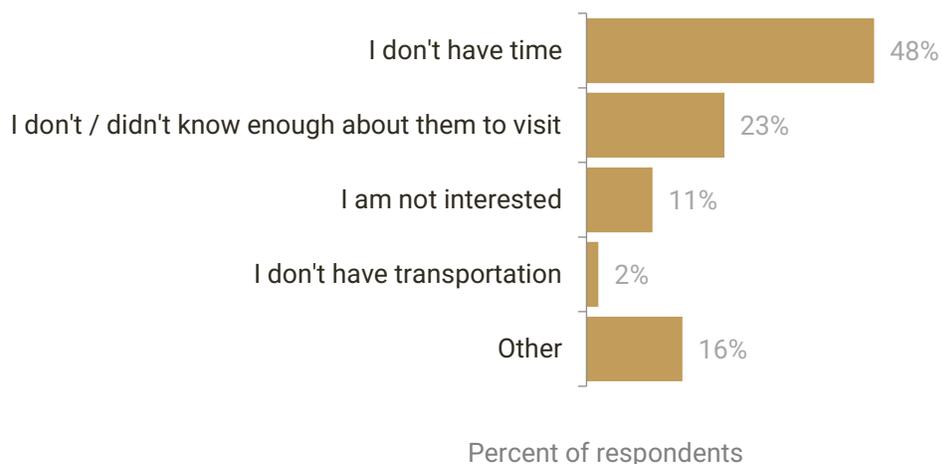


Figure 33: Reasons for Not Using Parks and Greenways, 2022

Why haven't you visited a Dakota County park or greenway, or visited more often?



** Respondents were also given the option to rate an "other" information source and write in a response. These responses can be found in *Appendix B: Verbatim Responses to Survey Questions*.

Current Issues

In addition to questions that allow comparison of trends over time, the Dakota County Resident Survey contains questions in each survey about topics of current importance. This allows the County to gather residents’ opinions about these issues.

Concerns about COVID-19 Impacts

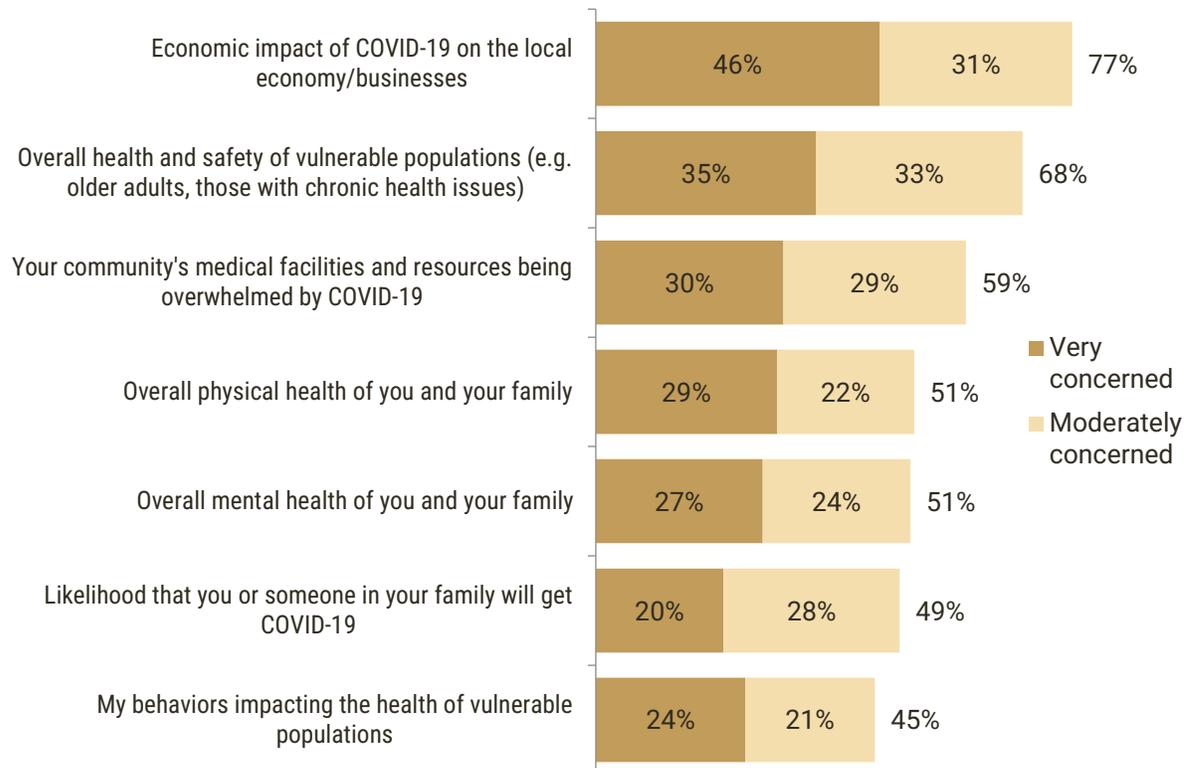
In 2022, Dakota County included questions regarding how concerned residents were in relation to COVID’s impacts within the community.

Three-quarters of respondents said they were very or moderately concerned about the economic impact of COVID-19 on the local economy. Meanwhile, two-thirds expressed high or moderate concerns about the overall health and safety of vulnerable populations. Also, about 6 in 10 said they were very or moderately concerned about their community’s medical facilities being overwhelmed by COVID-19.

Notably, personal or familiar concerns were lower than concerns regarding the community. Indeed, about half of respondents or less were worried about their physical health (51%), their mental health (51%), the likelihood of getting COVID-19 (49%), or the chance of putting vulnerable populations at risk by their personal actions (45%).

Figure 34: COVID Concerns

Thinking about the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, how concerned, if at all, are you about each of the following?



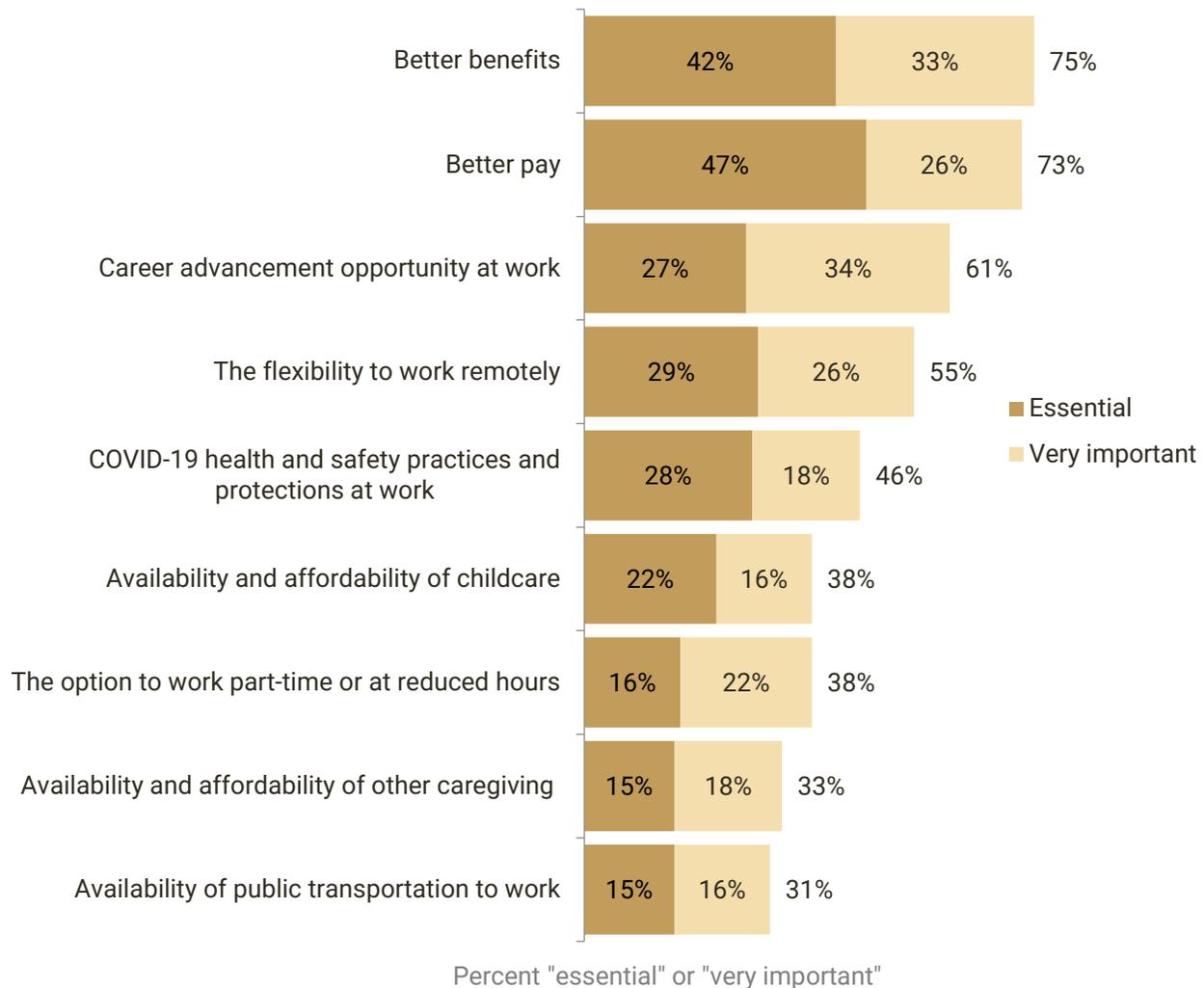
Factors Driving Changes in Work Status

In a new question on the 2022 survey, respondents were asked if they were considering a change in their current work situation, and if so, to indicate which factors were most important in that decision. At the top of the list, with about three-quarters of respondents rating each as essential or very important, were better benefits and better pay. Roughly 6 in 10 valued career advancement opportunity at work and the flexibility to work remotely, and half rated COVID-19 health and safety practices and protections at work as important.

The availability and affordability of childcare, the option to work part-time or at reduced hours, the availability and affordability of other caregiving (e.g., senior care or care for family members with disabilities), and the availability of public transportation to work were considered less important by residents, with fewer than 4 in 10 rating each as important.

Figure 35: Driving Factors for Changing Work Situation

If you are considering a change in your work situation (e.g., increasing hours, rejoining the workforce, looking for a new job), how important, if at all, are each of the following factors in making your decision?



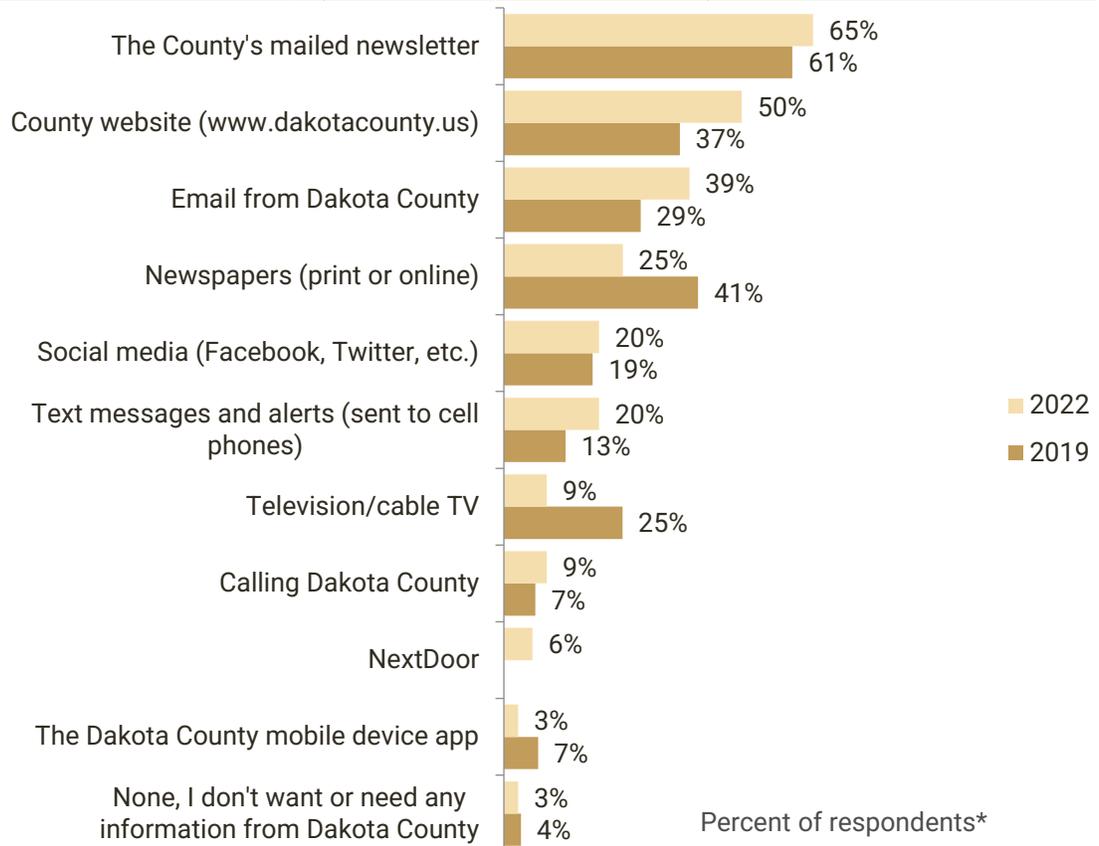
Public Information and Communication

Information Sources

Respondents were asked to indicate which three methods they preferred as a way to receive information about Dakota County. As in 2019, the County’s mailed newsletter was the top preference, with two-thirds indicating this was one of their favored means of being informed. The county website was selected by half of respondents, while direct emails from Dakota County was chosen by 4 in 10. Notably, three of the digital methods (website, email, and text messages) showed increases over the 2019 results, while newspapers and TV were selected less frequently in 2022 than in the previous survey.

Figure 36: Preference for Receiving Dakota County Information

Please indicate which of the following methods, if any, you prefer as a way to receive information about Dakota County. (Please select up to three methods.)



* Totals exceed 100% as respondents could select up to three methods.

** Respondents were also given the option to rate an “other” information source and write in a response. These responses can be found in in Appendix B: Verbatim Responses to Survey Questions.

***NextDoor was included as a stand-alone option in 2022. Previously it was included in the Social Media category.

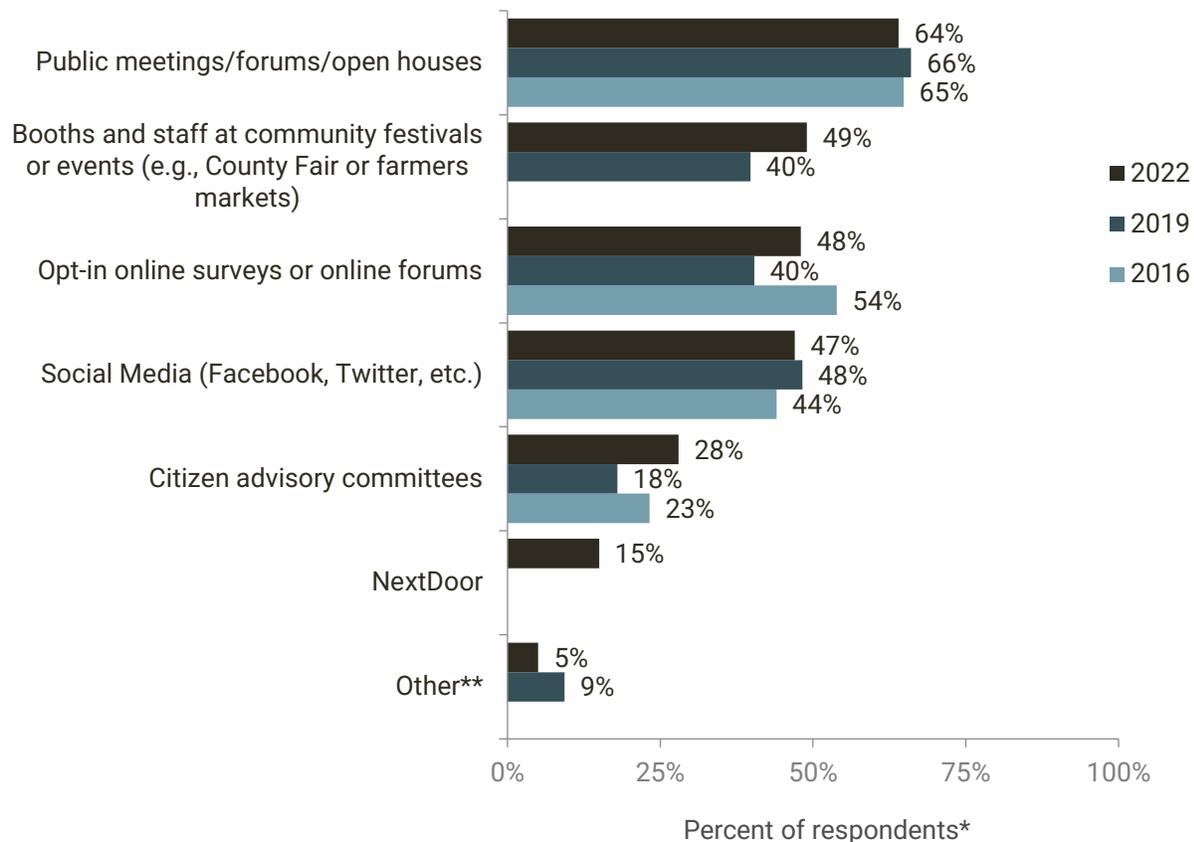
Resident Engagement Strategies

In addition to being asked their preferred way to *obtain* information about Dakota County from existing sources, those completing the survey were also asked what methods they believed Dakota County should use to *hear from* residents and to gain their insights and learn about their preferences for County services, activities, projects, decisions and plans.

As in previous surveys, about two-thirds of residents chose public meetings/forums/open houses as methods Dakota County should use to hear from residents. Booths and staff at community festivals or events, as well as opt-in online surveys or online forums, showed nine- and eight-point respective increases since 2019, with about half of respondents selecting each as a preference.

Figure 37: Preferred Methods to Communicate with Residents by Year

Please indicate what methods you believe Dakota County should use to reach residents to learn about their preferences for County services, activities, projects, decisions and plans. (Please select all that apply.)



*Totals exceed 100% as respondents could select more than one method.

** Respondents were also given the option to rate an “other” information source and write in a response. These responses can be found in in Appendix B: Verbatim Responses to Survey Questions.

***NextDoor was included as a stand-alone option in 2022. Previously it was included in the Social Media category. Prior to 2019, 'social media' did not include items in parenthesis; 'opt-in online surveys or online forums' was 'online survey' and 'Citizen advisory committees' was 'advisory panels.'

Appendix A: 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. These responses have been removed from the analyses presented in the body of the report, unless otherwise indicated. In other words, the majority of the figures in the body of the report display the responses from respondents who had an opinion about a specific item.

The tables that follow include the proportion of respondents giving a “don’t know” response, when applicable. 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 1: Question 1

How would you rate your overall quality of life in Dakota County?	Percent	Number
Excellent	43%	N=268
Good	48%	N=297
Fair	6%	N=39
Poor	2%	N=12
Total	100%	N=617

Table 2: Question 2

What one thing do you like most about living in Dakota County?	Percent	Number
Location	27%	N=168
Rural character	9%	N=56
Parks/Lakes/Trails	15%	N=92
Quality of life in general	21%	N=128
My neighborhood	12%	N=71
Schools	4%	N=26
Low taxes	3%	N=18
People	2%	N=14
Open space	4%	N=22
Other*	4%	N=23
Total	100%	N=618

* Survey respondents had the opportunity to write in a response for the "other" choice in the survey question. Please see Appendix B: Verbatim Responses to Survey Questions to review the verbatim responses.

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

Please rate each of the following characteristics of Dakota County.	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Don't know		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Dakota County as a place to live	44%	N=277	47%	N=293	6%	N=36	1%	N=6	2%	N=10	100%	N=623
Dakota County as a place to work	19%	N=117	33%	N=204	9%	N=55	3%	N=19	36%	N=220	100%	N=614
Dakota County as a place to retire	16%	N=97	34%	N=208	19%	N=118	4%	N=25	28%	N=171	100%	N=618
Dakota County as a place to raise a family	40%	N=248	41%	N=252	8%	N=52	1%	N=5	10%	N=65	100%	N=620
Sense of community	21%	N=133	45%	N=280	24%	N=150	5%	N=32	4%	N=26	100%	N=621
Openness and acceptance of people with diverse backgrounds	18%	N=109	41%	N=257	24%	N=150	8%	N=48	9%	N=57	100%	N=621
Outdoor recreational opportunities in Dakota County	42%	N=259	41%	N=255	10%	N=61	2%	N=10	5%	N=32	100%	N=618
Availability of bike and pedestrian transportation options	26%	N=163	41%	N=255	17%	N=103	6%	N=38	10%	N=62	100%	N=621
Economic health of Dakota County	22%	N=135	50%	N=308	11%	N=71	1%	N=7	16%	N=100	100%	N=621
Availability of employment opportunities	12%	N=73	38%	N=234	16%	N=97	4%	N=22	31%	N=193	100%	N=619
Availability of quality, affordable child care	6%	N=39	12%	N=74	15%	N=95	9%	N=55	57%	N=355	100%	N=619
Availability of affordable housing	9%	N=53	24%	N=145	27%	N=166	16%	N=101	25%	N=151	100%	N=616
Overall image or reputation of Dakota County	27%	N=164	55%	N=338	13%	N=78	2%	N=12	3%	N=21	100%	N=613

Table 4: Question 3 - Excluding Don't Know Responses

Please rate each of the following characteristics of Dakota County.	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Dakota County as a place to live	45%	N=277	48%	N=293	6%	N=36	1%	N=6	100%	N=613
Dakota County as a place to work	30%	N=117	52%	N=204	14%	N=55	5%	N=19	100%	N=394
Dakota County as a place to retire	22%	N=97	46%	N=208	26%	N=118	6%	N=25	100%	N=448
Dakota County as a place to raise a family	45%	N=248	45%	N=252	9%	N=52	1%	N=5	100%	N=556
Sense of community	22%	N=133	47%	N=280	25%	N=150	5%	N=32	100%	N=595
Openness and acceptance of people with diverse backgrounds	19%	N=109	46%	N=257	27%	N=150	9%	N=48	100%	N=564
Outdoor recreational opportunities in Dakota County	44%	N=259	44%	N=255	10%	N=61	2%	N=10	100%	N=586
Availability of bike and pedestrian transportation options	29%	N=163	46%	N=255	19%	N=103	7%	N=38	100%	N=559
Economic health of Dakota County	26%	N=135	59%	N=308	14%	N=71	1%	N=7	100%	N=521
Availability of employment opportunities	17%	N=73	55%	N=234	23%	N=97	5%	N=22	100%	N=426
Availability of quality, affordable child care	15%	N=39	28%	N=74	36%	N=95	21%	N=55	100%	N=263
Availability of affordable housing	11%	N=53	31%	N=145	36%	N=166	22%	N=101	100%	N=465
Overall image or reputation of Dakota County	28%	N=164	57%	N=338	13%	N=78	2%	N=12	100%	N=592

Table 5: Question 4 - Including Don't Know Responses

What do you feel is the most serious issue facing Dakota County at this time?	Percent	Number
Crime and safety issues	19%	N=91
Affordable housing	13%	N=60
Taxes	8%	N=37
Growth/development	9%	N=43
Sense of community, diversity, etc.	6%	N=27
Condition of roads	1%	N=4
Traffic congestion	2%	N=10
Schools	5%	N=24
Homelessness and poverty	2%	N=8
Economic development	1%	N=7
Public transportation	0%	N=1
Updating infrastructure	2%	N=10
Jobs	3%	N=15
Preserving natural areas/protecting natural resources	2%	N=9
Teen drug/alcohol use	1%	N=3
Pollution/environmental concerns	3%	N=16
Quality of county services	1%	N=4
Political divisions	2%	N=8
COVID impact	3%	N=12
Inflation	3%	N=14
Other*	5%	N=23
Don't know	11%	N=51
Total	100%	N=475

*Survey respondents had the opportunity to write in a response for the "other" choice in the survey question. Please see Appendix B: Verbatim Responses to Survey Questions to review the verbatim responses.

Table 6: Question 4 - Excluding Don't Know Responses

What do you feel is the most serious issue facing Dakota County at this time?	Percent	Number
Crime and safety issues	21%	N=91
Affordable housing	14%	N=60
Taxes	9%	N=37
Growth/development	10%	N=43
Sense of community, diversity, etc.	6%	N=27
Condition of roads	1%	N=4
Traffic congestion	2%	N=10
Schools	6%	N=24
Homelessness and poverty	2%	N=8
Economic development	2%	N=7
Public transportation	0%	N=1
Updating infrastructure	2%	N=10
Jobs	3%	N=15
Preserving natural areas/protecting natural resources	2%	N=9
Teen drug/alcohol use	1%	N=3
Pollution/environmental concerns	4%	N=16
Quality of county services	1%	N=4
Political divisions	2%	N=8
Covid impact	3%	N=12
Inflation	3%	N=14
Other*	5%	N=23
Total	100%	N=424

**Survey respondents had the opportunity to write in a response for the "other" choice in the survey question. Please see Appendix B: Verbatim Responses to Survey Questions to review the verbatim responses.*

Table 7: Question 5 - Including Don't Know Responses

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?	Percent	Number
Much better	6%	N=36
Somewhat better	20%	N=123
About the same	52%	N=318
Somewhat worse	17%	N=106
Much worse	3%	N=19
Don't know	3%	N=16
Total	100%	N=618

Table 8: Question 5 - Excluding Don't Know Responses

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?	Percent	Number
Much better	6%	N=36
Somewhat better	20%	N=123
About the same	53%	N=318
Somewhat worse	18%	N=106
Much worse	3%	N=19
Total	100%	N=602

Table 9: Question 6 - Including Don't Know Responses

Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel in Dakota 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)	29%	N=179	44%	N=276	22%	N=134	3%	N=18	2%	N=15	100%	N=621
From violent crimes (e.g., rape, assault, robbery)	43%	N=269	41%	N=255	11%	N=70	2%	N=10	3%	N=16	100%	N=620
From illegal drug activity (e.g., selling drugs)	30%	N=184	40%	N=247	17%	N=103	4%	N=25	10%	N=62	100%	N=622
From electronic crimes (e.g., identity theft, phone scams)	14%	N=89	43%	N=268	27%	N=164	7%	N=42	9%	N=56	100%	N=619
From domestic violence	52%	N=323	25%	N=153	5%	N=32	1%	N=7	17%	N=105	100%	N=620
From gang activity	45%	N=276	34%	N=212	10%	N=63	2%	N=11	9%	N=57	100%	N=619
While driving on roads within Dakota County	37%	N=227	50%	N=313	8%	N=52	3%	N=19	2%	N=11	100%	N=622
While in your neighborhood	56%	N=347	38%	N=239	4%	N=23	1%	N=5	2%	N=9	100%	N=623
While in County office buildings, libraries, courtrooms	60%	N=371	26%	N=163	3%	N=17	1%	N=5	11%	N=65	100%	N=621
While in schools or places of worship in Dakota County	49%	N=304	31%	N=192	2%	N=15	0%	N=3	17%	N=107	100%	N=620
While using Dakota County parks, trails, and greenways	40%	N=247	47%	N=295	6%	N=36	2%	N=9	6%	N=36	100%	N=623

Table 10: Question 6 - Excluding Don't Know Responses

Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel in Dakota County.	Very safe		Somewhat safe		Somewhat unsafe		Very unsafe		Total	
From property crimes (e.g., burglary, theft)	30%	N=179	45%	N=276	22%	N=134	3%	N=18	100%	N=606
From violent crimes (e.g., rape, assault, robbery)	44%	N=269	42%	N=255	12%	N=70	2%	N=10	100%	N=604
From illegal drug activity (e.g., selling drugs)	33%	N=184	44%	N=247	18%	N=103	5%	N=25	100%	N=560
From electronic crimes (e.g., identity theft, phone scams)	16%	N=89	48%	N=268	29%	N=164	7%	N=42	100%	N=563
From domestic violence	63%	N=323	30%	N=153	6%	N=32	1%	N=7	100%	N=514
From gang activity	49%	N=276	38%	N=212	11%	N=63	2%	N=11	100%	N=562
While driving on roads within Dakota County	37%	N=227	51%	N=313	8%	N=52	3%	N=19	100%	N=611
While in your neighborhood	57%	N=347	39%	N=239	4%	N=23	1%	N=5	100%	N=614
While in County office buildings, libraries, courtrooms	67%	N=371	29%	N=163	3%	N=17	1%	N=5	100%	N=556
While in schools or places of worship in Dakota County	59%	N=304	37%	N=192	3%	N=15	1%	N=3	100%	N=514
While using Dakota County parks, trails, and greenways	42%	N=247	50%	N=295	6%	N=36	2%	N=9	100%	N=587

Table 11: Question 7 - Including Don't Know Responses

Please rate to what degree, if at all, each of the following is a problem in Dakota County.	Not a problem		Minor problem		Moderate problem		Major problem		Don't know		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Crime	9%	N=56	39%	N=238	38%	N=237	8%	N=51	6%	N=34	100%	N=617
Taxes	21%	N=131	37%	N=226	25%	N=155	12%	N=77	4%	N=28	100%	N=617
Traffic safety	29%	N=178	42%	N=260	20%	N=120	7%	N=42	2%	N=14	100%	N=614
Traffic congestion	29%	N=176	37%	N=225	23%	N=142	10%	N=59	2%	N=13	100%	N=615
Poverty	15%	N=91	29%	N=180	26%	N=162	6%	N=34	24%	N=150	100%	N=617
Homelessness	20%	N=124	29%	N=179	22%	N=135	4%	N=23	25%	N=152	100%	N=614
Affordability of housing	11%	N=69	17%	N=105	32%	N=199	22%	N=135	18%	N=108	100%	N=617
Availability of living wage jobs	14%	N=86	21%	N=127	21%	N=128	10%	N=62	35%	N=214	100%	N=617

Table 12: Question 7 - Excluding Don't Know Responses

Please rate to what degree, if at all, each of the following is a problem in Dakota County.	Not a problem		Minor problem		Moderate problem		Major problem		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Crime	10%	N=56	41%	N=238	41%	N=237	9%	N=51	100%	N=583
Taxes	22%	N=131	38%	N=226	26%	N=155	13%	N=77	100%	N=589
Traffic safety	30%	N=178	43%	N=260	20%	N=120	7%	N=42	100%	N=600
Traffic congestion	29%	N=176	37%	N=225	24%	N=142	10%	N=59	100%	N=602
Poverty	19%	N=91	39%	N=180	35%	N=162	7%	N=34	100%	N=467
Homelessness	27%	N=124	39%	N=179	29%	N=135	5%	N=23	100%	N=462
Affordability of housing	14%	N=69	21%	N=105	39%	N=199	27%	N=135	100%	N=509
Availability of living wage jobs	21%	N=86	32%	N=127	32%	N=128	15%	N=62	100%	N=403

