



# DAKOTA COUNTY, MN 2025 RESIDENT SURVEY

Report of Results

May 2025



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# Table of Contents

<b>Executive Summary .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Survey Background.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Quality of Life and Community .....</b>	<b>10</b>
County Characteristics .....	12
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
<b>Evaluation of Government Services .....</b>	<b>28</b>
County Government Performance.....	28
Quality of County Services .....	30
Interactions with County Government .....	35
County Property Tax .....	37
Importance of Library Programs and Services .....	38
County Parks and Greenways.....	39
<b>Current Issues .....</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Public Information and Communication .....</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>Appendix A: Responses to Survey Questions .....</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>Appendix B: Verbatim Responses to Survey Questions .....</b>	<b>78</b>
<b>Appendix C: Survey Results by Respondent Characteristics .....</b>	<b>115</b>
Survey Results by District.....	116
Survey Results by Age and Gender of Respondent.....	129
Survey Results by Annual Household Income and Length of Residency .....	139
Survey Results by Housing Unit Type and Housing Tenure (Rent or Own).....	151
<b>Appendix D: Survey Results by Year.....</b>	<b>160</b>
<b>Appendix E: Survey Results Compared to Other Participating Minnesota Counties ..</b>	<b>172</b>
<b>Appendix F: Benchmark Comparisons.....</b>	<b>184</b>
<b>Appendix G: Survey Methodology .....</b>	<b>189</b>
<b>Appendix H: Survey Materials .....</b>	<b>198</b>

## Table of Figures

Figure 1: Overall Quality of Life, 2025 .....	10
Figure 2: Average Rating of Overall Quality of Life in Dakota County by Year .....	10
Figure 3: Like Most About Living in County By Year .....	11
Figure 4: Average Ratings of County Characteristics by Year .....	13
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: Average Ratings of Environmental Concerns By Year .....	22
Figure 12: Importance of Investing in Preserved Land by Year .....	23
Figure 13: Housing Needs by Year .....	24
Figure 14: Highways Needing Safety Improvements, 2019-2025 .....	25
Figure 15: Highways Needing Congestion Improvements, 2019-2025 .....	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.....	29
Figure 20: Average Ratings of Overall Quality of County Services by Year .....	30
Figure 21: Overall Quality of Services Benchmark.....	30
Figure 22: Average Ratings of County Services By Year .....	31
Figure 23: Quality of Services Benchmarks .....	31
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, 2025 .....	39
Figure 33: Reasons for Not Using Parks and Greenways, 2025.....	39
Figure 34: Driving Factors for Changing Work Situation .....	40
Figure 35: Preference for Receiving Dakota County Information.....	41
Figure 36: Preferred Methods to Communicate with Residents by Year .....	42
Figure 37: Dakota County Commissioner Districts.....	116
Figure 38: Map of Dakota County Commissioner Districts .....	194

# 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 2025, Dakota County was joined again by four other Minnesota counties (Washington, St. Louis, Olmsted, and Scott), who worked together with Polco 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 7,000 randomly selected households distributed among the seven County Commissioner Districts, between January and March of 2025. Of the approximately 6,804 households that received a survey in the mail (the other surveys were returned to sender for various reasons), 786 surveys were completed, providing a response rate of 12%.

Because Dakota County has administered a resident survey before, comparisons could be made between 2025 responses and those from prior years. Generally, comparisons between surveys are made through the conversion of ratings to a 100-point scale. Dakota County also opted to compare its results with those of 45 counties nationwide, using Polco's national benchmark database to enable the comparisons. This database contains resident perspectives gathered in 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, an identical rating to the one received in 2022. Since 2001, the rating of overall quality of life stands between “excellent” (100 pts) and “good” (67 pts). As in previous iterations, the rating continues to be 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 (78 points, or a rating between “good” and “excellent”) and the county as a place to raise a family (77). Each of these aspects received ratings that were higher than the national county average.
- ◆ When identifying what residents liked most about living in Dakota County, about 3 in 10 residents selected its location, while 2 in 10 mentioned the quality of life in general. Other top-rated Dakota County attributes were parks and greenways, neighborhoods, and the rural character.

### Evaluations of County services and the County government remain positive.

- ◆ Residents rated a number of individual county-provided services, as well as the overall quality of services provided by Dakota County. The rating for the overall quality of County services (69 on the 100-point scale) remains much higher than the national county average, and stable when compared to previous survey iterations.
- ◆ As in the past four surveys, county parks and recreation (average rating of 86), county libraries (86), trail and greenway systems (81), snow and ice removal on county roads (70), and Sheriff deputies patrol services (69) received scores that were above 67 points (or “good”).
- ◆ Overall, ratings of County services were stable from 2022 to 2025 with a small upward trend in addressing important health issues in communities (from 57 points in 2022 to the current rating of 62 points).
- ◆ Most residents in 2025 approved of the job the Dakota County Board is doing, providing an average rating of 68, or just above “somewhat approve.” This rating was similar to the 2022 score and on par with most other survey years.
- ◆ 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). County government generally acting in the best interest of the community was also rated positively (63). Residents gave somewhat lower ratings to the job Dakota County government does at listening to residents (54) and managing tax dollars (53).
- ◆ When compared to ratings given to other counties across the U.S., Dakota County government performance ratings tended to be higher or much higher for three of the four aspects that could be compared, including the value of services for the taxes paid to Dakota County, the job Dakota County government does managing tax dollars, and the ability for the County to generally act in the best interest of the community.

**Residents are increasingly concerned about affordable housing and taxes, which have replaced crime and safety issues as the most serious concerns in Dakota County.**

- ◆ 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. In 2025, the three issues that emerged as most problematic were the affordability of housing (59 points on the 100-point scale), taxes (54), and the availability of living wage jobs (52). Notably, responses related to taxes increased by 11 points since the 2022 survey.
- ◆ On another part of the survey, respondents were asked to identify, in their own words, the most serious issue facing Dakota County. Affordable housing topped the list followed by growth issues, and taxes. Crime and safety, which topped the list in 2022, fell to fourth place, with 8% of the mentions.
- ◆ When asked what type of housing residents felt was most needed in their community, affordable family housing topped the list, gathering 49% of the respondents’ selections, a 5-point increase since 2022 and an 11-point increase since 2019. Market-rate stand-alone single-family housing, and affordable housing for older adults were the next most frequently selected housing types.

**Concerns about the quality of drinking water have increased since 2022.**

- ◆ Survey respondents were asked 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 points on the 100-point scale), the quality of drinking water (51), and the quality of water in rivers, lakes, and streams (50). Survey participants were least likely to be concerned with the quality of outdoor air.
- ◆ When compared to the 2022 results, all ratings remained mostly stable, except for concerns about the quality of drinking water, which experienced an increase of 12 points (from 39 in 2022 to the current rating of 51 points).
- ◆ 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 was essential or important, while at least 8 in 10 thought the same about protecting and improving natural areas and wildlife habitat.

# 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 2025, Dakota County collaborated with Olmsted, Scott, St. Louis and Washington counties on this survey project. The five counties worked together with Polco to develop a survey instrument with a set of shared questions, as well as questions unique to each county. 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

Between January and March of 2025, the Dakota County Resident Survey was administered by mail to 7,000 randomly selected households within the county, distributed among the seven County Commissioner Districts (a map of the Commissioner Districts can be found on page 194 in *Appendix G: Survey Methodology*). A random selection was made of 867 addresses within each District, with an additional 133 addresses sampled in Districts 1 and 2, and an additional 333 addresses sampled in Districts 3 and 5, as response rates in these districts in the past had been lower.

Of the approximately 6,803 households that received a survey in the mail (the other surveys were returned to sender for various reasons), 786 surveys were completed, providing a response rate of 12%. Of the total number of responses, 433 were hard copy surveys and 353 were online surveys.

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 does not exceed plus or minus two points based on all respondents. The 95 percent confidence level for this survey of 786 residents is generally no greater than plus or minus four percentage points *around any percent* reported for all survey respondents.

For comparisons among subgroups (e.g., gender, age groups, or housing tenure), the margin of error increases as subgroup size decreases. It is approximately  $\pm 5\%$  around any given *percent* for subgroup sizes of 400,  $\pm 10\%$  for subgroup sizes of 100, and up to  $\pm 14\%$  for subgroup sizes of 50. When comparing *average ratings* among subgroups, the margin of error is approximately  $\pm 3$  points for subgroup sizes of 400, and  $\pm 6$  points for subgroup sizes of 100.

Survey results were weighted so that age, gender, ethnicity/race, 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 195 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 had the option to give 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. Generally, 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 10<sup>th</sup> in a series of resident surveys conducted by the county, the 2025 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 there were at least a two-point change on a 100 point scale—in terms of percent, the statistical threshold is about four percentage points of difference. 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 possible recent changes to 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 since then. As a consequence of the switch in methodology, a decline from 2008 to 2011 in virtually all ratings was both expected and observed. In 2008, a small sample of residents



was surveyed by mail to explore the magnitude of the differences between telephone and mail survey. Using the 2008 survey research, Polco adjusted the findings from 2001 to 2008 to maximize the comparability of results over time.

### ***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 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 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's a good or bad rating 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 more than 30 million Americans.

Jurisdictions in Polco's 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.

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. All available benchmarks are shown in *Appendix F: Benchmark Comparisons*.

Where comparisons for quality ratings were available, the county's results were noted as being "higher" than, "lower" than or "similar" to the benchmark. In instances where ratings are considerably higher or lower than the benchmark, these ratings have been further demarcated by the attribute of "much," (for example, "much lower" or "much higher"). These labels come from a statistical comparison of 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

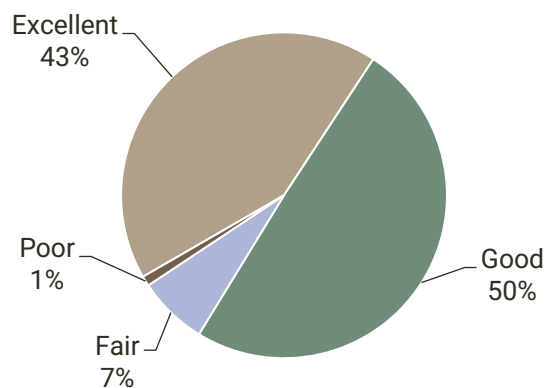
Dakota County residents were asked to rate the overall quality of life in the county. On a 100-point scale where zero equals “poor” and 100 equals “excellent,” Dakota County’s average rating was 78, similar to the ratings given since 2013.

Respondents in Districts 1, 2, and 5 gave statistically lower ratings to the overall quality of life in Dakota County compared to respondents in most other districts (see *Table 59* in *Appendix C: Survey Results by Respondent Characteristics*).

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

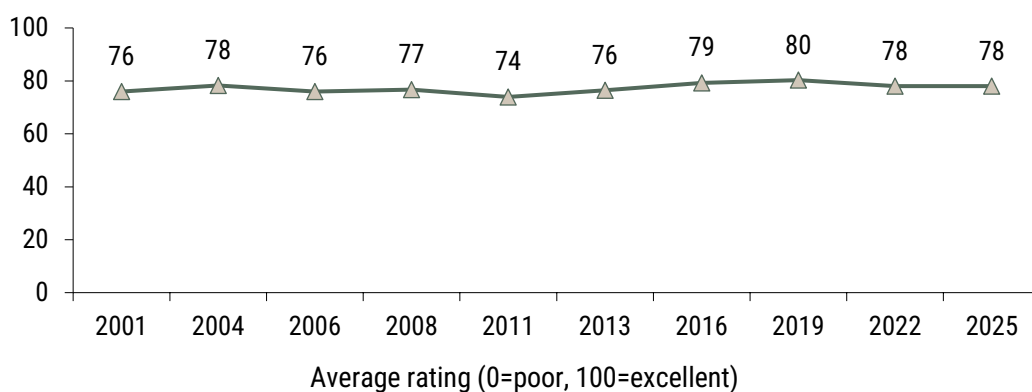
**Figure 1: Overall Quality of Life, 2025**

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?



\* Note: The scale on the 2001 survey was "Excellent," "Good," "Only fair," "Poor."

Survey respondents identified the one thing they liked most about living in Dakota County. As in previous years, the location topped the list in 2025, with about 3 in 10 respondents selecting it as the one thing they liked most. Other top-rated Dakota County attributes included the quality of life in general, with 23% of respondents selecting it, and parks and greenways, which were chosen by 13% of respondents. The neighborhood of the resident was selected by 10% of participants, while the rural character of the county was noted by another 10%. Each of the four remaining categories listed on the survey (schools, open space, low taxes, people) were selected by fewer than 5% of respondents.

**Figure 3: Like Most About Living in County By Year**

What one thing do you like most about living in Dakota County?	2025	2022	2019	2016	2013	2011	2008	2006	2004	2001
Location	29%	27%	36%	36%	38%	31%	26%	28%	27%	31%
Quality of life in general	23%	21%	23%	21%	16%	22%	5%	4%	3%	0%
Parks and greenways	13%	15%	12%	10%	7%	9%	10%	8%	7%	4%
My neighborhood	10%	12%	9%	9%	10%	11%	4%	5%	4%	7%
Rural character	10%	9%	7%	3%	4%	3%	7%	4%	5%	22%
Schools	4%	4%	6%	4%	6%	6%	6%	8%	6%	9%
Open space	3%	4%	3%	4%	7%	4%	4%	4%	3%	0%
Low taxes	2%	3%	2%	2%	3%	3%	0%	3%	4%	0%
People	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	5%	4%	2%	6%
Small town feel	NA	NA	NA	6%	6%	6%	6%	3%	5%	5%
Other	4%	4%	1%	4%	4%	5%	27%	30%	36%	16%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

\* Note: 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. Since 2011, this question is presented as fixed response (i.e., respondents were presented a list of items from which to choose). 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 living in the county, 8 characteristics received average ratings that were between “excellent” and “good,” while 11 received average ratings below “good” but above “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 (78 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 the availability of bike and pedestrian transportation options received the next highest average ratings (77 each, on the 100-point scale). The outdoor recreational opportunities in Dakota County and the accessibility of biking paths and walking trails also received high ratings (75 each).

The availability of affordable housing (42 points) and of quality, affordable child care (44 points) were among the lowest-rated attributes, both nearing a “fair” rating on the 100-point scale.

When compared to 2022, ratings were generally stable. However, the availability of bike and pedestrian transportation options increased 11 points since 2022 (from 66 points to 77 points), while the economic health of Dakota County and the availability of employment opportunities decreased 5 points each.

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 page 14).

Ratings given by respondents living in the seven different County Commissioner Districts were also compared. Residents who lived in Districts 3, 6, and 7 tended to give higher ratings to Dakota County as a place to live than those who lived in other districts, while District 2 respondents gave the lowest rating to Dakota County as a place to work (see *Table 60* on *Appendix C: Survey Results by Respondent Characteristics*).

Finally, ratings were also compared to 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 Dakota County as a place to live than their counterparts (see *Table 75* and *Table 105* on *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)								
	2025	2022	2019	2016	2013	2011	2008	2006	2004
Dakota County as a place to live	78	79	80	78	77	NA	NA	NA	NA
Dakota County as a place to raise a family	77	78	79	76	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Availability of bike and pedestrian transportation options	77	66	66	64	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Outdoor recreational opportunities in Dakota County	75	77	76	75	68	67	NA	NA	NA
Accessibility of biking paths and walking trails	75	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Overall image or reputation of Dakota County	69	70	71	68	66	67	NA	NA	NA
Dakota County as a place to work*	68	69	71	67	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Natural resources	67	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Economic health of Dakota County	65	70	67	65	60	NA	NA	NA	NA
Dakota County as a place to retire*	63	61	64	58	60	58	NA	NA	NA
Water quality/health of environment	60	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Climate resiliency practices/strategies	59	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Sense of community	59	62	63	61	57	NA	NA	NA	NA
Openness and acceptance of people with diverse backgrounds	59	59	59	57	58	60	NA	NA	NA
Arts and culture countywide	58	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Availability of employment opportunities*	56	61	59	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Availability of transportation/transit (for work purposes and commuting)*	46	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Availability of quality, affordable child care*	44	46	49	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Availability of affordable housing*	42	44	43	49	53	49	47	46	50

\* Note: In 2025, 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.” 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.”

**Figure 5: Community Characteristics Benchmarks**

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

## 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,” all potential issues were thought to be between a “minor problem” and “moderate problem” (between 37 and 59).

The three issues that emerged as most problematic (though still below the threshold of “moderate problem”) were the affordability of housing (59), taxes (54), and the availability of living wage jobs (52). Since the last go around, taxation was more of an issue on residents' minds, increasing 11 points. Another problem that saw an increase in mentions was traffic safety, with its rating rising from 35 in 2022 to the current rating of 43.

Residents who lived in District 3 were more likely to rate taxes, traffic safety, traffic congestion, and crime as a problem than residents who lived in most of the other districts, while those who lived in District 4 tended to rate homelessness as more of a problem (see *Table 63 on Appendix C: Survey Results by Respondent Characteristics*).

Residents who were male tended to rate poverty, homelessness, affordability of housing, availability of living wage jobs, and crime as more of a problem than residents who were female (see *Table 78 on 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)								
	2025	2022	2019	2016	2013	2011	2008	2006	2004
Affordability of housing	59	60	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Taxes	54	43	45	47	48	51	50	NA	45
Availability of living wage jobs*	52	47	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Crime	44	50	37	38	39	39	35	44	38
Poverty*	43	43	34	40	39	36	32	36	33
Traffic safety	43	35	33	36	34	36	NA	NA	NA
Traffic congestion	42	38	39	41	40	42	43	50	52
Homelessness*	37	36	26	27	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

\* Note: In 2025, 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 other years it read “not a problem.”



## Most Serious Issue Facing Dakota County

Respondents identified, in their own words, the most serious issue facing Dakota County. The captured verbatim responses were then grouped into categories that best fit the response. Affordable housing, growth issues, and taxes topped the list with between 12% and 13% of the mentions. Crime and safety issues, which topped the list in 2022, fell to fourth place, with 8% of the mentions.

New in 2025 were mentions of water quality, which were not on residents' lists last survey: that category received 6% of the mentions and ended up in fifth place in the list of problems. Inflation and political division, two categories that were developed in 2022 based on respondents' verbatim answers, maintained their importance.

Other frequently cited problems were pollution/environmental concerns (5%), community and diversity issues (4%), traffic congestion (4%), and economic development (4%). All comments appear in *Appendix B: Verbatim Responses to Survey Questions*.

**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									
	2025	2022	2019	2016	2013	2011	2008	2006	2004	2001
Affordable housing	13%	13%	20%	11%	6%	5%	4%	4%	3%	NA
Growth/development	12%	9%	10%	8%	0%	12%	17%	24%	22%	27%
Taxes	12%	8%	12%	10%	16%	20%	17%	13%	10%	16%
Crime and safety issues	8%	19%	9%	12%	14%	3%	5%	6%	4%	8%
Water Quality	6%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Pollution/environmental concerns	5%	3%	1%	1%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Political divisions	5%	2%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Sense of community, diversity, etc.	4%	6%	4%	6%	9%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Inflation / Cost of life	4%	3%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Traffic congestion	4%	2%	9%	5%	9%	6%	7%	8%	9%	7%
Economic development	4%	1%	6%	4%	6%	12%	3%	2%	3%	NA
Schools	3%	5%	4%	5%	3%	13%	7%	10%	12%	22%
Public transportation	3%	0%	2%	4%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Government spending	2%	0%	1%	2%	4%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Preserving natural areas/ protecting natural resources	2%	2%	0%	1%	3%	0%	1%	1%	2%	NA
Condition of roads	2%	1%	4%	6%	2%	8%	6%	4%	5%	4%
Quality of county services	2%	1%	1%	1%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Homelessness and poverty	1%	2%	3%	5%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Updating infrastructure	1%	2%	1%	3%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Noise pollution	1%	0%	0%	1%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Jobs	0%	3%	0%	2%	7%	17%	3%	2%	2%	NA
Teen drug/alcohol use	0%	1%	0%	1%	1%	NA	2%	1%	2%	NA
No issue	2%	0%	0%	2%	2%	NA	4%	6%	5%	NA
Other	6%	8%	13%	10%	7%	2%	14%	7%	14%	14%

\* Note: These percentages represent the 564 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 2025, this question was open-ended. In 2013, "crime and safety issues" was "crime" and "sense of community, diversity, etc." was "sense of community."

## Safety in Dakota County

Residents were asked how safe they felt from different types of crimes, as well as feelings of 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.”

As in 2022, all items except for financial scams 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 places of worship or in their neighborhoods (90, 86, and 85 points, respectively, or close to “very safe”). Respondents also reported feeling safe from domestic violence, with a score of 85 points. On the other hand, residents felt less safe from financial scams (e.g. identity theft, phone scams, cybercrime), providing an average rating of 57 or between “somewhat safe” and “somewhat unsafe.”

When compared to the 2022 results, feelings of safety remained generally stable with two exceptions: safety feeling from property crimes, which increased from 67 to 73 points, and while in schools in Dakota County, which decreased from 85 to 77. The latter could be related to a substantial change in the wording, as in previous iterations, that category also included places of worship (“While in schools or places of worship in Dakota County”).

Three of the 13 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, violent crimes, and while in their neighborhood.

Generally, residents living in Districts 3 and 7 reported higher feelings of safety than residents living in other areas (see *Table 62* on *Appendix C: Survey Results by Respondent Characteristics*). Respondents aged 55 or older felt less safe from financial scams and gang activity than younger residents (see *Table 77* on *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)									
	2025	2022	2019	2016	2013	2011	2008	2006	2004	2001
While in County office buildings, libraries, courtrooms	90	87	90	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
While in places of worship in Dakota County	86	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
While in your neighborhood	85	84	87	83	80	75	83	84	86	78
From domestic violence	85	85	86	84	83	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
From gang activity	81	78	83	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
From violent crimes (e.g., rape, assault, robbery)	81	77	83	81	80	80	80	73	79	NA
While in schools in Dakota County	77	85	88	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
While using Dakota County parks, trails and greenways	75	78	80	78	78	78	76	77	78	NA
While driving on roads within Dakota County	73	74	76	72	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
From property crimes (e.g., burglary, theft)	73	67	74	72	70	72	72	67	72	NA
While walking or biking within Dakota County	71	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
From substance use and associated activities (e.g. selling drugs)	69	68	69	68	66	67	NA	NA	NA	NA
From financial scams (e.g. identity theft, phone scams, cybercrime)	57	57	58	61	62	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

\* Note: In 2025 a new category was included in the grid: "While in places of worship in Dakota County." Also, three other categories underwent changes in their wording: "While in schools in Dakota County" was "While in schools or places of worship in Dakota County," "From substance use and associated activities (e.g. selling drugs)" was "From illegal drug activity (e.g., selling drugs)," and "From financial scams (e.g. identity theft, phone scams, cybercrime)" was "From electronic crimes (e.g., identity theft, phone scams)." 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; "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."

**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
While in your neighborhood	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 concern” and “minor concern.”

Illegal drug use, bullying and depression, anxiety and other mental illnesses topped the list of health concerns in Dakota County in 2025, with 58, 56, and 55 points respectively. The health and support of older adults (52 points) and persons with disabilities (51), along with illegal use of prescribed medications (51) were also of concern among respondents.

Three new issues were included in the health concern grid in 2025: underage marijuana use (49 points), the health and support of children and child development (47), and marijuana abuse among adults (42), all falling between a “moderate concern” and “minor concern.”

Compared to 2022, two health concerns showed decreases in 2025. Concerns about the nutrition of adults and children (previously referred to as “Overweight adults and children”) dropped from 56 to 46 points, while concerns about the spread of infectious diseases fell from 51 to 41 points. In contrast, concern over illegal drug use increased from 49 to 58 points.

Residents of District 1 tended to express higher levels of concern with environmental hazards, illegal drug use, and bullying than those elsewhere in the county. Meanwhile, residents of District 5 tended to express higher levels of concern with the abuse and neglect of older adults or vulnerable adults, while residents of District 7 rated underage marijuana use as their top concern (see *Table 64* on *Appendix C: Survey Results by Respondent Characteristics*).

Residents who were age 55 or older or were female tended to rate various health concerns, including underage alcohol use, alcohol abuse among adults, illegal drug use, and the health and support of older adults, as more of a concern than their counterparts (see *Table 79* on *Appendix C: Survey Results by Respondent Characteristics*).

**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)								
	2025	2022	2019	2016	2013	2011	2008	2006	2004
Illegal drug use (e.g., heroin, illicit fentanyl, methamphetamine)	58	49	49	50	49	55	57	63	NA
Bullying*	56	52	52	48	49	NA	NA	NA	NA
Depression, anxiety, and other mental illnesses	55	57	48	47	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
The health and support of older adults	52	51	45	46	42	53	47	56	NA
The health and support of persons with disabilities*	51	49	45	45	41	49	NA	NA	NA
Illegal use of prescribed medications (such as opioids)*	51	48	49	44	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Abuse and neglect of children*	48	50	46	48	47	52	46	38	37
Underage marijuana use*	49	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
The health and support of children and child development*	47	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Abuse and neglect of older adults or vulnerable adults*	47	49	44	45	43	49	NA	NA	NA
Nutrition of adults and children	46	56	54	56	58	59	58	55	54
Alcohol abuse among adults*	46	45	41	44	44	48	46	NA	NA
Social isolation	45	50	37	35	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Marijuana abuse among adults*	42	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Environmental hazards (e.g., polluted water or toxic waste)	42	40	36	36	37	38	NA	NA	NA
Spread of infectious diseases*	41	51	37	38	36	NA	NA	NA	NA
Underage alcohol use*	41	42	43	47	48	55	60	61	57
Tobacco use (including E-cigarettes and chewing tobacco)	35	33	38	36	31	32	40	52	49

\* Note: in 2025, at least 20% of respondents answered “don’t know” to these items. Proportions shown in the figure are of those who had an opinion. In 2025 three items were added to the grid: “Underage marijuana use,” “The health and support of children and child development” and “Marijuana abuse among adults.” Also, two items underwent changes in their wording: “Illegal drug use (e.g., heroin, illicit fentanyl, methamphetamine)” was “Illegal drug use (e.g., heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine)” and “Nutrition of adults and children” was “Overweight adults and children.” 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 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.

## Environmental Concerns

A new question included in 2022, and repeated in the 2025 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 points in the 100-point scale), the quality of drinking water (51), and the quality of water in lakes, rivers, and streams (50). Survey participants were least likely to be concerned with the quality of outdoor air.

When compared to the 2022 results, all ratings remain stable except for concerns about the quality of drinking water, which experienced an increase of 12 points (from 39 points in 2022 to the current rating of 51 points).

Residents of District 1 tended to express higher levels of concern with the quality of drinking water than those who lived elsewhere in the county (see *Table 65 on Appendix C: Survey Results by Respondent Characteristics*).

**Figure 11: Average Ratings of Environmental Concerns By Year**

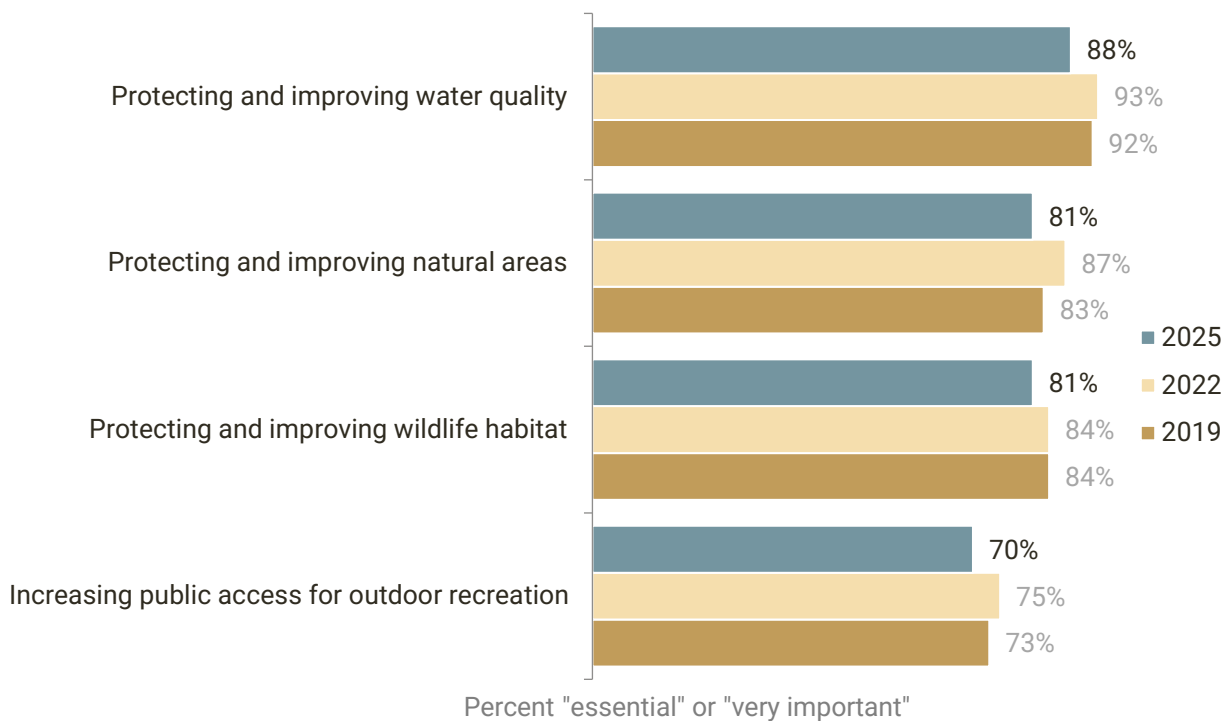
Please rate to what degree, if at all, each of the following is an environmental concern in Dakota County.	Average rating (0=not at all a concern, 100=major concern)	
	2025	2022
Climate change	56	56
Quality of drinking water (PFAS contaminants)	51	39
Quality of water in lakes, rivers, and streams	50	49
Energy use	49	52
Quantity of useable water supply	42	39
Quality of outdoor air	32	30



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 was important, while at least 8 in 10 thought it was important to protect and improve natural areas and wildlife habitat. Lastly, increasing public access for outdoor recreation was seen as important by about 7 in 10 respondents. These proportions were similar to, or slightly lower than, those observed in 2022.

**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?



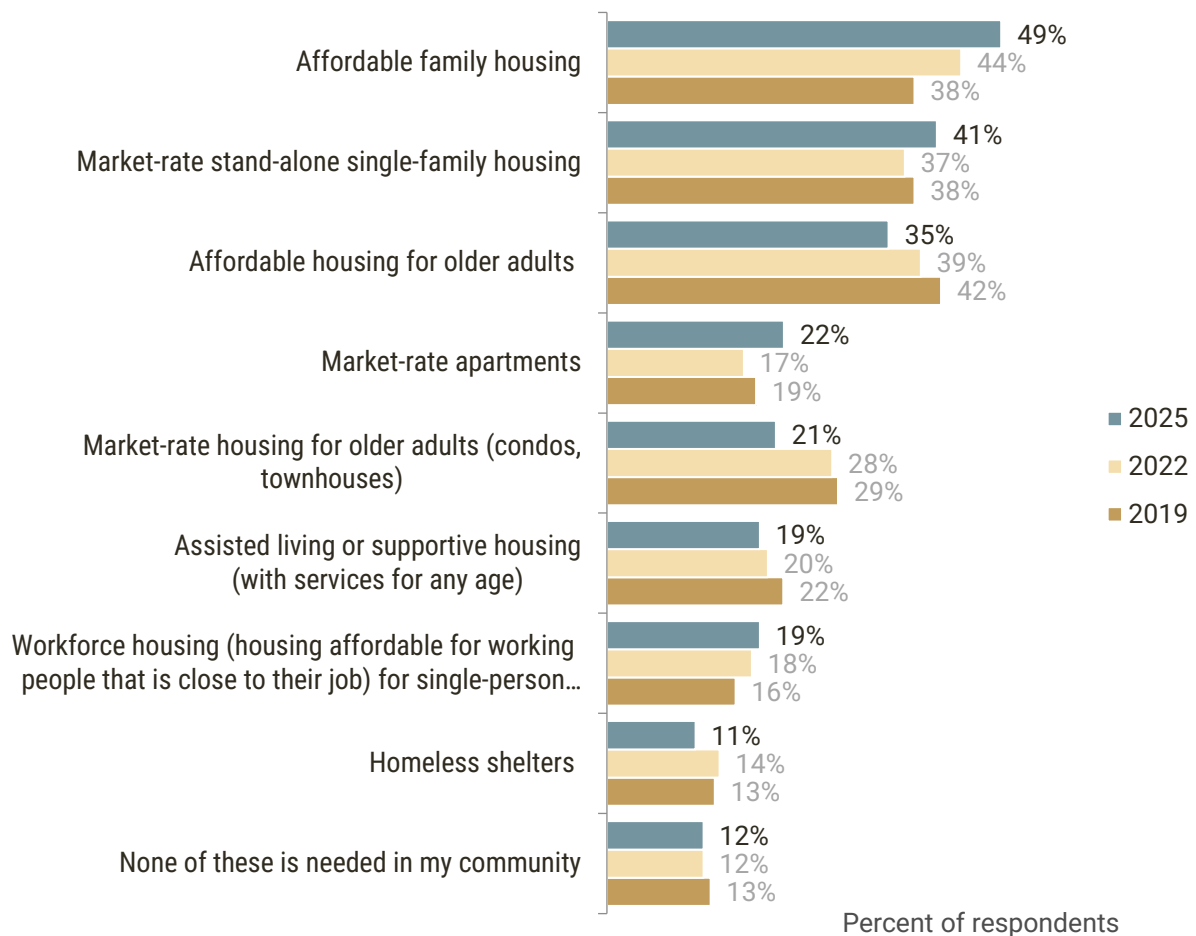
## Housing Needs

In 2019, Dakota County and CDA staff worked together to develop a new question of 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 2025 survey, gathering 49% of the respondents' selections, a 5-point increase from 2022 and an 11-point increase from 2019. Market-rate stand-alone single-family housing (41%) and affordable housing for older adults (35%) were the next most-frequently selected housing types.

**Figure 13: Housing Needs by Year**

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.

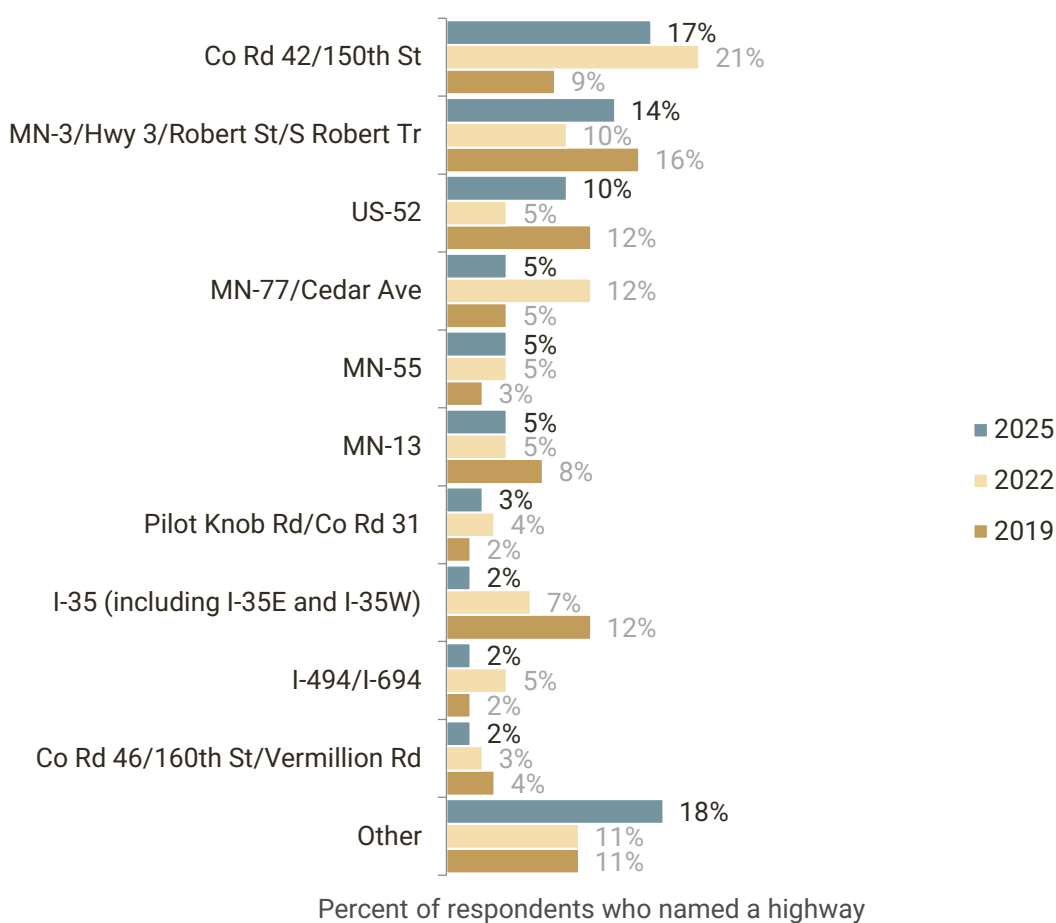
## Highway Improvements

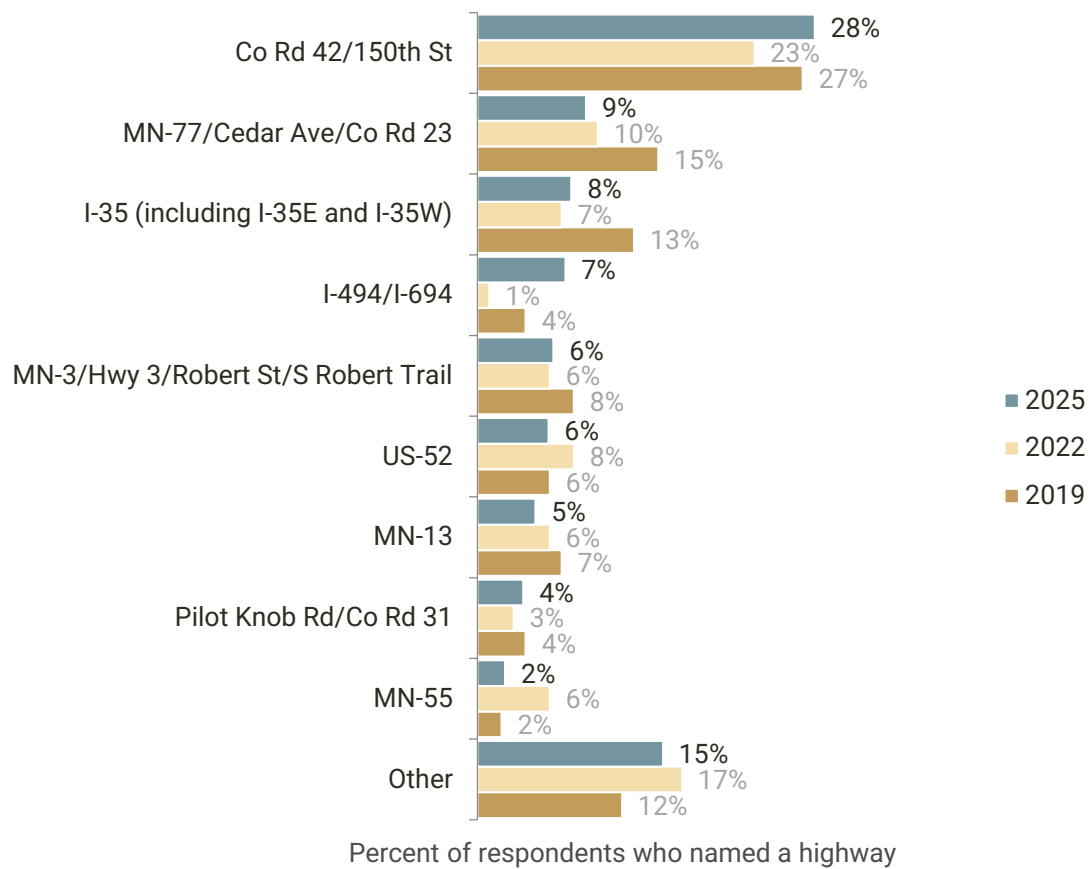
Respondents were asked which highway they believed was most in need of **safety** improvements, with the option to write in any highway they had in mind (no pre-defined response options were provided). Among the respondents who named a highway, the most frequently mentioned was County Road 42 (CR 42), cited by 17% of respondents. Minnesota State Highway 3 and US-52 were the next most frequently mentioned, at 14% and 10%, respectively. Other commonly mentioned roads included Minnesota State Highway 77, Minnesota State Highway 55, and Minnesota State Highway 13, each receiving 5% of mentions.

