NEBRASKA RURAL POLL

A Research Report

Community Well-Being and Civil Discourse in Nonmetropolitan Nebraska

2023 Nebraska Rural Poll Results

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Executive Summary

The past year continued to be challenging for rural Nebraskans. Inflation continues to impact household budgets. Low unemployment has caused many businesses to struggle to fill openings. Given these challenges and opportunities, how do rural Nebraskans feel about their community? Are they satisfied with the services provided by their community? Have these views changed over the past 28 years? Political discussions have grown more bitter and polarized in the past decade. How serious a problem do rural Nebraskans feel a lack of civil discourse is? How do they feel about civil discourse in their community? How closely do they follow various news and media sources? This paper provides a detailed analysis of these questions.

This report details 1,100 responses to the 2023 Nebraska Rural Poll, the 28th annual effort to understand rural Nebraskans' perceptions. Respondents were asked a series of questions about their community and civil discourse. Trends for some of the questions are examined by comparing data from the 27 previous polls to this year's results. In addition, comparisons are made among different respondent subgroups, that is, comparisons by age, occupation, region, etc. Based on these analyses, some key findings emerged:

- ***By many different measures, rural Nebraskans are positive about their community.***
    - ✓ *Most rural Nebraskans rate their community favorably on its social dimensions.* Overall, respondents rate their communities as friendly (75%), trusting (59%) and supportive (65%).
    - ✓ *Most rural Nebraskans say it would be difficult to leave their community.* Over one-half of rural Nebraskans (53%) say it would be difficult to leave their community. Just over three in ten (32%) indicate it would be easy for their household to leave their community.
    - ✓ *Most rural Nebraskans have a positive attachment to their community.* Most rural Nebraskans agree that they have a good bond with others in their community (58%), they feel like a member of their community (57%), they belong in their community (56%), and they feel connected to their community (53%).
    - ✓ *Most rural Nebraskans disagree that their community is powerless to control its future.* Just over six in ten rural Nebraskans (62%) strongly disagree or disagree that their community is powerless to control its own future.

- ***Rural Nebraskans are more positive about the current change in their communities this year but are less positive about its future.*** Starting two years ago, the proportion believing their community changed for the worse was more than the proportion believing it had changed for the better (similar to what occurred in 2003 and 2009). However, this year that trend reversed back to the typical pattern. This year, more believe their community has changed for the better than has changed for the worse. When asked about what they expect ten years from now, this year more people believe their community will be a worse place to live ten years from now than a better place, only occurring one other time in 2011.

- *Persons living in or near larger communities are more likely than persons living in or near smaller communities to get what they need in their community. However, persons living in or near the smallest communities are more likely than persons living in or near larger communities to have an attachment to their community.*

- *Except for some services that are largely unavailable in rural communities, rural Nebraskans are generally satisfied with basic community services and amenities.* The services or amenities respondents are most satisfied with include fire protection (85%), parks and recreation (74%), library services (70%), education (K – 12) (64%), sewage/waste disposal (63%), law enforcement (61%), cellular phone service (61%), and religious organizations (58%). At least four in ten respondents are either very dissatisfied or somewhat dissatisfied with retail shopping (54%), streets and roads (52%), entertainment (49%), restaurants (49%), cost of housing (48%), quality of housing (47%), arts/cultural activities (41%), and community recycling (40%).

- *Most rural Nebraskans believe the lack of civil or respectful discourse in our political system is either a very serious or a somewhat serious problem.* Approximately one-third of rural Nebraskans rate the lack of civil discourse in our political system as both a very serious (32%) or somewhat serious (33%) problem. Only five percent say it is not a serious problem at all.

- *When asked about how well local, state, and national leaders overcome differences to get things done, rural Nebraskans have the most faith in local community leaders.* Two-thirds believe local community leaders do at least moderately well at overcoming differences to get things done. However, four in ten (40%) believe the same about Nebraska's political leaders and only nine percent say America's political leaders do at least moderately well at that. Outside of leadership, most (69%) also believe people in their local community do at least moderately well at overcoming differences to get things done.
  - ✓ *Persons living in the Northeast region are more likely than persons living in other regions of the state to say their local community leaders do very or extremely well at overcoming differences to get things done.* Just over one-quarter (26%) of residents of the Northeast region believe their local community leaders do very or extremely well, compared to nine percent of Panhandle residents.

- *Most rural Nebraskans think Americans are more divided over politics than they were 10 years ago.* Over seven in ten (72%) believe we are much more divided and over two in ten (22%) say we are more divided.

- *Most rural Nebraskans have a negative opinion about social media and its impact on civil discourse.* Most rural Nebraskans *disagree* (55%) that social media are a place for civil and productive discourse. And most agree it only reinforces what the user already believes (59%) and that they contribute to division in their community (71%). They have mixed opinions about whether social media help them learn about a variety of opinions. Four in ten disagree with that statement while a similar proportion agree. Furthermore, more disagree that social media help them feel engaged in their community (46%) than agree (31%).

- ***More rural Nebraskans disagree than agree that people in their community are respectful towards others with differing political views.*** Just over four in ten (43%) disagree with the statement, while just over one-quarter (27%) agree.

- ***Most rural Nebraskans use the following media at least sometimes: read newspapers (online or in print) (61%), listen to news on the radio (60%), get news from a website or app (58%), and watch local television news (56%).*** Most rural Nebraskans say they never or hardly ever watch either national evening network television news or cable television news.

Introduction

The past year continued to be challenging for rural Nebraskans. Inflation continues to impact household budgets. Low unemployment has caused many businesses to struggle to fill openings. Given these challenges and opportunities, how do rural Nebraskans feel about their community? Are they satisfied with the services provided by their community? Have these views changed over the past 28 years? Political discussions have grown more bitter and polarized in the past decade. How serious a problem do rural Nebraskans feel a lack of civil discourse is? How do they feel about civil discourse in their community? How closely do they follow various news and media sources? This paper provides a detailed analysis of these questions.

This report details 1,100 responses to the 2023 Nebraska Rural Poll, the 28th annual effort to understand rural Nebraskans' perceptions. Respondents were asked a series of questions about their community and civil discourse.

Methodology and Respondent Profile

This study is based on 1,100 responses from Nebraskans living in 86 counties in the state.[1] A self-administered questionnaire was mailed in May and June to 6,030 randomly selected households. Metropolitan counties not included in the sample were Cass, Douglas, Lancaster, Sarpy, Saunders, Seward and Washington. The 14-page questionnaire included questions pertaining to well-being, community, civil discourse, the economy, federal agricultural policy, and childcare. This paper reports only

results from the community and the civil discourse sections.

An 18% response rate was achieved using the total design method (Dillman, 1978). The sequence of steps used follow:
1. A pre-notification letter was sent requesting participation in the study.
2. The questionnaire was mailed with an informal letter signed by the project manager approximately two weeks later.
3. A reminder postcard was sent to those who had not yet responded approximately two weeks after the questionnaire had been sent.
4. Those who had not yet responded within approximately 30 days of the original mailing were sent a replacement questionnaire.

Appendix Table 1 shows demographic data from this year's study and previous rural polls, as well as similar data based on the entire nonmetropolitan population of Nebraska (using the latest available data from the 2017 - 2021 American Community Survey). As can be seen from the table, there are some marked differences between some of the demographic variables in our sample compared to the Census data. Thus, we suggest the reader use caution in generalizing our data to all rural Nebraska. However, given the random sampling frame used for this survey, the acceptable percentage of responses, and the large number of respondents, we feel the data provide useful insights into opinions of rural Nebraskans on the various issues presented in this report. The margin of error for this study is plus or minus three percent.

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[1] In the spring of 2013, the Grand Island area (Hall, Hamilton, Howard and Merrick Counties) was designated a metropolitan area. To facilitate comparisons from previous years, these four counties are still included in our sample. In addition, the Sioux City area metropolitan counties of Dixon and Dakota were added in 2014 because of a joint

Metro Poll being conducted by the University of Nebraska at Omaha to ensure all counties in the state were sampled. Although classified as metro, Dixon County is rural in nature. Dakota County is similar in many respects to other "micropolitan" counties the Rural Poll surveys.

Since younger residents have typically been under-represented by survey respondents and older residents have been over-represented, weights were used to adjust the sample to match the age distribution in the nonmetropolitan counties in Nebraska (using U.S. Census figures from 2020).

The average age of respondents is 50 years. Seventy-one percent are married (Appendix Table 1) and 71 percent live within the city limits of a town or village. On average, respondents have lived in Nebraska 41 years and have lived in their current community 25 years. Sixty-one percent are living in or near towns or villages with populations less than 5,000. Ninety-eight percent have attained at least a high school diploma.

Eighteen percent of the respondents report their 2022 approximate household income from all sources, before taxes, as below $40,000. Sixty-seven percent report incomes over $60,000. Seventy-five percent were employed in 2022 on a full-time, part-time, or seasonal basis. Nineteen percent are retired. Thirty-one percent of those employed reported working in a management, professional, or education occupation. Ten percent indicated they were employed in agriculture.

Trends in Community Ratings (1996 - 2023)

Comparisons are made between the community data collected this year to the 27 previous studies. These were independent samples (the same people were not surveyed each year).

Community Change – 28 Year Trend

To examine respondents' perceptions of how their community has changed, they were asked the question, "Communities across the nation are undergoing change. When you think about this past year, would you say...My community has changed for the..." Answer categories were better, no change or worse.

One difference in the wording of this question has occurred over the past 28 years. Starting in 1998, the phrase "this past year" was added to the question; no time frame was given to the respondents in the first two studies. Also, in 2007 the middle response "same" was replaced with "no change."

Rural Nebraskans' views about the change in their community have generally been positive. The proportion believing their community has changed for the better has typically been greater than the proportion believing it has changed for the worse, especially between 2012 and 2020 when the gap between the two widened (Figure 1). However, starting two years ago, the proportion believing their community changed for the worse was more than the proportion believing it had changed for the better (similar to what occurred in 2003 and 2009). Conversely, this year that trend reversed back to the typical pattern. This year, more believe their community has changed for the better than has changed for the worse.

The proportion saying their community has changed for the better has averaged approximately 31 percent. Following a seven-year period of general decline, the proportion saying their community has changed for the better increased from 23 percent in 2003 to 33 percent in 2007. It then declined to 23 percent in 2009. However, the proportion viewing positive change in their community then generally increased to 34 percent in 2012 and stayed fairly stable before sharply declining to 25 percent last year. This year, it increased to 28 percent.

Figure 1. *Community Change 1996 - 2023*
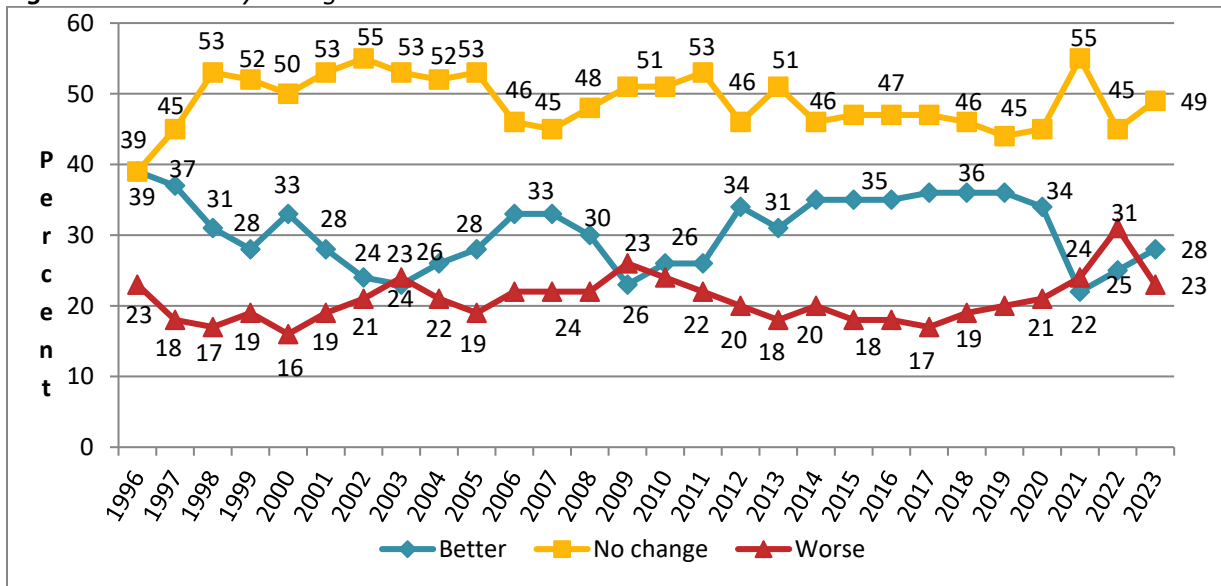
The proportion saying their community has stayed the same first increased from 1996 to 1998. It then remained fairly steady during the following eight years but declined in both 2006 and 2007. Then it steadily increased to 53 percent in 2011. However, the proportion believing their community has stayed the same then generally declined to 45 percent in 2020. In 2021, it increased sharply to 55 percent before declining again to 45 percent last year and then increased to 49 percent this year.

The proportion saying their community has changed for the worse had remained steady across all 28 years, averaging 21 percent. It increased from 22 percent in 2008 to 26 percent in 2009. Since then, it generally decreased to 17 percent in 2017 before steadily increasing to 31 percent last year (the highest proportion across all 28 years of the study). This year, though, it sharply declined to 23 percent.

Starting in 2011, respondents were also asked to predict the expected change in their community ten years from now. The exact question wording was, "Based on what you see

of the situation today, do you think that, ten years from now, your community will be a worse place to live, a better place or about the same?"

The proportion believing their community will be a better place to live ten years from now had generally increased, from 20 percent in 2011 to 26 percent last year (Figure 2). However, it declined to 22 percent this year. The proportion believing their community will be a worse place to live generally declined from 24 percent in 2011 to 18 percent in 2020, before increasing to 27 percent last year (the highest proportion across all 13 years) and stayed relatively stable at 26 percent this year. This year, more people believe their community will be a worse place to live ten years from now than a better place, only occurring one other time in 2011. The proportion saying the community will remain about the same increased from last year (47% to 52%).

Community Social Dimensions and Powerlessness – 28 Year Trend

Respondents were also asked each year if they

Figure 2. *Expected Community Change Ten Years from Now: 2011 - 2023*
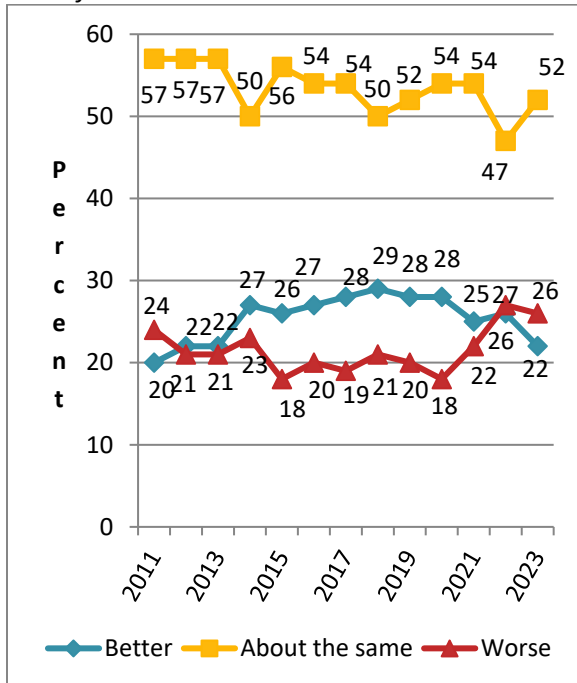
would describe their communities as friendly or unfriendly, trusting or distrusting, and supportive or hostile. For each of these three dimensions, respondents were asked to rate their community using a seven-point scale between each pair of contrasting views. The proportion of respondents who view their community as friendly has remained fairly steady over the 28-year period, ranging from 69 to 79 percent. The proportion of respondents who view their community as trusting has also remained fairly steady, ranging from 59 to 66 percent.

A similar pattern emerged when examining the proportion of respondents who rated their community as supportive. The proportions rating their community as supportive have ranged from 60 percent to 71 percent over the 28-year period.

Starting in 2001, respondents were also asked a question to determine if they view their community as powerless. They were asked, "Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? My community is powerless to control its own future." They were given a five-point scale that ranged from strongly disagree to strongly agree.

In general, rural Nebraskans' perceptions of the powerlessness of their community has remained fairly stable (Figure 3). The proportion disagreeing with the statement generally increased from 56 percent in 2011 to 62 percent this year. However, the proportion has been relatively stable the past ten years.

Plans to Leave the Community – 26 Year Trend

Starting in 1998, respondents were asked, "Do you plan to move from your community in the next year?" The proportion planning to leave their community has remained relatively stable during the past 26 years, ranging from 3 percent to 8 percent.

The expected destination for the persons planning to move has changed over time (Figure 4). Following a brief increase in 2021, the proportion of expected movers planning to leave the state sharply decreased from 64 percent to 41 percent this year. The proportion expecting to leave the state has averaged approximately 46 percent over the 26-year period.

Figure 3. *Feelings of Community Powerlessness: 2011 - 2023*
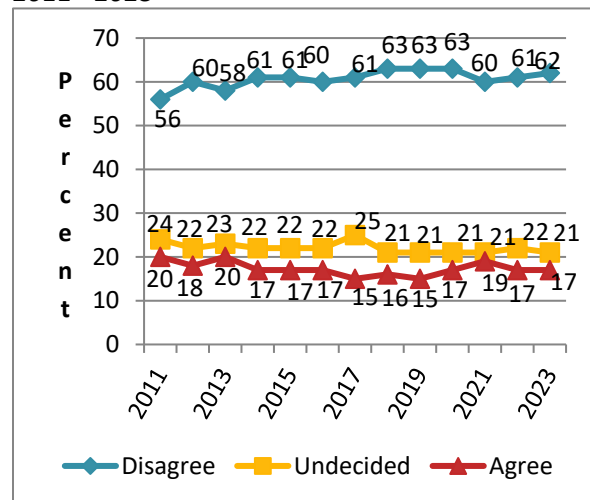
The proportion of expected movers planning to move to either the Omaha or Lincoln area generally declined between 2006 and 2012, from 21 percent to 11 percent. However, it was fairly inconsistent through 2018 – showing alternate patterns of increases and declines. It then steadily declined from 19 percent in 2019 to 10 percent last year before increasing sharply to 36 percent this year (the highest proportion across all 26 years). The proportion of expected movers planning to move to the Omaha or Lincoln area has averaged approximately 16 percent.

The proportion of expected movers planning to move to other areas of rural Nebraska generally increased from 28 percent in 2011 to 39 in 2014, but then declined to 28 percent in 2016. Since then, it has seen alternate patterns of sharp increases and decreases. It increased to 50 percent in 2018, dropped sharply to 29 percent in 2020, increased to 44 percent in 2020, declining again to 26 percent in 2021, before increasing sharply again to 41 percent last year and then declined sharply to 23 percent this year. The average proportion expecting to move to other areas of rural

Nebraska has been approximately 39 percent.

Satisfaction with Community Services and Amenities – 28 Year Trend

Respondents were also asked how satisfied they are with various community services and amenities each year. They were asked this in all 28 studies; however, in 1996 they were also asked about the availability of these services. Comparisons will only be made between the last 20 studies. The respondents were asked how satisfied they were with a list of 27 services and amenities, taking into consideration availability, cost, and quality.

Table 1 shows the proportions very or somewhat satisfied with the service each year. The rank ordering of these items has remained relatively stable over the 20 years. However, the proportion of rural Nebraskans satisfied with many social services has generally declined across all 20 years. As an example, the proportion of rural Nebraskans satisfied with nursing home care has dropped from 55 percent in 2004 to 34 percent this year. Similar declines occur with medical care services,

Figure 4. *Expected Destination of Those Planning to Move: 1998 - 2023*
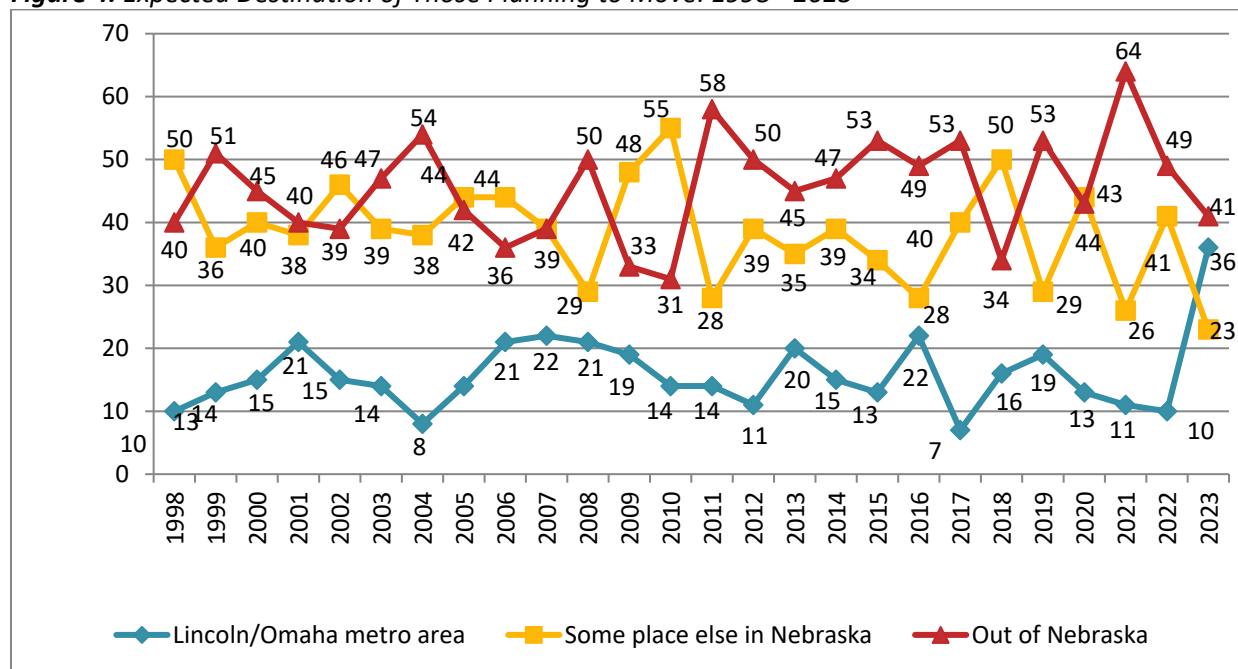
Table 1. *Proportion of Respondents Very or Somewhat Satisfied with Each Service, 2004 - 2023*

Service/Amenity	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Fire protection	✱	✱	86	85	86	87	85	86	85	86	86	87	87	85	89	89	87	86	84	85
Parks/recreation	75	74	75	74	75	74	74	75	76	76	71	76	78	75	74	79	77	73	70	74
Library services	74	72	73	74	75	74	73	73	72	73	72	73	71	73	74	73	72	68	68	70
Law enforcement	63	63	64	63	62	64	65	63	65	64	62	64	69	67	66	69	68	67	65	61
Education (K-12)	68	68	68	68	70	68	68	68	68	68	68	69	68	70	69	70	70	63	62	64
Religious org.	✱	✱	72	72	73	71	71	70	72	71	70	72	69	68	67	69	70	65	61	58
Medical care svcs	71	71	71	63	66	67	67	67	68	66	62	62	64	63	59	64	66	62	61	57
Sewage/waste disposal*	✱	✱	66	66	67	66	65	65	64	67	64	65	64	66	67	65	63	61	60	63
Sewage disposal	67	63	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱
Water disposal	65	62	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱
Solid waste disp.	65	63	64	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱
Cell phone services	✱	✱	49	54	58	61	60	64	63	65	60	64	63	61	59	66	64	64	59	61
Access to higher ed	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	63	62	59	58	63	63	61	57	57
Internet service	✱	✱	50	51	57	58	56	60	59	59	56	58	56	54	53	57	54	53	54	59
Civic/nonprofit organizations	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	45	47	48	49	47	46	41	44
Restaurants	56	54	54	50	45	47	47	48	48	46	40	46	43	43	45	43	52	43	40	40
Streets and roads*	✱	✱	✱	55	49	51	47	48	49	53	44	47	43	44	45	42	41	37	40	39
Streets	59	60	60	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱
Highway/bridges	69	70	69	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱
Comm recycling	✱	✱	✱	50	48	52	54	54	54	58	53	55	52	50	51	46	44	39	38	40
Head start progms	41	39	37	29	26	28	29	27	27	27	39	39	39	40	37	44	42	34	37	35
Quality of housing	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	44	45	45	44	47	46	48	43	36	37
Senior centers	58	59	55	48	47	47	47	48	47	48	47	49	47	47	45	43	45	40	35	37
Local government*	✱	✱	41	40	38	41	40	41	42	40	37	40	37	42	39	43	42	40	35	36
County govt.	48	47	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱
City/village govt.	45	46	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱
Cost of housing	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	50	45	45	45	46	43	43	38	33	36
Housing	61	60	61	59	59	61	59	59	57	52	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱
Retail shopping	49	47	45	41	39	40	41	37	39	38	33	38	34	32	35	28	33	29	31	29
Nursing home care	55	55	53	46	47	45	46	46	45	43	47	47	43	44	38	40	42	36	30	34
Entertainment	36	32	34	30	26	29	32	30	30	31	26	29	26	28	29	29	31	23	25	24
Mental health svcs	31	30	27	23	23	24	23	24	25	23	21	23	22	21	19	23	25	24	24	24
Child day care svcs	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	32	34	35	35	32	34	34	33	31	30	34	34	27	23	20
Day care services	47	45	42	31	28	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱
Arts/cultural activities	✱	✱	✱	26	25	24	27	27	27	26	24	26	22	24	26	27	24	20	23	25
Pub transp svcs*	✱	✱	✱	17	17	19	18	19	19	20	17	19	18	17	21	20	21	17	20	20
Airline service	18	15	15	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱
Taxi service	12	12	11	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱
Rail service	13	11	9	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱
Bus service	11	7	7	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱

✱ = Not asked that particular year; * New items added in 2007 that combine previous items (indented below each).

senior centers, and mental health services. In addition, satisfaction with retail shopping has also generally declined over the past 20 years. Satisfaction with retail shopping declined from 49 percent in 2004 to 29 percent this year.