Table 13: Question 8 - Including Don't Know Responses

Please rate to what degree, if at all, each of the following is a health concern in Dakota County.	Not at all a concern		Minor concern		Moderate concern		Major concern		Don't know		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Environmental hazards (e.g., polluted water or toxic waste)	25%	N=152	31%	N=192	20%	N=126	11%	N=70	13%	N=82	100%	N=622
Tobacco use (including E-cigarettes and chewing tobacco)	32%	N=195	29%	N=179	20%	N=120	6%	N=37	13%	N=82	100%	N=615
Depression, anxiety, and other mental illnesses	11%	N=68	17%	N=106	33%	N=204	17%	N=104	22%	N=135	100%	N=616
Social isolation	15%	N=92	23%	N=144	28%	N=170	14%	N=84	20%	N=124	100%	N=613
Underage alcohol use	17%	N=105	25%	N=153	20%	N=124	8%	N=50	30%	N=183	100%	N=614
Alcohol abuse among adults	15%	N=89	28%	N=173	26%	N=157	8%	N=47	24%	N=144	100%	N=610
Illegal drug use (e.g., heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine)	16%	N=97	18%	N=113	28%	N=174	11%	N=69	27%	N=165	100%	N=618
Bullying	12%	N=76	20%	N=126	25%	N=152	14%	N=84	29%	N=180	100%	N=619
Illegal use of prescribed medications (such as opioids)	13%	N=81	22%	N=136	21%	N=128	10%	N=64	34%	N=208	100%	N=617
The health and support of older adults	12%	N=72	26%	N=160	26%	N=161	14%	N=83	22%	N=138	100%	N=614
The health and support of persons with disabilities	14%	N=85	25%	N=157	19%	N=120	14%	N=88	27%	N=168	100%	N=618
Quality of parenting skills of parents of children ages 0-17	13%	N=77	24%	N=145	25%	N=156	14%	N=87	24%	N=150	100%	N=615
Overweight adults and children	10%	N=64	24%	N=146	32%	N=201	16%	N=102	17%	N=107	100%	N=619
Abuse and neglect of children	10%	N=59	25%	N=153	21%	N=127	12%	N=71	34%	N=207	100%	N=617
Abuse and neglect of older adults or vulnerable adults	11%	N=66	24%	N=146	18%	N=113	11%	N=70	36%	N=221	100%	N=615
Spread of infectious diseases	17%	N=105	23%	N=145	25%	N=154	19%	N=115	16%	N=99	100%	N=617

Table 14: Question 8 - Excluding Don't Know Responses

Please rate to what degree, if at all, each of the following is a health concern in Dakota County.	Not at all a concern		Minor concern		Moderate concern		Major concern		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Environmental hazards (e.g., polluted water or toxic waste)	28%	N=152	36%	N=192	23%	N=126	13%	N=70	100%	N=540
Tobacco use (including E-cigarettes and chewing tobacco)	37%	N=195	34%	N=179	23%	N=120	7%	N=37	100%	N=532
Depression, anxiety, and other mental illnesses	14%	N=68	22%	N=106	42%	N=204	22%	N=104	100%	N=482
Social isolation	19%	N=92	29%	N=144	35%	N=170	17%	N=84	100%	N=490
Underage alcohol use	24%	N=105	35%	N=153	29%	N=124	12%	N=50	100%	N=431
Alcohol abuse among adults	19%	N=89	37%	N=173	34%	N=157	10%	N=47	100%	N=466
Illegal drug use (e.g., heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine)	21%	N=97	25%	N=113	38%	N=174	15%	N=69	100%	N=453
Bullying	17%	N=76	29%	N=126	35%	N=152	19%	N=84	100%	N=439
Illegal use of prescribed medications (such as opioids)	20%	N=81	33%	N=136	31%	N=128	16%	N=64	100%	N=409
The health and support of older adults	15%	N=72	34%	N=160	34%	N=161	17%	N=83	100%	N=476
The health and support of persons with disabilities	19%	N=85	35%	N=157	27%	N=120	20%	N=88	100%	N=450
Quality of parenting skills of parents of children ages 0-17	17%	N=77	31%	N=145	34%	N=156	19%	N=87	100%	N=465
Overweight adults and children	12%	N=64	28%	N=146	39%	N=201	20%	N=102	100%	N=512
Abuse and neglect of children	14%	N=59	37%	N=153	31%	N=127	17%	N=71	100%	N=410
Abuse and neglect of older adults or vulnerable adults	11%	N=66	24%	N=146	18%	N=113	11%	N=70	100%	N=615
Spread of infectious diseases	20%	N=105	28%	N=145	30%	N=154	22%	N=115	100%	N=519

Table 15: Question 9 - Including Don't Know Responses

Please rate to what degree, if at all, each of the following is an environmental concern in Dakota County.	Not at all a concern		Minor concern		Moderate concern		Major concern		Don't know		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Quality of outdoor air	37%	N=228	38%	N=230	16%	N=97	6%	N=38	3%	N=19	100%	N=612
Quality of drinking water	32%	N=197	30%	N=188	20%	N=123	14%	N=89	3%	N=21	100%	N=619
Quality of water in lakes, rivers, and streams	18%	N=113	30%	N=186	29%	N=179	16%	N=99	7%	N=40	100%	N=617
Quantity of useable water supply	31%	N=192	27%	N=165	17%	N=102	16%	N=96	10%	N=62	100%	N=618
Climate change	21%	N=128	21%	N=128	21%	N=129	33%	N=202	5%	N=32	100%	N=619
Energy use	16%	N=101	30%	N=184	27%	N=165	21%	N=130	6%	N=39	100%	N=619

Table 16: Question 9 - Excluding Don't Know Responses

Please rate to what degree, if at all, each of the following is an environmental concern in Dakota County.	Not at all a concern		Minor concern		Moderate concern		Major concern		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Quality of outdoor air	38%	N=228	39%	N=230	16%	N=97	6%	N=38	100%	N=593
Quality of drinking water	33%	N=197	31%	N=188	21%	N=123	15%	N=89	100%	N=597
Quality of water in lakes, rivers, and streams	20%	N=113	32%	N=186	31%	N=179	17%	N=99	100%	N=577
Quantity of useable water supply	35%	N=192	30%	N=165	18%	N=102	17%	N=96	100%	N=556
Climate change	22%	N=128	22%	N=128	22%	N=129	34%	N=202	100%	N=587
Energy use	17%	N=101	32%	N=184	28%	N=165	22%	N=130	100%	N=580

Table 17: Question 10 - Including Don't Know Responses

Please rate each of the following services provided by Dakota County.	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Don't know		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
County libraries	52%	N=316	31%	N=191	5%	N=28	0%	N=0	12%	N=74	100%	N=611
County parks and recreation like Lebanon Hills, Thompson County Park, Whitetail Woods, Spring Lake Park, Lake Byllesby, or Miesville	55%	N=339	32%	N=198	3%	N=17	0%	N=2	10%	N=59	100%	N=615
Trail and greenway system like the Mississippi River or Big Rivers trails	41%	N=250	33%	N=203	6%	N=35	0%	N=1	21%	N=127	100%	N=616
Condition of County roads such as Cliff or Pilot Knob Roads, Kenwood Trail, Butler Ave., or County Road 42	21%	N=132	51%	N=317	22%	N=133	3%	N=17	3%	N=19	100%	N=617
Snow and ice removal on County roads	31%	N=194	46%	N=285	14%	N=90	6%	N=40	2%	N=13	100%	N=621
Sheriff deputies patrol and park protection services	22%	N=137	35%	N=219	14%	N=87	2%	N=12	26%	N=164	100%	N=620
Administering property tax	14%	N=84	31%	N=190	22%	N=134	10%	N=59	24%	N=149	100%	N=616
Addressing important health issues in communities	13%	N=83	31%	N=193	25%	N=151	5%	N=29	26%	N=161	100%	N=618
Prosecuting people accused of crimes	8%	N=51	19%	N=117	18%	N=109	9%	N=58	46%	N=282	100%	N=617
COVID-19 services such as providing information, testing, vaccines	22%	N=139	37%	N=231	23%	N=142	7%	N=41	11%	N=65	100%	N=618
Overall quality of services provided by Dakota County	24%	N=145	57%	N=351	15%	N=90	1%	N=9	3%	N=18	100%	N=613

Table 18: Question 10 - Excluding Don't Know Responses

Please rate each of the following services provided by Dakota County.	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
County libraries	59%	N=316	36%	N=191	5%	N=28	0%	N=0	100%	N=536
County parks and recreation like Lebanon Hills, Thompson County Park, Whitetail Woods, Spring Lake Park, Lake Byllesby, or Miesville	61%	N=339	36%	N=198	3%	N=17	0%	N=2	100%	N=556
Trail and greenway system like the Mississippi River or Big Rivers trails	51%	N=250	42%	N=203	7%	N=35	0%	N=1	100%	N=488
Condition of County roads such as Cliff or Pilot Knob Roads, Kenwood Trail, Butler Ave., or County Road 42	22%	N=132	53%	N=317	22%	N=133	3%	N=17	100%	N=599
Snow and ice removal on County roads	32%	N=194	47%	N=285	15%	N=90	7%	N=40	100%	N=608
Sheriff deputies patrol and park protection services	30%	N=137	48%	N=219	19%	N=87	3%	N=12	100%	N=456
Administering property tax	18%	N=84	41%	N=190	29%	N=134	13%	N=59	100%	N=467
Addressing important health issues in communities	18%	N=83	42%	N=193	33%	N=151	6%	N=29	100%	N=457
Prosecuting people accused of crimes	15%	N=51	35%	N=117	32%	N=109	17%	N=58	100%	N=335
COVID-19 services such as providing information, testing, vaccines	25%	N=139	42%	N=231	26%	N=142	7%	N=41	100%	N=553
Overall quality of services provided by Dakota County	24%	N=145	59%	N=351	15%	N=90	1%	N=9	100%	N=595

Table 19: Question 11 - Including Don't Know Responses

Please rate the following services provided by Dakota County only if you have experienced them within the last two years.	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Don't know/not applicable		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Employment support/CareerForce Center services	5%	N=26	6%	N=33	3%	N=16	0%	N=3	86%	N=484	100%	N=562
Financial assistance for low-income households	6%	N=37	5%	N=30	2%	N=14	3%	N=17	83%	N=471	100%	N=569
Records, passports, licensing, and vehicle registration	21%	N=127	35%	N=213	26%	N=155	5%	N=32	13%	N=77	100%	N=605
Services for people with disabilities	7%	N=40	7%	N=40	5%	N=30	3%	N=15	78%	N=446	100%	N=570
Services for people experiencing mental illness	5%	N=28	6%	N=34	9%	N=50	4%	N=23	76%	N=428	100%	N=564
Services that protect neglected or abused children	3%	N=17	3%	N=18	6%	N=32	1%	N=6	87%	N=488	100%	N=562
Information available on the County website	15%	N=90	32%	N=188	17%	N=96	4%	N=21	32%	N=186	100%	N=581
Services provided to older adults	6%	N=34	12%	N=66	8%	N=46	3%	N=15	72%	N=414	100%	N=576
Services at the Recycling Zone	29%	N=172	32%	N=189	9%	N=51	2%	N=10	29%	N=173	100%	N=594

Table 20: Question 11 - Excluding Don't Know Responses

Please rate the following services provided by Dakota County only if you have experienced them within the last two years.	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Employment support/CareerForce Center services	33%	N=26	43%	N=33	21%	N=16	3%	N=3	100%	N=77
Financial assistance for low-income households	37%	N=37	30%	N=30	14%	N=14	18%	N=17	100%	N=98
Records, passports, licensing, and vehicle registration	24%	N=127	40%	N=213	29%	N=155	6%	N=32	100%	N=528
Services for people with disabilities	32%	N=40	32%	N=40	24%	N=30	12%	N=15	100%	N=124
Services for people experiencing mental illness	21%	N=28	25%	N=34	37%	N=50	17%	N=23	100%	N=136
Services that protect neglected or abused children	23%	N=17	25%	N=18	44%	N=32	8%	N=6	100%	N=74
Information available on the County website	23%	N=90	48%	N=188	24%	N=96	5%	N=21	100%	N=395
Services provided to older adults	21%	N=34	41%	N=66	28%	N=46	9%	N=15	100%	N=162
Services at the Recycling Zone	41%	N=172	45%	N=189	12%	N=51	2%	N=10	100%	N=421

Table 21: Question 12 - Including Don't Know Responses

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?	Percent	Number
Strongly support	9%	N=54
Somewhat support	37%	N=227
Somewhat oppose	26%	N=162
Strongly oppose	20%	N=125
Don't know	8%	N=51
Total	100%	N=618

Table 22: Question 12 - Excluding Don't Know Responses

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?	Percent	Number
Strongly support	10%	N=54
Somewhat support	40%	N=227
Somewhat oppose	28%	N=162
Strongly oppose	22%	N=125
Total	100%	N=567

Table 23: Question 13

Have you visited, telephoned, or emailed any Dakota County government office within the last 12 months?	Percent	Number
Yes	34%	N=209
No	66%	N=407
Total	100%	N=616

Table 24: Question 14 - Including Don't Know Responses

What was your impression of the employee(s) of Dakota County in your most recent contact?	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Don't know		Total	
Knowledgeable	55%	N=117	33%	N=69	6%	N=12	3%	N=6	3%	N=7	100%	N=211
Responsive	52%	N=109	30%	N=62	10%	N=21	8%	N=16	0%	N=0	100%	N=209
Courteous	57%	N=119	30%	N=63	8%	N=16	5%	N=11	0%	N=1	100%	N=209
Overall impression	56%	N=117	26%	N=55	12%	N=26	4%	N=9	1%	N=1	100%	N=209

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

Table 25: Question 14 - Excluding Don't Know Responses

What was your impression of the employee(s) of Dakota County in your most recent contact?	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Total	
Knowledgeable	57%	N=117	34%	N=69	6%	N=12	3%	N=6	100%	N=204
Responsive	52%	N=109	30%	N=62	10%	N=21	8%	N=16	100%	N=209
Courteous	57%	N=119	30%	N=63	8%	N=16	5%	N=11	100%	N=208
Overall impression	57%	N=117	26%	N=55	13%	N=26	4%	N=9	100%	N=208

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

Table 26: Question 15 - Including Don't Know Responses

Please rate these aspects of accessing Dakota County services.	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Don't know		Total	
Convenience of County facilities' locations	29%	N=178	44%	N=272	11%	N=70	1%	N=6	15%	N=91	100%	N=616
Online access to County services	26%	N=158	36%	N=219	11%	N=68	2%	N=14	25%	N=152	100%	N=611
Ease of paying for County services online	14%	N=88	32%	N=194	10%	N=62	2%	N=11	42%	N=259	100%	N=614
Availability of language resources for access to services (e.g., interpreters or multi-language materials or signage)	7%	N=45	8%	N=50	3%	N=21	1%	N=8	80%	N=485	100%	N=609

Table 27: Question 15 - Excluding Don't Know Responses

Please rate these aspects of accessing Dakota County services.	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Total	
Convenience of County facilities' locations	34%	N=178	52%	N=272	13%	N=70	1%	N=6	100%	N=525
Online access to County services	34%	N=158	48%	N=219	15%	N=68	3%	N=14	100%	N=459
Ease of paying for County services online	25%	N=88	55%	N=194	18%	N=62	3%	N=11	100%	N=355
Availability of language resources for access to services (e.g., interpreters or multi-language materials or signage)	37%	N=45	40%	N=50	17%	N=21	7%	N=8	100%	N=124

Table 28: Question 16 - Including Don't Know Responses

Please rate the following categories of Dakota County government performance.	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Don't know		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
The job Dakota County government does of providing information to residents	20%	N=120	46%	N=283	18%	N=111	3%	N=18	13%	N=79	100%	N=611
The job Dakota County government does of listening to residents	10%	N=59	26%	N=157	22%	N=132	6%	N=39	37%	N=227	100%	N=614
The value of services for the taxes paid to Dakota County	15%	N=91	37%	N=225	25%	N=154	7%	N=44	16%	N=97	100%	N=611
The job Dakota County government does at managing tax dollars	11%	N=70	30%	N=181	21%	N=129	7%	N=42	31%	N=191	100%	N=612
The value of Dakota County services to the quality of life in my neighborhood	18%	N=112	44%	N=270	20%	N=122	5%	N=32	12%	N=74	100%	N=610
Generally acting in the best interest of the community	19%	N=117	43%	N=265	21%	N=126	4%	N=22	14%	N=83	100%	N=613
Supporting the quality of life in the county	19%	N=118	46%	N=284	20%	N=123	1%	N=8	13%	N=78	100%	N=611
Effectively planning for the future of the county	16%	N=101	35%	N=214	18%	N=110	5%	N=28	26%	N=161	100%	N=614
Dakota County's public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic	20%	N=121	38%	N=231	18%	N=111	6%	N=36	18%	N=110	100%	N=610
Overall confidence in Dakota County government	18%	N=112	48%	N=294	22%	N=135	4%	N=22	8%	N=51	100%	N=613

Table 29: Question 16 - Excluding Don't Know Responses

Please rate the following categories of Dakota County government performance.	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
The job Dakota County government does of providing information to residents	23%	N=120	53%	N=283	21%	N=111	3%	N=18	100%	N=532
The job Dakota County government does of listening to residents	15%	N=59	41%	N=157	34%	N=132	10%	N=39	100%	N=387
The value of services for the taxes paid to Dakota County	18%	N=91	44%	N=225	30%	N=154	9%	N=44	100%	N=514
The job Dakota County government does at managing tax dollars	17%	N=70	43%	N=181	31%	N=129	10%	N=42	100%	N=421
The value of Dakota County services to the quality of life in my neighborhood	21%	N=112	50%	N=270	23%	N=122	6%	N=32	100%	N=536
Generally acting in the best interest of the community	22%	N=117	50%	N=265	24%	N=126	4%	N=22	100%	N=529
Supporting the quality of life in the county	22%	N=118	53%	N=284	23%	N=123	1%	N=8	100%	N=533
Effectively planning for the future of the county	22%	N=101	47%	N=214	24%	N=110	6%	N=28	100%	N=453
Dakota County's public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic	24%	N=121	46%	N=231	22%	N=111	7%	N=36	100%	N=500
Overall confidence in Dakota County government	20%	N=112	52%	N=294	24%	N=135	4%	N=22	100%	N=562

Table 30: Question 17 - Including Don't Know Responses

To what extent do you approve or disapprove of the job the Dakota County Board is doing?	Percent	Number
Strongly approve	18%	N=107
Somewhat approve	44%	N=267
Somewhat disapprove	6%	N=36
Strongly disapprove	2%	N=10
Don't know	30%	N=184
Total	100%	N=604

Table 31: Question 17 - Excluding Don't Know Responses

To what extent do you approve or disapprove of the job the Dakota County Board is doing?	Percent	Number
Strongly approve	26%	N=107
Somewhat approve	64%	N=267
Somewhat disapprove	8%	N=36
Strongly disapprove	2%	N=10
Total	100%	N=420

Table 32: Question 18 - Including Don't Know Responses

How important, if at all, is it to provide the following library programs and services?	Essential		Very important		Somewhat important		Not at all important		Don't know		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Popular titles/current library materials	37%	N=229	35%	N=216	15%	N=91	5%	N=30	7%	N=45	100%	N=610
Small business/economic development resources and services	26%	N=161	35%	N=214	21%	N=127	5%	N=29	14%	N=83	100%	N=613
Information about jobs, skills, literacy, and careers	33%	N=204	35%	N=214	14%	N=89	5%	N=32	12%	N=74	100%	N=613
Streaming digital materials (movies, music, e-books, e-audio books)	22%	N=136	27%	N=167	30%	N=185	9%	N=57	10%	N=63	100%	N=609
Access to computers and the Internet	41%	N=251	29%	N=179	17%	N=104	6%	N=38	7%	N=42	100%	N=615
Access to creative maker technology, equipment, or classes	20%	N=122	30%	N=185	28%	N=173	8%	N=49	14%	N=83	100%	N=612
Community gathering space	26%	N=161	32%	N=193	29%	N=177	5%	N=33	8%	N=48	100%	N=613
Classes and events around health and wellness	20%	N=122	35%	N=211	28%	N=169	7%	N=45	10%	N=59	100%	N=607
English as a second language resources and services	28%	N=175	33%	N=205	15%	N=94	8%	N=50	15%	N=90	100%	N=614
Library materials in other languages (Spanish, Somali, Russian, others)	21%	N=132	26%	N=161	23%	N=144	12%	N=75	17%	N=102	100%	N=613
Other (please specify):	11%	N=34	9%	N=28	4%	N=12	4%	N=12	73%	N=232	100%	N=318

Survey respondents had the opportunity to write in a response for the “other” choice in the survey question. Please see Appendix B: Verbatim Responses to Survey Questions to review the verbatim responses.

Table 33: Question 18 - Excluding Don't Know Responses

How important, if at all, is it to provide the following library programs and services?	Essential		Very important		Somewhat important		Not at all important		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Popular titles/current library materials	40%	N=229	38%	N=216	16%	N=91	5%	N=30	100%	N=566
Small business/economic development resources and services	30%	N=161	40%	N=214	24%	N=127	5%	N=29	100%	N=530
Information about jobs, skills, literacy, and careers	38%	N=204	40%	N=214	16%	N=89	6%	N=32	100%	N=539
Streaming digital materials (movies, music, e-books, e-audio books)	25%	N=136	31%	N=167	34%	N=185	10%	N=57	100%	N=546
Access to computers and the Internet	44%	N=251	31%	N=179	18%	N=104	7%	N=38	100%	N=573
Access to creative maker technology, equipment, or classes	23%	N=122	35%	N=185	33%	N=173	9%	N=49	100%	N=529
Community gathering space	29%	N=161	34%	N=193	31%	N=177	6%	N=33	100%	N=565
Classes and events around health and wellness	22%	N=122	39%	N=211	31%	N=169	8%	N=45	100%	N=547
English as a second language resources and services	33%	N=175	39%	N=205	18%	N=94	10%	N=50	100%	N=524
Library materials in other languages (Spanish, Somali, Russian, others)	26%	N=132	31%	N=161	28%	N=144	15%	N=75	100%	N=511
Other (please specify):	40%	N=34	32%	N=28	14%	N=12	14%	N=12	100%	N=86

Survey respondents had the opportunity to write in a response for the “other” choice in the survey question. Please see Appendix B: Verbatim Responses to Survey Questions to review the verbatim responses.

Table 34: Question 19

Please indicate which of the following methods, if any, you prefer as a way to receive information about Dakota County. (Please select up to three methods.)	Percent*	Number*
Newspapers (print or online)	25%	N=157
The County's mailed newsletters	65%	N=398
Calling Dakota County	9%	N=53
Email from Dakota County	39%	N=243
Text messages and alerts (sent to cell phones)	20%	N=123
Television/cable TV	9%	N=58
County website (www.dakotacounty.us)	50%	N=305
Social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.)	20%	N=125
NextDoor	6%	N=38
The Dakota County mobile device app	3%	N=20
None, I don't want or need any information from Dakota County	3%	N=19

* Totals exceed 100% as respondents could select up to three responses. Survey respondents had the opportunity to write in a response for the "other" choice in the survey question. Please see Appendix B: Verbatim Responses to Survey Questions to review the verbatim responses.

Table 35: Question 20

Please indicate what methods you believe Dakota County should use to reach residents to learn about their preferences for County services, activities, projects, decisions and plans. (Please select all that apply.)	Percent*	Number*
Public meetings/forums/open houses	64%	N=384
Social Media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.)	47%	N=285
NextDoor	15%	N=90
Opt-in online surveys or online forums	48%	N=292
Booths and staff at community festivals or events (e.g., County Fair or farmers markets)	49%	N=295
Citizen advisory committees	28%	N=168
Other**	5%	N=29

*Totals exceed 100% as respondents could select up to three responses.

**Survey respondents had the opportunity to write in a response for the “other” choice in the survey question. Please see Appendix B: Verbatim Responses to Survey Questions to review the verbatim responses.

Table 36: Question 21

In the past year, how many times have you visited a Dakota County park or greenway?	Percent	Number
Never	11%	N=67
Once or twice	17%	N=105
3 to 12 times	42%	N=260
13 to 23 times	13%	N=77
24 or more times	17%	N=106
Total	100%	N=615

Table 37: Question 22

Why haven't you visited a Dakota County park or greenway, or visited more often?	Percent	Number
I have visited a Dakota County Park/Greenway	56%	N=327
I don't or didn't know enough about them to visit	10%	N=56
I don't have time	21%	N=124
I don't have transportation	1%	N=7
I am not interested	5%	N=27
Other	7%	N=42
Total	100%	N=582

Table 38: Question 23 - Including Don't Know Responses

Since 2003, Dakota County and partners have preserved land outside of County parks for many public purposes. How important, if at all, is it to continue using County funds for these purposes?	Essential		Very important		Somewhat important		Not at all important		Don't know		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Increasing public access for outdoor recreation	39%	N=235	33%	N=203	21%	N=129	3%	N=20	4%	N=23	100%	N=610
Protecting and improving natural areas	52%	N=320	32%	N=200	11%	N=67	2%	N=11	3%	N=18	100%	N=616
Protecting and improving land used for agriculture/other specialty crops	36%	N=219	35%	N=213	19%	N=114	4%	N=26	6%	N=40	100%	N=612
Protecting and improving water quality	62%	N=378	30%	N=181	6%	N=35	1%	N=5	2%	N=15	100%	N=614
Protecting and improving wildlife habitat	52%	N=316	30%	N=186	14%	N=86	1%	N=8	3%	N=18	100%	N=614

Table 39: Question 23 - Excluding Don't Know Responses

Since 2003, Dakota County and partners have preserved land outside of County parks for many public purposes. How important, if at all, is it to continue using County funds for these purposes?	Essential		Very important		Somewhat important		Not at all important		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Increasing public access for outdoor recreation	40%	N=235	35%	N=203	22%	N=129	3%	N=20	100%	N=587
Protecting and improving natural areas	54%	N=320	33%	N=200	11%	N=67	2%	N=11	100%	N=598
Protecting and improving land used for agriculture/other specialty crops	38%	N=219	37%	N=213	20%	N=114	4%	N=26	100%	N=572
Protecting and improving water quality	63%	N=378	30%	N=181	6%	N=35	1%	N=5	100%	N=599
Protecting and improving wildlife habitat	53%	N=316	31%	N=186	14%	N=86	1%	N=8	100%	N=595

Table 40: Question 24

What type of housing is most needed in your community? Choose up to three (3).	Percent*	Number*
Market-rate housing for older adults (condos, townhouses)	26%	N=157
Market-rate stand-alone single-family housing	34%	N=206
Market-rate apartments	14%	N=82
Workforce housing (housing affordable for working people that is close to their job) for single-person households	21%	N=126
Affordable housing for older adults	35%	N=211
Affordable family housing	52%	N=315

*Totals exceed 100% as respondents could select up to three responses.