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). Among the respondents who named a highway, the most frequently mentioned was again County Road 42, (28% of respondents). The next most commonly cited highways were Minnesota State Highway 77, mentioned by 9% of respondents and I-35, named by 8% of respondents.

**Figure 14: Highways Needing Safety Improvements, 2019-2025**

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



**Figure 15: Highways Needing Congestion Improvements, 2019-2025**Which highway in Dakota County needs the most *congestion* improvements?

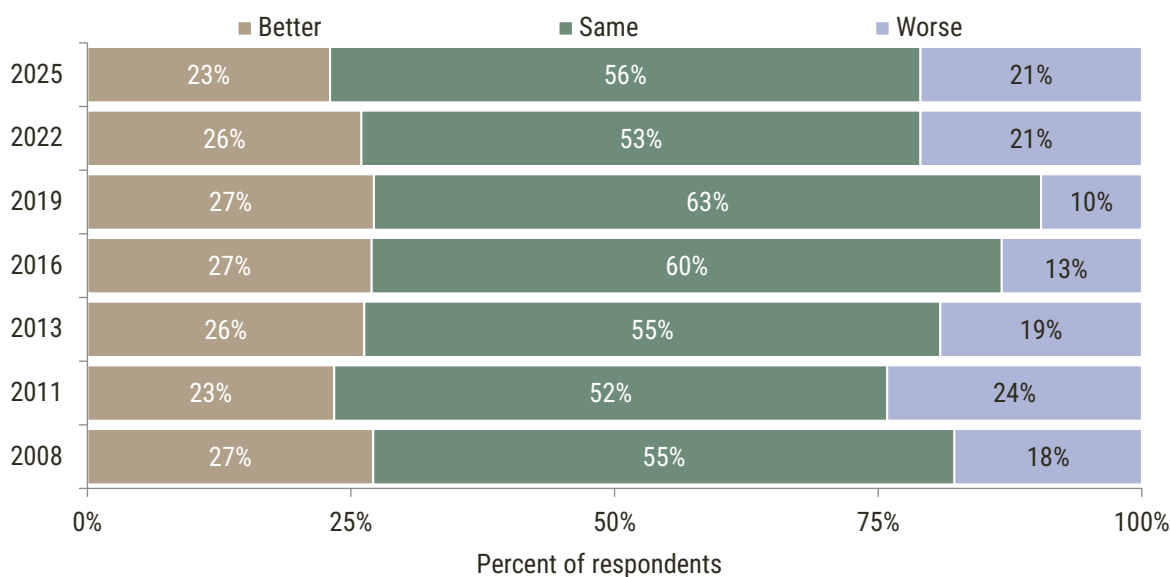
## Household Financial Status

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 (56%) 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. These proportions have remained stable since 2022.

Respondents between the ages of 35 and 54 tended to feel that their household's financial status would be better off a year from now than resident aged 55 and older (see *Table 76 on Appendix C: Survey Results by Respondent Characteristics*).

**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

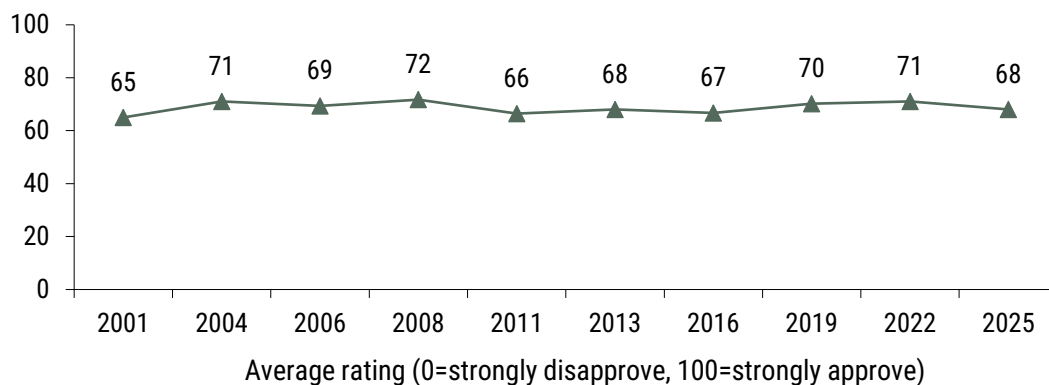
Residents completing the survey responded to a number of questions related to Dakota County government, leadership, employee performance, and the quality of County services.

### County Government Performance

Most residents in 2025 approved of the job the Dakota County Board is doing, providing an average rating of 68, or just above “somewhat approve.” This rating was similar to the 2022 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 2025, about 30% 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 generally acting in the best interest of the community was also rated positively (63). Residents gave somewhat lower ratings to the job Dakota County government does at listening to residents (54) and managing tax dollars (53).

Ratings for all aspects of County government performance have remained stable over the last four survey iterations.

When compared to ratings given to other counties across the U.S., Dakota County government performance ratings tended to be higher or much higher for three of the four aspects that could be compared, including the value of services for the taxes paid to Dakota County, the job Dakota County government does at managing tax dollars, and generally acting in the best interest of the community (see *Figure 19*).

Residents in Districts 5 and 7 tended to give higher ratings on many government performance measures, including the job Dakota County government does listening to residents, managing tax dollars, acting in the best interest of the community, and providing value for the services relative to the taxes paid to Dakota County (see *Table 70 on Appendix C: Su* ).

**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)									
	2025	2022	2019	2016	2013	2011	2008	2006	2004	2001
Supporting the quality of life in Dakota County	65	65	65	63	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
The job Dakota County government does of providing information to residents	65	65	64	63	61	57	52	59	60	64
Generally acting in the best interest of the community	63	63	63	61	60	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Overall confidence in Dakota County government	62	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	62	60	60	55	64	53	NA	NA
Effectively planning for the future of the county*	59	62	61	58	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
The value of services for the taxes paid to Dakota County	56	57	57	55	54	46	46	48	54	43
The job Dakota County government does of listening to residents*	54	54	55	52	54	48	48	44	47	NA
The job Dakota County government does at managing tax dollars*	53	55	54	54	52	44	45	48	51	NA

\* Note: in 2025, at least 20% of respondents answered “don’t know” to this question. Proportions shown in the figure are of those who had an opinion.

**Figure 19: Perception of County Government Benchmarks**

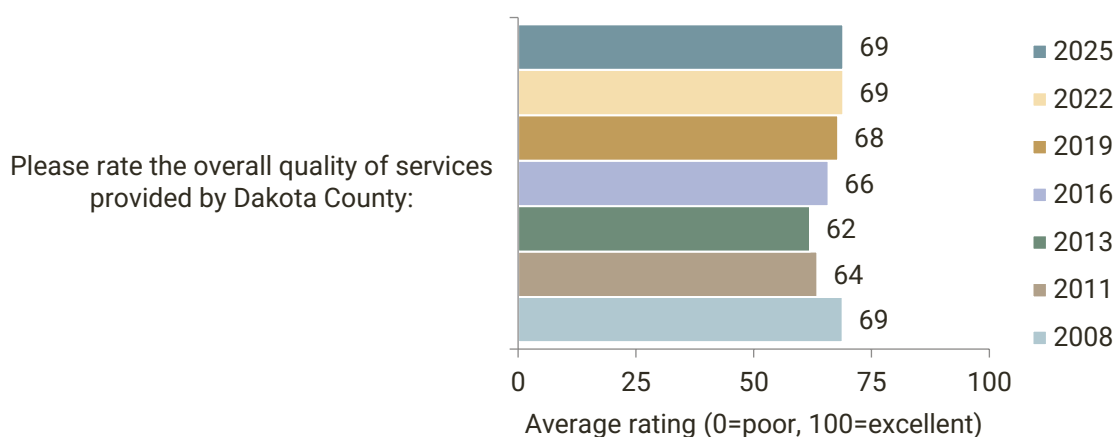
Please rate the following categories of Dakota County government performance.	Comparison to benchmark
The value of services for the taxes paid to Dakota County	<b>Much Higher</b>
Generally acting in the best interest of the community	<b>Much Higher</b>
The job Dakota County government does at managing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



## 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 2025 rating of overall quality of services provided by Dakota County scored 69 on the 100-point scale, and has remained stable since 2019. 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 10 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.”

Similar to the past four surveys, in 2025, county parks and recreation (average rating of 86), county libraries (86), trail and greenway systems (81), snow and ice removal on county roads (70), and Sheriff deputies patrol services (69) received scores that were above 67 points (or “good”). Average ratings for other County services in 2025 fell between “fair” and “good” on the 100-point scale, although most were closer to the “good” score of 67.

Overall, ratings of County services were stable from 2022 to 2025 with a small increase in addressing important health issues in communities (from 57 points in 2022 to the current rating of 62 points).

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.

Residents in Districts 4 and 6 tended to give lower quality ratings to the condition of county roads, while residents in District 1 tended to give lower ratings to the overall quality of services provided by Dakota County than their counterparts (see *Table 66* on *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)									
	2025	2022	2019	2016	2013	2011	2008	2006	2004	2001
County parks and recreation like Lebanon Hills, Lake Byllesby, Miesville, Spring Lake Park, Thompson County Park or Whitetail Woods	86	86	85	84	81	80	76	74	77	76
County libraries like Burnhaven, Farmington, Galaxie, Heritage, Inver Glen, Kaposia, Pleasant Hill, Robert Trail, Wentworth, or Wescott	86	85	85	82	84	80	81	78	80	82
Trail and greenway system like Big Rivers Trail, Mississippi River and River to River*	81	81	81	78	78	75	72	70	73	70
Snow and ice removal on county roads	70	68	67	68	65	61	70	67	65	73
Sheriff deputies patrol and park protection services*	69	68	70	68	77	70	69	70	70	72
Condition of county roads such as County Road 42, County Road 46, Kenwood Trail, Pilot Knob Roads or Yankee Doodle Road/County Road 28	63	65	66	61	63	56	53	57	59	63
Addressing important health issues in communities*	62	57	59	57	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Administering property tax*	52	55	54	49	43	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Prosecuting people accused of felony-level crimes or serious crimes*	52	49	62	60	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

\* Note: In 2025, 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 2025, “Prosecuting people accused of felony-level crimes or serious crimes” was “Prosecuting people accused of crimes.”

**Figure 23: Quality of Services Benchmarks**

Please rate each of the following services provided by Dakota County.	Comparison to benchmark
County libraries	<b>Much higher</b>
Snow and ice removal on county roads	<b>Much higher</b>
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 60% and 90% of respondents did not use the service and selected “don’t know/not applicable.” The exceptions were “Records, passports, licensing, and vehicle registration” (just 11% had not used in the last two years), “Services at the Recycling Zone” (36%), “Information available on the County website” (32%), and “Accessibility of services, physical and digital” (49%).

Of those who had used the services within the last two years, the recycling zone (77), services at organic waste drop-off sites (69), and records, passports, licensing, and vehicle registration (67) were awarded the highest quality ratings, at or above “good” on the 100-point scale. Services for people experiencing mental illness (48 on the 100-point scale) and housing/shelter services and support (44) received the lowest average rating.

Overall, user ratings differed compared to 2022. Three services saw decreases: employment support/Workforce Center services, financial assistance for low-income families, and services for people with disabilities. Two services saw increases: records, passports, and licensing and vehicle registration, as well as services that protect neglected or abused children. The remaining four services remained stable.

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

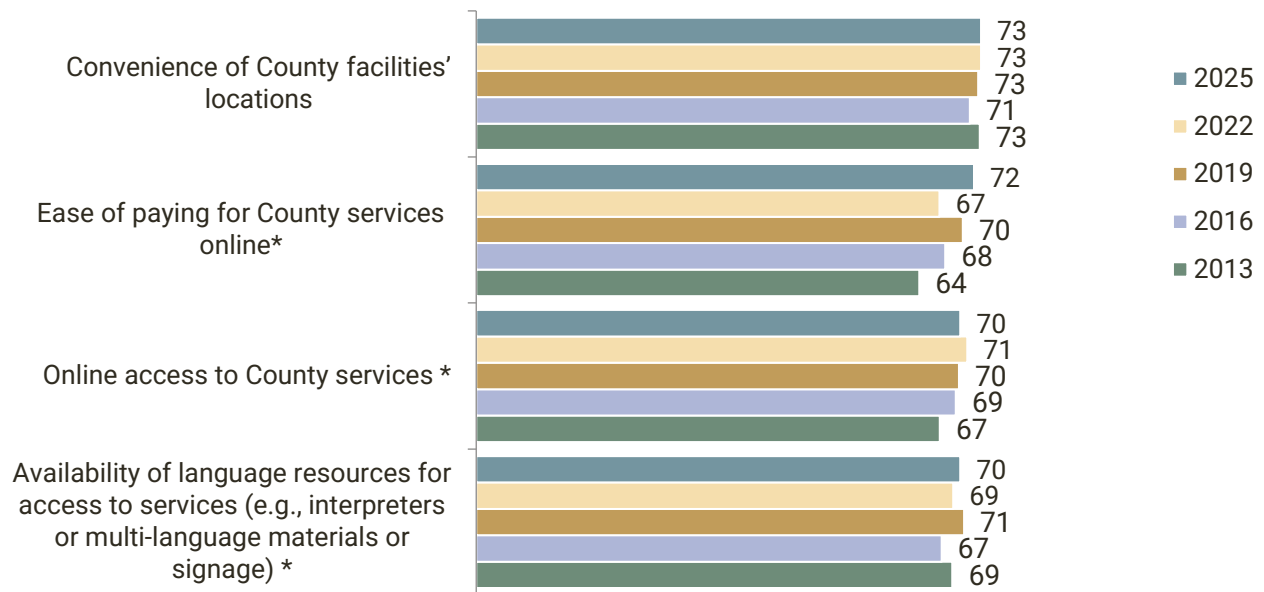
Please rate the following services provided by Dakota County only if you have experienced them within the last two years.	Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)									
	2025	2022	2019	2016	2013	2011	2008	2006	2004	2001
Services at the Recycling Zone	77	75	74	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Services at organic waste drop-off sites*	69	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Records, passports, licensing, and vehicle registration*	67	61	63	67	65	66	NA	NA	NA	NA
Accessibility of services, physical and digital*	64	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Services that protect neglected or abused children*	63	55	56	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Information available on the County website*	63	63	63	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Services to children and families*	63	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Services provided to older adults*	56	58	52	50	58	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Public Health services*	58	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Employment support/Workforce Center services*	55	69	68	59	51	49	51	NA	58	NA
Services that protect neglected, abused, or exploited adults*	55	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Services for people with disabilities*	54	62	54	56	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Financial assistance for low-income families*	51	63	53	49	57	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Services for people experiencing mental illness*	48	50	47	40	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Housing/shelter services and support*	44	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

\* Note: in 2025, at least 20% of respondents answered “don’t know” to this question. Proportions shown in the figure are of those who had an opinion. Six new services were added to the County services grid in 2025.

## 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 ease of paying for County services online (72), online access to County services (70), and the availability of language resources (70). Most of these ratings remained stable from previous survey years, while the ease of paying for County services online experienced a moderate increase (from 67 points in 2022 to the current rating of 72).

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



Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)

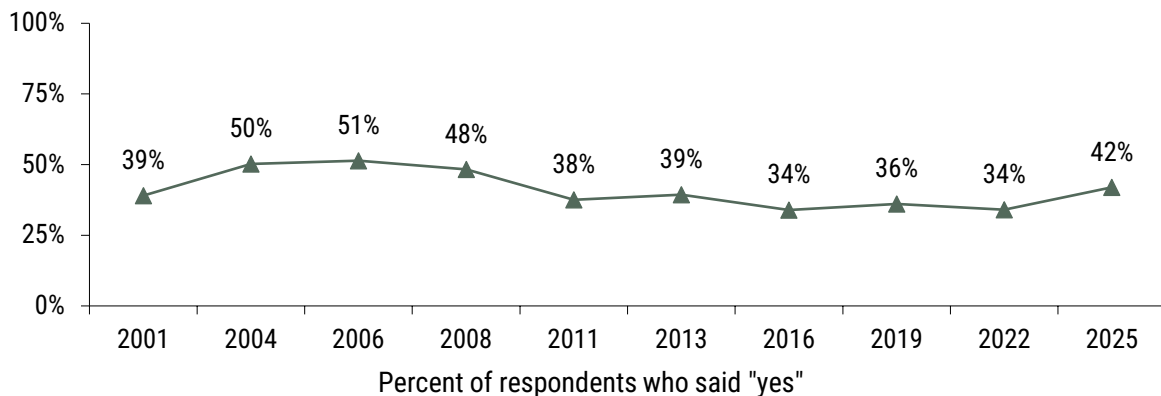
\* Note: in 2025, at least 20% of respondents answered "don't know" to this question. Proportions shown in the figure are of those who had an opinion.

## Interactions with County Government

About 4 in 10 Dakota County residents reported having visited (in person or virtually), telephoned, or emailed a Dakota County government employee or office within the 12 months prior to the survey. The contact rate has increased since 2022 and in 2025 reached its highest mark since 2008. When compared to other counties nationwide, this contact rate is lower than the benchmark.

**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?

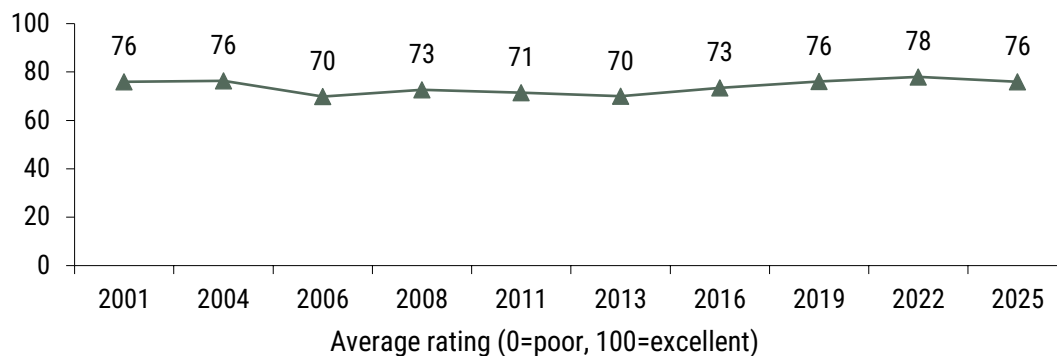


*\* Note: In 2001, this question was "During the past year, have you visited or telephoned one of these service centers" [locations preceded the question]. Response scale was: "no;" "yes, visited;" "yes, telephoned;" "yes, both." In 2011, "email" was added as an additional method of contact. In 2022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

The 42% 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 achieved 76 on the 100-point scale in 2025. This rating was similar to previous survey iteration and 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**

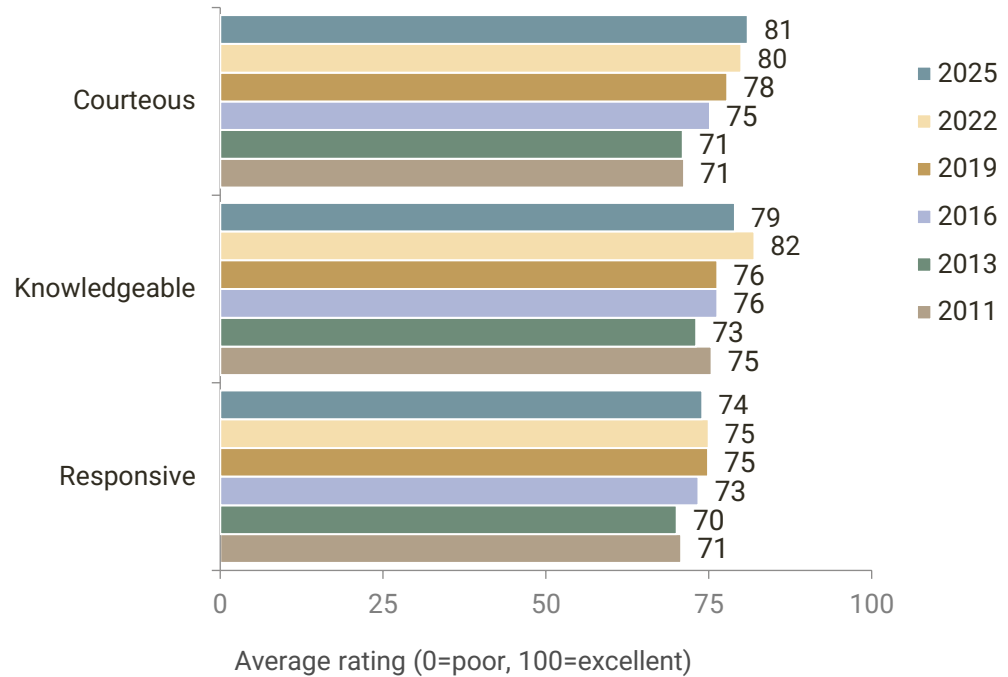
What was your impression of the employee(s) of Dakota County in your most recent contact?



*\* Note: 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 74 to 81 in each of the three categories in 2025. The knowledgeable and responsive ratings were similar to the national county benchmark comparisons, while the courteous rating was 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
Overall impression	<b>Much Higher</b>
Courteous	<b>Higher</b>
Knowledgeable	Similar
Responsive	Similar



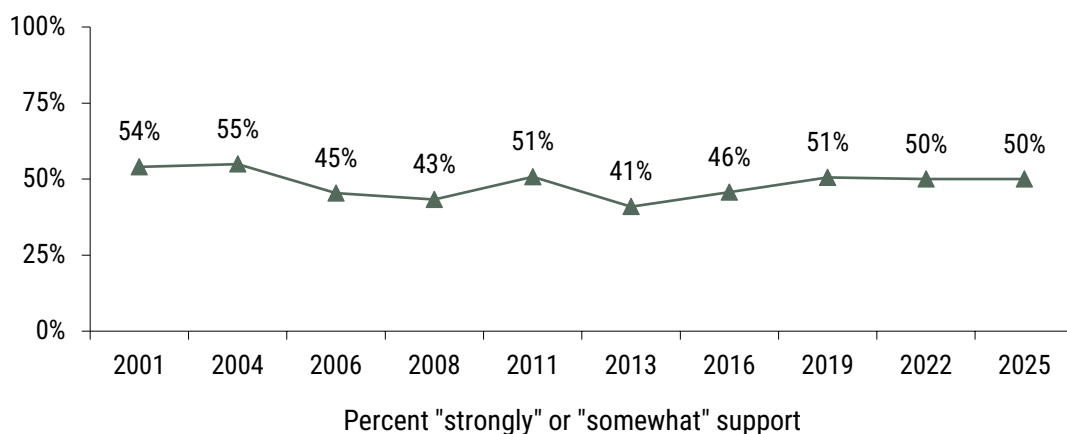
## County Property Tax

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.

While support for increasing property taxes in order to maintain services at current levels is significant, much of the opposition standing is “strong” (27% strongly oppose). On the other hand, the support to increase taxes is mostly weak, with only 10% of the participants strongly supporting a property tax increase (see *Table 22 on Appendix A: Responses to Survey Questions*).

**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 access to computers and the Internet (with an average rating of 74 on the 100-point scale), providing popular title/current library materials, as well as providing information about jobs, skills, literacy, and careers (both with 71). Other items of higher importance included English as second language resources and services (67) and small business and economic development resources and services (65). All ratings were mostly on par with 2022 results.

**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)				
	2025	2022	2019	2016	2013
Access to computers and the Internet	74	71	70	62	65
Popular titles/current library materials	71	71	74	71	69
Information about jobs, skills, literacy, and careers	71	70	67	63	61
English as a second language resources and services	67	65	61	55	48
Small business/economic development resources and services	65	65	60	55	55
Community space, meeting and conference rooms	64	62	65	NA	NA
Classes and events on a variety of topics	60	58	60	60	55
Streaming digital materials (movies, music, e-books, e-audio books)	58	57	62	35	NA
Access to creative maker technology, equipment, or classes	57	57	56	33	NA
Self-service hours (access to services during regularly closed times)	56	NA	NA	NA	NA
Library materials in other languages (Spanish, Somali, Russian, others)	55	56	53	44	43

*\* Note: In 2022 “Classes and events on a variety of topics” was “Classes and events around health and wellness,” prior that it was “Health and wellness programs and resources.” In 2022 and 2019, “Community space, meeting and conference rooms” was “Community gathering space.” 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).” 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](#).*

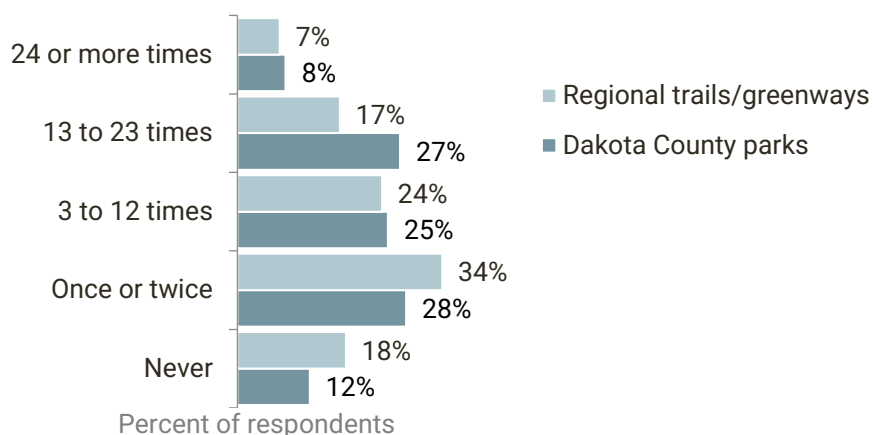
## County Parks and Greenways

Two new questions in the 2025 survey asked respondents to indicate, separately, how often they had visited Dakota County parks and greenways in the past year, as well as their reasons for not visiting more often. About 60% of residents reported using Dakota County parks at least three times in the past year, while about 50% said the same about visiting regional trails and greenways.

When asked why they had not used parks and greenways, or had not used them more often, about half of respondents reported that nothing prevents them from doing so. Among the reasons preventing more usage, lack of time (29%), unfamiliarity (17%), and inconvenient locations (13%) were the most common.

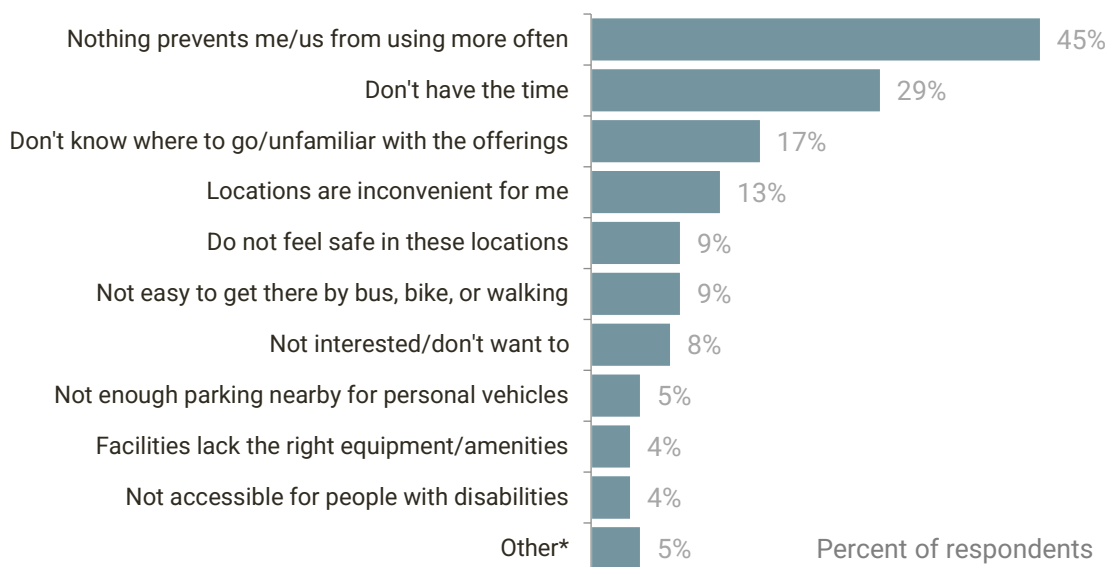
**Figure 32: Frequency of Use of Parks and Greenways, 2025**

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, 2025**

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



\* Note: Other responses can be found in [Appendix B: Verbatim Responses to Survey Questions](#).

## Current Issues

### Factors Driving Changes in Work Status

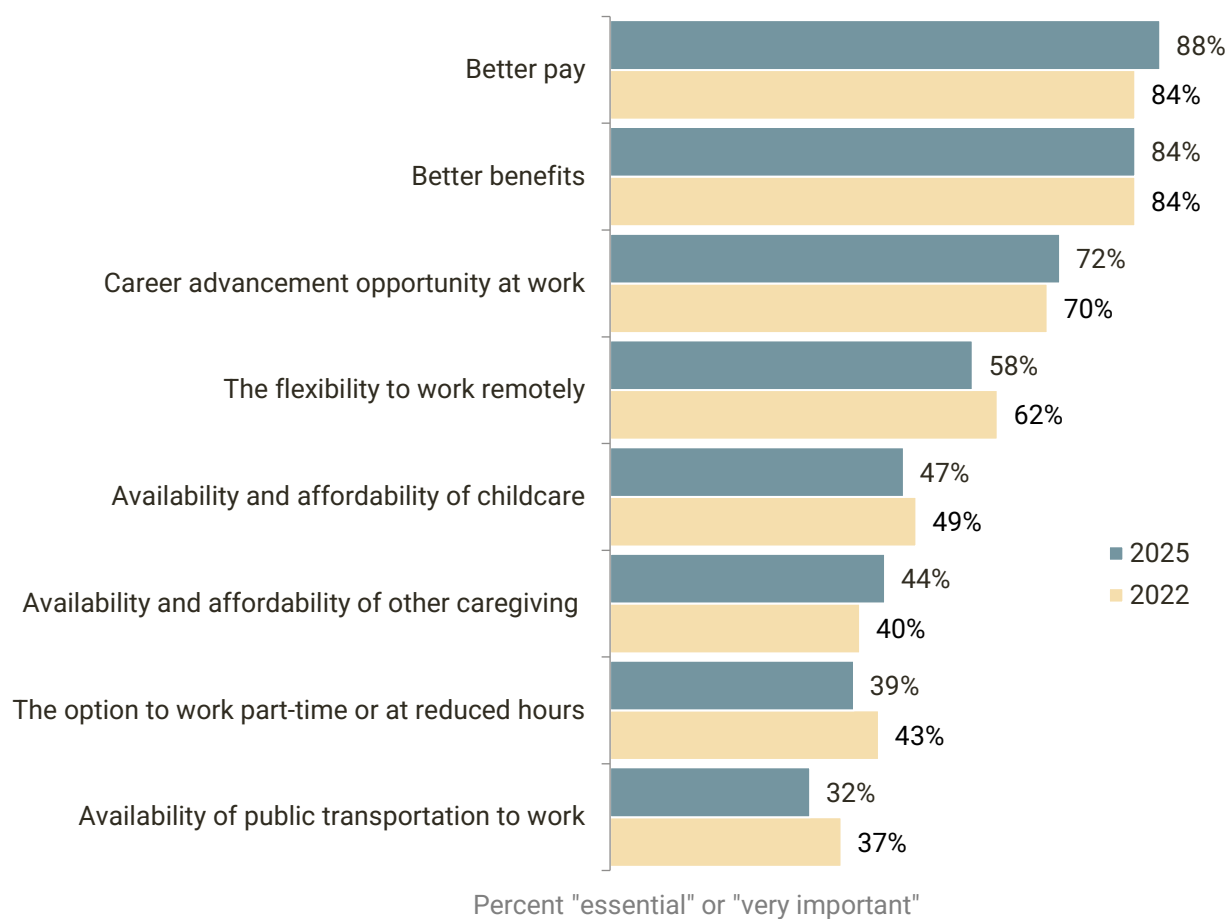
For the second consecutive time, respondents were asked to indicate which factors would be most important if they were to decide on a change in their current work situation. As in 2022, the list of factors driving a change in work status was topped by better benefits and better pay, with 88% and 84% of respondents considering each essential or very important. Roughly 7 in 10 valued career advancement opportunities at work, while 6 in 10 valued the flexibility to work remotely as important.

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

When compared to 2022, these ratings have remained largely stable.

**Figure 34: 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?



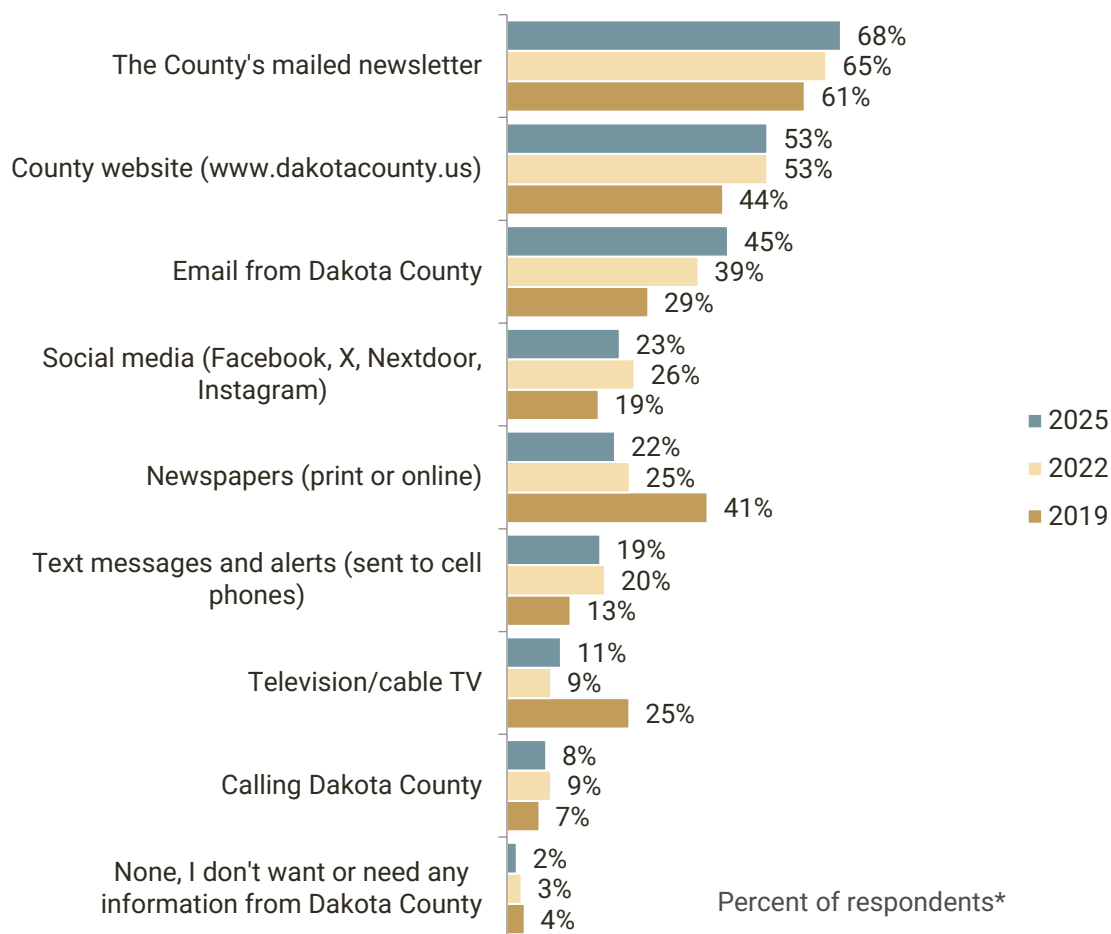
## Public Information and Communication

### Information Sources

Respondents were asked to indicate which three methods they preferred as a way to receive information about Dakota County. As in 2019 and 2022, the County's mailed newsletter was the top preference, with about two-thirds indicating this was one of their favored means of being informed. The County website finished in second place with around half of respondents, while direct emails from Dakota County was selected by about 4 in 10. All three digital methods (website, email, and text messages) continue to top the list of preferred sources of county information.