On the other hand, satisfaction with cellular phone service has generally increased over time. The proportion satisfied with cellular phone services has generally increased from 49 percent in 2006 (the first year it was included in the survey) to 61 percent this year.

Only two services saw slight decreases in satisfaction from last year - law enforcement (from 65 percent to 61 percent) and medical care services (from 61 percent to 57 percent). A few services saw slight increases from last year: parks and recreation (from 70 percent to 74 percent), Internet services (from 54 percent to 59 percent), and nursing home care (from 30 percent to 34 percent).

The Community and Its Attributes in 2023

In this section, the 2023 data on respondents' evaluations of their communities and its attributes are examined in terms of any significant differences that may exist depending upon the size of the respondent's community, the region in which they live, or various individual attributes such as household income or age.

Community Change – 2023 Data

The perceptions of the change occurring in their community by various demographic subgroups are examined (Appendix Table 2). Residents living in or near mid-sized communities are more likely than persons living in or near both larger and smaller communities to say that their community has changed for the better during the past year. Approximately one-third of persons living in or near communities with populations between 1,000 and 4,999 believe their community has changed for the better, compared to 18 percent of persons living in or near communities with populations between 500 and 999.

Persons living in the Panhandle are the regional group *least* likely to say their community has changed for the better during the past year (see Appendix Figure 1 for the counties included in each region). Only 21 percent of persons living

Figure 5. *Perceptions of Community Change by Region*
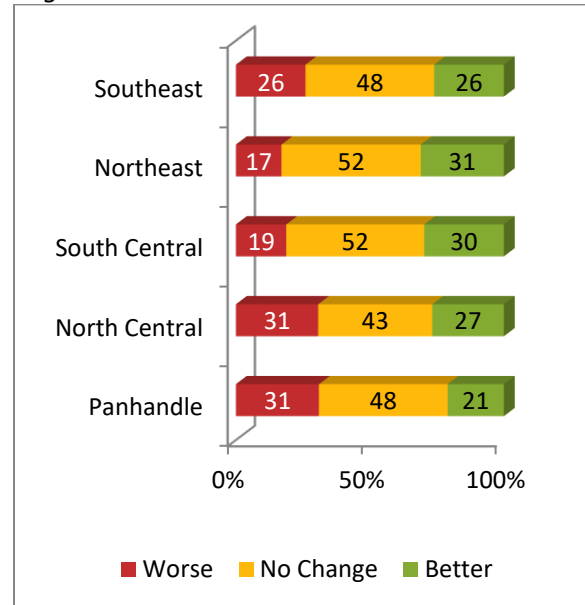
in the Panhandle say their community changed for the better during the past year, compared to approximately three in ten persons living in the South Central and Northeast regions (Figure 5).

The demographic groups most likely to say their community has changed for the better during the past year include: persons age 19 to 29, females, persons with at least four-year degrees, persons with sales or office support occupations, and long-term residents of the community (those who have lived there more than five years).

In addition, respondents were asked to predict the expected change in their community ten years from now. The exact question wording was, "Based on what you see of the situation today, do you think that, ten years from now, your community will be a worse place to live, a better place or about the same?" Just over two in ten rural Nebraskans (22%) expect their community will be a better place to live ten years from now. Just over one-half (52%) expect

it to be about the same and just over one-quarter (26%) think their community will be a worse place to live ten years from now.

Respondents' perceptions differ by the size of their community, the region in which they live and some individual attributes (Appendix Table 3). Persons living in the Northeast region are more likely than persons living in other regions of the state to say their community will be a better place to live ten years from now. Almost three in ten residents of this region (29%) believe their community will be a better place to live ten years from now, compared to 12 percent of residents of the North Central region (Figure 6).

The demographic groups most likely to have an optimistic view about their community's future include persons with higher household incomes, persons age 40 to 49, married persons, persons with the highest education levels, and persons

Figure 6. *Expected Community Change in Ten Years by Region*
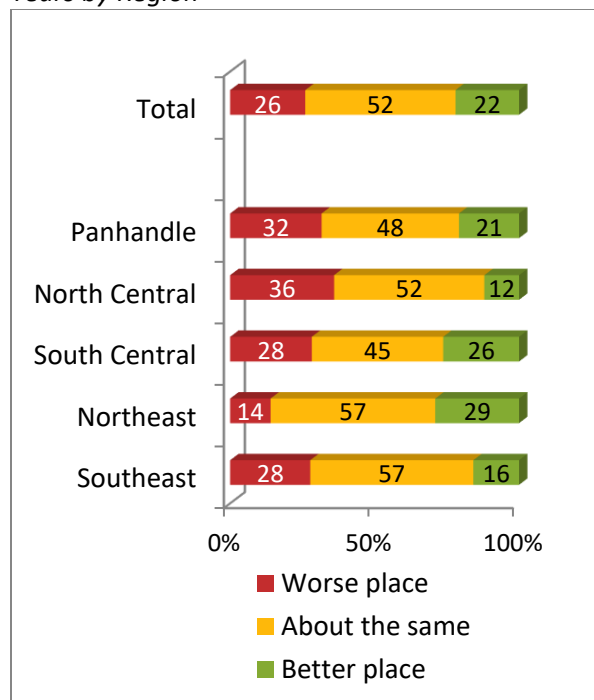
with management, professional, and education occupations.

Community Social Attributes and Powerlessness – 2023 Data

In addition to asking respondents about their perceptions of the change occurring in their community, they were also asked to rate its social dimensions. They were asked if they would describe their communities as friendly or unfriendly, trusting or distrusting, and supportive or hostile. Overall, respondents rate their communities as friendly (75%), trusting (59%), and supportive (65%).

Respondents' ratings of their community on these dimensions differ by some of the characteristics examined (Appendix Table 4). Persons living in or near smaller communities are more likely than persons living in or near larger communities to rate their community as both trusting and supportive. At least seven in ten persons living in or near communities with populations less than 1,000 rate their community as supportive, compared to 55 percent of persons living in or near communities with populations of 10,000 or more.

Residents of the Northeast region are more likely than residents of other regions to rate their community as both trusting and supportive. Just over two-thirds of the residents of the Northeast region (68%) say their community is trusting, compared to just over one-half of residents of the Southeast region (51%).

Persons with the highest household incomes are more likely than persons with lower household incomes to rate their communities as friendly and trusting. Persons over the age of 30 are the age groups most likely to rate their

community as trusting. Males are more likely than females to rate their community as trusting.

When comparing responses by marital status, persons who have never married are the group most likely to rate their community as friendly. Married persons are the group most likely to rate their community as trusting.

Persons with construction, installation, or maintenance occupations are the occupation group most likely to rate their community as friendly. Persons with food service or personal care occupations are the group most likely to rate their community as supportive.

Respondents were next asked if they view their community as powerless. They were asked, "Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? My community is powerless to control its own future." They were given a five-point scale that ranged from strongly disagree to strongly agree.

Most rural Nebraskans disagree that their community is powerless to control its own future. Just over six in ten rural Nebraskans (62%) strongly disagree or disagree that their community is powerless to control its own future. Less than two in ten rural Nebraskans (17%) believe their community is powerless to control its future and just over two in ten (21%) are undecided.

The feelings of community powerlessness are examined by community size, region and individual attributes (Appendix Table 5). Many differences emerge.

Persons living in or near larger communities are more likely than persons living in or near the smallest communities to disagree that their community is powerless to control its own future. Approximately seven in ten persons living in or near communities with populations of 5,000 or more disagree that their community is powerless to control its own future (Figure 7). In comparison, just over one-half of persons living in or near communities with populations under 500 share this opinion. Just over one-quarter of persons living in or near the smallest communities agree with the statement.

Persons with higher education levels are more likely than persons with less education to disagree that their community is powerless to control its own future. Just over seven in ten persons with at least a four-year college degree (71%) disagree with this statement, compared to 52 percent of persons with a high school diploma or less education.

Other groups most likely to disagree their community is powerless to control its future include persons with higher household incomes, the youngest persons, females, and persons with sales or office support occupations.

Figure 7. *Feelings of Community Powerlessness by Community Size*
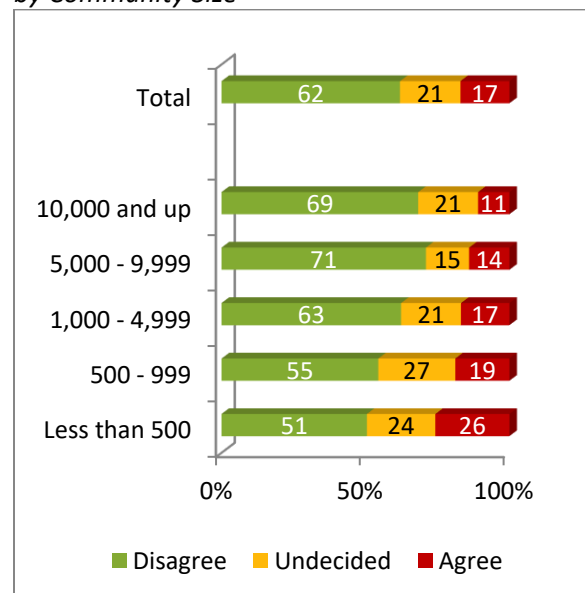
Satisfaction with Community Services and Amenities – 2023 Data

Next, rural Nebraskans were asked to rate how satisfied they are with 27 different services and amenities, taking into consideration cost, availability, and quality. Residents report high levels of satisfaction with some services, but other services and amenities have higher levels of dissatisfaction. Only ten services listed have a higher proportion of dissatisfied responses than satisfied responses and those services are largely unavailable in rural communities.

The services or amenities respondents are most satisfied with (based on the combined percentage of "very satisfied" or "somewhat satisfied" responses) include fire protection (85%), parks and recreation (74%), library services (70%), education (K – 12) (64%), sewage/waste disposal (63%), law enforcement (61%), cellular phone service (61%), and religious organizations (58%) (Appendix Table 6). At least four in ten respondents are either very dissatisfied or somewhat dissatisfied with retail shopping (54%), streets and roads (52%), entertainment (49%), restaurants (49%), cost of housing (48%), quality of housing (47%), arts/cultural activities (41%), and community recycling (40%).

The ten services and amenities with the greatest dissatisfaction ratings were analyzed by community size, region and various individual attributes (Appendix Table 7). Many differences emerge.

Residents of the Panhandle region are more likely than residents of other regions of the state to express dissatisfaction with retail shopping in their community. Seven in ten Panhandle residents are dissatisfied with their community's retail shopping, compared to just over four in ten residents of the South Central region.

Other groups most likely to be dissatisfied with their retail shopping include persons with higher household incomes and persons with construction, installation, or maintenance occupations.

Residents of the Panhandle region are more likely than residents of other regions of the state to be dissatisfied with their streets and roads. Just over six in ten residents of the Panhandle express dissatisfaction with their streets and roads, compared to just over four in ten residents of the Southeast region.

Other groups most likely to express dissatisfaction with their streets and roads include persons with lower household incomes, the youngest persons, persons with the lowest education levels, and persons with food service or personal care occupations.

Persons living in or near communities with populations ranging from 500 to 999 are more likely than persons living in or near both smaller and larger communities to be dissatisfied with the entertainment in their community.

Panhandle residents, persons with the highest household incomes, persons age 30 to 39, persons with some college education (but less than a four-year degree), and persons with construction, installation, or maintenance occupations are the other groups most likely to express dissatisfaction with the entertainment in their community.

Residents of the North Central region are more likely than residents of other regions of the state to be dissatisfied with the restaurants in their community. Just over six in ten residents of the North Central region are dissatisfied with restaurants, compared to just over four in ten

residents of the South Central region.

Persons with higher household incomes, younger persons, persons with some college education (but less than a four-year degree), and persons with construction, installation, or maintenance occupations are the other groups most likely to be dissatisfied with the restaurants in their community.

Persons living in or near larger communities are more likely than persons living in or near smaller communities to express dissatisfaction with the cost of housing in their community. Almost seven in ten persons living in or near communities with populations of 10,000 or more (68%) are dissatisfied with the cost of housing in their community, compared to three in ten persons living in or near communities with populations less than 500 (Figure 8).

Other groups most likely to be dissatisfied with their community's cost of housing include residents of the South Central region; persons

Figure 8. *Satisfaction with Cost of Housing by Community Size*
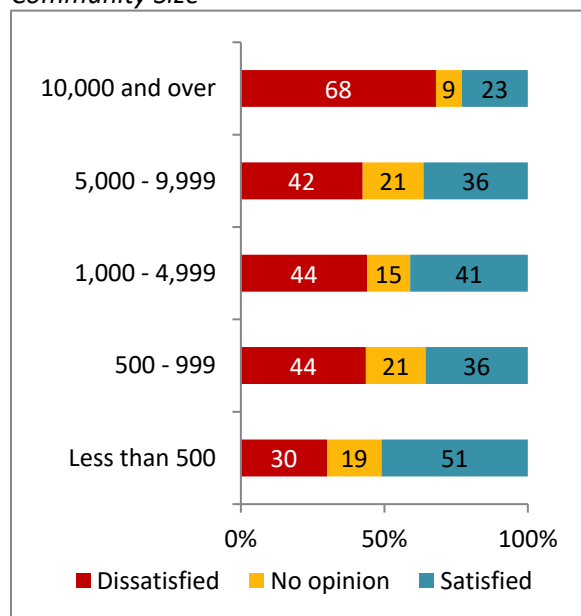
age 30 to 39; persons with the highest education levels; persons with production, transportation, and warehousing occupations; and persons with construction, installation, or warehousing occupations.

Residents of the North Central region are more likely than residents of other regions of the state to express dissatisfaction with the quality of housing in their community. Just under seven in ten residents of this region (69%) are dissatisfied with the quality of housing, compared to 37 percent of persons living in the Northeast region.

Other groups most likely to be dissatisfied with the quality of housing in their community include persons with the highest household incomes and persons under the age of 65.

Residents of the North Central region are more likely than persons living in other regions of the state to express dissatisfaction with arts/ cultural activities in their community. Just over one-half (51%) of residents of this region are dissatisfied with the arts/cultural activities, compared to 36 percent of residents of the South Central region.

Persons age 30 to 39 are the age group most likely to express dissatisfaction with arts/cultural activities in their community. Other groups most likely to be dissatisfied with their arts/cultural activities include persons with the highest household incomes, persons with some college education (but not a four-year degree), and persons with construction, installation, or maintenance occupations.

Persons living in or near the smallest communities are more likely than persons living in or near larger communities to be dissatisfied with their community recycling. Just under one-half (49%) of persons living in or near

communities with populations under 500 are dissatisfied with their community recycling.

Other groups most likely to express dissatisfaction with their community recycling include residents of the North Central region, residents of the Southeast region, persons with higher household incomes, persons age 30 to 39, and persons with the highest education levels.

Persons living in or near smaller communities are more likely than persons living in or near larger communities to be dissatisfied with the law enforcement in their community. Approximately one-third of persons living in or near communities with populations under 1,000 are dissatisfied with their community's law enforcement, compared to approximately 14 percent of persons living in or near larger communities (Figure 9).

Residents of the Panhandle are more likely than residents of other regions of the state to

express dissatisfaction with the law enforcement in their community. Approximately one-third of Panhandle residents are dissatisfied with law enforcement, compared to 13 percent of residents of the Northeast region.

Other groups most likely to be dissatisfied with their community's law enforcement include persons under the age of 40, persons with lower education levels, and persons with food service or personal care occupations.

Persons with the lowest household incomes, persons with at least some college education or more, and persons with food service or personal care occupations are the groups most likely to express dissatisfaction with the public transportation services in their community.

Opinions about the Community

Next, respondents were asked the extent to which they agree or disagree with various statements about their community. Most rural Nebraskans have a positive attachment to their community. Most rural Nebraskans agree that they have a good bond with others in their community (58%), they feel like a member of their community (57%), they belong in their community (56%), and they feel connected to their community (53%) (Table 2). Feelings are mixed on whether they believe they have a say about what goes on in their community. Similar proportions both agree and disagree with that statement, with a slightly higher number disagreeing.

Respondents' level of attachment to their community is examined by community size, region and various individual attributes (Appendix Table 8). Many differences emerge.

Persons living in or near larger communities are

Figure 9. *Dissatisfaction with Law Enforcement by Community Size*

Table 2. *Opinions about Community*

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither	Agree	Strongly Agree
I can get what I need in this community.	9%	28%	15%	42%	6%
This community helps me fulfill my needs.	6	25	25	36	7
I feel like a member of this community.	8	12	23	43	14
I belong in this community.	7	10	27	42	14
I have a say about what goes on in my community.	15	22	31	26	7
People in this community are good at influencing each other.	4	13	34	41	8
I feel connected to this community.	9	14	24	42	11
I have a good bond with others in this community.	6	16	20	46	12

more likely than persons living in or near smaller communities to agree that they can get what they need in their community. Over one-half of persons living in or near communities with populations of 10,000 or more (56%) agree that they can get what they need in their community, compared to approximately one-third of persons living in or near communities with populations under 500 (34%).

However, persons living in or near smaller communities are more likely than persons living in or near larger communities to have an attachment to their community. Persons living in or near smaller communities are more likely than persons living in or near larger communities to agree that they feel like a member of their community, that they belong in their community, that they feel connected to the community, and they have a good bond with others in the community. Almost seven in ten persons living in or near communities with populations under 500 (68%) agree that they feel connected to their community, compared to 47 percent of persons living in or near communities with populations over 10,000.

Persons living in or near smaller communities are also most likely to agree that they have a

say about what goes on in their community and that people in the community are good at influencing each other. Almost one-half (45%) of persons living in or near communities with populations under 500 agree that they have a say about what goes on in their community, compared to approximately three in ten persons living in or near larger communities.

Residents of the South Central region are more likely than residents of other regions of the state to agree that they can get what they need in their community. Panhandle residents are more likely than residents of other regions to agree that people in this community are good at influencing each other.

Residents of the Northeast region are the regional group most likely to agree that the community helps them fulfill their needs, that they feel like a member of their community, that they belong in their community, that they have a say about what goes on in their community, that they feel connected to their community, and that they have a good bond with others in their community. Almost seven in ten residents of the Northeast region (68%) agree that they have a good bond with others in their community, compared to 46 percent of

residents of the North Central region.

Persons with higher household incomes are more likely than persons with lower incomes to agree with most of the statements listed. Just under six in ten persons with the highest household incomes (59%) agree that they feel connected to their community, compared to just under one-half of persons with the lowest household incomes (approximately 48%).

Persons aged 30 and older are more likely than younger persons to say that the community helps them fulfill their needs. The youngest persons are the group most likely to agree that people in their community are good at influencing each other.

The oldest persons (age 65 and older) are most likely to agree that they feel like a member of their community, that they belong in the community, that they belong in the community, that they feel connected to the community, and that they have a good bond with others in their community. Approximately two-thirds of persons aged 65 and older agree that they feel like a member of their community, compared to 44 percent of persons aged 19 to 29.

Persons aged 40 to 49 are the age group most likely to agree that they have a say about what goes on in the community. Almost four in ten persons in this age group (39%) agree that they have a say about what goes on in the community, compared to less than three in ten persons under the age of 40 (Figure 10).

Persons with higher education levels are more likely than persons with less education to agree with most of the statements listed. As an example, one-half of persons with at least a four-year degree agree that the community helps them fulfill their needs, compared to just under four in ten persons with less education.

Figure 10. I Have a Say about What Goes On in this Community by Age
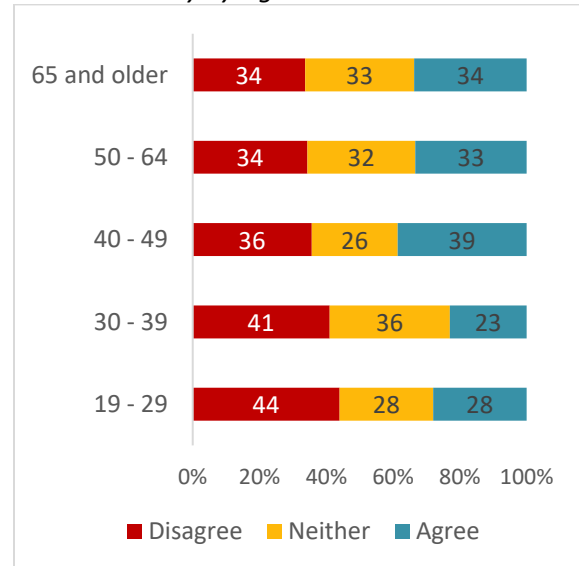
Persons who have never married are the marital group most likely to agree that they can get what they need in the community. Widowed persons are the group most likely to agree that the community helps them fulfill their needs, they feel like a member of their community, that they belong in the community, that they have a say about what goes on in the community, that they feel connected to the community, and have a good bond with others in the community. Three-quarters of widowed persons agree that they have a good bond with others in the community, compared to 42 percent of persons who are divorced or separated. Persons who are divorced or separated are the group *least* likely to agree that people in the community are good at influencing each other.

Persons with food service or personal care occupations are more likely than persons with different occupations to agree that they can get what they need in the community and that people in the community are good at influencing each other. Persons with sales or office support occupations are the group most

likely to agree that the community helps them fulfill their needs and that they belong in the community. Persons with occupations in agriculture are most likely to agree that they feel connected to the community and that they have a good bond with others in the community.

Long-term residents have more attachment to their community than do newcomers. Long-term residents are more likely than newcomers to agree that they feel like a member of the community, that they belong in the community, and that they feel connected to the community. As an example, six in ten long-term residents agree that they belong in their community, compared to four in ten newcomers.

Next, respondents were asked a question about how easy or difficult it would be to leave their community. The exact question wording was "Assume you were to have a discussion in your household about leaving your community for a reasonably good opportunity elsewhere. Some people might be happy to live in a new place and meet new people. Others might be very sorry to leave. How easy or difficult would it be for your household to leave your community?" They were given a seven-point scale where 1 indicated very easy and 7 denoted very difficult. Over one-half of rural Nebraskans (53%) say it would be difficult to leave their community (Figure 11). Just over three in ten (32%) indicate it would be easy for their household to leave their community.

Responses to this question are examined by region, community size and various individual attributes (Appendix Table 9). Many differences appear.

Persons living in or near the smallest communities are more likely than persons living in or near larger communities to say it would be

difficult to leave their community. Approximately two-thirds of persons living in or near communities with populations under 500 say it would be difficult to leave their community, compared to just over one-half of persons living in or near the largest communities (Figure 11).

Residents of the Northeast region are more likely than residents of other regions of the state to say it would be difficult to leave their community. Just over six in ten residents of the Northeast region say it would be difficult to leave their community, compared to approximately one-half of residents of the North Central, South Central, and Southeast regions.

Persons with higher education levels are more likely than persons with less education to say it would be difficult to leave their community. Almost six in ten persons with at least a four-year college degree say it would be difficult to leave their community, compared to just under one-half of persons with a high school diploma

Figure 11. *Difficulty or Ease of Leaving Community by Community Size*
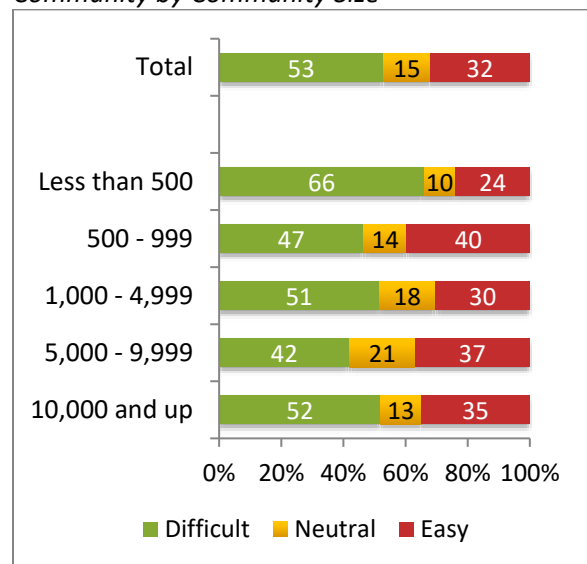
or less education.

Other groups most likely to say it would be difficult to leave their community include persons with higher household incomes, the oldest persons, widowed persons, persons with healthcare support or public safety occupations, and long-term residents of the community.

Plans to Leave the Community

To determine rural Nebraskans' migration intentions, respondents were asked, "Do you plan to move from your community in the next year?" Response options included: yes, to the Lincoln/Omaha metro areas; yes, to someplace in Nebraska outside the Lincoln/Omaha metro areas; yes, to some place other than Nebraska; no; and uncertain.

Only eight percent of rural Nebraskans indicate they are planning to move from their community in the next year, 12 percent are uncertain, and 80 percent have no plans to move. Of those who are planning to move, just over four in ten (41%) plan to leave Nebraska. Almost six in ten (59%) plan to remain in the state, with 36 percent planning to move to either the Lincoln or Omaha area and 23 percent plan to move to another part of the state.

Intentions to move from their community differ by many of the characteristics examined (Appendix Table 10). Persons living in or near larger communities are more likely than persons living in or near smaller communities to be uncertain if they are planning to move from their community in the next year.

Residents of the Panhandle are more likely than residents of other regions of the state to be uncertain if they are planning to move. Just under two in ten Panhandle residents are uncertain if they are planning to move. Furthermore, 15 percent of Panhandle residents are planning to move from their community in the next year, compared to six percent of residents of the North Central, South Central, and Northeast regions.

Other groups most likely to be uncertain if they plan to move from their community in the next year include persons with lower household incomes, females, and persons with some college education (but not a four-year degree).

Persons age 19 to 39 are the age group most likely to be planning to move from their community in the next year. Twelve percent of persons in this age group are planning to move from their community in the next year.

Other groups most likely to be planning to move from their community in the next year include persons who have divorced or separated, persons who have never married, persons with a high school diploma or less education, persons with food service or personal care occupations, and newcomers to the community.

A follow-up question (asked only of those who indicated they were planning to move) asked to what size of community they were planning to move. The answer categories for this question were: in or near a community larger than your current one, in or near a community smaller than your current one, and in or near a community of the same size as your current one.