Table 41: Question 25 - Including Don't Know Responses

Thinking about the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, how concerned, if at all, are you about each of the following?	Very concerned		Moderately concerned		Slightly concerned		Not at all concerned		Don't know		Total	
Overall physical health of you and your family	29%	N=177	22%	N=134	21%	N=128	28%	N=170	1%	N=6	100%	N=616
Overall mental health of you and your family	26%	N=160	23%	N=141	19%	N=118	29%	N=178	2%	N=12	100%	N=609
Likelihood that you or someone in your family will get COVID-19	20%	N=124	28%	N=170	24%	N=145	27%	N=163	2%	N=11	100%	N=613
Your community's medical facilities and resources being overwhelmed by COVID-19	29%	N=176	28%	N=171	20%	N=121	19%	N=116	5%	N=30	100%	N=613
Overall health and safety of vulnerable populations (e.g. older adults, those with chronic health issues)	33%	N=204	31%	N=191	20%	N=120	10%	N=61	6%	N=38	100%	N=614
My behaviors impacting the health of vulnerable populations	23%	N=137	20%	N=119	16%	N=97	36%	N=219	6%	N=37	100%	N=609
Economic impact of COVID-19 on the local economy/businesses	44%	N=272	30%	N=184	15%	N=92	8%	N=49	3%	N=17	100%	N=613

Table 42: Question 25 - Excluding Don't Know Responses

Thinking about the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, how concerned, if at all, are you about each of the following?	Very concerned		Moderately concerned		Slightly concerned		Not at all concerned		Total	
Overall physical health of you and your family	29%	N=177	22%	N=134	21%	N=128	28%	N=170	100%	N=610
Overall mental health of you and your family	27%	N=160	24%	N=141	20%	N=118	30%	N=178	100%	N=597
Likelihood that you or someone in your family will get COVID-19	21%	N=124	28%	N=170	24%	N=145	27%	N=163	100%	N=602
Your community's medical facilities and resources being overwhelmed by COVID-19	30%	N=176	29%	N=171	21%	N=121	20%	N=116	100%	N=584
Overall health and safety of vulnerable populations (e.g. older adults, those with chronic health issues)	35%	N=204	33%	N=191	21%	N=120	11%	N=61	100%	N=576
My behaviors impacting the health of vulnerable populations	24%	N=137	21%	N=119	17%	N=97	38%	N=219	100%	N=572
Economic impact of COVID-19 on the local economy/businesses	46%	N=272	31%	N=184	15%	N=92	8%	N=49	100%	N=596

Table 43: Question 26 - Including Don't Know Responses

If you are considering a change in your work situation (e.g., increasing hours, rejoining the workforce, looking for a new job), how important, if at all, are each of the following factors in making your decision?	Essential		Very important		Somewhat important		Not at all important		Don't know		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Better pay	47%	N=242	26%	N=133	11%	N=58	3%	N=18	12%	N=63	100%	N=513
Better benefits (e.g., health insurance, family leave, tuition reimbursement)	42%	N=225	33%	N=175	11%	N=56	4%	N=20	11%	N=57	100%	N=533
The flexibility to work remotely (e.g., work from home or telework at least part of the time)	29%	N=155	26%	N=138	21%	N=114	13%	N=68	12%	N=63	100%	N=539
The option to work part-time or at reduced hours	16%	N=84	22%	N=115	20%	N=104	28%	N=151	15%	N=78	100%	N=532
Career advancement opportunity at work	27%	N=148	34%	N=186	16%	N=86	10%	N=55	12%	N=65	100%	N=540
COVID-19 health and safety practices and protections at work	28%	N=150	18%	N=97	20%	N=107	24%	N=128	11%	N=58	100%	N=540
Availability and affordability of childcare	22%	N=119	16%	N=88	11%	N=59	29%	N=158	21%	N=115	100%	N=539
Availability and affordability of other caregiving (e.g. senior care or care for family members with disabilities)	15%	N=80	18%	N=95	17%	N=92	31%	N=168	19%	N=104	100%	N=540
Availability of public transportation to work	15%	N=82	16%	N=87	19%	N=102	32%	N=175	18%	N=97	100%	N=542

Table 44: Question 26 - Excluding Don't Know Responses

If you are considering a change in your work situation (e.g., increasing hours, rejoining the workforce, looking for a new job), how important, if at all, are each of the following factors in making your decision?	Essential		Very important		Somewhat important		Not at all important		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Better pay	54%	N=242	30%	N=133	13%	N=58	4%	N=18	100%	N=450
Better benefits (e.g., health insurance, family leave, tuition reimbursement)	47%	N=225	37%	N=175	12%	N=56	4%	N=20	100%	N=476
The flexibility to work remotely (e.g., work from home or telework at least part of the time)	33%	N=155	29%	N=138	24%	N=114	14%	N=68	100%	N=475
The option to work part-time or at reduced hours	18%	N=84	25%	N=115	23%	N=104	33%	N=151	100%	N=454
Career advancement opportunity at work	31%	N=148	39%	N=186	18%	N=86	11%	N=55	100%	N=475
COVID-19 health and safety practices and protections at work	31%	N=150	20%	N=97	22%	N=107	26%	N=128	100%	N=482
Availability and affordability of childcare	28%	N=119	21%	N=88	14%	N=59	37%	N=158	100%	N=424
Availability and affordability of other caregiving (e.g. senior care or care for family members with disabilities)	18%	N=80	22%	N=95	21%	N=92	39%	N=168	100%	N=435
Availability of public transportation to work	18%	N=82	19%	N=87	23%	N=102	39%	N=175	100%	N=446

Table 45: Question 27 - Including Don't Know Responses

Which highway in Dakota County needs the most safety improvements?	Percent	Number
MN-3/Hwy 3/Robert St/S Robert Tr	10%	N=41
State Hwy 13	5%	N=20
I-35 (including I-35E and I-35W)	7%	N=28
Pilot Knob Rd/Co Rd 31	5%	N=20
US-52	5%	N=22
Hwy 55	5%	N=19
Cliff Rd/Co Rd 32	2%	N=8
Co Rd 42/150th St	21%	N=88
Co Rd 46/160th St/Vermillion Rd	3%	N=12
MN-62	1%	N=2
MN-77/Cedar Ave/ Co Rd 23	12%	N=51
I-494/I-694	5%	N=20
210th St/Co Rd 50	0%	N=1
Co Rd 50	0%	N=1
Co Rd 70/215th St/210th St W	0%	N=2
Co Rd 9	0%	N=0
Co Rd 32	0%	N=0
MN-149/Dodd Blvd/Rd/155th St/Co Rd 9	2%	N=7
McAndrews Rd	0%	N=1
Other	4%	N=15
Nothing/don't know	13%	N=52
Total	100%	N=410

Table 46: Question 27 - Excluding Don't Know Responses

Which highway in Dakota County needs the most safety improvements?	Percent	Number
MN-3/Hwy 3/Robert St/S Robert Tr	11%	N=41
State Hwy 13	5%	N=20
I-35 (including I-35E and I-35W)	8%	N=28
Pilot Knob Rd/Co Rd 31	6%	N=20
US-52	6%	N=22
Hwy 55	5%	N=19
Cliff Rd/Co Rd 32	2%	N=8
Co Rd 42/150th St	24%	N=88
Co Rd 46/160th St/Vermillion Rd	3%	N=12
MN-62	1%	N=2
MN-77/Cedar Ave/Co Rd 23	14%	N=51
I-494/I-694	6%	N=20
210th St/Co Rd 50	0%	N=1
Co Rd 50	0%	N=1
Co Rd 70/215th St/210th St W	0%	N=2
MN-149/Dodd Blvd/Rd/155th St/Co Rd 9	2%	N=7
McAndrews Rd	0%	N=1
Other	4%	N=15
Total	100%	N=358

Table 47: Question 28 - Including Don't Know Responses

Which highway in Dakota County needs the most congestion improvements?	Percent	Number
MN-3/Hwy 3/Robert St/S Robert Trail	6%	N=25
State Hwy 13	6%	N=22
I-35 (including I-35E and I-35W)	7%	N=29
Pilot Knob Rd/Co Rd 31	3%	N=11
US-52	8%	N=31
Hwy 55	6%	N=22
US-61	0%	N=1
Cliff Rd/Co Rd 32	3%	N=12
Co Rd 42/150th St	23%	N=90
Co Rd 46/160th St/Vermillion Rd	4%	N=15
MN-62/Hwy 110	1%	N=3
MN-77/Cedar Ave/Co Rd 23	10%	N=37
I-494/I-694	1%	N=4
Co Rd 50/210th Street/240th Street	1%	N=3
Co Rd 70/215th St/210th St W	1%	N=3
MN-149/Dodd Blvd/Rd	2%	N=7
Other	6%	N=24
Nothing/don't know	13%	N=50
Total	100%	N=388

Table 48: Question 28 - Excluding Don't Know Responses

Which highway in Dakota County needs the most congestion improvements?	Percent	Number
MN-3/Hwy 3/Robert St/S Robert Trail	7%	N=25
State Hwy 13	6%	N=22
I-35 (including I-35E and I-35W)	9%	N=29
Pilot Knob Rd/Co Rd 31	3%	N=11
US-52	9%	N=31
Hwy 55	7%	N=22
Cliff Rd/Co Rd 32	3%	N=12
Co Rd 42/150th St	27%	N=90
Co Rd 46/160th St/Vermillion Rd	4%	N=15
MN-62/Hwy 110	1%	N=3
MN-77/Cedar Ave/Co Rd 23	11%	N=37
I-494/I-694	1%	N=4
Co Rd 50/210th Street/240th Street	1%	N=3
Co Rd 70/215th St/210th St W	1%	N=3
MN-149/Dodd Blvd/Rd	2%	N=7
Other	7%	N=24
Total	100%	N=338

Table 49: Question D1

How long have you lived in Dakota County?	Percent	Number
Less than 2 years	8%	N=47
2-5 years	17%	N=105
6-10 years	10%	N=59
11-15 years	9%	N=58
16-20 years	8%	N=50
Over 20 years	48%	N=299
Total	100%	N=619

Table 50: Question D2

Which of the following best describes you?	Percent	Number
Employed full-time	61%	N=374
Employed part-time	6%	N=39
Employed, seeking better job or more hours	3%	N=20
Homemaker	5%	N=28
Retired	24%	N=147
Unemployed, looking for work	1%	N=4
Student	1%	N=5
Total	100%	N=616

Table 51: Question D3 - Including Don't Know Responses

On average, how long does it take you to travel to work each day (from home)?	Percent	Number
0 to 14 minutes	23%	N=98
15 to 19 minutes	17%	N=71
20 to 29 minutes	18%	N=78
30 to 44 minutes	18%	N=79
45 to 60 minutes	3%	N=12
60 or more minutes	1%	N=6
Not sure/Don't know	1%	N=6
I primarily work from home	18%	N=76
Total	100%	N=427

Table 52: Question D4 - Including Don't Know Responses

On average, how long does it take you to travel to work each day (from home)?	Percent	Number
0 to 14 minutes	35%	N=151
15 to 19 minutes	12%	N=51
20 to 29 minutes	26%	N=113
30 to 44 minutes	5%	N=22
45 to 60 minutes	0%	N=2
60 or more minutes	1%	N=4
Not sure/Don't know	3%	N=12
I primarily work from home	17%	N=72
Total	100%	N=427

Table 53: Question D5

Which category contains your age?	Percent	Number
18-24	1%	N=8
25-34	23%	N=142
35-44	22%	N=133
45-54	15%	N=94
55-64	14%	N=86
65-74	15%	N=94
75-84	8%	N=48
85+	2%	N=11
Total	100%	N=617

Table 54: Question D6

Which gender do you identify with most closely?	Percent	Number
Female	51%	N=311
Male	48%	N=296
Identify another way	1%	N=6
Total	100%	N=613

Table 55: Question D7

Which best describes the building you live in?	Percent	Number
One family house detached from any other houses	61%	N=379
House attached to one or more houses (e.g., a duplex or townhome)	14%	N=89
Building with two or more apartments or condos	23%	N=143
Manufactured or mobile home	1%	N=4
Other	0%	N=2
Total	100%	N=618

Table 56: Question D8

Is this house, apartment, or mobile home...	Percent	Number
Rented	23%	N=138
Owned (including with an outstanding mortgage)	77%	N=466
Total	100%	N=604

Table 57: Question D9

Are you Spanish, Hispanic or Latino?	Percent	Number
No, not Spanish, Hispanic or Latino	98%	N=589
Yes, I consider myself to be Spanish, Hispanic or Latino	2%	N=12
Total	100%	N=601

Table 58: Question D10

What is your race?	Percent*	Number*
American Indian or Alaskan Native	2%	N=10
Asian, Asian Indian or Pacific Islander	8%	N=47
Black or African American	6%	N=33
White	87%	N=527
Other	3%	N=18

* Totals exceed 100% as respondents could select more than one response.

Table 59: Question D11

How many of each of the following, including yourself, live in your household?	None		One		Two		Three		Four		Five or more		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Children age 17 years and under	70%	N=439	15%	N=91	11%	N=66	3%	N=21	1%	N=5	0%	N=2	100%	N=625
Adults under age 65 years	29%	N=182	19%	N=121	43%	N=268	5%	N=34	3%	N=19	0%	N=1	100%	N=625
Adults age 65 years and over	72%	N=448	15%	N=93	13%	N=80	0%	N=1	0%	N=0	0%	N=2	100%	N=625

Table 60: Question D12

Please indicate your household's annual income:	Percent	Number
Under \$15,000	2%	N=12
\$15,000-\$24,999	7%	N=41
\$25,000-\$34,999	5%	N=29
\$35,000-\$49,999	9%	N=55
\$50,000-\$74,999	17%	N=99
\$75,000-\$99,999	12%	N=71
\$100,000-\$149,999	20%	N=113
\$150,000-\$199,999	13%	N=74
\$200,000 or more	15%	N=85
Total	100%	N=579

Appendix B: Verbatim Responses to Survey Questions

Following are verbatim 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 typographical, grammatical or other mistakes. Within each question the responses are in alphabetical order.

Question 4: What do you feel is the most serious issue facing Dakota County at this time?

Crime and safety issues

- ◆ 1. Crime 2. Environmental.
- ◆ Avoiding crime and crazy Trump people.
- ◆ beggars, crime, and stoplights
- ◆ Burglary and other non-violent crime often stemming from drug issues
- ◆ Car break ins at Lebanon hills. Catalytic converter theft (everywhere)
- ◆ car theft, burglaries/packages being stolen
- ◆ Car theft.
- ◆ Community safety and law enforcement. Let law enforcement do their job and enforce the laws we have and stand behind them!! Have courage and respect.
- ◆ Control on crime - break-ins - carjacking.
- ◆ creeping crime (mail theft, people rifling cars, catalytic converter theft)... these affect quality of daily life and erode community
- ◆ crime
- ◆ Crime & Dog / Animal neglect!
- ◆ Crime and driving while under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol
- ◆ Crime and high taxes.
- ◆ Crime and safety
- ◆ CRIME ENFORCEMENT - THEFT.
- ◆ Crime has been increasing
- ◆ Crime increase.
- ◆ crime is popping up more and more
- ◆ Crime on the rise.
- ◆ Crime Prevention
- ◆ Crime rate increasing

- ◆ Crime rates
- ◆ Crime to many. Cheap housing projects.
- ◆ Crime you need to get this under control
- ◆ crime,
- ◆ Crime.
- ◆ Crime. While it isn't a major problem here, the crime in Minneapolis and St. Paul are starting to spill over to Dakota County
- ◆ Crime. Over building on small lots
- ◆ Crime. Theft from vehicles and homes to business being robbed.
- ◆ crime/drugs
- ◆ Crimer
- ◆ Crimes in the Twin Cities spilling into Dakota County.
- ◆ Growing crime.
- ◆ Gun violence and public safety. We don't leave the house without considering safety.
- ◆ I am concerned about drivers going too fast in areas that are becoming more populated, like in SE Rosemount.
- ◆ I feel there is an uptick in crime. I have a different feel of where I live than when I first moved here.
- ◆ Inappropriate police officer stops. It feels the stops are truly for making the city and county money. Police and sheriff department need to treat residents with respect.
- ◆ Increase in crime

- ◆ Increase in crime (ie. breaking, car theft, vandalism).
- ◆ Increase in crime rates
- ◆ Increase in crime, political division.
- ◆ INCREASE OF BURGLARIES THEFT FROM STORES & HOMES.
- ◆ Increase of crime
- ◆ increase of crimes
- ◆ Increase property crimes.
- ◆ Increased crime
- ◆ Increased crime over the next 5 years
- ◆ Increasing crime.
- ◆ Inner city crime now happening in Dakota County like graffiti, stealing catalytic converters, and some gun violence.
- ◆ JUVENILE CRIME OVER TWIN CITIES.
- ◆ Keeping crime in check.
- ◆ Keeping us a suburb and not allowing urban crime to to come into our community.
- ◆ Lack of support for law enforcement.
- ◆ LAW ENFORCEMENT.
- ◆ Low income apartments bringing in crime.
- ◆ maintaining adequate fire and police protection
- ◆ Maintaining strong, responsive public safety services (i.e. police).
- ◆ NEED FOR STRONG, WELL-FUNDED, POLICE.
- ◆ Petty crime
- ◆ Police "in every community".
- ◆ POLICE NO LONGER RESPOND TO SHOPLIFTING OR GAS DRIVE-OFFS AT GAS STATIONS.
- ◆ Possibility of increasing levels of crime.
- ◆ Potential crime increase
- ◆ Potential for crime to move from the inner cities.
- ◆ Raising crime, because of State Government posture on policing
- ◆ Rise in crime
- ◆ Rising crime rate
- ◆ Rising crime rates, weak accountability
- ◆ Safety
- ◆ Safety and crime in the community seems to be getting worse
- ◆ Safety is probably is high on the list as well maintaining and growing infrastructure as the communities grow
- ◆ safety/crime and development/redevelopment with additional transit options including bike and walking paths across major streets
- ◆ Safety/crime.
- ◆ Security

- ◆ The increase in crime!
- ◆ The reporting of an increase in crime is the most concerning issue to us at this time.
- ◆ The rise in crime
- ◆ The way crime is increasing.
- ◆ various crime.
- ◆ Well, like anywhere now, the uptick in crime.

Affordable housing

- ◆ accessible housing
- ◆ affordability
- ◆ Affordability of housing
- ◆ affordable housing and daycare shortage
- ◆ Affordable housing and lack of restaurants and shopping for organics and healthy food items
- ◆ AFFORDABLE HOUSING BUILDERS LIKE LENNAR ARE TWO BIG USE UP ALL AVAILABLE LAND.
- ◆ Affordable housing for seniors.
- ◆ Affordable housing for the elderly.
- ◆ Affordable housing for young families and senior citizens.
- ◆ Affordable housing, policing Dakota county.
- ◆ Affordable housing.
- ◆ AFFORDABLE HOUSING. WHO'S NOT SO BRIGHT IDEA WAS IT TO BUILD ALL THESE 1/2 MILLION DOLLAR HOUSES? WHO IN THEIR RIGHT MIND CAN AFFORD THAT?
- ◆ Affordable housing/rental
- ◆ affordable ranch style homes
- ◆ AFFORDABLE RENT.

- ◆ Affordable senior housing.
- ◆ Affordable senior housing.
- ◆ Affordable single-family homes. Too many are rentals.
- ◆ Aging population and the availability of housing that fits for this population that is affordable for this age group.
- ◆ available housing
- ◆ cost of housing
- ◆ Cost of housing
- ◆ Cost of housing and living
- ◆ DECLINING RETAIL AFFORDABLE HOUSING, BUSINESS/PLACES TO EAT/POOR COMMUNITY EVENTS DURING HOURS PEOPLE WHO WORK CAN ATTEND.
- ◆ HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY.
- ◆ Housing shortage /home prices and homelessness
- ◆ Housing.
- ◆ HOUSING.
- ◆ I would say I am extremely concerned about the skyrocketing cost of housing and its impact on both single people in their 20s and 30s and on young families looking to buy a house to raise their kids in, effectively pricing low, middle, and even upper middle income households out of the housing market. It's not as bad yet as Hennepin County, but I don't think we want the situation to get anywhere near that bad here.
- ◆ lack of affordable apartments for young adults and students
- ◆ Low income housing.
- ◆ overall housing costs and transportation options to St Paul and Minneapolis
- ◆ RENTAL PRICING IS AWFUL!! NEED RENT CONTROL - PEOPLE CAN'T AFFORD TO LIVE IN APTS., HOMES.
- ◆ Section 8 housing
- ◆ Senior housing with accessible one story housing.
- ◆ SENIOR HOUSING.
- ◆ The cost of housing going up, rent.
- ◆ There is not enough affordable housing or public transportation. Our area has a problem with racism. In fact, we are considering moving due to the racism in our community.

Taxes

- ◆ Always wanting to raise taxes, school references, etc.
- ◆ high property taxes
- ◆ High property taxes.
- ◆ HIGH TAXES FOR RETIRED.
- ◆ High taxes.
- ◆ High taxes.
- ◆ Home taxes raising too fast.
- ◆ I wish the taxes weren't so high.

- ◆ Increasing property taxes. Out of control.
- ◆ Increasing taxes
- ◆ INCREASINGLY HIGH PROPERTY TAXES.
- ◆ Keeping taxes and crime low
- ◆ Keeping taxes and crime low
- ◆ Keeping taxes low
- ◆ Keeping taxes low with increasing costs of services
- ◆ Property taxes
- ◆ Property taxes are too high
- ◆ Property taxes increasing every year without relent squeezing budgets because the county funds unnecessary programs.
- ◆ Property taxes too high.
- ◆ Property taxes way too high
- ◆ Property taxes- your property is only worth what you can get when you sell it!
- ◆ REAL ESTATE TAXES ARE TOO HIGH!
- ◆ Rising property taxes.
- ◆ Rising taxes
- ◆ rising taxes and cost of living
- ◆ Skyrocketing real estate taxes
- ◆ Tax
- ◆ Tax increase.
- ◆ TAX INCREASES.
- ◆ taxes
- ◆ taxes
- ◆ taxes
- ◆ Taxes
- ◆ Taxes - high rent.
- ◆ Taxes & crime in North Farmington.
- ◆ Taxes and crime.
- ◆ Taxes are so high
- ◆ Taxes are too high
- ◆ Taxes are too high and crime pushing in from the cities.
- ◆ Taxes are too high.
- ◆ Taxes too high, no radon issues much for commercial/businesses, ICH roads bad, H2O smells & tastes terrible.
- ◆ Taxes.

- ◆ The high level of property taxes
- ◆ The issue of high taxes.
- ◆ Very high property tax from other Countys.

Growth / Development

- ◆ Building too many apartments and too many rental houses.
- ◆ Challenge of balancing rural and suburban lifestyle.
- ◆ City planning & development.
- ◆ Controlled expansion
- ◆ Controlled expansion
- ◆ Density of housing.
- ◆ DEVELOPMENT OVERREACH.
- ◆ Development pressure
- ◆ Evolving suburban sprawl
- ◆ Growing too fast and increase in taxes and utilities
- ◆ Growing too fast.
- ◆ HANDLING GROWTH.
- ◆ HOUSE DEVELOPMENT INCREASING PRIOR TO IMPROVED ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE.
- ◆ How to handle the ever increasing population.
- ◆ I AM CONCERNED BY ALL OF THE APARTMENTS GOING UP IN WEST ST-PAUL CAUSING A CRIME SPIKE.
- ◆ I am concerned that all the apartments being built in West St. Paul will increase crime.
- ◆ I have lived in Dakota County for just over two years. To the West of me is the densely populated Apple Valley and beyond. To the East a rural /farm land landscape that is quickly disappearing - becoming an ongoing wasteland of new housing. The special, unique character woodland/farmland -open areas is vanishing; traffic congestion / light pollution / growing city problems increasing.
- ◆ Keeping up with growth
- ◆ Managing growth
- ◆ Managing growth and affordability.
- ◆ managing immense growth
- ◆ Number of new homes being put up and lack of roads to get these people to work
- ◆ OVER BUILDING OF APARTMENTS.
- ◆ Over crowding.
- ◆ Over development
- ◆ Over development of neighborhoods
- ◆ Over expanding - low-income housing has taken over.
- ◆ Over expansion of commercial properties.
- ◆ over population
- ◆ Over population which drive poor roads, congested traffic, more dangerous travel, lowering of median living, excessive regulations, poor water quality, expensive utilities

and road maintenance, excessive stress to the police are only some of the issues to this route cause generated by the greed of our politicians.

- ◆ Over population.
- ◆ Overbuilding & too much apt living.
- ◆ Overbuilding and lack of cultural personality
- ◆ overbuilding of apartments which leads to traffic congestion and overcrowding.
- ◆ Overcrowding of schools due to so many new homes being built & increased taxes
- ◆ Overdevelopment
- ◆ Overgrowth, infrastructure cant keep up with growing population
- ◆ Overpopulation
- ◆ Overpopulation
- ◆ Plenty of at-market housing apartment buildings. These people are usually not 'community' people as opposed to home owners. If the buildings require ownership, they are more apt to be 'community' people.
- ◆ population density
- ◆ Population increase & (affordable) resources for older (seniors).
- ◆ Seeing lot of constructions, at future thinking will this become a overcrowded in few places like apple valley etc
- ◆ Threat to the overall quality of life due to overdevelopment (excessive new housing builds) and traffic congestion.
- ◆ Too many apartment buildings.
- ◆ Too many apartments.
- ◆ Too many high rise apartment buildings going up around Dodd Rd. & Hwy 62
- ◆ Too many large apartment buildings going up - causing conception & traffic!
- ◆ Too much housing is being built.
- ◆ TOO MUCH NEW MULTI-HOUSING.
- ◆ Too much real estate.
- ◆ Urban sprawl
- ◆ Urban Sprawl. Open spaces are being sold to developers for more single family homes. Prefer to see more multi-family dwellings close to the city centers. Not opposed to going vertical, like in Apple Valley and some of the new housing units there. Increase housing without converting farm to residential.
- ◆ With so much beauty and available land --- to ensure the county does not become overrun with an idea of building density. Yet --- affordable housing for seniors seems to be limited.

Sense of community, diversity, etc.

- ◆ Acceptance of people of diverse backgrounds.
- ◆ Adapting and making changes to meet the needs of a diverse population - age, gender, race, ability! Accessibility for people with special needs.
- ◆ Affordability, blacks still having mega problems with education, police.

- ◆ CRITICAL RACE THEORY, SCHOOL DISTRICT-WIDE APPROVAL OF BLACK LIVES MATTER SIGNAGE, APPROVAL, ETC. WE ARE AGAINST BOTH.
- ◆ Dakota county Minnesota in general is truly a racist place to live
- ◆ Dealing with increasing diversity
- ◆ Diversity and people's lack of willingness to realize that people of color are marginalized. A lot of close minds in this community. Also something is wrong with the city water in Hastings. I will not drink it.
- ◆ Division between rich and poor - reflecting a national trend, but communities tend to isolate from each other. I would add to that the lack of local business - lots of chains, but few locally-owned places to support.
- ◆ Ethnic & cultural diversity throughout the county, not just in pockets.
- ◆ Ethnic conflict and gender inequality.
- ◆ Illegal aliens living here
- ◆ lack of diversity
- ◆ Loss of English as a primary language. To many second language signs and tool enables people to not learn English.
- ◆ Making room for diverse voices while maintaining some sense of community
- ◆ Muslims and Somalians moving into suburbs
- ◆ Openness & acceptance of people with diverse backgrounds, and covid-19 response.
- ◆ Racism.
- ◆ Racists and anti-science/government attitudes
- ◆ residents who are not accepting of people from outside of Monnesota

Condition of roads

- ◆ Poor roads high taxes.
- ◆ Poor roads.
- ◆ road conditions (mostly city)
- ◆ ROAD CONDITIONS.
- ◆ Roads & traffic they keep building houses but no roads.
- ◆ Roads and freeways. Vacated properties that need to be repurposed.
- ◆ Some roads - Blaine & Cahill some more sustainable jobs to live & work in Dak County, taxes in LB.

Traffic congestion

- ◆ Increase awareness and ability for pedestrians and cyclists.
- ◆ People who blow red lights & stop signs.
- ◆ Residential traffic flow and speed
- ◆ Robert Street
- ◆ traffic
- ◆ Traffic
- ◆ Traffic
- ◆ Traffic & the continued increase of population.

- ◆ TRAFFIC CONGESTION.
- ◆ traffic patterns
- ◆ TRAFFIC,ROADS

Schools

- ◆ Burnsville school district ratings
- ◆ Continuing the excellent primary education opportunities for families.
- ◆ Declining school districts
- ◆ Farmington school district is oddly bad. I saw what teachers make in this town, not very much. Probably why the district cannot attract good teachers for our kids. Going to be a big problem as the population grows.
- ◆ Our school system disregards parents' prerogatives to choose curriculum and make health decisions for their own children. Public servants don't override parents' authority - at least they should.
- ◆ Public school curriculum.
- ◆ Quality of education
- ◆ Rapidly growing housing will increase demands on the education system. Are real.
- ◆ School achievement decline
- ◆ Schools and offering a diverse culture and schools with good withstanding
- ◆ Schools.
- ◆ SCHOOLS.
- ◆ Shortage of schools with all of the growth in the southern/southeastern part of Dakota County
- ◆ What's taught in the schools

Economic development

- ◆ Business - residential slow downs & growth.
- ◆ Economic growth, jobs, affordable housing for lower income households
- ◆ Economic health.
- ◆ everyone needs more workers
- ◆ I can't speak to all of Dakota County, but in WSP; to look toward the type of businesses coming to the area. Would like to see more retail /restaurants that are not all chains.
- ◆ INVER GROVE HEIGHTS: We have NO place to shop -- ALL we do is build more homes & townhomes...there is NO open space. Target Area with all the empty spaces what a waste of taxpayers dollars - poor planning. All Inver Grove has is a bunch of LITTLE strip malls everywhere.....I NEVER shop in Inver Grove. We have the smaller Walmart (no deli, no bakery).....A small Cub Store compared to Eagan, Cottage Grove, Apple Valley. I drive ALL the way to Cottage Grove for my groceries or Eagan.....it is SAD. All Inver Grove does is build homes / townhomes.....it would be nice if we had a centralized spot for shopping like Eagan, Cottage Grove, Woodbury, etc.
- ◆ Lack of commercial business in my town
- ◆ leaving some areas undeveloped
- ◆ NO INDUSTRY.

Homelessness and poverty

- ◆ Equal access to quality food and educational resources for low-income families
- ◆ Homeless teens & children.
- ◆ There aren't enough resources to handle homelessness -- the county should prioritize establishing a permanent homeless shelter

Public transportation

- ◆ There is a need for better transportation options for Senior Citizens
- ◆ Transportation within Hastings & to the Twin Cities.
- ◆ Mass transit

Updating infrastructure

- ◆ continued maintenance of infrastructure
- ◆ Infrastructure as community grows.
- ◆ Lack of bikeways.
- ◆ More services and transportation of people with disabilities. And to have more access to the services
- ◆ Outdated infrastructure in regards to electricity and internet, and low water pressure
- ◆ Over building and infrastructure that won't keep up with that.
- ◆ Pressure on local services from rapidly expanding housing stock
- ◆ Rapid growth, and infrastructure keeping up

Jobs

- ◆ Employment opportunity for young people.
- ◆ Good paying jobs and affordable housing
- ◆ job availability
- ◆ jobs
- ◆ Jobs
- ◆ JOBS.
- ◆ Lack of diversity and access to employment
- ◆ manufacturing jobs
- ◆ Not enough business for jobs to support the city: Shops and food for community InverGrove Heights.
- ◆ Not many job opportunities for experienced workers; no affordable housing.

Preserving natural areas/protecting natural resources

- ◆ *Giving away the treasure of our rich soil development* Political polarization, rudeness, and anger as a norm; affordable housing.
- ◆ Declining water quality
- ◆ Loosing open areas such as the golf course
- ◆ Loss of open/green space.
- ◆ Maintaining its rural/suburban character.
- ◆ maintenance of trails and parks

- ◆ Natural resources
- ◆ Protecting our high quality parks, safety, schools, housing stock, etc. Let's grow smartly.
- ◆ Rural water quality.
- ◆ Stresses on air/water quality, roads, availability of parks and Open spaces all due to rapidly increasing population
- ◆ Too much shifting at once to manage: how to preserve natural spaces and work toward climate solutions; how to makes sure caregivers (e.g. day care providers) feel valued, respected, and well-paid so we don't lose them; making sure teachers also feel valued, respected, and well-paid so we don't lose them either in our great school districts; reforming options for first responders so calling for help doesn't feel like an ethical dilemma.

Teen drug/alcohol use

- ◆ Drug and crime creeping into county from metro areas.
- ◆ DRUG.
- ◆ Drugs & crime & economy.
- ◆ Drugs- nothing for kids.

Pollution/environmental concerns

- ◆ Attract clean industry to support affordable housing/taxes. Curtail spending on non-essential infrastructure. (schools & bureaucracy expansion).
- ◆ Cleanliness
- ◆ Climate Change
- ◆ Crowded. Recycling awareness.
- ◆ Drinking water quality
- ◆ Environmental issues related to continued growth of communities.
- ◆ Environmental protection
- ◆ Equity and climate change - two issues, I know, but both incredibly important
- ◆ Excessive development and loss of agricultural lands and family farms.
- ◆ GARBAGE, LITTERING ESPECIALLY BY 65TH ST GARBAGE ACCUMULATION BY TREES NEXT TO SCHOOL BEHIND DOLLAR TREE ENTRANCE TO 65TH STREET.
- ◆ Global warming.
- ◆ Our only issue has been the smell from the stockyards. We can't even of our windows in the summer. It is unbearable.
- ◆ Pollution due to different mineral and oil based industries

Quality of county services

- ◆ accessible and affordable community centers and declining green areas
- ◆ How to continue to provide a high quality place to live in ever changing world.
- ◆ Maintaining good quality of life while keeping taxes and cost of housing reasonable.
- ◆ Waste of money on projects with return on investment, we need to know more than ten people are going to enjoy the Counties investment on a project.