**Figure 35: 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.)



\* Note: Totals exceed 100% as respondents could select up to three methods. In 2019 and 2022 "The Dakota County mobile device app" was included as an option, but is no longer relevant. For this visualization, mentions to "The Dakota County mobile device app" were grouped with "County website (www.dakotacounty.us)." "NextDoor" was included as a stand-alone option in 2022.

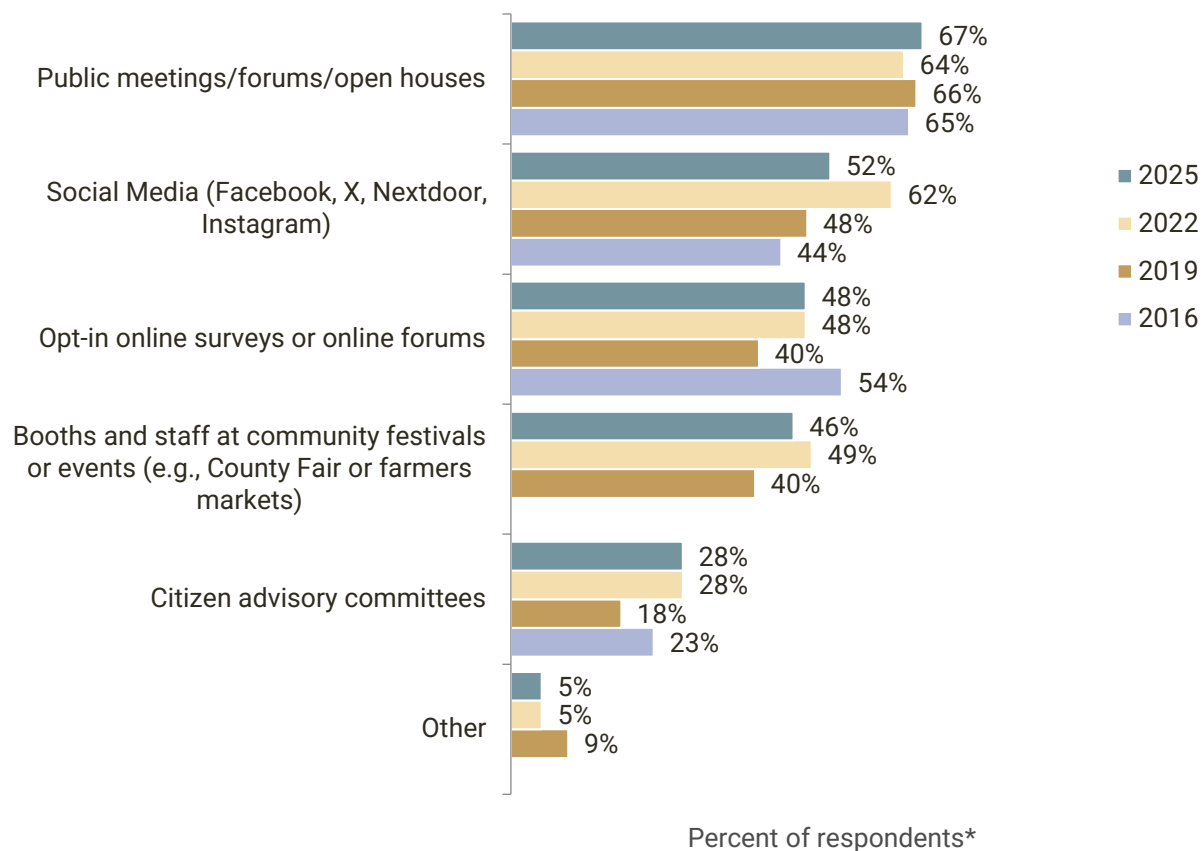
## Resident Engagement Strategies

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. The second most preferred source was social media (although it showed a decrease of 10 points from 2022), followed by opt-in online surveys or online forums, and booths and staff at community festivals or events.

**Figure 36: 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.)



\* Note: 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 [Appendix B: Verbatim Responses to Survey Questions](#). "NextDoor" was included as a stand-alone option in 2022.

## 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=327
Good	50%	N=377
Fair	7%	N=52
Poor	1%	N=5
Total	100%	N=760

**Table 2: Question 2**

What one thing do you like most about living in Dakota County?	Percent	Number
Location	29%	N=217
Rural character	10%	N=75
Parks/Lakes/Trails	13%	N=101
Quality of life in general	23%	N=176
My neighborhood	10%	N=79
Schools	4%	N=34
Low taxes	2%	N=19
People	1%	N=10
Open space	4%	N=27
Other	3%	N=20
Total	100%	N=757

*Survey respondents had the opportunity to write-in a response for other. Please see [Appendix B: Verbatim Responses to Survey Questions](#) to review the 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	
Dakota County as a place to live	43%	N=327	49%	N=374	8%	N=62	0%	N=3	0%	N=1	100%	N=767
Dakota County as a place to work	17%	N=128	37%	N=279	12%	N=90	1%	N=11	33%	N=252	100%	N=760
Dakota County as a place to retire	20%	N=152	31%	N=233	19%	N=142	5%	N=40	25%	N=190	100%	N=757
Dakota County as a place to raise a family	38%	N=290	37%	N=284	10%	N=74	1%	N=9	14%	N=103	100%	N=760
Sense of community	19%	N=140	45%	N=342	28%	N=213	6%	N=47	2%	N=14	100%	N=756
Openness and acceptance of people with diverse backgrounds	17%	N=128	44%	N=334	22%	N=172	8%	N=61	9%	N=69	100%	N=764
Outdoor recreational opportunities in Dakota County	39%	N=298	45%	N=346	10%	N=77	3%	N=20	3%	N=24	100%	N=764
Availability of biking paths and walking trails	44%	N=336	36%	N=275	13%	N=100	1%	N=9	5%	N=36	100%	N=756
Accessibility of biking paths and walking trails	39%	N=298	38%	N=286	12%	N=93	3%	N=20	8%	N=62	100%	N=758
Economic health of Dakota County	19%	N=145	45%	N=344	19%	N=144	2%	N=17	15%	N=112	100%	N=762
Availability of employment opportunities	8%	N=59	34%	N=261	21%	N=162	4%	N=31	32%	N=246	100%	N=760
Availability of quality, affordable child care	5%	N=37	12%	N=94	16%	N=119	9%	N=69	58%	N=438	100%	N=757
Availability of affordable housing	6%	N=43	23%	N=177	36%	N=274	14%	N=107	21%	N=160	100%	N=761
Availability of transportation/transit (for work purposes and commuting)	7%	N=53	27%	N=206	24%	N=182	14%	N=104	28%	N=213	100%	N=758
Water quality/health of environment	21%	N=163	42%	N=321	22%	N=168	9%	N=69	5%	N=40	100%	N=761
Climate resiliency practices/strategies	10%	N=76	34%	N=259	17%	N=131	4%	N=33	35%	N=265	100%	N=764
Natural resources	19%	N=146	47%	N=358	15%	N=112	1%	N=11	17%	N=130	100%	N=756
Arts and culture countywide	13%	N=99	40%	N=303	24%	N=179	6%	N=43	17%	N=132	100%	N=756
Overall image or reputation of Dakota County	26%	N=199	54%	N=415	13%	N=100	4%	N=27	3%	N=21	100%	N=762



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

Please rate each of the following characteristics of Dakota County.	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Total	
Dakota County as a place to live	43%	N=327	49%	N=374	8%	N=62	0%	N=3	100%	N=766
Dakota County as a place to work	25%	N=128	55%	N=279	18%	N=90	2%	N=11	100%	N=507
Dakota County as a place to retire	27%	N=152	41%	N=233	25%	N=142	7%	N=40	100%	N=567
Dakota County as a place to raise a family	44%	N=290	43%	N=284	11%	N=74	1%	N=9	100%	N=657
Sense of community	19%	N=140	46%	N=342	29%	N=213	6%	N=47	100%	N=742
Openness and acceptance of people with diverse backgrounds	18%	N=128	48%	N=334	25%	N=172	9%	N=61	100%	N=696
Outdoor recreational opportunities in Dakota County	40%	N=298	47%	N=346	10%	N=77	3%	N=20	100%	N=741
Availability of biking paths and walking trails	47%	N=336	38%	N=275	14%	N=100	1%	N=9	100%	N=720
Accessibility of biking paths and walking trails	43%	N=298	41%	N=286	13%	N=93	3%	N=20	100%	N=697
Economic health of Dakota County	22%	N=145	53%	N=344	22%	N=144	3%	N=17	100%	N=650
Availability of employment opportunities	11%	N=59	51%	N=261	32%	N=162	6%	N=31	100%	N=514
Availability of quality, affordable child care	12%	N=37	29%	N=94	37%	N=119	22%	N=69	100%	N=319
Availability of affordable housing	7%	N=43	29%	N=177	46%	N=274	18%	N=107	100%	N=601
Availability of transportation/transit (for work purposes and commuting)	10%	N=53	38%	N=206	33%	N=182	19%	N=104	100%	N=546
Water quality/health of environment	23%	N=163	44%	N=321	23%	N=168	10%	N=69	100%	N=721
Climate resiliency practices/strategies	15%	N=76	52%	N=259	26%	N=131	7%	N=33	100%	N=499
Natural resources	23%	N=146	57%	N=358	18%	N=112	2%	N=11	100%	N=626
Arts and culture countywide	16%	N=99	49%	N=303	29%	N=179	7%	N=43	100%	N=624
Overall image or reputation of Dakota County	27%	N=199	56%	N=415	13%	N=100	4%	N=27	100%	N=740

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	7%	N=44
Affordable housing	12%	N=71
Taxes	11%	N=65
Growth/development	12%	N=68
Sense of community, diversity, etc.	4%	N=25
Condition of roads	2%	N=14
Traffic congestion	4%	N=23
Schools	3%	N=17
Homelessness and poverty	1%	N=6
Economic development	4%	N=21
Public transportation	3%	N=17
Updating infrastructure	1%	N=3
Jobs	0%	N=1
Government spending	2%	N=12
Preserving natural areas/protecting natural resources	2%	N=12
Teen drug/alcohol use	0%	N=1
Pollution/environmental concerns	4%	N=26
Quality of county services	2%	N=9
Noise pollution	1%	N=5
No issue	2%	N=9
Cost of living	4%	N=22
Political divisiveness	4%	N=26
Water Quality	6%	N=33
Other	6%	N=33
Don't know	4%	N=26
Total	100%	N=590

Survey respondents had the opportunity to write-in a response. Please see [Appendix B: Verbatim Responses to Survey Questions](#) to review the verbatim responses.

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

<b>What do you feel is the most serious issue facing Dakota County at this time?</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>
Crime and safety issues	8%	N=44
Affordable housing	13%	N=71
Taxes	12%	N=65
Growth/development	12%	N=68
Sense of community, diversity, etc.	4%	N=25
Condition of roads	2%	N=14
Traffic congestion	4%	N=23
Schools	3%	N=17
Homelessness and poverty	1%	N=6
Economic development	4%	N=21
Public transportation	3%	N=17
Updating infrastructure	1%	N=3
Jobs	0%	N=1
Government spending	2%	N=12
Preserving natural areas/protecting natural resources	2%	N=12
Teen drug/alcohol use	0%	N=1
Pollution/environmental concerns	5%	N=26
Quality of county services	2%	N=9
Noise pollution	1%	N=5
No issue	2%	N=9
Cost of living	4%	N=22
Political divisiveness	5%	N=26
Water Quality	6%	N=33
Other	6%	N=33
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>N=564</b>

*Survey respondents had the opportunity to write-in a response. Please see [Appendix B: Verbatim Responses to Survey Questions](#) to review the verbatim responses.*

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

<b>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?</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>
Much better	5%	N=41
Somewhat better	17%	N=128
About the same	54%	N=412
Somewhat worse	17%	N=126
Much worse	4%	N=31
Don't know	3%	N=25
Total	100%	N=763

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

<b>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?</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>
Much better	6%	N=41
Somewhat better	17%	N=128
About the same	56%	N=412
Somewhat worse	17%	N=126
Much worse	4%	N=31
Total	100%	N=738

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	
From property crimes (e.g., burglary, theft)	34%	N=257	52%	N=399	12%	N=88	2%	N=14	1%	N=5	100%	N=763
From violent crimes (e.g., rape, assault, robbery)	52%	N=394	38%	N=287	8%	N=62	1%	N=8	2%	N=12	100%	N=764
From substance use and associated activities (e.g. selling drugs)	31%	N=238	43%	N=330	15%	N=114	5%	N=37	5%	N=40	100%	N=759
From financial scams (e.g. identity theft, phone scams, cybercrime)	15%	N=111	46%	N=349	28%	N=209	8%	N=60	4%	N=32	100%	N=761
From domestic violence	57%	N=434	24%	N=186	6%	N=42	2%	N=12	12%	N=90	100%	N=764
From gang activity	52%	N=401	28%	N=216	8%	N=65	3%	N=22	8%	N=63	100%	N=766
While driving on roads within Dakota County	36%	N=277	49%	N=374	12%	N=88	3%	N=23	0%	N=3	100%	N=764
While walking or biking within Dakota County	34%	N=257	47%	N=356	10%	N=80	5%	N=41	4%	N=30	100%	N=764
While in your neighborhood	62%	N=475	32%	N=242	6%	N=42	1%	N=4	0%	N=1	100%	N=764
While in County office buildings, libraries, courtrooms	66%	N=505	27%	N=206	1%	N=5	0%	N=3	6%	N=45	100%	N=765
While in schools in Dakota County	29%	N=222	30%	N=225	5%	N=39	2%	N=13	34%	N=261	100%	N=759
While in places of worship in Dakota County	43%	N=324	23%	N=171	2%	N=18	0%	N=3	32%	N=243	100%	N=761
While using Dakota County parks, trails, and greenways	38%	N=288	46%	N=351	11%	N=81	1%	N=9	5%	N=37	100%	N=766

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)	34%	N=257	53%	N=399	12%	N=88	2%	N=14	100%	N=758
From violent crimes (e.g., rape, assault, robbery)	52%	N=394	38%	N=287	8%	N=62	1%	N=8	100%	N=752
From substance use and associated activities (e.g. selling drugs)	33%	N=238	46%	N=330	16%	N=114	5%	N=37	100%	N=719
From financial scams (e.g. identity theft, phone scams, cybercrime)	15%	N=111	48%	N=349	29%	N=209	8%	N=60	100%	N=729
From domestic violence	64%	N=434	28%	N=186	6%	N=42	2%	N=12	100%	N=674
From gang activity	57%	N=401	31%	N=216	9%	N=65	3%	N=22	100%	N=704
While driving on roads within Dakota County	36%	N=277	49%	N=374	12%	N=88	3%	N=23	100%	N=762
While walking or biking within Dakota County	35%	N=257	49%	N=356	11%	N=80	6%	N=41	100%	N=734
While in your neighborhood	62%	N=475	32%	N=242	6%	N=42	1%	N=4	100%	N=763
While in County office buildings, libraries, courtrooms	70%	N=505	29%	N=206	1%	N=5	0%	N=3	100%	N=719
While in schools in Dakota County	45%	N=222	45%	N=225	8%	N=39	3%	N=13	100%	N=499
While in places of worship in Dakota County	63%	N=324	33%	N=171	3%	N=18	1%	N=3	100%	N=517
While using Dakota County parks, trails, and greenways	39%	N=288	48%	N=351	11%	N=81	1%	N=9	100%	N=729

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	
Crime	12%	N=93	47%	N=358	30%	N=231	6%	N=42	4%	N=33	100%	N=758
Taxes	16%	N=121	24%	N=182	31%	N=232	21%	N=161	8%	N=58	100%	N=754
Traffic safety	20%	N=151	42%	N=316	26%	N=198	10%	N=79	2%	N=14	100%	N=757
Traffic congestion	22%	N=169	40%	N=305	24%	N=180	11%	N=86	2%	N=18	100%	N=758
Poverty	12%	N=90	35%	N=266	24%	N=187	5%	N=38	24%	N=183	100%	N=763
Homelessness	19%	N=146	31%	N=235	18%	N=133	5%	N=37	27%	N=201	100%	N=752
Affordability of housing	10%	N=73	23%	N=175	30%	N=228	23%	N=173	14%	N=110	100%	N=759
Availability of living wage jobs	10%	N=74	23%	N=173	25%	N=189	12%	N=90	31%	N=234	100%	N=760

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	
Crime	13%	N=93	49%	N=358	32%	N=231	6%	N=42	100%	N=725
Taxes	17%	N=121	26%	N=182	33%	N=232	23%	N=161	100%	N=696
Traffic safety	20%	N=151	42%	N=316	27%	N=198	11%	N=79	100%	N=744
Traffic congestion	23%	N=169	41%	N=305	24%	N=180	12%	N=86	100%	N=739
Poverty	15%	N=90	46%	N=266	32%	N=187	7%	N=38	100%	N=581
Homelessness	26%	N=146	43%	N=235	24%	N=133	7%	N=37	100%	N=551
Affordability of housing	11%	N=73	27%	N=175	35%	N=228	27%	N=173	100%	N=649
Availability of living wage jobs	14%	N=74	33%	N=173	36%	N=189	17%	N=90	100%	N=526

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	
Environmental hazards (e.g., polluted water or toxic waste)	25%	N=186	31%	N=235	19%	N=147	15%	N=112	10%	N=76	100%	N=756
Tobacco use (including e-cigarettes and chewing tobacco)	29%	N=218	33%	N=250	19%	N=147	7%	N=57	12%	N=88	100%	N=760
Depression, anxiety, and other mental illnesses	13%	N=100	20%	N=154	36%	N=272	17%	N=128	14%	N=107	100%	N=761
Social isolation	19%	N=143	26%	N=196	29%	N=221	10%	N=74	16%	N=125	100%	N=758
Underage alcohol use	14%	N=104	31%	N=237	17%	N=128	6%	N=44	32%	N=245	100%	N=758
Underage marijuana use	12%	N=92	28%	N=209	16%	N=118	15%	N=110	30%	N=228	100%	N=757
Alcohol abuse among adults	12%	N=92	33%	N=247	26%	N=200	8%	N=62	20%	N=153	100%	N=754
Marijuana abuse among adults	17%	N=129	30%	N=228	18%	N=136	10%	N=74	25%	N=190	100%	N=756
Illegal drug use (e.g., heroin, illicit fentanyl, methamphetamine)	8%	N=62	22%	N=164	22%	N=164	19%	N=143	29%	N=215	100%	N=747
Bullying	10%	N=73	23%	N=172	23%	N=171	19%	N=141	26%	N=193	100%	N=749
Illegal use of prescribed medications (such as opioids)	10%	N=78	22%	N=163	22%	N=167	12%	N=89	34%	N=254	100%	N=750
The health and support of older adults	10%	N=71	29%	N=216	30%	N=224	12%	N=91	19%	N=145	100%	N=748
The health and support of persons with disabilities	10%	N=79	25%	N=188	26%	N=193	12%	N=89	27%	N=201	100%	N=750
The health and support of children and child development	14%	N=108	27%	N=206	23%	N=171	11%	N=81	25%	N=187	100%	N=753
Nutrition of adults and children	15%	N=110	33%	N=248	25%	N=188	10%	N=75	18%	N=135	100%	N=755
Abuse and neglect of children	11%	N=85	25%	N=189	19%	N=142	11%	N=85	33%	N=251	100%	N=752
Abuse and neglect of older adults or vulnerable adults	12%	N=90	26%	N=196	19%	N=144	11%	N=82	31%	N=235	100%	N=748
Spread of infectious diseases	21%	N=160	30%	N=229	16%	N=119	12%	N=87	21%	N=157	100%	N=753



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	
Environmental hazards (e.g., polluted water or toxic waste)	27%	N=186	35%	N=235	22%	N=147	16%	N=112	100%	N=680
Tobacco use (including e-cigarettes and chewing tobacco)	32%	N=218	37%	N=250	22%	N=147	8%	N=57	100%	N=672
Depression, anxiety, and other mental illnesses	15%	N=100	24%	N=154	42%	N=272	20%	N=128	100%	N=654
Social isolation	23%	N=143	31%	N=196	35%	N=221	12%	N=74	100%	N=634
Underage alcohol use	20%	N=104	46%	N=237	25%	N=128	9%	N=44	100%	N=513
Underage marijuana use	17%	N=92	40%	N=209	22%	N=118	21%	N=110	100%	N=529
Alcohol abuse among adults	15%	N=92	41%	N=247	33%	N=200	10%	N=62	100%	N=601
Marijuana abuse among adults	23%	N=129	40%	N=228	24%	N=136	13%	N=74	100%	N=566
Illegal drug use (e.g., heroin, illicit fentanyl, methamphetamine)	12%	N=62	31%	N=164	31%	N=164	27%	N=143	100%	N=533
Bullying	13%	N=73	31%	N=172	31%	N=171	25%	N=141	100%	N=556
Illegal use of prescribed medications (such as opioids)	16%	N=78	33%	N=163	34%	N=167	18%	N=89	100%	N=496
The health and support of older adults	12%	N=71	36%	N=216	37%	N=224	15%	N=91	100%	N=603
The health and support of persons with disabilities	14%	N=79	34%	N=188	35%	N=193	16%	N=89	100%	N=549
The health and support of children and child development	19%	N=108	36%	N=206	30%	N=171	14%	N=81	100%	N=565
Nutrition of adults and children	18%	N=110	40%	N=248	30%	N=188	12%	N=75	100%	N=620
Abuse and neglect of children	17%	N=85	38%	N=189	28%	N=142	17%	N=85	100%	N=500
Abuse and neglect of older adults or vulnerable adults	18%	N=90	38%	N=196	28%	N=144	16%	N=82	100%	N=513
Spread of infectious diseases	27%	N=160	38%	N=229	20%	N=119	15%	N=87	100%	N=596

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	
Quality of outdoor air	37%	N=280	34%	N=254	20%	N=154	7%	N=49	2%	N=16	100%	N=754
Quality of drinking water (PFAS contaminants)	22%	N=168	25%	N=189	25%	N=189	23%	N=177	5%	N=36	100%	N=758
Quality of water in lakes, rivers, and streams	17%	N=128	28%	N=213	30%	N=223	17%	N=131	7%	N=56	100%	N=751
Quantity of useable water supply	30%	N=228	22%	N=169	19%	N=147	16%	N=124	12%	N=87	100%	N=756
Climate change	24%	N=182	15%	N=115	25%	N=192	32%	N=241	4%	N=30	100%	N=760
Energy use	21%	N=157	23%	N=176	31%	N=235	17%	N=129	8%	N=60	100%	N=758

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	
Quality of outdoor air	38%	N=280	34%	N=254	21%	N=154	7%	N=49	100%	N=738
Quality of drinking water (PFAS contaminants)	23%	N=168	26%	N=189	26%	N=189	25%	N=177	100%	N=722
Quality of water in lakes, rivers, and streams	18%	N=128	31%	N=213	32%	N=223	19%	N=131	100%	N=695
Quantity of useable water supply	34%	N=228	25%	N=169	22%	N=147	19%	N=124	100%	N=669
Climate change	25%	N=182	16%	N=115	26%	N=192	33%	N=241	100%	N=730
Energy use	22%	N=157	25%	N=176	34%	N=235	19%	N=129	100%	N=698

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	
County libraries like Burnhaven, Farmington, Galaxie, Heritage, Inver Glen, Kaposia, Pleasant Hill, Robert Trail, Wentworth, or Wescott	53%	N=403	31%	N=233	3%	N=20	0%	N=3	13%	N=101	100%	N=759
County parks and recreation like Lebanon Hills, Lake Byllesby, Miesville, Spring Lake Park, Thompson County Park or Whitetail Woods	56%	N=427	34%	N=254	3%	N=21	0%	N=2	7%	N=53	100%	N=757
Trail and greenway system like Big Rivers Trail, Mississippi River and River to River	42%	N=316	31%	N=234	7%	N=53	0%	N=4	20%	N=153	100%	N=759
Condition of county roads such as County Road 42, County Road 46, Kenwood Trail, Pilot Knob Roads or Yankee Doodle Road/County Road 28	23%	N=178	44%	N=333	27%	N=208	3%	N=26	2%	N=18	100%	N=761
Snow and ice removal on county roads	30%	N=231	49%	N=370	16%	N=120	3%	N=21	2%	N=16	100%	N=759
Sheriff deputies patrol and park protection services	24%	N=185	40%	N=302	12%	N=88	3%	N=26	21%	N=159	100%	N=760
Administering property tax	12%	N=88	32%	N=237	26%	N=192	10%	N=77	21%	N=154	100%	N=749
Addressing important health issues in communities	13%	N=100	36%	N=272	18%	N=133	3%	N=22	30%	N=230	100%	N=756
Prosecuting people accused of felony-level crimes or serious crimes	8%	N=62	21%	N=157	17%	N=125	8%	N=60	47%	N=351	100%	N=754
Overall quality of services provided by Dakota County	24%	N=182	55%	N=420	15%	N=116	1%	N=9	4%	N=31	100%	N=759

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

<b>Please rate each of the following services provided by Dakota County.</b>	<b>Excellent</b>		<b>Good</b>		<b>Fair</b>		<b>Poor</b>		<b>Total</b>	
County libraries like Burnhaven, Farmington, Galaxie, Heritage, Inver Glen, Kaposia, Pleasant Hill, Robert Trail, Wentworth, or Wescott	61%	N=403	35%	N=233	3%	N=20	0%	N=3	100%	N=658
County parks and recreation like Lebanon Hills, Lake Byllesby, Miesville, Spring Lake Park, Thompson County Park or Whitetail Woods	61%	N=427	36%	N=254	3%	N=21	0%	N=2	100%	N=704
Trail and greenway system like Big Rivers Trail, Mississippi River and River to River	52%	N=316	39%	N=234	9%	N=53	1%	N=4	100%	N=606
Condition of county roads such as County Road 42, County Road 46, Kenwood Trail, Pilot Knob Roads or Yankee Doodle Road/County Road 28	24%	N=178	45%	N=333	28%	N=208	3%	N=26	100%	N=744
Snow and ice removal on county roads	31%	N=231	50%	N=370	16%	N=120	3%	N=21	100%	N=742
Sheriff deputies patrol and park protection services	31%	N=185	50%	N=302	15%	N=88	4%	N=26	100%	N=601
Administering property tax	15%	N=88	40%	N=237	32%	N=192	13%	N=77	100%	N=595
Addressing important health issues in communities	19%	N=100	52%	N=272	25%	N=133	4%	N=22	100%	N=526
Prosecuting people accused of felony-level crimes or serious crimes	15%	N=62	39%	N=157	31%	N=125	15%	N=60	100%	N=403
Overall quality of services provided by Dakota County	25%	N=182	58%	N=420	16%	N=116	1%	N=9	100%	N=727

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		Total	
Employment support/CareerForce Center services	3%	N=18	5%	N=33	4%	N=26	2%	N=12	86%	N=564	100%	N=653
Financial assistance for low-income households	4%	N=23	6%	N=38	6%	N=36	3%	N=21	82%	N=529	100%	N=647
Records, passports, licensing, and vehicle registration	25%	N=175	45%	N=316	15%	N=105	5%	N=36	11%	N=78	100%	N=710
Services for people with disabilities	4%	N=26	9%	N=58	6%	N=39	3%	N=21	78%	N=512	100%	N=657
Services for people experiencing mental illness	4%	N=29	7%	N=46	7%	N=44	5%	N=36	76%	N=501	100%	N=655
Services that protect neglected or abused children	3%	N=23	5%	N=31	3%	N=21	1%	N=5	88%	N=573	100%	N=653
Information available on the County website	13%	N=87	37%	N=251	14%	N=94	4%	N=25	32%	N=216	100%	N=673
Services provided to older adults	5%	N=30	12%	N=82	8%	N=51	3%	N=20	72%	N=480	100%	N=664
Services at the Recycling Zone	30%	N=207	26%	N=178	8%	N=53	1%	N=10	36%	N=248	100%	N=696
Accessibility of services, physical and digital	9%	N=61	30%	N=198	10%	N=68	2%	N=12	49%	N=320	100%	N=660
Services at organic waste drop-off sites	14%	N=91	14%	N=93	7%	N=49	2%	N=12	63%	N=415	100%	N=660
Services to children and families	8%	N=51	13%	N=84	9%	N=61	1%	N=7	69%	N=456	100%	N=660
Services that protect neglected, abused, or exploited adults	3%	N=21	4%	N=28	6%	N=37	1%	N=8	85%	N=555	100%	N=649
Housing/shelter services and support	2%	N=13	5%	N=33	6%	N=41	4%	N=23	83%	N=545	100%	N=655
Public Health services	4%	N=27	16%	N=106	8%	N=54	2%	N=13	70%	N=459	100%	N=659

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	
Employment support/CareerForce Center services	20%	N=18	37%	N=33	29%	N=26	14%	N=12	100%	N=89
Financial assistance for low-income households	20%	N=23	32%	N=38	31%	N=36	17%	N=21	100%	N=118
Records, passports, licensing, and vehicle registration	28%	N=175	50%	N=316	17%	N=105	6%	N=36	100%	N=632
Services for people with disabilities	18%	N=26	40%	N=58	27%	N=39	15%	N=21	100%	N=145
Services for people experiencing mental illness	19%	N=29	30%	N=46	29%	N=44	23%	N=36	100%	N=154
Services that protect neglected or abused children	28%	N=23	38%	N=31	26%	N=21	7%	N=5	100%	N=80
Information available on the County website	19%	N=87	55%	N=251	21%	N=94	6%	N=25	100%	N=457
Services provided to older adults	16%	N=30	45%	N=82	28%	N=51	11%	N=20	100%	N=183
Services at the Recycling Zone	46%	N=207	40%	N=178	12%	N=53	2%	N=10	100%	N=447
Accessibility of services, physical and digital	18%	N=61	58%	N=198	20%	N=68	4%	N=12	100%	N=339
Services at organic waste drop-off sites	37%	N=91	38%	N=93	20%	N=49	5%	N=12	100%	N=245
Services to children and families	25%	N=51	41%	N=84	30%	N=61	3%	N=7	100%	N=204
Services that protect neglected, abused, or exploited adults	22%	N=21	30%	N=28	39%	N=37	8%	N=8	100%	N=94
Housing/shelter services and support	12%	N=13	30%	N=33	37%	N=41	21%	N=23	100%	N=110
Public Health services	14%	N=27	53%	N=106	27%	N=54	6%	N=13	100%	N=200

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

<b>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?</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>
Strongly support	9%	N=71
Somewhat support	37%	N=282
Somewhat oppose	21%	N=158
Strongly oppose	25%	N=193
Don't know	7%	N=54
Total	100%	N=757

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

<b>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?</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>
Strongly support	10%	N=71
Somewhat support	40%	N=282
Somewhat oppose	23%	N=158
Strongly oppose	27%	N=193
Total	100%	N=703

**Table 23: Question 13**

<b>Have you visited (in-person or virtually), telephoned, or emailed any Dakota County government employee within the last 12 months?</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>
Yes	42%	N=314
No	58%	N=440
Total	100%	N=754

**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? (Please rate each characteristic below.)	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Don't know		Total	
Knowledgeable	52%	N=164	33%	N=105	11%	N=35	2%	N=7	2%	N=6	100%	N=318
Responsive	48%	N=151	31%	N=99	14%	N=46	6%	N=19	1%	N=3	100%	N=318
Courteous	58%	N=184	26%	N=81	11%	N=35	3%	N=9	2%	N=7	100%	N=317
Overall impression	49%	N=156	32%	N=101	14%	N=44	4%	N=14	1%	N=4	100%	N=319

*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? (Please rate each characteristic below.)	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Total	
Knowledgeable	53%	N=164	34%	N=105	11%	N=35	2%	N=7	100%	N=311
Responsive	48%	N=151	32%	N=99	14%	N=46	6%	N=19	100%	N=315
Courteous	59%	N=184	26%	N=81	11%	N=35	3%	N=9	100%	N=310
Overall impression	50%	N=156	32%	N=101	14%	N=44	5%	N=14	100%	N=315

*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	31%	N=230	44%	N=327	10%	N=77	3%	N=19	12%	N=92	100%	N=745
Online access to County services	23%	N=168	40%	N=291	9%	N=65	4%	N=27	25%	N=185	100%	N=736
Ease of paying for County services online	21%	N=153	30%	N=220	8%	N=57	1%	N=10	40%	N=298	100%	N=738
Availability of language resources for access to services (e.g., interpreters or multi-language materials or signage)	7%	N=52	9%	N=64	3%	N=22	1%	N=7	80%	N=590	100%	N=735



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

<b>Please rate these aspects of accessing Dakota County services.</b>	<b>Excellent</b>		<b>Good</b>		<b>Fair</b>		<b>Poor</b>		<b>Total</b>	
Convenience of County facilities' locations	35%	N=230	50%	N=327	12%	N=77	3%	N=19	100%	N=653
Online access to County services	30%	N=168	53%	N=291	12%	N=65	5%	N=27	100%	N=551
Ease of paying for County services online	35%	N=153	50%	N=220	13%	N=57	2%	N=10	100%	N=440
Availability of language resources for access to services (e.g., interpreters or multi-language materials or signage)	36%	N=52	44%	N=64	15%	N=22	5%	N=7	100%	N=145

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

<b>Please rate the following categories of Dakota County government performance:</b>	<b>Excellent</b>		<b>Good</b>		<b>Fair</b>		<b>Poor</b>		<b>Don't know</b>		<b>Total</b>	
The job Dakota County government does of providing information to residents	19%	N=145	54%	N=404	15%	N=111	4%	N=31	7%	N=54	100%	N=744
The job Dakota County government does of listening to residents	8%	N=59	31%	N=233	17%	N=127	8%	N=60	36%	N=264	100%	N=742
The value of services for the taxes paid to Dakota County	13%	N=94	42%	N=309	24%	N=179	8%	N=58	13%	N=97	100%	N=736
The job Dakota County government does at managing tax dollars	10%	N=74	36%	N=264	24%	N=174	10%	N=73	21%	N=151	100%	N=736
The value of Dakota County services to the quality of life in my neighborhood	17%	N=123	49%	N=363	18%	N=129	5%	N=38	11%	N=83	100%	N=737
Generally acting in the best interest of the community	17%	N=126	50%	N=375	17%	N=127	5%	N=36	10%	N=77	100%	N=742
Supporting the quality of life in the county	21%	N=152	48%	N=357	19%	N=139	3%	N=19	10%	N=74	100%	N=742
Effectively planning for the future of the county	16%	N=120	35%	N=257	19%	N=139	7%	N=53	23%	N=174	100%	N=742
Overall confidence in Dakota County government	19%	N=137	48%	N=353	21%	N=154	5%	N=40	7%	N=52	100%	N=737

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

<b>Please rate the following categories of Dakota County government performance:</b>	<b>Excellent</b>		<b>Good</b>		<b>Fair</b>		<b>Poor</b>		<b>Total</b>	
The job Dakota County government does of providing information to residents	21%	N=145	59%	N=404	16%	N=111	4%	N=31	100%	N=690
The job Dakota County government does of listening to residents	12%	N=59	49%	N=233	26%	N=127	13%	N=60	100%	N=479
The value of services for the taxes paid to Dakota County	15%	N=94	48%	N=309	28%	N=179	9%	N=58	100%	N=639
The job Dakota County government does at managing tax dollars	13%	N=74	45%	N=264	30%	N=174	12%	N=73	100%	N=585
The value of Dakota County services to the quality of life in my neighborhood	19%	N=123	55%	N=363	20%	N=129	6%	N=38	100%	N=654
Generally acting in the best interest of the community	19%	N=126	56%	N=375	19%	N=127	5%	N=36	100%	N=665
Supporting the quality of life in the county	23%	N=152	54%	N=357	21%	N=139	3%	N=19	100%	N=668
Effectively planning for the future of the county	21%	N=120	45%	N=257	24%	N=139	9%	N=53	100%	N=568
Overall confidence in Dakota County government	20%	N=137	52%	N=353	23%	N=154	6%	N=40	100%	N=685

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

<b>To what extent do you approve or disapprove of the job the Dakota County Board is doing?</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>
Strongly approve	17%	N=123
Somewhat approve	42%	N=315
Somewhat disapprove	10%	N=74
Strongly disapprove	2%	N=13
Don't know	30%	N=220
Total	100%	N=745

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

<b>To what extent do you approve or disapprove of the job the Dakota County Board is doing?</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>
Strongly approve	24%	N=123
Somewhat approve	60%	N=315
Somewhat disapprove	14%	N=74
Strongly disapprove	2%	N=13
Total	100%	N=525

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	
Popular titles/current library materials	37%	N=273	33%	N=241	15%	N=111	5%	N=39	9%	N=69	100%	N=732
Small business/economic development resources and services	24%	N=179	37%	N=269	19%	N=138	5%	N=34	16%	N=115	100%	N=736
Information about jobs, skills, literacy, and careers	36%	N=261	32%	N=233	15%	N=107	5%	N=38	13%	N=97	100%	N=735
Streaming digital materials (movies, music, e-books, e-audio books)	25%	N=184	25%	N=187	30%	N=223	9%	N=67	10%	N=74	100%	N=735
Access to computers and the Internet	45%	N=332	25%	N=184	16%	N=115	5%	N=38	9%	N=65	100%	N=734
Access to creative maker technology, equipment, or classes	22%	N=160	28%	N=204	26%	N=189	10%	N=74	14%	N=105	100%	N=732
Community space, meeting and conference rooms	31%	N=227	27%	N=199	24%	N=174	8%	N=57	11%	N=78	100%	N=735
Classes and events on a variety of topics	22%	N=161	35%	N=255	27%	N=201	6%	N=45	10%	N=74	100%	N=736
English as a second language resources and services	33%	N=239	26%	N=194	15%	N=110	9%	N=66	17%	N=126	100%	N=736
Library materials in other languages (Spanish, Somali, Russian, others)	22%	N=163	24%	N=176	20%	N=150	16%	N=117	17%	N=126	100%	N=731
Self-service hours (access to services during regularly closed times)	18%	N=130	33%	N=241	23%	N=165	11%	N=82	15%	N=108	100%	N=726
Other	14%	N=48	7%	N=24	4%	N=15	3%	N=11	72%	N=252	100%	N=349

Survey respondents had the opportunity to write-in a response for other. 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	
Popular titles/current library materials	41%	N=273	36%	N=241	17%	N=111	6%	N=39	100%	N=664
Small business/economic development resources and services	29%	N=179	43%	N=269	22%	N=138	6%	N=34	100%	N=621
Information about jobs, skills, literacy, and careers	41%	N=261	36%	N=233	17%	N=107	6%	N=38	100%	N=639
Streaming digital materials (movies, music, e-books, e-audio books)	28%	N=184	28%	N=187	34%	N=223	10%	N=67	100%	N=661
Access to computers and the Internet	50%	N=332	28%	N=184	17%	N=115	6%	N=38	100%	N=669
Access to creative maker technology, equipment, or classes	26%	N=160	33%	N=204	30%	N=189	12%	N=74	100%	N=627
Community space, meeting and conference rooms	35%	N=227	30%	N=199	27%	N=174	9%	N=57	100%	N=657
Classes and events on a variety of topics	24%	N=161	39%	N=255	30%	N=201	7%	N=45	100%	N=662
English as a second language resources and services	39%	N=239	32%	N=194	18%	N=110	11%	N=66	100%	N=609
Library materials in other languages (Spanish, Somali, Russian, others)	27%	N=163	29%	N=176	25%	N=150	19%	N=117	100%	N=605
Self-service hours (access to services during regularly closed times)	21%	N=130	39%	N=241	27%	N=165	13%	N=82	100%	N=618
Other	49%	N=48	24%	N=24	15%	N=15	11%	N=11	100%	N=97

Survey respondents had the opportunity to write-in a response for other. 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)	22%	N=168
The County's mailed newsletters	68%	N=510
Calling Dakota County	8%	N=58
Email from Dakota County	45%	N=335
Text messages and alerts (sent to cell phones)	19%	N=143
Television	11%	N=81
County website (www.dakotacounty.us)	52%	N=394
Social media (Facebook, X, Nextdoor, Instagram)	23%	N=174
None, I don't want or need any information from Dakota County	2%	N=13

\*Total may exceed 100% as respondents could select up to three 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	67%	N=488
Social Media (Facebook, X, Nextdoor, Instagram)	52%	N=381
Citizen advisory committees	28%	N=208
Booths and staff at community festivals or events (e.g., County Fair or farmers markets)	46%	N=337
Opt-in online surveys or online forums	48%	N=354
Other (please specify):	5%	N=37

\*Total may exceed 100% as respondents could select up to three responses. Survey respondents had the opportunity to write-in a response for other. Please see Appendix B: Verbatim Responses to Survey Questions to review the verbatim responses.

