

Vital Communities' 2005 Quality-of-Life Survey

Data from the 17 SOUTHERN TOWNS in V.C.'s Service Area

(VT: Cavendish, Baltimore, Weathersfield, Chester, Springfield, Grafton, Rockingham, Westminster)

(NH: Claremont, Newport, Goshen, Unity, Charlestown, Acworth, Lempster, Langdon, Walpole)

There were **70 respondents** from these towns.

Questions #1-34:

<u>Ideal Community Component:</u>	<u>My TOWN is Achieving This Ideal:</u>			<u>This REGION is Achieving This Ideal:</u>		
	AGREE:	DISAGREE:	NO OPINION:	AGREE:	DISAGREE:	NO OPINION:
Good schools	40	24	6	42	13	15
Friendly people	61	8	1	60	4	6
Racial and ethnic diversity	18	47	5	24	33	13
Support for charities (volunteers & donors)	53	10	7	54	5	11
Religious and spiritual diversity	51	16	3	48	13	9
Liveable wages	17	50	3	30	31	9
A well-diversified economy	14	55	1	35	29	6
Enough job and income opportunities	10	57	3	27	35	8
A low poverty rate	21	43	6	27	33	10
Adequate stores and services	29	41	0	51	13	6
A strong feeling of community	45	25	0	44	13	13
A clean, healthy environment	50	18	2	46	16	8
Well-planned development	20	46	4	25	33	12
A convenient public transit system	8	60	2	12	51	7
Ample, varied recreational facilities	28	40	2	45	19	6
A stimulating cultural scene	21	47	2	45	18	7
An enjoyable entertainment scene	20	42	8	45	16	9
Enough affordable housing	20	45	5	19	45	6
Adequate sidewalks and bike paths	25	41	4	28	30	12
Accessible health care	50	16	4	50	10	10
Reasonable traffic conditions on our roads	44	25	1	35	28	7
An effective court system (criminal and civil)	33	21	16	36	16	18
Available child care	27	28	15	24	25	21
Available senior care	37	20	13	32	18	20
A well-functioning safety net for the needy	31	26	13	24	24	22
Appropriate zoning	30	32	8	23	20	27
Appropriate building regulations	36	24	10	27	15	28
Enough open space conserved for the public	39	29	2	32	23	15
A sense of personal safety	61	9	0	52	7	11
Vital town centers	36	33	1	39	16	15
A strong farming economy	27	38	5	23	30	17
All public service positions filled (e.g., Select Boards)	42	21	7	24	13	33

Q. #35: Of the ideal components listed above, please list 3 that should be the most critically important for this region to focus on (in order of importance):	MOST	2nd most	3rd most			
	Important:	Important:	Important:		TOTAL:	Percentage:
Good schools	22	9	4		35	17.2%
Enough affordable housing	4	4	3		11	5.4%
A clean, healthy environment	8	2	8		18	8.9%
Liveable wages	5	11	5		21	10.3%
Well-planned development	2	3	6		11	5.4%
Enough job and income opportunities	10	6	7		23	11.3%
A strong feeling of community	0	3	3		6	3.0%
A well-diversified economy	4	3	1		8	3.9%
Friendly people	1	1	0		2	1.0%
Enough open space conserved for the public	1	2	1		4	2.0%
Vital town centers	0	0	4		4	2.0%
Accessible health care	1	0	6		7	3.4%
Appropriate zoning	4	1	1		6	3.0%
A sense of personal safety	1	2	1		4	2.0%
Adequate sidewalks and bike paths	0	0	1		1	0.5%
Racial and ethnic diversity	0	1	1		2	1.0%
A convenient public transit system	1	4	1		6	3.0%
A strong farming economy	1	3	1		5	2.5%
A stimulating cultural scene	1	0	1		2	1.0%
A well-functioning safety net for the needy	0	1	1		2	1.0%
Adequate stores and services	0	3	2		5	2.5%
An effective court system (criminal and civil)	2	2	0		4	2.0%
Reasonable traffic conditions on our roads	0	0	2		2	1.0%
All public service positions filled (e.g., Select Boards)	1	0	0		1	0.5%
An enjoyable entertainment scene	0	0	0		0	0.0%
Appropriate building regulations	0	0	2		2	1.0%
Religious and spiritual diversity	0	0	0		0	0.0%
Ample, varied recreational facilities	0	2	0		2	1.0%
Available child care	1	3	2		6	3.0%
Available senior care	0	2	0		2	1.0%
Support for charities (volunteers and donors)	0	0	1		1	0.5%
Total Responses:	70	68	65		203	100.3%
Q. 36: How would you rate the overall quality of life in this region?	Number of Responses:					
Excellent	24					

	Satisfactory	30						
	Needs improvement	16						
Q. 37: Overall, how much impact do you think you can have in making your community a better place to live?		Number of Responses:						
	A big impact	9						
	A moderate impact	31						
	A small impact	22						
	No impact at all	8						
Q. 38: Is the population level:		Number of Responses:						
	About right	61						
	Too high	2						
	Too low	7						
Q. 39: Which one of the following strategies is the best way to handle growth?		Number of Responses:						
	Allow growth only if it won't hurt quality of life	37						
	Permit slow but steady growth	23						
	Stop growth now	0						
	Actively encourage growth	10						
Q. 40: Which of the following would you say best describes the funding level at your town's public schools?		Number of Responses:						
	They get more than enough money to provide a good education	14						
	They get adequate funding to provide a good education	21						
	They don't get enough money to do a good job	17						
	They are grossly underfunded	13						
	Don't know/No opinion	5						
Q. 41: Do our cultural, entertainment and recreation facilities meet the needs of people at all income and age levels?		Number of Responses:						

	Yes	19						
	No; amenities are far too oriented toward people with lots of leisure time & money	11						
	No; too many activities are designed to serve adults rather than children/youth	3						
	No; too many amenities favor the young and active and don't adequately serve older people	5						
	No; there are not enough facilities	26						
	Don't know/No opinion	6						
Q. 42: How confident are you in town government's ability to protect quality of life and meet the needs of growth?		Number of Responses:						
	Very confident	7						
	Somewhat confident	33						
	Not at all confident	26						
	Don't know/No opinion	4						
* end *								