Political divisions

- ◆ Dictation of policy by Met Council.
- ◆ Division between political ideologies, racial tension
- ◆ Going down that rabbit hole of over the top woke progressive thinking that accomplishes nothing but misery for everyone. Keep that garbage out of government and our schools, it has no place in a healthy functioning community.
- ◆ Lack of politicians who care about the residents & not just their agendas.
- ◆ Leaning toward ultra liberal policies
- ◆ Political bull shit, CRT, radical politics.
- ◆ Political disintegration
- ◆ political divide
- ◆ political division and tension
- ◆ Political polarization will bring fewer opportunities for economic advancement, poorer education outcomes, and regressive policies that diminish quality of life
- ◆ political unrest
- ◆ Politics
- ◆ Right wing wacos

COVID impact

- ◆ Covid
- ◆ Covid & affordable housing.
- ◆ Covid & racial discord.
- ◆ Covid and Crime
- ◆ Covid impacts
- ◆ Covid regulations and mandates.
- ◆ Covid, shortage of affordable housing for seniors.
- ◆ Covid/health care.
- ◆ Divisive nature of issues related to covid
- ◆ Health freedom- no vaccine mandates, passports, or bogus testing
- ◆ Loss of restaurant business due to Covid
- ◆ Overreaching of Covid rules and regulations.
- ◆ The Epedemic.
- ◆ The Pandemic and it's effects.
- ◆ The pandemic.

Inflation

- ◆ cost of living
- ◆ Cost of living
- ◆ Cost of living in Dakota ct.
- ◆ High bills, no internet options.
- ◆ Inflation

- ◆ Inflation
- ◆ Prices are going up but wages are staying the same. Crime is getting alot more worse here and it doesn't seem like anything is being done.
- ◆ RISING COST OF LIVING.
- ◆ The cost of living is too high.
- ◆ The increase in cost of living.

Other

- ◆ 1. Bluntly, I worry that people are fleeing failed policies in Ramsey and Hennepin County and, in their foolishness, will try / are trying to enact those same failed policies here. (I myself left Saint Paul in 2017, and the failure of the city was a factor, but I had the sense to not take my ailing hometown as a lesson in how to govern.)2. I think we're awfully short-sighted and narrow minded about housing. For example, on this very survey there is no distinction between rentals and owner-occupied -- even though demand for owner-occupied is very strong and the difference has huge implications for the community. Nor is there any middle ground listed between "single-family homes" and "workforce housing" (which appears from the description to be apartments) -- nothing about owner-occupied duplexes, triplexes, townhomes, brownstones, or any of the other parts of the rich tapestry of American housing that the suburbs tend to ignore (because we forgot they existed) (because we zoned them all out of existence decades ago). We cannot just keep building detached single-family homes forever, but, for Pete's sake, Another West St. Paul Apartment High-Rise is not the *only* other option on the menu.
- ◆ An aging housing stock in the more northern part of the county may degrade the quality of the county
- ◆ Arby's more places treat windy eating place around CBP building.
- ◆ Burnsville Center
- ◆ BURNSVILLE CENTER.
- ◆ catalytic converter theft
- ◆ Crowding in of high-priced condos / senior condos. The roadways / traffic in and near these areas aren't going to be able to support. These high-priced condos / senior condos are not senior friendly. Most of us can not afford them.
- ◆ Family breakdown
- ◆ Find a better way to support single mothers; using old measurements to define eligibility which is not fair w/expenses 4 family.
- ◆ Good healthcare affordability / drug addiction.
- ◆ Government is getting too big with too many "social" programs.
- ◆ Grocery Store Supply Chain
- ◆ Health concerns.
- ◆ helping seniors to stay in their homes as long as possible
- ◆ I live in Apple Valley and there are way too many fast food choices (gross) and NOT enough healthy unprocessed food choices. I want a Trader Joe's market here!!!! And No, Fresh Thyme is NOT enough!!! I want an excellent Healthy Breakfast Restaurant built!!!! We had one at HyVee and then it was changed to a Wahlbergers!!!! Like We need more Saturated fats and HFCS foods here!!!!

- ◆ Ignorance
- ◆ keeping crt and this insane crap coming from the cities and the elite out of our county
- ◆ LACK OF SERVICES FOR THE DISABLED
- ◆ Medical assistance
- ◆ Mental health. Missing a lot of infrastructure.
- ◆ Overall transportation and logistics that would enhance shared and equity in development. Strategic initiative to have all communities develop equally with southern bypass from 35w to highway 52. Traffic has not even reached a peak level, and already roads are more like highways. Business development is continuing along 35w and the interior cities like Farmington have cookie cut up roads with no direct access for companies to move goods and services easily. When development finally occurs will the infrastructure be a future prospect? I see nothing other than imbalance of growth based on cedar Avenue. Look to the west and the tax base of my city is not as substantial meaning we are slowly becoming a bedroom community. Prior Lake is like this but they have Mystic Lake , and they planned for extensive development before it happened that's why their roads are seamless with other communities. Shakopee had a bypass I grew up there and that made sense. Maple grove had a bypass, so did Brooklyn park. Their communities continue to grow equally, but Farmington is at a snails pace with Lakeville being off the charts. I think no one really wants a straight road coming from the west for this reason. It's quaint, quiet, and everything you would want in a smaller town. This is not the future of growth, and our tax dollars continue to leave our community. We don't have a grocery store, but have 3 municipal liquor stores. When I moved here 12 years ago for my children's education and the excellent school system I thought things would change. When my kids were in high school I thought it would be nice to have a safe bike pass for them to go to the high school coming from the north part of the city where all the students live but there is none. The days of driving on the side of a two-lane road with texting and driving means it is very unsafe to ride a bike to school or walk. Looking to the south I see the intersection where Flagstaff meets 212 St. I told my children to
- ◆ Overreaching elected officials require mandates that should be a personal decision.
- ◆ Retirement!
- ◆ Teachers Union.
- ◆ The member of apts. being built in W. St. P. will be bringing in the violent group from downtown St. Paul.
- ◆ The use of dominion and smart matic voting machines-MN, cheated in the 2020 election. I don't feel the voting in MN. is safe, it is corrupt. I don't trust any results.
- ◆ Voting rights
- ◆ We are on the extreme eastern edge of Dak. Co. so for removal from most issues.
- ◆ WHEN PEOPLE WITH WEALTH OR POWER DON'T CARE ABOUT ANYONE ELSE.

Question 18: How important, if at all, is it to provide the following library programs and services? (other)

- ◆ "CLEANLINESS TO OUR" STREETS, PARKING LOTS, WALKWAYS, GARBAGE PICKUPS, TREE TRIMMINGS, SIDEWALK PAPER GARBAGE PICK UP, PAINT BUS STOP BENCHES.
- ◆ Access to tax forms.
- ◆ Accessibility like operating hours?
- ◆ Adult schooling postings.
- ◆ all aeres
- ◆ Available resources for all groups of people to access and learn from resources.
- ◆ Books by L. Ron Hubbard.
- ◆ by mistake
- ◆ Capres low cost.
- ◆ Childcare services for parents while using the library.
- ◆ Children's activities/stories.
- ◆ Children's books.
- ◆ Children's programs.
- ◆ Childrens programming
- ◆ Classes learning to use the computer and accessing the internet, especially for older adults.
- ◆ Cleansing space use.
- ◆ Creative spaces for children
- ◆ Don't have any
- ◆ Even in the day and age of almost everything offered online -- must still be aware of those in a diverse community (age, disability as well as culture) whom do not have the opportunity to handle their business or needs online. The country libraries do a wonderful in-person job with services for all.
- ◆ Fun activities to encourage the love to read in children (& adults!).
- ◆ GLBT resources
- ◆ Haven't used the library in probably 20 years.
- ◆ Home delivery of materials.
- ◆ Housing resources
- ◆ I did not know any other, so I selected "Don't Know"
- ◆ I understand and agree that cities / counties need to grow and prosper; however it appears that growth is being crowded into already high-density areas and now creates problems for the roadways and the existing businesses and residents. Spread out; update the roadways. Plan better for areas; just because there is an open lot doesn't mean anything can or should be dropped into that spot. That's where 'planning' comes
- ◆ If anything offering tutoring or reading assistance to special needs people would be beneficial.
- ◆ INCOME TAX FORMS ETC.
- ◆ INFORMATION ABOUT SOCIAL SERVICES.

- ◆ Just services for people with disabilities adults
- ◆ LGBTQ.
- ◆ library is essential
- ◆ Library materials in Amharic Language, After School programs for K-12, Technology based Seminars and Trainings
- ◆ Not aware of other service needs (sorry - I clicked "Don't know" and it required an answer here)
- ◆ Personal study offices
- ◆ Pretty much covered
- ◆ Roads
- ◆ Services for children
- ◆ Sexual perversion (drag queen story hour), diversity, CRT and other morally objectionable materials, events and resources.
- ◆ Social workers.
- ◆ Speak english.
- ◆ STORY HOUR FOR CHILDREN.
- ◆ Take the politics out of the library, provide as much content as possible for ALL without an agenda!!!! Can you do that?
- ◆ This last section is about helping immigrants by what I what I got from the questions asked. The best way to help immigrants succeed in the US is to make English their #1 language rather than help educate them in their native language. If we can't communicate with each other in our community, we won't come together as a community. That is more important than ever in today's world. Our tax dollars should be focused on educating everyone the same way, rather than making special classes/resources for every individual. That's just my viewpoints at least.
- ◆ VOLUNTEERISM AT THE LIBRARY.
- ◆ Working with the code department is awful
- ◆ You questions don't allow the people answering the question to respond in away they feel. Example was Covid 19 response good? If I say excellent you think what you did was good if I say poor you think you need to do more of what you did. I am thinking you did exactly what you shouldn't have. Masks and social distance signs in multiple languages were a waste of money as was appointments for services.

Question 20: Please indicate what methods you believe Dakota County should use to reach residents to learn about their preferences for County services, activities, projects, decisions and plans. (other)

- ◆ A mailer to all county residents inviting them to take a survey (and the survey and mailer should both be in English, Spanish, and Somali and there should be a Braille option for the blind to be able to participate if they wish.)
- ◆ All of the above.
- ◆ All!
- ◆ Any and all above.

- ◆ Anything that is inclusive of all viewpoints.
- ◆ Commissioners like Joe Atkins keeping us informed via a direct mail news letter!
- ◆ County mailed newsletters.
- ◆ DAKOTA MAGAZINE.
- ◆ Don't care.
- ◆ emails, out bound phone call, US Postal
- ◆ FLYERS OR POSTINGS @ YOUR LOCAL SUPERMARKETS, ALDI'S, CUB'S, ETC.
- ◆ I have no idea what this question means!
- ◆ I've never observed my county Commissioner knocking on doors within the neighborhood to ask residents she supports what our needs are.
- ◆ If I need something, I will contact Dakota County.
- ◆ If I need something, I will contact Dakota County.
- ◆ It's important to reach out through multiple methods and media to reach the greatest number of people
- ◆ LEGAL PAPER
- ◆ Local newspaper
- ◆ Local TV and radio and news papers.
- ◆ Mail - like this.
- ◆ Mail direct.
- ◆ Mail I guess
- ◆ Mail out postcards with information
- ◆ MAIL SURVEYS.
- ◆ Mail.
- ◆ Mail.
- ◆ Mail.
- ◆ Mail.
- ◆ Mailed newsletter & text w/link to surveys.
- ◆ MAILED SURVEYS.
- ◆ Mailing.
- ◆ Most people are busy.
- ◆ news, tv, radio
- ◆ NEWSPAPERS/TV/RADIO I DON'T DO ANY SOCIAL MEDIA.
- ◆ Phone call.
- ◆ Phone calls.
- ◆ QUESTIONNAIRES (LIKE THIS ONE).
- ◆ Random surveys like I am taking this evening. Only the real passionate folks go to public meetings.
- ◆ Telephone survey.
- ◆ THE BIKE TRAILS ARE NOT CONNECTED WITH EACH OTHER HUGE PROBLEM.
- ◆ U.S. mail

- ◆ Via schools.
- ◆ W/tax payments.
- ◆ We have many elderly individuals that do not have or choose not to use computer. They also may not be able to go to public meetings or "farmer markets, fair etc." I believe that these individuals need to have input, but you may only be able to reach them via mail. Rising taxes and traffic congestion

Question 22: Why haven't you visited a Dakota County park or greenway, or visited more often? (Other)

- ◆ * CONNECT ALL THE DAKOTA CTY BIKE TRAILS *
- ◆ As an active disc golfer, there are no disc golf courses in county parks, just in the suburbs.
- ◆ At our age {80's} more limited .
- ◆ BAD HEALTH.
- ◆ Because of covid.
- ◆ Can't walk well.
- ◆ City park provides most of needs.
- ◆ CLEANLINESS & PANDEMIC, BECAUSE OF DIRTY PUBLIC PARKS.
- ◆ Community gardens.
- ◆ COVID
- ◆ Covid (in the past-a ton!).
- ◆ Covid 19.
- ◆ Covid 3-12 x in prio years.
- ◆ Covid and medical issues
- ◆ Covid concerns.
- ◆ Covid keeping me closer to home
- ◆ Covid related.
- ◆ Covid-19.
- ◆ COVID-19.
- ◆ Covid!
- ◆ COVID.
- ◆ COVID.
- ◆ Crime/cleanliness.
- ◆ difficult to walk; somewhat handicapped
- ◆ Disability.
- ◆ distance I live from them
- ◆ doctor apointments
- ◆ Dogs off leashes!!
- ◆ Don't care.
- ◆ DON'T FEEL SAFE.

- ◆ Fear of crime especially to parked vehicle.
- ◆ Fear of crime to ourselves or our vehicles. Too many thefts from the parking lots.
- ◆ For my needs the closer city parks cover my needs
- ◆ Hard to walk.
- ◆ Have a problem with mobility.
- ◆ Health issues
- ◆ Husband is disabled - for him its hard to navigate.
- ◆ I am 93!
- ◆ I go to a closer city park
- ◆ I have access to private walks and also walk our local road.
- ◆ I injured my ankle and will start hiking again when it heals.
- ◆ I visit them all the time.
- ◆ Illness.
- ◆ Just moved here the end of January.
- ◆ Lack of interest.
- ◆ Lebanon very crowded!
- ◆ Live next to - age.
- ◆ NEED TO ALLOW ELECTRIC CARTS OR BR.
- ◆ New in the community
- ◆ No need to visit.
- ◆ Not kept up.
- ◆ Not within walking distance of my home
- ◆ Owners are not "picking up" after dogs at popular & well used Thomas LK area!!
- ◆ Park & lake would be nice-Farmington has nothing.
- ◆ Partial disability
- ◆ Physically unable.
- ◆ SAFETY WHEN ALONE.
- ◆ Safety, uninteresting.
- ◆ Safety.
- ◆ SOME PHYSICAL ISSUES & AGORAPHOBIA.
- ◆ Spouse is disabled
- ◆ The walking trail near my home has been taken over by dogs off of their leashes by their owners.
- ◆ TOO HARD TO WALK.
- ◆ Too many restrictions in place.
- ◆ Too old to go.
- ◆ under construction - big river trail
- ◆ Unsafe.
- ◆ Use local parks.

- ◆ We live on a walking trail.
- ◆ WIFE NOT ABLE TO WALK DISTANCE.

Question 27: Which highway in Dakota County needs the most safety improvements?

- ◆ Need street lights on Dodd from 185th to roundabout @ Arlington. ◆ 42
- ◆ 13 ◆ 42
- ◆ 160th Cty Rd. ◆ 42
- ◆ 160th St. ◆ 42
- ◆ 160th St. ◆ 42
- ◆ 2. ◆ 42
- ◆ 3 ◆ 42
- ◆ 3 ◆ 42
- ◆ 3 ◆ 42
- ◆ 3 ◆ 42
- ◆ 3. ◆ 42
- ◆ 3. ◆ 42
- ◆ 3. ◆ 42
- ◆ 3. ◆ 42
- ◆ 3. ◆ 42
- ◆ 3. ◆ 42
- ◆ 3. ◆ 42
- ◆ 316-MESSED UP ROUND A BOUTS-FIXXEM!! ◆ 42
- ◆ 316. ◆ 42
- ◆ 35 ◆ 42
- ◆ 35 south of the Burnsville split ◆ 42
- ◆ 35E & 35W ◆ 42
- ◆ 35E and Cty Rd 42 congestion as well as Cty Rd 42 and 35W ◆ 42.
- ◆ 35E. ◆ 42.
- ◆ 35E. ◆ 42.
- ◆ 35E. ◆ 42.
- ◆ 35W ◆ 42.
- ◆ 35W ◆ 42.
- ◆ 35W from split to the river ◆ 42.
- ◆ 42 ◆ 47, 55, 42.
- ◆ 42 ◆ 494
- ◆ 42 ◆ 494

- ◆ 494
- ◆ 494
- ◆ 494
- ◆ 494
- ◆ 494 52.
- ◆ 494 at concord
- ◆ 494 over the Wakota bridge
- ◆ 494.
- ◆ 494.
- ◆ 50
- ◆ 50.
- ◆ 52
- ◆ 52
- ◆ 52
- ◆ 52
- ◆ 52 & 55.
- ◆ 52 bridge
- ◆ 52 close to junction to 94
- ◆ 52 could use work on places.
- ◆ 52 the bridge
- ◆ 52.
- ◆ 52.
- ◆ 52.
- ◆ 52.
- ◆ 52.
- ◆ 52.
- ◆ 52.
- ◆ 52.
- ◆ 52.
- ◆ 52/Bridge! (on 52).
- ◆ 55
- ◆ 55
- ◆ 55 and 149.
- ◆ 55 right as it splits between 94 and 35W
- ◆ 55.
- ◆ 55.
- ◆ 55.
- ◆ 55th from Robert to Fway.
- ◆ 62
- ◆ 62
- ◆ 62
- ◆ 62
- ◆ 62 to Rochester.
- ◆ 7.
- ◆ 77
- ◆ 77
- ◆ 77 - Cedar.
- ◆ 77 / Cedar.
- ◆ 77 & 35W.
- ◆ 77 & 494.
- ◆ 77.
- ◆ 77.
- ◆ 77.
- ◆ 88.
- ◆ 94.
- ◆ Again only on the far eastern end.
160N to Co Rd 47 to 61.
- ◆ ALL OF THEM (POT HOLES).
- ◆ All of them. Stop lights every quarter mile just won't do. Need to limit intersections and I know it's expensive but that means overpasses.
- ◆ C.R. 46.
- ◆ Cahill Ave.
- ◆ cedar
- ◆ Cedar
- ◆ Cedar
- ◆ Cedar
- ◆ Cedar and 42 intersection
- ◆ cedar ave
- ◆ cedar ave
- ◆ Cedar Ave
- ◆ Cedar Ave
- ◆ Cedar Ave south of 70
- ◆ Cedar Ave South of Dodd.
- ◆ Cedar Ave, but don't really know how you'd improve it any more than it is
- ◆ CEDAR AVE.
- ◆ Cedar Ave. and 42

- ◆ Cedar Avenue
- ◆ Cedar Avenue
- ◆ cedar avenue thru apple valley
- ◆ Cliff Rd
- ◆ Cliff Rd
- ◆ Cliff Road
- ◆ Cliff Road
- ◆ CNTY 42.
- ◆ co rd 42
- ◆ Co Rd 42
- ◆ Co Rd 42
- ◆ Co rd 42, Apple valley and burnsville area
- ◆ Co Rd 42.
- ◆ CO RD 42.
- ◆ Co Road 42 in limited areas it is very good from Galaxie East
- ◆ co9
- ◆ Concord Blvd. (speeding).
- ◆ CONCORD ST - BUT IT'S BEING DONE.
- ◆ County 23 through Lakeville, Apple Valley, Eagan
- ◆ County 23/Cedar Ave
- ◆ County 26
- ◆ county 42
- ◆ County 42.
- ◆ County 42.
- ◆ county rd 42
- ◆ County Rd 42 between Garden View Dr. & Flagstaff Ave. It becomes very congested in the 1600 - 1800 timeframe.
- ◆ County Rd 42 traffic will GREATLY increase over the next 5+ years with all of the development occurring. This should be a high priority to expand lanes in this area as congestion is already becoming an issue. ESPECIALLY at the intersection of 42 and Robert Trail where the train tracks block traffic MANY times a day during peak times (morning, lunch hour, and evening commutes). These train schedules either need to be adjusted or the county MUST look into bypassing the rail via a bridge or other solution. The backups due to this can be absolutely insane at times especially when trains stop on the middle of the tracks for 15+ minutes. Absolutely unacceptable for people needing to go to work, receive medical care, or generally get where they need to go without their movements being impeded.
- ◆ County Rd 42.
- ◆ County rd 46.
- ◆ County road 11 at 35
- ◆ County Road 3.
- ◆ County Road 42
- ◆ County Road 42, County Road 50
- ◆ County road 42.
- ◆ County Road 45
- ◆ County road 46
- ◆ County Road 46, specifically at the intersection of County Road 46 & Eagleview Drive (Lakeville). It is really dangerous making a left turn from Eagleview Drive onto County

- Road 46. We need a traffic light at this intersection.
- ◆ County Road 77
 - ◆ Cr 42
 - ◆ CR 42
 - ◆ CR 42.
 - ◆ CR 42.
 - ◆ CR42
 - ◆ CR42
 - ◆ CSAH 42
 - ◆ Ct rd 46.
 - ◆ Cty Rd 42
 - ◆ cty rd 42 and 35w
 - ◆ Cty Rd 42 and Hwy 13
 - ◆ Cty rd 42.
 - ◆ Cty Rd 42.
 - ◆ Cty Rd 42.
 - ◆ Diamond path & 145th St west.
 - ◆ Diffley between Hwy. 3 and Lexington. The roundabouts are great but the congestion is still terrible between 7:30-8:00 a.m. on weekdays. I commute that way and have for 3 years but this year it takes me about 20 minutes to get from Hwy. 3 to 35E.
 - ◆ Diffley Rd at Thomas Lk Road needs a traffic light in operation at peak times, flashing at others
 - ◆ Dodd
 - ◆ Dodd Blvd.
 - ◆ Dodd Road
 - ◆ Dodd Road
 - ◆ Dodd.
 - ◆ Don't know usually pretty good overall.
 - ◆ Dood Blvd
 - ◆ Eagan - too much speeding everywhere.
 - ◆ Highway 13
 - ◆ Highway 13 and Nicollet Ave, Burnsville!!!!!!!
 - ◆ Highway 13 and Nicollet Ave, Burnsville!!!!!!!
 - ◆ Highway 13 near Menards
 - ◆ Highway 13, County Road 42
 - ◆ Highway 13; north and south. 2 lanes each direction is not enough anymore.
 - ◆ HIGHWAY 13.
 - ◆ Highway 3
 - ◆ Highway 3
 - ◆ Highway 3 - Robert.
 - ◆ Highway 3 (Robert Street) isn't too fun to drive on, what with all those traffic lights, though I don't know what to do about that that hasn't already been done.
 - ◆ Highway 3 Farmington- needs turn lanes.
 - ◆ Highway 3 south from Diffley.
 - ◆ Highway 3, County Rd 42.
 - ◆ HIGHWAY 3.
 - ◆ highway 35
 - ◆ Highway 42
 - ◆ highway 494
 - ◆ HIGHWAY 50.
 - ◆ Highway 52
 - ◆ Highway 52 northbound into St Paul
 - ◆ Highway 52 over Layfayette Bridge
 - ◆ Highway 52.
 - ◆ Highway 52.
 - ◆ Highway 55
 - ◆ Highway 55 to Hastings!
 - ◆ Highway 55 to ROchester
 - ◆ Highway 57.
 - ◆ highway 61
 - ◆ Highway 77& highway 42
 - ◆ HIWAY 3 (SOUTH ROBERT TRL).
 - ◆ HWY 3
 - ◆ hwy 13
 - ◆ Hwy 13
 - ◆ Hwy 13

- ◆ Hwy 13
- ◆ Hwy 13
- ◆ hwy 13 towards shakopee mn
- ◆ Hwy 13.
- ◆ HWY 13.
- ◆ Hwy 3
- ◆ Hwy 3
- ◆ Hwy 3
- ◆ Hwy 3 - Robert Street
- ◆ Hwy 3 in Farmington.
- ◆ Hwy 3 thru Farmington.
- ◆ Hwy 3-Farmington.
- ◆ Hwy 3, Cliff, 42.
- ◆ Hwy 3.
- ◆ Hwy 3/ thru' city of Saint people drive highway speed.
- ◆ Hwy 3/Cliff
- ◆ Hwy 31 esp. at 179th St.
- ◆ Hwy 42
- ◆ Hwy 42
- ◆ HWY 42
- ◆ Hwy 42.
- ◆ Hwy 42.
- ◆ Hwy 42.
- ◆ Hwy 47 Newly Redone at Hampton-still bad.
- ◆ Hwy 50 & Dodd Intersection.
- ◆ Hwy 52
- ◆ Hwy 52
- ◆ Hwy 52 near Lafayette Bridge
- ◆ HWY 52 on the bridge into St.Paul or hwy 61 into St.Paul
- ◆ HWY 52 RIVER TO 494.
- ◆ Hwy 52.
- ◆ Hwy 52.
- ◆ Hwy 52.
- ◆ HWY 52.
- ◆ Hwy 55
- ◆ Hwy 55
- ◆ HWY 55
- ◆ Hwy 55 just south of refinery - too many trucks
- ◆ Hwy 55.
- ◆ HWY 55.
- ◆ hwy 62
- ◆ Hwy 70.
- ◆ Hwy 77
- ◆ Hwy 77 seems to be the busiest
- ◆ Hwy 77 then Co. Rd. 23 all the way to Rice County,
- ◆ Hwy. 52.
- ◆ Hwy3
- ◆ hwy55 ands Dodd rd.!!!!!!!
- ◆ Hyw. 13
- ◆ I 35W
- ◆ I-35.
- ◆ Iberis ave between 194 and itea
- ◆ IDK
- ◆ INTERSTATE 35.
- ◆ Interstate 94W & E & 52 Hwy.
- ◆ Ipava Ave / Dodd Rd (Lakeville).
- ◆ Lakeville Blvd at Flagstaff.
- ◆ Lone Oak Road
- ◆ Lower speed limits.
- ◆ MN 55.
- ◆ MN Highway 13.
- ◆ Most, if not all. Keep adding people and the congestion keeps going up and up and up.
- ◆ No idea
- ◆ No opinion
- ◆ none

- ◆ none
- ◆ none
- ◆ none
- ◆ None
- ◆ None
- ◆ None
- ◆ NONE.
- ◆ NONE.
- ◆ Northbound Hwy 55 before the Mendota Bridge; when merging with westbound Hwy 62.
- ◆ Not informed enough to answer relevantly
- ◆ Not sure, I work night shift and drive opposite of rush hour.
- ◆ Not sure.
- ◆ One with most accidents.
- ◆ PARTS OF 52 BY REFINERY.
- ◆ pilot knob
- ◆ Pilot Knob - County Rd 31.
- ◆ Pilot Knob - too many stop lights & Cedar Ave going north. Make it 3 lanes the whole way! It sucks in Apple Valley.
- ◆ Pilot Knob & 179th Street
- ◆ Pilot Knob and although not Dakota County, 52 North at the split. Many Dakota County residence use this daily and it is terrible.
- ◆ Pilot Knob in Farmington.
- ◆ Pilot Knob.
- ◆ Probably 42 and Cliff Road Co. Rd. 32
- ◆ RAMP FROM HWY 13 TO 35 W SOUTH.
- ◆ Residential streets & sidewalks need maintenance.
- ◆ RICH VALLEY RD.
- ◆ Roads are fairly decent.
- ◆ Robert
- ◆ Robert St.
- ◆ Robert Street
- ◆ Sibley memorial.
- ◆ State Highway 3
- ◆ Teach people how to use roundabouts.
- ◆ US 52.

Question 28: Which highway in Dakota County needs the most *congestion* improvements?

- ◆ `County Rd 42.
- ◆ 13
- ◆ 13
- ◆ 13
- ◆ 150th (42).
- ◆ 160th St.
- ◆ 160th St.
- ◆ 160th street - Between Pilot Knob and Hwy 3, if you're going south, turning east onto 160th street is difficult.
- ◆ 2.
- ◆ 3
- ◆ 3
- ◆ 3 Chippendale
- ◆ 35
- ◆ 35 E
- ◆ 35 south of the Burnsville split
- ◆ 35.
- ◆ 35E
- ◆ 35E.
- ◆ 35E.
- ◆ 35E.
- ◆ 35E.