Most expected movers are planning to move to a larger community. Two-thirds of expected movers (66%) are planning to move to a community larger than their current one (Figure 12). Just over one-quarter (26%) are planning to move to a community smaller than their current

Figure 12. *Size of Community Planning to Move to*

Smaller community 26%

Similar sized community 9%

Larger community 66%
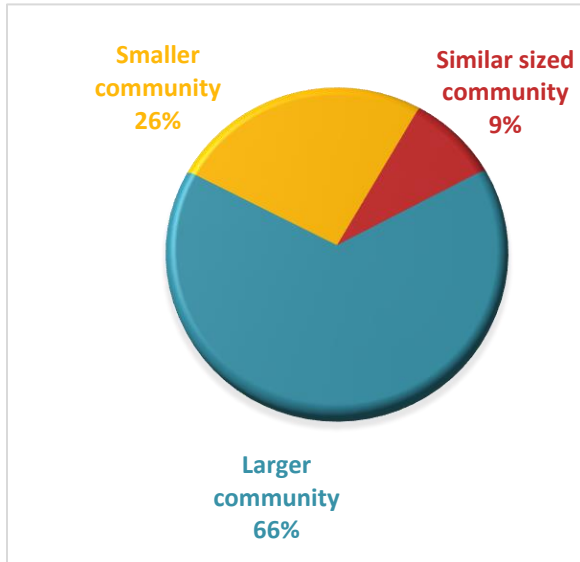
one and nine percent are planning to move to a community of similar size to their current one.

The expected destinations of those planning to move are examined by community size, region and individual attributes (Appendix Table 11).

Potential movers with higher household incomes are more likely than potential movers with lower incomes to be planning to move to a larger community.

Female potential movers are more likely than male potential movers to be planning to move to a larger community. Likely movers of the South Central region are the regional group *least* likely to be planning to move to a larger community.

Most potential movers who are planning to leave the state (71%) are planning to move to a larger community. The potential movers who are staying in nonmetropolitan Nebraska are split on whether they will move to a larger or smaller community.

Civil Discourse

Next, respondents were asked a series of questions about civil discourse. First, they were asked how serious a problem is the lack of civil or respectful discourse in our political system. By "civil discourse" we mean communication that promotes understanding about community issues and political topics.

Most rural Nebraskans believe the lack of civil or respectful discourse in our political system is either a very serious or a somewhat serious problem. Approximately one-third of rural Nebraskans rate the lack of civil discourse in our political system as both a very serious (32%) or somewhat serious (33%) problem (Figure 13). Only five percent say it is not a serious problem at all.

The answers to this question are examined by community size, region, and various individual attributes (Appendix Table 12). Some differences exist.

Figure 13. *How Serious a Problem is Lack of Civil Discourse in Political System*
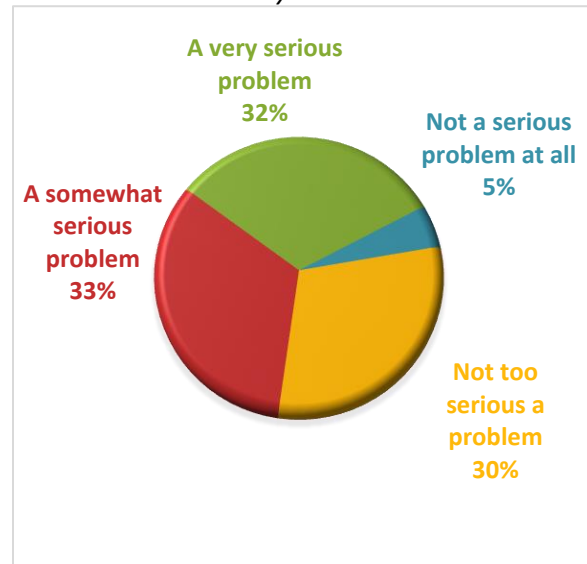
A very serious problem 32%

Not a serious problem at all 5%

A somewhat serious problem 33%

Not too serious a problem 30%

Panhandle residents are more likely than residents of other regions of the state to say the lack of civil discourse is either a very serious or somewhat serious problem. Three-quarters of Panhandle residents say it is at least a somewhat serious problem, compared to 57 percent of residents of the Northeast region.

Persons with higher education levels are more likely than persons with less education to say the lack of civil discourse in our political system is at least a somewhat serious problem. Almost three-quarters of persons with at least a four-year degree say it is a very serious or somewhat serious problem, compared to 53 percent of persons with a high school diploma or less education.

Other groups most likely to say the lack of civil discourse in our political system is at least a somewhat serious problem include persons with higher household incomes, younger persons, and persons with production, transportation, or warehousing occupations.

Next, they were asked how well various groups overcome differences to get things done. Rural Nebraskans have more faith in local community leaders and state political leaders than national political leaders to overcome differences to get things done. Two-thirds believe local community leaders do at least moderately well at overcoming differences to get things done (Figure 14). However, four in ten (40%) believe the same about Nebraska's political leaders and only nine percent say America's political leaders do at least moderately well at that. Outside of leadership, most (69%) also believe people in their local community do at least moderately well at overcoming differences to get things done.

Perceptions of how well these groups overcome differences to get things done are examined by

Figure 14. *How Well Groups Overcome Differences to Get Things Done*
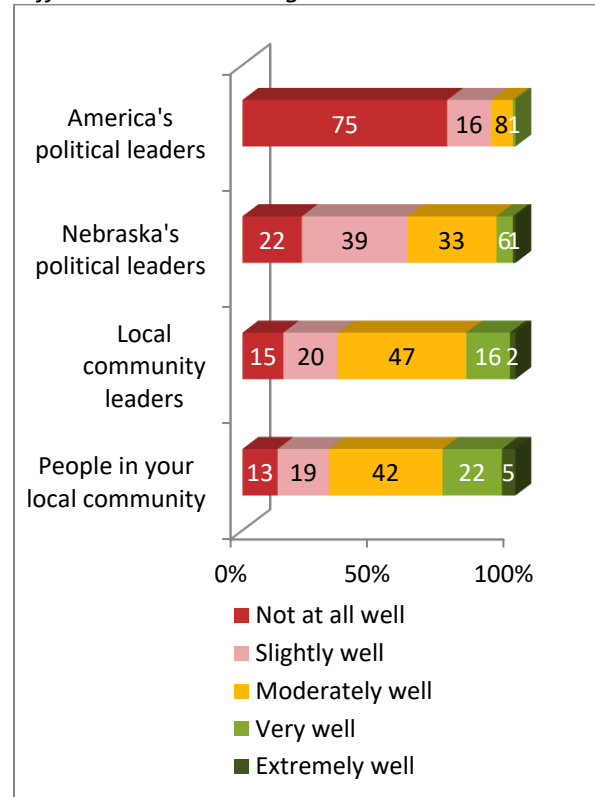
community size, region, and individual attributes (Appendix Table 13). Some differences are noted.

The groups most likely to believe America's political leaders do at least moderately well at overcoming differences to get things done include persons with lower household incomes, older persons, females, persons with the lowest education levels, widowed persons, and persons with food service or personal care occupations.

Persons living in or near the smallest communities are more likely than persons living in or near larger communities to believe Nebraska's political leaders do at least moderately well at overcoming differences to get things done. Almost one-half (48%) of

persons living in or near communities with populations under 500 say Nebraska's political leaders do at least moderately well at overcoming differences to get things done, compared to approximately four in ten persons living in or near larger communities.

Other groups most likely to say Nebraska's political leaders do at least moderately well at overcoming differences to get things done include older persons, males, persons with the lowest education levels, widowed persons, persons with sales or office support occupations, and long-term residents of the community.

Persons living in the Northeast region are more likely than persons living in other regions of the state to say their local community leaders do very or extremely well at overcoming differences to get things done. Just over one-quarter (26%) of residents of the Northeast region believe their local community leaders do very or extremely well, compared to nine percent of Panhandle residents (Figure 15).

Other groups most likely to say local community leaders do extremely or very well at overcoming differences to get things done include males, widowed persons, and persons with food service or personal care occupations.

Residents of the Northeast region are more likely than persons living in other regions of the state to say that people in their local community do extremely or very well at overcoming differences to get things done. Almost four in ten residents of the Northeast region believe people in their local community do very or extremely well, compared to only 15 percent of Panhandle residents.

Other groups most likely to say people in their local community do extremely or very well at

Figure 15. *How Well Local Community Leaders Overcome Differences to Get Things Dones by Region*
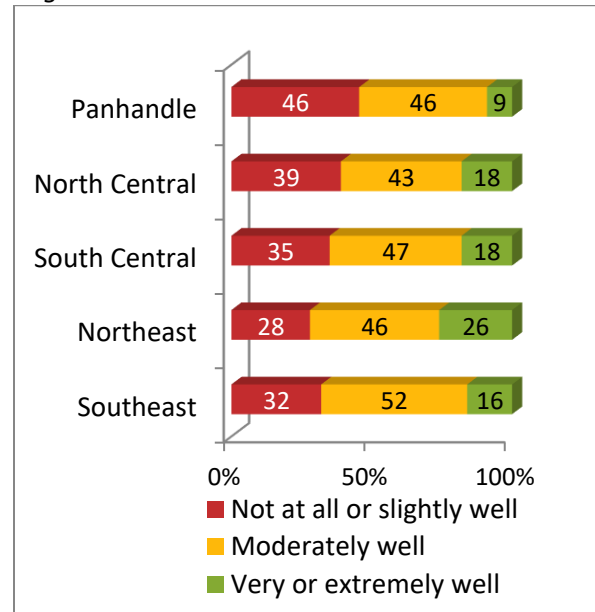
overcoming differences to get things done include persons with the highest household incomes, persons with the highest education levels, widowed persons, and persons with healthcare support or public safety occupations.

Respondents were next asked if they think Americans are more divided over politics than they were 10 years ago, less divided, or about the same. Most rural Nebraskans think Americans are more divided over politics than they were 10 years ago. Over seven in ten (72%) believe we are much more divided and over two in ten (22%) say we are more divided (Figure 16).

These perceptions are examined by community size, region, and various individual attributes (Appendix Table 14). Some differences are detected.

Some groups are *least* likely to say Americans are much more or more divided over politics

Figure 16. *Perceptions of Division Among Americans Over Politics Compared to Ten Years Ago*
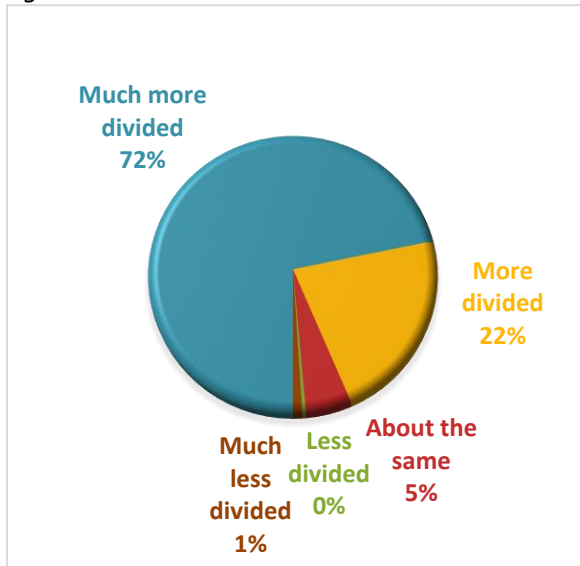
than they were ten years ago: persons living in or near communities with populations ranging from 5,000 to 9,999; residents of the Northeast region; persons with the lowest household incomes; persons who have never married; persons with the lowest educational levels; persons with food service or personal care occupations; and newcomers to the community.

Respondents were also given a series of statements related to civil discourse and were asked to indicate if they agreed or disagreed with each. Most rural Nebraskans agree that compromise and common ground should be the goal for political leaders and that respect for each other is the first step in having a government that works. Most agree or strongly agree that compromise and common ground should be the goal for the following political leaders: local community leaders (87%), state political leaders (86%), and national political leaders (83%) (Table 3). Over nine in ten (92%) agree that respect for each other is the first step in having a government that works.

Most rural Nebraskans have a negative opinion about social media. Most rural Nebraskans *disagree* (55%) that social media are a place for civil and productive discourse. And most agree it only reinforces what the user already believes (59%) and that they contribute to division in their community (71%). They have mixed opinions about whether social media help them learn about a variety of opinions. Four in ten disagree with that statement while a similar proportion agree. Furthermore, more disagree that social media help them feel engaged in their community (46%) than agree (31%).

Rural Nebraskans have a more favorable opinion about local news media than national news media and their contribution to division in the community. Most rural Nebraskans agree that national news media contribute to division in their community (76%). However, less than one-half (41%) agree that local news media contribute to division in their community and just under three in ten (29%) disagree with the statement.

Rural Nebraskans have mixed opinions on whether people in their communities don't say things about politics because they worry about losing friends or being criticized. Similar proportions both agree and disagree with those statements.

More rural Nebraskans disagree than agree that people in their community are respectful towards others with differing political views. Just over four in ten (43%) disagree with the statement, while just over one-quarter (27%) agree.

Similar proportions both agree and disagree that people in their community only associate with others who have similar political views. Almost four in ten (37%) agree with the statement, while 32 percent disagree.

Table 3. *Opinions about Civil Discourse*

	N/A	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Unsure	Agree	Strongly Agree
Compromise and common ground should be the goal for local community leaders.	2%	1%	3%	7%	57%	30%
Compromise and common ground should be the goal for state political leaders.	2	2	5	7	53	33
Compromise and common ground should be the goal for national political leaders.	2	2	5	7	44	39
Respect for each other is the first step in having a government that works.	1	1	1	5	36	56
Social media are a place for civil and productive discourse.	1	34	21	20	16	8
Social media only reinforce what the user already believes.	2	8	15	17	32	27
Social media contribute to division in my community.	2	2	7	19	39	32
Local news media contribute to division in my community.	2	5	24	28	27	14
National news media contribute to division in my community.	2	4	6	14	34	42
Social media help me learn about a variety of opinions.	4	14	26	17	35	6
Social media help me feel engaged in my community.	4	19	27	21	27	4
People in my community don't say things about politics because they worry they will lose friends.	2	12	26	26	25	10
People in my community don't say things about politics because they worry they will get criticized.	1	8	27	25	28	11
People in my community are respectful towards others with differing political views.	1	16	27	28	25	2
People in my community only associate with others who have similar political views.	1	5	27	30	27	10

These perceptions about civil discourse and media are examined by community size, region, and individual attributes (Appendix Table 15). Many differences are detected.

Persons with lower education levels are more likely than persons with more education to agree that social media are a place for civil and productive discourse. One-third of persons with a high school diploma or less education agree with that statement, compared to less than two in ten persons with at least a four-year degree (18%).

Other groups most likely to agree that social media are a place for civil and productive discourse include persons with lower household incomes and persons with food service and personal care occupations.

Younger persons, males, persons with higher education levels, married persons, persons who have never married, and persons with occupations in agriculture are the groups most likely to agree that social media only reinforces what the user already believes.

Younger people are more likely than older people to agree that social media contribute to division in their community. Almost nine in ten (89%) of persons aged 19 to 29 agree with that statement, compared to just under six in ten persons age 65 and older (57%) (Figure 17).

Other groups most likely to agree that social media contribute to division in their community include persons with higher household incomes, persons with at least some college education, persons who have never married, and persons with sales or office support occupations.

Younger persons and persons with some college education (but less than a four-year degree) are the groups most likely to agree that local news media contribute to division in their community.

The groups most likely to agree that national news media contribute to division in their

Figure 17. *Social Media Contribute to Division in My Community by Age*
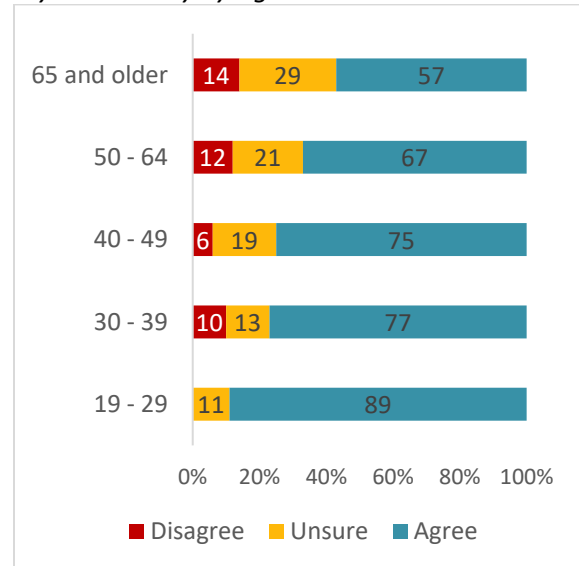
community include younger persons, persons with higher education levels, persons who have never married, and persons with food service or personal care occupations.

Panhandle residents, persons with lower household incomes, persons aged 40 to 49, females, persons with lower education levels, persons who have never married, and persons with food service and personal care occupations are the groups most likely to agree that social media help them learn about a variety of opinions.

Residents of the Northeast region are more likely than residents of other regions of the state to agree that social media help them feel engaged in their community. Four in ten residents of the Northeast region agree with that statement, compared to just over two in ten residents of the South Central region.

Other groups most likely to agree that social media help them feel engaged in their community include persons with higher household incomes, persons aged 40 to 49,

females, persons with the highest education levels, married persons, persons who are divorced or separated, persons with food service or personal care occupations, and newcomers to the community. Four in ten newcomers agree that social media helps them feel engaged in their community, compared to three in ten long-term residents.

Older persons, widowed persons, persons who are divorced or separated, long-term residents, and persons with production, transportation, or warehousing occupations are the groups most likely to agree that people in their community don't say things about politics because they worry they will lose friends.

Some of those same groups (older persons, long-term residents, and person with production, transportation or warehousing occupations) are most likely to agree that people in their community don't say things about politics because they worry they will get criticized.

Persons living in or near smaller communities are more likely than persons living in or near larger communities to agree that people in their community are respectful towards others with differing political views. Just over one-third (34%) of persons living in or near communities with populations under 500 agree with that statement, compared to less than one-quarter of persons living in or near communities with populations of 5,000 or more (Figure 18).

Other groups most likely to agree that people in their community are respectful towards others with differing political views include older people, males, widowed persons, persons who are divorced or separated, and persons with occupations in agriculture.

Persons living in or near larger communities are

Figure 18. People in My Community are Respectful towards Others with Differing Political Views by Community Size
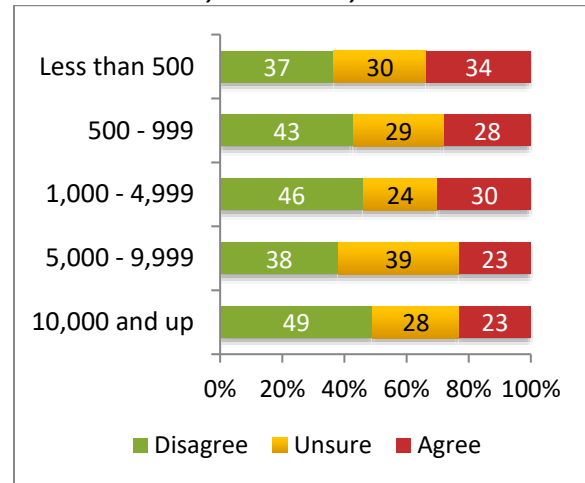
more likely than persons living in or near smaller communities to agree that people in their community only associate with others who have similar political views. Almost one-half (46%) of persons living in or near communities with populations of 5,000 or more agree with that statement, compared to one-quarter of persons living in or near communities with 500 people or less.

Other groups most likely to agree that people in their community only associate with others who have similar political views include younger persons, persons who have never married, persons with food service or personal care occupations, and newcomers to the community. Just over two-thirds of persons aged 19 to 29 agree with that statement, compared to approximately one-third of persons aged 30 and older.

Next, respondents were given several pairs of contrasting views to gauge their opinions about conflict. Most rural Nebraskans say disagreements don't really bother them that much. Just over one-half (54%) say that statement is closer to their view, compared to

Table 4. *Opinions about Conflict*

Disagreement makes me uncomfortable.	18%	28%	33%	21%	Disagreements don't really bother me that much.
I don't enjoy challenging others, even when they are wrong.	14	37	35	14	I enjoy challenging the opinions of others.
I would rather go along with the group than risk creating conflict.	4	21	49	25	I would rather speak my mind even if it risks creating conflict.

just under one-half (46%) who say disagreements make them uncomfortable (Table 4).

Opinions are evenly split about whether they enjoy challenging others. Just over one-half (51%) align to the view that they don't enjoy challenging others, even when they are wrong. Just under one-half (49%) say they enjoy challenging the opinions of others.

Most rural Nebraskans would rather speak their mind even if it risks creating conflict. Almost three-quarters (74%) agree with this view, compared to one-quarter (24%) who say they would rather go along with the group than risk creating conflict.

Some differences are found in these opinions when examined by community size, region, and individual attributes (Appendix Table 16).

Males are more likely than females to say that disagreements don't really bother them that much. Just over seven in ten males share that opinion (71%), compared to less than one-half (43%) of females.

Other groups most likely to say that disagreements don't really bother them that much include younger persons, persons who have never married, persons with lower

education levels, newcomers to the community, and persons with construction, installation, or maintenance occupations.

Persons living in or near larger communities are more likely than persons living in or near smaller communities to enjoy challenging the opinions of others. Almost six in ten persons living in or near the largest communities share this view, compared to four in ten persons living in or near the smallest communities.

Other groups most likely to enjoy challenging the opinions of others include persons under the age of 50, persons who have never married, and persons with production, transportation, or warehousing occupations.

The youngest persons (under the age of 30), persons with lower education levels, persons with food service or personal care occupations, and newcomers to the community are the groups most likely to say they would rather speak their mind even if it risks creating conflict.

News and Media Use

Next, respondents were given a list of news and information topics and were asked how closely they follow each, whether in the newspaper, on television, radio, internet, or social media. At

least three in ten rural Nebraskans follow the following topics a lot or a great deal: people and events in their local community (35%), crime (32%), and government and politics (31%) (Figure 19).

How closely respondents follow these topics are examined by community size, region, and individual attributes (Appendix Table 17). Many differences are detected.

Older persons are more likely than younger persons to follow government and politics. Over four in ten persons aged 65 and older follow government and politics either a lot or a great deal, compared to just over two in ten persons aged 19 to 39.

Other groups most likely to follow government and politics either a lot or a great deal include males, married persons, widowed persons, and persons with construction, installation, or maintenance occupations.

Persons living in or near smaller communities are more likely than persons living in or near larger communities to follow people and events

in their local community a lot or a great deal. At least four in ten persons living in or near communities with populations under 1,000 follow people and events in their community a lot or a great deal, compared to just under one-quarter of persons living in or near communities with populations ranging from 5,000 to 9,999.

Other groups most likely to follow people and events in their local community a lot or a great deal include Panhandle residents and long-term residents.

The groups most likely to follow sports a lot or a great deal include persons with higher household incomes, males, persons with higher education levels, married persons, and long-term residents.

Younger persons, males, persons with higher education levels, married persons, persons who have never married, long-term residents of the community, and persons with construction, installation, or maintenance occupations are the groups most likely to follow business and finance/economics a lot or a great deal.

Figure 19. *How Closely Follow News and Information Topics*

Topic	Not at all	A little	A moderate amount	A lot	A great deal
Government and politics	6	28	36	18	13
People and events in community	4	20	41	27	8
Sports	24	25	25	17	11
Business and finance/econ	13	37	27	16	8
Science and technology	13	34	34	14	5
Entertainment	16	32	34	13	6
Crime	7	29	32	23	9
Health news	11	31	31	20	7
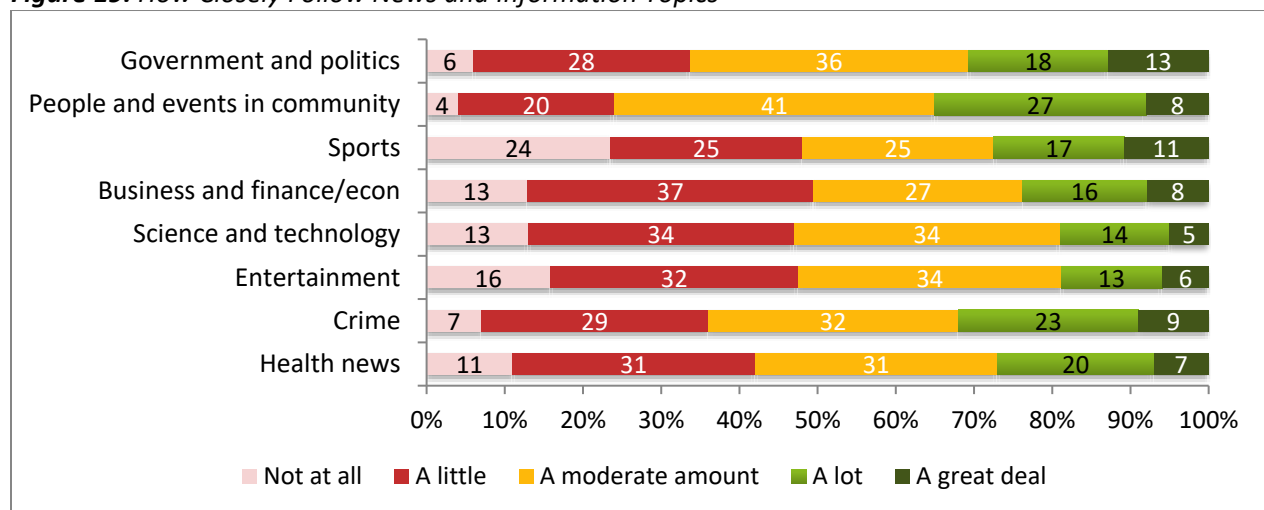
The groups most likely to follow science and technology a lot or a great deal include persons living in or near larger communities, males, persons with higher education levels, and persons with construction, installation, or maintenance occupations.

Residents of the Southeast region, persons with lower household incomes, younger persons, females, persons with lower education levels, persons who have never married, and persons with food service or personal care occupations are the groups most likely to follow entertainment a lot or a great deal.

Persons living in or near larger communities, persons with lower household incomes, younger persons, and persons with lower education levels are the groups most likely to follow crime a lot or a great deal.

The groups most likely to follow health news a lot or a great deal include older persons, females, and widowed persons.