Table 36: Question 21

In the past year, on average, how often did you or your household use the following in Dakota County?	Almost daily		Weekly		Monthly		A few times		Never		Total	
Dakota County parks	8%	N=61	27%	N=200	25%	N=191	28%	N=212	12%	N=90	100%	N=753
Regional trails/greenways	7%	N=56	17%	N=127	24%	N=175	34%	N=250	18%	N=137	100%	N=745

Table 37: Question 22

What, if anything, prevents you or your household from using parks or natural lands more often? Choose up to three (3).	Percent*	Number*
Don't know where to go/unfamiliar with the offerings	17%	N=121
Locations are inconvenient for me (e.g., too far away from my home or workplace)	13%	N=92
Not easy to get there by bus, bike, or walking	9%	N=68
Not enough parking nearby for personal vehicles	5%	N=40
Not accessible for people with disabilities	4%	N=30
Facilities lack the right equipment/amenities	4%	N=32
Do not feel safe in these locations	9%	N=66
Not interested/don't want to	8%	N=58
Don't have the time	29%	N=215
Nothing prevents me/us from using more often	45%	N=331
Other	5%	N=37

\*Total may exceed 100% as respondents could select up to three responses. Survey respondents had the opportunity to write-in a response for other. Please see Appendix B: Verbatim Responses to Survey Questions to review the verbatim responses.

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	
Increasing public access for outdoor recreation	33%	N=244	34%	N=256	22%	N=167	7%	N=50	4%	N=27	100%	N=744
Protecting and improving natural areas	48%	N=357	31%	N=233	16%	N=121	3%	N=19	2%	N=15	100%	N=744
Protecting and improving water quality	60%	N=449	27%	N=202	10%	N=71	2%	N=12	2%	N=15	100%	N=750
Protecting and improving wildlife habitat	47%	N=354	32%	N=242	16%	N=119	3%	N=20	2%	N=14	100%	N=748

**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	
Increasing public access for outdoor recreation	34%	N=244	36%	N=256	23%	N=167	7%	N=50	100%	N=717
Protecting and improving natural areas	49%	N=357	32%	N=233	17%	N=121	3%	N=19	100%	N=730
Protecting and improving water quality	61%	N=449	28%	N=202	10%	N=71	2%	N=12	100%	N=735
Protecting and improving wildlife habitat	48%	N=354	33%	N=242	16%	N=119	3%	N=20	100%	N=735

**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)	21%	N=160
Market-rate stand-alone single-family housing	41%	N=303
Market-rate apartments	22%	N=162
Workforce housing (housing affordable for working people that is close to their job) for single-person households	19%	N=144
Affordable housing for older adults	35%	N=259
Affordable family housing	49%	N=369
Assisted living or supportive housing (with services for any age)	19%	N=140
Homeless shelters	11%	N=83
None of these are needed in my community	12%	N=90

*\*Total may exceed 100% as respondents could select up to three responses.*

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

<b>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?</b>	<b>Essential</b>		<b>Very important</b>		<b>Somewhat important</b>		<b>Not at all important</b>		<b>Don't know</b>		<b>Total</b>	
Better pay	46%	N=295	30%	N=195	8%	N=51	3%	N=18	13%	N=84	100%	N=642
Better benefits (e.g., health insurance, family leave, tuition reimbursement)	37%	N=242	36%	N=236	10%	N=66	4%	N=25	12%	N=80	100%	N=649
The flexibility to work remotely (e.g., work from home or telework) at least part of the time	26%	N=166	25%	N=162	21%	N=138	16%	N=101	12%	N=79	100%	N=646
The option to work part-time or at reduced hours	11%	N=69	22%	N=141	22%	N=143	30%	N=192	15%	N=96	100%	N=640
Career advancement opportunity at work	25%	N=161	37%	N=239	17%	N=106	8%	N=52	13%	N=81	100%	N=639
Availability and affordability of childcare	19%	N=124	15%	N=94	9%	N=60	29%	N=188	28%	N=180	100%	N=646
Availability and affordability of other caregiving (e.g. senior care or care for family members with disabilities)	12%	N=80	17%	N=106	9%	N=61	28%	N=179	34%	N=218	100%	N=644
Public transit to work	11%	N=75	13%	N=87	19%	N=124	35%	N=230	21%	N=136	100%	N=651

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

<b>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?</b>	<b>Essential</b>		<b>Very important</b>		<b>Somewhat important</b>		<b>Not at all important</b>		<b>Total</b>	
Better pay	53%	N=295	35%	N=195	9%	N=51	3%	N=18	100%	N=558
Better benefits (e.g., health insurance, family leave, tuition reimbursement)	43%	N=242	41%	N=236	12%	N=66	4%	N=25	100%	N=569
The flexibility to work remotely (e.g., work from home or telework) at least part of the time	29%	N=166	29%	N=162	24%	N=138	18%	N=101	100%	N=567
The option to work part-time or at reduced hours	13%	N=69	26%	N=141	26%	N=143	35%	N=192	100%	N=544
Career advancement opportunity at work	29%	N=161	43%	N=239	19%	N=106	9%	N=52	100%	N=558
Availability and affordability of childcare	27%	N=124	20%	N=94	13%	N=60	40%	N=188	100%	N=466
Availability and affordability of other caregiving (e.g. senior care or care for family members with disabilities)	19%	N=80	25%	N=106	14%	N=61	42%	N=179	100%	N=426
Public transit to work	15%	N=75	17%	N=87	24%	N=124	45%	N=230	100%	N=515



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

<b>Which highway in Dakota County needs the most safety improvements?</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>
MN-3/Hwy 3/Robert St/S Robert Tr	14%	N=65
State Hwy 13	5%	N=26
I-35 (including I-35E and I-35W)	2%	N=11
Pilot Knob Rd/Co Rd 31	3%	N=13
US-52	10%	N=48
Hwy 55	5%	N=26
US-61	1%	N=7
Co Rd 42/150th St	17%	N=83
Co Rd 46/160th St/Vermillion Rd	2%	N=10
MN-62	1%	N=3
MN-77/Cedar Ave	5%	N=23
I-494/I-694	2%	N=11
CSAH 5	1%	N=3
Bay St	0%	N=0
185th St	0%	N=1
210th St/Co Rd 50	2%	N=11
Akron Ave/Co Rd 73	1%	N=3
Yankee Doodle Rd/Co Rd 28	0%	N=1
CSAH 47	1%	N=4
MN-149/Dodd Blvd/Rd/155th St/Co Rd 9	2%	N=9
McAndrews Rd	0%	N=1
Other	9%	N=44
Nothing/don't know	16%	N=75
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>N=478</b>

*Survey respondents had the opportunity to write-in a response. Please see [Appendix B: Verbatim Responses to Survey Questions](#) to review the verbatim responses.*

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

<b>Which highway in Dakota County needs the most safety improvements?</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>
MN-3/Hwy 3/Robert St/S Robert Tr	16%	N=65
State Hwy 13	6%	N=26
I-35 (including I-35E and I-35W)	3%	N=11
Pilot Knob Rd/Co Rd 31	3%	N=13
US-52	12%	N=48
Hwy 55	7%	N=26
US-61	2%	N=7
Co Rd 42/150th St	21%	N=83
Co Rd 46/160th St/Vermillion Rd	3%	N=10
MN-62	1%	N=3
MN-77/Cedar Ave	6%	N=23
I-494/I-694	3%	N=11
CSAH 5	1%	N=3
185th St	0%	N=1
210th St/Co Rd 50	3%	N=11
Akron Ave/Co Rd 73	1%	N=3
Yankee Doodle Rd/Co Rd 28	0%	N=1
CSAH 47	1%	N=4
MN-149/Dodd Blvd/Rd/155th St/Co Rd 9	2%	N=9
McAndrews Rd	0%	N=1
Other	11%	N=44
Total	100%	N=403

*Survey respondents had the opportunity to write-in a response. Please see [Appendix B: Verbatim Responses to Survey Questions](#) to review the verbatim responses.*

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

<b>Which highway in Dakota County needs the most congestion improvements?</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>
MN-3/Hwy 3/Robert St/S Robert Trail	6%	N=32
State Hwy 13	5%	N=24
I-35 (including I-35E and I-35W)	8%	N=39
Pilot Knob Rd/Co Rd 31	4%	N=19
US-52	6%	N=30
Hwy 55	2%	N=12
US-61	3%	N=16
Cliff Rd/Co Rd 32	1%	N=3
Co Rd 42/150th St	28%	N=142
Co Rd 46/160th St/Vermillion Rd	1%	N=7
MN-62/Hwy 110	2%	N=11
MN-77/Cedar Ave/Co Rd 23	9%	N=46
I-494/I-694	7%	N=37
CSAH 5	0%	N=1
Co Rd 50/210th Street/240th Street	2%	N=10
MN-149/Dodd Blvd/Rd	1%	N=6
Diamond Path	0%	N=1
Other	4%	N=20
Nothing/don't know	9%	N=47
Total	100%	N=504

*Survey respondents had the opportunity to write-in a response. Please see [Appendix B: Verbatim Responses to Survey Questions](#) to review the verbatim responses.*

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

<b>Which highway in Dakota County needs the most congestion improvements?</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>
MN-3/Hwy 3/Robert St/S Robert Trail	7%	N=32
State Hwy 13	5%	N=24
I-35 (including I-35E and I-35W)	9%	N=39
Pilot Knob Rd/Co Rd 31	4%	N=19
US-52	6%	N=30
Hwy 55	3%	N=12
US-61	4%	N=16
Cliff Rd/Co Rd 32	1%	N=3
Co Rd 42/150th St	31%	N=142
Co Rd 46/160th St/Vermillion Rd	2%	N=7
MN-62/Hwy 110	2%	N=11
MN-77/Cedar Ave/Co Rd 23	10%	N=46
I-494/I-694	8%	N=37
CSAH 5	0%	N=1
Co Rd 50/210th Street/240th Street	2%	N=10
MN-149/Dodd Blvd/Rd	1%	N=6
Diamond Path	0%	N=1
Other	4%	N=20
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>N=457</b>

*Survey respondents had the opportunity to write-in a response. Please see [Appendix B: Verbatim Responses to Survey Questions](#) to review the verbatim responses.*

Table 47: Question D1

How long have you lived in Dakota County?	Percent	Number
Less than 2 year	9%	N=68
2-5 years	15%	N=115
6-10 years	14%	N=103
11-15 years	10%	N=80
16-20 years	7%	N=51
Over 20 years	45%	N=343
Total	100%	N=761

Table 48: Question D2

Which of the following best describes you?	Percent	Number
Employed full-time	56%	N=420
Employed part-time	9%	N=64
Employed, seeking better job or more hours	2%	N=12
Homemaker	2%	N=15
Retired	29%	N=220
Unemployed, looking for work	3%	N=20
Student	0%	N=3
Total	100%	N=753

Table 49: Question D3

On average, how long does it take you to travel to work each day (from home)?	Percent	Number
0 to 14 minutes	26%	N=128
15 to 19 minutes	18%	N=90
20 to 29 minutes	19%	N=96
Not sure/Don't know	16%	N=80
30 to 44 minutes	5%	N=26
45 to 60 minutes	2%	N=12
60 or more minutes	13%	N=64
I primarily work from home	0%	N=0
Total	100%	N=497

Table 50: Question D4

How long would the same trip take, if there was no traffic congestion at all?	Percent	Number
0 to 14 minutes	33%	N=163
15 to 19 minutes	22%	N=107
20 to 29 minutes	19%	N=95
Not sure/Don't know	9%	N=43
30 to 44 minutes	3%	N=13
45 to 60 minutes	1%	N=4
60 or more minutes	13%	N=63
I primarily work from home	2%	N=8
Total	100%	N=497

Table 51: Question D5

Which category contains your age?	Percent	Number
18-24	6%	N=45
25-34	18%	N=138
35-44	17%	N=128
45-54	18%	N=134
55-64	11%	N=83
65-74	17%	N=125
75-84	11%	N=80
85+	3%	N=24
Total	100%	N=757

Table 52: Question D6

Which gender do you identify with most closely?	Percent	Number
Female	50%	N=374
Male	50%	N=371
Identify another way	0%	N=3
Total	100%	N=749

Table 53: Question D7

Which best describes the building you live in?	Percent	Number
One family house detached from any other houses	60%	N=452
House attached to one or more houses (e.g., a duplex or townhome)	17%	N=129
Building with two or more apartments or condos	20%	N=151
Manufactured or mobile home	0%	N=3
Other	3%	N=22
Total	100%	N=757

Table 54: Question D8

Is this house, apartment, or mobile home...	Percent	Number
Rented	22%	N=166
Owned (including with an outstanding mortgage)	78%	N=573
Total	100%	N=739

Table 55: Question D9

Are you Spanish, Hispanic or Latino?	Percent	Number
No, not Spanish, Hispanic or Latino	95%	N=695
Yes, I consider myself to be Spanish, Hispanic or Latino	5%	N=36
Total	100%	N=731

Table 56: Question D10

What is your race?	Percent*	Number*
American Indian or Alaskan Native	2%	N=14
Asian, Asian Indian or Pacific Islander	6%	N=48
Black or African American	5%	N=35
White	89%	N=657
Other	4%	N=29

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

Table 57: Question D11

How many of each of the following, including yourself, live in your household?	None		One		Two		Three		Four		Five or more		Total	
Children age 17 years and under	69%	N=532	12%	N=92	12%	N=89	6%	N=45	1%	N=9	1%	N=5	100%	N=772
Adults under age 65 years	33%	N=258	18%	N=143	37%	N=283	7%	N=51	2%	N=18	2%	N=19	100%	N=772
Adults age 65 years and over	71%	N=550	14%	N=109	14%	N=111	0%	N=2	0%	N=0	0%	N=0	100%	N=772



Table 58: Question D12

Please indicate your household's annual income:	Percent	Number
Under \$15,000	3%	N=21
\$15,000-\$24,999	3%	N=22
\$25,000-\$34,999	6%	N=40
\$35,000-\$49,999	7%	N=49
\$50,000-\$74,999	16%	N=112
\$75,000-\$99,999	15%	N=107
\$100,000-\$149,999	21%	N=148
\$150,000-\$199,999	12%	N=87
\$200,000 or more	17%	N=118
Total	100%	N=704

## Appendix B: Verbatim Responses to Survey Questions

The 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 listed in alphabetical order.

### Question 2: What one thing do you like most about living in Dakota County? (Other)

- ◆ All of the above
- ◆ Close to family
- ◆ Close to family.
- ◆ Diversity
- ◆ Ha ha ha!
- ◆ I can't think of anything I particularly enjoy about Dakota county
- ◆ I've always lived here
- ◆ Lack of Democrats in my area
- ◆ Low rent prices.
- ◆ Lower rent.
- ◆ My family is here, otherwise it has changed too much and I would move.
- ◆ Never lived anywhere else.
- ◆ NONE OF THE ABOVE.
- ◆ NONE.
- ◆ Nothing!
- ◆ Parks & Trails.
- ◆ Safety.
- ◆ The bars.

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

#### Crime and safety issues

- ◆ Avoiding the increase in crime that we see in Hennepin and Ramsey Counties.
- ◆ Car breakins are frequent.
- ◆ Crime
- ◆ Crime
- ◆ Crime
- ◆ Crime
- ◆ Crime
- ◆ Crime
- ◆ Crime
- ◆ Crime
- ◆ Crime

- ◆ Crime
- ◆ Crime
- ◆ Crime
- ◆ crime coming down from Minneapolis/St Paul
- ◆ Crime coming from the cities
- ◆ Crime from outside of city.
- ◆ Crime in Burnsville, crime coming out from Minneapolis.
- ◆ Crime, burglaries, safety.
- ◆ Crime.
- ◆ Crime.
- ◆ CRIME.
- ◆ CRIME.
- ◆ CRIME.
- ◆ Crime. I don't feel as safe as I used to 10-15 years ago.
- ◆ Dangerous crime has been more prevalent it feels
- ◆ Gangs
- ◆ Lack of enforcement in traffic violation's (speeding is a massive issue) and lack of traffic safety.
- ◆ Lack of enforcement of rules of the road (speed, inattentive, aggressive and generally bad behavior by drivers) by police. It's like the rules don't matter anymore, or they just don't care enough to enforce them anymore, or they are too intimidated to enforce them. Also, a general disregard of resident issues in their neighborhood when reporting them. In my experience, calls go unanswered and are generally ignored.
- ◆ Lack of police presence as a visible deterrent to speeding, Ignoring traffic control devices.
- ◆ Low income influx and crime that has come with it.
- ◆ People coming to our community from lower city - crime (do not link w transit).
- ◆ public safety - large number of car accidents in rosemount
- ◆ Rise in crime.
- ◆ Rising crime, Lakeville specifically. Open up county Rds to UTVs throughout county.
- ◆ Robo a mano armado en las ciudades de miniapolis y Sam Pol
- ◆ Safe aboving.
- ◆ Safety
- ◆ SAFETY OF ITS RESIDENTS.
- ◆ Safety.
- ◆ Securing and investment.
- ◆ SECURITY OF FIRT RESPONDERS.
- ◆ The fact that we still have a sheriff's department.
- ◆ Vulnerability to crime.

### **Affordable housing**

- ◆ Affordability - housing costs plus State, City, School and County taxes

- ◆ affordability of housing and child care
- ◆ affordable housing
- ◆ Affordable housing
- ◆ Affordable Housing
- ◆ Affordable housing & transportation.
- ◆ affordable housing and transportation
- ◆ Affordable housing for families, food costs, gross tasting water.
- ◆ Affordable housing for low middle class. Taxes increase too much
- ◆ Affordable housing for lower income people and senior citizens.
- ◆ Affordable housing for lower middle class people.
- ◆ Affordable housing for seniors.
- ◆ Affordable housing for seniors.
- ◆ Affordable housing taxes.
- ◆ Affordable housing, especially for chemically/ mentally impaired.
- ◆ affordable housing, transportation
- ◆ Affordable housing.
- ◆ Affordable housing.
- ◆ Affordable housing.
- ◆ Affordable housing.
- ◆ Affordable housing.
- ◆ Affordable housing.
- ◆ Affordable housing.
- ◆ Affordable housing.
- ◆ AFFORDABLE HOUSING.
- ◆ affordable housing. available employment wages do not match housing costs.
- ◆ Affordable housing/apts older.
- ◆ As a County Government - Affordable housing. BUT for individual RESIDENTS, the Environment. Including taking better care with water usage, trash & recycling, and conserving energy. Encouraging residents to care more, and get on board to acknowledge, accept, and take measures to mitigate each person's or family's environmental impact.
- ◆ Cost of housing
- ◆ Cost of housing
- ◆ Cost of housing
- ◆ cost of housing and over building of apartments.
- ◆ Cost of housing.
- ◆ high property taxes
- ◆ High property taxes
- ◆ High property taxes-excessive increases impacts those on fixed income more than others

- ◆ High property taxes. Senior citizens should not pay school taxes! on a discount.
- ◆ High rent costs.
- ◆ High rent.
- ◆ Housing
- ◆ Housing
- ◆ Housing
- ◆ Housing - retail opportunities.
- ◆ Housing affordability
- ◆ Housing affordability.
- ◆ HOUSING AFFORDABILITY.
- ◆ Housing and property taxes
- ◆ Housing cost.
- ◆ Housing cost.
- ◆ Housing expanding very quickly and infrastructure not in place for it
- ◆ Housing for poor.
- ◆ Housing for those that are approaching retirement and older
- ◆ Housing of non Americans
- ◆ Housing, roads, police response and presence.
- ◆ Housing.
- ◆ Housing.
- ◆ Housing.
- ◆ Housing.
- ◆ lack of affordable housing - not just for first-time buyers but for second- and third-time purchasers
- ◆ Lack of affordable housing -- "starter" homes, affordable rentals
- ◆ Lack of affordable housing & growing homelessness.
- ◆ One of the most serious issues facing this county is the lack of fair and ethical housing practices. Many property managers engage in unethical behavior, particularly toward low-income renters and single applicants. In recent years, there has been an increasing trend of requiring nonrefundable deposits or move-in fees before lease approval, which can leave applicants financially vulnerable if they are denied or choose to go elsewhere. This practice contributes to housing insecurity, making it even harder for individuals and families to find stable and affordable living situations
- ◆ Rent costs are way too high!
- ◆ Rising home prices
- ◆ Rising housing costs
- ◆ Take.
- ◆ Takes & affordable housing.
- ◆ The lack of affordable housing.
- ◆ Unaffordable housing and childcare.

**Taxes**

- ◆ 1. HIGH TAXSE. 2. INFLATION. 3. CRIME.
- ◆ Always asking for more money rising property tax. Too many referendums.
- ◆ CONTINUOUS TAX INCREASES.
- ◆ Extremely high property taxes and lack of corresponding services
- ◆ HIGH RESIDENTIAL TAXES.
- ◆ High tax
- ◆ High taxes
- ◆ High taxes
- ◆ High taxes
- ◆ High taxes and rising crime
- ◆ High taxes-property taxes.
- ◆ High Taxes, no jobs for seniors, crime seems to be increasing in the last year or two - don't feel as safe as once did
- ◆ High taxes.
- ◆ High taxes.
- ◆ High taxes.
- ◆ High taxes.
- ◆ HIGH TAXES.
- ◆ High taxes. More crime;
- ◆ Higher property tax, climate change.
- ◆ home taxes are > 20% of my after-tax social security income. I am very close to having to sell my home as a consequence.
- ◆ INCREASING COST OF PROPERTY TAXES.
- ◆ Increasing Taxes
- ◆ Keep taxes low while fighting crime
- ◆ Keeping property taxes down
- ◆ Keeping property taxes down so you can stay in your home when, you retire [?] on a fixed income.
- ◆ Our property taxes have gotten way too high. We need to cut some unnecessary programs and cut taxes
- ◆ Property Tax increases
- ◆ Property Taxes
- ◆ Property taxes are rising too quickly.
- ◆ property taxes for senior citizens and affordable housing for our younger children
- ◆ Property taxes too high.
- ◆ Property taxes.
- ◆ PROPERTY TAXES.
- ◆ Raising taxes and fees. Adding fees to vehicle tags ect.
- ◆ Rising property taxes

- ◆ Rising taxes
- ◆ Rising taxes
- ◆ rising taxes - with the 1000's of new homes generating new taxes, why do individual taxes continue at such a high rate
- ◆ rising taxes at city and county level
- ◆ Rising taxes.
- ◆ Rising taxes.
- ◆ Rising taxes.
- ◆ RISING TAXES.
- ◆ Significant increases in property taxes in recent years
- ◆ Stop increasing taxes on houses. Stop increasing low income housing without increasing available shopping to counter balance the amount of housing, especially in the WSP/IGH area. You aren't able to support the amount of people moving into the area with food/goods.
- ◆ TAXE'S ARE WAY TO HIGH.
- ◆ Taxes
- ◆ Taxes
- ◆ Taxes
- ◆ Taxes - crime.
- ◆ Taxes & affordable housing for the elderly.
- ◆ Taxes and costs. Water/sewer has gone up with fixed portions. Economics matter to people.
- ◆ Taxes and crime.
- ◆ Taxes and public safety at the county attorney level and judges.
- ◆ Taxes are sky rocketing while the overall feeling in the community and specifically the schools in Lakeville have gone down in the past couple years
- ◆ Taxes are too high in Farmington!
- ◆ Taxes to high
- ◆ Taxes too high
- ◆ TAXES TOO HIGH SCHOOL REFERENDUMS-TOO MANY/JUST ANOTHER TAX.
- ◆ Taxes-property.
- ◆ Taxes.
- ◆ Taxes.
- ◆ Taxes.
- ◆ Taxes.
- ◆ TAXES.
- ◆ TAXES.
- ◆ TAXES.
- ◆ TAXES.
- ◆ TAXES.
- ◆ TAXES.

- ◆ The ever increasing property taxes.
- ◆ the tax base.

### **Growth / Development**

- ◆ ABILITY TO SAFELY MANAGE GROWTH & BALANCE CHANGES.
- ◆ Building residential homes/buildings. Loss of farm land
- ◆ Building too many apartments to bring in more people. Infrastructure is not able to handle it.
- ◆ Building too many big condo, apt. I like to keep spaces open & green.
- ◆ Commercial Business Growth in Farmington Area
- ◆ Controlled growth.
- ◆ controlling development and water resources
- ◆ County is filling up.
- ◆ Creation of excessive multi family & low income housing.
- ◆ CROWDING [?].
- ◆ Density infill development / car centric development
- ◆ Development
- ◆ Development and losing our green space
- ◆ Development pressure and groundwater and natural area impacts
- ◆ Development/zoning/ starter home housing
- ◆ Expanding too fast which will lead to us becoming "inner city".
- ◆ expansion - we need controlled growth
- ◆ Growing so fast and school agendas
- ◆ growing too fast
- ◆ GROWING TOO FAST.
- ◆ Growth & no overall plan for improving community gathering plans.
- ◆ Growth for the sake of growth. It raises cost of living for everyone.
- ◆ Growth in Hastings - student enrollment is low
- ◆ Growth management, roads and traffic especially
- ◆ GROWTH.
- ◆ Increase in new builds :(((
- ◆ Increased population.
- ◆ INCREASED POPULATION.
- ◆ Increasing population of seniors, affordable housing.
- ◆ Losing that "small town" type feel due to the massive growth/housing
- ◆ Over building apartments, removal of green spaces.
- ◆ Over development
- ◆ Over development and population growth
- ◆ Over development of green spaces. Stop moss transit projects.
- ◆ Over population.



- ◆ Over population/no farms green space left.
- ◆ Population growth.
- ◆ Rapid expansion
- ◆ Rapid grow that could deter from the county's rural character.
- ◆ Rapid growth of housing. Possibly straining resources.
- ◆ Rapid growth of some towns, leading to less affordable housing
- ◆ Rapid population growth
- ◆ Rapid urbanization. Many areas, previously marked as natural habitats, are been developed under new construction.
- ◆ Reserving culture of county rather than building so many townhomes -> Gentrification.
- ◆ The constant development by developers! Unfriendly rules, nasty people. Too many people, expensive place. It is a awfull place.
- ◆ The Dakota County suburbs are turning into the Twin Cities. Crime is up, and our education system has gone down.
- ◆ The problem or what it could become is way way to much development, that does not contribute to farmers but only hurts them especially young or [?] the need to trans [?] to not [?].
- ◆ The tremendous population growth in Rosemount and the increased traffic flow on Ct Rds 42 and 46.
- ◆ TO MANY APARTMENTS/TOWNHOMES.
- ◆ To many rental units of people that have no skin in the game, and don't really care about our community.
- ◆ Too late now, but building living spaces on the busiest street in W. St. Paul, so noisy.
- ◆ Too liberal government spending.
- ◆ Too many 4 story townhouses, really viable for single resident/couple or (if allowed) 2 single renters.
- ◆ Too many apartment buildings being buit one what once was a stone of trees on open space.
- ◆ Too many apartments
- ◆ Too many apartments being built in Burnsville; there will be way more traffic (cars on the road and congestion)
- ◆ TOO MANY APTS.
- ◆ Too many huge apartments. Not enough green space.
- ◆ Too much development.
- ◆ Too much growth
- ◆ Too much high density housing! This trend in development has significantly increased traffic and congestion. It is not as good for families and children as having more single family housing. It increases pollution I. Our communities, and brings in more crime. (I've noticed a lot more graffiti than in the past.)
- ◆ Too much housing development
- ◆ Too much multi family rental

- ◆ Urban sprawl - not utilizing existing spaces efficiently (commercial spaces not well integrated with residential) and not protecting natural resources and spaces
- ◆ Urban sprawl. There is too much development.
- ◆ Way too many low-income units. Diversity is our greatest strength is also our greatest weakness. STOP with the building, especially in Burnsville. We now have a bad reputation in Burnsville (schools, crime, standard of living, etc.) and the powers that be have almost ruined this beautiful city.

### **Sense of community, diversity, etc.**

- ◆ Ability to maintain the strong community we've built fighting the national government.
- ◆ Communities not accepting diversity
- ◆ Cultural diversity and inclusion as the population struggles with substance use and affordability
- ◆ DEI 8.
- ◆ Developing an overall sense of community throughout the county that supports both residential life and business/industrial development. Secondly, the need for continued development and upkeep of roads, highways and transit systems will require extensive planning in both location and economics.
- ◆ DIVERSITY.
- ◆ Equity, hate, divided as a community.
- ◆ For the first time in my life I've been discriminated against & I'm too poor for [?] so what do I do.
- ◆ How 'old' sep people are with "new" people (esp of any color)!
- ◆ Lack of diversity with respect to race and socio-economic status. Dakota County seems heavily skewed white and relatively wealthy.
- ◆ Lack of Diversity, and high prices
- ◆ Lack of open mindedness. Too much conservite thinking. Too much Trumpism.
- ◆ Need to encourage more diversp (maybe denser?) population.
- ◆ No community
- ◆ people divided
- ◆ racial diversity in the community
- ◆ Racism
- ◆ We need to be and remain a welcoming community to all people. Don't let racism and fear win here.
- ◆ We need to do more to help our neighbors with disabilities. Access and programing should be the highest priority.

### **Condition of roads**

- ◆ CONDITION OF ROAD SURFACES.
- ◆ Condition of streets and roads.
- ◆ Dangerous intersections that are met with no action to fix them/make them safer.
- ◆ deteriorating local roads--some are in pretty bad shape
- ◆ Fixing roads.

- ◆ One thing I would love to see them focus on is vulnerable road user safety. pedestrians school kids, bikes, etc,
- ◆ Road infrastructure and water quality
- ◆ Road infrastructure. Maintenance
- ◆ Road maintenance.
- ◆ Road repair & property taxes.
- ◆ Roads - aging roads.
- ◆ Roads- can't keep up with traffic needs - all roads should be paved and maintained by Dakota County - not townships - townships no consistency.
- ◆ ROADS.
- ◆ ROADS.
- ◆ Streets are chewed-up.

### **Traffic congestion**

- ◆ Car Accidents
- ◆ Congested Highway 3.
- ◆ Congestion.
- ◆ Highways.
- ◆ Hwy 3 can not support the traffic in Rosemount
- ◆ Increasing traffic causing slower commutes.
- ◆ Traffic congestion Co. Rd. 42 & Cedar avenue.
- ◆ Traffic congestion in areas where there is a housing boom
- ◆ traffic congestion in the northern parts of the county (Burnsville, Apple Valley, Eagan, etc)
- ◆ Traffic congestion, speeding and disregard of traffic rules. Climate change.
- ◆ Traffic congestion.
- ◆ Traffic from the amount of growth in the south suburbs
- ◆ Traffic housing, growth, too diverse, safety, child care.
- ◆ Traffic lawlessness/ enforcement
- ◆ Traffic safety, especially with growing population in Rosemount leading to more cars on the road
- ◆ Traffic-the timing of lights for traffic creates massive buildup of cars. Head to head turn arrows are needed to fix problem for one thing.
- ◆ traffic, speeding, safety
- ◆ Traffic; Reckless driving; reduce the speed limit and enforce.
- ◆ Traffic.
- ◆ TRAFFIC.

### **Schools**

- ◆ As cities age and demographics change, are the cities prepared to keep the quality of the schools at the level they should be.
- ◆ Education

- ◆ Education.
- ◆ Funding and budget cuts for schools
- ◆ Funding education
- ◆ Lack of funding in education.
- ◆ Not enough help and no equal rights for special education.
- ◆ Possibly supporting public schools.
- ◆ Public school cost vs quality. We moved our children to a private school despite paying high taxes to help the public schools. The public schools in IGH have not demonstrated they exhausted options to improve the schools before asking for a special assessment for more money. We at least do not know what they did to prove they were efficient with the existing budget.
- ◆ quality of education
- ◆ Quality of education.
- ◆ Quality of elementary & secondary education.
- ◆ Reaping schools honest and out of influence.
- ◆ School funding
- ◆ Schools, options/ opportunities for children with disabilities. Staffing at are schools for these children. Also, the violence and fights within school and how things get handled or not handled is frustrating. Mainly because our schools do not have the resources they truly need. Staff is burning out and not at their best regularly.
- ◆ Taxpayers nor funding schools

### **Economic development**

- ◆ BUSINESSES, SHOPPING STORES.
- ◆ Continuing to attract a high level of corporate investment.
- ◆ economic development for everyone and transportation availability for it
- ◆ Economic hardships for all
- ◆ Economy, inflation, taxes
- ◆ Economy.
- ◆ Having enough locations of more locally-owned businesses (restaurants, bars, retail, etc). We tend to have a LOT of chain establishments and not much small business locations. Especially in newer developed buildings.
- ◆ I live in Burnsville. I think attracting new business is important. The future of Burnsville mall is also a question. So I guess I would say economic issues are the most serious issues facing Dakota County.
- ◆ Maintaining businesses tax base. Many large companies have left the city of Eagan
- ◆ money
- ◆ Money/stiffing/ housing for those w/mental health issues.
- ◆ Quality Employment
- ◆ redevelopment of aging business areas such as Burnsville Center.
- ◆ Retaining Dakota County employees such as Deputies, Social Workers etc.
- ◆ Technology and large businesses moving in with minimal job creation

- ◆ The collapse of commercial property values along CR 42 due to the death of the Burnsville Center.