- ◆ 55
- ◆ 55
- ◆ 55 / brown hastings.
- ◆ 55 right as it splits between 94 and 35W
- ◆ 55.
- ◆ 55.
- ◆ 55.
- ◆ 61.
- ◆ 61.
- ◆ 62
- ◆ 62, formerly 110. Merging residential traffic directly onto highway speeds is highly unsafe.
- ◆ 694 and 35E
- ◆ 77
- ◆ 77 - Cedar.
- ◆ 77 / Cedar.
- ◆ 77 & 35W.
- ◆ 77 & Dodd Blvd.
- ◆ 77 and Cedar (mostly just deer near off ramps and the lights on Cedar are poorly timed)
- ◆ 77.
- ◆ 77.
- ◆ 77.
- ◆ 77.
- ◆ 77.
- ◆ 77/Cedar. Waaaaaay to many aggressive drivers freaking out at selfish drivers clogging up the left lane. The law brought into effect a couple years ago to keep slow drivers out of the left lane needs to be enforced, and individuals that are riding their bumpers starting road rage need to be punished also. Too much unnecessary road rage due to lack of law enforcement on that road.
- ◆ 80th St. (Near Simley).
- ◆ 88.
- ◆ 94.
- ◆ Akron - finish the road up to Cliff
- ◆ All of them.
- ◆ all roads and down town st paul
- ◆ All seem up to par and safe to me
- ◆ Although not a Dakota Co rd, significant improvements needed on northbound 35 E between the 35 split and Eagan, not plowed well in winter, icy, not cared fo making dangerous, EXtremely uneven, bumpy, jarring.
- ◆ Beats the heck outta me. I don't drive on much south of 494, so I'm missing most of the county.
- ◆ Ceader.
- ◆ Cedar
- ◆ Cedar & 42.
- ◆ Cedar 77, 35E
- ◆ cedar ave
- ◆ Cedar Ave / 77.
- ◆ Cedar Ave.
- ◆ Cedar Ave.
- ◆ Cedar Ave.
- ◆ Cedar Ave. Hwy 77
- ◆ Cedar Ave/ 150th St W (intersection).
- ◆ cedar avenue thru apple valley
- ◆ CEDAR.
- ◆ CEDAR.
- ◆ CEDAR.
- ◆ CFIFF.
- ◆ City Rd 42 and Hwy 13
- ◆ Cliff
- ◆ Cliff Rd
- ◆ Cliff Rd
- ◆ Cliff Rd
- ◆ Cliff Road
- ◆ Cliff Road
- ◆ Cliff Road
- ◆ Cliff Road - CR-32
- ◆ co 31
- ◆ Co Rd 42

- ◆ Co rd 42.
- ◆ CO RD 52
- ◆ Co Rd 73 north of city limits
- ◆ Co road 3
- ◆ Co Road 42
- ◆ Co. rd. 42.
- ◆ Co. Rd. 42.
- ◆ Count Road 45
- ◆ county 42
- ◆ County 42
- ◆ County 42
- ◆ County 42.
- ◆ County 42.
- ◆ County 42.
- ◆ County 46
- ◆ County 46
- ◆ County 46
- ◆ county rd 42
- ◆ county rd 42
- ◆ County Rd 42.
- ◆ County Rd. 19 between Northfield and Interstate 35
- ◆ County Rd. 42.
- ◆ County Road 3
- ◆ County road 42
- ◆ county road 42 and 535
- ◆ County Road 42 in the stretch between Rosemount and Highway 52
- ◆ County Road 42, especially at the 35W and Buck Hill Road intersection
- ◆ County road 42.
- ◆ County Road 42.
- ◆ County Road 42.
- ◆ County Road 46, specifically at the intersection of County Road 46 & Eagleview Drive (Lakeville). It is really dangerous making a left turn from Eagleview Drive onto County Road 46. We need a traffic light at this intersection.
- ◆ County road 46.
- ◆ County Road 77
- ◆ Cr 42
- ◆ CR 42.
- ◆ CR 42.
- ◆ CR 42.
- ◆ CR 42.
- ◆ CR 62 and Hwy 3
- ◆ cr42
- ◆ CR42
- ◆ CSAH 42
- ◆ Ct rd 46.
- ◆ Cty 42
- ◆ Cty 42.
- ◆ CTY 42.
- ◆ CTY 42.
- ◆ Cty Rd 30
- ◆ cty rd 42 and 35w
- ◆ Cty rd 42.
- ◆ Cty road 42.
- ◆ DK.
- ◆ Do not know
- ◆ DO NOT KNOW.
- ◆ Dodd
- ◆ Dodd Blvd

- ◆ Dodd road
- ◆ Dodd Road
- ◆ Don't know. Teach people how to use roundabouts.
- ◆ Hey 3
- ◆ Hey13
- ◆ highway 13
- ◆ Highway 13
- ◆ Highway 13 and 35W junction
- ◆ Highway 13 and Cliff Road
- ◆ Highway 3
- ◆ Highway 3.
- ◆ Highway 3.
- ◆ Highway 42
- ◆ Highway 50 and 70 In Farmington. Roundabouts should be everywhere.
- ◆ highway 52
- ◆ Highway 52
- ◆ Highway 52
- ◆ Highway 52, especially going into downtown St. Paul.
- ◆ Highway 52.
- ◆ highway 55
- ◆ Highway 62
- ◆ Highway 70 and 212 street
- ◆ HIWAY 3 + CONEMARA.
- ◆ Hiway 55
- ◆ Hwy 13
- ◆ Hwy 13
- ◆ Hwy 13
- ◆ Hwy 13 & Co rd 46.
- ◆ Hwy 13.
- ◆ HWY 13.
- ◆ Hwy 3
- ◆ Hwy 3
- ◆ Hwy 3
- ◆ Hwy 3 - Robert Street
- ◆ Hwy 3 should be 4 lanes.
- ◆ Hwy 3 thank you for the roundabouts!
- ◆ Hwy 3.
- ◆ Hwy 3.
- ◆ Hwy 3.
- ◆ Hwy 3/also 150th at RR Tracks.
- ◆ Hwy 35.
- ◆ Hwy 42.
- ◆ Hwy 50 going east between Farmington & Hampton has no shoulders & very deep ditches. No walk paths & people walk/run/bike the 1 ft shoulders at risk of being hit. Many more car hauling semis since the business was put in approximately 1 mile east of Hwy3. Very scary!!!
- ◆ Hwy 52
- ◆ Hwy 52 maybe? I don't usually take that route; however, I hear many stories about the condition or lighting, etc....
- ◆ HWY 52 on the bridge into St.Paul
- ◆ Hwy 52.
- ◆ Hwy 55
- ◆ HWY 55
- ◆ Hwy 55 & 52 & Cedar Ave.
- ◆ hwy 55 and Dodd rd.!!!!!!!
- ◆ Hwy 55 at Lexington/Blue Gentian in Eagan
- ◆ Hwy 55 into Hastings
- ◆ Hwy 55 just south of refinery
- ◆ Hwy 55.
- ◆ HWY 55.
- ◆ Hwy 70.

- ◆ Hwy 77
- ◆ Hwy 77.
- ◆ Hwy. 42.
- ◆ Hwy. 52.
- ◆ Hwy3
- ◆ I ride Hwy 3 daily. It is becoming more congested. I like it the way it was and it troubles me that it is becoming increasingly more congested and I worry that there will come a time when there will be a push to widen it and add sound walls.
- ◆ I think Dodd Blvd needs a few more lights in Lakeville
- ◆ I-35
- ◆ I-35.
- ◆ I'm honestly not exactly sure of the hey of the top head...I would have to day county road 42.
- ◆ Iberis ave between 194th and itea
- ◆ intersection of HWY 50 and Flagstaff, also Pilot Knob and 179th st W
- ◆ Johnycake and McAndrews
- ◆ Kenwood Trail- too much speeding
- ◆ Lone Oak Road
- ◆ Mendoza road
- ◆ MN 61.
- ◆ MN HYW 3
- ◆ Need a stoplight @ 183rd & Dodd by the police station.
- ◆ No idea
- ◆ No sure
- ◆ none
- ◆ NONE.
- ◆ None. Quit spending money on them.
- ◆ Not informed enough to answer relevantly
- ◆ Not sure
- ◆ Not sure
- ◆ Not sure, maybe 52
- ◆ Not sure.
- ◆ NOT SURE.
- ◆ NOT SURE.
- ◆ Pilot Knob
- ◆ Pilot Knob
- ◆ Pilot Knob & 179th Street NEEDS a traffic light. We have witnessed over a dozen accidents within the year.
- ◆ Pilot Knob and speeds
- ◆ Pilot Knob between McAndrews & Cliff. Drivers rocket through that section with no center barrier. I stay right as much as possible in fear of a head-on crash.
- ◆ Pilot Knob Road
- ◆ Pilot Knob through AV.
- ◆ Pilot knob timed light so we don't have to stop at every light.
- ◆ Pilot Knob.
- ◆ Pilot Knob.
- ◆ Really haven't thought about it.
- ◆ Robert St.
- ◆ Robert St.
- ◆ Robert Street.
- ◆ ROBERT STREET.
- ◆ Robert.
- ◆ Robert/smith/dodd
- ◆ Same as above.
- ◆ Same.
- ◆ State Highway 3
- ◆ The intersection of Hwy bz & Dodd Rd.
- ◆ The road that has the highest accident rate
- ◆ The road that has the highest accident rate
- ◆ Unknown

- ◆ Unknown.
- ◆ unsure
- ◆ US 52.
- ◆ Use
- ◆ Wentworth Avenue near Crawford Ave. and Hwy 52
- ◆ WESTVIEW W.S.P. MN.
- ◆ Widen Hwy 55 to two lanes each way
- ◆ You don't seem to know what is the safe way to design roads these days

so this is a loaded question. You don't do roundabouts correctly. You take 4 lane roads and make them 2 lane with a common lane when they are over congested already, pretty stupid and more dangerous with the shared lane. You add time between switching from green to red to stop the running of lights, now we have more people running lights. I truly don't think you have COMMON SENSE enough to do the right thing.

Appendix C: Survey Results by Respondent Characteristics

Understanding the Tables

For most of the questions, for ease of comparison, responses are shown as the average rating on the 100-point scale. For more information about this metric, please see the explanation on page 192 in *Appendix G: Survey Methodology*.

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 in 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, in Table 61 on the following page, respondents in Districts 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 gave statistically higher ratings to the overall quality of life in Dakota County compared to respondents in District 2 (which is designated as Column B). This is indicated by an “B” in each cell for Districts 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7. However, differences between those in District 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 are not statistically different from each other, as there is no letter to indicate this (i.e., the cells for District 6 does not contain a letter C, D, F or G). Ratings by those in Districts 1 and 2 are also not statistically significant from each other, as none of these cells contains a letter from any of the other columns.

In some cases, survey results are displayed for subgroups within two characteristics, e.g., within sex and age of respondent. The lettering of the columns begins again on the next characteristic. So for example in Table 71 on page 128, 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. Obviously, the letters in the in the cells only refer to differences within that characteristic, not to differences within the other characteristics.

Table 62: Ratings of Community Characteristics by Commissioner District

Please rate each of the following characteristics of Dakota County. Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5	District 6	District 7
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
Dakota County as a place to live	75	73	80 B	80 B	79	83 A B	80 B
Dakota County as a place to work	71	66	67	73	71	64	73
Dakota County as a place to retire	57	62	64	63	57	63	62
Dakota County as a place to raise a family	71	72	81 A B E	81 A B E	73	82 A B E	80 A B
Sense of community	60	60	62	65 E	56	68 A E	61
Openness and acceptance of people with diverse backgrounds	57	59	59	59	58	60	57
Outdoor recreational opportunities in Dakota County	78 G	75	79 G	85 B E F G	77	75	69
Availability of bike and pedestrian transportation options	66 B	55	60	72 B C	71 B C	69 B C	63
Economic health of Dakota County	68	61	71 B	74 B E	66	73 B E	75 B E
Availability of employment opportunities	62	57	63	65	63	59	60
Availability of quality, affordable child care	35	37	44	42	63 A B C D F	46	49
Availability of affordable housing	47 B	34	39	45	52 B C	47 B	42
Overall image or reputation of Dakota County	65	62	70 B	72 B	71 B	74 A B	74 A B

Table 63: Ratings of Problems by Commissioner District

Please rate, to what degree, if at all, each of the following is a problem in Dakota County. Average rating (0=not a problem, 100=major problem)	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5	District 6	District 7
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
Crime	56 C D G	48	43	47	56 B C D G	50	46
Taxes	57 B C D E F G	40	33	44 C	45 C	45 C	39
Traffic safety	37	38 D	33	29	33	35	38
Traffic congestion	37	35	31	30	42 C D	44 C D	44 C D
Poverty	47 D F	51 D F	45 F	35	48 D F	35	46 F
Homelessness	48 D F G	45 D F	38 D	27	39 D	32	36
Affordability of housing	65 E F	64 E	71 D E F	54	50	55	62 E
Availability of living wage jobs	56 E F	61 C D E F	47	45	38	39	50

Table 64: Ratings of Safety by Commissioner District

Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel in Dakota County. Average rating (0=very unsafe, 100=very safe)	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5	District 6	District 7
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
From property crimes (e.g., burglary, theft)	68	62	67	73 B E	65	69	67
From violent crimes (e.g., rape, assault, robbery)	74	67	73	83 A B C	77 B	82 A B C	76 B
From illegal drug activity (e.g., selling drugs)	52	60	69 A B	74 A B	70 A B	77 A B	69 A B
From electronic crimes (e.g., identity theft, phone scams)	46	52	53	56 A	63 A B C	64 A B C D	60 A
From domestic violence	69	80 A	86 A	88 A B	87 A B	89 A B	90 A B
From gang activity	67	68	82 A B	82 A B	77 A B	85 A B E	79 A B
While driving on roads within Dakota County	71	75	70	78 G	77	77 G	70
While in your neighborhood	84 B	77	81	88 B C	84 B	87 B C	83
While in County office buildings, libraries, courtrooms	86	89	85	89	85	90	87
While in schools or places of worship in Dakota County	82	84	81	86	84	89 A C	87
While using Dakota County parks, trails, and greenways	74	72	74	82 A B C	80 B C	80 B C	80 B

Table 65: Ratings of Health Concerns by Commissioner District

Please rate to what degree, if at all, each of the following is a health concern in Dakota County. Average rating (0=not at all a concern, 100=major concern)	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5	District 6	District 7
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
Environmental hazards (e.g., polluted water or toxic waste)	41 F	46 F	44 F	37	45 F	31	42 F
Tobacco use (including E-cigarettes and chewing tobacco)	45 C D E F G	36	26	31	33	33	31
Depression, anxiety, and other mental illnesses	65 D E F	57	65 D E F	53	49	53	61 E
Social isolation	53	63 C D E F	50	46	42	44	58 D E F
Underage alcohol use	50 D	41	39	37	42	41	49
Alcohol abuse among adults	52 C	45	41	41	44	45	45
Illegal drug use (e.g., heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine)	68 B C D E F G	51	41	43	55 C D F	42	47
Bullying	58 D	57 D	49	43	48	55 D	52
Illegal use of prescribed medications (such as opioids)	62 B C D E F G	46	40	36	48	50 D	49
The health and support of older adults	57	56	48	48	51	50	50
The health and support of persons with disabilities	54 F	57 C D F	44	45	52	42	51
Quality of parenting skills of parents of children ages 0-17	59 F	56	48	47	56	48	48
Overweight adults and children	58	52	52	56	64 B C F	50	60
Abuse and neglect of children	50	57 F	50	49	52	43	57 F
Abuse and neglect of older adults or vulnerable adults	59 C D F	58 C D F	46	44	52 F	40	49
Spread of infectious diseases	49	53	56 F	49	50	46	59 F

Table 66: Ratings of County Services by Commissioner District

Please rate each of the following services provided by Dakota County. Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5	District 6	District 7
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
County libraries	80	80	91 A B D E	83	80	87 A B E	89 A B E
County parks and recreation like Lebanon Hills, Thompson County Park, Whitetail Woods, Spring Lake Park, Lake Byllesby, or Miesville	81	85	89 A E	86	82	87	88 A
Trail and greenway system like the Mississippi River or Big Rivers trails	77	77	79	82	81	85 A B	84
Condition of County roads such as Cliff or Pilot Knob Roads, Kenwood Trail, Butler Ave., or County Road 42	66	64	64	66	64	60	71 F
Snow and ice removal on County roads	67	70	70	65	67	67	71
Sheriff deputies patrol and park protection services	67	68	71	68	64	69	72
Administering property tax	40	54 A	58 A E	52 A	45	64 A D E	63 A D E
Addressing important health issues in communities	56	50	61 B	62 B	60	57	55
Prosecuting people accused of crimes	48	38	54 B	56 B	49	47	54 B
COVID-19 services such as providing information, testing, vaccines	61	57	68 B F	70 B F G	62	56	59
Overall quality of services provided by Dakota County	62	67	70 A	71 A	68	70 A	71 A

Table 67: Ratings of County Services by Users by Commissioner District

Please rate each of the following services provided by Dakota County only if you have experienced them within the last two years. Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5	District 6	District 7
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
Employment support/CareerForce Center services	91 B C D E	63	70	63	50	72	67
Financial assistance for low-income households	84 E	59 E	64 E	66 E	27	67 E	69 E
Records, passports, licensing, and vehicle registration	66 E	60	59	61	55	63	61
Services for people with disabilities	71 E	64 E	67 E	60	39	66 E	63 E
Services for people experiencing mental illness	53	38	53	38	44	59 B	51
Services that protect neglected or abused children	69	47	47	46	64	50	87 B C D F
Information available on the County website	76 B C D E F	61	64	60	59	58	65
Services provided to older adults	62	54	60	60	45	51	74 B E F
Services at the Recycling Zone	79 B	63	80 B	78 B	73 B	74 B	73 B

Table 68: Ratings of Accessing County Services by Commissioner District

Please rate these aspects of accessing Dakota County services. Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5	District 6	District 7
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
Convenience of County facilities' locations	68	73	73	69	73	74	79 A D
Online access to County services	71	67	72	73	67	72	76 E
Ease of paying for County services online	65	65	65	73	63	68	70
Availability of language resources for access to services (e.g., interpreters or multi-language materials or signage)	79	61	71	84 B	74	63	67

Table 69: Ratings of County Services by Users by Commissioner District

Please rate the following categories of Dakota County government performance. Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5	District 6	District 7
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
The job Dakota County government does of providing information to residents	64	68 F	69 F	67 F	62	59	70 F
The job Dakota County government does of listening to residents	53	57 F	56 F	55 F	54 F	44	61 F
The value of services for the taxes paid to Dakota County	45	55	62 A	60 A	56 A	55 A	63 A
The job Dakota County government does at managing tax dollars	44	53	64 A E	61 A E	47	55 A	62 A E
The value of Dakota County services to the quality of life in my neighborhood	54	58	66 A	63	60	65 A	65 A
Generally acting in the best interest of the community	58	60	65	65	63	64	68 A
Supporting the quality of life in the county	56	61	69 A B	68 A	64 A	68 A	70 A B
Effectively planning for the future of the county	59	59	65	65	57	62	65
Dakota County's public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic	64	59	69 F	68 F	62	56	62

Table 70: Ratings of Concerns about COVID Impact by Users by Commissioner District

Thinking about the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, how concerned, if at all, are you about each of the following? Average rating (0=Not at all concerned, 100=Very concerned)	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5	District 6	District 7
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
Overall physical health of you and your family	44	57 A E	61 A E F	52	42	46	56 E
Overall mental health of you and your family	41	53	61 A D E F	48	43	48	52
Likelihood that you or someone in your family will get COVID-19	43	53 E	56 A E G	55 A E G	36	47 E	43
Your community's medical facilities and resources being overwhelmed by COVID-19	53	61	63 G	61	54	54	50
Overall health and safety of vulnerable populations (e.g. older adults, those with chronic health issues)	57	70 A G	74 A F G	65	65	63	57
My behaviors impacting the health of vulnerable populations	36	44	54 A F	47	45	39	42
Economic impact of COVID-19 on the local economy/businesses	63	64	71 G	77 A B G	82 A B C G	76 A B G	60

Survey Results by Age and Gender of Respondent

Table 71: Overall Quality of Life by Age and Sex

How would you rate your overall quality of life in Dakota County? Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)	Age			Gender	
	18-34	35-54	55+	Female	Male
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)
How would you rate your overall quality of life in Dakota County?	72	80 A	79 A	79	77

Table 72: Ratings of Community Characteristics by Age and Sex

Please rate each of the following characteristics of Dakota County. Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)	Age			Gender	
	18-34	35-54	55+	Female	Male
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)
Dakota County as a place to live	77	81	79	79	80
Dakota County as a place to work	61	72 A	70 A	68	70
Dakota County as a place to retire	58	59	66 A B	61	63
Dakota County as a place to raise a family	73	82 A C	77	76	80
Sense of community	59	65	62	64	61
Openness and acceptance of people with diverse backgrounds	60	55	61	56	62 A
Outdoor recreational opportunities in Dakota County	72	79 A	78 A	76	79
Availability of bike and pedestrian transportation options	58	68 A	69 A	63	70 A
Economic health of Dakota County	69	72	69	66	74 A
Availability of employment opportunities	56	65 A	61	59	64 A
Availability of quality, affordable child care	31	52 A	49 A	44	48
Availability of affordable housing	43	43	46	42	47
Overall image or reputation of Dakota County	69	70	71	71	71

Table 73: Ratings of Problems by Age and Sex

Please rate, to what degree, if at all, each of the following is a problem in Dakota County. Average rating (0=not a problem, 100=major problem)	Age			Gender	
	18-34	35-54	55+	Female	Male
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)
Crime	50 B	44	55 B	51	47
Taxes	45 B	37	48 B	42	44
Traffic safety	34	34	36	37 B	32
Traffic congestion	42	36	37	40	35
Poverty	42	43	45	49 B	37
Homelessness	39	33	41 B	41 B	34
Affordability of housing	60	60	59	64 B	54
Availability of living wage jobs	52	44	47	55 B	39

Table 74: Ratings of Safety by Age and Sex

Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel in Dakota County. Average rating (0=very unsafe, 100=very safe)	Age			Gender	
	18-34	35-54	55+	Female	Male
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)
From property crimes (e.g., burglary, theft)	67	68	67	64	70 A
From violent crimes (e.g., rape, assault, robbery)	76	83 A C	71	74	80 A
From illegal drug activity (e.g., selling drugs)	70 C	74 C	63	68	70
From electronic crimes (e.g., identity theft, phone scams)	57 C	65 A C	50	57	58
From domestic violence	81	90 A C	81	83	86
From gang activity	80 C	86 A C	69	79	78
While driving on roads within Dakota County	77	74	73	72	76 A
While in your neighborhood	82	88 A C	81	82	86
While in County office buildings, libraries, courtrooms	88	91 C	84	86	89 A
While in schools or places of worship in Dakota County	87 C	88 C	81	83	88 A
While using Dakota County parks, trails, and greenways	79 C	84 A C	71	74	82 A

Table 75: Ratings of Health Concerns by Age and Sex

Please rate to what degree, if at all, each of the following is a health concern in Dakota County. Average rating (0=not at all a concern, 100=major concern)	Age			Gender	
	18-34	35-54	55+	Female	Male
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)
Environmental hazards (e.g., polluted water or toxic waste)	42	40	39	45 B	35
Tobacco use (including E-cigarettes and chewing tobacco)	31	31	38 A B	37 B	30
Depression, anxiety, and other mental illnesses	61 C	59 C	52	64 B	50
Social isolation	50	52	48	55 B	46
Underage alcohol use	34	40	49 A B	47 B	36
Alcohol abuse among adults	39	43	50 A B	48 B	41
Illegal drug use (e.g., heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine)	41	45	60 A B	51	46
Bullying	55	48	54	56 B	47
Illegal use of prescribed medications (such as opioids)	48	40	56 B	50	45
The health and support of older adults	53	48	52	56 B	45
The health and support of persons with disabilities	50	47	51	56 B	41
Quality of parenting skills of parents of children ages 0-17	53	48	53	51	51
Overweight adults and children	47	55 A	62 A B	55	57
Abuse and neglect of children	51	47	55 B	54 B	46
Abuse and neglect of older adults or vulnerable adults	49	44	55 B	52 B	44
Spread of infectious diseases	49	49	54	56 B	45

Table 76: Ratings of County Services by Age and Sex

Please rate each of the following services provided by Dakota County. Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)	Age			Gender	
	18-34	35-54	55+	Female	Male
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)
County libraries	80	86 A	86 A	86	83
County parks and recreation like Lebanon Hills, Thompson County Park, Whitetail Woods, Spring Lake Park, Lake Byllesby, or Miesville	84	86	87	87	85
Trail and greenway system like the Mississippi River or Big Rivers trails	79	82	82	82	82
Condition of County roads such as Cliff or Pilot Knob Roads, Kenwood Trail, Butler Ave., or County Road 42	64	64	66	67	63
Snow and ice removal on County roads	63	67	72 A B	66	70
Sheriff deputies patrol and park protection services	66	70	69	68	70
Administering property tax	53	57	54	56	55
Addressing important health issues in communities	52	60 A	58	55	61 A
Prosecuting people accused of crimes	37	58 A C	47 A	48	52
COVID-19 services such as providing information, testing, vaccines	57	65 A	60	63	60
Overall quality of services provided by Dakota County	70	70	67	69	69

Table 77: Ratings of County Services by Users by Age and Sex

Please rate each of the following services provided by Dakota County only if you have experienced them within the last two years. Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)	Age			Gender	
	18-34	35-54	55+	Female	Male
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)
Employment support/CareerForce Center services	75	72	60	70	68
Financial assistance for low-income households	75	60	57	59	73
Records, passports, licensing, and vehicle registration	60	59	64	62	60
Services for people with disabilities	64	65	56	54	72 A
Services for people experiencing mental illness	57	46	47	49	53
Services that protect neglected or abused children	53	58	48	49	59
Information available on the County website	57	63	66 A	66 B	60
Services provided to older adults	69 C	65 C	53	59	58
Services at the Recycling Zone	65	80 A	75 A	75	75

Table 78: Ratings of Accessing County Services by Age and Sex

Please rate these aspects of accessing Dakota County services. Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)	Age			Gender	
	18-34	35-54	55+	Female	Male
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)
Convenience of County facilities' locations	69	74 A	74 A	75 B	71
Online access to County services	75	70	70	74	70
Ease of paying for County services online	62	68	69 A	69	66
Availability of language resources for access to services (e.g., interpreters or multi-language materials or signage)	68	75	63	65	74

Table 79: Ratings of County Services by Users by Age and Sex

Please rate the following categories of Dakota County government performance. Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)	Age			Gender	
	18-34	35-54	55+	Female	Male
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)
The job Dakota County government does of providing information to residents	66	66	65	66	65
The job Dakota County government does of listening to residents	47	57 A	55 A	54	54
The value of services for the taxes paid to Dakota County	55	58	57	58	57
The job Dakota County government does at managing tax dollars	49	59 A	56	55	57
The value of Dakota County services to the quality of life in my neighborhood	61	63	63	61	64
Generally acting in the best interest of the community	62	66	62	66	62
Supporting the quality of life in the county	62	69 A	65	67	65
Effectively planning for the future of the county	60	64	62	63	61
Dakota County's public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic	64	64	60	65	60

Table 80: Ratings of concerns about COVID impact by Users by Age and Sex

Thinking about the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, how concerned, if at all, are you about each of the following? Average rating (0=Not at all concerned, 100=Very concerned)	Age			Gender	
	18-34	35-54	55+	Female	Male
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)
Overall physical health of you and your family	53 B	37	62 A B	55 B	46
Overall mental health of you and your family	56 B	41	52 B	55 B	44
Likelihood that you or someone in your family will get COVID-19	50 B	38	55 B	50	45
Your community's medical facilities and resources being overwhelmed by COVID-19	56 B	48	65 A B	63 B	50
Overall health and safety of vulnerable populations (e.g. older adults, those with chronic health issues)	61	58	73 A B	66	63
My behaviors impacting the health of vulnerable populations	50 B	39	44	46	41
Economic impact of COVID-19 on the local economy/businesses	61	72 A	76 A	73	70

Survey Results by Annual Household Income and Length of Residency

Table 81: Overall Quality of Life by Income and Length of Residency

How would you rate your overall quality of life in Dakota County? Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)	Income				Length of Residency		
	Less than \$35,000	\$35,000 to \$49,999	\$50,000 to \$99,999	\$100,000 or more	5 years or less	6 to 20 years	More than 20 years
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(A)	(B)	(C)
How would you rate your overall quality of life in Dakota County?	80 B	68	75 B	79 B	74	77	80 A

Table 82: Ratings of Community Characteristics by Length of Residency

Please rate each of the following characteristics of Dakota County. Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)	Income				Length of Residency		
	Less than \$35,000	\$35,000 to \$49,999	\$50,000 to \$99,999	\$100,000 or more	5 years or less	6 to 20 years	More than 20 years
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(A)	(B)	(C)
Dakota County as a place to live	82 B C	72	75	83 B C	80	79	79
Dakota County as a place to work	74	69	66	70	62	71 A	70 A
Dakota County as a place to retire	70 C D	66	62	60	61	62	62
Dakota County as a place to raise a family	81 B	70	76	80 B	76	78	79
Sense of community	68 B C	57	59	62	68 B C	61	60
Openness and acceptance of people with diverse backgrounds	64 B	49	59 B	57	58	57	60
Outdoor recreational opportunities in Dakota County	69	74	77 A	77 A	75	77	78
Availability of bike and pedestrian transportation options	65	56	62	64	64	64	68
Economic health of Dakota County	71 C	67	64	72 C	68	70	71
Availability of employment opportunities	65 B	54	60	61	57	58	65 A B
Availability of quality, affordable child care	58 B C D	40	38	42	47	42	48
Availability of affordable housing	42	31	40	45 B	48 B	40	44
Overall image or reputation of Dakota County	74 C	66	64	73 C	71	68	71

Table 83: Ratings of Problems by Length of Residency

Please rate, to what degree, if at all, each of the following is a problem in Dakota County. Average rating (0=not a problem, 100=major problem)	Income				Length of Residency		
	Less than \$35,000	\$35,000 to \$49,999	\$50,000 to \$99,999	\$100,000 or more	5 years or less	6 to 20 years	More than 20 years
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(A)	(B)	(C)
Crime	50	46	54 D	46	52 B	45	51 B
Taxes	38	34	49 A B D	41	43	38	46 B
Traffic safety	32	39	36	36	31	35	36
Traffic congestion	42	43	38	37	31	39 A	41 A
Poverty	39	59 A C D	46	41	37	46 A	45 A
Homelessness	38	45	42	37	33	38	39
Affordability of housing	63	70 D	67 D	55	54	64 A	60
Availability of living wage jobs	46	64 A D	53 D	44	47	53 C	44

Table 84: Ratings of Safety by Length of Residency

Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel in Dakota County. Average rating (0=very unsafe, 100=very safe)	Income				Length of Residency		
	Less than \$35,000	\$35,000 to \$49,999	\$50,000 to \$99,999	\$100,000 or more	5 years or less	6 to 20 years	More than 20 years
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(A)	(B)	(C)
From property crimes (e.g., burglary, theft)	70	68	63	68	62	67	69 A
From violent crimes (e.g., rape, assault, robbery)	71	71	72	82 A B C	76	79	75
From illegal drug activity (e.g., selling drugs)	68	68	64	69	74 C	72 C	64
From electronic crimes (e.g., identity theft, phone scams)	58	50	52	62 B C	63 C	58	54
From domestic violence	81	75	80	88 A B C	88	85	83
From gang activity	78	75	73	83 B C	84 C	85 C	72
While driving on roads within Dakota County	77 B	58	72 B	78 B C	76	72	74
While in your neighborhood	82	76	81	88 A B C	83	86	83
While in County office buildings, libraries, courtrooms	88 B	81	87 B	92 B C	86	88	88
While in schools or places of worship in Dakota County	84	79	84	89 B C	86	85	85
While using Dakota County parks, trails, and greenways	76	74	76	80	78	81 C	75