Respondents were also asked how often they use various media. Most rural Nebraskans use the following media at least sometimes: read

newspapers (online or in print) (61%), listen to news on the radio (60%), get news from a website or app (58%), and watch local television news (56%) (Figure 20). Most rural Nebraskans say they never or hardly ever watch either national evening network television news or cable television news.

The frequencies with which they use the various media are examined by community size, region, and individual attributes (Appendix Table 18).

Residents of the Northeast region are more likely than residents of other regions of the state to read newspapers often. Just over four in ten residents of the Northeast region often read newspapers, compared to just over one-quarter of residents of the South Central region.

Other groups most likely to read newspapers often include persons aged 65 and older, persons with sales or office support occupations, and long-term community residents.

The groups most likely to listen to news on the radio often include persons with higher household incomes and persons aged 50 and

Figure 20. *Frequency of Using Media*
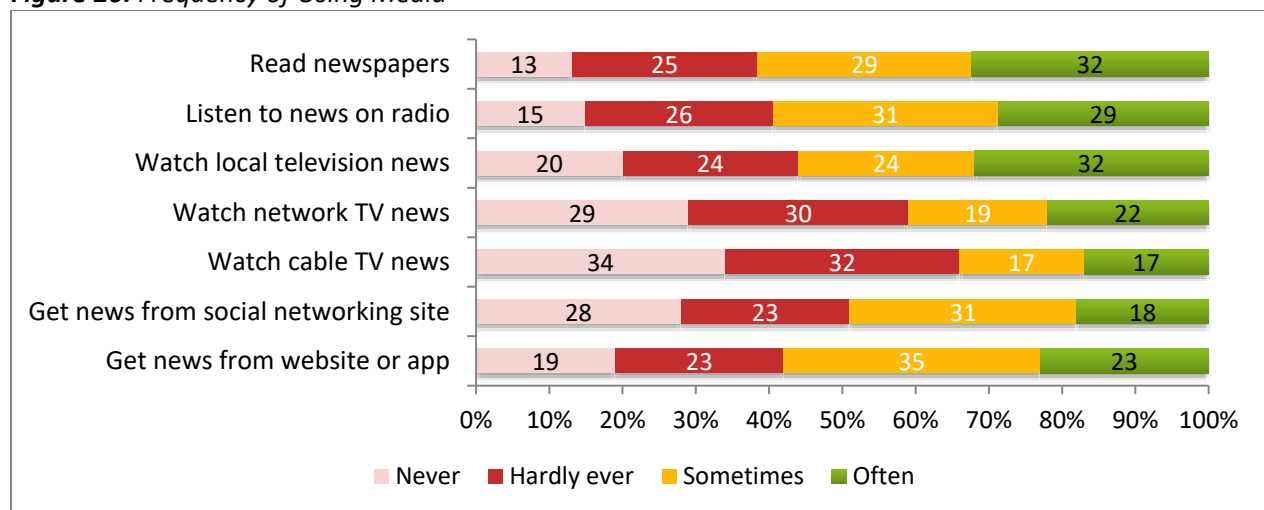
older.

Persons aged 65 and older are more likely than younger persons to watch local television news often. Six in ten persons aged 65 and older often watch local television news, compared to only 11 percent of persons age 19 to 29.

The other groups most likely to often watch local television news include residents of the Northeast region, residents of the Southeast region, persons with lower household incomes, persons with lower education levels, and long-term community residents.

Persons with lower household incomes, older persons, females, persons with sales or office support occupations, and long-term community residents are the groups most likely to watch national evening network television news often.

Many of those same groups (persons with lower household incomes, older persons, and persons with sales or office support occupations) are most likely to watch cable television news often.

Residents of the North Central region are more likely than residents of other regions of the state to get news from a social networking site often. Just over three in ten residents of the North Central region often get news from a social networking site, compared to one in ten residents of the Southeast region.

The other groups most likely to often get news from a social networking site include younger persons, females, persons with higher education levels, and newcomers to the community. Over four in ten persons age 19 to 29 often get news from a social networking site.

Persons with higher household incomes, persons under the age of 50, females, persons

with higher education levels, persons with healthcare support or public safety occupations, and newcomers to the community are the groups most likely to get news from a website or app often.

Individual and Community Political Views

Finally, respondents were also asked to rate the political views they hold as well as the views of their community on social and economic issues. The specific question wording was, "Where would you place yourself and your community on the following scale of political views that people might hold?" They were given an eight-point scale ranging from extremely liberal to extremely conservative along with a don't know option.

Most rural Nebraskans rate themselves as conservative on both economic and social issues. They also rate their community's political views on both economic and social views as conservative. In fact, they view their community's political views on social issues as more conservative than their own. Just over one-half (54%) of rural Nebraskans have conservative views on social issues and 70 percent rate their community's political views on social issues as conservative (Figure 21).

The respondents' political views and their perceptions of the political views of their community are examined by community size, region, and individual attributes (Appendix Table 19). Persons living in or near larger communities are more likely than persons living in or near smaller communities to have liberal views on both economic and social issues.

Residents of both the North Central and Northeast regions are more likely than residents of other regions of the state to have

Figure 21. *Individual and Community Political Views*
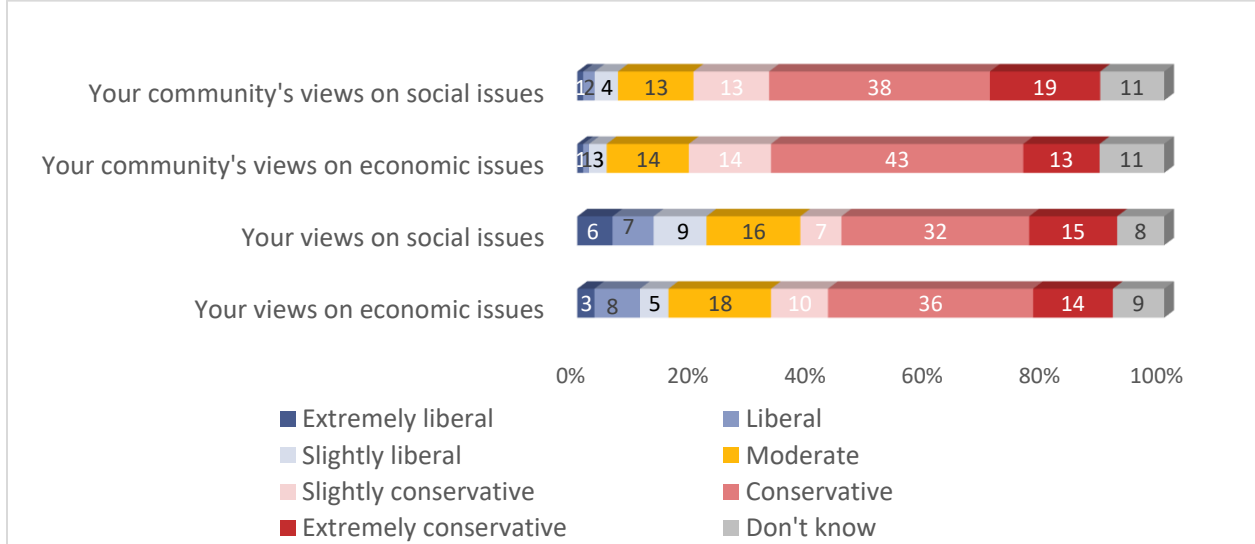
conservative views on economic and social issues. Approximately two-thirds of residents of these two regions have conservative views on economic issues, compared to one-half of the residents of the Southeast region.

Other groups most likely to have conservative views on both economic and social issues include persons with higher household incomes, older persons, males, married persons, persons with higher education levels, and persons with occupations in agriculture.

Persons living in or near smaller communities are more likely than persons living in or near larger communities to rate their community's political views on economic issues as conservative.

Panhandle residents are the regional group most likely to rate their community's political views on social issues as conservative.

The groups most likely to rate their community's political views on both economic and social issues as conservative include persons with higher household incomes,

persons aged 30 to 39, males, married persons, persons with the highest education levels, persons with occupations in agriculture, and long-term residents of the community.

Conclusion

Rural Nebraskans are more positive about the current change in their communities this year but are less positive about its future. Starting two years ago, the proportion believing their community changed for the worse was more than the proportion believing it had changed for the better (similar to what occurred in 2003 and 2009). However, this year that trend reversed back to the typical pattern. This year, more believe their community has changed for the better than has changed for the worse. When asked about what they expect ten years from now, this year more people believe their community will be a worse place to live ten years from now than a better place, only occurring one other time in 2011.

Despite that, rural Nebraskans are positive about their community by many different measures. Most rural Nebraskans rate their

community favorably on its social dimensions, as friendly, trusting and supportive. Most rural Nebraskans also say it would be difficult to leave their community and have a positive attachment to their community. Finally, most rural Nebraskans disagree that their community is powerless to control its future.

Differences in perceptions of their community are evident by community size. Persons living in or near larger communities are more likely than persons living in or near smaller communities to get what they need in their community. However, persons living in or near the smallest communities are more likely than persons living in or near larger communities to have an attachment to their community.

Rural Nebraskans see much division over politics and think it is a serious problem. Most rural Nebraskans believe the lack of civil or respectful discourse in our political system is either a very serious or a somewhat serious problem. And most rural Nebraskans think Americans are more divided over politics than they were 10 years ago.

Rural Nebraskans have more faith in local community leaders and state political leaders than national political leaders to overcome differences to get things done. Two-thirds believe local community leaders do at least moderately well at overcoming differences to get things done. However, four in ten believe the same about Nebraska's political leaders and only nine percent say America's political leaders do at least moderately well at that. Outside of leadership, most also believe people in their local community do at least moderately well at overcoming differences to get things done.

Most rural Nebraskans have a negative opinion about social media and its impact on civil discourse. Most rural Nebraskans *disagree* that

social media are a place for civil and productive discourse. And most agree it only reinforces what the user already believes and that they contribute to division in their community. Furthermore, more disagree that social media help them feel engaged in their community than agree.

While it wasn't a widespread opinion, more rural Nebraskans disagree than agree that people in their community are respectful towards others with differing political views.

Rural Nebraskans tend to use many different forms of media. Most rural Nebraskans use the following media at least sometimes: read newspapers (online or in print), listen to news on the radio, get news from a website or app, and watch local television news. Most rural Nebraskans say they never or hardly ever watch either national evening network television news or cable television news.

Appendix Figure 1. Regions of Nebraska

Nebraska Metropolitan and Nonmetropolitan Counties (2013 Definitions)

Metropolitan/Nonmetropolitan and Survey Status

- Nonmetropolitan County Surveyed in Rural Poll
- County Classified as Metroplitan but Surveyed in Rural Poll
- Metropolitan County not Surveyed in Rural Poll

Note: There are 5 metro counties for Omaha (Cass, Douglas, Sarpy, Saunders, Washington), 2 for Lincoln (Lancaster, Seward), 2 for Sioux City, Iowa (Dakota, Dixon) and 4 in the newly established Grand Island metro (Hall, Hamilton, Howard, Merrick).

Source: 2013 Metropolitan and Micropolitan Definitions, Office of Management and Budget, released 2-28-13
Prepared by: David Drozd, Center for Public Affairs Research, University of Nebraska at Omaha - August 11, 2014

Appendix Table 1. *Demographic Profile of Rural Poll Respondents[1] Compared to 2017 – 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Average for Nebraska**

	2023 Poll	2022 Poll	2021 Poll	2020 Poll	2019 Poll	2017 - 2021 ACS
Age : [2]						
20 - 39	32%	32%	32%	32%	32%	32%
40 - 64	44%	44%	44%	44%	44%	42%
65 and over	24%	24%	24%	24%	24%	26%
Gender: [3]						
Female	60%	51%	55%	55%	55%	50%
Male	40%	49%	45%	46%	45%	50%
Education: [4]						
Less than high school graduate	2%	2%	3%	3%	1%	10%
High school diploma (or equiv.)	16%	16%	16%	16%	15%	32%
Some college, no degree	25%	26%	26%	18%	18%	24%
Associate degree	13%	16%	15%	24%	24%	12%
Bachelors degree	28%	25%	28%	26%	29%	16%
Graduate or professional degree	17%	16%	13%	14%	13%	7%
Household Income: [5]						
Less than $20,000	7%	6%	8%	7%	7%	14%
$20,000 - $39,999	12%	15%	17%	14%	15%	19%
$40,000 - $59,999	15%	17%	16%	19%	18%	18%
$60,000 - $74,999	18%	17%	14%	16%	16%	11%
$75,000 - $99,999	16%	16%	17%	21%	19%	15%
$100,000 - $149,999	22%	17%	19%	15%	16%	15%
$150,000 - $199,999	6%	6%	5%	5%	5%	5%
$200,000 or more	5%	6%	4%	4%	3%	4%
Marital Status: [6]						
Married	71%	66%	69%	69%	70%	61%
Never married	13%	17%	13%	12%	12%	20%
Divorced/separated	10%	10%	11%	10%	9%	12%
Widowed/widower	7%	7%	7%	8%	8%	8%

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[1]   Data from the Rural Polls have been weighted by age.

[2]   2017-2021 American Community Survey universe is non-metro population 20 years of age and over.

[3]   2017-2021 American Community Survey universe is non-metro population 20 years of age and over.

[4]   2017-2021 American Community Survey universe is non-metro population 25 years of age and over.

[5]   2017-2021 American Community Survey universe is all non-metro households.

[6]   2017-2021 American Community Survey universe is non-metro population 20 years of age and over.

*Comparison numbers are estimates taken from the American Community Survey five-year sample and may reflect significant margins of error for areas with relatively small populations.

Appendix Table 2. Perceptions of Community Change by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes

| | *Communities across the nation are undergoing change. When you think about this past year, would you say...* | | | |
| | *My community has changed for the* | | | |
	Worse	*No Change*	*Better*	*Significance*
		Percentages		
Total	23	49	28	
Community Size		(n = 1071)		
Less than 500	21	56	24	
500 - 999	25	57	18	
1,000 - 4,999	20	46	34	$\chi^2 = 27.21$*
5,000 - 9,999	17	54	30	(.000)
10,000 and up	30	43	28	
Region		(n = 1083)		
Panhandle	31	48	21	
North Central	31	43	27	
South Central	19	52	30	$\chi^2 = 21.78$*
Northeast	17	52	31	(.005)
Southeast	26	48	26	
Income Level		(n = 1035)		
Under $40,000	29	45	26	
$40,000 - $74,999	22	47	31	$\chi^2 = 9.84$
$75,000 - $99,999	23	48	29	(.132)
$100,000 and over	21	54	25	
Age		(n = 1087)		
19 - 29	17	50	33	
30 - 39	23	55	22	
40 - 49	18	54	28	$\chi^2 = 20.70$*
50 - 64	30	44	26	(.008)
65 and older	25	45	30	
Gender		(n = 1070)		
Male	28	51	21	$\chi^2 = 21.34$*
Female	19	48	33	(.000)
Marital Status		(n = 1056)		
Married	21	49	30	
Never married	23	55	22	
Divorced/separated	30	45	26	$\chi^2 = 7.51$
Widowed	25	44	31	(.276)
Education		(n = 1072)		
H.S. diploma or less	25	55	20	
Some college	29	46	26	$\chi^2 = 23.07$*
Bachelors or grad degree	17	50	33	(.000)
Occupation		(n = 792)		
Mgt, prof or education	19	52	30	
Sales or office support	21	44	35	
Constrn, inst or maint	34	51	15	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	47	44	9	
Agriculture	17	53	31	
Food serv/pers. care	18	69	12	
Hlthcare supp/safety	17	54	30	$\chi^2 = 52.15$*
Other	44	22	33	(.000)
Yrs Lived in Community		(n = 1087)		
Five years or less	13	66	21	$\chi^2 = 26.53$*
More than five years	25	46	29	(.000)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

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Appendix Table 3. *Expectations of Future Community Change by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes*

	Based on what you see of the situation today, do you think that, ten years from now, your community will be a worse place to live, a better place or about the same?			
	<u>Worse Place</u>	<u>About the same</u>	<u>Better Place</u>	<u>Significance</u>
		Percentages		
Total	26	52	22	
Community Size		(n = 1068)		
Less than 500	28	56	17	
500 - 999	32	55	13	
1,000 - 4,999	25	49	26	$\chi^2 = 25.57^*$
5,000 - 9,999	26	61	13	(.001)
10,000 and up	25	46	28	
Region		(n = 1086)		
Panhandle	32	48	21	
North Central	36	52	12	
South Central	28	45	26	$\chi^2 = 49.01^*$
Northeast	14	57	29	(.000)
Southeast	28	57	16	
Income Level		(n = 1039)		
Under $40,000	27	61	12	
$40,000 - $74,999	29	44	27	$\chi^2 = 24.62^*$
$75,000 - $99,999	23	56	20	(.000)
$100,000 and over	24	51	25	
Age		(n = 1087)		
19 - 29	22	56	22	
30 - 39	31	54	16	
40 - 49	25	42	33	$\chi^2 = 27.07^*$
50 - 64	28	53	19	(.000)
65 and older	26	54	20	
Gender		(n = 1071)		
Male	33	47	21	$\chi^2 = 16.72^*$
Female	22	55	23	(.000)
Marital Status		(n = 1056)		
Married	26	50	24	
Never married	25	59	16	
Divorced/separated	33	49	18	$\chi^2 = 12.73^*$
Widowed	19	63	18	(.048)
Education		(n = 1073)		
H.S. diploma or less	27	60	13	
Some college	31	50	20	$\chi^2 = 22.76^*$
Bachelors or grad degree	23	50	27	(.000)
Occupation		(n = 791)		
Mgt, prof or education	24	45	31	
Sales or office support	17	55	28	
Constrn, inst or maint	43	45	11	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	22	67	11	
Agriculture	33	42	25	
Food serv/pers. care	8	82	10	
Hlthcare supp/safety	30	52	18	$\chi^2 = 58.30^*$
Other	39	39	23	(.000)
Yrs Lived in Community		(n = 1088)		
Five years or less	26	48	27	$\chi^2 = 2.95$
More than five years	27	52	21	(.229)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Appendix Table 4. *Measures of Community Attributes in Relation to Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes*

	My community is...				My community is...				My community is...			
	Unfriendly	No opinion	Friendly	Chi-square (sig.)	Distrusting	No opinion	Trusting	Chi-square (sig.)	Hostile	No opinion	Supportive	Chi-square (sig.)
					Percentages							
Total	10	15	75		15	26	59		14	21	65	
Community Size		(n = 1067)				(n = 1065)				(n = 1059)		
Less than 500	7	17	76		13	18	70		8	21	71	
500 - 999	13	11	76		13	33	54		13	12	75	
1,000 - 4,999	10	15	75	$\chi^2 =$	14	32	54	$\chi^2 =$	17	18	65	$\chi^2 =$
5,000 - 9,999	13	11	75	6.86	15	28	57	23.61*	16	16	69	33.06*
10,000 and up	11	15	75	(.551)	19	22	59	(.003)	15	30	55	(.000)
Region		(n = 1083)				(n = 1081)				(n = 1074)		
Panhandle	9	12	79		18	24	58		18	16	66	
North Central	14	15	71		15	33	53		20	21	59	
South Central	9	15	77	$\chi^2 =$	17	23	60	$\chi^2 =$	13	23	64	$\chi^2 =$
Northeast	6	17	77	18.43*	12	20	68	21.87*	10	19	72	17.81*
Southeast	16	12	72	(.018)	15	34	51	(.005)	14	26	60	(.023)
Individual Attributes												
Income Level		(n = 1036)				(n = 1032)				(n = 1025)		
Under $40,000	19	19	63		24	27	49		15	28	57	
$40,000 - $74,999	8	13	79	$\chi^2 =$	16	30	53	$\chi^2 =$	14	18	68	$\chi^2 =$
$75,000 - $99,999	11	10	79	26.07*	15	20	65	31.96*	12	19	69	9.33
$100,000 and over	8	16	76	(.000)	10	24	67	(.000)	14	23	64	(.156)
Age		(n = 1083)				(n = 1080)				(n = 1074)		
19 - 29	6	11	83		11	50	39		11	28	61	
30 - 39	14	11	76		19	21	60		14	23	63	
40 - 49	13	18	70	$\chi^2 =$	10	23	67	$\chi^2 =$	15	18	68	$\chi^2 =$
50 - 64	11	15	75	15.50	19	20	61	74.82*	16	21	63	9.01
65 and older	9	16	75	(.050)	16	20	64	(.000)	14	18	67	(.342)
Gender		(n = 1069)		$\chi^2 =$		(n = 1065)		$\chi^2 =$		(n = 1058)		$\chi^2 =$
Male	9	15	76	1.29	16	22	63	6.44*	15	24	62	2.56
Female	11	14	75	(.525)	15	29	57	(.040)	13	20	67	(.278)

	My community is...				My community is...				My community is...			
	Unfriendly	No opinion	Friendly	Chi-square (sig.)	Distrusting	No opinion	Trusting	Chi-square (sig.)	Hostile	No opinion	Supportive	Chi-square (sig.)
Marital Status	(n = 1056)				(n = 1053)				(n = 1046)			
Married	10	15	75		13	25	63		13	20	67	
Never married	14	2	84	$\chi^2 =$	22	29	49	$\chi^2 =$	19	19	61	$\chi^2 =$
Divorced/separated	10	22	68	25.16*	23	23	54	17.88*	19	26	55	9.50
Widowed	7	20	73	(.000)	18	27	55	(.007)	16	19	64	(.147)
Education	(n = 1072)				(n = 1069)				(n = 1062)			
H.S. diploma or less	8	14	78	$\chi^2 =$	20	20	61	$\chi^2 =$	16	16	69	$\chi^2 =$
Some college	13	15	72	6.28	18	30	53	19.45*	17	24	59	11.54*
Bachelors degree	9	15	77	(.179)	11	26	64	(.000)	12	21	68	(.021)
Occupation	(n = 792)				(n = 792)				(n = 790)			
Mgt, prof or education	10	14	76		11	32	57		9	25	66	
Sales or office support	15	10	76		15	19	66		21	15	65	
Constrn, inst or maint	2	4	94		9	23	68		8	13	79	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	20	11	70		25	34	41		34	34	32	
Agriculture	8	9	83	$\chi^2 =$	17	15	68	$\chi^2 =$	14	14	72	$\chi^2 =$
Food serv/pers. care	6	16	78	37.12*	8	43	49	37.64*	14	2	84	65.70*
Hlthcare supp/safety	9	22	69	(.000)	17	24	59	(.000)	11	32	57	(.000)
Other	26	22	52		30	19	52		19	22	59	
Yrs Lived in Comm.	(n = 1083)			$\chi^2 =$	(n = 1080)			$\chi^2 =$	(n = 1075)			$\chi^2 =$
Five years or less	14	12	75	3.42	17	29	54	2.48	16	26	58	3.83
More than five years	10	15	75	(.181)	15	25	60	(.290)	14	20	66	(.148)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Appendix Table 5. *Feelings of Community Powerlessness by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes*

	Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? My community is powerless to control its own future.			
	Disagree	*Undecided*	*Agree*	*Chi-square (sig.)*
		Percentages		
Total	62	21	17	
Community Size		(n = 1074)		
Less than 500	51	24	26	
500 - 999	55	27	19	
1,000 - 4,999	63	21	17	
5,000 - 9,999	71	15	14	$\chi^2 = 31.81$*
10,000 and up	69	21	11	(.000)
Region		(n = 1091)		
Panhandle	61	19	21	
North Central	56	28	16	
South Central	62	18	20	
Northeast	65	23	13	$\chi^2 = 14.39$
Southeast	66	20	14	(.072)
Income Level		(n = 1042)		
Under $40,000	56	25	19	
$40,000 - $74,999	58	25	17	
$75,000 - $99,999	68	13	20	$\chi^2 = 19.56$*
$100,000 and over	68	19	13	(.003)
Age		(n = 1091)		
19 - 29	72	17	11	
30 - 39	53	25	22	
40 - 49	67	20	13	
50 - 64	62	22	17	$\chi^2 = 20.45$*
65 and older	57	24	20	(.009)
Gender		(n = 1076)		
Male	56	20	24	$\chi^2 = 27.83$*
Female	66	22	12	(.000)
Marital Status		(n = 1061)		
Married	64	20	17	
Never married	63	22	15	
Divorced/separated	53	28	20	$\chi^2 = 7.23$
Widowed	56	28	16	(.300)
Education		(n = 1079)		
H.S. diploma or less	52	26	23	
Some college	56	26	18	$\chi^2 = 30.59$*
Bachelors degree	71	16	13	(.000)
Occupation		(n = 795)		
Mgt, prof, education	69	21	10	
Sales/office support	75	16	10	
Const, inst or maint	48	19	33	
Prodn/trans/warehs	37	41	22	
Agriculture	52	16	32	
Food serv/pers. care	69	26	6	
Hlthcare supp/safety	64	19	17	$\chi^2 = 66.34$*
Other	56	19	26	(.000)
Yrs Lived in Comm.		(n = 1091)		
Five years or less	62	22	17	$\chi^2 = 0.01$
More than five years	62	21	17	(.995)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level

Appendix Table 6. *Level of Satisfaction with Community Services and Amenities*

Service/Amenity	Dissatisfied*	No opinion	Satisfied*
		Percentages	
Retail shopping	54	18	29
Streets and roads	52	9	39
Entertainment	49	27	24
Restaurants	49	12	40
Cost of housing	48	16	36
Quality of housing	47	16	37
Arts/cultural activities	41	34	25
Community recycling	40	21	40
Local government	36	29	36
Public transportation services	35	46	20
Mental health services	34	42	24
Child day care services	34	46	20
Internet service	29	12	59
Cellular phone service	28	11	61
Medical care services	27	16	57
Nursing home care	25	41	34
Law enforcement	21	18	61
Senior centers	19	44	37
Head Start or early childhood education programs	17	48	35
Education (K - 12)	16	20	64
Access to higher education (college, technical, etc.)	15	28	57
Civic/nonprofit organizations	13	43	44
Sewage/waste disposal	13	25	63
Parks and recreation	12	14	74
Religious organizations	8	34	58
Library services	6	24	70
Fire protection	5	11	85

* Dissatisfied represents the combined percentage of "very dissatisfied" and "somewhat dissatisfied" responses. Similarly, satisfied is the combination of "very satisfied" and "somewhat satisfied" responses.