**Homelessness and poverty**

- ◆ Addressing homelessness.
- ◆ Homeless population.
- ◆ HOMELESSNESS, AFFORDABLE HOUSING.
- ◆ HOMELESSNESS.
- ◆ Increase in homeless population/pan-handeling.
- ◆ Panhandlers on the corners in Apple Valley.
- ◆ Placing a homeless shelter right in the heart of eagan
- ◆ TO MANY PEOPLE NEED HELP.

**Public transportation**

- ◆ Express transit/lightrail from Western Dakota county to downtown, airport, MOA. Unused rail lines exist!
- ◆ Lack of metro availability. I have to commute to Minneapolis for work & there is no direct routes to downtown-and the available routes to St. Paul are limited.
- ◆ Lack of public transit route options
- ◆ lack of public transportation serving the county
- ◆ mass transit options
- ◆ Public transportation and affordable housing
- ◆ Public transportation needs increased coverage.
- ◆ transportation
- ◆ Transportation and cost of living.
- ◆ Transportation-public
- ◆ Transportation.

**Updating infrastructure**

- ◆ Infrastructure
- ◆ Infrastructure falling behind population growth
- ◆ INFRASTRUCTURE.
- ◆ The rate of growth is too high for the existing infrastructure.

**Jobs**

- ◆ Jobs that pay enough to make a living.

**Preserving natural areas/protecting natural resources**

- ◆ Decline of natural spaces due to housing developr
- ◆ Farm land being taken up for housing/industrial.
- ◆ I really don't like the destruction of trees.
- ◆ Keeping green space and avoiding over crowding save farmland.
- ◆ Keeping open spaces as development continue.

- ◆ Loss of green space. Large developments where all the homes look the same.
- ◆ Loss of prime agricultural land.
- ◆ Open green space!
- ◆ Preserving nature while increasing growth.
- ◆ shrinking greenspaces
- ◆ towns taking over green space, farmland.

**Government spending**

- ◆ Additional budget expansion/spending
- ◆ Allocating resources considering the turmoil in US right now.
- ◆ budget
- ◆ DISGUSTING MISUSE OF COUNTY, STATE & FEDERAL FUNDS (TAXES) FOR A BICYCLE TRAIL (STUPID!!!).
- ◆ Government spending significantly outpacing inflation and the ability of those on fixed incomes to pay their property taxes.
- ◆ Large county to try and give benefits to everyone
- ◆ Over spending on unnecessary projects.
- ◆ Social services for non-citizens.
- ◆ spending is too high resulting in high tax increases
- ◆ Staying within a budget-not excessively spending on trails few use.
- ◆ Using our tax dollars efficiently
- ◆ Using taxpayer & for unnecessary round-about! and misc. unneeded "improvements".

**Teen drug/alcohol use**

- ◆ Drugs
- ◆ Drugs!!!
- ◆ Drugs(illegal).

**Pollution/environmental concerns**

- ◆ As anywhere pollution - our environment.
- ◆ Balancing growth with environmental concerns/diversity of housing options
- ◆ climate change
- ◆ Climate change
- ◆ Climate change readiness.
- ◆ Climate change.
- ◆ Climate issues and affordable housing
- ◆ Conservation and environmental issues.
- ◆ Continue to improve quality & health of environment.
- ◆ Continual use of DC as a dumping ground & contaminated drinking [?].
- ◆ Drinking water quality. Change the laws with the white lines in the road because you cannot not cross over a lot of them to get in the lane that you want to but the police can ticket you and it's entrapment, so make it not a traffic offense for crossing a solid white

line because it's too expensive to fix all the lines positions. The parks definitely need more park benches. As we age if somebody's using that bench it's too far to walk to the next one. The Burnsville mall should turn into a hotel and a place with a comedy club and country band and rock band and fun little places to eat in the food court as you could spend the whole weekend there!!!

- ◆ environmental care i.e., recycling care of our free space, better building practices
- ◆ Environment
- ◆ Environment
- ◆ Environment and non driving options.
- ◆ Environmental health with all the industry here i.e. Koch Refinery.
- ◆ For us, quality of household water -- taste, smell are poor (unappealing) and iron content is exceptionally high.
- ◆ Global warming, left unaddressed, will eventually affect everything.
- ◆ Gopher recycle. not forcing new communities to have parks and community centers, IGH water quality, not enough sport complexes for our kids, too much building going on without having the correct infrastructure in place first.
- ◆ I'm worried that environmental programs such as community composting sites and [?] for parks initiatives like planting prairies and removal of invasives will lose their funding or just go away because of political pressure.
- ◆ Like many places; climate change. We could use more sustainable practices such as less single use plastics (ex. grocery bags) & having more renewable energy (solar, wind, etc).
- ◆ Maintaining green initiatives to help our planet in midst of current political situation.
- ◆ pollution
- ◆ Pollution, preserving wild spaces, personal freedom from pesticide/herbicide pollution.
- ◆ Salt runoff polluting bodies of water and degrading the quality of the soil.
- ◆ Sustainability of natural resources; with lack of rain, may need to find ways of encouraging less water use

### **Water quality**

- ◆ Clean water free PFC
- ◆ Clean water, sprawl.
- ◆ Forever Chemicals in both Surface and Ground Water, and Climate Adaptation
- ◆ Gross water issues, no jobs, crime (shootings).
- ◆ H2O.
- ◆ our poor water
- ◆ PFAS and other water issues
- ◆ PFAS in drinking water.
- ◆ PFAS in water (Hastings).
- ◆ PFAS in water supply
- ◆ PFAS in water.
- ◆ PFAS-water quality.
- ◆ Poor water quality

- ◆ Quality of drinking water in Hastings.
- ◆ The quality of the water
- ◆ Water
- ◆ Water & affordable housing.
- ◆ Water & inflation.
- ◆ Water issue in Hastings
- ◆ Water issues
- ◆ Water problems.
- ◆ water quality
- ◆ Water quality
- ◆ Water quality
- ◆ Water quality
- ◆ Water Quality
- ◆ WATER QUALITY
- ◆ Water quality and environment
- ◆ Water quality in [?!]
- ◆ Water quality in Inver Grove Heights
- ◆ Water quality issues from 3M plant has given us forever chemicals, and we don't get a new water plant, but get increased water bills to help. Unjustified. Especially when I see Washington county cities getting money from 3M and building new water treatment facilities
- ◆ WATER QUALITY WHEN 3M HAD WATER PROBLEMS AT COTTAGE GROVE & ETC, HASTING SHOULD HAVE GOT MORE MONEY FROM THE STATE; BEING DOWN RIVER FROM THE POLLUTION FROM THE PLANT.
- ◆ Water quality.
- ◆ Water quality.
- ◆ Water quality.
- ◆ WATER QUALITY.
- ◆ Water, taxes.
- ◆ Water.
- ◆ Water.
- ◆ Water.
- ◆ The water in Hastings & other communities around Hastings.

### Noise pollution

- ◆ Airport noise
- ◆ Airport noise
- ◆ Data center issues.
- ◆ Data centers
- ◆ Data centers trying to come in water + ELE???
- ◆ Data centers.



- ◆ Data Parks (please do not allow due to noise pollution, environment) and Farmington not having a Grocery Store
- ◆ NOISE AIRCRAFT & TRAFFIC SPEED IN APPLE VALLEY.
- ◆ The significant increase in planned data centers in Dakota County. These all have the potential to have dire consequences on our quality of life and natural resources. They will ruin communities.

### **Quality of county services**

- ◆ Availability of sporting facilities, basketball courts and soccer fields
- ◆ Better trails + walking paths/sidewalks.
- ◆ Lack of youth hockey and indoor soccer facilities
- ◆ Lake Bylesby-recreation lake with lake sailing in.
- ◆ Need more golf courses and lack of indoor pickleball for working adults.
- ◆ No community spaces or centers
- ◆ Providing services for diverse and needy populations; housing, employment, and mental health needs.
- ◆ SENIOR CITIZEN SERVICES.
- ◆ Services that support low-income families work too slow.

### **Political divisions**

- ◆ Aggressive overreach of government destroying our culture & way of life.
- ◆ An unfriendly federal gov't.
- ◆ county gov. shifting to far left
- ◆ Dakota county leadership are obsessed with "diversifying" the county, and as a consequence they are privileging other ethnicities over long standing Minnesotans. This needs to stop.
- ◆ Democrats.
- ◆ Having democrats run the state
- ◆ I cannot determine... perhaps polit party oppositions?
- ◆ Influence from liberal governor who cares more about looking good than doing good.
- ◆ Inner city democrats making policies that affect rural areas where they do not live.
- ◆ Liberal - leftist philosophy of the schools, woke [?].
- ◆ Mandates by Trump.
- ◆ Not letting the MASA idiots take [?] everything down.
- ◆ Political apathy
- ◆ Political divide.
- ◆ Political divisions.
- ◆ Political divisiveness.
- ◆ President Trump
- ◆ President Trump.
- ◆ Remaining to be aligned with being a Constitutional Republic and not succumbing to ideology detrimental to the safety and prosperity of its residents.

- ◆ REPUBLICANS.
- ◆ Same as nationally-unpredictability of federal govt law enforce.
- ◆ Tending towards to much progressive thinking
- ◆ That Trump is president, scams.
- ◆ The liberal leftist influence of politicians and lack of support for families to choose schools that are best for their children.
- ◆ The transgender ideology being taught as normal and praiseworthy to our children.
- ◆ Threat of right wing nut jobs on the school board. No offense.
- ◆ Trump-and climate change together.

### **Inflation**

- ◆ Affordable childcare
- ◆ Affordable childcare and senior care
- ◆ Affordable living
- ◆ Affordable living is super hard. You got to have a car to get to a job, the cost of child care is off the charts, housing whether a family, single, to retired is very expensive, and finally the county taxes are complaint on social media neighborhoods and city groups.
- ◆ Affordable living, homes, townhomes, apartments, to expensive.
- ◆ As everywhere cost of groceries
- ◆ Balancing quality of life and affordability
- ◆ Child care costs.
- ◆ Cost of living increased.
- ◆ Cost of living.
- ◆ Cost of living. My property taxes, like everyone else, have gone up every year.
- ◆ Energy costs, property taxes.
- ◆ Inflation
- ◆ Inflation
- ◆ Inflation
- ◆ Keeping ahead of inflation in order to maintain same level of county services.
- ◆ Keeping costs under control.
- ◆ Lack of affordable childcare.
- ◆ Making it a place for everyone-not just the financially blessed.
- ◆ managing a budget in times of inflation
- ◆ Price
- ◆ Price of everything fees increasing at a very high rate.
- ◆ Price of living.
- ◆ Public tax dollars being deeply limited even as inflation continues
- ◆ WELFARE HIGH COST.

### **Other**

- ◆ Antiquated approach to gender issues at Dakota hills middle school.

- ◆ As people reach later retirement, not enough one level town homes.
- ◆ Buying into the fake climate crisis and allowing inefficient energy sources ( wind and solar) and allowing DEI policies to override merit and quality performance.
- ◆ Controlling unions representing county employees.
- ◆ Election integrity the need more transparency.
- ◆ Excessive emphasis on matters beyond local control.
- ◆ Expensive housing economic disparity/uneven distribution of wealth.
- ◆ GROCERY STORE.
- ◆ Healthy foods
- ◆ Illegal Immigrants.
- ◆ Illegals.
- ◆ Increase in immigration.
- ◆ ISD 196 not open to private schools
- ◆ Lack of occupancy in BVL center.
- ◆ Lack of sidewalks in neighborhoods and around businesses (like Walmart)
- ◆ Low income housing.
- ◆ MA program depends only on assets not debt (if you need MA you have debt & not used in calculations. Driving me worse in debt.
- ◆ Maintaining the local older neighborhoods as single family own and not just rental property
- ◆ Making this a Sanctuary city.
- ◆ MEDICAL BILLS, AMBULANCE BILLS, PRESCRIPTION COSTS.
- ◆ None burglary.
- ◆ Not as much "quality of life" as one would expect for amount of taxes paid!
- ◆ Not as not businesses to support all of the times.
- ◆ Not much stores or development.
- ◆ Overpaid Commissioners commissioning pointless surveys like this that will not be acted upon, unless the answers already conform to their current thinking. This survey is a categorical waste of our tax dollars, and your time. It's high time you get your heads out of your butts and address the issues that need your attention. Not deflecting them with these dumb surveys. You already know what needs to be done. Just do it! I'm sure your thinking, "we needed to find out what the people were thinking" Well, the only thing I'm thinking about is the wasted money spent on this survey. I hope you publish the cost. I'm sure it's laughable. Reading ahead on this survey, it appears you got spanked for not having any low income housing. Eagan, Apple Valley, Rosemount and Burnsville are not the place to expand low income housing. It has a negative affect on home values and invites crime.
- ◆ PROGRAMS TO ATTRACT FREELoadERS.
- ◆ Psychological issues on people.
- ◆ Retaining young families
- ◆ Secrecy and untrustworthy Dakota country give commission actions.

- ◆ SNOW.
- ◆ Social isolation
- ◆ Social Justice
- ◆ Squirrels, would like to see a bounty on them. Thank you.
- ◆ Still trying to find out about Dakota County and I do run into road blocks.
- ◆ The crackdown on undocumented people will soon tear apart the community "cause a severe workforce shortage.
- ◆ The met council (and state representative bills) that small communities to accommodate multi-unit housing. People move to Dakota county for more space, and should not be punished for being able to afford this.
- ◆ TOO MANY NON CITIZENS.
- ◆ too many squirrels
- ◆ Transparency in tax money.
- ◆ WE NEED MORE FACILITIES FOR IMMEDIATE TEEN AND ADULT MENTAL HEALTH CARE.

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

- ◆ A moral compass.
- ◆ A place for teens.
- ◆ A well stocked library with many old and older books, DVD, CD'S and a warm friendly [?] helpful staff with enough people.
- ◆ Activities for children/teens.
- ◆ Advertise programs more effectively.
- ◆ American flag.
- ◆ Book sale became less attractive.
- ◆ Children's summer programs.
- ◆ Don't ban books.
- ◆ Don't use library service.
- ◆ Drive-up book return.
- ◆ Efficient when I need material from somewhere else.
- ◆ Equipment tools available for check out.
- ◆ Handicap service to Wentworth is not good.
- ◆ I think self service hours is a bad idea.
- ◆ ILL.
- ◆ Information - ancestry.
- ◆ Kids summer reading prog.
- ◆ Lower taxes.
- ◆ More librarians.
- ◆ No book bans please!

- ◆ No censorship - free access to all.
- ◆ PEOPLE ARE VERY HELPFUL.
- ◆ Politically free.
- ◆ SIGN LANGUAGE!!
- ◆ Spaces for remote work.
- ◆ We love the library!

**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)**

- ◆ County news letters.
- ◆ Direct mail, emails.
- ◆ Don't know.
- ◆ Don't know.
- ◆ E-mail, snail mail.
- ◆ Email , texting or online forum some prefer speaking digitally
- ◆ Email campaigns.
- ◆ Email notices.
- ◆ Facebook, Instagram.
- ◆ flyers.
- ◆ I don't know.
- ◆ Joe Atkins does a great job to inform - emails.
- ◆ Look. Most people aren't in to Dakota County like you are. We've got \*\*\*\* to do and places to be. Just send me a damn email. It's 2025!
- ◆ Mail staff out to me and others. Let us no.
- ◆ Mail.
- ◆ Mail.
- ◆ Mail.
- ◆ MAIL.
- ◆ Mailers.
- ◆ Mailings to house [?] community meet block parties.
- ◆ Meet w/citizens at pre-advertised locations to discuss various topics.
- ◆ Meet where the people are: assisted living places, National Night Out, apartment complexes, shopping centers
- ◆ Myspace
- ◆ News papers-reports on decisions.
- ◆ Newsletters (mailed).
- ◆ Newsletters.
- ◆ Newspaper.
- ◆ Newspaper/letters to residents.

- ◆ No computer.
- ◆ Paper - mail.
- ◆ Phone/mailings.
- ◆ Post office mail.
- ◆ public meetings online/forums
- ◆ Rating options on a scale what they want most to least important.
- ◆ RESIDENTS SHOULD CONTACT THE COUNTY IF NEEDED.
- ◆ SURVEYS SUCH AS THIS.
- ◆ Targeted mailings.
- ◆ Text message.
- ◆ Text, email.
- ◆ Text.
- ◆ the evening or morning news
- ◆ This survey.
- ◆ Unknown.

**Question 22: What, if anything, prevents you or your household from using parks or natural lands more often? (Other)**

- ◆ AGE & HEALTH.
- ◆ AGE IS PROBLEM.
- ◆ Age.
- ◆ AGE.
- ◆ AGE.
- ◆ Age/balance issues.
- ◆ All is good.
- ◆ All the development and people.
- ◆ Basketball hoops.
- ◆ Break - ins of cars.
- ◆ Cold weather
- ◆ Crowded.
- ◆ Crowded.
- ◆ Current illnesses
- ◆ Disabled.
- ◆ DOG/PET FRIENDLY.
- ◆ Elderly age.
- ◆ Exploring other areas
- ◆ Falling.
- ◆ Have problems getting them.
- ◆ Health concerns

- ◆ Health issues
- ◆ Health.
- ◆ Health.
- ◆ Horse shoes?
- ◆ I am older also weathe.
- ◆ I don't have a car.
- ◆ I have depression that makes me apathetic to going outside, despite me loving to do so.
- ◆ I have lost interest in a few parks due to over-clearing under the guise of "restoration" = increased open prairie. It's hotter in the open and less pleasant for hikes.
- ◆ I'm 78; exercise yoga & taiche city based.
- ◆ In Trapp Farm park I don't feel safe when walking around the lake part of the bike path. There are very tall plants in the areas around the parking lot that block the view of parked cars there. I have seen some cars that appear to be using this as cover to watch the park area without being seen. This is not a good space for wild prairie plants and they should reconsider its use here, blocks cars moving around the lot.
- ◆ Making the time to use
- ◆ Medical reasons.
- ◆ My health sometime.
- ◆ My spouse had a stroke and is in recvoery. This has limited our outingxs in the past year.
- ◆ Nasty people running the lakes quality.
- ◆ Need back [?].
- ◆ New trails need plowing.
- ◆ No reason to, too old.
- ◆ Not enough fenced in dog parks it tends to get crowded in the few parks that are available
- ◆ OLD AGE.
- ◆ OLD-HARD TO WALK.
- ◆ People are walking dogs in the parks, and I don't care to be around dogs.
- ◆ Pickle ball played no courts?
- ◆ Private facilities are better.
- ◆ Sometimes.
- ◆ Too crowded.
- ◆ TOO OLD.
- ◆ Unleashed dogs on trails. Lebanon Hills.
- ◆ We got lazy!
- ◆ We have a cabin.
- ◆ Weather
- ◆ Weather
- ◆ weather extremes in the summer and winter
- ◆ Weather.
- ◆ Weather.

- ◆ Weather.
- ◆ Weather.
- ◆ Work.
- ◆ Worry about Catalytic converter thefts.

### Question 26: Which highway in Dakota County needs the most safety improvements?

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| ◆ #4.  | ◆ 3   |
| ◆ #55 at 52.   | ◆ 3   |
| ◆ 13   | ◆ 3   |
| ◆ 13   | ◆ 3   |
| ◆ 13   | ◆ 3   |
| ◆ 13   | ◆ 3   |
| ◆ 13   | ◆ 3   |
| ◆ 13   | ◆ 3   |
| ◆ 13   | ◆ 3   |
| ◆ 13   | ◆ 3   |
| ◆ 13   | ◆ 3   |
| ◆ 13 & 42.   | ◆ 3 but is a state hwy, so 46                     |
| ◆ 13 Hwy.  | ◆ 3 in WSP.                                       |
| ◆ 149 - Dodd Road  | ◆ 3? 42 by Cedar.                                 |
| ◆ 149 (Dodd) needs sidewalks/bikepaths.  | ◆ 31 Robert Trail.                                |
| ◆ 160th St.  | ◆ 316   |
| ◆ 170th street east of pilot knob to Hwy 3   | ◆ 35  |
| ◆ 179th and Glacier Way in Lakeville - VERY dangerous intersection since Dodd was re-routed. Make it a roundabout or stoplight to be safer for cars and pedestrians. | ◆ 35 E & (W).                                     |
| ◆ 185m street.   | ◆ 35 E/W 55, 62 all fine.                         |
| ◆ 2 Round-a-boat on loan car are too high-can't see cars coming around.  | ◆ 35 where it bottlenecks in Lakeville/Burnsville |
| ◆ 202nd St. - Lakeville.   | ◆ 35E   |
| ◆ 3  | ◆ 35w   |
| ◆ 3  | ◆ 35W   |
| ◆ 3  | ◆ 35W   |
| ◆ 3  | ◆ 35W   |
| ◆ 3  | ◆ 35W (Cty 50).                                   |
| ◆ 3  | ◆ 35W, Co Rd 42.                                  |
| ◆ 3  | ◆ 35w.  |
| ◆ 3  | ◆ 36  |
| ◆ 3  | ◆ 42  |
| ◆ 3  | ◆ 42  |
| ◆ 3  | ◆ 42  |



- |                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| ◆ 42                           | ◆ 47 in the winter sucks!   |
| ◆ 42                           | ◆ 494   |
| ◆ 42                           | ◆ 494   |
| ◆ 42                           | ◆ 494   |
| ◆ 42                           | ◆ 494   |
| ◆ 42                           | ◆ 494   |
| ◆ 42                           | ◆ 494 and 149.  |
| ◆ 42                           | ◆ 494 over the river in 50 St Paul.   |
| ◆ 42                           | ◆ 5   |
| ◆ 42                           | ◆ 50  |
| ◆ 42                           | ◆ 50  |
| ◆ 42                           | ◆ 50  |
| ◆ 42                           | ◆ 50 (Kenwood).   |
| ◆ 42                           | ◆ 50 through Lakeville.   |
| ◆ 42                           | ◆ 52  |
| ◆ 42                           | ◆ 52  |
| ◆ 42                           | ◆ 52  |
| ◆ 42                           | ◆ 52  |
| ◆ 42                           | ◆ 52  |
| ◆ 42                           | ◆ 52  |
| ◆ 42                           | ◆ 52  |
| ◆ 42                           | ◆ 52  |
| ◆ 42                           | ◆ 52 the 94 interchange is dangerous<br>(not sure if that's Dakota or Ramsey<br>thor my bad) otherwise most hwys<br>are fine in my opinion. |
| ◆ 42 & Cedar.                  | ◆ 52 too many people for 2 lanes.   |
| ◆ 42 + 46.                     | ◆ 55  |
| ◆ 42 needs traffic enforcement | ◆ 55  |
| ◆ 46                           | ◆ 55  |
| ◆ 46                           | ◆ 55  |
| ◆ 46                           | ◆ 55  |
| ◆ 46                           | ◆ 55  |
| ◆ 46                           | ◆ 55  |
| ◆ 46 & 3                       | ◆ 55  |
| ◆ 47                           | ◆ 55  |
| ◆ 47                           | ◆ 55  |
| ◆ 47                           | ◆ 55 between 42 and hastings  |

- ◆ 55 LESS LIGHTS.
- ◆ 55-46.
- ◆ 61
- ◆ 61
- ◆ 61
- ◆ 61
- ◆ 61
- ◆ 61 @ 494.
- ◆ 62
- ◆ 62
- ◆ 62
- ◆ 66
- ◆ 77
- ◆ 77
- ◆ 77
- ◆ 77
- ◆ 77
- ◆ 77
- ◆ 77/CEDAR.
- ◆ 94
- ◆ Akron
- ◆ all
- ◆ All of them by schools.
- ◆ ALL-ROAD RAGE EVERYWHERE.
- ◆ ALL, W/POLICE ENFORCING THE LAW.
- ◆ ALL.
- ◆ Any road or highway near any SCHOOL - whether it's a city street or County road
- ◆ Ask an engineer.
- ◆ bridge at us52 in coates mn
- ◆ C.R. 42.
- ◆ C.R.50.
- ◆ Cedar & 42.
- ◆ cedar ave
- ◆ Cedar Ave
- ◆ Cedar Ave
- ◆ Cedar Ave coming to/going out of Apple Valley.
- ◆ Cedar Ave South of 1st stoplight.
- ◆ Cedar Ave.
- ◆ Cedar Ave.
- ◆ Cedar Ave.
- ◆ Cedar hwy 77.
- ◆ Cedar reduce speed.
- ◆ Cedar.
- ◆ Co Rd 42
- ◆ Co Rd 42
- ◆ Co Rd 42 is used by most people
- ◆ Co Rd 42.
- ◆ Co rd 50, co rd 77
- ◆ Co Rd 62.
- ◆ Co. 42.
- ◆ Co. Rd 42/46.
- ◆ Co. Rd 46.
- ◆ Co. Rd. 42.
- ◆ Co. Ro. 42.
- ◆ Concord
- ◆ Country Road 42
- ◆ County 38
- ◆ County 38/McAndrews Rd
- ◆ County 42
- ◆ County 42
- ◆ County 46 at Biscayne Ave. Co. Rd. 46 narrows there and people are trying to cross (which I think should be eliminated) its become dangerous.
- ◆ County 46 in Lakeville & Apple Valley
- ◆ County 47/46
- ◆ County 5
- ◆ COUNTY 73.
- ◆ County Rd 42 & Biscayne in Rosemount.
- ◆ County Rd 42- highly congested with all the businesses. High speeds despite having stop lights. I don't even know how this can be improved. We have several highways like this.

- Maybe it's not so much the highway as it is for speed and responsibility of drivers.
- ◆ County Rd 42.
  - ◆ County Rd 42.
  - ◆ County Rd 42.
  - ◆ County Rd 46. People cross and make left turns with too much traffic. We're going to need more restrictions and lights before there are more accidents and deaths.
  - ◆ County Rd 50 and 42.
  - ◆ COUNTY RD 68.
  - ◆ County road 3
  - ◆ County Road 38
  - ◆ County road 42
  - ◆ County road 42
  - ◆ County road 42
  - ◆ County Road 42
  - ◆ County Road 42
  - ◆ County Road 42 - from Apple Valley (Pilot Knob) into Savage (Hwy 13)
  - ◆ County Road 42 between Chippendale and Highway 52
  - ◆ County road 42.
  - ◆ County Road 42.
  - ◆ County Road 42.
  - ◆ COUNTY ROAD 42.
  - ◆ County Road 46
  - ◆ county road 5
  - ◆ CR 13
  - ◆ CR 32
  - ◆ CR 42
  - ◆ CR 42
  - ◆ cr42
  - ◆ CSAH 42.
  - ◆ cty 13
  - ◆ Cty 60.
  - ◆ Cty Rd 13
  - ◆ Cty Rd 3.
  - ◆ Cty Rd 42.
  - ◆ Cty Rd 42.
  - ◆ Cty Rd 42.
  - ◆ Cty Rd 42.
  - ◆ CTY RD 42.
  - ◆ Cty Rd. 42.
  - ◆ CTY, 46.
  - ◆ Diamond Path
  - ◆ Difley Road Co 30.
  - ◆ Do not know.
  - ◆ Dodd
  - ◆ Dodd Blvd - cty 50 to cty 70.
  - ◆ Dodd Blvd.
  - ◆ Dodd Rd 149 by #62.
  - ◆ Don't
  - ◆ Don't have one.
  - ◆ Don't know
  - ◆ Don't know
  - ◆ Don't know
  - ◆ Don't know
  - ◆ Don't know
  - ◆ Don't know
  - ◆ Don't know
  - ◆ Don't know.
  - ◆ Don't know.
  - ◆ Don't know.
  - ◆ Don't know.
  - ◆ Don't know.
  - ◆ Don't know.
  - ◆ Don't know.
  - ◆ Don't know.
  - ◆ Don't know.
  - ◆ Don't know.
  - ◆ Don't know.
  - ◆ Don't know.
  - ◆ Don't know.
  - ◆ DON'T KNOW.
  - ◆ Downtown Lakeville.

- ◆ East/west signs on Cedar Avenue travelling through Apple Valley. Signs or very weathered and not very visible.
- ◆ Focusing specifically the condition of the exit and entrance ramps. Many of them are full of potholes and uneven pavement, making it difficult and even dangerous to merge on or off the highway. Hitting these rough patches at high speeds can damage vehicles
- ◆ Galaxy.
- ◆ Good questions, no idea.
- ◆ Hey 52
- ◆ highway 13
- ◆ Highway 13
- ◆ Highway 13
- ◆ Highway 13
- ◆ Highway 13
- ◆ Highway 13 & Nicollet.
- ◆ Highway 13.
- ◆ Highway 13.
- ◆ HIGHWAY 13.
- ◆ highway 3
- ◆ Highway 3
- ◆ Highway 3
- ◆ Highway 3
- ◆ Highway 3
- ◆ Highway 3
- ◆ Highway 3
- ◆ Highway 3
- ◆ Highway 3 and County Rd 42.
- ◆ Highway 3 at Bonaire needs a stop light or round a bout.
- ◆ Highway 3 between 16h [?].
- ◆ Highway 3 south of county 66 to Northfield
- ◆ Highway 3.
- ◆ Highway 3.
- ◆ Highway 3.
- ◆ Highway 3.
- ◆ HIGHWAY 3.
- ◆ HIGHWAY 3.
- ◆ highway 42
- ◆ Highway 42
- ◆ Highway 42
- ◆ Highway 42 near Biscayne Ave in Rosemount, a traffic light before this street would greatly improve safety and traffic flow in that area.
- ◆ highway 47
- ◆ Highway 50 at I35
- ◆ Highway 52
- ◆ Highway 52
- ◆ Highway 52 specially the exits to the cities.
- ◆ Highway 52.
- ◆ Highway 52.
- ◆ Highway 55
- ◆ HIGHWAY 55
- ◆ Highway 55 @ Argenta Trail.
- ◆ Highway 55 in Hastings. Corner of 47th and Pleasant in Hastings is very dangerous.
- ◆ Highway 61(Lillehei Ave) & 190th st
- ◆ Highway 62
- ◆ Hiway 13
- ◆ Hwy 13
- ◆ Hwy 13
- ◆ Hwy 13
- ◆ Hwy 13
- ◆ Hwy 13.
- ◆ Hwy 13.
- ◆ HWY 13.
- ◆ HWY 15.
- ◆ hwy 3
- ◆ Hwy 3
- ◆ Hwy 3
- ◆ Hwy 3
- ◆ Hwy 3
- ◆ Hwy 3

- ◆ Hwy 3
- ◆ Hwy 3
- ◆ Hwy 3
- ◆ HWY 3
- ◆ Hwy 3 and 55
- ◆ Hwy 3 and county 47
- ◆ Hwy 3!!
- ◆ Hwy 3.
- ◆ Hwy 3.
- ◆ Hwy 3.
- ◆ Hwy 3.
- ◆ Hwy 3.
- ◆ Hwy 3.
- ◆ Hwy 3.
- ◆ Hwy 3.
- ◆ Hwy 3.
- ◆ Hwy 3.
- ◆ Hwy 3.
- ◆ Hwy 3.
- ◆ Hwy 3.
- ◆ HWY 3.
- ◆ Hwy 3. The overall speeds need to be reduced, the stop lights need to be timed better, and the train between Rosemount and Eagan needs to be shut down!! Clearly, none of this will get done until someone gets killed.
- ◆ Hwy 31
- ◆ Hwy 31
- ◆ Hwy 316
- ◆ Hwy 42
- ◆ Hwy 42
- ◆ Hwy 42.
- ◆ HWY 42.
- ◆ Hwy 47 at 190th street
- ◆ Hwy 50 in Lakeville
- ◆ Hwy 50.
- ◆ Hwy 52
- ◆ Hwy 52
- ◆ Hwy 52
- ◆ Hwy 52 & 55.
- ◆ Hwy 52 at the 94/35/7th st interchange on Lafayette bridge (I think this is Ramsey Co though)
- ◆ Hwy 52 BETWEEN CONCORD & REFINERY.
- ◆ Hwy 52.
- ◆ Hwy 52.
- ◆ Hwy 52.
- ◆ Hwy 52.
- ◆ Hwy 52.
- ◆ Hwy 52. J turns very dangerous.
- ◆ Hwy 52/55
- ◆ Hwy 55
- ◆ Hwy 55 Blue Gentian.
- ◆ Hwy 55 out of [?] to Hastings.
- ◆ Hwy 55.
- ◆ Hwy 55.
- ◆ Hwy 55.
- ◆ Hwy 55/52.
- ◆ Hwy 66 @ Hwy 52.
- ◆ Hwy 77 - Cedar Ave.
- ◆ HWY 77.
- ◆ Hwy S
- ◆ Hwy. 52 going south to Rochester
- ◆ Hwy. 55 at hwy 52 intersection.
- ◆ Hy 52.
- ◆ I do not know of any. Roads I drive on regularly are find.
- ◆ I don't know
- ◆ I don't know
- ◆ I don't know.
- ◆ I don't know.
- ◆ I don't know.
- ◆ I don't know.
- ◆ I don't know.
- ◆ I-35 N at 185th and County Rd 50.
- ◆ Idk
- ◆ IDK

- ◆ Idk.
- ◆ If a county road counts-all just highway-let through hastings.
- ◆ Intersection of Hwy 6 & 190th St.
- ◆ Jacquard ave
- ◆ KENWOOD TRAIL.
- ◆ Lafayette Bridge (52).
- ◆ LOA [?] S OAK RD.
- ◆ Lone Oak Rd
- ◆ Lone Oak Road
- ◆ Make sure lighting is where it should be and keepThe roads lined
- ◆ McAndrews (by Costco).
- ◆ Miniapolis
- ◆ MN 3
- ◆ Most are OK at this time
- ◆ MY STREET CEDAR AVE.
- ◆ Need traffic calvar [?] & decent Likol [?].
- ◆ No clue.
- ◆ No concern
- ◆ No idea.
- ◆ No idea.
- ◆ No opinion.
- ◆ NO OPINION.
- ◆ None
- ◆ None come to mind.
- ◆ None in Northern Dakota.
- ◆ none that I know of
- ◆ None that I'm aware of.
- ◆ None, leave things alone and enough with the construction state wide!
- ◆ None.
- ◆ None.
- ◆ not sure
- ◆ Not sure
- ◆ Not sure
- ◆ Not sure
- ◆ Not sure, glad you asked.
- ◆ Not sure, they all seem pretty safe to me
- ◆ Not sure.
- ◆ Not sure.
- ◆ Not sure.
- ◆ Ones near Hastings
- ◆ Pilot knob
- ◆ Pilot Knob
- ◆ Pilot Knob
- ◆ Pilot Knob - No turn lanes in Eagan/Apple Valley area and traffic stops.
- ◆ Pilot knob road!!!!!! Esp intersection at Diamond Path dangerous!
- ◆ Pilot knob.
- ◆ Pilot Knob.
- ◆ PILOT KNOB.
- ◆ Riverwood Dr from 12 Ave to behind Aldis..
- ◆ Robert street (3); people going too fast, running red lights, turning out in front of moving traffic
- ◆ Robert trail
- ◆ Robert Trail
- ◆ Rosemount High school & Hwy 3.
- ◆ Round-about on Co. Rd 50 appears people drive too fast! Very dangerous to me.
- ◆ S Robert trail
- ◆ S. Robert Trail [3].
- ◆ state highway 13
- ◆ state hwy 3
- ◆ The 2 lane divided highways are all dangerous-County Road 3 needs lights to drive safely at night.
- ◆ The highways seem fine
- ◆ The intersection of Highway 55 and Argenta Trail. We feel the redesign of this intersection a few years ago has not improved the frequency and seriousness of accidents here.
- ◆ The ones who have the most accidents

- ◆ They all do! The traffic is horrible!!!  
And people go threw red lights all the  
time! To many people!!! I am not sure.  
It is all [?!]
- ◆ They are good.
- ◆ They have been improving a lot of the  
Hwys.
- ◆ Those I use are fine.
- ◆ To be honest the one's I travel seem to  
be in good shape.
- ◆ Traffic engra needs to make all  
leading/lagging left turn signals the  
same at all city controlled  
intersections could influence cities to  
do same.
- ◆ Unaware
- ◆ unknown
- ◆ Unknown.
- ◆ unsure
- ◆ Unsure.
- ◆ Upper 55th inner grove.
- ◆ We don't own a car, nor do we drive.
- ◆ Wentworth Ave btwn Dodd &  
Delaware - walking path & 30-35  
MPH speed limit on all Hwys north of  
Hwy 62
- ◆ Yankee Doodle and Argenta Trail  
intersection and 77th intersection.