Table 85: Ratings of Health Concerns by Length of Residency

Please rate to what degree, if at all, each of the following is a health concern in Dakota County. Average rating (0=not at all a concern, 100=major concern)	Income				Length of Residency		
	Less than \$35,000	\$35,000 to \$49,999	\$50,000 to \$99,999	\$100,000 or more	5 years or less	6 to 20 years	More than 20 years
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(A)	(B)	(C)
Environmental hazards (e.g., polluted water or toxic waste)	41	48	43	38	35	47 A C	39
Tobacco use (including E-cigarettes and chewing tobacco)	38	32	36	31	27	33	36 A
Depression, anxiety, and other mental illnesses	53	60	63 D	53	55	58	58
Social isolation	55	53	54	48	50	50	50
Underage alcohol use	56 B C D	41	45 D	37	34	43 A	45 A
Alcohol abuse among adults	47	46	50 D	41	40	42	48 A B
Illegal drug use (e.g., heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine)	53	48	57 D	44	43	42	56 A B
Bullying	52	51	51	54	52	51	52
Illegal use of prescribed medications (such as opioids)	53 B	36	53 B D	43	52 B	40	50 B
The health and support of older adults	52	50	52	51	51	51	51
The health and support of persons with disabilities	56	55	51	48	48	52	47
Quality of parenting skills of parents of children ages 0-17	48	41	64 A B D	48	49	52	52
Overweight adults and children	64 C D	54	55	54	50	56	57 A
Abuse and neglect of children	56	53	57 D	46	45	52	51
Abuse and neglect of older adults or vulnerable adults	54	43	57 B D	44	44	47	51
Spread of infectious diseases	57	66 D	54	49	51	53	50

Table 86: Ratings of County Services by Length of Residency

Please rate each of the following services provided by Dakota County. Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)	Income				Length of Residency		
	Less than \$35,000	\$35,000 to \$49,999	\$50,000 to \$99,999	\$100,000 or more	5 years or less	6 to 20 years	More than 20 years
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(A)	(B)	(C)
County libraries	89 B C	80	80	86 B C	83	86	84
County parks and recreation like Lebanon Hills, Thompson County Park, Whitetail Woods, Spring Lake Park, Lake Byllesby, or Miesville	89 B C	77	83	87 B C	85	88	85
Trail and greenway system like the Mississippi River or Big Rivers trails	83 C	76	76	83 C	81	81	82
Condition of County roads such as Cliff or Pilot Knob Roads, Kenwood Trail, Butler Ave., or County Road 42	68 B	57	64	64	64	65	65
Snow and ice removal on County roads	73 B	58	66	68 B	64	64	72 A B
Sheriff deputies patrol and park protection services	72 B	56	67 B	70 B	66	67	70
Administering property tax	60 C	65 C	44	57 C	54	55	55
Addressing important health issues in communities	56	52	57	62 B	44	61 A	61 A
Prosecuting people accused of crimes	54	51	46	51	40	55 A	49
COVID-19 services such as providing information, testing, vaccines	64	53	61	60	54	64 A	64 A
Overall quality of services provided by Dakota County	73 B C	61	63	73 B C	69	70	68

Table 87: Ratings of County Services by Users by Length of Residency

Please rate each of the following services provided by Dakota County only if you have experienced them within the last two years. Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)	Income				Length of Residency		
	Less than \$35,000	\$35,000 to \$49,999	\$50,000 to \$99,999	\$100,000 or more	5 years or less	6 to 20 years	More than 20 years
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(A)	(B)	(C)
Employment support/CareerForce Center services	77 C	79	61	83 C	56	72	67
Financial assistance for low-income households	68 C	58	48	83 C	87 B C	54	62
Records, passports, licensing, and vehicle registration	69 B C	49	57	64 B C	60	60	62
Services for people with disabilities	71 B	26	64 B	65 B	54	58	66
Services for people experiencing mental illness	57 B	22	55 B	50 B	56	48	46
Services that protect neglected or abused children	71	38	51	54	49	52	57
Information available on the County website	70 C	61	60	62	57	64	65 A
Services provided to older adults	68 C	55	55	60	69 B	52	58
Services at the Recycling Zone	73	68	71	80 B C	66	74	78 A

Table 88: Ratings of Accessing County Services by Length of Residency

Please rate these aspects of accessing Dakota County services. Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)	Income				Length of Residency		
	Less than \$35,000	\$35,000 to \$49,999	\$50,000 to \$99,999	\$100,000 or more	5 years or less	6 to 20 years	More than 20 years
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(A)	(B)	(C)
Convenience of County facilities' locations	75	68	70	77 B C	75 B	69	74
Online access to County services	73	72	69	76 C	72	73	70
Ease of paying for County services online	75 B C	57	63	71 B C	61	68 A	70 A
Availability of language resources for access to services (e.g., interpreters or multi-language materials or signage)	88 B C D	57	64	63	64	68	76

Table 89: Ratings of County Services by Users by length of Residency

Please rate the following categories of Dakota County government performance. Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)	Income				Length of Residency		
	Less than \$35,000	\$35,000 to \$49,999	\$50,000 to \$99,999	\$100,000 or more	5 years or less	6 to 20 years	More than 20 years
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(A)	(B)	(C)
The job Dakota County government does of providing information to residents	72 C	68	63	66	64	64	66
The job Dakota County government does of listening to residents	63	55	55	54	53	53	54
The value of services for the taxes paid to Dakota County	60	56	52	61 C	56	58	57
The job Dakota County government does at managing tax dollars	58	54	49	61 C	49	57 A	57 A
The value of Dakota County services to the quality of life in my neighborhood	64 B	53	59	65 B	63	61	62
Generally acting in the best interest of the community	66 C	57	59	67 B C	64	65	63
Supporting the quality of life in the county	70 B C	60	58	69 B C	65	67	65
Effectively planning for the future of the county	70 B C	56	56	67 B C	63	60	63
Dakota County's public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic	70 B C	57	61	64	56	65 A	65 A

Table 90: Ratings of Concerns about COVID Impact by Users by Length of Residency

Thinking about the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, how concerned, if at all, are you about each of the following? Average rating (0=Not at all concerned, 100=Very concerned)	Income				Length of Residency		
	Less than \$35,000	\$35,000 to \$49,999	\$50,000 to \$99,999	\$100,000 or more	5 years or less	6 to 20 years	More than 20 years
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(A)	(B)	(C)
Overall physical health of you and your family	61 D	64 D	52	45	50	52	50
Overall mental health of you and your family	53	68 A C D	46	48	50	55 C	45
Likelihood that you or someone in your family will get COVID-19	50	62 D	51	46	44	50	48
Your community's medical facilities and resources being overwhelmed by COVID-19	56	62	58	57	54	60	56
Overall health and safety of vulnerable populations (e.g. older adults, those with chronic health issues)	63	74 A D	66	64	61	66	65
My behaviors impacting the health of vulnerable populations	39	55 A	44	46	43	49 C	40
Economic impact of COVID-19 on the local economy/businesses	68	70	66	72	70	74	70

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

Table 91: Overall Quality of Life by Type of Housing Unit and Housing Tenure (Rent or Own)

How would you rate your overall quality of life in Dakota County? Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)	Respondent housing unit type		Housing Tenure	
	Detached SF	Other	Rent	Own
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)
How would you rate your overall quality of life in Dakota County?	79 B	75	71	80 A

Table 92: Ratings of Community Characteristics by Type of Housing Unit and Housing Tenure (Rent or Own)

Please rate each of the following characteristics of Dakota County. Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)	Respondent housing unit type		Housing Tenure	
	Detached SF	Other	Rent	Own
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)
Dakota County as a place to live	80	78	75	80 A
Dakota County as a place to work	69	67	66	69
Dakota County as a place to retire	58	67 A	62	61
Dakota County as a place to raise a family	79 B	75	72	79 A
Sense of community	63	60	62	62
Openness and acceptance of people with diverse backgrounds	58	59	57	58
Outdoor recreational opportunities in Dakota County	78	75	72	78 A
Availability of bike and pedestrian transportation options	68 B	62	56	68 A
Economic health of Dakota County	71 B	67	63	72 A
Availability of employment opportunities	62	60	57	62
Availability of quality, affordable child care	45	45	43	46
Availability of affordable housing	48 B	38	32	48 A
Overall image or reputation of Dakota County	71	69	64	72 A

Table 93: Ratings of Problems by Type of Housing Unit and Housing Tenure (Rent or Own)

Please rate, to what degree, if at all, each of the following is a problem in Dakota County. Average rating (0=not a problem, 100=major problem)	Respondent housing unit type		Housing Tenure	
	Detached SF	Other	Rent	Own
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)
Crime	51	47	47	50
Taxes	47 B	37	35	45 A
Traffic safety	35	34	33	35
Traffic congestion	38	38	38	38
Poverty	41	47	49 B	41
Homelessness	35	41	44 B	35
Affordability of housing	56	66 A	73 B	56
Availability of living wage jobs	44	52 A	55 B	45

Table 94: Ratings of Safety by Type of Housing Unit and Housing Tenure (Rent or Own)

Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel in Dakota County. Average rating (0=very unsafe, 100=very safe)	Respondent housing unit type		Housing Tenure	
	Detached SF	Other	Rent	Own
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)
From property crimes (e.g., burglary, theft)	66	69	64	68
From violent crimes (e.g., rape, assault, robbery)	78 B	73	67	79 A
From illegal drug activity (e.g., selling drugs)	70	66	66	69
From electronic crimes (e.g., identity theft, phone scams)	57	58	56	58
From domestic violence	87 B	79	77	87 A
From gang activity	78	78	80	78
While driving on roads within Dakota County	75	73	71	75
While in your neighborhood	86 B	80	78	85 A
While in County office buildings, libraries, courtrooms	87	87	89	87
While in schools or places of worship in Dakota County	85	85	84	85
While using Dakota County parks, trails, and greenways	78	78	78	78

Table 95: Ratings of Health Concerns by Type of Housing Unit and Housing Tenure (Rent or Own)

Please rate to what degree, if at all, each of the following is a health concern in Dakota County. Average rating (0=not at all a concern, 100=major concern)	Respondent housing unit type		Housing Tenure	
	Detached SF	Other	Rent	Own
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)
Environmental hazards (e.g., polluted water or toxic waste)	37	46 A	47 B	38
Tobacco use (including E-cigarettes and chewing tobacco)	32	35	36	32
Depression, anxiety, and other mental illnesses	55	61	67 B	55
Social isolation	48	54	65 B	47
Underage alcohol use	39	47 A	49 B	40
Alcohol abuse among adults	43	48	47	44
Illegal drug use (e.g., heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine)	49	49	46	49
Bullying	52	52	55	51
Illegal use of prescribed medications (such as opioids)	47	48	47	47
The health and support of older adults	50	53	54	50
The health and support of persons with disabilities	44	56 A	60 B	46
Quality of parenting skills of parents of children ages 0-17	50	54	56	50
Overweight adults and children	56	54	52	56
Abuse and neglect of children	45	60 A	60 B	48
Abuse and neglect of older adults or vulnerable adults	45	56 A	55	47
Spread of infectious diseases	47	58 A	63 B	48

Table 96: Ratings of County Services by Type of Housing Unit and Housing Tenure

Please rate each of the following services provided by Dakota County. Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)	Respondent housing unit type		Housing Tenure	
	Detached SF	Other	Rent	Own
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)
County libraries	85	83	82	86 A
County parks and recreation like Lebanon Hills, Thompson County Park, Whitetail Woods, Spring Lake Park, Lake Byllesby, or Miesville	87 B	83	83	86
Trail and greenway system like the Mississippi River or Big Rivers trails	84 B	76	74	83 A
Condition of County roads such as Cliff or Pilot Knob Roads, Kenwood Trail, Butler Ave., or County Road 42	65	65	63	65
Snow and ice removal on County roads	71 B	63	63	69 A
Sheriff deputies patrol and park protection services	69	67	66	70
Administering property tax	55	53	52	55
Addressing important health issues in communities	58	56	53	58
Prosecuting people accused of crimes	48	51	52	49
COVID-19 services such as providing information, testing, vaccines	60	64	61	62
Overall quality of services provided by Dakota County	69	68	66	70

Table 97: Ratings of County Services by Users by Type of Housing Unit and Housing Tenure (Rent or Own)

Please rate each of the following services provided by Dakota County only if you have experienced them within the last two years. Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)	Respondent housing unit type		Housing Tenure	
	Detached SF	Other	Rent	Own
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)
Employment support/CareerForce Center services	60	73	72	67
Financial assistance for low-income households	61	63	62	65
Records, passports, licensing, and vehicle registration	61	61	58	61
Services for people with disabilities	60	62	61	63
Services for people experiencing mental illness	49	50	47	51
Services that protect neglected or abused children	53	53	51	56
Information available on the County website	63	61	62	63
Services provided to older adults	52	63 A	66 B	54
Services at the Recycling Zone	77 B	71	68	76 A

Table 98: Ratings of Accessing County Services by Type of Housing Unit and Housing Tenure (Rent or Own)

Please rate these aspects of accessing Dakota County services. Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)	Respondent housing unit type		Housing Tenure	
	Detached SF	Other	Rent	Own
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)
Convenience of County facilities' locations	73	72	71	74
Online access to County services	72	71	72	71
Ease of paying for County services online	66	68	61	69 A
Availability of language resources for access to services (e.g., interpreters or multi-language materials or signage)	65	71	68	69

Table 99: Ratings of County Services by Users by Type of Housing Unit and Housing Tenure (Rent or Own)

Please rate the following categories of Dakota County government performance. Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)	Respondent housing unit type		Housing Tenure	
	Detached SF	Other	Rent	Own
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)
The job Dakota County government does of providing information to residents	64	67	72 B	63
The job Dakota County government does of listening to residents	52	57	62 B	52
The value of services for the taxes paid to Dakota County	56	59	58	57
The job Dakota County government does at managing tax dollars	55	56	51	56
The value of Dakota County services to the quality of life in my neighborhood	63	61	57	63 A
Generally acting in the best interest of the community	63	63	62	64
Supporting the quality of life in the county	66	64	64	66
Effectively planning for the future of the county	62	62	62	62
Dakota County's public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic	61	65	64	62

Table 100: Ratings of concerns about COVID impact by Users by Type of Housing Unit and Housing Tenure (Rent or Own)

Thinking about the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, how concerned, if at all, are you about each of the following? Average rating (0=Not at all concerned, 100=Very concerned)	Respondent housing unit type		Housing Tenure	
	Detached SF	Other	Rent	Own
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)
Overall physical health of you and your family	47	56 A	57 B	49
Overall mental health of you and your family	47	52	56 B	47
Likelihood that you or someone in your family will get COVID-19	44	52 A	53 B	46
Your community's medical facilities and resources being overwhelmed by COVID-19	56	56	53	57
Overall health and safety of vulnerable populations (e.g. older adults, those with chronic health issues)	63	66	67	63
My behaviors impacting the health of vulnerable populations	42	45	45	43
Economic impact of COVID-19 on the local economy/businesses	74 B	67	66	73

Appendix D: Survey Results by Year

For most of the questions, for ease of comparison, responses are shown as the average rating on the 100-point scale. For more information about this metric, please see the explanation on page 192 in *Appendix G: Survey Methodology*. Responses are shown where question wording from previous surveys was identical or similar to what was included on the 2022 survey. If the cells for a particular survey year are blank in any given table, that means the question was not asked that year. If the cells within a table contain an “.”, that means that particular item was not asked on that year’s survey. Where differences between years are four points or greater on the 100-point scale, they can be considered statistically significant.

Table 101: Question #1 by Year of Survey

How would you rate your overall quality of life in Dakota County? Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)	2022	2019	2016	2013	2011	2008	2006	2004	2001
How would you rate your overall quality of life in Dakota County?	78	80	79	76	74	77	76	78	76

Table 102: Question #2 by Year of Survey

What one thing do you like most about living in Dakota County?	2022	2019	2016	2013	2011	2008	2006	2004	2001
Location	27%	36%	36%	38%	31%	26%	27%	27%	31%
Rural character	9%	7%	3%	4%	3%	8%	5%	5%	22%
Parks and greenways	15%	12%	10%	7%	9%	10%	9%	8%	4%
Quality of life in general	21%	23%	21%	16%	22%	5%	4%	3%	0%
My neighborhood	12%	9%	9%	10%	11%	3%	5%	4%	7%
Schools	4%	6%	4%	6%	6%	6%	8%	6%	9%
Low taxes	3%	2%	6%	6%	6%	6%	3%	5%	5%
People	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	5%	4%	2%	6%
Other	4%	1%	4%	4%	5%	27%	30%	36%	16%
Open space	4%	3%	4%	7%	5%	5%	6%	5%	0%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 103: Question #3 by Survey Year

Please rate each of the following characteristics of Dakota County. Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)	2022	2019	2016	2013	2011	2008	2006	2004	2001
Dakota County as a place to live	79	80	78	77	.	.	.	.	.
Dakota County as a place to work	69	71	67	.	.	.	.	.	.
Dakota County as a place to retire	61	64	58	60	58	.	.	.	.
Dakota County as a place to raise a family	78	79	76	.	.	.	.	.	.
Sense of community	62	63	61	57	.	.	.	.	.
Openness and acceptance of people with diverse backgrounds	59	59	57	58	60	.	.	.	.
Outdoor recreational opportunities in Dakota County	77	76	75	68	67	.	.	.	.
Availability of bike and pedestrian transportation options	66	66	64	.	.	.	.	.	.
Economic health of Dakota County	70	67	65	60	.	.	.	.	.
Availability of employment opportunities	61	59	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Availability of quality, affordable child care	46	49	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Availability of affordable housing	44	43	49	53	49	47	46	50	.
Overall image or reputation of Dakota County	70	71	68	66	67	.	.	.	.

Table 104: Question #5 by Year of Survey

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?	2022	2019	2016	2013	2011	2008	2006	2004	2001
Much better	6%	4%	3%	5%	4%	8%	.	.	.
Somewhat better	20%	23%	24%	21%	19%	19%	.	.	.
About the same	53%	63%	60%	55%	52%	55%	.	.	.
Somewhat worse	18%	9%	10%	16%	16%	12%	.	.	.
Much worse	3%	1%	3%	3%	8%	5%	.	.	.
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	.	.	.

Table 105: Question #6 by Survey Year

Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel in Dakota County. Average rating (0=very unsafe, 100=very safe)	2022	2019	2016	2013	2011	2008	2006	2004	2001
From property crimes (e.g., burglary, theft)	67	74	72	70	72	72	67	72	.
From violent crimes (e.g., rape, assault, robbery)	77	83	81	80	80	80	73	79	.
From illegal drug activity (e.g., selling drugs)	68	69	68	66	67	.	.	.	.
From electronic crimes (e.g., identity theft, phone scams)	57	58	61	62	.	.	.	.	.
From domestic violence	85	86	84	83	.	.	.	.	.
From gang activity	78	83	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
While driving on roads within Dakota County	74	76	72	.	.	.	.	.	.
While in your neighborhood	84	87	83	80	75	83	84	86	78
While in County office buildings, libraries, courtrooms	87	90	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
While in schools or places of worship in Dakota County	85	88	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
While using Dakota County parks and trails, and greenways	78	80	78	78	78	76	77	78	.

Table 106: Question #7 by Survey Year

Please rate to what degree, if at all, each of the following is a problem in Dakota County Average rating (0=not a problem, 100=Major problem)	2022	2019	2016	2013	2011	2008	2006	2004	2001
Crime	50	37	38	39	39	44	53	47	.
Taxes	43	45	47	48	51	60	.	54	.
Traffic safety	35	33	36	34	36	.	.	.	.
Traffic congestion	38	39	41	40	42	52	59	62	.
Poverty	43	34	40	39	36	41	45	42	.
Homelessness	38	26	27	.	.	.	.	.	.
Affordability of housing	60	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Availability of living wage jobs	47	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.

Table 107: Question #8 by Survey Year

Please rate to what degree, if at all, each of the following is a health concern in Dakota County. Average rating (0=not at all a concern, 100=major concern)	2022	2019	2016	2013	2011	2008	2006	2004	2001
Environmental hazards (e.g., polluted water or toxic waste)	40	36	36	.	.	.	.	.	.
Tobacco use (including E-cigarettes and chewing tobacco)	33	38	36	31	32	50	61	58	.
Depression, anxiety, and other mental illnesses	57	48	47	.	.	.	.	.	.
Social isolation	50	37	35	.	.	.	.	.	.
Underage alcohol use	42	43	47	48	55	70	71	66	.
Alcohol abuse among adults	45	41	44	44	48	55	.	.	.
Illegal drug use (e.g., heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine)	49	49	50	49	55	67	72	.	.
Bullying	52	52	48	49	.	.	.	.	.
Illegal use of prescribed medications (such as opioids)	48	49	44	.	.	.	.	.	.
The health and support of older adults	51	45	46	42	53	56	66	.	.
The health and support of persons with disabilities	49	45	45	41	49	.	.	.	.
Quality of parenting skills of parents of children ages 0-17	51	46	50	51	42	48	55	47	.
Overweight adults and children	56	54	56	58	59	67	64	63	.
Abuse and neglect of children	50	46	48	47	52	55	48	46	.
Abuse and neglect of older adults or vulnerable adults	49	44	45	43	49	.	.	.	.
Spread of infectious diseases	51	37	38	36	.	.	.	.	.

Table 108: Question #10 by Survey Year

Please rate each of the following services provided by Dakota County. Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)	2022	2019	2016	2013	2011	2008	2006	2004	2001
County libraries	85	85	82	84	80	81	78	80	82
County parks and recreation like Lebanon Hills, Thompson County Park, Whitetail Woods, Spring Lake Park, Lake Byllesby, or Miesville	86	85	84	81	80	76	74	77	76
Trail and bikeway system like the Mississippi River or Big Rivers trails	81	81	78	78	75	72	70	73	.
Condition of County roads (e.g., Cliff or Pilot Knob Roads, Kenwood Trail, Wentworth Ave., or County Road 42)	65	66	61	63	56	53	57	59	63
Snow and ice removal on County roads	68	67	68	65	61	70	67	65	73
Sheriff deputies patrol and park protection services	68	70	68	77	70	69	70	70	72
Assessment process/property tax system	55	54	49	43	.	.	.	.	.
Addressing important health issues in communities	57	59	57	.	.	.	.	.	.
Prosecuting people accused of crimes	49	62	60	.	.	.	.	.	.
COVID-19 services such as providing information, testing, vaccines	61	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Overall quality of services provided by Dakota County	69	68	66	62	64	69	.	.	.

Table 109: Question #11 by Users by Survey Year

Please rate each of the following services provided by Dakota County only if you have experienced them within the last two years.									
Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)	2022	2019	2016	2013	2011	2008	2006	2004	2001
Employment support/Workforce Center services	69	68	59	51	49	51	.	58	.
Financial assistance for low-income families	63	53	49	57	.	.	.	.	.
Records, vital statistics, licensing, and vehicle registration	61	63	67	65	66	.	.	.	.
Services for people with disabilities	62	54	56	.	.	.	.	.	.
Services for people experiencing mental illness	50	47	40	.	.	.	.	.	.
Services that protect neglected or abused children	55	56	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Information available on the County website	63	63	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Services provided to older adults	58	52	50	58	.	.	.	.	.
Services at the Recycling Zone	75	74	.	.	.	.	.	.	.

Table 110: Question #12 by Year of Survey

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?									
	2022	2019	2016	2013	2011	2008	2006	2004	2001
Strongly support	10%	9%	6%	7%	7%	10%	10%	12%	.
Somewhat support	40%	42%	40%	34%	44%	34%	36%	43%	.
Somewhat oppose	28%	29%	29%	29%	23%	25%	27%	23%	.
Strongly oppose	22%	20%	26%	30%	27%	32%	28%	22%	.
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	.

Table 111: Question #12 by Year of Survey

Average rating (0=strongly oppose, 100=strongly support)									
	2022	2019	2016	2013	2011	2008	2006	2004	2001
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?	46	46	42	39	44	40	42	48	54

Table 112: Question #13 by Year of Survey

Have you visited, telephoned, or emailed any Dakota County government office within the last 12 months?	2022	2019	2016	2013	2011	2008	2006	2004	2001
Yes	34%	36%	34%	39%	38%	48%	51%	50%	.
No	66%	64%	66%	61%	62%	52%	49%	50%	.
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	.

Table 113: Question #14 by Survey Year

What was your impression of the employee(s) of Dakota County in your most recent contact? (Please rate each characteristic below.) Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)	2022	2019	2016	2013	2011	2008	2006	2004	2001
Knowledgeable	82	76	76	73	75	.	.	.	.
Responsive	75	75	73	70	71	.	.	.	.
Courteous	80	78	75	71	71	.	.	.	.
Overall impression	78	76	73	70	71	73	70	76	76

Table 114: Question #15 by Survey Year

Please rate these aspects of accessing Dakota County services. Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)	2022	2019	2016	2013	2011	2008	2006	2004	2001
Convenience of County facilities' locations	73	73	71	73	.	.	.	.	.
Online access to County services	71	70	69	67	.	.	.	.	.
Ease of paying for County services online	67	70	68	64	.	.	.	.	.
Availability of language resources for access to services (e.g., interpreters or multi-language materials or signage)	69	71	67	69	.	.	.	.	.

Table 115: Question #16 by Survey Year

Please rate the following categories of Dakota County government performance. Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)	2022	2019	2016	2013	2011	2008	2006	2004	2001
The job Dakota County government does of providing information to residents	65	64	63	61	57	52	59	60	64
The job Dakota County government does of listening to residents	54	55	52	54	48	48	44	47	.
The value of services for the taxes paid to Dakota County	57	57	55	54	46	46	48	54	43
The job Dakota County government does at managing tax dollars	55	54	54	52	44	45	48	51	.
The value of Dakota County services to the quality of life in my neighborhood	62	62	60	60	55	64	53	.	.
Generally acting in the best interest of the community	63	63	61	60	.	.	.	.	.
Supporting the quality of life in the county	65	65	63	.	.	.	.	.	.
Effectively planning for the future of the county	62	61	58	.	.	.	.	.	.
Overall confidence in Dakota County government	63	62	60	58	.	.	.	.	.
Dakota County's public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic	61	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.

Table 116: Question #17 by Year of Survey

To what extent do you approve or disapprove of the job the Dakota County Board is doing?	2022	2019	2016	2013	2011	2008	2006	2004	2001
Strongly approve	26%	22%	19%	18%	16%	27%	22%	22%	.
Somewhat approve	64%	70%	67%	70%	70%	63%	68%	72%	.
Somewhat disapprove	8%	6%	10%	8%	12%	8%	6%	4%	.
Strongly disapprove	2%	2%	4%	3%	2%	2%	4%	2%	.
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	.

Table 117: Question #17 by Year of Survey

Average rating (0=strongly disapprove, 100=strongly approve)	2022	2019	2016	2013	2011	2008	2006	2004	2001
To what extent do you approve or disapprove of the job the Dakota County Board is doing?	71	70	67	68	66	72	69	71	65

Table 118: Question #18 by Survey Year

How important, if at all, is it to provide the following library programs and services? Average rating (0=not at all important, 100=essential)	2022	2019	2016	2013	2011	2008	2006	2004	2001
Popular titles/current library materials	71	74	71	69	.	.	.	.	.
Small business/economic development resources and services	65	60	55	55	.	.	.	.	.
Information about jobs, skills, literacy, and careers	70	67	63	61	.	.	.	.	.
Streaming digital materials (movies, music, e-books, e-audio books)	57	62	35	.	.	.	.	.	.
Access to computers and the Internet	71	70	62	65	.	.	.	.	.
Access to creative maker technology, equipment, or classes	57	56	33	.	.	.	.	.	.
Community gathering space	62	65	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Classes and events around health and wellness	58	60	60	55	.	.	.	.	.
English as a second language resources and services	65	61	55	48	.	.	.	.	.
Library materials in other languages (Spanish, Somali, Russian, others)	56	53	44	43	.	.	.	.	.

Table 119: Question #23 by Survey Year

Since 2003, Dakota County and partners have preserved land outside of County parks for many public purposes. How important, if at all, is it to continue using County funds for these purposes? Average rating (0=not at all important, 100=essential)	2022	2019	2016	2013	2011	2008	2006	2004	2001
Increasing public access for outdoor recreation	70	67	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Protecting and improving natural areas	80	75	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Protecting and improving land used for agriculture/other specialty crops	70	66	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Protecting and improving water quality	85	85	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Protecting and improving wildlife habitat	79	77	.	.	.	.	.	.	.

Appendix E: Survey Results Compared to Other Participating Minnesota Counties

Understanding the Tables

Questions asked by more than one Minnesota County in 2022 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 for a particular County are blank in any given table, that means the question was not asked on that County’s survey. 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 Dakota County (Column A) gave an average rating of 78 on the 100-point scale to their quality of life, and that cell contains B, C and D. This means that the Dakota 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 Washington County rating also contains a B, C and D, indicating that the Washington County rating was also higher than Olmsted, Scott and St. Louis. However, differences between Washington 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 Olmsted and Scott cells contain a D, indicating both values are significantly higher than the ratings for St. Louis County.

Table 120: Overall Quality of Life by County

	Dakota	Olmsted	Scott	St. Louis	Washington
Average rating 100=excellent, 0=poor	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)
How would you rate your overall quality of life in {this} County?	78 B C D	73 D	72 D	68	77 B C D

**Note: For each County's survey, this question used the name of the County. For this and subsequent tables in this appendix, the specific County name has been replaced with the generic {this} in brackets to avoid confusion.*

Table 121: Overall Quality of Life by County

How would you rate your overall quality of life in {this} County?	Dakota	Olmsted	Scott	St. Louis	Washington
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)
Excellent	43% B C D	33% D	27%	23%	41% B C D
Good	48%	55%	61% A E	61% A E	51%
Fair	6%	10%	11% A E	14% A B E	6%
Poor	2%	3%	1%	2%	2%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

**Note: For each County's survey, this question used the name of the County. For this and subsequent tables in this appendix, the specific County name has been replaced with the generic {this} in brackets to avoid confusion.*

Table 122: Most liked county attributes by County

What one thing do you like most about living in {this} County? (Please select only one.)	Dakota	Olmsted	Scott	St. Louis	Washington
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)
Location	27% B E	15%	.	.	21% B
Rural character ¹	9%	11%	29% A B E	.	9%
Parks/lakes ²	15% B E	8%	14% B	.	9%
Quality of life in general	21%	38% A E	.	.	26%
My neighborhood	12%	10%	13%	.	12%
Schools	4%	2%	6% B	.	5%
Low taxes	3% B	0%	.	.	2% B
People	2%	4%	.	.	2%
Open space ³	4%	5%	.	.	13% A B
Other	4%	8% A E	.	.	2%
Access to Twin Cities	.	.	14%	.	.
Suburban lifestyle	.	.	19%	.	.
Affordability	.	.	3%	.	.
Entertainment offerings	.	.	1%	.	.
Job opportunities	.	.	2%	.	.
Total	100%	100%	100%	.	100%

¹For Olmsted County and for Scott County, this was “rural/small town feel”; for Washington County, this was “small town feel”.

²For Dakota County, this was “parks and greenways”; for Scott County, this was “parks/lakes/recreation”.

³For Washington County, this was “open space/rural”.