Appendix Table 7. *Measures of Satisfaction with Ten Services and Amenities in Relation to Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes*

	Retail shopping			Streets and roads			Entertainment			Restaurants		
	Dissatisfied	No opinion	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	No opinion	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	No opinion	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	No opinion	Satisfied
						Percentages						
Community Size		(n = 1075)			(n = 1067)			(n = 1073)			(n = 1077)	
Less than 500	47	27	26	52	14	34	48	37	16	54	18	28
500 - 999	60	19	21	51	16	33	58	30	12	46	15	39
1,000 - 4,999	52	16	32	56	4	40	47	26	27	46	7	48
5,000 - 9,999	58	10	33	50	4	46	51	18	30	56	10	35
10,000 and over	57	15	28	48	10	41	49	23	29	46	14	41
Chi-square (sig.)	χ^2 = 25.40* (.001)			χ^2 = 32.13* (.000)			χ^2 = 34.14* (.000)			χ^2 = 32.10* (.000)		
Region		(n = 1096)			(n = 1083)			(n = 1087)			(n = 1097)	
Panhandle	70	7	24	62	3	35	66	18	16	52	9	39
North Central	66	10	24	55	14	31	57	24	19	61	9	30
South Central	43	28	29	50	12	38	37	33	30	41	14	45
Northeast	50	16	34	56	5	39	48	25	27	44	13	43
Southeast	54	18	28	41	9	50	53	27	20	54	12	34
Chi-square (sig.)	χ^2 = 57.97* (.000)			χ^2 = 34.53* (.000)			χ^2 = 39.83* (.000)			χ^2 = 25.53* (.001)		
Income Level		(n = 1043)			(n = 1034)			(n = 1035)			(n = 1045)	
Under $40,000	47	22	31	59	4	36	48	23	29	45	13	42
$40,000 - $74,999	53	19	28	58	11	31	47	28	25	40	16	45
$75,000 - $99,999	54	22	24	46	9	45	40	35	26	47	6	48
$100,000 and over	59	12	30	47	8	45	56	23	21	60	11	30
Chi-square (sig.)	χ^2 = 15.54* (.016)			χ^2 = 22.52* (.000)			χ^2 = 17.58* (.007)			χ^2 = 38.69* (.000)		
Age		(n = 1093)			(n = 1085)			(n = 1089)			(n = 1098)	
19 - 29	44	28	28	61	11	28	44	28	28	50	6	44
30 - 39	59	14	27	48	11	41	58	22	19	52	14	35
40 - 49	50	21	29	51	13	36	54	25	21	51	16	33
50 - 64	58	13	29	51	8	41	51	23	26	47	12	41
65 and over	57	15	29	49	5	46	41	35	25	45	12	43
Chi-square (sig.)	χ^2 = 23.51* (.003)			χ^2 = 22.83* (.004)			χ^2 = 22.07* (.005)			χ^2 = 16.51* (.036)		
Education		(n = 1082)			(n = 1071)			(n = 1078)			(n = 1085)	
H.S. diploma or less	51	12	37	63	6	31	47	28	25	39	16	45
Some college	56	17	27	58	7	35	58	22	21	56	11	33
College grad	53	20	27	43	12	45	43	30	26	46	11	43
Chi-square (sig.)	χ^2 = 11.66* (.020)			χ^2 = 30.10* (.000)			χ^2 = 18.64* (.000)			χ^2 = 17.52* (.002)		
Occupation		(n = 797)			(n = 790)			(n = 795)			(n = 796)	
Mgt, prof, education	51	26	23	45	16	39	45	30	25	50	11	39
Sales/office support	52	13	35	44	13	43	57	29	13	51	19	30
Const, inst or maint	69	14	17	56	6	39	77	14	10	66	21	13
Prodn/trans/warehs	62	11	27	61	0	39	64	16	21	55	9	36
Agriculture	39	18	44	52	6	42	24	35	42	39	8	54
Food serv/pers. care	55	6	39	65	0	35	53	16	31	33	10	57
Hlthcare supp/safety	55	10	35	62	6	33	56	13	31	52	3	45
Other	61	21	18	52	0	48	71	21	7	68	4	29
Chi-square (sig.)	χ^2 = 48.32* (.000)			χ^2 = 41.51* (.000)			χ^2 = 74.29* (.000)			χ^2 = 51.41* (.000)		

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level. Only the ten services with the highest combined percentage of very or somewhat dissatisfied are included in this table.

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	Cost of housing			Quality of housing			Arts/cultural activities			Community recycling		
	Dissatisfied	*No opinion*	*Satisfied*	*Dissatisfied*	*No opinion*	*Satisfied*	*Dissatisfied*	*No opinion*	*Satisfied*	*Dissatisfied*	*No opinion*	*Satisfied*
						Percentages						
Community Size		(n = 1083)			(n = 1075)			(n = 1074)			(n = 1066)	
Less than 500	30	19	51	53	14	34	44	47	9	49	24	27
500 - 999	44	21	36	49	16	35	44	34	22	29	27	44
1,000 - 4,999	44	15	41	45	15	41	38	36	26	40	21	39
5,000 - 9,999	42	21	36	42	15	42	43	25	33	33	13	55
10,000 and over	68	9	23	46	17	36	39	27	34	40	17	43
Chi-square (sig.)	χ^2 = 87.39* (.000)			χ^2 = 6.48 (.594)			χ^2 = 54.99* (.000)			χ^2 = 33.82* (.000)		
Region		(n = 1098)			(n = 1093)			(n = 1091)			(n = 1083)	
Panhandle	45	11	44	57	8	35	42	28	30	39	15	46
North Central	53	15	33	69	8	23	51	31	18	46	24	31
South Central	60	12	28	43	17	39	36	33	31	37	16	47
Northeast	41	17	42	37	20	44	39	36	25	36	22	42
Southeast	37	23	40	41	20	39	39	41	20	44	26	30
Chi-square (sig.)	χ^2 = 42.01* (.000)			χ^2 = 60.43* (.000)			χ^2 = 22.55* (.004)			χ^2 = 25.45* (.001)		
Income Level		(n = 1046)			(n = 1041)			(n = 1039)			(n = 1033)	
Under $40,000	48	23	30	39	24	37	35	34	31	37	18	45
$40,000 - $74,999	46	15	39	43	18	39	40	31	29	32	19	49
$75,000 - $99,999	52	15	33	39	20	41	35	37	28	51	18	32
$100,000 and over	49	11	40	60	6	34	47	34	19	44	24	31
Chi-square (sig.)	χ^2 = 16.41* (.012)			χ^2 = 52.24* (.000)			χ^2 = 15.86* (.015)			χ^2 = 34.89* (.000)		
Age		(n = 1099)			(n = 1094)			(n = 1095)			(n = 1084)	
19 - 29	39	6	56	50	17	33	44	17	39	41	12	47
30 - 39	58	16	26	53	15	32	51	34	15	53	17	30
40 - 49	51	12	38	53	13	33	43	35	23	40	22	38
50 - 64	53	18	29	47	13	40	40	36	24	35	27	38
65 and over	40	24	36	36	20	44	31	43	26	34	22	45
Chi-square (sig.)	χ^2 = 64.08* (.000)			χ^2 = 22.96* (.003)			χ^2 = 55.22* (.000)			χ^2 = 33.45* (.000)		
Education		(n = 1086)			(n = 1081)			(n = 1080)			(n = 1071)	
H.S. diploma or less	43	20	37	38	17	45	30	48	22	28	22	50
Some college	46	19	35	49	15	37	47	32	21	39	25	37
College grad	52	11	37	49	17	34	40	30	30	45	16	39
Chi-square (sig.)	χ^2 = 13.48* (.009)			χ^2 = 9.20 (.056)			χ^2 = 29.83* (.000)			χ^2 = 24.55* (.000)		
Occupation		(n = 796)			(n = 795)			(n = 798)			(n = 789)	
Mgt, prof, education	52	11	38	52	16	32	43	27	30	49	16	36
Sales/office support	38	12	49	54	11	35	51	33	16	48	23	29
Const, inst or maint	59	11	30	48	9	43	61	20	19	40	17	42
Prodn/trans/warehs	60	11	29	59	16	25	55	39	7	16	44	40
Agriculture	48	17	36	44	9	47	23	52	26	21	25	54
Food serv/pers. care	44	10	46	45	16	39	24	24	53	29	6	65
Hlthcare supp/safety	43	14	43	56	12	32	41	30	30	43	28	28
Other	68	18	14	43	25	32	50	43	7	57	18	25
Chi-square (sig.)	χ^2 = 21.72 (.085)			χ^2 = 17.63 (.224)			χ^2 = 73.33* (.000)			χ^2 = 74.93* (.000)		

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level. Only the ten services with the highest combined percentage of very or somewhat dissatisfied are included in this table.

	Law enforcement			Public transportation services		
	Dissatisfied	No opinion	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	No opinion	Satisfied
			Percentages			
Community Size		(n = 1082)			(n = 1073)	
Less than 500	33	19	49	32	57	11
500 - 999	35	20	45	40	53	7
1,000 - 4,999	14	23	63	31	46	23
5,000 - 9,999	16	13	71	28	38	34
10,000 and over	15	15	71	42	37	21
Chi-square (sig.)		$\chi^2 = 65.17^*$ (.000)			$\chi^2 = 53.97^*$ (.000)	
Region		(n = 1100)			(n = 1087)	
Panhandle	34	14	52	38	31	31
North Central	27	23	50	36	50	14
South Central	19	17	65	32	45	23
Northeast	13	17	70	35	44	20
Southeast	20	21	59	36	54	10
Chi-square (sig.)		$\chi^2 = 39.06^*$ (.000)			$\chi^2 = 32.60^*$ (.000)	
Income Level		(n = 1049)			(n = 1036)	
Under $40,000	23	16	62	39	37	25
$40,000 - $74,999	17	20	63	35	37	28
$75,000 - $99,999	17	25	58	33	53	14
$100,000 and over	25	15	61	34	56	11
Chi-square (sig.)		$\chi^2 = 13.96^*$ (.030)			$\chi^2 = 51.81^*$ (.000)	
Age		(n = 1100)			(n = 1089)	
19 - 29	28	22	50	39	39	22
30 - 39	26	21	53	33	49	18
40 - 49	17	24	59	39	49	13
50 - 64	20	16	64	36	46	18
65 and over	17	11	73	30	44	26
Chi-square (sig.)		$\chi^2 = 37.45^*$ (.000)			$\chi^2 = 19.55^*$ (.012)	
Education		(n = 1089)			(n = 1076)	
H.S. diploma or less	26	12	62	29	42	29
Some college	22	20	58	36	45	19
College grad	17	19	64	36	48	16
Chi-square (sig.)		$\chi^2 = 13.22^*$ (.010)			$\chi^2 = 15.01^*$ (.005)	
Occupation		(n = 798)			(n = 792)	
Mgt, prof, education	22	21	57	41	47	12
Sales/office support	29	20	51	43	40	17
Const, inst or maint	9	23	68	34	32	34
Prodn/trans/warehs	13	27	60	14	64	23
Agriculture	10	22	68	16	52	33
Food serv/pers. care	33	14	53	50	16	34
Hlthcare supp/safety	29	14	57	32	51	18
Other	36	7	57	43	46	11
Chi-square (sig.)		$\chi^2 = 32.43^*$ (.003)			$\chi^2 = 73.69^*$ (.000)	

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.
Only the ten services with the highest combined percentage of very or somewhat dissatisfied are included in this table.

Appendix Table 8. *Feelings about Community by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes.*

	I can get what I need in this community.				This community helps me fulfill my needs.			
	Disagree	*Neither*	*Agree*	*Significance*	*Disagree*	*Neither*	*Agree*	*Significance*
				Percentages				
Total	37	15	48		31	25	44	
Community Size		(n = 1081)				(n = 1079)		
Less than 500	45	21	34		32	29	39	
500 - 999	38	17	45		38	22	41	
1,000 - 4,999	39	11	50		31	26	43	
5,000 - 9,999	30	20	50	$\chi^2 = 32.80^*$	31	21	49	$\chi^2 = 7.53$
10,000 and up	33	12	56	(.000)	29	25	47	(.481)
Region		(n = 1097)				(n = 1097)		
Panhandle	49	4	47		44	13	44	
North Central	52	10	39		45	22	34	
South Central	28	17	55		28	26	47	
Northeast	32	17	51	$\chi^2 = 56.13^*$	18	32	50	$\chi^2 = 58.36^*$
Southeast	41	20	39	(.000)	36	26	38	(.000)
Household Income Level		(n = 1047)				(n = 1045)		
Under $40,000	35	15	50		40	22	38	
$40,000 - $74,999	36	14	50		34	22	44	
$75,000 - $99,999	38	16	46	$\chi^2 = 2.38$	25	32	43	$\chi^2 = 16.80^*$
$100,000 and over	40	15	45	(.882)	27	27	46	(.010)
Age		(n = 1097)				(n = 1096)		
19 - 29	28	22	50		44	28	28	
30 - 39	49	9	42		35	18	48	
40 - 49	29	20	51		23	31	46	
50 - 64	40	13	48	$\chi^2 = 35.85^*$	31	24	45	$\chi^2 = 37.89^*$
65 and older	41	12	47	(.000)	28	24	48	(.000)
Gender		(n = 1083)				(n = 1082)		
Male	38	17	45	$\chi^2 = 3.53$	31	27	43	$\chi^2 = 0.91$
Female	37	14	50	(.171)	32	24	44	(.634)
Education		(n = 1087)				(n = 1084)		
High school diploma or less	37	18	45		36	25	39	
Some college	40	17	42	$\chi^2 = 14.10^*$	38	24	38	$\chi^2 = 24.79^*$
Bachelors or grad degree	35	12	54	(.007)	24	26	50	(.000)
Marital Status		(n = 1067)				(n = 1066)		
Married	39	15	46		27	28	45	
Never married	24	19	57		48	16	36	
Divorced/separated	39	13	49	$\chi^2 = 13.93^*$	34	28	38	$\chi^2 = 30.73^*$
Widowed	36	10	54	(.030)	26	17	57	(.000)
Occupation		(n = 801)				(n = 795)		
Mgt, prof or education	37	14	49		28	30	43	
Sales or office support	31	8	60		24	15	61	
Constrn, inst or maint	32	33	35		26	42	32	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	47	11	42		42	24	33	
Agriculture	20	27	54		24	25	51	
Food serv/pers. care	31	0	69		47	12	41	
Hlthcare supp/safety	51	8	41	$\chi^2 = 70.08^*$	29	24	47	$\chi^2 = 39.30^*$
Other	50	0	50	(.000)	48	19	33	(.000)
Yrs Lived in Comm.		(n = 1097)				(n = 1095)		
Five years or less	39	12	49	$\chi^2 = 1.55$	30	25	44	$\chi^2 = 0.10$
More than five years	37	16	48	(.460)	31	25	44	(.953)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

	I feel like a member of this community.				I belong in this community.			
	Disagree	Neither	Agree	Significance	Disagree	Neither	Agree	Significance
				Percentages				
Total	20	23	57		17	27	56	
Community Size		(n = 1063)				(n = 1070)		
Less than 500	18	13	68		14	20	66	
500 - 999	26	20	55		26	23	51	
1,000 - 4,999	20	28	52		19	29	53	
5,000 - 9,999	25	16	59	$\chi^2 = 31.40^*$	27	11	61	$\chi^2 = 53.94^*$
10,000 and up	18	29	54	(.000)	10	37	53	(.000)
Region		(n = 1081)				(n = 1086)		
Panhandle	27	14	58		24	17	60	
North Central	27	22	51		18	24	58	
South Central	20	24	56		17	29	54	
Northeast	9	26	65	$\chi^2 = 38.31^*$	10	26	64	$\chi^2 = 31.94^*$
Southeast	25	25	50	(.000)	22	33	45	(.000)
Household Income Level		(n = 1030)				(n = 1035)		
Under $40,000	32	18	50		25	25	50	
$40,000 - $74,999	23	27	51		20	31	49	
$75,000 - $99,999	14	17	69	$\chi^2 = 38.82^*$	13	16	71	$\chi^2 = 39.10^*$
$100,000 and over	15	27	58	(.000)	12	29	59	(.000)
Age		(n = 1079)				(n = 1087)		
19 - 29	33	22	44		22	28	50	
30 - 39	18	26	56		24	24	53	
40 - 49	21	25	54		15	27	58	
50 - 64	18	23	59	$\chi^2 = 33.18^*$	15	31	53	$\chi^2 = 19.69^*$
65 and older	14	21	66	(.000)	13	23	64	(.012)
Gender		(n = 1065)				(n = 1071)		
Male	18	24	58	$\chi^2 = 2.75$	15	28	57	$\chi^2 = 2.21$
Female	22	23	55	(.253)	18	26	56	(.331)
Education		(n = 1068)				(n = 1075)		
High school diploma or less	22	27	52		18	32	50	
Some college	26	22	52	$\chi^2 = 18.72^*$	20	29	51	$\chi^2 = 14.64^*$
Bachelors or grad degree	15	24	61	(.000)	15	23	62	(.006)
Marital Status		(n = 1050)				(n = 1057)		
Married	17	23	60		17	23	60	
Never married	37	20	44		22	37	42	
Divorced/separated	30	29	41	$\chi^2 = 45.43^*$	23	36	41	$\chi^2 = 31.38^*$
Widowed	12	18	71	(.000)	10	21	69	(.000)
Occupation		(n = 792)				(n = 793)		
Mgt, prof or education	16	28	56		12	28	60	
Sales or office support	24	15	62		16	21	64	
Constrn, inst or maint	21	21	58		22	22	56	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	40	18	42		18	43	39	
Agriculture	10	26	64		9	36	55	
Food serv/pers. care	33	19	48		29	20	51	
Hlthcare supp/safety	19	26	56	$\chi^2 = 40.84^*$	23	26	52	$\chi^2 = 33.38^*$
Other	42	8	50	(.000)	26	26	48	(.003)
Yrs Lived in Comm.		(n = 1081)				(n = 1086)		
Five years or less	25	33	42	$\chi^2 = 19.52^*$	28	32	40	$\chi^2 = 29.78^*$
More than five years	19	21	60	(.000)	15	26	60	(.000)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

	I have a say about what goes on in my community.				*People in this community are good at influencing each other.*			
	Disagree	Neither	Agree	Significance	Disagree	Neither	Agree	Significance
				Percentages				
Total	37	31	32		17	34	49	
Community Size		(n = 1082)				(n = 1080)		
Less than 500	27	28	45		15	27	58	
500 - 999	47	23	30		13	36	51	
1,000 - 4,999	38	34	28		18	29	54	
5,000 - 9,999	34	33	33	$\chi^2 = 30.34$*	21	31	49	$\chi^2 = 32.58$*
10,000 and up	41	30	28	(.000)	15	46	39	(.000)
Region		(n = 1098)				(n = 1095)		
Panhandle	47	23	30		14	22	64	
North Central	41	25	34		20	36	45	
South Central	31	40	29		15	38	48	
Northeast	32	30	39	$\chi^2 = 32.88$*	12	35	53	$\chi^2 = 31.12$*
Southeast	45	29	27	(.000)	25	35	40	(.000)
Household Income Level		(n = 1048)				(n = 1048)		
Under $40,000	44	28	28		20	25	56	
$40,000 - $74,999	41	36	24		21	39	40	
$75,000 - $99,999	33	35	33	$\chi^2 = 34.50$*	10	33	57	$\chi^2 = 27.42$*
$100,000 and over	32	26	43	(.000)	14	35	51	(.000)
Age		(n = 1098)				(n = 1097)		
19 - 29	44	28	28		11	17	72	
30 - 39	41	36	23		17	37	47	
40 - 49	36	26	39		22	33	45	
50 - 64	34	32	33	$\chi^2 = 17.90$*	16	43	41	$\chi^2 = 54.42$*
65 and older	34	33	34	(.022)	16	38	47	(.000)
Gender		(n = 1084)				(n = 1081)		
Male	36	31	33	$\chi^2 = 0.11$	16	36	48	$\chi^2 = 1.64$
Female	37	31	32	(.948)	17	33	50	(.441)
Education		(n = 1087)				(n = 1084)		
High school diploma or less	40	33	28		12	32	56	
Some college	44	26	31	$\chi^2 = 18.45$*	19	35	46	$\chi^2 = 7.28$
Bachelors or grad degree	31	34	35	(.001)	17	35	49	(.122)
Marital Status		(n = 1067)				(n = 1068)		
Married	34	30	36		16	33	52	
Never married	48	36	16		9	41	51	
Divorced/separated	47	32	21	$\chi^2 = 34.67$*	26	41	33	$\chi^2 = 20.46$*
Widowed	29	28	44	(.000)	17	33	50	(.002)
Occupation		(n = 797)				(n = 796)		
Mgt, prof or education	33	34	33		14	36	49	
Sales or office support	33	28	39		15	41	45	
Constrn, inst or maint	34	30	36		2	38	60	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	53	24	22		24	56	20	
Agriculture	30	36	35		12	27	61	
Food serv/pers. care	41	26	33		8	22	71	
Hlthcare supp/safety	51	16	33	$\chi^2 = 28.77$*	22	28	50	$\chi^2 = 54.36$*
Other	50	18	32	(.011)	37	26	37	(.000)
Yrs Lived in Comm.		(n = 1099)				(n = 1097)		
Five years or less	43	30	27	$\chi^2 = 3.98$	20	31	49	$\chi^2 = 2.32$
More than five years	36	31	33	(.137)	16	35	49	(.313)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Appendix Table 8 continued.

	I feel connected to this community.				I have a good bond with others in this community.			
	Disagree	Neither	Agree	Significance	Disagree	Neither	Agree	Significance
				Percentages				
Total	22	24	53		22	20	58	
Community Size		(n = 1074)				(n = 1081)		
Less than 500	17	15	68		20	15	65	
500 - 999	28	19	53		28	24	48	
1,000 - 4,999	21	30	49		21	18	61	
5,000 - 9,999	25	21	54	$\chi^2 = 34.31$*	25	18	57	$\chi^2 = 17.31$*
10,000 and up	25	29	47	(.000)	20	26	54	(.027)
Region		(n = 1089)				(n = 1099)		
Panhandle	28	16	56		28	14	58	
North Central	23	30	48		28	26	46	
South Central	22	27	51		22	20	58	
Northeast	14	25	62	$\chi^2 = 33.04$*	14	19	68	$\chi^2 = 29.63$*
Southeast	32	21	47	(.000)	23	22	54	(.000)
Household Income Level		(n = 1039)				(n = 1048)		
Under $40,000	35	16	49		34	16	50	
$40,000 - $74,999	27	25	48		23	23	54	
$75,000 - $99,999	16	30	54	$\chi^2 = 39.58$*	12	23	65	$\chi^2 = 30.49$*
$100,000 and over	15	26	59	(.000)	20	18	61	(.000)
Age		(n = 1090)				(n = 1099)		
19 - 29	28	28	44		39	11	50	
30 - 39	22	25	53		22	18	60	
40 - 49	25	23	52		22	27	51	
50 - 64	23	24	53	$\chi^2 = 15.78$*	19	22	59	$\chi^2 = 56.97$*
65 and older	16	23	62	(.046)	12	21	67	(.000)
Gender		(n = 1074)				(n = 1085)		
Male	20	24	56	$\chi^2 = 3.53$	20	20	61	$\chi^2 = 2.63$
Female	24	24	51	(.171)	23	21	56	(.268)
Education		(n = 1077)				(n = 1089)		
High school diploma or less	23	26	52		21	20	59	
Some college	29	21	50	$\chi^2 = 17.03$*	25	22	53	$\chi^2 = 6.00$
Bachelors or grad degree	17	27	56	(.002)	20	19	61	(.199)
Marital Status		(n = 1061)				(n = 1070)		
Married	17	27	56		18	22	60	
Never married	35	20	45		41	8	51	
Divorced/separated	42	19	40	$\chi^2 = 51.27$*	33	25	42	$\chi^2 = 60.91$*
Widowed	13	20	67	(.000)	11	14	75	(.000)
Occupation		(n = 795)				(n = 798)		
Mgt, prof or education	19	30	51		22	24	55	
Sales or office support	20	20	60		17	20	63	
Constrn, inst or maint	24	22	54		22	22	56	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	24	39	37		36	29	36	
Agriculture	12	14	74		10	17	74	
Food serv/pers. care	35	17	48		33	6	61	
Hlthcare supp/safety	28	27	46	$\chi^2 = 47.40$*	24	18	58	$\chi^2 = 37.61$*
Other	43	25	32	(.000)	37	19	44	(.000)
Yrs Lived in Comm.		(n = 1088)				(n = 1099)		
Five years or less	24	32	45	$\chi^2 = 8.00$*	27	21	52	$\chi^2 = 3.46$
More than five years	22	23	55	(.018)	21	20	59	(.177)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Appendix Table 9. *Opinions about Leaving Community by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes*

Assume you were to have a discussion in your household about leaving your community for a reasonably good opportunity elsewhere. How easy or difficult would it be for your household to leave your community?

	Easy	Neutral	Difficult	Chi-square (sig.)
		Percentages		
Total	32	15	53	
Community Size		(n = 1084)		
Less than 500	24	10	66	
500 - 999	40	14	47	
1,000 - 4,999	30	18	51	
5,000 - 9,999	37	21	42	$\chi^2 = 30.53$*
10,000 and up	35	13	52	(.000)
Region		(n = 1098)		
Panhandle	31	13	57	
North Central	33	16	51	
South Central	34	18	48	
Northeast	24	14	62	$\chi^2 = 21.84$*
Southeast	40	10	51	(.005)
Income Level		(n = 1049)		
Under $40,000	41	17	43	
$40,000 - $74,999	36	14	50	
$75,000 - $99,999	23	19	58	$\chi^2 = 22.67$*
$100,000 and over	28	13	59	(.000)
Age		(n = 1100)		
19 - 29	39	22	39	
30 - 39	30	12	58	
40 - 49	38	15	48	
50 - 64	32	14	53	$\chi^2 = 36.07$*
65 and older	23	12	65	(.000)
Gender		(n = 1083)		
Male	29	14	57	$\chi^2 = 4.36$
Female	34	15	51	(.113)
Marital Status		(n = 1068)		
Married	29	14	58	
Never married	46	24	30	
Divorced/separated	42	13	45	$\chi^2 = 50.00$*
Widowed	19	10	71	(.000)
Education		(n = 1087)		
H.S. diploma or less	28	25	47	
Some college	36	11	53	$\chi^2 = 23.84$*
Bachelors degree	31	13	56	(.000)
Occupation		(n = 797)		
Mgt, prof, education	34	17	49	
Sales/office support	31	10	59	
Const, inst or maint	33	9	57	
Prodn/trans/warehs	51	11	38	
Agriculture	16	24	60	
Food serv/pers. care	29	31	39	
Hlthcare supp/safety	29	8	63	$\chi^2 = 47.13$*
Other	46	21	32	(.000)
Yrs Lived in Comm.		(n = 1098)		
Five years or less	43	21	36	$\chi^2 = 25.63$*
More than five years	30	14	57	(.000)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Appendix Table 10. *Plans to Leave Community by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes*

Do you plan to move from your community in the next year?