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

- ◆ [?] ly42. Not a highway I know.
  - ◆ \* McAndrews & Diamond path needs a light.
  - ◆ #4.
  - ◆ #86.
  - ◆ 11
  - ◆ 13
  - ◆ 13
  - ◆ 13
  - ◆ 13
  - ◆ 13 from I35 to Washburn Ave
  - ◆ 13 in BNV
  - ◆ 179th and Glacier Way in Lakeville - VERY dangerous intersection since Dodd was re-routed. Make it a roundabout or stoplight to be safer for cars and pedestrians.
  - ◆ 3
  - ◆ 3
  - ◆ 3
  - ◆ 3
  - ◆ 3
  - ◆ 3
  - ◆ 3
- ◆ 3
  - ◆ 3
  - ◆ 3 and 55
  - ◆ 3 in WSP.
  - ◆ 35
  - ◆ 35
  - ◆ 35
  - ◆ 35
  - ◆ 35
  - ◆ 35 E
  - ◆ 35 E definitely high speeds.
  - ◆ 35 W/E split, Cty Rd 42.
  - ◆ 35 where it bottlenecks in Lakeville/Burnsville
  - ◆ 35, cedar
  - ◆ 35, often gets backed up on morning and evening commutes with only be 2 lanes where traffic gets on and off
  - ◆ 355
  - ◆ 35e
  - ◆ 35E
  - ◆ 35E
  - ◆ 35E (b/t 494&94).

◆ 35E, 62.	◆ 42
◆ 35n	◆ 42
◆ 35w	◆ 42
◆ 35w	◆ 42
◆ 35W	◆ 42
◆ 35W	◆ 42
◆ 35W	◆ 42
◆ 35W CTY RD 42.	◆ 42
◆ 35W, Co Rd 42.	◆ 42
◆ 35w.	◆ 42
◆ 35w.	◆ 42
◆ 35W.	◆ 42
◆ 35W.	◆ 42
◆ 35W.	◆ 42
◆ 35W/E.	◆ 42
◆ 42	◆ 42
◆ 42	◆ 42
◆ 42	◆ 42
◆ 42	◆ 42
◆ 42	◆ 42
◆ 42	◆ 42
◆ 42	◆ 42
◆ 42	◆ 42
◆ 42	◆ 42
◆ 42	◆ 42
◆ 42	◆ 42
◆ 42	◆ 42
◆ 42	◆ 42
◆ 42	◆ 42
◆ 42	◆ 42
◆ 42	◆ 42
◆ 42	◆ 42 & Cedar.
◆ 42	◆ 42 and Cedar
◆ 42	◆ 42 and 46
◆ 42	◆ 42 by the mall.
◆ 42	◆ 42 county road.
◆ 42	◆ 42 County road.
◆ 42	◆ 42 South Robert
◆ 42	◆ 42 with Rosemount growing safest I
◆ 42	worry about want it will due to traffic.



- ◆ 42?
- ◆ 42?
- ◆ 46
- ◆ 46
- ◆ 46
- ◆ 46
- ◆ 46
- ◆ 46 [?].
- ◆ 494
- ◆ 494
- ◆ 494
- ◆ 494
- ◆ 494
- ◆ 494
- ◆ 494
- ◆ 494
- ◆ 494
- ◆ 494
- ◆ 494
- ◆ 494
- ◆ 494
- ◆ 494
- ◆ 494
- ◆ 494
- ◆ 494
- ◆ 494
- ◆ 494
- ◆ 494
- ◆ 494 and 52.
- ◆ 5
- ◆ 50
- ◆ 50 (Kenwood).
- ◆ 50 & 56.
- ◆ 50 through & /85th.
- ◆ 52
- ◆ 52
- ◆ 52
- ◆ 52
- ◆ 52
- ◆ 52
- ◆ 52
- ◆ 52
- ◆ 52
- ◆ 52 and the Lafayette bridge
- ◆ 52 people violate so many merging laws & drive on the sholder.
- ◆ 52 to 94/35
- ◆ 52!!!!
- ◆ 55
- ◆ 55
- ◆ 55
- ◆ 55
- ◆ 55
- ◆ 55
- ◆ 55
- ◆ 55
- ◆ 55E.
- ◆ 61
- ◆ 61
- ◆ 61
- ◆ 61
- ◆ 61
- ◆ 61
- ◆ 61
- ◆ 61
- ◆ 61
- ◆ 61 @ 494.
- ◆ 61 and 47 hastings
- ◆ 61/vermillion st through hastings
- ◆ 62
- ◆ 62
- ◆ 62
- ◆ 62
- ◆ 62
- ◆ 62
- ◆ 62
- ◆ 62
- ◆ 62 and 149 - Dodd Road
- ◆ 62, but we don't need to make improvements. We need semis to use 494 as this is what causes traffic issues, noise and pollution to residents who live along the road.
- ◆ 77
- ◆ 77
- ◆ 77

- ◆ 77
- ◆ 77
- ◆ 77
- ◆ 77
- ◆ 77 149.
- ◆ 77 cedar
- ◆ 94
- ◆ 94w
- ◆ ALL.
- ◆ Also 55 to Hastings 52/55 intersection going west in [?] Grove.
- ◆ Ask an engineer.
- ◆ Bla [?] park.
- ◆ C 42.
- ◆ C.R. 42.
- ◆ Cedar
- ◆ Cedar
- ◆ Cedar & 42.
- ◆ Cedar 23
- ◆ Cedar Ave
- ◆ Cedar Ave
- ◆ Cedar Ave & 42
- ◆ CEDAR AVE 77.
- ◆ Cedar Ave or Pilot Knob Rd.
- ◆ Cedar ave.
- ◆ Cedar Ave.
- ◆ Cedar Ave.
- ◆ Cedar Ave.
- ◆ Cedar Ave.
- ◆ CEDAR AVE.
- ◆ Cedar avenue.
- ◆ Cedar Avenue.
- ◆ Cedar South of 140th 42 by Cedar.
- ◆ Cedar.
- ◆ Cedar.
- ◆ Cedar.
- ◆ Cedar.
- ◆ Cedars ave/ 77.
- ◆ City 42.
- ◆ cliff rd
- ◆ Cliff rd eagan
- ◆ CLIFF RD.
- ◆ cliff road
- ◆ CLIFF ROAD.
- ◆ Cliff.
- ◆ Co 30.
- ◆ Co 42
- ◆ Co rd 42
- ◆ Co Rd 42
- ◆ Co Rd 42
- ◆ Co Rd 42
- ◆ Co Rd 42
- ◆ Co Rd 42 & Cedar Ave.
- ◆ Co Rd 42.
- ◆ Co Rd 42.
- ◆ CO RD 42.
- ◆ CO RD 42.
- ◆ Co Rd. 46.
- ◆ Co, Rd 42 in Apple Valley area.
- ◆ Co. 42.
- ◆ Co. Rd 42/46.
- ◆ Co. Rd. 42 at Cedar and Galaxie; and Co. Rd. 46 from Flagstaff to Cedar (too many lights).
- ◆ Co. Rd. 42.
- ◆ Co. Rd. 42.
- ◆ Co. Rd. 42.
- ◆ Country Rd 42
- ◆ county 42
- ◆ County 42
- ◆ County 42
- ◆ County 42
- ◆ County 42.
- ◆ County 42.
- ◆ County 42.
- ◆ COUNTY 73.
- ◆ County rd 42

- ◆ County Rd 42
- ◆ County Rd 42
- ◆ County Rd 42 between Rosemount & Burnsville.
- ◆ County Rd 42.
- ◆ County Rd 42.
- ◆ County Rd 42.
- ◆ County Rd 42.
- ◆ County Rd 42.
- ◆ COUNTY RD 42.
- ◆ County Rd 50.
- ◆ County Road 38
- ◆ county road 42
- ◆ county road 42
- ◆ County road 42
- ◆ County road 42
- ◆ County Road 42
- ◆ County Road 42
- ◆ County Road 42
- ◆ County Road 42
- ◆ County Road 42
- ◆ County Road 42
- ◆ county road 42 (not a highway but almost always congested)
- ◆ County Road 42 and 46 in Apple Valley
- ◆ County Road 42 AND County Rd 46 with the new middle school being built there.
- ◆ County Road 42 and HWY 35
- ◆ County Road 42 from Savage to Rosemount
- ◆ County road 42.
- ◆ County Road 42.
- ◆ CR #42 - ESP AROUND THE 35W/35E SPLIT - SO ACCIDENT-FRIENDLY!
- ◆ CR 13
- ◆ CR 42
- ◆ CR 42 Apple Valley.
- ◆ CR 42.
- ◆ CR 42.
- ◆ CR 46
- ◆ cr42
- ◆ CR42
- ◆ CSAH 42.
- ◆ CT ROAD 42.
- ◆ Cty 42
- ◆ Cty 42 & Hwy 13.
- ◆ Cty 42.
- ◆ Cty 42.
- ◆ Cty 42.
- ◆ CTY 42.
- ◆ CTY 42.
- ◆ Cty Rd 42
- ◆ Cty Rd 42
- ◆ Cty Rd 42
- ◆ Cty Rd 42.
- ◆ Cty Rd 42.
- ◆ Cty Rd 42.
- ◆ Cty Rd 42.
- ◆ Cty Rd 42.
- ◆ Cty Rd 42.
- ◆ Cty Rd 42.
- ◆ CTY RD 42.
- ◆ CTY, 46.
- ◆ Cty. 42.
- ◆ Do not know.
- ◆ Do not travel during busy times
- ◆ Dodd
- ◆ Dodd Blvd
- ◆ Dodd Rd 149 by #62.
- ◆ Dodd Rd.
- ◆ Don't have one.
- ◆ Don't know
- ◆ Don't know
- ◆ Don't know
- ◆ Don't know
- ◆ Don't know
- ◆ Don't know.
- ◆ Don't know.

- ◆ Don't know.
- ◆ Don't know.
- ◆ Don't know.
- ◆ Don't know.
- ◆ Don't know.
- ◆ Don't know.
- ◆ Don't know.
- ◆ Don't know.
- ◆ Don't know.
- ◆ Don't know.
- ◆ dont know
- ◆ Downtown Lakeville.
- ◆ Great work.
- ◆ H: 42.
- ◆ Hey 61
- ◆ highway 13
- ◆ highway 13
- ◆ Highway 13
- ◆ Highway 13
- ◆ Highway 13
- ◆ Highway 13.
- ◆ Highway 13.
- ◆ Highway 13.
- ◆ Highway 3
- ◆ Highway 3
- ◆ Highway 3
- ◆ Highway 3
- ◆ Highway 3 at CR 42
- ◆ Highway 3.
- ◆ Highway 3.
- ◆ Highway 3.
- ◆ Highway 35W, we need another bridge over the river going north
- ◆ highway 42
- ◆ Highway 42
- ◆ Highway 42
- ◆ Highway 42
- ◆ Highway 42.
- ◆ Highway 50 at I35
- ◆ Highway 50.
- ◆ Highway 52
- ◆ Highway 52
- ◆ Highway 52.
- ◆ Highway 52.
- ◆ Highway 52.
- ◆ Highway 52.
- ◆ Highway 55
- ◆ HIGHWAY 55
- ◆ Highway 55 Northbound @ Romney county line.
- ◆ Highway 77
- ◆ Highway 77
- ◆ Highway42
- ◆ Hiwy 13 @ 77 from A.V.
- ◆ Holyoke Avenue in Lakeville due to increased housing in the area.
- ◆ Hwy 13
- ◆ Hwy 13
- ◆ Hwy 13 S
- ◆ Hwy 13.
- ◆ HWY 13.
- ◆ HWY 13.
- ◆ HWY 13.
- ◆ Hwy 3
- ◆ Hwy 3
- ◆ Hwy 3
- ◆ Hwy 3
- ◆ Hwy 3
- ◆ Hwy 3
- ◆ Hwy 3
- ◆ Hwy 3
- ◆ Hwy 3!!!
- ◆ Hwy 3.
- ◆ Hwy 3.
- ◆ Hwy 3.
- ◆ Hwy 3.
- ◆ Hwy 3.
- ◆ Hwy 3.
- ◆ HWY 3.
- ◆ Hwy 3/Cty Rd 42.

- ◆ Hwy 31
- ◆ Hwy 42
- ◆ Hwy 42
- ◆ Hwy 42
- ◆ Hwy 42.
- ◆ Hwy 42.
- ◆ Hwy 42.
- ◆ HWY 42.
- ◆ Hwy 46.
- ◆ Hwy 52
- ◆ Hwy 52
- ◆ Hwy 52 at the 94/35/7th st interchange on Lafayette bridge
- ◆ Hwy 52.
- ◆ Hwy 52.
- ◆ Hwy 52.
- ◆ Hwy 52.
- ◆ Hwy 55
- ◆ Hwy 55.
- ◆ hwy 61
- ◆ Hwy 61.
- ◆ Hwy 62 - Crosstown.
- ◆ Hwy 62 & interections.
- ◆ Hwy 62.
- ◆ Hwy 77
- ◆ Hwy 77
- ◆ Hwy 77
- ◆ Hwy 77
- ◆ Hwy 77 - Cedar Ave.
- ◆ HWY 77!
- ◆ Hwy 77.
- ◆ Hwy. 13
- ◆ I 35.
- ◆ I didn't see so.
- ◆ I do not know.
- ◆ I don't know
- ◆ I don't know
- ◆ I don't know west 835.
- ◆ I don't know.
- ◆ I-35 N at 185th and County Rd 50.
- ◆ I-35W and the on-ramps between County Road 70 and the Minnesota River bridge
- ◆ I35E/I35W
- ◆ Idk
- ◆ Idk
- ◆ IdK.
- ◆ Interstate 35
- ◆ Inver Grove Heights.
- ◆ Lafayette Bridge.
- ◆ Lights on 42.
- ◆ Lone Oak Road
- ◆ MN Highway 3
- ◆ New Lafette bridge backup traffic out I know it's in Ramsey county.
- ◆ Nicolas & Cliff (turn lane.
- ◆ Nicolett & Hwy 13.
- ◆ No idea.
- ◆ No idea.
- ◆ No opinion
- ◆ NO OPINION.
- ◆ No! to more lanes & higher speeds.
- ◆ None
- ◆ None
- ◆ None in Northern Dakota.
- ◆ None that I use.
- ◆ None.
- ◆ not sure I live in the south end of the county no congestion here.
- ◆ Not sure.
- ◆ Old 110.
- ◆ Pilot Knob
- ◆ Pilot Knob
- ◆ Pilot Knob
- ◆ Pilot Knob Rd.
- ◆ Pilot knob road
- ◆ Pilot Knob Road
- ◆ Pilot Knob Road in Apple Valley.

- ◆ Pilot Knob Road.
- ◆ PILOT KNOB ROAD.
- ◆ Pilot knob south of county road 42
- ◆ Pilot Knob.
- ◆ Pilot Knob.
- ◆ Pilot Knob/55.
- ◆ Robert street.
- ◆ Robert trail in Rosemount
- ◆ Robert Trail South, 3.
- ◆ Rosemount.
- ◆ S. Robert Trail [3].
- ◆ Sam pol
- ◆ Same
- ◆ Same.
- ◆ See above answer to #31
- ◆ They are good.
- ◆ Unaware
- ◆ unknown
- ◆ Unknown.
- ◆ unsure
- ◆ Unsure
- ◆ Vermillion street
- ◆ Way 52 argenta
- ◆ We are interested in more timed-lights that would improve traffic efficiency and reduce emissions.
- ◆ Yankee Doodle..

## 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 195 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 59* on the following page, respondents in Districts 3 and 7 gave statistically higher ratings to the overall quality of life in Dakota County compared to respondents in Districts 1, 2 and 5 (which is designated as Column A, B and E). This is indicated by an “A B E” in each cell for Districts 3 and 7. However, differences between those in District 3 and 7 are not statistically different from each other, as there is no letter to indicate this.

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 74* on page 129, female is Column A, male is Column B, while age 18 to 34 years old is Column A again, followed by 35 to 54 years old in Column B and 55+ years old in Column C. The letters in the in the cells only refer to differences within that characteristic, not to differences within the other characteristics.

## Survey Results by District

Figure 37: Dakota County Commissioner Districts

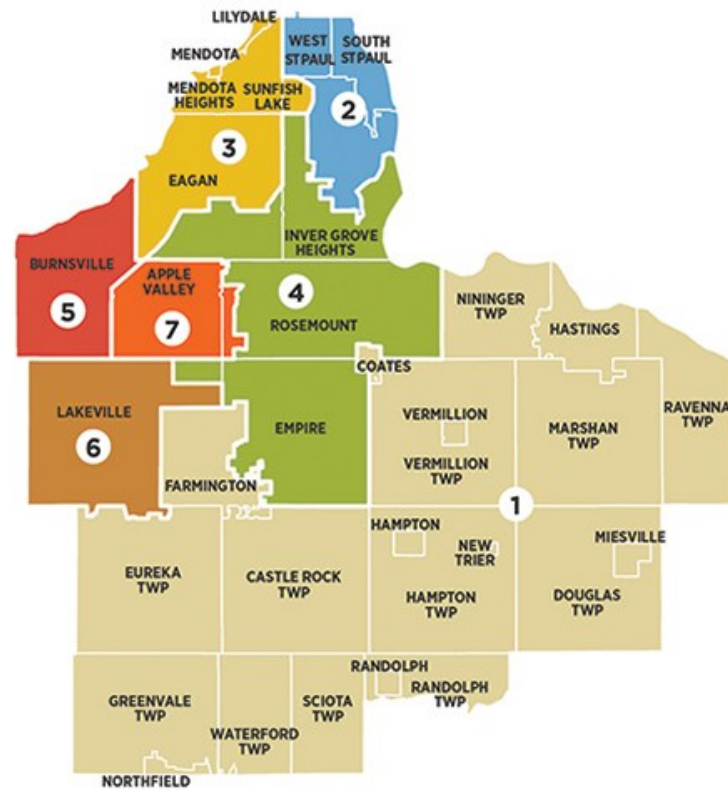


Table 59: Overall Quality of Life by Commissioner District

How would you rate your overall quality of life in Dakota County? Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)	District 1 (A)	District 2 (B)	District 3 (C)	District 4 (D)	District 5 (E)	District 6 (F)	District 7 (G)
How would you rate your overall quality of life in Dakota County?	71	76	84 A B E	79 A	75	80 A	83 A B E



Table 60: 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	72	72	82 A B E	78	76	82 A B E	85 A B D E
Dakota County as a place to work	68 B	58	73 B	72 B	68 B	69 B	69 B
Dakota County as a place to retire	53	66 A F	67 A F	63 A	63 A	56	69 A F
Dakota County as a place to raise a family	71	71	79 A B	79 A B	75	81 A B	82 A B
Sense of community	58	56	64 B E	57	52	61 E	67 A B D E
Openness and acceptance of people with diverse backgrounds	50	53	68 A B D F	54	64 A B D	57	63 A B D
Outdoor recreational opportunities in Dakota County	73	68	77 B	78 B	76 B	77 B	78 B
Availability of biking paths and walking trails	75	73	85 A B D E F G	77	75	73	78
Accessibility of biking paths and walking trails	71	72	82 A B E F	75	73	70	79 A F
Economic health of Dakota County	58	60	71 A B E	67 A B	64	66 A	71 A B E
Availability of employment opportunities	55	49	63 A B D E	54	50	58 B E	64 A B D E
Availability of quality, affordable child care	36	47 F	48 F	36	46 F	30	61 A B D E F
Availability of affordable housing	33	43 A	45 A F	43 A	47 A F	36	47 A F
Availability of transportation/transit (for work purposes and commuting)	31	44 A	52 A D F	40	57 A B D F	42 A	52 A D
Water quality/health of environment	37	58 A	66 A B	62 A	62 A	66 A B	70 A B D E

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)
Climate resiliency practices/strategies	49	50	65 A B	56	61 A B	63 A B	67 A B D
Natural resources	59	62	72 A B	68 A	70 A B	70 A B	71 A B
Arts and culture countywide	59 B	46	66 B D E G	58 B	57 B	61 B	59 B
Overall image or reputation of Dakota County	61	61	75 A B D E	67	66	73 A B E	79 A B D E

Table 61: Financial Status by Commissioner District

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? Average rating (0=much worse, 100=much better)	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5	District 6	District 7
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
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?	48	53	54 A	49	49	49	53

Table 62: 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)	72	68	79 A B D E F	72	70	71	78 B E F
From violent crimes (e.g., rape, assault, robbery)	78	79	86 A B E	81	77	81	84 E
From substance use and associated activities (e.g. selling drugs)	58	64	78 A B D E F	66	70 A	70 A	77 A B D
From financial scams (e.g. identity theft, phone scams, cybercrime)	54	54	64 A B D F G	54	58	54	57
From domestic violence	80	80	90 A B	86 B	85	85	89 A B
From gang activity	80	74	85 B D E	77	77	87 B D E	85 B D E
While driving on roads within Dakota County	73 D	73 D	79 D G	63	77 D	75 D	71 D
While walking or biking within Dakota County	72	66	77 B D	66	74 B	73	70
While in your neighborhood	86 B	79	88 B	85 B	84	89 B	86 B
While in County office buildings, libraries, courtrooms	86	87	90	88	93 A B	91 A	92 A B
While in schools in Dakota County	75	77 F	83 D F	72	78 F	69	86 A B D E F
While in places of worship in Dakota County	85	83	94 A B D E F	83	82	85	90 B D E
While using Dakota County parks, trails, and greenways	75	74	79 D	72	74	75	77

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	52	55	65 ABDEF	52	52	56	62 A B D E
Taxes	38	38	54 A B D	37	61 ABDFG	44	48 A B D
Traffic safety	60 D	57 D	67 B D F G	44	61 D	54 D	56 D
Traffic congestion	60 E F	72 ADEFG	70 ADEFG	54	50	47	53
Poverty	56 E	51	64 B E	63 B E	47	60 B E	59 B E
Homelessness	59	58	65	71 A B E	59	64	66
Affordability of housing	35	41	46 A	40	41	41	41
Availability of living wage jobs	40	45	54 A	44	48	55 A B D	50

Table 64: 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)	60 BCDEFG	48 C G	33	39	41	40	32
Tobacco use (including e-cigarettes and chewing tobacco)	44 C D E	37 C	29	32	31	38 C	39 C
Depression, anxiety, and other mental illnesses	57 C	53	47	57 C	59 C	57 C	57 C
Social isolation	42	46	39	47	50 C F	41	51 C F
Underage alcohol use	46 C E	43 C	33	37	36	44 C	46 C E
Underage marijuana use	48 C	45	37	46	47 C	57 B C D	62 ABCDE
Alcohol abuse among adults	51 C D	50 C D	41	41	45	47	47
Marijuana abuse among adults	45 C	47 C E	33	42	36	49 C E	46 C
Illegal drug use (e.g., heroin, illicit fentanyl, methamphetamine)	72 C D E G	63 C E	42	57 C	51	62 C E	54 C
Bullying	68 B C F G	56 C	41	60 C	65 C F G	53 C	50
Illegal use of prescribed medications (such as opioids)	60 B C G	49	39	54 C	55 C	56 C	47
The health and support of older adults	59 C D	54 C	42	47	58 C D	52 C	51 C
The health and support of persons with disabilities	53 C	55 C D	42	43	56 C D	56 C D	53 C
The health and support of children and child development	50 C	47	40	42	49	54 C D	45

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)
Nutrition of adults and children	50 C D G	57 C D F G	38	40	50 C D G	45	38
Abuse and neglect of children	50 C	45 C	34	53 C	57 B C G	55 B C	46 C
Abuse and neglect of older adults or vulnerable adults	49 C	46	38	48	58 B C D G	50 C	43
Spread of infectious diseases	39	41	36	42	49 C G	42	36

Table 65: Ratings of Environmental Concerns by Commissioner District

Please rate to what degree, if at all, each of the following is an environmental 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)
Quality of outdoor air	33 G	38 C G	30	36G	31	35 G	23
Quality of drinking water (PFAS contaminants)	68 BCDEFG	50 G	45	48	52 G	54 G	38
Quality of water in lakes, rivers, and streams	57 C G	48	47	59 B C G	51G	52 G	40
Quantity of useable water supply	53 C D G	44 C G	33	40	47 C G	44 G	30
Climate change	47	61 A	57	61 A	58 A	52	54
Energy use	49	52	47	52	53 F	44	48

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 like Burnhaven, Farmington, Galaxie, Heritage, Inver Glen, Kaposia, Pleasant Hill, Robert Trail, Wentworth, or Wescott	85	86	87	88 F	86	82	86
County parks and recreation like Lebanon Hills, Lake Byllesby, Miesville, Spring Lake Park, Thompson County Park or Whitetail Woods	83	83	89 A B	87	85	86	87
Trail and greenway system like Big Rivers Trail, Mississippi River and River to River	83	79	85 F	79	80	76	80
Condition of county roads such as County Road 42, County Road 46, Kenwood Trail, Pilot Knob Roads or Yankee Doodle Road/County Road 28	64 D F	66 D F	72 A D F G	56	66 D F	55	61
Snow and ice removal on county roads	65	71 F	75 A D F	67	76 A D F	63	70 F
Sheriff deputies patrol and park protection services	69	66	76 B D E	67	68	69	70
Administering property tax	51	53 F	55 F	46	61 A D F	43	56 D F
Addressing important health issues in communities	58	60 F	70 A B F	63 F	64 F	51	64 F
Prosecuting people accused of felony-level crimes or serious crimes	40	52 A	70 A B D E F G	47	53 A	43	59 A D F
Overall quality of services provided by Dakota County	60	68 A	74 A B D F	64	72 A D	67 A	76 A B D F

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

<b>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)</b>	<b>District 1</b>	<b>District 2</b>	<b>District 3</b>	<b>District 4</b>	<b>District 5</b>	<b>District 6</b>	<b>District 7</b>
	<b>(A)</b>	<b>(B)</b>	<b>(C)</b>	<b>(D)</b>	<b>(E)</b>	<b>(F)</b>	<b>(G)</b>
Employment support/CareerForce Center services	39	50 F	69 A D F	39	64 A D F	6	63 F
Financial assistance for low-income households	52	57 D	70 D E	31	44	46	50
Records, passports, licensing, and vehicle registration	72 D F	64	67	62	72 B D F	61	67
Services for people with disabilities	49	44	58	52	64 B	49	54
Services for people experiencing mental illness	48 B	27	60 B D	38	58 B D	58 B	56 B
Services that protect neglected or abused children	58	51	80 B D F	41	76 B D F	42	63
Information available on the County website	61	63	74 A B D E F G	55	63 D	57	64
Services provided to older adults	56	55	58	45	57	60	55
Services at the Recycling Zone	69	69	84 A B D F	76	83 A B F	70	81 A B F
Accessibility of services, physical and digital	59	58	67 B	63	69 A B	68	64
Services at organic waste drop-off sites	63	64	75 F	70	73 F	58	78 A B F
Services to children and families	51	54	72 A B F	58	72 A B D F	51	72 A B D F
Services that protect neglected, abused, or exploited adults	36	47	70 A B D	43	63 A	55	72 A B D
Housing/shelter services and support	23	35	49 A	31	51 A B	80 A B C D E	56 A B D



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)
Public Health services	48	52	68 A B F	55	67 A B F	50	61

Table 68: Ratings of County Employees by Commissioner District

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)	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5	District 6	District 7
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
Knowledgeable	83 F	80 F	84 F	74	82 F	68	78
Responsive	75	71	82 D F	68	82 D F	62	77 F
Courteous	82	85 D F	91 D F G	71	82	72	80
Overall impression	78	79	85 D F G	68	79 F	67	71

Table 69: 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	74	71	76 F	69	74	67	76 F
Online access to County services	69	67	74 D	65	69	70	74 D
Ease of paying for County services online	72	69	79 B D	67	77 B D	71	71
Availability of language resources for access to services (e.g., interpreters or multi-language materials or signage)	66	70	80 D	55	67	62	77 D

**Table 70: Ratings of Government Performance 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	63	66	69 D F	62	67	61	68
The job Dakota County government does of listening to residents	45	52	60 A D	46	61 A B D F	51	57 A D
The value of services for the taxes paid to Dakota County	47	53	60 A F	55	63 A B D F	49	65 A B D F
The job Dakota County government does at managing tax dollars	43	52 A	56 A	48	63 A B D F	48	58 A D F
The value of Dakota County services to the quality of life in my neighborhood	56	60	65 A	65 A	62	59	70 A B E F
Generally acting in the best interest of the community	58	60	65 F	58	71 A B D F	57	71 A B D F
Supporting the quality of life in the county	60	63	70 A B F	63	67 A	61	71 A B D F
Effectively planning for the future of the county	54	58	68 A B D F	50	65 A D F	53	64 A D F
Overall confidence in Dakota County government	55	61 F	67 A D F	59	65 A F	53	71 A B D F

**Table 71: Ratings of Importance about Library Programs by Commissioner District**

How important, if at all, is it to provide the following library programs and services? (0=Not at all important, 100=Essential)	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5	District 6	District 7
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
Popular titles/current library materials	64	71	78 A D F	67	74 A F	64	76 A D F
Small business/economic development resources and services	61	70 A D	67	58	63	63	72 A D E F
Information about jobs, skills, literacy, and careers	63	74 A F	72 A F	72	74 A F	64	74 A F
Streaming digital materials (movies, music, e-books, e-audio books)	53	55	64 A B F	59	60	52	61
Access to computers and the Internet	64	80 A F	75 A F	74 A F	84 A C D F G	60	75 A F
Access to creative maker technology, equipment, or classes	47	60 A F	67 A D F G	57 F	67 A D F G	43	57 A F
Community space, meeting and conference rooms	53	62	70 A F	65 A F	73 A B F G	54	64 A F
Classes and events on a variety of topics	49	65 A F G	64 A F G	64 A F G	70 A F G	55	54
English as a second language resources and services	50	71 A	73 A	65 A	72 A	65 A	65 A
Library materials in other languages (Spanish, Somali, Russian, others)	39	55 A	59 A F	55 A	67 A B D F G	47	55 A
Self-service hours (access to services during regularly closed times)	47	52	60 A D	49	65 A B D	57 A	59 A D
Other	40	76 A	79 A D	52	84 A D	68 A	83 A D

**Table 72: Ratings of Importance about the Use of County Funds by Users by Commissioner District**

How important, if at all, is it to continue using County funds for these purposes? (0=Not at all important, 100=Essential)	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5	District 6	District 7
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
Increasing public access for outdoor recreation	56	66 A	66 A	68 A	70 A F	60	73 A F
Protecting and improving natural areas	67	74 A	79 A	77 A	78 A	74	80 A
Protecting and improving water quality	77	80	86 A	83	85 A	81	86 A
Protecting and improving wildlife habitat	67	74	80 A F	75 A	79 A	72	81 A B F

**Table 73: Driving Factors for Changing Work Situation by Commissioner District**

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? (0=Not at all important, 100=Essential)	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5	District 6	District 7
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
Better pay	76	80	76	77	82	81	80
Better benefits (e.g., health insurance, family leave, tuition reimbursement)	67	77 A	72	75	73	76 A	79 A
The flexibility to work remotely (e.g., work from home or telework) at least part of the time	52	53	61 F	62 F	59	48	60 F
The option to work part-time or at reduced hours	35	43 F	40 F	42 F	41 F	28	41 F
Career advancement opportunity at work	55	68 A	61	62	67 A	62	69 A
Availability and affordability of childcare	36	48	35	37	48	57 A C D	47
Availability and affordability of other caregiving (e.g. senior care or care for family members with disabilities)	35	54 A C D F	36	26	48 A D F	35	42 D
Public transit to work	28	51 A C D F G	28	28	44 A C D F G	18	33 F

## Survey Results by Age and Gender of Respondent

**Table 74: 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?	78	78	79	79	78

**Table 75: 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	75	79 A	79 A	80	77
Dakota County as a place to work	67	68	68	67	69
Dakota County as a place to retire	66 B	54	66 B	69 B	57
Dakota County as a place to raise a family	73	79 A	77	79	75
Sense of community	54	62 A	60 A	61	58
Openness and acceptance of people with diverse backgrounds	59	59	60	57	62 A
Outdoor recreational opportunities in Dakota County	70	78 A	75 A	77	73
Availability of biking paths and walking trails	72	79 A	78 A	80 B	74
Accessibility of biking paths and walking trails	73	76	75	77 B	73
Economic health of Dakota County	65	65	65	63	68 A
Availability of employment opportunities	59	55	55	53	59 A
Availability of quality, affordable child care	50	43	41	38	50 A
Availability of affordable housing	48 B C	39	41	39	45 A
Availability of transportation/transit (for work purposes and commuting)	46	45	48	44	48
Water quality/health of environment	64	59	59	58	63 A
Climate resiliency practices/strategies	58	60	59	57	61
Natural resources	68	69	66	67	68

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)
Arts and culture countywide	58	57	59	60	57
Overall image or reputation of Dakota County	65	71 A	69	69	69

Table 76: Financial Status by Age and Sex

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? Average rating (0=much worse, 100=much better)	Age			Gender	
	18-34	35-54	55+	Female	Male
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)
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?	52	52 C	48	49	52

Table 77: 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)	76 B	71	72	72	74
From violent crimes (e.g., rape, assault, robbery)	82	83 C	78	80	83
From substance use and associated activities (e.g. selling drugs)	71	70	67	67	71 A
From financial scams (e.g. identity theft, phone scams, cybercrime)	65 B C	57 C	52	55	59 A
From domestic violence	87	85	83	83	86
From gang activity	86 C	85 C	74	80	82
While driving on roads within Dakota County	73	73	72	72	74
While walking or biking within Dakota County	70	74	70	70	73
While in your neighborhood	86	88 C	83	85	86
While in County office buildings, libraries, courtrooms	92 C	90	88	90	89
While in schools in Dakota County	74	76	80	76	78
While in places of worship in Dakota County	88	84	87	84	88
While using Dakota County parks, trails, and greenways	77	77 C	73	72	79 A

**Table 78: 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	61 C	59 C	51	52	60 A
Taxes	55 B C	45	42	45	47
Traffic safety	62 C	57	56	56	59
Traffic congestion	59	61	56	57	59
Poverty	62 C	58 C	52	49	64 A
Homelessness	71 B C	64 C	55	56	69 A
Affordability of housing	47 B C	40	38	34	48 A
Availability of living wage jobs	51	47	47	41	55 A

**Table 79: 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)	37	45 A	44 A	48 B	37
Tobacco use (including e-cigarettes and chewing tobacco)	36	34	36	39 B	32
Depression, anxiety, and other mental illnesses	54	60 A C	51	64 B	47
Social isolation	41	47	47	51 B	41
Underage alcohol use	33	39	47 A B	45 B	37
Underage marijuana use	41	50 A	54 A	50	47
Alcohol abuse among adults	43	44	50 A B	51 B	42
Marijuana abuse among adults	35	43 A	49 A	44	41
Illegal drug use (e.g., heroin, illicit fentanyl, methamphetamine)	51	55	66 A B	61 B	54
Bullying	52	60 A	55	63 B	49
Illegal use of prescribed medications (such as opioids)	52	47	55 B	53	49
The health and support of older adults	49	50	55 A B	58 B	46
The health and support of persons with disabilities	48	49	54	61 B	42
The health and support of children and child development	40	49 A	49 A	53 B	41
Nutrition of adults and children	47	43	47	51 B	40
Abuse and neglect of children	48	45	52 B	52 B	45
Abuse and neglect of older adults or vulnerable adults	45	46	50	54 B	41
Spread of infectious diseases	34	42 A	44 A	45 B	36



**Table 80: Ratings of Environmental Concerns by Age and Sex**

Please rate to what degree, if at all, each of the following is an environmental 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)
Quality of outdoor air	24	34 A	35 A	35 B	29
Quality of drinking water (PFAS contaminants)	46	53 A	51	54 B	48
Quality of water in lakes, rivers, and streams	43	51 A	54 A	54 B	47
Quantity of useable water supply	33	40 A	47 A B	46 B	37
Climate change	54	56	57	68 B	44
Energy use	40	49 A	55 A B	59 B	41

**Table 81: 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 like Burnhaven, Farmington, Galaxie, Heritage, Inver Glen, Kaposia, Pleasant Hill, Robert Trail, Wentworth, or Wescott	86	86	85	88 B	83
County parks and recreation like Lebanon Hills, Lake Byllesby, Miesville, Spring Lake Park, Thompson County Park or Whitetail Woods	86 C	89 C	82	87	85
Trail and greenway system like Big Rivers Trail, Mississippi River and River to River	81	83	79	83 B	79
Condition of county roads such as County Road 42, County Road 46, Kenwood Trail, Pilot Knob Roads or Yankee Doodle Road/County Road 28	63	63	63	65 B	61
Snow and ice removal on county roads	66	71 A	71 A	70	71
Sheriff deputies patrol and park protection services	67	73 A	68	68	71
Administering property tax	57	51	52	56 B	50
Addressing important health issues in communities	68 B C	61	59	62	63
Prosecuting people accused of felony-level crimes or serious crimes	59 B C	50	49	53	51
Overall quality of services provided by Dakota County	67	71 A	68	71 B	67

**Table 82: 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	55	55	55	46	62 A
Financial assistance for low-income households	54	50	50	43	62 A
Records, passports, licensing, and vehicle registration	66	65	68	69 B	65
Services for people with disabilities	65 B	50	51	52	57
Services for people experiencing mental illness	57 B C	43	43	45	52
Services that protect neglected or abused children	81 B C	58	56	58	70
Information available on the County website	65	61	62	64	62
Services provided to older adults	58	54	55	51	62 A
Services at the Recycling Zone	88 B C	77	74	81 B	73
Accessibility of services, physical and digital	71 B C	62	60	63	65
Services at organic waste drop-off sites	79 B C	63	68	73	66
Services to children and families	70 C	63	57	62	64
Services that protect neglected, abused, or exploited adults	67 C	55	49	46	64 A
Housing/shelter services and support	28	53 A	46 A	38	50
Public Health services	67 B C	54	56	58	58