Table 123: Quality of Life by County

How would you rate {this} County . . . Average rating on a 100-point scale; 100=excellent, 0=poor	Dakota	Olmsted	Scott	St. Louis	Washington
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)
{This} County as a place to live	79 B C D	71	74 D	69	79 B C D
{This} County as a place to raise a family*	78 B C D	73 D	72 D	66	78 B C D
{This} County as a place to work	69 C E	72 A C E	62	.	65
{This} County as a place to retire	61 B D	53	57 B	55	61 B D

¹For Scott County, this was “as a place to raise children”

Table 124: 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 on a 100-point scale; 100=excellent, 0=poor	Dakota	Olmsted	Scott	St. Louis	Washington
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)
Openness and acceptance toward people of diverse backgrounds ¹	59 B C	53	53	.	58 B C
Employment opportunities ²	61 C D E	67 A C D E	54 D	44	56 D
Educational opportunities ³	.	63 C	45	61 C	.
Availability of affordable housing ⁴	44 B	26	51 A B E	.	43 B
Availability of affordable quality child care ⁵	46 B	27	45 B	.	.
Availability of affordable health care	.	48	55 B	.	.
Public transportation options (bus, rail, etc.) ⁶	.	47 E	45 E	.	35
Sense of community	62	.	.	.	59
Outdoor recreational opportunities ⁷	77 C	.	72	77 C	74
Availability of bike and pedestrian transportation options ⁸	66	.	65	.	63
Economic health of {this} county	70 B	66	.	.	.
Welcoming residents from all backgrounds to participate in local government and community decision-making	.	.	55	.	58

¹For Scott County, this was "Openness and acceptance of the community towards people of diverse backgrounds"

²For Dakota County, this was "Availability of employment opportunities"

³For Scott County, this was "Higher education opportunities for residents"

⁴For Scott County, this was "Availability of housing options for all incomes"

⁵For Olmsted County, this was "Availability of affordable child care"

⁶For Olmsted County, this was "Availability of public transportation options" while for Scott County it was "Regional public transit or bus system":

⁷For St. Louis County, this was "Recreational opportunities"

⁸For Dakota County, this was "Availability of bike and pedestrian transportation options" and for Washington County, it was "Bike and pedestrian transportation options"

Table 125: Feelings of Safety by County

Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel in {this} County. Average rating on a 100-point scale; 100=very safe, 0=very unsafe	Dakota	Olmsted	Scott	St. Louis	Washington
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)
While in county government buildings ¹	87	87	.	.	87
While in your neighborhood	84 E	84 E	84 E	.	81
While using {this} County parks and/or trails ²	78 B	73	77 B	.	75
From property crimes (e.g., burglary, theft)	67 D	65	.	63	68 B D
From violent crimes (e.g., rape, assault, robbery)	77 B D	71	.	71	78 B D
From illegal drug activity	68 B D	63 D	.	51	72 B D
From identity theft (e.g., fraud, scams, credit card theft) ³	57	59	.	.	62 A B
From drunk or impaired drivers on County roads ⁴	.	58 D	.	48	64 B D
From distracted drivers on roads in the county ⁵	.	46 D	.	40	53 B D
Domestic violence	85	82	.	.	.
While in school or places of worship	85 B	79	.	.	.

¹For Dakota County, this was “While in County office buildings, libraries, courtrooms”; for Olmsted County it was “While in Olmsted County Government buildings” and for Washington County it was “In county government buildings (e.g., County Government Center, libraries)”

²For Washington County, this was “In Washington County regional parks or trails”; For Dakota County it was “While using Dakota County parks, trails, and greenways”

³For Dakota County, this was “From electronic crimes (e.g., identity theft, phone scams)”

⁴For St. Louis County, this was “Intoxicated or impaired drivers”

⁵For Olmsted County, this was “From distracted drivers on County roads (e.g., texting/talking on the phone, reading, changing music stations, eating/drinking)” and for St. Louis County it was “Distracted drivers”

Table 126: Problems by County

Please rate to what degree, if at all, each of the following is a problem in {this} County: Average rating on a 100-point scale; 100=major problem, 0=not at all a problem	Dakota	Olmsted	Scott	St. Louis	Washington
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)
Crime	50	51	49	58 A B C E	51
Traffic safety ¹	35	44 A C E	36	.	40 A C
Traffic congestion	38	37	41 B	.	40 B
Poverty	43 C E	54 A C E	37	71 A B C E	37
Homelessness	38 C E	58 A C E	25	72 A B C E	28
Availability of livable wage jobs ²	47	52 A C	44	54 A C E	49 C
Taxes ³	43	66 A C D E	61 A E	57 A E	52 A
Affordability of housing	60 C	67 A C E	51	.	56 C
Lack of opportunities for people of color	.	44	.	57 B	.
Discrimination/attitudes toward diverse people	.	46	.	58 B	.

¹For Scott County, this was “Highway safety”

²For Olmsted County, this was “Lack of livable wage jobs” and for St. Louis County, it was “Lack of jobs”

³For Olmsted County, this was “High taxes”

Table 127: Environmental Concerns by County

Please rate to what degree, if at all, each of the following is an environmental concern in {this} County: Average rating on a 100-point scale; 100=major concern, 0=not at all a concern	Dakota	Olmsted	Scott	St. Louis	Washington
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)
Exposure to radon	.	36	.	.	38
Quality of outdoor air	30 B	26	.	.	31 B
Safety of food in public establishments	.	24	.	.	28 B
Proper disposal of garbage	.	25	.	.	31 B
Quality of drinking water	39 B	30	.	.	59 A B
Quality of water in lakes and streams	49 B	44	.	.	57 A B
Quantity of useable water supply	39 B	29	.	.	50 A B
Climate change	56 E	.	.	.	50
Energy use	52	.	.	.	51

Table 128: 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 on a 100-point scale; 100=major concern, 0=not at all a concern	Dakota	Olmsted	Scott	St. Louis	Washington
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)
Bullying	52 E	53 E	60 A B E	65 A B C E	47
Depression, anxiety, and other mental illnesses ¹	57	66 A E	.	71 A B E	55
Social isolation/lack of community connections ²	50	61 A C E	48	.	50
Suicide/attempted suicide	.	52 E	48 E	63 B C E	44
Environmental hazards (polluted water, toxic waste)	40 B C	36 C	32	.	.
Tobacco use ³	33 C	44 A C	27	46 A C E	40 A C
Underage alcohol use ⁴	42	47 A	59 A B E	55 A B E	48 A
Excessive alcohol abuse among adults ⁵	45	51 A E	52 A E	61 A B C E	46
Illicit drug use ⁶	49	61 A E	.	71 A B E	47
Misuse of prescribed medications ⁷	48	52 A C E	47	63 A B C E	44
Health and support of older adults ⁸	51 C	53 C E	44	61 A B C E	48 C
Health and support of people with disabilities ⁹	49	50 C	45	62 A B C E	47
The support of persons with mental health challenges ¹⁰	.	61	61	69 B C	.
Quality of parenting skills of parents of children ages 0-17	51	55 A	.	58 A	.
The adequacy of school readiness for children	.	48 C	35	.	.
Spread of infectious diseases	51	48	.	.	48
Overweight adults and children	56	.	53	.	.
Overweight adults	.	59	.	65 B E	57
Overweight children	.	60 E	.	59 E	54
Abuse and neglect of older adults ¹¹	49 C E	51 C E	41	59 A B C E	44
Domestic violence	.	53 E	52 E	66 B C E	47

Please rate to what degree, if at all, each of the following is a health concern in (this) County: Average rating on a 100-point scale; 100=major concern, 0=not at all a concern	Dakota	Olmsted	Scott	St. Louis	Washington
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)
Sexually transmitted diseases	.	.	25	44 C	.
Vaping (e-cigarettes)	.	.	.	53 E	46

¹For Olmsted County, this was “Depression, anxiety, or other mental health challenges,” for St. Louis County it was “Depression” and for Washington County it was “Depression/Anxiety”

²For Washington County, this was “Loneliness” and for Dakota County it was “Social isolation”

³For St. Louis County, this was “Tobacco use (smoking, chewing tobacco)” and for Washington County it was “Tobacco use”

⁴ For Scott County, this was “Alcohol and drug use by youth”

⁵For Scott County, this was “Alcohol and drug use by adults”

⁶For Dakota County, this was “Illegal drug use (e.g., heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine)”

⁷For Dakota County, this was “Illegal use of prescribed medications (such as opioids)” and for Olmsted County it was “Illegal use of prescribed medications”

⁸For Olmsted County, this was “The support of older adults”

⁹For Olmsted County, this was “The support of persons with disabilities”

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

¹¹For Dakota County, this was “Abuse and neglect of older adults or vulnerable adults”

Table 129: Ratings of Government Performance by County

Please rate the following categories of County government performance: Average rating on a 100-point scale; 100=excellent, 0=poor	Dakota	Olmsted	Scott	St. Louis	Washington
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)
The job {this} County government does at informing residents	65 B C D E	51 D	57 B D	41	62 B C D
The job {this} County government does at listening to residents	54 B C D	42 D	50 B D	32	52 B D
The job {this} County government does at managing tax dollars	55 B C D E	38	46 B D	36	50 B D
The value of services for the taxes paid to {this} County	57 B C D E	41 D	47 B D	37	48 B D
My knowledge of the work of the {this} County Board	.	40	.	.	38
Generally acting in the best interests of the community	63 B	50	.	.	.
Effectively planning for the future of the county	62 B D	48 D	.	37	.
The value of {this} County services to the quality of life in my neighborhood	62 B E	52	59 B	.	56 B
Supporting the quality of life in the county	65 E	.	.	.	60
Overall confidence in {this} County government	63 D	.	.	44	.
The job {This} County does at providing access to {This} County government services	.	.	56 D	45	.

Table 130: 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	26% D	.	.	9%	24% D
Somewhat approve	64%	.	.	62%	59%
Somewhat disapprove	8%	.	.	21% A E	13%
Strongly disapprove	2%	.	.	8% A E	4%
Total	100%	.	.	100%	100%

Table 131: Ratings of County Services by County

Please rate the quality of each of the following services provided by {this} County. Average rating on a 100-point scale; 100=excellent, 0=poor	Dakota	Olmsted	Scott	St. Louis	Washington
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)
Overall health of you and your family	51	.	55	.	56 A
Likelihood that you or someone in your family will get COVID-19	47	.	49	.	51
Your community's medical facilities and resources being overwhelmed by COVID-19	57 C	.	41	.	57 C
Overall health and safety of vulnerable populations (e.g., older adults, those with chronic health issues)	64 C	.	37	.	66 C
My behaviors impacting the health of vulnerable populations	44	.	71 A E	.	45
The economic impact of COVID-19 on my household	.	.	51	.	57 C
The economic impact of COVID-19 on the local economy/local businesses	71 C	.	27	.	77 A C
Overall quality of services provided by {this} County	69 B C D E	58 D	62 B D	47	63 B D
Condition of County roads ¹	65 B C D	52 D	56 B D	47	62 B C D
Snow and ice removal on County roads	68 B D	62 D	66 B D	56	68 B D
Recycling and drop-off services ²	75 B C D	69 C D	61	58	74 B C D
County parks and recreation ³	86 B C	67	71 B	.	84 B C
Land use, planning and zoning ⁴	.	49 D	55 B D	43	.
Sheriff services ⁵	68 D	67 D	73 A B D	62	.
Records, vital statistics, licensing, and vehicle registration ⁶	61 D	67 A C D	59 D	51	64 C D
Property records (plats, surveys, recording & abstracting) ⁷	.	68	66	.	.
Property assessment and taxpayer services ⁸	55 C D	52 D	50 D	38	.
Disaster preparedness and response ⁹	.	61 D	60 D	49	61 D
Services to older adults	58 B D	50	54 D	47	56 B D
Services to children and families ¹⁰	.	55 D	.	42	.
Services to veterans ¹¹	.	49 D	56 B D	40	57 B D

Please rate the quality of each of the following services provided by (this) County. Average rating on a 100-point scale; 100=excellent, 0=poor	Dakota	Olmsted	Scott	St. Louis	Washington
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)
Mental health services	50	45	44	.	48
Public health services	.	57 D	.	53	.
Protecting vulnerable adults	.	47	54 B	.	.
Protecting children ¹²	55 D	52 D	59 B D	44	.
Information available on the County website ¹³	63 B D	56 D	62 B D	51	.
County libraries	85 C E	.	77	.	81 C
Trail and bikeway connectivity ¹⁴	81 C	.	65	.	80 C
Employment and training services ¹⁵	69 C D E	.	58 D	48	60 D
Financial assistance for low-income families ¹⁶	63 B D	49 D	56 B D	43	.
Services for people with disabilities	62 B C	52	48	.	.
911 dispatch services	.	.	80 D	75	77
Disease prevention and control	.	57 C	53	.	.
COVID services (Providing information, testing, vaccines, etc.)	61 D	.	.	58	.

¹For Dakota County, this was "Condition of County roads (e.g., Cliff or Pilot Knob Roads, Kenwood Trail, Wentworth Ave., or County Road 42)"; for Olmsted County, it was "Maintenance and repair of County roads"; for Scott County, it was "Surface condition of County roads" for St. Louis County it was "Maintenance of County roads" and for Washington County, it was "Condition of County roads such as Manning Avenue, Radio Drive, or Bailey Road"

²For Dakota County, this was "Services at the Recycling Zone"; for Olmsted County, it was "Recycling and drop-off services at the Recycling Center Plus"; for Scott County it was "Recycling and household hazardous waste disposal" and for Washington County, it was "Recycling and drop-off services at the Environmental Center"

³For Dakota County, this was "County parks and recreation (e.g., Lebanon Hills, Thompson County Park, Whitetail Woods, Spring Lake Park, Lake Byllesby, or Miesville)"; for Olmsted County it was "County parks and recreation"; for Scott County it was "Regional parks" and for Washington County it was "County parks and recreation like Big Marine Park Reserve, Lake Elmo Park Reserve, or St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park"

⁴For Olmsted County, this was "Land use, planning and zoning, including permitting"; for Scott County it was "Inspections and zoning services" and for St. Louis County it was "Land use services, including building and conditional use permitting:

⁵For Dakota County, this was "Sheriff deputies patrol and park protection services"; for Olmsted County it was "Sheriff's Office services"; for Scott and St. Louis County it was "Sheriff patrol"

⁶For Olmsted County, this was "Vital records (birth/death/marriage certificates, driver's licenses)"; for Scott County it was "Birth/death/marriage records, licensing, and vehicle registration" and for St. Louis County it was "Records and vital statistics"

⁷For Scott County, this was "Land records and other property information"

⁸For Scott County, this was “Property assessment and taxpayer services”

⁹For Scott and Washington Counties, this was “Disaster preparedness”

¹⁰For St. Louis County, this was “Services to youth”

¹¹For Dakota County, this was “Services for people experiencing mental illness”: for Olmsted and Washington County, it was “Mental and chemical health services”

¹²For Dakota County, this was “Services that protect neglected or abused children”

¹³For Olmsted County, this was “Accessibility and functionality of County website”; for Scott County, it was “Self-service options on the County website (e.g., property information, program registration, meeting agendas/materials)” and for St. Louis County it was “Accessibility and functionality of County website (e.g., property information, program registration, meeting agendas/materials)”

¹⁴For Dakota County, this was “Trail and bikeway system like the Mississippi River or Big Rivers trails”; for Scott County this was “Trail and bikeway connectivity” and for Washington County it was “Trail and bikeway system like Hardwood Creek Regional Trail and Point Douglas Regional Trail”

¹⁵For Dakota County, this was “Employment support/Workforce Center services”; for St. Louis County, it was “Employment support” and for Washington County it was “Employment support/Workforce Center services”

¹⁶For Dakota County, this was “Financial assistance for low-income families”

Table 132: 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%	.	7%	.	.
Somewhat support	40%	.	41%	.	.
Somewhat oppose	28%	.	24%	.	.
Strongly oppose	22%	.	29% A	.	.
Total	100%	.	100%	.	.

Table 133: 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	34%	41%	49% A B D	36%	44% A D
No	66% C E	59% C	51%	64% C E	56%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 134: 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 on a 100-point scale; 100=excellent, 0=poor	Dakota	Olmsted	Scott	St. Louis	Washington
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)
Knowledgeable	82 B C D	76	74	72	78 D
Responsive	75 D	73 D	72	68	76 D
Courteous	80 B	74	77	75	79 B
Overall impression	78 B D	72	74	69	77 B D

Table 135: 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)
Newspapers ¹	.	47% C D E	40% D E	32%	33%
Other county residents (such as neighbors or friends) ²	.	53%	.	61% B	58% B
County employees	.	27% C	23%	42% B C	.
County web site	.	49%	50%	63% B C E	50%
Other online resources	.	46% C E	34%	.	34%
Public/Community meetings	.	24% C E	14%	63% B C E	16%
Radio	.	38% C	19%	45% B C	.
Phone calls to {this} County	.	24% E	.	36% B E	20%
Reports, flyers or brochures	.	36%	.	41% B	.
Television news broadcasts/cable TV	.	54% C E	33%	52% C E	35%
Social Media (e.g., Twitter, Facebook, etc.)	.	32%	43% B D E	37% B	38% B
County Board meetings shown on cable access	.	.	9%	24% C E	16% C
Weekly community newspapers	.	.	55% E	.	33%
{This} County newsletter	.	.	46%	.	56% C

¹For Olmsted County, this was "Newspapers" and for Dakota and St. Louis County it was "Newspapers (print or online)"

²For Washington County, this was "Word of mouth (from friends, family, neighbors)"

Table 136: Importance of Park Activities and Services by County

How important, if at all, is it for each of the following park activities and services to be provided by {this} County? Average rating 100=essential, 0=not at all important"	Dakota	Olmsted	Scott	St. Louis	Washington
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)
Equipment rentals such as canoes, paddleboats, snowshoes, skis ¹	.	56 E	.	.	47
Community events	.	60 E	.	.	50
Programs for learning about nature and outdoor recreation	.	65 E	.	.	58
Trail and greenway systems that connect parks and recreation sites ²	.	71	.	.	70

¹For Washington County, this was "Renting equipment such as snowshoes, canoes, and bikes"

²For Washington County, this was "Off-road trail system that connects communities, county park system, and other destinations"

Table 137: 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% C D	.	3%	2%	.
Somewhat better	20%	.	20%	19%	.
About the same	53%	.	57%	58%	.
Somewhat worse	18%	.	14%	15%	.
Much worse	3%	.	5%	6%	.
Total	100%	.	100%	100%	.

Table 138: Diversity and Inclusion by County

Please rate the following characteristics for {this} County? Average rating 100=essential, 0=not at all important"	Dakota	Olmsted	Scott	St. Louis	Washington
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)
Treating all residents with respect	.	53	.	.	67 B
Providing opportunities for resident with different opinions to voice their concerns	.	50	.	.	60 B

Appendix F: Benchmark Comparisons

Understanding the Benchmark Comparisons

Communities use the comparative information provided by benchmarks to help interpret their own resident 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.” Furthermore, in the absence of national or peer community comparisons, a community is left with comparing its sheriff services rating to its property tax collection rating. That comparison is unfair as property tax collection always gets lower ratings than sheriff services. More illuminating is how residents’ ratings of sheriff services compare to opinions about sheriff services in other communities and to resident ratings over time.

A sheriff department that provides the fastest and most efficient service – one that closes most of its cases, solves most of its crimes, and keeps the crime rate low – still has a problem to fix if the residents in the county rate sheriff services lower than ratings given by residents in other counties with objectively “worse” departments. Benchmark data can help that sheriff department – or any County department – to understand how well citizens think it is doing.

While benchmarks provided a 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 respond to comparative results.

Comparison Data

National Research Center -NRC- 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 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 who specialize in the analysis of citizen surveys regularly have relied on NRC’s work^{1, 2}. The method described in those publications is refined regularly and statistically tested on a growing number of citizen surveys in NRC’s proprietary databases.

Communities in NRC’s benchmark database are distributed geographically across the country and range from small to large in population size. Comparisons may be made to all

¹ 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.

² 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.

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).

Despite the differences in jurisdiction characteristics, all are in the business of providing local government services to residents. 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 residents conclude the services are of the highest quality. High ratings in any jurisdiction, like SAT scores in any teen household, bring pride and a sense of accomplishment.

NRC's database of comparative resident opinion is comprised of resident perspectives gathered in statistically valid surveys from more than 500 jurisdictions whose residents 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. NRC adds the latest results quickly upon survey completion, keeping the benchmark data fresh and relevant. Dakota County's survey results were compared to 61 other counties across the nation.

Interpreting the Results

Average ratings were compared when questions similar to those asked in Dakota County's survey were included in NRC'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 Dakota County's rating on the 100-point scale. The second column is the rank assigned to Dakota 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 Dakota County's average rating to the benchmark.

Where comparisons for quality ratings were available, Dakota County's results were noted as being "higher" than the benchmark, "lower" than the benchmark 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 Dakota 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 Dakota County's rating and the benchmark is greater than five points; and "much higher" or "much lower" if the difference between Dakota County's rating and the benchmark is more than 10 points.

Comparisons for a number of items on 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 139: Overall Quality of Life Benchmark

How would you rate your overall quality of life in Dakota County?	Average rating	Rank	Number of communities in comparison	Comparison to benchmark
How would you rate your overall quality of life in Dakota County?	78	5	43	Much higher

Table 140: Quality of Life Benchmarks

Please rate each of the following characteristics of Dakota County.	Average rating	Rank	Number of communities in comparison	Comparison to benchmark
Dakota County as a place to live	79	7	41	Higher
Dakota County as a place to work	69	6	41	Much higher
Dakota County as a place to retire	61	18	41	Similar
Dakota County as a place to raise a family	78	7	40	Much higher

Table 141: Community Characteristics Benchmarks

Please rate each of the following characteristics of Dakota County.	Average rating	Rank	Number of communities in comparison	Comparison to benchmark
Sense of community	62	9	33	Higher
Openness and acceptance of people with diverse backgrounds	59	7	35	Higher
Outdoor recreational opportunities in Dakota County	77	5	33	Much higher
Economic health of Dakota County	70	1	31	Much higher
Availability of employment opportunities	61	2	38	Much higher
Availability of quality, affordable child care	46	8	31	Higher
Availability of affordable housing	44	8	38	Much higher
Overall image or reputation of Dakota County	70	8	38	Much higher

Table 142: Feelings of Safety Benchmarks

Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel in Dakota County.	Average rating	Rank	Number of communities in comparison	Comparison to benchmark
From property crimes (e.g., burglary, theft)	67	5	11	Similar
From violent crimes (e.g., rape, assault, robbery)	77	5	11	Similar

Table 143: Overall Quality of Services Benchmarks

Please rate each of the following services provided by Dakota County.	Average rating	Rank	Number of communities in comparison	Comparison to benchmark
Overall quality of services provided by Dakota County	69	3	40	Much higher

Table 144: Quality of Services Benchmarks

Please rate each of the following services provided by Dakota County.	Average rating	Rank	Number of communities in comparison	Comparison to benchmark
County libraries	85	1	34	Much higher
Snow and ice removal on County roads	68	2	24	Much higher
Sheriff deputies patrol and park protection services	68	20	39	Similar
Services provided to older adults	58	2	7	Higher
Services at the Recycling Zone	75	2	33	Much higher

Table 145: Contact with County Employees Benchmarks

Have you visited, telephoned, or emailed any Dakota County government office within the last 12 months?	Average rating	Rank	Number of communities in comparison	Comparison to benchmark
Have you visited, telephoned, or emailed any Dakota County government office within the last 12 months?	34	31	35	Much lower

Table 146: County Employee Benchmarks

What was your impression of the employee(s) of Dakota County in your most recent contact? (Please rate each characteristic below.)	Average rating	Rank	Number of communities in comparison	Comparison to benchmark
Knowledgeable	82	1	6	Higher
Responsive	75	2	7	Similar
Courteous	80	2	7	Similar
Overall impression	78	2	39	Much higher

Table 147: Perception of County Government Benchmarks

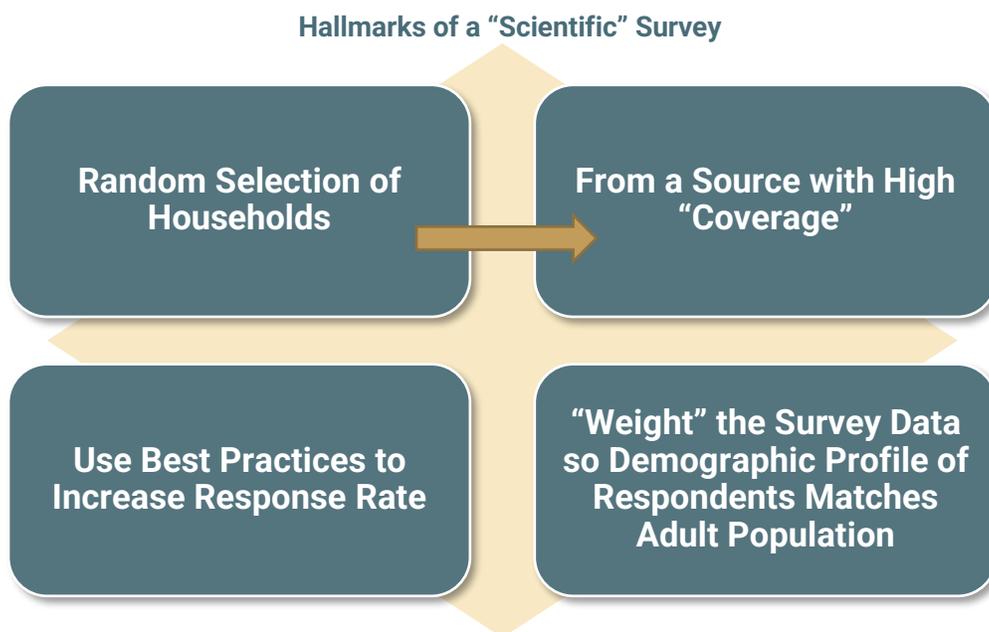
Please rate the following categories of Dakota County government performance.	Average rating	Rank	Number of communities in comparison	Comparison to benchmark
The job Dakota County government does of providing information to residents	65	1	5	Much higher
The job Dakota County government does of listening to residents	54	2	7	Higher
The value of services for the taxes paid to Dakota County	57	5	40	Much higher
The job Dakota County government does at managing tax dollars	55	1	5	Much higher
Generally acting in the best interest of the community	63	1	33	Much higher

Appendix G: Survey Methodology

The Dakota County Resident Survey provides residents the opportunity to rate the quality of life in the county, as well as service delivery and satisfaction with County government. The survey also permits residents 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. Dakota County funded this research. Please contact Dave Paulsen at analysis@co.dakota.mn.us if you have any questions about the survey.

Hallmarks of a “Scientific” Survey

The figure below displays the unique features of a scientific survey. The survey conducted by Polco/National Research Center on behalf of Dakota County was a scientific survey, implemented using survey research best practices to provide a picture of the opinions of all adults living in this County.



Developing the Questionnaire

The resident survey questionnaire for Dakota County was developed by starting with the version from the previous implementation in 2019. A list of topics was generated for new questions; items and questions were modified to find those that were the best fit for the 2022 project. In an iterative process between Dakota County staff, staff from the survey project partner counties, and Polco staff, the final questionnaire was created. A copy can be found in *Appendix H: Survey Materials*.

Selecting Survey Recipients

The target population for the survey was adults who live within the geographic limits of Dakota County. The survey was designed as a mailed survey. The list from which survey recipients will be selected is referred to as a “sampling frame.” A sampling frame is chosen

that will provide high “coverage,” meaning that almost every member of the target population has a chance of being selected.

Because local governments generally do not have inclusive lists of all the residences in the jurisdiction (tax assessor and utility billing databases often omit rental units), lists from the United States Postal Service (USPS), based on the Delivery Sequence File (DSF) used by the postal carriers to deliver the mail and updated every three months, usually provide the best representation of all households in a specific geographic location. A list of households within the zip codes serving Dakota County was purchased from Go-Dog Direct. They provided a list of addresses that were selected using a systematic selection, a procedure where every Nth 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 outside of county limits would be 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 seven Districts. (A map of the Commissioner Districts can be found on the next page.) A random selection was made of 550 addresses within each District, with an additional 175 addresses sampled in Districts 2 and 5, as response rates in these Districts in the past had been lower. 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. A total of 4,200 household recipients were selected to be mailed the survey.

To ensure that survey results could be compared by District, a different color paper was used to print the survey for each District. A code for the color identifying the District was then data entered along with the responses to that survey. An individual within each household was randomly selected to complete the survey using the birthday method.³

Administering the Survey

Households received three mailings each beginning in January 2022. 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 so that recipients could go online to complete the survey.

For 2,730 households, the week after the prenotification postcard was sent, the first wave of the survey was sent. The survey mailings contained a letter from the County Commissioners inviting the household to participate in the 2022 Resident Survey, a questionnaire, and a postage-paid return envelope. The cover letter also contained a link to a URL where recipients could choose to complete the survey online if they preferred that to doing a hard copy survey.

For the remaining 1,470 households, a follow-up reminder postcard was sent one week after the first inviting households to respond online; this group did not receive a paper

³ The birthday method selects a person within the household by asking the “person whose birthday has most recently passed” to complete the questionnaire. The underlying assumption in this method is that day of birth has no relationship to the way people respond to surveys.

survey. An additional postcard was sent to all households a few weeks later to reinforce lower than expected response rates.

A total of 646 completed surveys were received: 311 mailed hard copy surveys and 335 online surveys. About 3.5% of the surveys (145) were returned because they either had incorrect addresses or were received by vacant housing units. Of the estimated 4,055 remaining households, 646 completed the survey, providing a response rate of 16%. This method of calculating the response rate is in accordance with the AAPOR's response rate #2 for mailed surveys of unnamed persons. Typical response rates for a mailed resident survey range from 12% to 30%.

Table 148: Dakota County 2022 Resident Survey Response Rate

Commissioner District	Number mailed	Undeliverable postcards	Delivered surveys	Returned surveys	Response rate
District 1	550	15	535	84	16%
District 2	725	27	698	114	16%
District 3	550	33	517	69	13%
District 4	550	14	536	99	18%
District 5	725	23	702	88	13%
District 6	550	14	536	94	18%
District 7	550	19	531	97	18%
Overall	4200	145	4055	646	16%

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 difficulties of conducting any resident survey may introduce other sources of error in addition to 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 for this survey, with 646 respondents, is $\pm 3.9\%$.

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; NRC 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 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, which is all adults living in Dakota County. 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 almost 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 underrespond) 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. ⁴

Initial weights were calculated using an Iterative Proportional Fitting model via a python raking algorithm plug-in to SPSS. These initial weights were trimmed so that no case was given a weight greater than 5. No adjustments were made for design effects. The results of the weighting scheme are presented in the table on the next page. All the variables in that table were used in the weighting scheme.