	Yes, to the Lincoln/Omaha metro areas	Yes, to someplace in Nebraska outside metro areas	Yes, to someplace other than Nebraska	No	Uncertain	Chi-square (sig.)
Total	3	2	3	80	12	
Community Size		(n = 1060)				
Less than 500	0	2	3	90	6	
500 - 999	9	3	0	74	15	
1,000 - 4,999	3	2	2	84	10	
5,000 - 9,999	3	1	3	74	19	$\chi^2 = 63.18$*
10,000 and up	2	2	7	74	15	(.000)
Region		(n = 1078)				
Panhandle	9	2	4	69	17	
North Central	2	1	3	82	13	
South Central	1	3	2	82	11	
Northeast	2	1	3	83	11	$\chi^2 = 39.69$*
Southeast	4	2	6	77	11	(.000)
Income Level		(n = 1028)				
Under $40,000	2	2	3	66	28	
$40,000 - $74,999	5	2	5	76	12	
$75,000 - $99,999	2	0	3	92	3	$\chi^2 = 84.50$*
$100,000 and over	2	2	2	86	7	(.000)
Age		(n = 1078)				
19 - 29	6	0	6	77	12	
30 - 39	3	6	3	79	10	
40 - 49	3	0	4	79	14	
50 - 64	2	3	2	79	15	$\chi^2 = 43.03$*
65 and older	2	1	3	85	9	(.000)
Gender		(n = 1063)				
Male	1	2	2	86	8	$\chi^2 = 26.85$*
Female	4	2	4	76	15	(.000)
Marital Status		(n = 1048)				
Married	2	2	2	85	10	
Never married	8	1	4	66	21	
Divorced/separated	7	3	5	72	14	$\chi^2 = 52.16$*
Widowed	0	3	0	86	12	(.000)
Education		(n = 1066)				
H.S. diploma or less	7	4	2	77	11	
Some college	1	0.3	6	75	18	$\chi^2 = 65.13$*
Bachelors degree	3	2	2	86	8	(.000)
Occupation		(n = 780)				
Mgt, prof, education	1	2	4	80	12	
Sales/office support	10	0	4	73	13	
Const, inst or maint	0	0	0	91	9	
Prodn/trans/warehs	0	0	0	86	14	
Agriculture	0	0	1	96	3	
Food serv/pers. care	20	0	0	75	6	
Hlthcare supp/safety	4	3	8	72	13	$\chi^2 = 110.08$*
Other	0	4	0	64	32	(.000)
Yrs Lived in Comm.		(n = 1079)				
Five years or less	2	4	9	75	10	$\chi^2 = 31.38$*
More than five years	3	1	2	81	13	(.000)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

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Appendix Table 11. *Size of Community Planning to Move to by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes*

	In or near a community larger than your current one	*In or near a community smaller than your current one*	*In or near a community of the same size as your current one*	*Chi-square (sig.)*
		Percentages		
Total	66	26	9	
Community Size		(n = 96)		
Less than 500	60	20	20	
500 - 999	86	7	7	
1,000 - 4,999	53	43	3	
5,000 - 9,999	75**	0**	25**	$\chi^2 = 14.79$
10,000 and up	68	27	6	(.063)
Region		(n = 97)		
Panhandle	74	11	16	
North Central	78**	22**	0**	
South Central	39	55	7	
Northeast	81	6	13	$\chi^2 = 23.69*$
Southeast	82	14	5	(.003)
Income Level		(n = 92)		
Under $40,000	36	27	36	
$40,000 - $74,999	71	24	6	
$75,000 - $99,999	88**	13**	0**	$\chi^2 = 18.22*$
$100,000 and over	64	36	0	(.006)
Age		(n = 95)		
19 - 29	67	33	0	
30 - 39	63	26	11	
40 - 49	88	13	0	
50 - 64	56	25	19	$\chi^2 = 12.24$
65 and older	57	21	21	(.141)
Gender		(n = 95)		
Male	41	56	3	$\chi^2 = 24.88*$
Female	78	10	13	(.000)
Education		(n = 96)		
H.S. diploma or less	75	21	4	
Some college	55	34	11	$\chi^2 = 3.41$
Bachelors degree	71	21	9	(.491)
Occupation		(n = 75)		
Mgt, prof, education	73	19	8	
Sales/office support	92	8	0	
Const, inst or maint	0	100	0	
Prodn/trans/warehs				
Agriculture	0**	100**	0**	
Food serv/pers. care	100	0	0	
Hlthcare supp/safety	80	20	0	$\chi^2 = 64.10*$
Other	0**	0**	100**	(.000)
Yrs Lived in Comm.		(n = 97)		
Five years or less	79	18	4	$\chi^2 = 3.46$
More than five years	59	29	12	(.177)
Where Plan to Move		(n = 84)		
Lincoln/Omaha area	100	0	0	
Someplace else in NE	42	42	16	$\chi^2 = 27.60*$
Someplace outside NE	71	14	14	(.000)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level ** Row percentages are calculated using row total with less than 10 respondents.

How serious a problem is the lack of civil or respectful discourse in our political system?

	A very serious problem	A somewhat serious problem	Not too serious a problem	Not a serious problem at all	Chi-square (sig.)
Total	32	33	30	5	
Community Size		(n = 1065)			
Less than 500	28	35	29	8	
500 - 999	26	35	35	5	
1,000 - 4,999	35	32	30	4	
5,000 - 9,999	25	32	40	3	$\chi^2 = 21.00$
10,000 and up	37	34	24	4	(.050)
Region		(n = 1080)			
Panhandle	28	47	24	2	
North Central	35	36	25	4	
South Central	34	34	25	7	
Northeast	28	29	40	3	$\chi^2 = 41.19*$
Southeast	34	27	32	7	(.000)
Income Level		(n = 1033)			
Under $40,000	25	31	38	6	
$40,000 - $74,999	33	31	31	6	
$75,000 - $99,999	28	40	27	5	$\chi^2 = 18.56*$
$100,000 and over	37	34	25	4	(.029)
Age		(n = 1083)			
19 - 29	33	39	28	0	
30 - 39	37	30	27	6	
40 - 49	31	36	29	4	
50 - 64	33	29	31	7	$\chi^2 = 22.20*$
65 and older	27	33	33	7	(.035)
Gender		(n = 1066)			
Male	36	30	30	5	$\chi^2 = 6.02$
Female	29	36	30	5	(.111)
Marital Status		(n = 1051)			
Married	30	36	30	4	
Never married	38	28	30	4	
Divorced/separated	34	30	29	7	$\chi^2 = 11.69$
Widowed	26	29	37	9	(.231)
Education		(n = 1069)			
H.S. diploma or less	22	31	40	7	
Some college	34	29	34	4	$\chi^2 = 33.21*$
Bachelors degree	35	38	23	4	(.000)
Occupation		(n = 785)			
Mgt, prof, education	34	43	21	2	
Sales/office support	35	29	30	6	
Const, inst or maint	39	14	39	10	
Prodn/trans/warehs	40	40	13	7	
Agriculture	29	25	41	6	
Food serv/pers. care	8	38	48	6	
Hlthcare supp/safety	47	26	22	6	$\chi^2 = 80.58*$
Other	11	59	22	7	(.000)
Yrs Lived in Comm.		(n = 1081)			
Five years or less	46	24	27	4	$\chi^2 = 19.57*$
More than five years	29	35	30	5	(.000)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Appendix Table 13. *How Well Groups Overcome Differences to Get Things Done by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes*

How well do the following groups overcome differences to get things done?

	America's political leaders				**Nebraska's political leaders**			
	Not at all or slightly well	*Moderately well*	*Very or extremely well*	*Significance*	*Not at all or slightly well*	*Moderately well*	*Very or extremely well*	*Significance*
				Percentages				
Total	91	8	1		61	33	7	
Community Size		(n = 1070)				(n = 1064)		
Less than 500	90	9	1		52	43	5	
500 - 999	90	9	1		64	31	6	
1,000 - 4,999	93	6	1		64	27	10	
5,000 - 9,999	83	14	3	$\chi^2 = 15.22$	60	34	6	$\chi^2 = 21.42*$
10,000 and up	92	8	0.3	(.055)	63	32	5	(.006)
Region		(n = 1083)				(n = 1081)		
Panhandle	90	8	2		63	31	6	
North Central	92	7	1		63	32	6	
South Central	91	8	1		65	29	6	
Northeast	89	10	1	$\chi^2 = 5.19$	54	38	8	$\chi^2 = 8.28$
Southeast	91	7	2	(.737)	61	33	7	(.407)
Household Income Level		(n = 1033)				(n = 1030)		
Under $40,000	82	15	3		62	32	7	
$40,000 - $74,999	89	10	1		61	31	8	
$75,000 - $99,999	95	3	2	$\chi^2 = 35.67*$	61	31	8	$\chi^2 = 3.95$
$100,000 and over	95	5	0	(.000)	63	32	5	(.684)
Age		(n = 1083)				(n = 1081)		
19 - 29	94	6	0		78	17	6	
30 - 39	93	7	0		72	24	4	
40 - 49	93	6	1		55	39	5	
50 - 64	91	8	1	$\chi^2 = 20.52*$	56	36	8	$\chi^2 = 50.35*$
65 and older	84	13	2	(.009)	51	40	9	(.000)
Gender		(n = 1068)				(n = 1068)		
Male	92	6	2	$\chi^2 = 8.76*$	58	32	10	$\chi^2 = 16.33*$
Female	90	10	1	(.013)	63	32	4	(.000)
Education		(n = 1071)				(n = 1070)		
High school diploma or less	81	17	2		55	35	10	
Some college	90	9	2	$\chi^2 = 33.85*$	61	30	9	$\chi^2 = 12.29*$
Bachelors or grad degree	95	4	1	(.000)	63	33	4	(.015)
Marital Status		(n = 1055)				(n = 1051)		
Married	92	7	1		60	33	7	
Never married	89	10	1		78	21	1	
Divorced/separated	88	12	1	$\chi^2 = 14.00*$	56	37	7	$\chi^2 = 29.60*$
Widowed	81	14	4	(.030)	45	41	15	(.000)
Occupation		(n = 783)				(n = 784)		
Mgt, prof or education	96	4	0		66	31	3	
Sales or office support	94	6	0		51	42	6	
Constrn, inst or maint	89	9	2		57	38	6	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	91	9	0		62	22	16	
Agriculture	96	1	3		62	19	19	
Food serv/pers. care	78	20	2		61	39	0	
Hlthcare supp/safety	90	9	1	$\chi^2 = 39.52*$	67	31	2	$\chi^2 = 64.18*$
Other	93	7	0	(.000)	54	46	0	(.000)
Yrs Lived in Comm.		(n = 1084)				(n = 1081)		
Five years or less	89	8	2	$\chi^2 = 2.00$	70	23	8	$\chi^2 = 9.75*$
More than five years	91	8	1	(.368)	59	34	6	(.008)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

	How well do the following groups overcome differences to get things done?							
	Local community leaders				*People in your local community*			
	Not at all or slightly well	*Moderately well*	*Very or extremely well*	*Significance*	*Not at all or slightly well*	*Moderately well*	*Very or extremely well*	*Significance*
	Percentages							
Total	35	47	19		32	42	27	
Community Size		(n = 1068)				(n = 1067)		
Less than 500	30	52	17		23	48	30	
500 - 999	31	47	22		41	38	22	
1,000 - 4,999	39	44	18		33	37	30	
5,000 - 9,999	31	45	24	$\chi^2 = 9.11$	31	37	31	$\chi^2 = 24.19*$
10,000 and up	36	48	17	(.333)	33	47	20	(.002)
Region		(n = 1080)				(n = 1080)		
Panhandle	46	46	9		42	43	15	
North Central	39	43	18		36	41	22	
South Central	35	47	18		32	42	26	
Northeast	28	46	26	$\chi^2 = 25.39*$	27	35	38	$\chi^2 = 41.05*$
Southeast	32	52	16	(.001)	25	52	23	(.000)
Household Income Level		(n = 1032)				(n = 1033)		
Under $40,000	42	40	18		40	36	24	
$40,000 - $74,999	32	52	17		31	47	23	
$75,000 - $99,999	34	42	25	$\chi^2 = 14.21*$	32	42	26	$\chi^2 = 15.90*$
$100,000 and over	34	49	17	(.027)	28	40	32	(.014)
Age		(n = 1082)				(n = 1081)		
19 - 29	28	56	17		28	44	28	
30 - 39	47	33	20		40	32	28	
40 - 49	30	56	14		32	44	24	
50 - 64	38	43	19	$\chi^2 = 31.91*$	32	44	24	$\chi^2 = 13.28$
65 and older	32	45	23	(.000)	27	44	29	(.103)
Gender		(n = 1069)				(n = 1067)		
Male	38	40	22	$\chi^2 = 13.02*$	32	40	29	$\chi^2 = 2.09$
Female	32	51	16	(.001)	32	43	25	(.352)
Education		(n = 1071)				(n = 1069)		
High school diploma or less	39	40	21		41	35	24	
Some college	39	46	16	$\chi^2 = 13.28*$	35	42	23	$\chi^2 = 22.42*$
Bachelors or grad degree	29	51	20	(.010)	25	45	31	(.000)
Marital Status		(n = 1054)				(n = 1051)		
Married	34	47	19		29	43	28	
Never married	46	40	14		49	31	20	
Divorced/separated	38	46	16	$\chi^2 = 17.21*$	35	42	24	$\chi^2 = 24.68*$
Widowed	21	49	30	(.009)	24	42	34	(.000)
Occupation		(n = 785)				(n = 780)		
Mgt, prof or education	26	55	18		23	53	24	
Sales or office support	42	37	21		30	49	21	
Constrn, inst or maint	32	59	9		34	30	36	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	49	31	20		52	27	21	
Agriculture	40	36	25		36	34	30	
Food serv/pers. care	31	39	29		45	24	31	
Hlthcare supp/safety	30	54	16	$\chi^2 = 44.26*$	28	29	43	$\chi^2 = 56.75*$
Other	61	21	18	(.000)	36	46	18	(.000)
Yrs Lived in Comm.		(n = 1082)				(n = 1081)		
Five years or less	36	48	16	$\chi^2 = 0.69$	34	40	26	$\chi^2 = 0.44$
More than five years	35	47	19	(.709)	31	42	27	(.804)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Appendix Table 14. *Perception of Political Division Compared to Ten Years Ago by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes*

	Much more or more divided	About the same	Much less or less divided	Significance
	Do you think Americans are more divided over politics than they were 10 years ago, less divided or are they about the same?			
Total	94	5	1	
Community Size		(n = 1087)		
Less than 500	97	3	0	
500 - 999	92	4	5	
1,000 - 4,999	95	6	0	
5,000 - 9,999	86	13	1	$\chi^2 = 43.62^*$
10,000 and up	96	2	2	(.000)
Region		(n = 1103)		
Panhandle	96	4	1	
North Central	94	3	3	
South Central	96	3	1	
Northeast	89	10	1	$\chi^2 = 30.82^*$
Southeast	98	2	0	(.000)
Income Level		(n = 1052)		
Under $40,000	85	14	1	
$40,000 - $74,999	93	5	2	
$75,000 - $99,999	99	1	0	$\chi^2 = 57.43^*$
$100,000 and over	97	2	1	(.000)
Age		(n = 1104)		
19 - 29	94	6	0	
30 - 39	94	3	3	
40 - 49	94	4	2	
50 - 64	95	5	0.4	$\chi^2 = 13.95$
65 and older	94	6	0.4	(.083)
Gender		(n = 1088)		
Male	96	3	2	$\chi^2 = 14.12^*$
Female	93	6	1	(.000)
Marital Status		(n = 1074)		
Married	96	3	1	
Never married	88	10	2	
Divorced/separated	93	7	0	$\chi^2 = 16.38^*$
Widowed	96	4	0	(.012)
Education		(n = 1091)		
H.S. diploma or less	85	14	2	
Some college	96	3	2	$\chi^2 = 45.35^*$
Bachelors degree	97	3	0.4	(.000)
Occupation		(n = 798)		
Mgt, prof, education	96	2	2	
Sales/office support	99	1	0	
Const, inst or maint	98	2	0	
Prodn/trans/warehs	93	7	0	
Agriculture	98	2	0	
Food serv/pers. care	71	29	0	
Hlthcare supp/safety	99	1	0	$\chi^2 = 106.03^*$
Other	93	7	0	(.000)
Yrs Lived in Comm.		(n = 1102)		
Five years or less	90	9	1	$\chi^2 = 7.19^*$
More than five years	95	4	1	(.027)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Appendix Table 15. *Opinions about Civil Discourse by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes*

	Compromise and common ground should be the goal for local community leaders.				Compromise and common ground should be the goal for state political leaders.			
	Disagree	*Unsure*	*Agree*	*Significance*	*Disagree*	*Unsure*	*Agree*	*Significance*
				Percentages				
Total	4	7	89		6	7	87	
Community Size		(n = 1057)				(n = 1056)		
Less than 500	1	13	87		7	8	85	
500 - 999	3	10	87		3	12	86	
1,000 - 4,999	4	6	90		6	5	89	
5,000 - 9,999	4	4	93	$\chi^2 = 20.56^*$	4	5	92	$\chi^2 = 12.75$
10,000 and up	5	5	91	(.008)	8	7	85	(.121)
Region		(n = 1073)				(n = 1073)		
Panhandle	5	6	89		6	5	89	
North Central	2	10	89		3	12	85	
South Central	6	4	91		8	6	87	
Northeast	2	9	90	$\chi^2 = 17.68^*$	4	7	89	$\chi^2 = 21.00^*$
Southeast	3	9	88	(.024)	12	6	83	(.007)
Household Income Level		(n = 1023)				(n = 1021)		
Under $40,000	2	14	84		5	9	86	
$40,000 - $74,999	4	6	90		6	8	86	
$75,000 - $99,999	3	3	95	$\chi^2 = 19.76^*$	4	3	93	$\chi^2 = 11.34$
$100,000 and over	5	7	88	(.003)	9	8	84	(.078)
Age		(n = 1072)				(n = 1071)		
19 - 29	0	0	100		6	6	88	
30 - 39	4	9	87		10	7	83	
40 - 49	5	11	84		9	6	85	
50 - 64	4	8	88	$\chi^2 = 28.14^*$	5	7	88	$\chi^2 = 9.65$
65 and older	3	8	89	(.000)	4	8	89	(.291)
Gender		(n = 1059)				(n = 1059)		
Male	5	7	88	$\chi^2 = 7.26^*$	7	8	86	$\chi^2 = 1.01$
Female	2	7	91	(.027)	6	6	88	(.604)
Education		(n = 1062)				(n = 1060)		
High school diploma or less	2	9	89		7	9	84	
Some college	3	8	89	$\chi^2 = 8.38$	6	9	85	$\chi^2 = 10.79^*$
Bachelors or grad degree	5	5	90	(.079)	6	4	90	(.029)
Marital Status		(n = 1045)				(n = 1044)		
Married	4	7	89		6	6	87	
Never married	1	2	97		2	9	88	
Divorced/separated	5	12	83	$\chi^2 = 15.51^*$	5	8	87	$\chi^2 = 7.73$
Widowed	0	7	93	(.017)	1	7	91	(.258)
Occupation		(n = 780)				(n = 780)		
Mgt, prof or education	4	5	92		9	5	87	
Sales or office support	4	9	88		6	6	88	
Constrn, inst or maint	6	4	91		11	4	85	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	0	9	91		0	36	64	
Agriculture	3	4	93		3	2	95	
Food serv/pers. care	0	7	93		2	7	91	
Hlthcare supp/safety	5	9	86	$\chi^2 = 11.54$	7	8	85	$\chi^2 = 78.47^*$
Other	0	7	93	(.643)	4	0	96	(.000)
Yrs Lived in Comm.		(n = 1073)				(n = 1072)		
Five years or less	7	5	88	$\chi^2 = 11.63^*$	13	6	81	$\chi^2 = 16.71^*$
More than five years	3	8	90	(.003)	5	7	88	(.000)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level. Those responding N/A were excluded from these analyses.

| | Compromise and common ground should be the goal for national political leaders. | | | | Respect for each other is the first step in having a government that works. | | | |
	Disagree	Unsure	Agree	Significance	Disagree	Unsure	Agree	Significance
				Percentages				
Total	7	7	85		3	5	93	
Community Size		(n = 1051)				(n = 1072)		
Less than 500	6	10	84		2	6	92	
500 - 999	6	12	82		3	11	86	
1,000 - 4,999	5	8	87		4	4	92	
5,000 - 9,999	7	4	90	$\chi^2 = 20.03*$	2	3	96	$\chi^2 = 16.87*$
10,000 and up	11	5	84	(.010)	2	3	95	(.031)
Region		(n = 1069)				(n = 1089)		
Panhandle	8	9	84		5	2	93	
North Central	11	6	83		1	3	95	
South Central	8	5	87		4	4	92	
Northeast	2	11	88	$\chi^2 = 24.81*$	1	7	92	$\chi^2 = 15.57*$
Southeast	11	8	81	(.002)	3	5	92	(.049)
Household Income Level		(n = 1017)				(n = 1039)		
Under $40,000	6	9	85		1	5	94	
$40,000 - $74,999	6	9	85		2	6	92	
$75,000 - $99,999	5	3	92	$\chi^2 = 15.01*$	5	6	89	$\chi^2 = 11.16$
$100,000 and over	11	7	82	(.020)	2	3	95	(.083)
Age		(n = 1067)				(n = 1090)		
19 - 29	12	0	88		0	0	100	
30 - 39	11	11	78		6	7	87	
40 - 49	6	10	84		4	5	90	
50 - 64	6	8	86	$\chi^2 = 32.33*$	2	5	92	$\chi^2 = 26.91*$
65 and older	4	8	89	(.000)	2	5	93	(.000)
Gender		(n = 1054)				(n = 1074)		
Male	8	8	84	$\chi^2 = 1.54$	4	7	90	$\chi^2 = 11.18*$
Female	6	7	86	(.462)	2	3	95	(.004)
Education		(n = 1057)				(n = 1079)		
High school diploma or less	7	10	83		4	5	91	
Some college	10	6	84	$\chi^2 = 7.98$	3	6	92	$\chi^2 = 2.73$
Bachelors or grad degree	5	7	87	(.092)	2	4	94	(.605)
Marital Status		(n = 1042)				(n = 1061)		
Married	6	8	86		3	4	93	
Never married	11	2	88		0	7	94	
Divorced/separated	8	8	84	$\chi^2 = 16.32*$	3	7	90	$\chi^2 = 6.82$
Widowed	0	10	90	(.012)	3	6	92	(.338)
Occupation		(n = 776)				(n = 794)		
Mgt, prof or education	7	10	84		1	4	95	
Sales or office support	6	4	90		1	6	93	
Constrn, inst or maint	11	4	85		11	6	83	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	25	9	66		0	2	98	
Agriculture	4	4	92		3	4	93	
Food serv/pers. care	3	3	95		0	6	94	
Hlthcare supp/safety	8	9	82	$\chi^2 = 37.12*$	4	6	90	$\chi^2 = 41.70*$
Other	4	0	96	(.000)	14	0	86	(.000)
Yrs Lived in Comm.		(n = 1068)				(n = 1089)		
Five years or less	14	9	78	$\chi^2 = 13.06*$	6	2	92	$\chi^2 = 11.90*$
More than five years	6	7	87	(.001)	2	5	93	(.003)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level. Those responding N/A were excluded from these analyses.

Appendix Table 15 continued.

	Social media are a place for civil and productive discourse.				Social media only reinforce what the user already believes.			
	Disagree	*Unsure*	*Agree*	*Significance*	*Disagree*	*Unsure*	*Agree*	*Significance*
				Percentages				
Total	56	20	24		23	18	60	
Community Size		(n = 1060)				(n = 1054)		
Less than 500	61	16	23		21	19	60	
500 - 999	51	20	28		30	23	47	
1,000 - 4,999	53	24	23		18	22	60	
5,000 - 9,999	50	16	35	$\chi^2 = 17.20$*	16	17	66	$\chi^2 = 28.30$*
10,000 and up	60	21	20	(.028)	27	11	62	(.000)
Region		(n = 1076)				(n = 1069)		
Panhandle	62	8	31		24	11	64	
North Central	66	19	15		26	20	54	
South Central	48	31	21		24	20	57	
Northeast	53	18	29	$\chi^2 = 50.98$*	19	20	61	$\chi^2 = 11.12$
Southeast	58	16	26	(.000)	21	14	64	(.195)
Household Income Level		(n = 1026)				(n = 1020)		
Under $40,000	45	18	37		20	22	58	
$40,000 - $74,999	49	30	22		21	20	59	
$75,000 - $99,999	58	24	18	$\chi^2 = 65.09$*	18	19	63	$\chi^2 = 15.18$*
$100,000 and over	68	10	22	(.000)	26	12	62	(.019)
Age		(n = 1079)				(n = 1070)		
19 - 29	44	28	28		17	6	78	
30 - 39	66	11	23		23	9	69	
40 - 49	55	24	21		24	24	52	
50 - 64	60	17	23	$\chi^2 = 26.56$*	27	18	56	$\chi^2 = 63.75$*
65 and older	52	21	27	(.000)	21	27	51	(.000)
Gender		(n = 1063)				(n = 1056)		
Male	60	19	22	$\chi^2 = 5.05$	22	14	64	$\chi^2 = 7.95$*
Female	53	22	25	(.080)	24	20	57	(.019)
Education		(n = 1068)				(n = 1060)		
High school diploma or less	39	28	33		23	29	48	
Some college	55	17	28	$\chi^2 = 38.40$*	23	17	60	$\chi^2 = 26.71$*
Bachelors or grad degree	63	20	18	(.000)	22	13	65	(.000)
Marital Status		(n = 1049)				(n = 1041)		
Married	58	20	22		21	17	63	
Never married	47	22	31		27	9	64	
Divorced/separated	55	20	25	$\chi^2 = 9.92$	26	29	46	$\chi^2 = 29.90$*
Widowed	47	21	32	(.128)	26	30	44	(.000)
Occupation		(n = 790)				(n = 784)		
Mgt, prof or education	59	26	15		21	16	63	
Sales or office support	53	24	24		29	20	51	
Constrn, inst or maint	52	9	39		19	13	69	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	76	18	7		44	7	49	
Agriculture	58	18	25		15	11	74	
Food serv/pers. care	35	14	51		30	16	54	
Hlthcare supp/safety	66	19	16	$\chi^2 = 61.79$*	20	16	64	$\chi^2 = 26.92$*
Other	66	10	24	(.000)	31	8	62	(.020)
Yrs Lived in Comm.		(n = 1077)				(n = 1069)		
Five years or less	59	22	19	$\chi^2 = 2.93$	24	13	64	$\chi^2 = 3.84$
More than five years	55	20	25	(.231)	22	19	59	(.146)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level. Those responding N/A were excluded from these analyses.