**Table 83: Ratings of County Employees by Age and Sex**

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)	Age			Gender	
	18-34	35-54	55+	Female	Male
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)
Knowledgeable	72	82 A	81 A	81	77
Responsive	63	77 A	78 A	76	71
Courteous	75	83 A	82	83	78
Overall impression	71	75	79	78	73

**Table 84: 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	72	73	73	76 B	70
Online access to County services	67	70	72	70	70
Ease of paying for County services online	70	73	74	73	73
Availability of language resources for access to services (e.g., interpreters or multi-language materials or signage)	72	70	71	67	77 A

**Table 85: Ratings of Government Performance 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	68	65	64	68 B	63
The job Dakota County government does of listening to residents	55	53	53	57 B	51
The value of services for the taxes paid to Dakota County	58	56	56	61 B	53
The job Dakota County government does at managing tax dollars	56	51	53	56 B	51
The value of Dakota County services to the quality of life in my neighborhood	61	65	62	67 B	59
Generally acting in the best interest of the community	63	63	62	66 B	61
Supporting the quality of life in the county	65	67	64	67	64
Effectively planning for the future of the county	61	59	59	63 B	57
Overall confidence in Dakota County government	62	63	61	66 B	59

**Table 86: Ratings of Importance about Library Programs by Age and Sex**

How important, if at all, is it to provide the following library programs and services? (0=Not at all important, 100=Essential)	Age			Gender	
	18-34	35-54	55+	Female	Male
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)
Popular titles/current library materials	69	73	70	78 B	64
Small business/economic development resources and services	70 C	65	61	71 B	59
Information about jobs, skills, literacy, and careers	77 C	72 C	65	77 B	64
Streaming digital materials (movies, music, e-books, e-audio books)	57	59	58	66 B	51
Access to computers and the Internet	86 B C	70	69	84 B	64
Access to creative maker technology, equipment, or classes	66 B C	54	54	66 B	49
Community space, meeting and conference rooms	68	63	61	69 B	58
Classes and events on a variety of topics	66 B C	59	58	67 B	54
English as a second language resources and services	78 B C	68 C	58	76 B	58
Library materials in other languages (Spanish, Somali, Russian, others)	64 B C	56 C	47	64 B	45
Self-service hours (access to services during regularly closed times)	66 B C	55	51	61 B	52
Other	88 B C	70	59	79 B	62

**Table 87: Ratings of Importance about the Use of County Funds by Users by Age and Sex**

How important, if at all, is it to continue using County funds for these purposes? (0=Not at all important, 100=Essential)	Age			Gender	
	18-34	35-54	55+	Female	Male
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)
Increasing public access for outdoor recreation	73 C	68 C	59	68 B	64
Protecting and improving natural areas	79 C	80 C	70	79 B	73
Protecting and improving water quality	84 C	86 C	79	86 B	79
Protecting and improving wildlife habitat	81 C	79 C	70	81 B	70

**Table 88: Driving Factors for Changing Work Situation by Age and Sex**

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? (0=Not at all important, 100=Essential)	Age			Gender	
	18-34	35-54	55+	Female	Male
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)
Better pay	84 C	84 C	66	81	77
Better benefits (e.g., health insurance, family leave, tuition reimbursement)	77 C	77 C	67	77 B	71
The flexibility to work remotely (e.g., work from home or telework) at least part of the time	54	62 A	51	64 B	49
The option to work part-time or at reduced hours	35	32	51 A B	45 B	32
Career advancement opportunity at work	78 B C	63 C	47	64	63
Availability and affordability of childcare	56 B C	41	39	51 B	39
Availability and affordability of other caregiving (e.g. senior care or care for family members with disabilities)	42 B	33	47 B	53 B	28
Public transit to work	41 B	24	40 B	40 B	28

## Survey Results by Annual Household Income and Length of Residency

**Table 89: 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				Respondent 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?	70	79 A	80 A	78 A	76	82 A C	77

**Table 90: Ratings of Community Characteristics by Income and Length of Residency**

Please rate each of the following characteristics of Dakota County. Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)	Income				Respondent 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	72	75	79 A	78 A	76	80	78
Dakota County as a place to work	59	65	75 A B	70 A	64	69	69 A
Dakota County as a place to retire	68 D	64	68 D	58	61	63	63
Dakota County as a place to raise a family	66	73	77 A	78 A	75	79	76
Sense of community	52	61	61 A	61 A	54	59	62 A
Openness and acceptance of people with diverse backgrounds	52	63 A	63 A	60 A	60	60	58
Outdoor recreational opportunities in Dakota County	67	78 A	73	78 A C	71	78 A	75
Availability of biking paths and walking trails	77	82	76	78	72	79 A	78 A
Accessibility of biking paths and walking trails	75	75	74	76	71	77 A	75

Please rate each of the following characteristics of Dakota County. Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)	Income				Respondent 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)
Economic health of Dakota County	59	61	67 A	65	60	67 A	66 A
Availability of employment opportunities	45	52	65 A B D	56 A	55	57	56
Availability of quality, affordable child care	47	57 D	54 D	36	48	45	40
Availability of affordable housing	36	34	48 A B D	39	45	40	42
Availability of transportation/transit (for work purposes and commuting)	52 D	46	46	44	44	49	45
Water quality/health of environment	55	55	62	59	59	61	60
Climate resiliency practices/strategies	51	57	60 A	61 A	54	64 A C	57
Natural resources	61	66	70 A	70 A	67	69	66
Arts and culture countywide	61	55	61	57	52	64 A C	56
Overall image or reputation of Dakota County	63	71	70 A	69	66	70	69

Table 91: Financial Status by Income and Length of Residency

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? Average rating (0=much worse, 100=much better)	Income				Respondent 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)
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?	54 C	48	47	53 C	51	52	50



Table 92: Ratings of Safety by Income and Length of Residency

Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel in Dakota County. Average rating (0=very unsafe, 100=very safe)	Income				Respondent 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)	73	70	74	74	74	74	71
From violent crimes (e.g., rape, assault, robbery)	73	74	82 A B	82 A B	84 C	82	78
From substance use and associated activities (e.g. selling drugs)	60	65	68 A	72 A	69	71	67
From financial scams (e.g. identity theft, phone scams, cybercrime)	50	45	62 A B D	56 B	63 B C	57	53
From domestic violence	76	83	86 A	87 A	86	87	83
From gang activity	73	70	81 A B	83 A B	85 C	82 C	77
While driving on roads within Dakota County	71	64	75 B	73 B	72	74	73
While walking or biking within Dakota County	69	70	71	72	72	71	70
While in your neighborhood	85	79	83	88 B C	85	87	84
While in County office buildings, libraries, courtrooms	89	91	91	89	92 C	93 C	86
While in schools in Dakota County	83 D	82	80 D	74	78	76	77
While in places of worship in Dakota County	81	82	91 A B D	84	87	87	85
While using Dakota County parks, trails, and greenways	73	73	76	78	81 B C	74	73

Table 93: Ratings of Problems by Income and 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				Respondent 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	46	56	59 A	59 A	60 C	60 C	52
Taxes	34	45	52 A	48 A	53 C	46	42
Traffic safety	55	53	57	60	58	60	55
Traffic congestion	55	52	59	62 B	60	59	56
Poverty	43	49	57 A	61 A B	55	61 C	55
Homelessness	57	55	61	67 A B	65	65	60
Affordability of housing	34	36	46 A	42	44	39	41
Availability of living wage jobs	32	46 A	57 A D	46 A	50	46	48

Table 94: Ratings of Health Concerns by Income and 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				Respondent 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)	43	40	44	38	47 B	38	43
Tobacco use (including e-cigarettes and chewing tobacco)	41 D	36	39 D	32	39	35	34
Depression, anxiety, and other mental illnesses	51	51	50	59 C	54	57	54
Social isolation	45	48	43	47	45	49	43
Underage alcohol use	41	47	41	41	40	36	44 B
Underage marijuana use	39	59 A	49	50 A	45	45	54 A B
Alcohol abuse among adults	48	56	45	46	48	43	48
Marijuana abuse among adults	39	57 A C D	44	41	39	39	48 A B
Illegal drug use (e.g., heroin, illicit fentanyl, methamphetamine)	66 C D	63	54	56	54	54	62 A B
Bullying	62	56	54	56	54	58	56
Illegal use of prescribed medications (such as opioids)	52	48	50	53	53	49	52
The health and support of older adults	63 C D	59 C D	48	49	52	48	54 B
The health and support of persons with disabilities	65 C D	61 C	45	51	53	48	53
The health and support of children and child development	55 B C	39	41	46	47	43	49
Nutrition of adults and children	62 B C D	43	41	43	49	43	46
Abuse and neglect of children	52	47	45	50	51	44	50

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				Respondent 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)
Spread of infectious diseases	50 C D	47	39	39	43	40	41

Table 95: Ratings of Environmental Concerns by Income and Length of Residency

Please rate to what degree, if at all, each of the following is an environmental concern in Dakota County Average rating (0=not at all a concern, 100=major concern)	Income				Respondent 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)
Quality of outdoor air	33	33	28	34 C	37 B	28	33
Quality of drinking water (PFAS contaminants)	47	43	49	53	54	49	50
Quality of water in lakes, rivers, and streams	56	49	48	49	54	47	51
Quantity of useable water supply	57 B C D	40	39	37	44	38	43
Climate change	62 C	60	51	58	60	57	53
Energy use	53	60 C	46	48	49	51	49

Table 96: Ratings of County Services by Income and Length of Residency

Please rate each of the following services provided by Dakota County. Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)	Income				Respondent 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 like Burnhaven, Farmington, Galaxie, Heritage, Inver Glen, Kaposia, Pleasant Hill, Robert Trail, Wentworth, or Wescott	87	88	87	86	84	86	86
County parks and recreation like Lebanon Hills, Lake Byllesby, Miesville, Spring Lake Park, Thompson County Park or Whitetail Woods	82	84	86	88 A	86	87	85
Trail and greenway system like Big Rivers Trail, Mississippi River and River to River	83	78	81	83	80	82	80
Condition of county roads such as County Road 42, County Road 46, Kenwood Trail, Pilot Knob Roads or Yankee Doodle Road/County Road 28	62	62	65	65	63	64	62
Snow and ice removal on county roads	67	73	73	69	70	71	69
Sheriff deputies patrol and park protection services	60	75 A	73 A D	67	66	71	69
Administering property tax	51	54	58 D	51	59 B C	50	51
Addressing important health issues in communities	62	64	66	60	65	63	60
Prosecuting people accused of felony-level crimes or serious crimes	49	48	60 D	50	59 C	55 C	47
Overall quality of services provided by Dakota County	65	65	72 A	69	70	70	68

**Table 97: Ratings of County Services by Users by Income and 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				Respondent 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	37	36	71 A B	66 A	51	62	52
Financial assistance for low-income households	47	35	72 A B D	51	54	49	51
Records, passports, licensing, and vehicle registration	68	64	71 D	63	68	65	68
Services for people with disabilities	53	32	62 B	57 B	71 B C	47	52
Services for people experiencing mental illness	43	37	56	50	57 C	48	42
Services that protect neglected or abused children	63	66	78 D	45	83 B C	66 C	50
Information available on the County website	71 B D	57	70 B D	57	64	61	63
Services provided to older adults	54	42	66 A B	58	68 B	48	57
Services at the Recycling Zone	71	74	82 A	76	82 C	78	74
Accessibility of services, physical and digital	61 B	46	72 A B D	62 B	66	63	62
Services at organic waste drop-off sites	64	76	74	70	75	66	69
Services to children and families	65	58	68	61	68	63	59
Services that protect neglected, abused, or exploited adults	47	52	72 A D	50	67	51	53
Housing/shelter services and support	40	31	45	56 B	39	38	52
Public Health services	54	55	71 A B D	56	62	58	56

**Table 98: Ratings of County Employees by Income and Length of Residency**

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)	Income				Respondent 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)
Knowledgeable	85	82	79	79	81	79	78
Responsive	68	69	74	77	72	74	75
Courteous	85	84	83	81	84 B	75	83 B
Overall impression	76	77	82	77	80	73	74

**Table 99: Ratings of Accessing County Services by Income and Length of Residency**

Please rate these aspects of accessing Dakota County services. Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)	Income				Respondent 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	70	73	76	72	68	75 A	73
Online access to County services	65	62	73 A B	71	64	69	73 A
Ease of paying for County services online	65	65	75 A	75 A	67	73	75 A
Availability of language resources for access to services (e.g., interpreters or multi-language materials or signage)	75	63	76	72	72	68	73

**Table 100: Ratings of Government Performance by Income and Length of Residency**

Please rate the following categories of Dakota County government performance. Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)	Income				Respondent 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	70	61	64	67	64	65	66
The job Dakota County government does of listening to residents	53	46	55	55	56	54	52
The value of services for the taxes paid to Dakota County	61	57	56	57	57	58	54
The job Dakota County government does at managing tax dollars	55	49	53	53	57	52	51
The value of Dakota County services to the quality of life in my neighborhood	66	59	63	63	63	64	61
Generally acting in the best interest of the community	63	62	66	62	66 C	63	61
Supporting the quality of life in the county	65	68	66	65	68	65	64
Effectively planning for the future of the county	63	65	62 D	56	61	61	58
Overall confidence in Dakota County government	65	58	64	60	61	64	61



**Table 101: Ratings of Importance about Library Programs by Income and Length of Residency**

How important, if at all, is it to provide the following library programs and services? (0=Not at all important, 100=Essential)	Income				Respondent 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)
Popular titles/current library materials	72	74	69	71	70	73	70
Small business/economic development resources and services	75 B D	53	68 B D	62	65	69 C	62
Information about jobs, skills, literacy, and careers	79 B C	67	69	72	73 C	76 C	66
Streaming digital materials (movies, music, e-books, e-audio books)	65	62	56	59	57	61	56
Access to computers and the Internet	82	74	75	75	79 C	77 C	68
Access to creative maker technology, equipment, or classes	79 B C D	66 D	59	55	60 C	64 C	50
Community space, meeting and conference rooms	75 C D	63	63	64	65 C	70 C	58
Classes and events on a variety of topics	69 C D	63	60	58	64 C	63 C	56
English as a second language resources and services	75	65	66	68	74 C	72 C	58
Library materials in other languages (Spanish, Somali, Russian, others)	64 B C	41	54	58 B	63 C	60 C	46
Self-service hours (access to services during regularly closed times)	66 B	50	58	58	62 C	62 C	48
Other	89 D	75	76	63	82 C	72	57

**Table 102: Ratings of Importance about the Use of County Funds by Income and Length of Residency**

How important, if at all, is it to continue using County funds for these purposes? (0=Not at all important, 100=Essential)	Income				Respondent 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)
Increasing public access for outdoor recreation	65	62	66	68	72 C	71 C	58
Protecting and improving natural areas	73	69	77	77	80 C	81 C	70
Protecting and improving water quality	81	81	85	83	85 C	86 C	79
Protecting and improving wildlife habitat	80	70	77	76	80 C	80 C	70

**Table 103: Ratings of Environmental Concerns by Income and Length of Residency**

Please rate to what degree, if at all, each of the following is an environmental concern in Dakota County. Average rating (0=not at all a concern, 100=major concern)	Income				Respondent 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)
Quality of outdoor air	33	33	28	34 C	37 B	28	33
Quality of drinking water (PFAS contaminants)	47	43	49	53	54	49	50
Quality of water in lakes, rivers, and streams	56	49	48	49	54	47	51
Quantity of useable water supply	57 B C D	40	39	37	44	38	43
Climate change	62 C	60	51	58	60	57	53
Energy use	53	60 C	46	48	49	51	49

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

**Table 104: Overall Quality of Life by Type of Housing Unit and Housing Tenure**

How would you rate your overall quality of life in Dakota County? Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)	Housing unit type		Rent or own	
	Detached	Other	Rent	Own
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)
How would you rate your overall quality of life in Dakota County?	80 B	76	74	80 A

**Table 105: Ratings of Community Characteristics by Type of Housing Unit and Housing Tenure**

Please rate each of the following characteristics of Dakota County. Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)	Housing unit type		Rent or own	
	Detached	Other	Rent	Own
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)
Dakota County as a place to live	80 B	75	73	80 A
Dakota County as a place to work	69	65	64	69 A
Dakota County as a place to retire	60	66 A	66	62
Dakota County as a place to raise a family	80 B	72	72	78 A
Sense of community	60	57	53	61 A
Openness and acceptance of people with diverse backgrounds	58	61	60	59
Outdoor recreational opportunities in Dakota County	78 B	71	65	78 A
Availability of biking paths and walking trails	78	75	71	79 A
Accessibility of biking paths and walking trails	76	73	71	76 A
Economic health of Dakota County	66	64	64	65
Availability of employment opportunities	57	54	53	57
Availability of quality, affordable child care	44	45	46	43
Availability of affordable housing	42	42	42	42
Availability of transportation/transit (for work purposes and commuting)	46	47	51 B	44
Water quality/health of environment	62 B	57	58	61
Climate resiliency practices/strategies	60	57	55	60
Natural resources	68	66	65	68
Arts and culture countywide	56	61 A	60	58
Overall image or reputation of Dakota County	71 B	65	63	71 A

**Table 106: Financial Status by Type of Housing Unit and Housing Tenure**

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? Average rating (0=much worse, 100=much better)	Housing unit type		Rent or own	
	Detached	Other	Rent	Own
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)
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?	52 B	48	49	51

**Table 107: Ratings of Safety by Type of Housing Unit and Housing Tenure**

Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel in Dakota County. Average rating (0=very unsafe, 100=very safe)	Housing unit type		Rent or own	
	Detached	Other	Rent	Own
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)
From property crimes (e.g., burglary, theft)	72	73	73	73
From violent crimes (e.g., rape, assault, robbery)	82	79	80	81
From substance use and associated activities (e.g. selling drugs)	71 B	66	64	70 A
From financial scams (e.g. identity theft, phone scams, cybercrime)	56	57	62 B	55
From domestic violence	86	83	82	86
From gang activity	81	79	82	80
While driving on roads within Dakota County	74 B	71	69	74 A
While walking or biking within Dakota County	72	70	69	72
While in your neighborhood	87 B	82	81	87 A
While in County office buildings, libraries, courtrooms	90	90	92	89
While in schools in Dakota County	78	75	75	77
While in places of worship in Dakota County	86	85	84	86
While using Dakota County parks, trails, and greenways	76	74	77	75

**Table 108: Ratings of Problems by Type of Housing Unit and Housing Tenure**

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)	Housing unit type		Rent or own	
	Detached	Other	Rent	Own
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)
Crime	57	56	58	56
Taxes	45	47	59 B	43
Traffic safety	59	56	59	57
Traffic congestion	59	57	56	59
Poverty	58	55	55	57
Homelessness	64	61	62	63
Affordability of housing	41	41	43	40
Availability of living wage jobs	50	45	50	47

**Table 109: Ratings of Health Concerns by Type of Housing Unit and Housing Tenure**

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)	Housing unit type		Rent or own	
	Detached	Other	Rent	Own
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)
Environmental hazards (e.g., polluted water or toxic waste)	41	44	39	43
Tobacco use (including e-cigarettes and chewing tobacco)	33	39 A	37	35
Depression, anxiety, and other mental illnesses	57	53	50	57 A
Social isolation	45	45	44	46
Underage alcohol use	40	41	35	42 A
Underage marijuana use	49	48	43	50 A
Alcohol abuse among adults	45	49	47	46
Marijuana abuse among adults	43	41	40	43
Illegal drug use (e.g., heroin, illicit fentanyl, methamphetamine)	58	57	55	58
Bullying	56	56	54	57
Illegal use of prescribed medications (such as opioids)	49	55 A	51	51
The health and support of older adults	51	53	50	52
The health and support of persons with disabilities	50	53	49	52
The health and support of children and child development	47	46	42	48
Nutrition of adults and children	44	48	48	45
Abuse and neglect of children	47	51	50	48
Abuse and neglect of older adults or vulnerable adults	46	50	49	47
Spread of infectious diseases	39	44 A	42	40

**Table 110: Ratings of Environmental Concerns by Type of Housing Unit and Housing Tenure**

Please rate to what degree, if at all, each of the following is an environmental concern in Dakota County Average rating (0=not at all a concern, 100=major concern)	Housing unit type		Rent or own	
	Detached	Other	Rent	Own
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)
Quality of outdoor air	32	32	28	33
Quality of drinking water (PFAS contaminants)	50	50	45	52 A
Quality of water in lakes, rivers, and streams	50	51	47	51
Quantity of useable water supply	40	43	38	42
Climate change	54	59	58	55
Energy use	49	50	46	50

**Table 111: 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)	Housing unit type		Rent or own	
	Detached	Other	Rent	Own
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)
County libraries like Burnhaven, Farmington, Galaxie, Heritage, Inver Glen, Kaposia, Pleasant Hill, Robert Trail, Wentworth, or Wescott	87 B	84	83	87
County parks and recreation like Lebanon Hills, Lake Byllesby, Miesville, Spring Lake Park, Thompson County Park or Whitetail Woods	87 B	83	85	86
Trail and greenway system like Big Rivers Trail, Mississippi River and River to River	84 B	76	76	83 A
Condition of county roads such as County Road 42, County Road 46, Kenwood Trail, Pilot Knob Roads or Yankee Doodle Road/County Road 28	64	62	64	63
Snow and ice removal on county roads	71	69	68	70
Sheriff deputies patrol and park protection services	69	69	69	70
Administering property tax	50	57 A	64 B	51
Addressing important health issues in communities	60	66 A	72 B	60
Prosecuting people accused of felony-level crimes or serious crimes	51	53	55	51
Overall quality of services provided by Dakota County	71 B	66	65	70 A

**Table 112: Ratings of County Services by Users by Type of Housing Unit and Housing Tenure**

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)	Housing unit type		Rent or own	
	Detached	Other	Rent	Own
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)
Employment support/CareerForce Center services	55	54	53	55
Financial assistance for low-income households	56	47	50	52
Records, passports, licensing, and vehicle registration	66	68	70	66
Services for people with disabilities	52	55	60	51
Services for people experiencing mental illness	51	45	48	48
Services that protect neglected or abused children	58	69	79 B	58
Information available on the County website	61	65	67	61
Services provided to older adults	57	54	56	55
Services at the Recycling Zone	77	76	79	77
Accessibility of services, physical and digital	63	66	72 B	62
Services at organic waste drop-off sites	69	70	70	69
Services to children and families	62	64	63	63
Services that protect neglected, abused, or exploited adults	60	49	52	56
Housing/shelter services and support	45	43	45	43
Public Health services	59	57	61	57

**Table 113: Ratings of County Employees by Type of Housing Unit and Housing Tenure**

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)	Housing unit type		Rent or own	
	Detached	Other	Rent	Own
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)
Knowledgeable	79	79	78	79
Responsive	73	75	68	76
Courteous	80	82	79	82
Overall impression	73	79	77	75



**Table 114: Ratings of Accessing County Services by Type of Housing Unit and Housing Tenure**

Please rate these aspects of accessing Dakota County services. Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)	Housing unit type		Rent or own	
	Detached	Other	Rent	Own
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)
Convenience of County facilities' locations	74	71	73	73
Online access to County services	72 B	67	66	71 A
Ease of paying for County services online	74	70	69	73
Availability of language resources for access to services (e.g., interpreters or multi-language materials or signage)	72	70	69	71

**Table 115: Ratings of Government Performance by Users by Type of Housing Unit and Housing Tenure**

Please rate the following categories of Dakota County government performance. Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)	Housing unit type		Rent or own	
	Detached	Other	Rent	Own
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)
The job Dakota County government does of providing information to residents	66	65	64	66
The job Dakota County government does of listening to residents	52	56	56	53
The value of services for the taxes paid to Dakota County	55	58	60	56
The job Dakota County government does at managing tax dollars	51	55	57	52
The value of Dakota County services to the quality of life in my neighborhood	63	62	63	63
Generally acting in the best interest of the community	62	65	65	63
Supporting the quality of life in the county	65	66	68	65
Effectively planning for the future of the county	57	64 A	65 B	58
Overall confidence in Dakota County government	62	62	63	62

**Table 116: Ratings of Importance about Library Programs by Housing Unit and Housing Tenure**

How important, if at all, is it to provide the following library programs and services? (0=Not at all important, 100=Essential)	Housing unit type		Rent or own	
	Detached	Other	Rent	Own
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)
Popular titles/current library materials	69	73	74	71
Small business/economic development resources and services	63	69 A	72 B	63
Information about jobs, skills, literacy, and careers	69	74 A	76 B	70
Streaming digital materials (movies, music, e-books, e-audio books)	56	62 A	59	58
Access to computers and the Internet	69	81 A	83 B	71
Access to creative maker technology, equipment, or classes	51	67 A	70 B	54
Community space, meeting and conference rooms	61	68 A	68	63
Classes and events on a variety of topics	58	64 A	67 B	59
English as a second language resources and services	63	72 A	75 B	65
Library materials in other languages (Spanish, Somali, Russian, others)	53	58	60	54
Self-service hours (access to services during regularly closed times)	54	60 A	59	56
Other	64	78	81	67

**Table 117: Ratings of Importance about the Use of County Funds by Housing Unit and Housing Tenure**

How important, if at all, is it to continue using County funds for these purposes? (0=Not at all important, 100=Essential)	Housing unit type		Rent or own	
	Detached	Other	Rent	Own
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)
Increasing public access for outdoor recreation	64	68	70 B	65
Protecting and improving natural areas	75	76	79	75
Protecting and improving water quality	82	83	83	83
Protecting and improving wildlife habitat	74	78	81 B	74

**Table 118: Driving Factors for Changing Work Situation by Housing Unit and Housing Tenure**

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? (0=Not at all important, 100=Essential)	Housing unit type		Rent or own	
	Detached	Other	Rent	Own
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)
Better pay	77	83 A	84 B	78
Better benefits (e.g., health insurance, family leave, tuition reimbursement)	74	75	72	75
The flexibility to work remotely (e.g., work from home or telework) at least part of the time	57	55	53	58
The option to work part-time or at reduced hours	40	36	34	40
Career advancement opportunity at work	60	69 A	74 B	60
Availability and affordability of childcare	46	41	40	45
Availability and affordability of other caregiving (e.g. senior care or care for family members with disabilities)	37	46 A	44	39
Public transit to work	29	42 A	45 B	30

## 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 195 in *Appendix G: Survey Methodology*. Responses are shown where question wording from previous surveys was identical or similar to what was included on the 2025 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 five points or greater on the 100-point scale, they can be considered statistically significant.

**Table 119: Question #1 by Survey Year**

<b>How would you rate your overall quality of life in Dakota County? Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2001</b>
How would you rate your overall quality of life in Dakota County?	78	78	80	79	76	74	77	76	78	76

**Table 120: Question #2 by Survey Year**

<b>What one thing do you like most about living in Dakota County?</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2001</b>
Location	29%	27%	36%	36%	38%	31%	26%	27%	27%	31%
Rural character	10%	9%	7%	3%	4%	3%	8%	5%	5%	22%
Parks/Lakes/Trails	13%	15%	12%	10%	7%	9%	10%	9%	8%	4%
Quality of life in general	23%	21%	23%	21%	16%	22%	5%	4%	3%	0%
My neighborhood	10%	12%	9%	9%	10%	11%	3%	5%	4%	7%
Schools	4%	4%	6%	4%	6%	6%	6%	8%	6%	9%
Low taxes	2%	3%	2%	6%	6%	6%	6%	3%	5%	5%
People	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	5%	4%	2%	6%
Other	4%	4%	1%	4%	4%	5%	27%	30%	36%	16%
Open space	3%	4%	3%	4%	7%	5%	5%	6%	5%	0%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 121: Question #3 by Survey Year

Please rate each of the following characteristics of Dakota County. (0=poor, 100=excellent)	2025	2022	2019	2016	2013	2011	2008	2006	2004	2001
Dakota County as a place to live	78	79	80	78	77	.	.	.	.	.
Dakota County as a place to work	68	69	71	67	.	.	.	.	.	.
Dakota County as a place to retire	63	61	64	58	60	58	.	.	.	.
Dakota County as a place to raise a family	77	78	79	76	.	.	.	.	.	.
Sense of community	59	62	63	61	57	.	.	.	.	.
Openness and acceptance of people with diverse backgrounds	59	59	59	57	58	60	.	.	.	.
Outdoor recreational opportunities in Dakota County	75	77	76	75	68	67	.	.	.	.
Availability of biking paths and walking trails	77	66	66	64	.	.	.	.	.	.
Accessibility of biking paths and walking trails	75	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Economic health of Dakota County	65	70	67	65	60	.	.	.	.	.
Availability of employment opportunities	56	61	59	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Availability of quality, affordable child care	44	46	49	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Availability of affordable housing	42	44	43	49	53	49	47	46	50	.
Availability of transportation/transit (for work purposes and commuting)	46	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Water quality/health of environment	60	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Climate resiliency practices/strategies	59	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Natural resources	67	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Arts and culture countywide	58	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Overall image or reputation of Dakota County	69	70	71	68	66	67	.	.	.	.

Table 122: Question #5 by Survey 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?	2025	2022	2019	2016	2013	2011	2008	2006	2004	2001
Much better	6%	6%	4%	3%	5%	4%	8%	.	.	.
Somewhat better	17%	20%	23%	24%	21%	19%	19%	.	.	.
About the same	56%	53%	63%	60%	55%	52%	55%	.	.	.
Somewhat worse	17%	18%	9%	10%	16%	16%	12%	.	.	.
Much worse	4%	3%	1%	3%	3%	8%	5%	.	.	.
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	.	.	.

Table 123: Question #6 by Survey Year

Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel in Dakota County. Average rating (0=very unsafe, 100=very safe)	2025	2022	2019	2016	2013	2011	2008	2006	2004	2001
From property crimes (e.g., burglary, theft)	73	67	74	72	70	72	72	67	72	.
From violent crimes (e.g., rape, assault, robbery)	81	77	83	81	80	80	80	73	79	.
From substance use and associated activities (e.g. selling drugs)	69	68	69	68	66	67	.	.	.	.
From financial scams (e.g. identity theft, phone scams, cybercrime)	57	57	58	61	62	.	.	.	.	.
From domestic violence	85	85	86	84	83	.	.	.	.	.
From gang activity	81	78	83	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
While driving on roads within Dakota County	73	74	76	72	.	.	.	.	.	.
While walking or biking within Dakota County	71	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
While in your neighborhood	85	84	87	83	80	75	83	84	86	78
While in County office buildings, libraries, courtrooms	90	87	90	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
While in schools in Dakota County	77	85	88	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
While in places of worship in Dakota County	86	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
While using Dakota County parks, trails, and greenways	75	78	80	78	78	78	76	77	78	.

Table 124: Question #7 by Survey Year

<b>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)</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2001</b>
Crime	44	50	37	38	39	39	44	53	47	.
Taxes	54	43	45	47	48	51	60	.	54	.
Traffic safety	43	35	33	36	34	36	.	.	.	.
Traffic congestion	42	38	39	41	40	42	52	59	62	.
Poverty	43	43	34	40	39	36	41	45	42	.
Homelessness	37	38	26	27	.	.	.	.	.	.
Affordability of housing	59	60	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Availability of living wage jobs	52	47	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.

Table 125: Question #8 by Survey Year

<b>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)</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2001</b>
Environmental hazards (e.g., polluted water or toxic waste)	42	40	36	36	.	.	.	.	.	.
Tobacco use (including e-cigarettes and chewing tobacco)	35	33	38	36	31	32	50	61	58	.
Depression, anxiety, and other mental illnesses	55	57	48	47	.	.	.	.	.	.
Social isolation	45	50	37	35	.	.	.	.	.	.
Underage alcohol use	41	42	43	47	48	55	70	71	66	.
Underage marijuana use	49	45	41	44	44	48	55	.	.	.
Alcohol abuse among adults	46	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Marijuana abuse among adults	42	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Illegal drug use (e.g., heroin, illicit fentanyl, methamphetamine)	58	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Bullying	56	52	52	48	49	.	.	.	.	.
Illegal use of prescribed medications (such as opioids)	51	48	49	44	.	.	.	.	.	.
The health and support of older adults	52	51	45	46	42	53	56	66	.	.
The health and support of persons with disabilities	51	49	45	45	41	49	.	.	.	.
The health and support of children and child development	47	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Nutrition of adults and children	46	56	54	56	58	59	67	64	63	.
Abuse and neglect of children	48	50	46	48	47	52	55	48	46	.

<b>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)</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2001</b>
Abuse and neglect of older adults or vulnerable adults	47	49	44	45	43	49	.	.	.	.
Spread of infectious diseases	41	51	37	38	36	.	.	.	.	.

Table 126: Question #9 by Survey Year

<b>Please rate to what degree, if at all, each of the following is an environmental concern in Dakota County. Average rating (0=not at all a concern, 100=major concern)</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2001</b>
Quality of outdoor air	32	30	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Quality of drinking water (PFAS contaminants)	51	39	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Quality of water in lakes, rivers, and streams	50	49	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Quantity of useable water supply	42	39	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Climate change	56	56	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Energy use	49	52	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.

Table 127: Question #10 by Survey Year

<b>Please rate each of the following services provided by Dakota County. Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2001</b>
County libraries like Burnhaven, Farmington, Galaxie, Heritage, Inver Glen, Kaposia, Pleasant Hill, Robert Trail, Wentworth, or Wescott	86	85	85	82	84	80	81	78	80	82
County parks and recreation like Lebanon Hills, Lake Byllesby, Miesville, Spring Lake Park, Thompson County Park or Whitetail Woods	86	86	85	84	81	80	76	74	77	76
Trail and greenway system like Big Rivers Trail, Mississippi River and River to River	81	81	81	78	78	75	72	70	73	.



<b>Please rate each of the following services provided by Dakota County. Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2001</b>
Condition of county roads such as County Road 42, County Road 46, Kenwood Trail, Pilot Knob Roads or Yankee Doodle Road/County Road 28	63	65	66	61	63	56	53	57	59	63
Snow and ice removal on county roads	70	68	67	68	65	61	70	67	65	73
Sheriff deputies patrol and park protection services	69	68	70	68	77	70	69	70	70	72
Administering property tax	52	55	54	49	43	.	.	.	.	.
Addressing important health issues in communities	62	57	59	57	.	.	.	.	.	.
Prosecuting people accused of felony-level crimes or serious crimes	52	49	62	60	.	.	.	.	.	.
Overall quality of services provided by Dakota County	69	69	68	66	62	64	69	.	.	.

**Table 128: Question #11 by Users by Survey Year**

<b>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)</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2001</b>
Employment support/CareerForce Center services	55	69	68	59	51	49	51	.	58	.
Financial assistance for low-income households	51	63	53	49	57	.	.	.	.	.
Records, passports, licensing, and vehicle registration	67	61	63	67	65	66	.	.	.	.
Services for people with disabilities	54	62	54	56	.	.	.	.	.	.
Services for people experiencing mental illness	48	50	47	40	.	.	.	.	.	.
Services that protect neglected or abused children	63	55	56	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Information available on the County website	63	63	63	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Services provided to older adults	56	58	52	50	58	.	.	.	.	.
Services at the Recycling Zone	77	75	74	.	.	.	.	.	.	.

<b>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)</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2001</b>
Accessibility of services, physical and digital	64	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Services at organic waste drop-off sites	69	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Services to children and families	63	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Services that protect neglected, abused, or exploited adults	55	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Housing/shelter services and support	44	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Public Health services	58	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.

Table 129: Question #12 by Survey Year

<b>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?</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2001</b>
Strongly support	10%	10%	9%	6%	7%	7%	10%	10%	12%	.
Somewhat support	40%	40%	42%	40%	34%	44%	34%	36%	43%	.
Somewhat oppose	23%	28%	29%	29%	29%	23%	25%	27%	23%	.
Strongly oppose	27%	22%	20%	26%	30%	27%	32%	28%	22%	.
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	.

Table 130: Question #12 by Survey Year

<b>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? Average rating (0=strongly oppose, 100=strongly support)</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2001</b>
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?	44	46	46	42	39	44	40	42	48	54

Table 131: Question #13 by Survey Year

Have you visited (in-person or virtually), telephoned, or emailed any Dakota County government employee within the last 12 months?	2025	2022	2019	2016	2013	2011	2008	2006	2004	2001
Yes	42%	34%	36%	34%	39%	38%	48%	51%	50%	.
No	58%	66%	64%	66%	61%	62%	52%	49%	50%	.
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	.

Table 132: 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)	2025	2022	2019	2016	2013	2011	2008	2006	2004	2001
Knowledgeable	79	82	76	76	73	75	.	.	.	.
Responsive	74	75	75	73	70	71	.	.	.	.
Courteous	81	80	78	75	71	71	.	.	.	.
Overall impression	76	78	76	73	70	71	73	70	76	76

Table 133: Question #15 by Survey Year

Please rate these aspects of accessing Dakota County services. Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)	2025	2022	2019	2016	2013	2011	2008	2006	2004	2001
Convenience of County facilities' locations	73	73	73	71	73	.	.	.	.	.
Online access to County services	70	71	70	69	67	.	.	.	.	.
Ease of paying for County services online	72	67	70	68	64	.	.	.	.	.
Availability of language resources for access to services (e.g., interpreters or multi-language materials or signage)	70	69	71	67	69	.	.	.	.	.