⁴ An example of how weighting works may be helpful. Hypothetically, suppose the population norm for gender was 50%/50%, but 70% of the surveys we received were from females, and 30% were from males. The weights we would need to apply to make our sample representative of the population would be 0.7143 for females (thereby giving each response **less** weight in the overall ratings) and 1.6667 for males (giving each response **more** weight overall). Let’s further suppose that these two groups had very different ratings of parks; females felt very favorably, with 80% of females giving a positive rating, and males felt much less favorable, with only 40% giving a positive rating. Given that we had more responses from women, if we did NOT weight the results, we would be left with a rosier picture of the perception of parks by residents than if we did weight the data. The unweighted average rating is 68% ($80\% \times 70\% + 40\% \times 30\%$), while the weighted average is 60% ($80\% \times 50\% + 40\% \times 50\%$).

Characteristic	Percent in Population	Percent in Sample	Weight to bring to 50%	Unwt'd Rating of Parks	Parks rating with proper weights
Female	50%	70%	0.714	80	(80 * .50)
Male	50%	30%	1.666	40	(40 * .50)
TOTAL	100%	100%	----	68	60

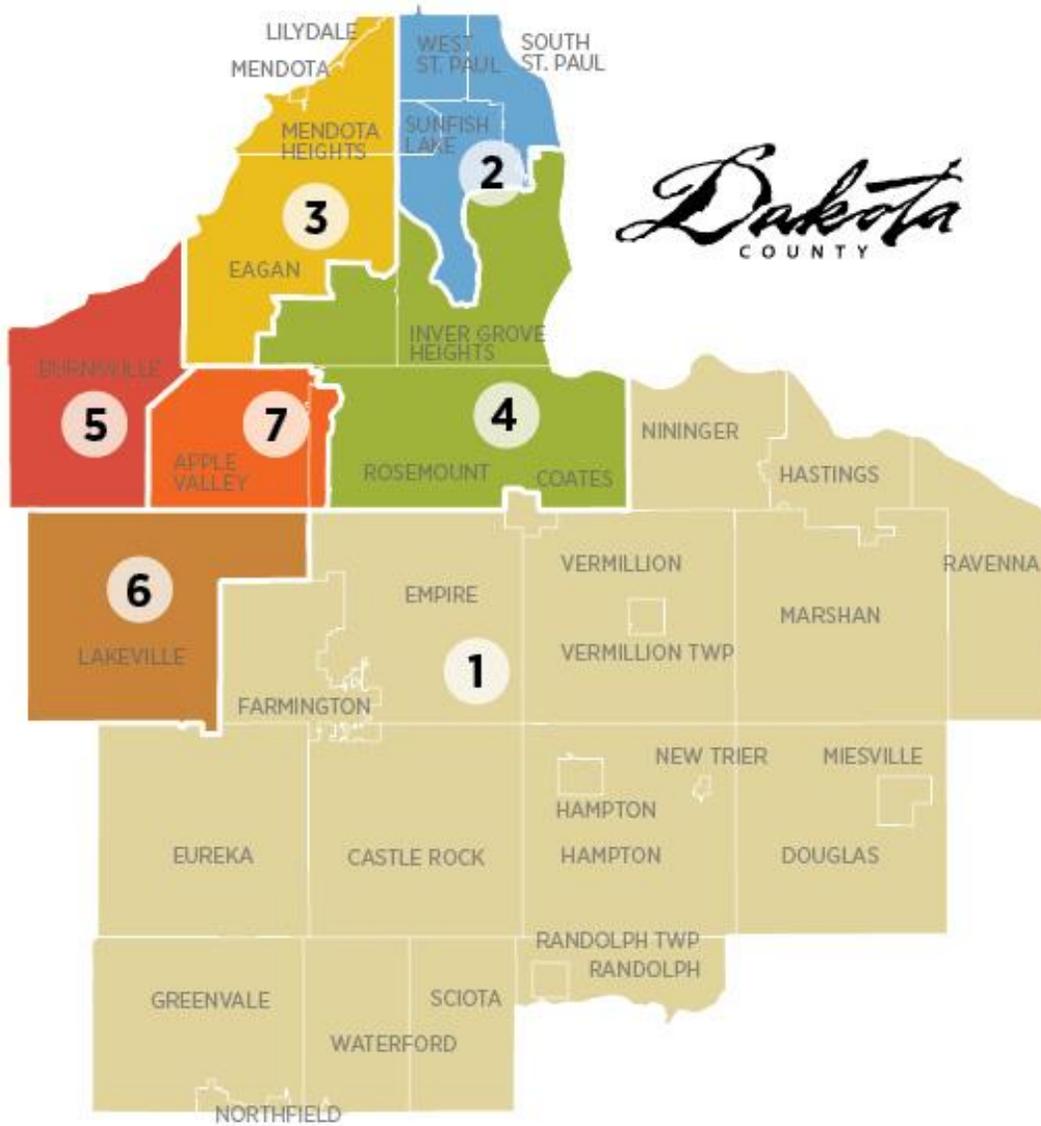
Table 149: Weighting Table 2022

Characteristic	Population Norm ¹	Unweighted Data	Weighted Data
Housing			
Rent home	26%	10%	23%
Own home	74%	90%	77%
Detached unit	59%	71%	62%
Attached unit	41%	29%	38%
Race and Ethnicity			
White alone, not Hispanic	83%	89%	83%
Hispanic and/or other race	17%	11%	17%
Sex and Age			
Female	51%	49%	51%
Male	49%	51%	49%
18-34 years of age	28%	7%	24%
35-54 years of age	37%	24%	37%
55+ years of age	34%	69%	39%
District*			
District 1	12%	13%	12%
District 2	13%	18%	14%
District 3	14%	11%	14%
District 4	12%	15%	12%
District 5	14%	14%	15%
District 6	23%	15%	21%
District 7	13%	15%	12%

¹Source: 5-year estimates from the 2017 American Community Survey

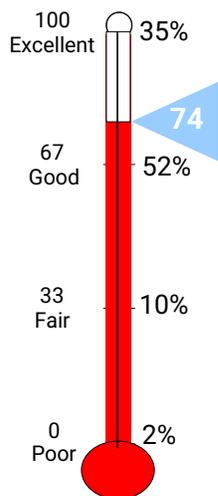
*Source: Sample list purchased from Go-Dog Direct

Figure 39: Map of Dakota County Commissioner Districts
Commissioner districts



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 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 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. This scale can be thought of like the United Way fundraising thermometer – the greater the average rating, the closer to 100.

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. The thermometer image to the left represents how this rating can be considered like a United Way fundraising thermometer, where the average rating of 74 represents a thermometer that is about three-quarters full.

Response option	Total with “don’t know”	Step 1: 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 A: Responses to Survey Questions*.

Also included are results by selected respondent characteristics (*Appendix C: Survey Results by Respondent 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 in this appendix.

Dakota County has up to eight survey data points about resident 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 D: Survey Results by Year*. Tests of statistical significance were not conducted for comparisons of results by survey year. Instead, a “rule of thumb” using the margin of error for differences in the two samples was used. Given the sample sizes and typical amount of variation observed, differences between survey years were considered significant if they were four or more percentage points or two or more points on the average rating on a 100-point scale. Obviously, in some cases there was more or less variation than the average, but for simplicity’s sake, this rule was used in all cases.

Comparing to Previous Survey Results

Dakota County survey data were collected by telephone in 2001, 2004, 2006 and 2008. In 2011, the County switched data collection from telephone to mail and has continued with mail since 2013. Switching data collection from telephone to mail was done to save costs, allow for more precise geographic sampling, cost-efficiently include cell phone-only households, gather more candid feedback and avoid interrupting residents with unwanted telephone 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 telephone.

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 anonymous opinions in private. Questions by telephone 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 2011 in virtually all ratings was both expected and observed. In the previous surveys by telephone in 2008, a

small sample of residents was surveyed by mail in order to explore the magnitude of the differences between telephone and mail survey responses in Dakota County. Using 2008 survey research conducted by NRC in Dakota County that compared mail and telephone responses, as well as NRC's analysis of national trends comparing telephone and mail responses, NRC adjusted the findings from 2001 to 2008 in order to allow comparability of results over time. This way the reported trendline data are not influenced by the decline that is attributable to the change in data collection mode from telephone to mail.

When results are reported as an average on the 100-point scale for a question that was asked similarly in previous years, a slight adjustment was made to permit direct comparison between telephone and mail results. (Results that are reported as percentages and compared over time were not adjusted.) While the adjusted findings for data prior to 2011 reasonably control for the expected change from telephone to mail data collection, the comparability of data over time does have some limitations. Not only is there sampling error in each survey administration, but also, the change in survey methods occurred after a three-year gap in surveying and some question wording was inconsistent among survey years. Important historic differences are noted in the appropriate tables and figures. (NRC also was able to introduce statistical adjustments for the data prior to 2011 to account for any question and scale differences when possible. These adjustments are based on NRC's analysis of resident surveys from across the nation.)

Appendix H: Survey Materials

The following pages contain a copy of the postcards, cover letters and survey questionnaire. The cover letters and postcards have a placeholder for the web survey URL link. The correct link for each district was inserted into the materials prior to its printing.

Dear Dakota County Resident,

Dakota County Commissioners want to know what you think about your community and local government programs and services.

Your household has been randomly selected to participate in Dakota County's 2022 Resident Survey. You can go online and complete the **confidential survey** at the link below. You may also wait a few days for the survey to arrive in the mail.

<https://polco.us/xxplaceholder>

Please do not share your survey link. This survey is for randomly selected households only. We do not track addresses or names; your responses are completely anonymous.

If you have any questions about the survey, please call 651-438-8391.

Thank you for helping create a better county!

Sincerely,



Kathleen Gaylord
Chair, Dakota County Board of Commissioners

Dear Dakota County Resident,

Dakota County Commissioners want to know what you think about your community and local government programs and services.

Your household has been randomly selected to participate in Dakota County's 2022 Resident Survey. You can go online and complete the **confidential survey** at the link below. You may also wait a few days for the survey to arrive in the mail.

<https://polco.us/xxplaceholder>

Please do not share your survey link. This survey is for randomly selected households only. We do not track addresses or names; your responses are completely anonymous.

If you have any questions about the survey, please call 651-438-8391.

Thank you for helping create a better county!

Sincerely,



Kathleen Gaylord
Chair, Dakota County Board of Commissioners



Dakota County Administration Center
Office of Performance and Analysis
1590 Highway 55 • Hastings • MN 55033

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



Dakota County Administration Center
Office of Performance and Analysis
1590 Highway 55 • Hastings • MN 55033

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



Dakota County Administration Center
Office of Performance and Analysis
1590 Highway 55 • Hastings • MN 55033

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



Dear Dakota County Resident:

Dakota County Commissioners want to know what you think about your community and local government programs and services. You have been selected at random to participate in the 2022 Dakota County Resident Survey. **If you've already received the postcard and completed the survey online, thank you. Please do not respond twice.**

Please take a few minutes to fill out the enclosed survey. Your participation in this survey is very important—especially since your household is one of only a small number being surveyed. Your feedback will help Dakota County make decisions that affect our county.

A few things to remember:

- **We do not track addresses or names; your responses are completely anonymous.**
- In order to hear from a diverse group of residents, the adult 18 years or older in your household who most recently had a birthday should complete this survey.
- **You may return the survey by mail in the enclosed postage-paid envelope, or you can complete the survey online at:**

<https://polco.us/xxplaceholder>

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

If you have any questions about the survey, please call 651-438-8391.

Thank you for your time and participation!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen Gaylord". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Kathleen Gaylord
Chair, Dakota County Board of Commissioners



Dear Dakota County Resident:

Here's another chance to tell Dakota County Commissioners what you think about your community and local government programs and services. You have been selected at random to participate in the 2022 Dakota County Resident Survey. **If you've already received the postcard and completed the survey online, thank you. Please do not respond twice.**

Please take a few minutes to fill out the enclosed survey. Your participation in this survey is very important—especially since your household is one of only a small number being surveyed. Your feedback will help Dakota County make decisions that affect our county.

A few things to remember:

- **We do not track addresses or names; your responses are completely anonymous.**
- In order to hear from a diverse group of residents, the adult 18 years or older in your household who most recently had a birthday should complete this survey.
- **You may return the survey by mail in the enclosed postage-paid envelope, or you can complete the survey online at:**

<https://polco.us/xxplaceholder>

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

If you have any questions about the survey, please call 651-438-8391.

Thank you for your time and participation!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen Gaylord". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Kathleen Gaylord
Chair, Dakota County Board of Commissioners

Dear Dakota County Resident,

Dakota County Commissioners want to know what you think about your community and local government programs and services.

Your household has been randomly selected to participate in Dakota County's 2022 Resident Survey. You can go online and complete the **confidential survey** at the link below.

<https://polco.us/xxplaceholder>

Please do not share your survey link. This survey is for randomly selected households only. We do not track addresses or names; your responses are completely anonymous.

If you have any questions about the survey, please call 651-438-8391.

Thank you for helping create a better county!

Sincerely,



Kathleen Gaylord
Chair, Dakota County Board of Commissioners

Dear Dakota County Resident,

Dakota County Commissioners want to know what you think about your community and local government programs and services.

Your household has been randomly selected to participate in Dakota County's 2022 Resident Survey. You can go online and complete the **confidential survey** at the link below.

<https://polco.us/xxplaceholder>

Please do not share your survey link. This survey is for randomly selected households only. We do not track addresses or names; your responses are completely anonymous.

If you have any questions about the survey, please call 651-438-8391.

Thank you for helping create a better county!

Sincerely,



Kathleen Gaylord
Chair, Dakota County Board of Commissioners



Dakota County Administration Center
Office of Performance and Analysis
1590 Highway 55 • Hastings • MN 55033

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



Dakota County Administration Center
Office of Performance and Analysis
1590 Highway 55 • Hastings • MN 55033

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

Dear Dakota County Resident,

Just a reminder—Dakota County Commissioners want to know what you think about your community and local government programs and services.

If you have not yet completed Dakota County's 2022 Resident Survey, please do so. **If you have received the postcard and completed the survey online, thank you. Please do not respond twice.**

Your participation in this **confidential survey** is very important—your answers will help Dakota County make decisions that affect our community.

Please complete the survey online at the link below.

<https://polco.us/xxplaceholder>

Please do not share your survey link. This survey is for randomly selected households only. We do not track addresses or names; your responses are completely anonymous.

If you have any questions about the survey, please call 651-438-8391.

Thank you very much!

Sincerely,



Kathleen Gaylord
Chair, Dakota County Board of Commissioners

Dear Dakota County Resident,

Just a reminder—Dakota County Commissioners want to know what you think about your community and local government programs and services.

If you have not yet completed Dakota County's 2022 Resident Survey, please do so. **If you have received the postcard and completed the survey online, thank you. Please do not respond twice.**

Your participation in this **confidential survey** is very important—your answers will help Dakota County make decisions that affect our community.

Please complete the survey online at the link below.

<https://polco.us/xxplaceholder>

Please do not share your survey link. This survey is for randomly selected households only. We do not track addresses or names; your responses are completely anonymous.

If you have any questions about the survey, please call 651-438-8391.

Thank you very much!

Sincerely,



Kathleen Gaylord
Chair, Dakota County Board of Commissioners



Dakota County Administration Center
Office of Performance and Analysis
1590 Highway 55 • Hastings • MN 55033

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



Dakota County Administration Center
Office of Performance and Analysis
1590 Highway 55 • Hastings • MN 55033

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

Dear Dakota County Resident,

A final reminder! If you have not yet completed Dakota County's 2022 Resident Survey, please do so. If you have completed it, thank you. Please do not respond twice.

Your participation in this confidential survey is very important — your answers will help County leadership make decisions that affect our community.

<https://polco.us/xxplaceholder>

Please do not share your survey link. This survey is for randomly selected households only. We do not track addresses or names; your responses are completely anonymous.

If you have any questions about the survey, please call 651-438-8391.

Thank you for helping create a better county.

Sincerely,



Kathleen Gaylord
Chair, Dakota County Board of Commissioners

Dear Dakota County Resident,

A final reminder! If you have not yet completed Dakota County's 2022 Resident Survey, please do so. If you have completed it, thank you. Please do not respond twice.

Your participation in this confidential survey is very important — your answers will help County leadership make decisions that affect our community.

<https://polco.us/xxplaceholder>

Please do not share your survey link. This survey is for randomly selected households only. We do not track addresses or names; your responses are completely anonymous.

If you have any questions about the survey, please call 651-438-8391.

Thank you for helping create a better county.

Sincerely,



Kathleen Gaylord
Chair, Dakota County Board of Commissioners



Dakota County Administration Center
Office of Performance and Analysis
1590 Highway 55 • Hastings • MN 55033

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



Dakota County Administration Center
Office of Performance and Analysis
1590 Highway 55 • Hastings • MN 55033

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

Dakota County 2022 Residential Survey

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 your overall quality of life in Dakota County? Excellent Good Fair Poor

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

- | | | | |
|--|---|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Location | <input type="checkbox"/> Quality of life in general | <input type="checkbox"/> Low taxes | <input type="checkbox"/> Open space |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rural character | <input type="checkbox"/> My neighborhood | <input type="checkbox"/> People | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parks and greenways | <input type="checkbox"/> Schools | | |

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

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
Dakota County as a place to live.....	1	2	3	4	5
Dakota County as a place to work.....	1	2	3	4	5
Dakota County as a place to retire.....	1	2	3	4	5
Dakota County as a place to raise a family.....	1	2	3	4	5
Sense of community.....	1	2	3	4	5
Openness and acceptance of people with diverse backgrounds.....	1	2	3	4	5
Outdoor recreational opportunities in Dakota County.....	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of bike and pedestrian transportation options.....	1	2	3	4	5
Economic health of Dakota County.....	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of employment opportunities.....	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of quality, affordable child care.....	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of affordable housing.....	1	2	3	4	5
Overall image or reputation of Dakota County.....	1	2	3	4	5

4. What do you feel is the most serious issue facing Dakota County at this time? _____

5. 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?

- Much better Somewhat better About the same Somewhat worse Much worse Don't know

6. Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel in Dakota 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, robbery).....	1	2	3	4	5
From illegal drug activity (e.g., selling drugs).....	1	2	3	4	5
From electronic crimes (e.g., identity theft, phone scams).....	1	2	3	4	5
From domestic violence.....	1	2	3	4	5
From gang activity.....	1	2	3	4	5
While driving on roads within Dakota County.....	1	2	3	4	5
While in your neighborhood.....	1	2	3	4	5
While in County office buildings, libraries, courtrooms.....	1	2	3	4	5
While in schools or places of worship in Dakota County.....	1	2	3	4	5
While using Dakota County parks, trails, and greenways.....	1	2	3	4	5

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

	<u>Not a problem</u>	<u>Minor problem</u>	<u>Moderate problem</u>	<u>Major problem</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
Crime.....	1	2	3	4	5
Taxes.....	1	2	3	4	5
Traffic safety.....	1	2	3	4	5
Traffic congestion.....	1	2	3	4	5
Poverty.....	1	2	3	4	5
Homelessness.....	1	2	3	4	5
Affordability of housing.....	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of living wage jobs.....	1	2	3	4	5

Dakota County 2022 Residential Survey

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

	<u>Not at all a concern</u>	<u>Minor concern</u>	<u>Moderate concern</u>	<u>Major concern</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
Environmental hazards (e.g., polluted water or toxic waste).....	1	2	3	4	5
Tobacco use (including E-cigarettes and chewing tobacco)	1	2	3	4	5
Depression, anxiety, and other mental illnesses	1	2	3	4	5
Social isolation	1	2	3	4	5
Underage alcohol use.....	1	2	3	4	5
Alcohol abuse among adults	1	2	3	4	5
Illegal drug use (e.g., heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine)	1	2	3	4	5
Bullying.....	1	2	3	4	5
Illegal use of prescribed medications (such as opioids).....	1	2	3	4	5
The health and support of older adults	1	2	3	4	5
The health and support of persons with disabilities.....	1	2	3	4	5
Quality of parenting skills of parents of children ages 0-17	1	2	3	4	5
Overweight adults and children.....	1	2	3	4	5
Abuse and neglect of children	1	2	3	4	5
Abuse and neglect of older adults or vulnerable adults	1	2	3	4	5
Spread of infectious diseases.....	1	2	3	4	5

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

	<u>Not at all a concern</u>	<u>Minor concern</u>	<u>Moderate concern</u>	<u>Major concern</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
Quality of outdoor air	1	2	3	4	5
Quality of drinking water	1	2	3	4	5
Quality of water in lakes, rivers, and streams	1	2	3	4	5
Quantity of useable water supply	1	2	3	4	5
Climate change.....	1	2	3	4	5
Energy use.....	1	2	3	4	5

10. Please rate each of the following services provided by Dakota 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 Lebanon Hills, Thompson County Park, Whitetail Woods, Spring Lake Park, Lake Byllesby, or Miesville.....	1	2	3	4	5
Trail and greenway system like the Mississippi River or Big Rivers trails	1	2	3	4	5
Condition of County roads such as Cliff or Pilot Knob Roads, Kenwood Trail, Butler Ave., or County Road 42.....	1	2	3	4	5
Snow and ice removal on County roads.....	1	2	3	4	5
Sheriff deputies patrol and park protection services.....	1	2	3	4	5
Administering property tax	1	2	3	4	5
Addressing important health issues in communities.....	1	2	3	4	5
Prosecuting people accused of crimes.....	1	2	3	4	5
COVID-19 services such as providing information, testing, vaccines	1	2	3	4	5
Overall quality of services provided by Dakota County	1	2	3	4	5

11. Please rate the following services provided by Dakota County *only if you have experienced them within the last two years.*

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Don't know/ not applicable</u>
Employment support/CareerForce Center services	1	2	3	4	5
Financial assistance for low-income households.....	1	2	3	4	5
Records, passports, licensing, and vehicle registration	1	2	3	4	5
Services for people with disabilities.....	1	2	3	4	5
Services for people experiencing mental illness	1	2	3	4	5
Services that protect neglected or abused children.....	1	2	3	4	5
Information available on the County website	1	2	3	4	5
Services provided to older adults.....	1	2	3	4	5
Services at the Recycling Zone	1	2	3	4	5

Dakota County 2022 Residential Survey

12. 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?

- Strongly support Somewhat support Somewhat oppose Strongly oppose Don't know

13. Have you visited (in-person or virtually), telephoned, or emailed any Dakota County government employee within the last 12 months?

- Yes → Go to question 14 No → Skip to question 15

14. What was your impression of the employee(s) of Dakota County in your most recent contact? (Please rate each characteristic below.)

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
Knowledgeable.....	1	2	3	4	5
Responsive	1	2	3	4	5
Courteous.....	1	2	3	4	5
Overall impression	1	2	3	4	5

15. Please rate these aspects of accessing Dakota County services.

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
Convenience of County facilities' locations	1	2	3	4	5
Online access to County services	1	2	3	4	5
Ease of paying for County services online.....	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of language resources for access to services (e.g., interpreters or multi-language materials or signage).....	1	2	3	4	5

16. Please rate the following categories of Dakota County government performance.

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
The job Dakota County government does of providing information to residents.....	1	2	3	4	5
The job Dakota County government does of listening to residents	1	2	3	4	5
The value of services for the taxes paid to Dakota County	1	2	3	4	5
The job Dakota County government does at managing tax dollars.....	1	2	3	4	5
The value of Dakota County services to the quality of life in my neighborhood	1	2	3	4	5
Generally acting in the best interest of the community.....	1	2	3	4	5
Supporting the quality of life in the county	1	2	3	4	5
Effectively planning for the future of the county	1	2	3	4	5
Dakota County's public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic	1	2	3	4	5
Overall confidence in Dakota County government	1	2	3	4	5

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

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

18. How important, if at all, is it to provide the following library programs and services?

	<u>Essential</u>	<u>Very important</u>	<u>Somewhat important</u>	<u>Not at all important</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
Popular titles/current library materials	1	2	3	4	5
Small business/economic development resources and services.....	1	2	3	4	5
Information about jobs, skills, literacy, and careers	1	2	3	4	5
Streaming digital materials (movies, music, e-books, e-audio books) ...	1	2	3	4	5
Access to computers and the Internet	1	2	3	4	5
Access to creative maker technology, equipment, or classes	1	2	3	4	5
Community gathering space	1	2	3	4	5
Classes and events around health and wellness	1	2	3	4	5
English as a second language resources and services.....	1	2	3	4	5
Library materials in other languages (Spanish, Somali, Russian, others)	1	2	3	4	5
Other (please specify):.....	1	2	3	4	5

Dakota County 2022 Residential Survey

19. Please indicate which of the following methods, if any, you prefer as a way to receive information about Dakota County. (Please select up to three methods.)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newspapers (print or online)
<input type="checkbox"/> The County’s mailed newsletters
<input type="checkbox"/> Calling Dakota County
<input type="checkbox"/> Email from Dakota County
<input type="checkbox"/> Text messages and alerts (sent to cell phones)
<input type="checkbox"/> Television/cable TV | <input type="checkbox"/> County website (www.dakotacounty.us)
<input type="checkbox"/> Social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/> NextDoor
<input type="checkbox"/> The Dakota County mobile device app
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>None</u> , I don’t want or need any information from Dakota County |
|---|---|

20. Please indicate what methods you believe Dakota County should use to reach residents to learn about their preferences for County services, activities, projects, decisions and plans. (Please select all that apply.)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public meetings/forums/open houses
<input type="checkbox"/> Social Media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/> NextDoor
<input type="checkbox"/> Opt-in online surveys or online forums | <input type="checkbox"/> Booths and staff at community festivals or events (e.g., County Fair or farmers markets)
<input type="checkbox"/> Citizen advisory committees
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____ |
|--|---|

21. In the past year, how many times have you visited a Dakota County park or greenway?

- Never
 Once or twice
 3 to 12 times
 13 to 23 times
 24 or more times

22. Why haven’t you visited a Dakota County park or greenway, or visited more often?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> I have visited a Dakota County Park/Greenway
<input type="radio"/> I don’t or didn’t know enough about them to visit
<input type="radio"/> I don’t have time | <input type="radio"/> I don’t have transportation
<input type="radio"/> I am not interested
<input type="radio"/> Other (please specify): _____ |
|--|---|

23. Since 2003, Dakota County and partners have preserved land outside of County parks for many public purposes. How important, if at all, is it to continue using County funds for these purposes?

	Essential	Very important	Somewhat important	Not at all important	Don’t know
Increasing public access for outdoor recreation	1	2	3	4	5
Protecting and improving natural areas	1	2	3	4	5
Protecting and improving land used for agriculture/other specialty crops	1	2	3	4	5
Protecting and improving water quality	1	2	3	4	5
Protecting and improving wildlife habitat.....	1	2	3	4	5

24. What type of housing is most needed in your community? Choose up to three (3).

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Market-rate housing for older adults (condos, townhouses)
<input type="checkbox"/> Market-rate stand-alone single-family housing
<input type="checkbox"/> Market-rate apartments
<input type="checkbox"/> Workforce housing (housing affordable for working people that is close to their job) for single-person households
<input type="checkbox"/> Affordable housing for older adults | <input type="checkbox"/> Affordable family housing
<input type="checkbox"/> Assisted living or supportive housing (with services for any age)
<input type="checkbox"/> Homeless shelters
<input type="checkbox"/> None of these are needed in my community |
|---|---|

25. Thinking about the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, how concerned, if at all, are you about each of the following?

	Very concerned	Moderately concerned	Slightly concerned	Not at all concerned	Don’t know
Overall physical health of you and your family	1	2	3	4	5
Overall mental health of you and your family.....	1	2	3	4	5
Likelihood that you or someone in your family will get COVID-19	1	2	3	4	5
Your community’s medical facilities and resources being overwhelmed by COVID-19	1	2	3	4	5
Overall health and safety of vulnerable populations (e.g. older adults, those with chronic health issues)	1	2	3	4	5
My behaviors impacting the health of vulnerable populations	1	2	3	4	5
Economic impact of COVID-19 on the local economy/businesses	1	2	3	4	5

Dakota County 2022 Residential Survey

26. If you are considering a change in your work situation (e.g., increasing hours, rejoining the workforce, looking for a new job), how important, if at all, are each of the following factors in making your decision?

	Essential	Very important	Somewhat important	Not at all important	Don't know
Better pay	1	2	3	4	5
Better benefits (e.g., health insurance, family leave, tuition reimbursement)	1	2	3	4	5
The flexibility to work remotely (e.g., work from home or telework) at least part of the time	1	2	3	4	5
The option to work part-time or at reduced hours	1	2	3	4	5
Career advancement opportunity at work	1	2	3	4	5
COVID-19 health and safety practices and protections at work	1	2	3	4	5
Availability and affordability of childcare	1	2	3	4	5
Availability and affordability of other caregiving (e.g. senior care or care for family members with disabilities)	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of public transportation to work	1	2	3	4	5

27. Which highway in Dakota County needs the most safety improvements? _____

28. Which highway in Dakota County needs the most congestion improvements? _____

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 Dakota County?

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

D2. Which of the following best describes you?

- Employed full-time
- Employed part-time
- Employed, seeking better job or more hours
- Homemaker/caregiver → go to question #D5
- Retired → go to question #D5
- Unemployed, looking for work → go to question #D5
- Student → go to question #D5

D3. On average, how long does it take you to travel to work (from home)?

- 0 to 14 minutes 30 to 44 minutes
- 15 to 19 minutes 45 to 60 minutes
- 20 to 29 minutes More than 60 minutes
- Not sure/Don't know I primarily work from home

D4. How long would the same trip take, if there was no traffic congestion at all?

- 0 to 14 minutes 30 to 44 minutes
- 15 to 19 minutes 45 to 60 minutes
- 20 to 29 minutes More than 60 minutes
- Not sure/Don't know I primarily work from home

D5. Which category contains your age?

- 18-24 35-44 55-64 75-84
- 25-34 45-54 65-74 85+

D6. Which gender do you identify with most closely?

- Female Male Identify another way

D7. 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

D8. Is this house, apartment or mobile home...

- Rented
- Owned (including with an outstanding mortgage)

Please respond to both questions #D9 and #D10:

D9. Are you Spanish, Hispanic or Latino?

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

D10. What is your race? (Mark one or more races to indicate what race you consider yourself to be.)

- American Indian or Alaskan Native
- Asian, Asian Indian or Pacific Islander
- Black or African American
- White
- Other

D11. How many of each of the following, including yourself, live in your household?

Children age 17 years and under _____

Adults under age 65 years _____

Adults age 65 years and over _____

D12. Please indicate your household's annual income:

- Under \$15,000 \$75,000-\$99,999
- \$15,000-\$24,999 \$100,000-\$149,999
- \$25,000-\$34,999 \$150,000-\$199,999
- \$35,000-\$49,999 \$200,000 or more
- \$50,000-\$74,999

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