	Social media contribute to division in my community.				Local news media contribute to division in my community.			
	Disagree	*Unsure*	*Agree*	*Significance*	*Disagree*	*Unsure*	*Agree*	*Significance*
				Percentages				
Total	9	19	72		30	29	41	
Community Size		(n = 1056)				(n = 1051)		
Less than 500	13	23	65		29	24	47	
500 - 999	13	16	71		31	31	39	
1,000 - 4,999	6	20	74		33	28	39	
5,000 - 9,999	10	15	75	$\chi^2 = 14.03$	30	28	42	$\chi^2 = 8.22$
10,000 and up	7	19	74	(.081)	27	33	40	(.412)
Region		(n = 1071)				(n = 1065)		
Panhandle	12	11	77		40	24	36	
North Central	5	16	79		30	28	42	
South Central	10	23	67		30	32	38	
Northeast	8	20	73	$\chi^2 = 17.72*$	29	26	45	$\chi^2 = 15.39$
Southeast	11	21	68	(.023)	22	32	46	(.052)
Household Income Level		(n = 1022)				(n = 1019)		
Under $40,000	11	25	64		21	36	43	
$40,000 - $74,999	10	20	70		32	32	37	
$75,000 - $99,999	8	25	67	$\chi^2 = 26.87*$	27	24	49	$\chi^2 = 21.64*$
$100,000 and over	7	12	82	(.000)	34	23	43	(.001)
Age		(n = 1072)				(n = 1067)		
19 - 29	0	11	89		11	22	67	
30 - 39	10	13	77		31	28	40	
40 - 49	6	19	75		39	24	37	
50 - 64	12	21	67	$\chi^2 = 67.20*$	30	29	41	$\chi^2 = 77.63*$
65 and older	14	29	57	(.000)	35	37	29	(.000)
Gender		(n = 1058)				(n = 1053)		
Male	9	18	73	$\chi^2 = 0.83$	30	25	45	$\chi^2 = 4.88$
Female	9	20	71	(.661)	30	31	39	(.087)
Education		(n = 1060)				(n = 1058)		
High school diploma or less	16	29	55		32	31	37	
Some college	9	16	75	$\chi^2 = 38.05*$	21	29	50	$\chi^2 = 30.52*$
Bachelors or grad degree	6	18	77	(.000)	37	27	36	(.000)
Marital Status		(n = 1043)				(n = 1039)		
Married	8	19	73		30	27	43	
Never married	7	12	82		25	32	44	
Divorced/separated	11	25	64	$\chi^2 = 29.44*$	31	35	35	$\chi^2 = 11.87$
Widowed	21	29	50	(.000)	38	35	27	(.065)
Occupation		(n = 784)				(n = 777)		
Mgt, prof or education	4	20	76		30	29	41	
Sales or office support	1	14	85		16	21	63	
Constrn, inst or maint	22	11	67		32	6	62	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	7	13	80		23	44	33	
Agriculture	7	11	81		31	22	47	
Food serv/pers. care	8	12	80		37	22	41	
Hlthcare supp/safety	9	20	71	$\chi^2 = 39.90*$	37	26	37	$\chi^2 = 39.65*$
Other	12	32	56	(.000)	25	29	46	(.000)
Yrs Lived in Comm.		(n = 1073)				(n = 1066)		
Five years or less	7	15	78	$\chi^2 = 4.42$	35	22	43	$\chi^2 = 5.16$
More than five years	10	20	70	(.110)	29	30	41	(.076)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level. Those responding N/A were excluded from these analyses.

	National news media contribute to division in my community.				Social media help me learn about a variety of opinions.			
	Disagree	*Unsure*	*Agree*	*Significance*	*Disagree*	*Unsure*	*Agree*	*Significance*
				Percentages				
Total	10	14	77		41	17	42	
Community Size		(n = 1052)				(n = 1038)		
Less than 500	14	15	71		41	21	37	
500 - 999	9	17	74		36	22	41	
1,000 - 4,999	7	14	80		43	14	42	
5,000 - 9,999	6	16	78	$\chi^2 = 14.94$	27	17	57	$\chi^2 = 21.66*$
10,000 and up	11	11	78	(.060)	46	15	39	(.006)
Region		(n = 1068)				(n = 1051)		
Panhandle	9	11	81		39	11	50	
North Central	12	12	75		39	26	35	
South Central	10	14	77		44	13	43	
Northeast	9	15	76	$\chi^2 = 4.34$	39	20	41	$\chi^2 = 20.44*$
Southeast	8	16	75	(.826)	43	15	41	(.009)
Household Income Level		(n = 1018)				(n = 1000)		
Under $40,000	8	21	71		23	18	59	
$40,000 - $74,999	8	14	78		45	15	41	
$75,000 - $99,999	11	9	80	$\chi^2 = 15.64*$	54	16	31	$\chi^2 = 41.73*$
$100,000 and over	11	11	78	(.016)	42	20	39	(.000)
Age		(n = 1069)				(n = 1051)		
19 - 29	6	0	94		56	6	39	
30 - 39	13	9	78		44	14	41	
40 - 49	8	16	76		34	12	53	
50 - 64	11	17	72	$\chi^2 = 60.53*$	40	23	37	$\chi^2 = 57.45*$
65 and older	11	22	67	(.000)	36	26	38	(.000)
Gender		(n = 1054)				(n = 1038)		
Male	12	11	76	$\chi^2 = 8.85*$	47	21	32	$\chi^2 = 25.01*$
Female	8	16	77	(.012)	38	15	48	(.000)
Education		(n = 1058)				(n = 1041)		
High school diploma or less	15	18	67		26	18	56	
Some college	8	17	75	$\chi^2 = 20.30*$	46	16	38	$\chi^2 = 25.90*$
Bachelors or grad degree	9	10	82	(.000)	44	18	39	(.000)
Marital Status		(n = 1041)				(n = 1021)		
Married	9	13	78		44	19	37	
Never married	12	7	81		36	5	60	
Divorced/separated	12	20	68	$\chi^2 = 16.07*$	31	14	55	$\chi^2 = 43.88*$
Widowed	10	24	66	(.013)	32	29	39	(.000)
Occupation		(n = 778)				(n = 767)		
Mgt, prof or education	6	8	86		44	19	37	
Sales or office support	4	14	83		32	15	53	
Constrn, inst or maint	11	15	74		71	6	24	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	31	14	55		58	9	33	
Agriculture	10	5	85		56	16	29	
Food serv/pers. care	2	8	90		16	10	75	
Hlthcare supp/safety	13	14	73	$\chi^2 = 64.54*$	41	20	39	$\chi^2 = 60.67*$
Other	11	33	56	(.000)	38	17	46	(.000)
Yrs Lived in Comm.		(n = 1069)				(n = 1051)		
Five years or less	10	10	81	$\chi^2 = 3.38$	36	14	50	$\chi^2 = 5.86$
More than five years	10	15	76	(.185)	42	18	40	(.053)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level. Those responding N/A were excluded from these analyses.

	Social media help me feel engaged in my community.				People in my community don't say things about politics because they worry they will lose friends.			
	Disagree	*Unsure*	*Agree*	*Significance*	*Disagree*	*Unsure*	*Agree*	*Significance*
				Percentages				
Total	47	21	32		39	26	36	
Community Size		(n = 1035)				(n = 1060)		
Less than 500	44	24	33		48	23	29	
500 - 999	49	22	29		44	27	28	
1,000 - 4,999	48	16	36		34	27	39	
5,000 - 9,999	42	25	33	$\chi^2 = 14.74$	42	27	31	$\chi^2 = 17.87*$
10,000 and up	51	24	25	(.064)	35	25	41	(.022)
Region		(n = 1049)				(n = 1075)		
Panhandle	55	14	32		41	22	37	
North Central	51	16	33		39	20	41	
South Central	51	26	23		37	31	32	
Northeast	40	20	40	$\chi^2 = 31.28*$	39	25	36	$\chi^2 = 9.00$
Southeast	43	25	32	(.000)	38	26	36	(.342)
Household Income Level		(n = 1001)				(n = 1025)		
Under $40,000	43	27	30		37	27	37	
$40,000 - $74,999	52	24	24		44	25	32	
$75,000 - $99,999	47	20	33	$\chi^2 = 26.47*$	27	37	36	$\chi^2 = 21.09*$
$100,000 and over	43	16	41	(.000)	41	21	38	(.002)
Age		(n = 1049)				(n = 1076)		
19 - 29	44	17	39		56	17	28	
30 - 39	57	13	30		40	33	27	
40 - 49	38	18	44		39	22	39	
50 - 64	50	26	25	$\chi^2 = 51.88*$	36	29	36	$\chi^2 = 45.91*$
65 and older	48	30	22	(.000)	28	29	43	(.000)
Gender		(n = 1034)				(n = 1061)		
Male	55	22	23	$\chi^2 = 23.31*$	41	24	36	$\chi^2 = 1.69$
Female	42	21	37	(.000)	38	27	35	(.429)
Education		(n = 1038)				(n = 1065)		
High school diploma or less	48	27	26		41	27	32	
Some college	50	23	27	$\chi^2 = 16.32*$	37	27	35	$\chi^2 = 2.74$
Bachelors or grad degree	45	18	38	(.003)	39	24	37	(.602)
Marital Status		(n = 1020)				(n = 1046)		
Married	46	21	33		37	28	35	
Never married	54	26	20		50	20	29	
Divorced/separated	51	17	32	$\chi^2 = 13.35*$	33	24	43	$\chi^2 = 12.90*$
Widowed	44	30	27	(.038)	33	26	41	(.045)
Occupation		(n = 763)				(n = 785)		
Mgt, prof or education	40	21	38		43	26	32	
Sales or office support	39	20	42		32	24	44	
Constrn, inst or maint	88	8	4		50	13	37	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	58	24	18		20	30	50	
Agriculture	66	13	21		52	29	19	
Food serv/pers. care	43	10	47		57	22	22	
Hlthcare supp/safety	38	20	43	$\chi^2 = 72.91*$	33	19	47	$\chi^2 = 43.98*$
Other	60	12	28	(.000)	36	36	29	(.000)
Yrs Lived in Comm.		(n = 1049)				(n = 1074)		
Five years or less	48	12	40	$\chi^2 = 14.80*$	47	32	21	$\chi^2 = 21.04*$
More than five years	47	24	30	(.000)	37	25	39	(.000)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level. Those responding N/A were excluded from these analyses.

	People in my community don't say things about politics because they worry they will get criticized.				People in my community are respectful towards others with differing political views.			
	Disagree	*Unsure*	*Agree*	*Significance*	*Disagree*	*Unsure*	*Agree*	*Significance*
				Percentages				
Total	35	25	40		44	29	28	
Community Size		(n = 1068)				(n = 1068)		
Less than 500	46	20	34		37	30	34	
500 - 999	36	26	39		43	29	28	
1,000 - 4,999	27	29	44		46	24	30	
5,000 - 9,999	41	26	34	$\chi^2 = 24.59*$	38	39	23	$\chi^2 = 19.55*$
10,000 and up	33	24	43	(.002)	49	28	23	(.012)
Region		(n = 1082)				(n = 1084)		
Panhandle	36	22	43		45	31	24	
North Central	37	18	45		44	25	31	
South Central	32	30	38		50	24	27	
Northeast	38	26	36	$\chi^2 = 12.66$	35	35	30	$\chi^2 = 17.09*$
Southeast	32	25	43	(.124)	46	29	25	(.029)
Household Income Level		(n = 1032)				(n = 1034)		
Under $40,000	34	26	39		37	35	28	
$40,000 - $74,999	37	24	39		45	29	26	
$75,000 - $99,999	26	35	40	$\chi^2 = 15.37*$	51	21	28	$\chi^2 = 11.37$
$100,000 and over	38	20	42	(.018)	44	27	29	(.078)
Age		(n = 1083)				(n = 1084)		
19 - 29	44	28	28		61	22	17	
30 - 39	36	27	38		51	23	27	
40 - 49	37	24	39		43	30	28	
50 - 64	35	24	41	$\chi^2 = 25.30*$	40	33	27	$\chi^2 = 44.39*$
65 and older	26	25	49	(.001)	32	32	36	(.000)
Gender		(n = 1067)				(n = 1069)		
Male	37	24	39	$\chi^2 = 1.58$	41	27	33	$\chi^2 = 10.11*$
Female	34	26	41	(.454)	46	30	24	(.006)
Education		(n = 1072)				(n = 1074)		
High school diploma or less	38	23	40		38	33	29	
Some college	36	24	40	$\chi^2 = 2.22$	45	30	24	$\chi^2 = 7.90$
Bachelors or grad degree	33	27	40	(.695)	45	25	29	(.095)
Marital Status		(n = 1054)				(n = 1054)		
Married	34	27	39		44	28	29	
Never married	43	21	36		49	40	11	
Divorced/separated	24	27	50	$\chi^2 = 12.08$	38	23	39	$\chi^2 = 32.76*$
Widowed	32	22	46	(.060)	35	26	39	(.000)
Occupation		(n = 788)				(n = 791)		
Mgt, prof or education	37	28	35		53	24	23	
Sales or office support	31	24	45		35	41	25	
Constrn, inst or maint	51	11	38		61	20	19	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	18	24	58		51	24	24	
Agriculture	38	24	38		35	24	42	
Food serv/pers. care	56	22	22		55	26	20	
Hlthcare supp/safety	29	26	45	$\chi^2 = 33.17*$	32	28	40	$\chi^2 = 45.08*$
Other	32	32	36	(.003)	48	19	33	(.000)
Yrs Lived in Comm.		(n = 1083)				(n = 1084)		
Five years or less	36	40	25	$\chi^2 = 30.38*$	42	32	25	$\chi^2 = 1.66$
More than five years	35	22	43	(.000)	44	28	28	(.437)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level. Those responding N/A were excluded from these analyses.

Appendix Table 15 continued.

	People in my community only associate with others who have similar political views.			
	Disagree	Unsure	Agree	Significance
		Percentages		
Total	32	30	38	
Community Size		(n = 1074)		
Less than 500	43	32	25	
500 - 999	35	32	33	
1,000 - 4,999	33	29	38	
5,000 - 9,999	18	36	46	$\chi^2 = 36.46*$
10,000 and up	29	26	46	(.000)
Region		(n = 1087)		
Panhandle	37	25	37	
North Central	34	23	43	
South Central	27	33	41	
Northeast	37	33	30	$\chi^2 = 19.07*$
Southeast	30	30	40	(.014)
Household Income Level		(n = 1039)		
Under $40,000	28	27	45	
$40,000 - $74,999	29	34	37	
$75,000 - $99,999	28	24	48	$\chi^2 = 22.07*$
$100,000 and over	38	31	31	(.001)
Age		(n = 1088)		
19 - 29	17	17	67	
30 - 39	31	37	32	
40 - 49	31	34	35	
50 - 64	37	31	33	$\chi^2 = 82.21*$
65 and older	40	30	30	(.000)
Gender		(n = 1074)		
Male	34	28	38	$\chi^2 = 1.54$
Female	31	31	38	(.463)
Education		(n = 1076)		
High school diploma or less	30	33	38	
Some college	33	25	42	$\chi^2 = 7.24$
Bachelors or grad degree	32	33	36	(.124)
Marital Status		(n = 1058)		
Married	35	31	34	
Never married	12	28	60	
Divorced/separated	30	27	43	$\chi^2 = 50.52*$
Widowed	46	32	22	(.000)
Occupation		(n = 792)		
Mgt, prof or education	26	33	42	
Sales or office support	43	31	27	
Constrn, inst or maint	22	20	57	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	27	31	42	
Agriculture	42	24	34	
Food serv/pers. care	12	26	63	
Hlthcare supp/safety	43	34	23	$\chi^2 = 51.90*$
Other	25	29	46	(.000)
Yrs Lived in Comm.		(n = 1087)		
Five years or less	25	29	46	$\chi^2 = 7.57*$
More than five years	34	30	36	(.023)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level. Those responding N/A were excluded from these analyses.

Appendix Table 16. *Opinions about Conflicts by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes*

	Disagreement makes me uncomfortable.		Disagreements don't really bother me that much.		Chi-square (sig.)
Total	18	28	33	21	
Community Size			(n = 1068)		
Less than 500	22	21	35	21	
500 - 999	22	25	35	19	
1,000 - 4,999	21	24	29	27	
5,000 - 9,999	14	35	27	24	$\chi^2 = 38.67*$
10,000 and up	13	34	38	15	(.000)
Region			(n = 1081)		
Panhandle	25	27	31	17	
North Central	15	23	37	25	
South Central	14	29	35	22	
Northeast	18	29	30	23	$\chi^2 = 20.40$
Southeast	24	28	32	15	(.060)
Income Level			(n = 1034)		
Under $40,000	19	32	24	25	
$40,000 - $74,999	17	26	37	20	
$75,000 - $99,999	18	32	30	20	$\chi^2 = 13.75$
$100,000 and over	19	25	37	20	(.131)
Age			(n = 1081)		
19 - 29	17	17	39	28	
30 - 39	24	26	28	23	
40 - 49	15	27	28	16	
50 - 64	19	27	35	19	$\chi^2 = 43.92*$
65 and older	19	24	35	23	(.002)
Gender			(n = 1066)		
Male	11	18	40	31	$\chi^2 = 90.53*$
Female	23	34	29	14	(.000)
Marital Status			(n = 1052)		
Married	19	29	33	19	
Never married	12	24	29	35	
Divorced/separated	18	28	37	18	$\chi^2 = 24.51*$
Widowed	29	22	31	19	(.004)
Education			(n = 1070)		
H.S. diploma or less	14	21	33	31	
Some college	20	26	30	24	$\chi^2 = 31.33*$
Bachelors degree	19	31	36	14	(.000)
Occupation			(n = 794)		
Mgt, prof, education	20	35	37	9	
Sales/office support	27	25	25	23	
Const, inst or maint	4	11	28	57	
Prodn/trans/warehs	13	24	22	40	
Agriculture	13	24	27	36	
Food serv/pers. care	12	24	35	29	
Hlthcare supp/safety	23	24	42	11	$\chi^2 = 122.17*$
Other	11	46	18	25	(.000)
Yrs Lived in Comm.			(n = 1082)		
Five years or less	13	24	31	32	$\chi^2 = 16.48*$
More than five years	19	28	34	19	(.000)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Listed below are several pairs of contrasting views. For each pair please indicate which one of the two views you most agree with.

	I don't enjoy challenging others, even when they are wrong.			*I enjoy challenging the opinions of others.*	*Chi-square (sig.)*
Total	14	37	35	14	
Community Size			(n = 1072)		
Less than 500	12	48	26	14	
500 - 999	17	36	33	14	
1,000 - 4,999	16	35	36	13	
5,000 - 9,999	15	39	35	11	$\chi^2 = 22.99*$
10,000 and up	12	31	42	15	(.028)
Region			(n = 1083)		
Panhandle	12	41	32	15	
North Central	10	45	32	13	
South Central	14	33	37	16	
Northeast	19	33	39	10	$\chi^2 = 22.65*$
Southeast	11	39	34	16	(.031)
Income Level			(n = 1037)		
Under $40,000	20	29	36	14	
$40,000 - $74,999	14	41	34	10	
$75,000 - $99,999	13	28	44	15	$\chi^2 = 28.15*$
$100,000 and over	9	41	34	16	(.000)
Age			(n = 1086)		
19 - 29	11	39	44	6	
30 - 39	10	36	34	21	
40 - 49	10	39	39	13	
50 - 64	16	37	31	17	$\chi^2 = 37.94*$
65 and older	20	35	32	13	(.000)
Gender			(n = 1069)		
Male	9	38	35	17	$\chi^2 = 18.84*$
Female	17	36	36	11	(.000)
Marital Status			(n = 1054)		
Married	12	38	36	14	
Never married	21	25	45	9	
Divorced/separated	12	45	33	11	$\chi^2 = 27.61*$
Widowed	23	44	23	11	(.001)
Education			(n = 1073)		
H.S. diploma or less	24	29	34	13	
Some college	12	38	34	16	$\chi^2 = 24.08*$
Bachelors degree	12	39	38	12	(.000)
Occupation			(n = 799)		
Mgt, prof, education	11	40	37	12	
Sales/office support	13	46	27	15	
Const, inst or maint	0	37	33	30	
Prodn/trans/warehs	11	22	48	20	
Agriculture	15	48	24	14	
Food serv/pers. care	33	23	35	10	
Hlthcare supp/safety	12	26	49	12	$\chi^2 = 65.40*$
Other	7	39	39	14	(.000)
Yrs Lived in Comm.			(n = 1084)		
Five years or less	18	31	35	16	$\chi^2 = 5.93$
More than five years	13	38	35	13	(.115)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

	Listed below are several pairs of contrasting views. For each pair please indicate which one of the two views you most agree with.				
	I would rather go along with the group than risk creating conflict.		*I would rather speak my mind even if it risks creating conflict.*		*Chi-square (sig.)*
Total	4	21	49	25	
Community Size		(n = 1066)			
Less than 500	3	20	58	20	
500 - 999	10	19	49	23	
1,000 - 4,999	4	21	45	30	
5,000 - 9,999	4	25	53	17	$\chi^2 = 25.67*$
10,000 and up	4	21	47	28	(.012)
Region		(n = 1074)			
Panhandle	2	21	52	26	
North Central	5	14	56	25	
South Central	5	21	50	23	
Northeast	3	24	48	25	$\chi^2 = 18.04$
Southeast	6	25	41	29	(.115)
Income Level		(n = 1029)			
Under $40,000	5	23	40	31	
$40,000 - $74,999	4	22	50	24	
$75,000 - $99,999	3	16	59	22	$\chi^2 = 14.32$
$100,000 and over	4	23	49	25	(.112)
Age		(n = 1076)			
19 - 29	0	17	61	22	
30 - 39	3	27	48	23	
40 - 49	3	24	51	21	
50 - 64	4	19	48	29	$\chi^2 = 41.76*$
65 and older	9	21	42	29	(.000)
Gender		(n = 1063)			
Male	4	21	49	26	$\chi^2 = 0.35$
Female	4	22	50	25	(.951)
Marital Status		(n = 1047)			
Married	4	21	52	23	
Never married	1	27	47	25	
Divorced/separated	3	21	47	30	$\chi^2 = 18.80*$
Widowed	12	20	42	26	(.027)
Education		(n = 1066)			
H.S. diploma or less	5	15	54	26	
Some college	3	25	42	31	$\chi^2 = 25.06*$
Bachelors degree	5	21	54	20	(.000)
Occupation		(n = 785)			
Mgt, prof, education	3	21	58	19	
Sales/office support	5	24	46	24	
Const, inst or maint	0	6	66	28	
Prodn/trans/warehs	0	20	38	42	
Agriculture	5	24	45	26	
Food serv/pers. care	2	2	80	16	
Hlthcare supp/safety	5	27	40	29	$\chi^2 = 55.86*$
Other	0	19	52	30	(.000)
Yrs Lived in Comm.		(n = 1077)			
Five years or less	3	19	44	35	$\chi^2 = 11.49*$
More than five years	5	22	50	23	(.009)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