Table 134: Question #16 by Survey Year

<b>Please rate the following categories of Dakota County government performance. Average rating (0=poor, 100=excellent)</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2001</b>
The job Dakota County government does of providing information to residents	65	65	64	63	61	57	52	59	60	64
The job Dakota County government does of listening to residents	54	54	55	52	54	48	48	44	47	.
The value of services for the taxes paid to Dakota County	56	57	57	55	54	46	46	48	54	43
The job Dakota County government does at managing tax dollars	53	55	54	54	52	44	45	48	51	.
The value of Dakota County services to the quality of life in my neighborhood	62	62	62	60	60	55	64	53	.	.
Generally acting in the best interest of the community	63	63	63	61	60	.	.	.	.	.
Supporting the quality of life in the county	65	65	65	63	.	.	.	.	.	.
Effectively planning for the future of the county	59	62	61	58	.	.	.	.	.	.
Overall confidence in Dakota County government	62	63	62	60	58	.	.	.	.	.

Table 135: Question #17 by Survey Year

<b>To what extent do you approve or disapprove of the job the Dakota County Board is doing?</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2001</b>
Strongly approve	24%	26%	22%	19%	18%	16%	27%	22%	22%	.
Somewhat approve	60%	64%	70%	67%	70%	70%	63%	68%	72%	.
Somewhat disapprove	14%	8%	6%	10%	8%	12%	8%	6%	4%	.
Strongly disapprove	2%	2%	2%	4%	3%	2%	2%	4%	2%	.
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	.

Table 136: Question #17 by Survey Year

<b>To what extent do you approve or disapprove of the job the Dakota County Board is doing? Average rating (0=strongly disapprove, 100=strongly approve)</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2001</b>
To what extent do you approve or disapprove of the job the Dakota County Board is doing?	68	71	70	67	68	66	72	69	71	65

Table 137: Question #18 by Survey Year

<b>How important, if at all, is it to provide the following library programs and services? Average rating (0=not at all important, 100=essential)</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2001</b>
Popular titles/current library materials	71	71	74	71	69	.	.	.	.	.
Small business/economic development resources and services	65	65	60	55	55	.	.	.	.	.
Information about jobs, skills, literacy, and careers	71	70	67	63	61	.	.	.	.	.
Streaming digital materials (movies, music, e-books, e-audio books)	58	57	62	35	.	.	.	.	.	.
Access to computers and the Internet	74	71	70	62	65	.	.	.	.	.
Access to creative maker technology, equipment, or classes	57	57	56	33	.	.	.	.	.	.
Community space, meeting and conference rooms	64	62	65	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Classes and events on a variety of topics	60	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
English as a second language resources and services	67	65	61	55	48	.	.	.	.	.
Library materials in other languages (Spanish, Somali, Russian, others)	55	56	53	44	43	.	.	.	.	.
Self-service hours (access to services during regularly closed times)	56	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.

Table 138: Question #19 by Survey Year

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.)	2025	2022	2019	2016	2013	2011	2008	2006	2004	2001
Local or neighborhood newspapers	22%	25%	41%	30%	.	.	.	.	.	.
The County's mailed newsletter	68%	65%	61%	51%	.	.	.	.	.	.
Calling Dakota County	8%	9%	7%	5%	.	.	.	.	.	.
Email from Dakota County	45%	39%	29%	21%	.	.	.	.	.	.
Text messages and alerts (sent to cell phones)	19%	20%	13%	0%	.	.	.	.	.	.
Television/cable TV	11%	9%	25%	9%	.	.	.	.	.	.
County website (www.dakotacounty.us)	52%	50%	37%	39%	.	.	.	.	.	.
Social media (Facebook, Twitter, NextDoor, etc.)	23%	20%	19%	14%	.	.	.	.	.	.
None, I don't want or need any information from Dakota County	2%	3%	4%	4%	.	.	.	.	.	.

Table 139: 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)	2025	2022	2019	2016	2013	2011	2008	2006	2004	2001
Increasing public access for outdoor recreation	66	70	67	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Protecting and improving natural areas	76	80	75	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Protecting and improving water quality	83	85	85	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Protecting and improving wildlife habitat	76	79	77	.	.	.	.	.	.	.

Table 140: Question #25 by Survey Year

<b>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? Average rating (0=not at all important, 100=essential)</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2001</b>
Better pay	79	78	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Better benefits (e.g., health insurance, family leave, tuition reimbursement)	74	76	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
The flexibility to work remotely (e.g., work from home or telework) at least part of the time	56	60	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
The option to work part-time or at reduced hours	39	43	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Career advancement opportunity at work	64	63	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Availability and affordability of childcare	44	46	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Availability and affordability of other caregiving (e.g. senior care or care for family members with disabilities)	40	40	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Public transit to work	34	39	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.

## Appendix E: Survey Results Compared to Other Participating Minnesota Counties

### Understanding the Tables

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

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

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

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



**Table 141: Overall Quality of Life by County**

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

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

**Table 142: Quality of Life by County**

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

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

**Table 143: 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)
Outdoor recreational opportunities <sup>1</sup>	75 B C D	60	72 B	71 B	77 B C D
Sense of community <sup>2</sup>	59 B	53	.	.	59 B
Employment opportunities <sup>3</sup>	56 C D	61 A C D E	50 D	44	53 D
Availability of affordable quality child care <sup>4</sup>	44 B	37	41	.	.
Availability of affordable health care	.	63 C	51	.	.
Openness and acceptance of the community towards people of diverse backgrounds <sup>5</sup>	59 C	56	54	.	63 A B C
Welcoming residents from all backgrounds to participate in local government and community decision-making <sup>6</sup>	.	52	56 B	.	62 A B
County parks and recreation <sup>7</sup>	86 B C	77 C	72	.	86 B C
Availability of housing options for all incomes <sup>8</sup>	42 B	26	41 B	.	43 B
Accessibility of biking paths and walking trails <sup>9</sup>	75	72	.	.	.
Economic health of the county	65 B	61	.	.	.
Overall feeling of safety in the county	.	64	.	.	75 B
Educational opportunities <sup>10</sup>	.	56 C	43	62 B C	.
Ease of travel by car in the county	.	77	.	.	74

<sup>1</sup> For Olmsted and St. Louis County, this was "Recreational opportunities."

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

<sup>3</sup> For Dakota County, this was "Availability of employment opportunities."

<sup>4</sup> For Dakota County, this was "Availability of quality, affordable child care."

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

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

<sup>7</sup> For Scott County, this was "Regional parks and trails."

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

<sup>9</sup> For Olmsted County, this was "Availability of paths and walking trails."

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

**Table 144: 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)
From property crime	73 D	75 D	.	64	80 A B D
From violent crime	81 D	80 D	.	71	85 A B D
Illegal drug activity <sup>1</sup>	69 D	.	.	49	79 A D
Intoxicated or impaired drivers <sup>2</sup>	.	62 D	.	49	69 B D
From distracted drivers	.	48 D	.	40	57 B D
In your neighborhood <sup>3</sup>	85	90 A C E	86	.	88 A
From identity theft <sup>4</sup>	57	.	.	.	65 A
While driving on roads in the county	73	.	.	.	76 A
While biking or walking along roads in the county	71 E	.	.	.	64
In county government buildings <sup>5</sup>	90	.	.	.	92 A
In the county regional parks or trails	.	.	78	.	82 C

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

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

<sup>3</sup> For Olmsted County, this was "In your neighborhood during the day."

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

<sup>5</sup> For Dakota County, this was "While in County office buildings, libraries, courtrooms."

Table 145: 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	44	.	43	58 A C	.
Taxes	54	.	65 A E	65 A E	57
Traffic safety <sup>1</sup>	43 C E	.	39	.	36
Traffic congestion <sup>2</sup>	42	.	44 E	.	40
Poverty	43 C E	.	39	70 A C E	35
Homelessness	37 C E	.	32 E	71 A C E	27
Availability of livable wage jobs	52	.	49	.	51
Affordability of housing <sup>3</sup>	59 E	.	60 E	.	53

<sup>1</sup> For Scott County, this was "Highway safety" and for Washington County, this was "Roadway safety."

<sup>2</sup> For Washington County, this was "Roadway congestion."

<sup>3</sup> For Washington County, this was "Availability of stable, affordable housing."

Table 146: 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)
Pollution <sup>1</sup>	42 C	.	34	.	.
Tobacco use	35 C	.	28	45 A C E	33 C
Suicide/attempted suicide	.	.	42	59 C E	39
Domestic violence	.	.	54 E	65 C E	43
Bullying	56 E	.	56 E	66 A C E	44
Abuse and neglect of children	48 E	.	49 E	61 A C E	42
Abuse and neglect of older adults <sup>2</sup>	47 E	.	45	56 A C E	41
Misuse of prescribed medications <sup>3</sup>	51 C E	.	46 E	60 A C E	36
Depression, anxiety, and other mental illnesses <sup>4</sup>	55 E	.	.	67 A E	48

Please rate to what degree, if at all, each of the following is a health concern in (this) County: Average rating 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)
Social isolation/lack of community connections <sup>5</sup>	45	.	46	.	45
Overweight adults and children <sup>6</sup>	46	.	60 A	.	.
Sexually transmitted diseases	.	.	26	44 C	.
The health of and support for older adults <sup>7</sup>	52 C E	.	47 E	60 A C E	40
The health of and support for people with disabilities <sup>8</sup>	51 E	.	51 E	57 A C E	41
Excessive alcohol use among adults	46 E	.	.	64 A E	40
Illicit drug use <sup>9</sup>	58 E	.	.	73 A E	39
Underage alcohol use	41	.	.	56 A E	44
Access to mental healthcare <sup>10</sup>	.	.	62 E	62 E	50
Overweight children	.	.	.	60 E	55
Overweight adults	.	.	.	69 E	59
Electronic cigarettes/vaping <sup>11</sup>	.	.	.	56 E	43
Spread of infectious diseases	41	.	.	.	43

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

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

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

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

<sup>5</sup> For Dakota County it was "Social isolation" and for Washington County it was "Loneliness."

<sup>6</sup> For Dakota County, this was "Nutrition of adults and children."

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

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

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

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

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

Table 147: 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)
County libraries <sup>1</sup>	86 C	.	79	.	85 C
Trail and bikeway connectivity <sup>2</sup>	81 C	.	64	.	82 C
911 dispatch services	.	.	81 D	76	82 D
Sheriff patrol <sup>3</sup>	69	72 D	73 A D	67	.
Employment support <sup>4</sup>	55 D	.	56 D	44	63 A C D
Snow and ice removal on county roads	70 B C D	66 D	67 D	60	72 B C D
Disaster preparedness and response <sup>5</sup>	.	66 C D	55	54	74 B C D
Services to low income residents	.	.	52 D	44	.
Services to veterans	.	.	53 D	43	64 C D
Surface condition of county roads <sup>6</sup>	63 C D	.	59 D	50	66 A C D
Services to people with disabilities	54	.	51	.	.
Services for older adults	56 D	.	51 D	43	59 C D
Overall quality of services provided by the county	69 C D	.	61 D	46	67 C D
Public health services	58 D	67 A D	.	51	67 A D
Mental health services <sup>7</sup>	48	.	43	.	56 A C
Protecting children <sup>8</sup>	63 D	.	63 D	43	.
Protecting vulnerable adults <sup>9</sup>	55	.	59	.	.
Recycling and household hazardous waste disposal <sup>10</sup>	77 B C D	70 C D	62 D	56	79 B C D
Information available on the county website <sup>11</sup>	63 D	.	63 D	57	.
Records and vital statistics <sup>12</sup>	67 D	.	66 D	55	67 D
Regional public transit or bus system <sup>13</sup>	46 E	56 A C E	42 E	.	32
Overall quality of natural environment in the County <sup>14</sup>	67 B	64	.	.	.

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 opportunities for education, culture, and the arts <sup>15</sup>	58	55	55	.	.
Availability of bike and pedestrian options <sup>16</sup>	77 C	.	59	.	60
Overall image or reputation of the county	69 B D	61 D	.	56	76 A B D
Cost of living in the county	.	32	.	39 B	.
Land use services, including building and conditional use permitting <sup>17</sup>	.	51 D	50	46	.
Property assessment and taxpayer services <sup>18</sup>	52 C D	.	47 D	35	.

<sup>1</sup> For Scott County, this was "Public libraries located in the County."

<sup>2</sup> For Dakota County, this was "Trail and greenway system."

<sup>3</sup> For Dakota County, this was "Sheriff deputies patrol and park protection services" and for Olmsted County, this was "Sheriff's Office law enforcement services."

<sup>4</sup> For Scott County, this was "Employment and training services."

<sup>5</sup> For Olmsted County, this was "Emergency preparedness (services that prepare the community for natural disasters or other emergency situations)."

<sup>6</sup> For Dakota County, this was "Condition of county roads;" for St. Louis County, this was "Maintenance of county roads and bridges;" for Washington County, this was "Condition of county highways."

<sup>7</sup> For Dakota County, this was "Services for people experiencing mental illness."

<sup>8</sup> For Dakota County, this was "Services that protect neglected or abused children" and for St. Louis County, this was "Child Protection."

<sup>9</sup> For Dakota County, this was "Services that protect neglected, abused, or exploited adults."

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

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

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

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

<sup>14</sup> For Dakota County, this was "Natural resources."

<sup>15</sup> For Scott County, this was "Social and cultural opportunities (e.g., arts, entertainment, etc.)" and for Dakota County, this was "Arts and culture countywide."

<sup>16</sup> For Dakota County, this was "Availability of biking paths and walking trails" and for Washington County this was "Bike and pedestrian transportation options."

<sup>17</sup> For Scott County, this was "Inspections and zoning services" and for Olmsted County, this was "Land use, planning, and zoning."

<sup>18</sup> For Dakota County, this was "Administering property tax" and for St. Louis County, this was "Assessment process/property tax system."

**Table 148: 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 the county government does at informing residents <sup>1</sup>	65 B C D	50 D	57 B D	44	65 B C D
The job the county government does at listening to residents <sup>2</sup>	54 D	.	50 D	34	55 C D
The value of services for the taxes paid to the county	56 B C D E	42 D	44 D	36	50 B C D
The job the county government does at managing tax dollars <sup>3</sup>	53 C D E	.	44 D	35	43 D
The importance of the County services to the quality of life in my community <sup>4</sup>	62	.	61	.	63
The job the county does at providing access to county government services	.	.	59 D	49	.
Effectively planning for the future of the county	59 D	.	.	38	.
Overall confidence in the county government	62 B D	50 D	.	44	.
Generally acting in the best interest of the community	63 B	51	.	.	.

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

<sup>2</sup> For Washington County, this was "Listening to community members."

<sup>3</sup> For Washington County, this was "Managing tax dollars."

<sup>4</sup> For Dakota County, this was "The value of Dakota County services to the quality of life in my neighborhood" and for Washington County, this was "The value of Washington County services to the quality of life in my neighborhood."

**Table 149: Approval Rating of Board by County**

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



**Table 150: Support for or Opposition to a Property Tax Increase by County**

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

**Table 151: Contact with County Employees by County**

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

**Table 152: 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)
Knowledge	79 D	.	79 D	71	80 D
Responsiveness	74 D	.	77 D	66	77 D
Courtesy	81 D	.	80 D	72	86 A C D
Overall impression	76 D	.	77 D	68	.

**Table 153: County Website Usage by County**

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

**Table 154: Ratings of Website by County**

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

**Table 155: Future Financial Situation by County**

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

Table 156: Sources of Information by County

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

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

<sup>2</sup> For Washington County, this was "Television news broadcasts."

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

## 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

Polco has designed a method for quantitatively integrating the results of surveys that we have conducted with those that others have conducted. These integration methods have been described thoroughly in “Public Administration Review, Journal of Policy Analysis and Management,” and in Polco/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<sup>1, 2</sup>. The method described in those publications is refined regularly and statistically tested on a growing number of citizen surveys in Polco’s proprietary databases.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

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

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.

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 and gave their opinion about the quality of community life. The comparison evaluations are from the most recent survey completed in each jurisdiction; most communities conduct surveys every year or in alternating years. Polco adds the latest results quickly upon survey completion, keeping the benchmark data fresh and relevant.

### Interpreting the Results

Average ratings were compared when questions similar to those asked in Dakota County's survey were included in Polco's database, and there were at least five peer jurisdictions in which the question was asked. Where comparisons were available, three numbers are provided in the tables starting on the next page. The first column is 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 157: Overall Quality of Life Benchmark**

<b>How would you rate your overall quality of life in Dakota County?</b>	<b>Average rating</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Number of communities in comparison</b>	<b>Comparison to benchmark</b>
How would you rate your overall quality of life in Dakota County?	78	2	35	<b>Much higher</b>

**Table 158: Quality of Life Benchmarks**

<b>Please rate each of the following characteristics of Dakota County.</b>	<b>Average rating</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Number of communities in comparison</b>	<b>Comparison to benchmark</b>
Dakota County as a place to live	78	6	34	<b>Higher</b>
Dakota County as a place to work	68	7	35	<b>Much Higher</b>
Dakota County as a place to retire	63	16	35	Similar
Dakota County as a place to raise a family	77	5	35	<b>Higher</b>

**Table 159: Community Characteristics Benchmarks**

<b>Please rate each of the following characteristics of Dakota County.</b>	<b>Average rating</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Number of communities in comparison</b>	<b>Comparison to benchmark</b>
Sense of community	59	11	32	Similar
Openness and acceptance of people with diverse backgrounds	59	4	32	<b>Higher</b>
Outdoor recreational opportunities in Dakota County	75	7	31	<b>Much Higher</b>
Economic health of Dakota County	65	3	30	<b>Much Higher</b>
Availability of employment opportunities	56	3	33	<b>Much Higher</b>
Availability of quality, affordable child care	44	6	31	<b>Higher</b>
Availability of affordable housing	42	6	34	<b>Much Higher</b>
Overall image or reputation of Dakota County	69	5	32	<b>Much Higher</b>

**Table 160: Feelings of Safety Benchmarks**

<b>Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel in Dakota County.</b>	<b>Average rating</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Number of communities in comparison</b>	<b>Comparison to benchmark</b>
From property crimes (e.g., burglary, theft)	73	18	31	Similar
From violent crimes (e.g., rape, assault, robbery)	81	16	31	Similar
While in your neighborhood	85	1	5	Similar

**Table 161: Overall Quality of Services Benchmarks**

<b>Please rate each of the following services provided by Dakota County.</b>	<b>Average rating</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Number of communities in comparison</b>	<b>Comparison to benchmark</b>
Overall quality of services provided by Dakota County	69	1	34	Much Higher

**Table 162: Quality of Services Benchmarks**

<b>Please rate each of the following services provided by Dakota County.</b>	<b>Average rating</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Number of communities in comparison</b>	<b>Comparison to benchmark</b>
County libraries	86	2	34	Much Higher
Snow and ice removal on county roads	70	2	24	Much Higher
Sheriff deputies patrol and park protection services	69	11	33	Similar
Services provided to older adults	56	2	5	Similar
Services at the Recycling Zone	77	1	32	Much Higher

**Table 163: Contact with County Employees Benchmarks**

<b>Have you visited, telephoned, or emailed any Dakota County government office within the last 12 months?</b>	<b>Average rating</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Number of communities in comparison</b>	<b>Comparison to benchmark</b>
Have you visited, telephoned, or emailed any Dakota County government office within the last 12 months?	42	29	33	Lower

**Table 164: County Employee Benchmarks**

<b>What was your impression of the employee(s) of Dakota County in your most recent contact? (Please rate each characteristic below.)</b>	<b>Average rating</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Number of communities in comparison</b>	<b>Comparison to benchmark</b>
Knowledgeable	79	2	6	Similar
Responsive	74	3	5	Similar
Courteous	81	1	6	Higher
Overall impression	76	3	33	Much Higher

**Table 165: Perception of County Government Benchmarks**

<b>Please rate the following categories of Dakota County government performance.</b>	<b>Average rating</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Number of communities in comparison</b>	<b>Comparison to benchmark</b>
The job Dakota County government does of listening to residents	54	2	5	Similar
The value of services for the taxes paid to Dakota County	56	3	34	Much Higher
The job Dakota County government does at managing tax dollars	53	2	5	Higher
Generally acting in the best interest of the community	63	2	31	Much Higher

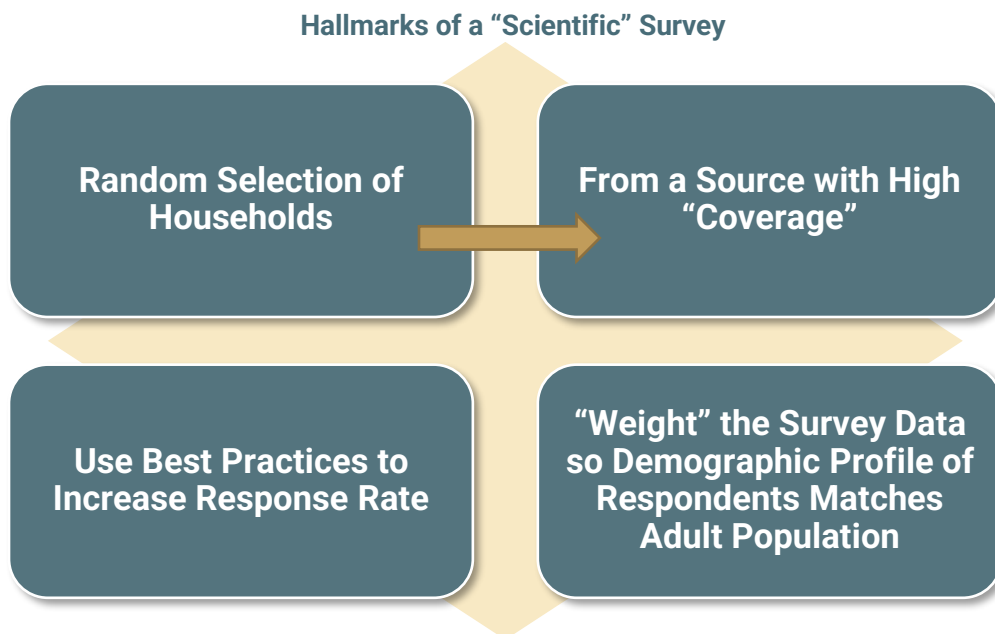


## Appendix G: Survey Methodology

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 Katie O'Connor at [Katie.OConnor@co.dakota.mn.us](mailto:Katie.OConnor@co.dakota.mn.us) or Dave Paulsen at [Dave.Paulsen@co.dakota.mn.us](mailto:Dave.Paulsen@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 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 2022. A list of topics was generated for new questions; items and questions were modified to find those that were the best fit for the 2025 project. In an iterative process between 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  $N$ th item is chosen, a process which closely approximates a random selection.

A larger list than needed was sampled, as zip codes generally do not follow municipal boundaries and addresses 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 seven districts. (A map of the Commissioner Districts can be found on the next page.) A random selection was made of 867 addresses within each district, with an additional 133 addresses sampled in Districts 1 and 2, and an additional 333 addresses sampled in Districts 3 and 5, as response rates in these districts in the past had been lower. Multi-family addresses (identified as those including a unit number) were 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 7,000 household recipients were selected to receive a survey invitation.

## Administering the Survey

Households received two mailings each beginning in January 2025. Completed surveys were collected over the following weeks. The first mailing for all households was a prenotification postcard announcing the upcoming survey. The postcard contained a web link so that recipients could go online to complete the survey.

The week after the prenotification postcard was sent, a paper survey was sent. The survey mailings contained a letter from the Chair of the Dakota County Board of Commissioners inviting the household to participate in the 2025 Resident Survey, a questionnaire, and a postage-paid return envelope. The cover letter also included a QR code and a URL link, allowing recipients to complete the survey online if they preferred it over the paper version. An individual within each household was randomly selected to complete the survey using the birthday method.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> 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.

A total of 786 completed surveys were received: 433 mailed hard copy surveys and 353 online surveys. About 3% of the surveys (197) were returned because they either had incorrect addresses or were received by vacant housing units. Of the estimated 6,803 remaining households, 786 completed the survey, providing a response rate of 12%. This method of calculating the response rate is in accordance with the AAPOR's response rate #2 for mailed surveys of unnamed persons.

**Table 166: Dakota County 2025 Resident Survey Response Rate**

<b>Commissioner District</b>	<b>Number mailed</b>	<b>Undeliverable postcards</b>	<b>Delivered surveys</b>	<b>Returned surveys</b>	<b>Response rate</b>
District 1	1,000	27	973	139	14%
District 2	1,000	36	964	92	10%
District 3	1,200	34	1,166	144	12%
District 4	867	25	842	114	14%
District 5	1,200	47	1,153	120	10%
District 6	867	8	859	72	8%
District 7	866	20	846	105	12%
<b>Overall</b>	<b>7,000</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>6,803</b>	<b>786</b>	<b>12%</b>

### 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 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 786 residents is generally no greater than plus or minus four percentage points around any given percent reported for all survey respondents.

### Survey Processing (Data Entry)

Mailed surveys were returned to Polco directly via postage-paid business reply envelopes. Once received, staff assigned a unique identification number to each questionnaire. Additionally, each survey was reviewed and “cleaned” as necessary. For example, a question may have asked a respondent to pick two items out of a list of five, but the respondent checked three; Polco staff would choose randomly two of the three selected items to be coded in the dataset.

Once all surveys were assigned a unique identification number, they were entered into an electronic dataset. This dataset was subject to a data entry protocol of “key and verify,” in which survey data were entered twice into an electronic dataset and then compared. Discrepancies were evaluated against the original survey form and corrected. Range checks as well as other forms of quality control were also performed.

## Analyzing the Results

### Weighting the Data

The primary objective of weighting survey data is to make the survey sample 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 under-respond) who did participate in the survey are more like the younger people who did NOT participate than they are like the older people who did respond to the survey.<sup>4</sup>

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.

<sup>4</sup> 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

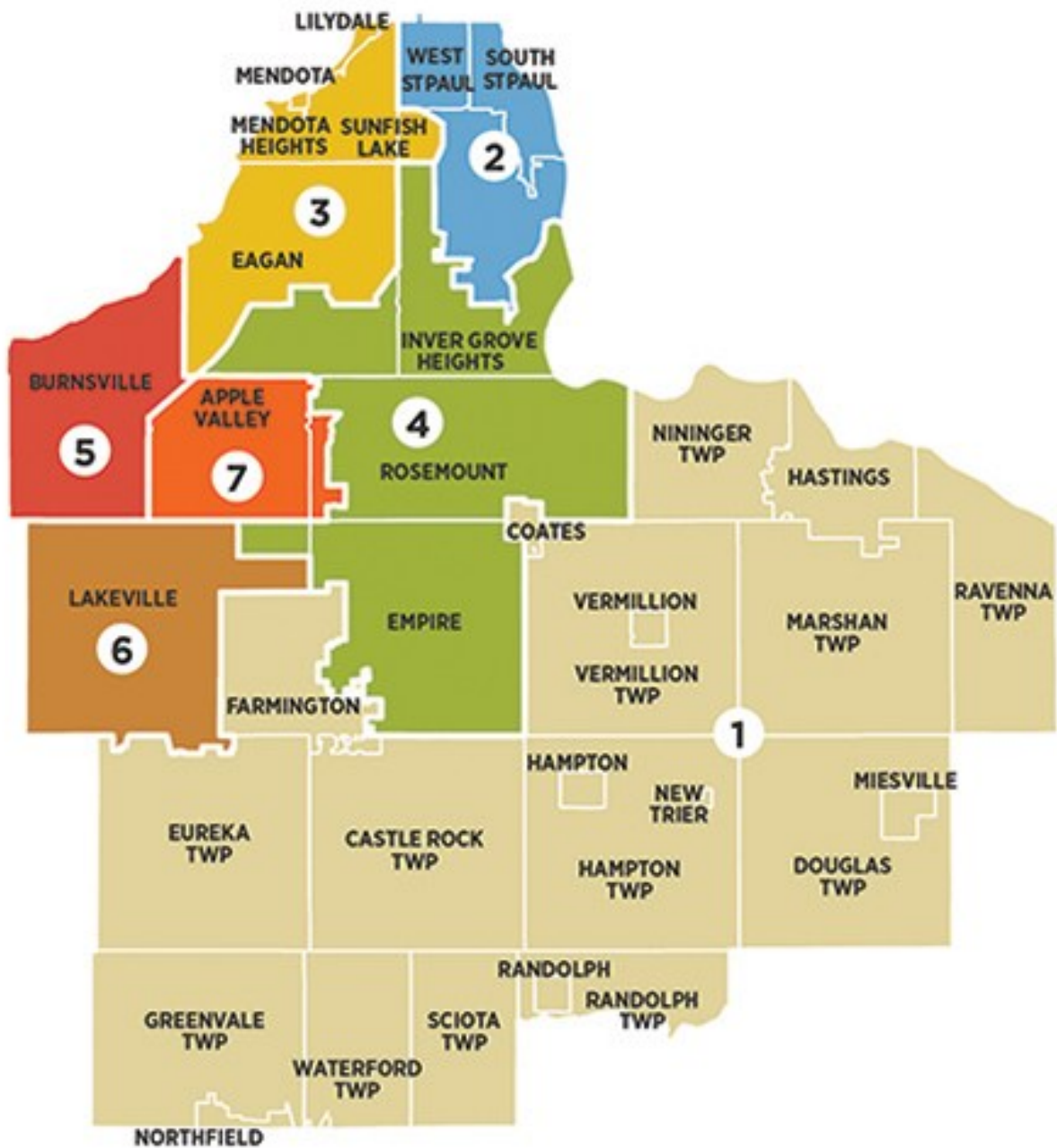
Table 167: Weighting Table, 2025

Characteristic	Population Norm <sup>1</sup>	Unweighted Data	Weighted Data
<b>Housing</b>			
Rent home	24%	12%	22%
Own home	76%	88%	78%
Detached unit	59%	69%	60%
Attached unit	41%	31%	40%
<b>Race and Ethnicity</b>			
White alone, not Hispanic	79%	91%	80%
Hispanic and/or other race	21%	9%	20%
<b>Sex and Age</b>			
Female	51%	54%	50%
Male	49%	46%	50%
18-34 years of age	27%	6%	24%
35-54 years of age	35%	22%	35%
55+ years of age	37%	71%	41%
<b>District*</b>			
District 1	13%	18%	14%
District 2	17%	12%	16%
District 3	15%	18%	15%
District 4	12%	15%	13%
District 5	15%	15%	15%
District 6	13%	9%	12%
District 7	14%	13%	14%

<sup>1</sup>Source: 5-year estimates from the 2023 American Community Survey

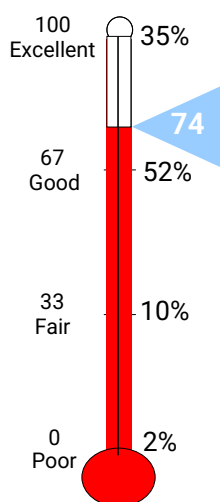
\*Source: Sample list purchased from Go-Dog Direct

Figure 38: Map of Dakota County 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”	Step1: Remove the percent of “don’t know” responses	Total without “don’t know”	Step 2: Assign scale values	Step 3: Multiply the percent by the scale value	Step 4: Sum to calculate the average rating
Excellent	32%	$=32 \div (100-11)=$	36%	100	$=36\% \times 100 =$	36
Good	46%	$=46 \div (100-11)=$	52%	67	$=52\% \times 67 =$	35
Fair	9%	$=9 \div (100-11)=$	10%	33	$=10\% \times 33 =$	3
Poor	2%	$=2 \div (100-11)=$	2%	0	$=2\% \times 0 =$	0
Don’t know	11%		--			
Total	100%		100%			74



## Statistical Analysis

The electronic dataset was analyzed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS). For the most part, frequency distributions and average (mean) ratings are presented in the body of the report. A complete set of frequencies for each survey question is presented in *Appendix 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 ten 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 five or more percentage points. 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 through 2025. 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 Polco in Dakota County that compared mail and telephone responses, as well as Polco's analysis of national trends comparing telephone and mail responses, Polco 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.

## 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 2025 Community Survey. To hear from a representative group of residents, the adult 18 or older in your household who most recently had a birthday should complete this survey. You can go online and complete the **confidential survey** at:

[www.polco.us/xxplaceholder](http://www.polco.us/xxplaceholder)

**Please do not share your survey link.** This survey is for randomly selected households only. You can also wait a few days for the survey to arrive in the mail. We do not track addresses or names; your responses are completely anonymous.

If you have any questions about the survey, please call 651-438-4496.

Thank you for helping create a better County!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael K. Janik". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chair, Dakota County Board of Commissioners



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

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**Tell us what you think!**

**Complete the Dakota County 2025 Community Survey.**



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 2025 Dakota County Community 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:

**[www.polco.us/xxplaceholder](http://www.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 651-438-4496.

Thank you for your time and participation!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael K. Javik".

Chair, Dakota County Board of Commissioners

# Dakota County 2025 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.)

- ☐ Location ☐ Quality of life in general ☐ Low taxes ☐ Open space  
☐ Rural character ☐ My neighborhood ☐ People ☐ Other (please specify):  
☐ Parks and greenways ☐ 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 biking paths and walking trails .....	1	2	3	4	5
Accessibility of biking paths and walking trails .....	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
Availability of transportation/transit (for work purposes and commuting)....	1	2	3	4	5
Water quality/health of environment .....	1	2	3	4	5
Climate resiliency practices/strategies .....	1	2	3	4	5
Natural resources .....	1	2	3	4	5
Arts and culture countywide .....	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 substance use and associated activities (e.g. selling drugs) .....	1	2	3	4	5
From financial scams (e.g. identity theft, phone scams, cybercrime) ..	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 walking or biking 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 in Dakota County .....	1	2	3	4	5
While in places of worship in Dakota County.....	1	2	3	4	5
While using Dakota County parks, trails, and greenways .....	1	2	3	4	5

# Dakota County 2025 Residential Survey

## 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

## 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
Underage marijuana use .....	1	2	3	4	5
Alcohol abuse among adults.....	1	2	3	4	5
Marijuana abuse among adults .....	1	2	3	4	5
Illegal drug use (e.g., heroin, illicit fentanyl, 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
The health and support of children and child development. ....	1	2	3	4	5
Nutrition of 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 (PFAS contaminants).....	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 like Burnhaven, Farmington, Galaxie, Heritage, Inver Glen, Kaposia, Pleasant Hill, Robert Trail, Wentworth, or Wescott. ...	1	2	3	4	5
County parks and recreation like Lebanon Hills, Lake Byllesby, Miesville, Spring Lake Park, Thompson County Park or Whitetail Woods .....	1	2	3	4	5
Trail and greenway system like Big Rivers Trail, Mississippi River and River to River.....	1	2	3	4	5
Condition of County roads such as County Road 42, County Road 46, Kenwood Trail, Pilot Knob Roads or Yankee Doodle Road/County Road 28 .....	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 felony-level crimes or serious crimes...	1	2	3	4	5
<b>Overall quality of services provided by Dakota County .....</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>

# Dakota County 2025 Residential Survey

## 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
Accessibility of services, physical and digital .....	1	2	3	4	5
Services at organic waste drop-off sites.....	1	2	3	4	5
Services to children and families.....	1	2	3	4	5
Services that protect neglected, abused, or exploited adults. ....	1	2	3	4	5
Housing/shelter services and support.....	1	2	3	4	5
Public Health services.....	1	2	3	4	5

## 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
<b>Overall impression.....</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>

## 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
<b>Overall confidence in Dakota County government .....</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>

## 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



# Dakota County 2025 Residential Survey

## 18. 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
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 space, meeting and conference rooms .....	1	2	3	4	5
Classes and events on a variety of topics .....	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
Self-service hours (access to services during regularly closed times)....	1	2	3	4	5
Other (please specify): .....	1	2	3	4	5

## 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"/> Television  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The County's mailed newsletters                | <input type="checkbox"/> County website (www.dakotacounty.us)                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Calling Dakota County                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Social media (Facebook, X, Nextdoor, Instagram)                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Email from Dakota County                       | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>None</u> , I don't want or need any information from Dakota County |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Text messages and alerts (sent to cell phones) |  |

## 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"/> Booths and staff at community festivals or events (e.g., County Fair or farmers markets) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social media (Facebook, X, Nextdoor, Instagram) | <input type="checkbox"/> Opt-in online surveys or online forums   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Citizen advisory committees                     |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): .....                   |   |

## 21. In the past year, on average, how often did you or your household use the following in Dakota County?

	Almost daily	Weekly	Monthly	A few times	Never
Dakota County parks.....	1	2	3	4	5
Regional trails/greenways.....	1	2	3	4	5

## 22. What, if anything, prevents you or your household from using parks or natural lands more often? Choose up to three (3).

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know where to go/unfamiliar with the offerings                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Facilities lack the right equipment/amenities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Locations are inconvenient for me (e.g., too far away from my home or workplace) | <input type="checkbox"/> Do not feel safe in these locations           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not easy to get there by bus, bike, or walking                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Not interested/don't want to                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not enough parking nearby for personal vehicles                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't have the time                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not accessible for people with disabilities                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Nothing prevents me/us from using more often  |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> 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 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"/> Affordable family housing   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Market-rate stand-alone single-family housing   | <input type="checkbox"/> Assisted living or supportive housing (with services for any age) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Market-rate apartments  | <input type="checkbox"/> Homeless shelters   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Workforce housing (housing affordable for working people that is close to their job) for single-person households | <input type="checkbox"/> None of these are needed in my community                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Affordable housing for older adults   |  |

## Dakota County 2025 Residential Survey

25. 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
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
Public transit to work.....	1	2	3	4	5

26. Which highway in Dakota County needs the most safety improvements? \_\_\_\_\_

27. 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