	Government and politics				People and events in your local community			
	Not at all or a little	A moderate amount	A lot or a great deal	Significance	Not at all or a little	A moderate amount	A lot or a great deal	Significance
	Percentages							
Total	34	36	31		24	41	35	
Community Size		(n = 1082)				(n = 1077)		
Less than 500	35	38	27		18	42	40	
500 - 999	26	41	33		22	36	42	
1,000 - 4,999	38	31	31		20	45	35	
5,000 - 9,999	41	32	27	$\chi^2 = 15.09$	31	45	24	$\chi^2 = 27.34*$
10,000 and up	29	38	33	(.057)	31	34	35	(.000)
Region		(n = 1099)				(n = 1095)		
Panhandle	28	36	36		21	32	47	
North Central	48	31	21		20	49	31	
South Central	34	34	32		28	38	35	
Northeast	29	38	33	$\chi^2 = 24.26*$	25	38	36	$\chi^2 = 20.76*$
Southeast	31	39	31	(.002)	23	48	29	(.008)
Household Income Level		(n = 1048)				(n = 1045)		
Under $40,000	45	25	30		37	41	23	
$40,000 - $74,999	29	39	32		20	36	44	
$75,000 - $99,999	39	33	28	$\chi^2 = 20.33*$	29	41	31	$\chi^2 = 43.35*$
$100,000 and over	30	38	32	(.002)	18	46	36	(.000)
Age		(n = 1099)				(n = 1097)		
19 - 29	50	28	22		28	39	33	
30 - 39	40	37	22		31	39	31	
40 - 49	36	36	28		24	42	35	
50 - 64	31	37	32	$\chi^2 = 60.10*$	22	46	32	$\chi^2 = 15.25$
65 and older	19	38	43	(.000)	19	38	43	(.054)
Gender		(n = 1083)				(n = 1082)		
Male	27	36	36	$\chi^2 = 17.25*$	27	42	31	$\chi^2 = 5.18$
Female	38	35	27	(.000)	22	40	38	(.075)
Education		(n = 1088)				(n = 1086)		
High school diploma or less	39	33	29		35	36	30	
Some college	35	33	32	$\chi^2 = 5.50$	22	40	38	$\chi^2 = 16.50*$
Bachelors or grad degree	31	39	30	(.239)	22	44	34	(.002)
Marital Status		(n = 1070)				(n = 1066)		
Married	31	38	31		19	45	36	
Never married	50	24	26		53	22	25	
Divorced/separated	39	34	27	$\chi^2 = 23.22*$	27	38	35	$\chi^2 = 78.81*$
Widowed	25	42	32	(.000)	17	44	39	(.000)
Occupation		(n = 796)				(n = 794)		
Mgt, prof or education	36	40	24		21	47	33	
Sales or office support	27	42	31		25	31	43	
Constrn, inst or maint	17	26	57		17	42	42	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	36	40	24		54	24	22	
Agriculture	44	26	31		31	32	38	
Food serv/pers. care	40	20	40		31	26	43	
Hlthcare supp/safety	37	38	26	$\chi^2 = 47.18*$	20	40	40	$\chi^2 = 47.50*$
Other	52	37	11	(.000)	11	59	30	(.000)
Yrs Lived in Comm.		(n = 1100)				(n = 1097)		
Five years or less	40	35	25	$\chi^2 = 4.52$	36	43	21	$\chi^2 = 25.90*$
More than five years	33	36	32	(.104)	22	40	38	(.000)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

	Sports				Business and finance/economics			
	Not at all or a little	*A moderate amount*	*A lot or a great deal*	*Significance*	*Not at all or a little*	*A moderate amount*	*A lot or a great deal*	*Significance*
				Percentages				
Total	48	25	27		49	27	23	
Community Size		(n = 1075)				(n = 1078)		
Less than 500	41	24	35		45	31	24	
500 - 999	41	39	19		46	29	25	
1,000 - 4,999	53	24	24		49	28	23	
5,000 - 9,999	52	24	24	$\chi^2 = 28.34*$	56	25	20	$\chi^2 = 6.17$
10,000 and up	50	20	30	(.000)	51	24	25	(.628)
Region		(n = 1093)				(n = 1098)		
Panhandle	50	20	30		44	31	25	
North Central	51	24	25		48	26	27	
South Central	52	24	24		56	25	20	
Northeast	36	35	29	$\chi^2 = 34.75*$	44	31	24	$\chi^2 = 11.19$
Southeast	55	15	29	(.000)	51	25	24	(.191)
Household Income Level		(n = 1040)				(n = 1046)		
Under $40,000	63	21	17		68	23	10	
$40,000 - $74,999	45	27	28		45	27	28	
$75,000 - $99,999	53	23	24	$\chi^2 = 33.01*$	51	28	21	$\chi^2 = 40.09*$
$100,000 and over	39	26	35	(.000)	43	29	28	(.000)
Age		(n = 1093)				(n = 1096)		
19 - 29	50	28	22		50	11	39	
30 - 39	57	17	26		53	28	20	
40 - 49	49	22	29		63	26	12	
50 - 64	46	28	27	$\chi^2 = 15.38$	47	29	24	$\chi^2 = 79.42*$
65 and older	43	27	31	(.052)	37	38	25	(.000)
Gender		(n = 1078)				(n = 1080)		
Male	36	28	37	$\chi^2 = 47.95*$	36	31	33	$\chi^2 = 60.21*$
Female	56	22	21	(.000)	59	25	17	(.000)
Education		(n = 1083)				(n = 1084)		
High school diploma or less	50	35	15		63	23	15	
Some college	47	21	32	$\chi^2 = 24.78*$	45	31	25	$\chi^2 = 20.27*$
Bachelors or grad degree	49	23	29	(.000)	48	26	26	(.000)
Marital Status		(n = 1064)				(n = 1067)		
Married	46	23	30		48	28	24	
Never married	45	32	22		60	17	24	
Divorced/separated	55	23	22	$\chi^2 = 13.78*$	51	35	15	$\chi^2 = 17.23*$
Widowed	55	28	17	(.032)	53	31	17	(.008)
Occupation		(n = 795)				(n = 793)		
Mgt, prof or education	50	23	28		53	20	27	
Sales or office support	49	16	35		41	36	24	
Constrn, inst or maint	39	44	17		28	28	43	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	44	20	36		51	36	13	
Agriculture	29	32	39		38	37	25	
Food serv/pers. care	41	43	16		65	8	28	
Hlthcare supp/safety	54	16	30	$\chi^2 = 52.21*$	60	24	16	$\chi^2 = 49.94*$
Other	70	11	19	(.000)	57	29	14	(.000)
Yrs Lived in Comm.		(n = 1093)				(n = 1097)		
Five years or less	55	27	18	$\chi^2 = 9.46*$	62	23	15	$\chi^2 = 16.23*$
More than five years	47	24	29	(.009)	47	28	25	(.000)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

	Science and technology				Entertainment			
	Not at all or a little	*A moderate amount*	*A lot or a great deal*	*Significance*	*Not at all or a little*	*A moderate amount*	*A lot or a great deal*	*Significance*
				Percentages				
Total	47	34	19		47	34	19	
Community Size		(n = 1080)				(n = 1075)		
Less than 500	44	44	12		57	33	10	
500 - 999	49	40	12		52	30	18	
1,000 - 4,999	52	28	20		46	33	21	
5,000 - 9,999	56	23	21	$\chi^2 = 37.41$*	43	25	33	$\chi^2 = 34.91$*
10,000 and up	40	35	26	(.000)	44	40	16	(.000)
Region		(n = 1099)				(n = 1095)		
Panhandle	38	39	23		55	25	20	
North Central	51	34	16		51	33	16	
South Central	46	34	19		47	39	14	
Northeast	51	32	17	$\chi^2 = 8.80$	43	37	19	$\chi^2 = 21.40$*
Southeast	47	31	22	(.359)	46	28	26	(.006)
Household Income Level		(n = 1047)				(n = 1043)		
Under $40,000	56	30	14		45	32	23	
$40,000 - $74,999	49	30	21		42	33	24	
$75,000 - $99,999	43	41	16	$\chi^2 = 17.84$*	49	36	14	$\chi^2 = 20.36$*
$100,000 and over	42	35	23	(.007)	52	35	13	(.002)
Age		(n = 1099)				(n = 1093)		
19 - 29	44	44	11		33	28	39	
30 - 39	42	37	21		56	31	13	
40 - 49	55	28	17		44	42	14	
50 - 64	50	29	21	$\chi^2 = 26.57$*	51	32	17	$\chi^2 = 67.69$*
65 and older	44	34	23	(.000)	50	35	15	(.000)
Gender		(n = 1084)				(n = 1077)		
Male	41	36	23	$\chi^2 = 13.63$*	57	32	11	$\chi^2 = 34.19$*
Female	52	32	16	(.001)	41	35	23	(.000)
Education		(n = 1087)				(n = 1081)		
High school diploma or less	61	32	7		51	28	21	
Some college	43	37	20	$\chi^2 = 29.24$*	39	38	22	$\chi^2 = 22.46$*
Bachelors or grad degree	45	32	23	(.000)	53	33	14	(.000)
Marital Status		(n = 1068)				(n = 1064)		
Married	47	33	20		50	33	17	
Never married	49	41	10		38	32	30	
Divorced/separated	46	34	20	$\chi^2 = 10.00$	48	40	12	$\chi^2 = 22.82$*
Widowed	53	31	16	(.125)	43	43	14	(.000)
Occupation		(n = 797)				(n = 792)		
Mgt, prof or education	45	35	20		45	36	19	
Sales or office support	46	39	15		63	24	13	
Constrn, inst or maint	32	35	33		19	63	19	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	38	44	18		33	60	7	
Agriculture	43	41	17		65	19	16	
Food serv/pers. care	55	39	6		31	13	56	
Hlthcare supp/safety	53	24	23	$\chi^2 = 28.36$*	50	31	19	$\chi^2 = 108.02$*
Other	64	25	11	(.013)	39	50	11	(.000)
Yrs Lived in Comm.		(n = 1100)				(n = 1094)		
Five years or less	56	22	22	$\chi^2 = 14.02$*	49	28	22	$\chi^2 = 3.84$
More than five years	46	36	18	(.000)	47	35	18	(.147)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

	Crime				*Health news*			
	Not at all or a little	*A moderate amount*	*A lot or a great deal*	*Significance*	*Not at all or a little*	*A moderate amount*	*A lot or a great deal*	*Significance*
				Percentages				
Total	36	32	32		42	31	27	
Community Size		(n = 1081)				(n = 1082)		
Less than 500	43	37	20		44	38	19	
500 - 999	39	32	29		37	30	33	
1,000 - 4,999	30	32	38		48	28	24	
5,000 - 9,999	30	27	43	$\chi^2 = 27.96*$	38	27	35	$\chi^2 = 21.46*$
10,000 and up	38	30	32	(.000)	39	31	30	(.006)
Region		(n = 1099)				(n = 1100)		
Panhandle	35	32	34		30	38	32	
North Central	39	33	28		46	29	25	
South Central	38	29	33		48	31	21	
Northeast	29	36	36	$\chi^2 = 10.53$	37	34	30	$\chi^2 = 22.85*$
Southeast	39	31	30	(.230)	44	25	31	(.004)
Household Income Level		(n = 1048)				(n = 1049)		
Under $40,000	33	29	38		40	31	29	
$40,000 - $74,999	30	29	40		43	31	27	
$75,000 - $99,999	40	35	25	$\chi^2 = 26.34*$	38	32	30	$\chi^2 = 4.58$
$100,000 and over	40	35	25	(.000)	46	31	24	(.599)
Age		(n = 1100)				(n = 1102)		
19 - 29	39	11	50		61	17	22	
30 - 39	36	43	21		46	29	25	
40 - 49	48	35	17		53	30	17	
50 - 64	34	29	37	$\chi^2 = 104.17*$	37	35	28	$\chi^2 = 101.76*$
65 and older	24	40	37	(.000)	20	40	40	(.000)
Gender		(n = 1084)				(n = 1086)		
Male	37	33	30	$\chi^2 = 1.37$	51	31	18	$\chi^2 = 38.23*$
Female	35	32	34	(.505)	36	31	33	(.000)
Education		(n = 1086)				(n = 1088)		
High school diploma or less	34	25	41		40	33	27	
Some college	29	35	37	$\chi^2 = 30.46*$	43	33	25	$\chi^2 = 2.11$
Bachelors or grad degree	42	33	25	(.000)	42	30	28	(.716)
Marital Status		(n = 1068)				(n = 1069)		
Married	36	33	32		43	32	25	
Never married	48	17	35		55	17	29	
Divorced/separated	34	39	27	$\chi^2 = 27.11*$	38	38	25	$\chi^2 = 30.74*$
Widowed	23	48	30	(.000)	21	45	34	(.000)
Occupation		(n = 797)				(n = 798)		
Mgt, prof or education	50	29	21		49	28	23	
Sales or office support	39	30	31		39	39	23	
Constrn, inst or maint	19	40	42		49	42	9	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	42	33	24		58	24	18	
Agriculture	43	37	21		63	26	12	
Food serv/pers. care	22	28	51		26	31	43	
Hlthcare supp/safety	25	26	49	$\chi^2 = 72.33*$	35	26	40	$\chi^2 = 56.38*$
Other	25	54	21	(.000)	39	43	18	(.000)
Yrs Lived in Comm.		(n = 1100)				(n = 1099)		
Five years or less	38	27	35	$\chi^2 = 2.32$	49	23	28	$\chi^2 = 7.68*$
More than five years	35	33	32	(.314)	40	33	27	(.021)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Appendix Table 18. *Frequency of Using Media by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes*

	Read newspapers (online or in print)					Listen to news on the radio				
	Never	Hardly ever	Sometimes	Often	Chi-square (sig.)	Never	Hardly ever	Sometimes	Often	Chi-square (sig.)
					Percentages					
Total	13	25	29	32		15	26	31	29	
Community Size		(n = 1085)					(n = 1081)			
Less than 500	14	24	28	34		14	23	40	24	
500 - 999	10	25	36	29		14	29	25	32	
1,000 - 4,999	12	25	28	35	χ^2 =	10	32	26	32	χ^2 =
5,000 - 9,999	20	26	29	25	12.03	14	35	25	27	34.75*
10,000 and up	13	27	29	32	(.444)	18	20	34	28	(.000)
Region		(n = 1102)					(n = 1097)			
Panhandle	12	26	33	30		16	29	33	22	
North Central	14	22	32	31		13	24	27	37	
South Central	14	32	28	26	χ^2 =	15	25	32	28	χ^2 =
Northeast	8	22	29	41	29.96*	13	26	32	29	11.85
Southeast	18	22	29	32	(.003)	17	29	29	26	(.458)
Individual Attributes:										
Household Income Level		(n = 1051)					(n = 1048)			
Under $40,000	23	17	31	30		17	36	26	20	
$40,000 - $74,999	10	30	28	33	χ^2 =	12	26	31	31	χ^2 =
$75,000 - $99,999	9	27	30	35	28.79*	14	23	31	32	22.75*
$100,000 and over	14	24	32	31	(.000)	16	21	32	30	(.007)
Age		(n = 1104)					(n = 1100)			
19 - 29	17	22	28	33		11	50	22	17	
30 - 39	23	35	30	12		22	26	30	22	
40 - 49	12	32	38	18	χ^2 =	19	20	35	27	χ^2 =
50 - 64	10	24	30	36	131.27*	10	19	33	37	90.34*
65 and older	8	16	21	54	(.000)	13	22	31	34	(.000)
Gender		(n = 1086)			χ^2 =		(n = 1084)			χ^2 =
Male	17	25	25	33	11.99*	13	24	35	29	7.13
Female	11	26	32	31	(.007)	16	28	28	28	(.068)
Education		(n = 1090)					(n = 1089)			
HS diploma or less	17	19	35	30	χ^2 =	12	30	31	27	χ^2 =
Some college	18	22	26	34	32.53*	14	25	32	30	4.58
Bachelors or grad degree	8	31	30	32	(.000)	16	26	30	28	(.599)
Occupation		(n = 801)					(n = 800)			
Mgt, prof or education	5	33	35	27		17	28	25	31	
Sales or office support	2	31	24	42		13	12	36	39	
Constrn, inst or maint	17	41	11	32		7	6	67	20	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	29	22	38	11		35	24	24	17	
Agriculture	19	23	28	31		0	31	28	41	
Food serv/pers. care	10	6	65	19	χ^2 =	6	64	20	10	χ^2 =
Hlthcare supp/safety	28	25	25	22	127.19*	23	23	33	20	140.18*
Other	11	18	25	46	(.000)	0	33	33	33	(.000)
Years Lived in Community		(n = 1102)			χ^2 =		(n = 1100)			χ^2 =
Five years or less	17	36	22	25	20.00*	12	35	22	31	12.29*
More than five years	12	23	31	34	(.000)	15	25	33	28	(.006)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Appendix Table 18 continued.

	Watch local television news					Watch national evening network television news (ABC, CBS, NBC)				
	Never	Hardly ever	Sometimes	Often	Chi-square (sig.)	Never	Hardly ever	Sometimes	Often	Chi-square (sig.)
					Percentages					
Total	20	24	24	32		29	30	19	22	
Community Size		(n = 1076)					(n = 1083)			
Less than 500	12	34	23	31		23	39	17	21	
500 - 999	20	22	23	36		34	26	18	22	
1,000 - 4,999	20	26	24	30	$\chi^2 =$	33	29	17	20	$\chi^2 =$
5,000 - 9,999	31	13	25	30	36.02*	31	25	25	20	19.03
10,000 and up	20	19	26	34	(.000)	27	29	21	24	(.088)
Region		(n = 1091)					(n = 1101)			
Panhandle	35	27	21	17		41	26	17	17	
North Central	24	33	19	24		35	34	14	18	
South Central	21	20	29	29	$\chi^2 =$	29	32	20	20	$\chi^2 =$
Northeast	7	23	28	42	85.38*	22	26	27	25	44.03*
Southeast	21	20	19	40	(.000)	25	33	13	29	(.000)
Individual Attributes:										
Household Income Level		(n = 1041)					(n = 1048)			
Under $40,000	28	12	20	39		28	21	22	30	
$40,000 - $74,999	19	20	29	33	$\chi^2 =$	28	31	21	20	$\chi^2 =$
$75,000 - $99,999	10	29	27	33	52.17*	24	38	16	22	24.08*
$100,000 and over	20	32	22	25	(.000)	33	32	18	18	(.004)
Age		(n = 1094)					(n = 1102)			
19 - 29	33	44	11	11		33	44	17	6	
30 - 39	26	32	29	14		42	36	12	10	
40 - 49	22	26	30	22	$\chi^2 =$	35	36	20	10	$\chi^2 =$
50 - 64	15	16	27	42	246.19*	21	24	24	31	195.61*
65 and older	7	10	23	60	(.000)	18	17	20	45	(.000)
Gender		(n = 1079)			$\chi^2 =$		(n = 1087)			$\chi^2 =$
Male	18	27	26	30	5.04	34	32	17	17	15.91*
Female	21	22	24	34	(.169)	25	29	21	25	(.001)
Education		(n = 1081)					(n = 1088)			
HS diploma or less	14	15	27	44	$\chi^2 =$	22	29	22	27	$\chi^2 =$
Some college	20	26	23	31	25.48*	24	32	23	21	25.99*
Bachelors or grad degree	22	26	25	28	(.000)	36	29	15	21	(.000)
Occupation		(n = 794)					(n = 801)			
Mgt, prof or education	21	30	23	26		31	35	16	18	
Sales or office support	15	29	20	37		24	27	27	22	
Constrn, inst or maint	13	47	25	15		22	56	15	7	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	34	18	34	14		36	36	20	9	
Agriculture	14	20	42	25		35	35	23	8	
Food serv/pers. care	33	10	18	39	$\chi^2 =$	41	18	31	10	$\chi^2 =$
Hlthcare supp/safety	26	34	21	20	69.79*	40	32	12	16	56.65*
Other	33	7	33	26	(.000)	36	11	18	36	(.000)
Years Lived in Community		(n = 1093)			$\chi^2 =$		(n = 1100)			$\chi^2 =$
Five years or less	26	32	24	18	23.57*	44	34	15	8	39.87*
More than five years	18	22	25	35	(.000)	26	29	20	25	(.000)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

	Watch cable television news (CNN, Fox News, MSNBC)					Get news from a social networking site (such as Facebook or Twitter)				
	Never	*Hardly ever*	*Sometimes*	*Often*	*Chi-square (sig.)*	*Never*	*Hardly ever*	*Sometimes*	*Often*	*Chi-square (sig.)*
					Percentages					
Total	34	32	17	17		28	23	31	18	
Community Size		(n = 1082)					(n = 1086)			
Less than 500	30	40	15	15		28	22	30	20	
500 - 999	46	22	18	14		30	18	45	7	
1,000 - 4,999	31	37	14	19	$\chi^2 =$	22	24	27	27	$\chi^2 =$
5,000 - 9,999	32	28	25	15	29.78*	20	25	38	16	61.28*
10,000 and up	38	27	18	17	(.003)	37	26	27	11	(.000)
Region		(n = 1099)					(n = 1102)			
Panhandle	38	35	9	17		27	25	30	18	
North Central	32	39	15	14		26	18	25	31	
South Central	41	26	17	16	$\chi^2 =$	30	29	27	14	$\chi^2 =$
Northeast	26	34	21	18	27.35*	29	22	31	18	50.35*
Southeast	34	30	18	18	(.007)	26	20	44	10	(.000)
Individual Attributes:										
Household Income Level		(n = 1050)					(n = 1050)			
Under $40,000	34	25	22	20		37	20	26	17	
$40,000 - $74,999	35	33	13	20	$\chi^2 =$	25	25	36	15	$\chi^2 =$
$75,000 - $99,999	33	35	21	11	20.23*	29	27	26	19	21.49*
$100,000 and over	35	36	15	14	(.017)	25	21	32	22	(.011)
Age		(n = 1101)					(n = 1104)			
19 - 29	39	50	6	6		11	28	17	44	
30 - 39	42	33	16	9		19	20	41	19	
40 - 49	41	32	18	10	$\chi^2 =$	15	24	43	19	$\chi^2 =$
50 - 64	28	31	20	21	135.18*	36	22	32	10	234.47*
65 and older	25	20	22	33	(.000)	50	23	21	5	(.000)
Gender		(n = 1085)			$\chi^2 =$		(n = 1089)			$\chi^2 =$
Male	36	30	18	16	3.51	35	28	23	14	40.01*
Female	33	34	16	17	(.319)	24	20	36	21	(.000)
Education		(n = 1088)					(n = 1092)			
HS diploma or less	29	31	20	19	$\chi^2 =$	35	23	29	14	$\chi^2 =$
Some college	34	35	16	16	6.61	28	25	31	15	13.16*
Bachelors or grad degree	37	31	17	16	(.359)	25	22	32	22	(.041)
Occupation		(n = 796)					(n = 800)			
Mgt, prof or education	37	36	12	16		21	23	34	22	
Sales or office support	23	35	19	23		22	29	33	17	
Constrn, inst or maint	45	40	9	6		37	39	19	6	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	43	32	16	9		25	48	14	14	
Agriculture	33	42	16	10		35	27	22	17	
Food serv/pers. care	40	24	26	10	$\chi^2 =$	14	12	41	33	$\chi^2 =$
Hlthcare supp/safety	43	32	16	10	41.95*	14	20	37	29	69.84*
Other	36	11	29	25	(.004)	7	29	43	21	(.000)
Years Lived in Community		(n = 1101)			$\chi^2 =$		(n = 1104)			$\chi^2 =$
Five years or less	39	34	17	10	7.38	12	26	36	27	33.24*
More than five years	33	32	17	18	(.061)	31	23	30	16	(.000)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Appendix Table 18 continued.

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	Never	*Hardly ever*	*Sometimes*	*Often*	*Chi-square (sig.)*
		Percentages			
Total	19	23	35	23	
Community Size		(n = 1085)			
Less than 500	20	22	36	23	
500 - 999	18	21	46	15	
1,000 - 4,999	20	25	30	25	$\chi^2 =$
5,000 - 9,999	17	27	30	27	14.80
10,000 and up	19	21	37	24	(.253)
Region		(n = 1104)			
Panhandle	20	16	37	27	
North Central	14	27	30	30	
South Central	24	25	33	19	$\chi^2 =$
Northeast	17	22	34	27	29.18*
Southeast	20	24	41	15	(.004)
Individual Attributes:					
Household Income Level		(n = 1051)			
Under $40,000	36	16	26	22	
$40,000 - $74,999	23	25	33	20	$\chi^2 =$
$75,000 - $99,999	14	28	31	27	79.47*
$100,000 and over	8	24	42	27	(.000)
Age		(n = 1103)			
19 - 29	11	28	33	28	
30 - 39	10	22	41	27	
40 - 49	6	20	43	31	$\chi^2 =$
50 - 64	21	22	35	21	147.26*
65 and older	41	24	23	12	(.000)
Gender		(n = 1089)			
Male	20	26	36	18	12.41*
Female	18	21	34	27	(.006)
Education		(n = 1092)			
HS diploma or less	33	22	28	18	$\chi^2 =$
Some college	20	28	32	20	53.62*
Bachelors or grad degree	13	20	40	28	(.000)
Occupation		(n = 799)			
Mgt, prof or education	10	19	44	27	
Sales or office support	11	26	35	28	
Constrn, inst or maint	36	38	21	6	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	7	53	22	18	
Agriculture	12	35	30	24	
Food serv/pers. care	20	4	43	33	$\chi^2 =$
Hlthcare supp/safety	7	15	36	42	107.85*
Other	21	21	36	21	(.000)
Years Lived in Community		(n = 1104)			$\chi^2 =$
Five years or less	10	20	38	32	18.40*
More than five years	21	24	34	21	(.000)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Appendix Table 19. *Individual and Community Political Views by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes*

Where would you place yourself and your community on the following scale of political views that people might hold?

Your political views on economic issues

	Liberal	Moderate, middle of road	Conservative	Don't know	Chi-square (sig.)
Total	15	18	59	9	
Community Size		(n = 1052)			
Less than 500	8	25	61	7	
500 - 999	8	21	64	8	
1,000 - 4,999	11	15	67	6	
5,000 - 9,999	24	16	44	17	$\chi^2 = 70.48*$
10,000 and up	25	14	53	9	(.000)
Region		(n = 1067)			
Panhandle	15	24	56	5	
North Central	11	13	65	11	
South Central	16	20	57	7	
Northeast	11	16	64	10	$\chi^2 = 34.00*$
Southeast	25	16	50	10	(.000)
Income Level		(n = 1032)			
Under $40,000	20	13	43	24	
$40,000 - $74,999	18	18	58	6	
$75,000 - $99,999	14	21	64	1	$\chi^2 = 91.16*$
$100,000 and over	12	18	65	6	(.000)
Age		(n = 1069)			
19 - 29	28	28	33	11	
30 - 39	20	7	67	6	
40 - 49	16	14	62	8	
50 - 64	8	21	64	8	$\chi^2 = 86.33*$
65 and older	10	17	64	9	(.000)
Gender		(n = 1065)			
Male	9	12	72	7	$\chi^2 = 57.27*$
Female	20	21	50	10	(.000)
Marital Status		(n = 1048)			
Married	14	19	62	6	
Never married	23	12	46	20	
Divorced/separated	16	15	56	13	$\chi^2 = 47.62*$
Widowed	9	23	59	9	(.000)
Education		(n = 1068)			
H.S. diploma or less	7	19	52	22	
Some college	17	19	54	10	$\chi^2 = 82.04*$
Bachelors degree	18	16	65	2	(.000)
Occupation		(n = 782)			
Mgt, prof, education	26	18	53	4	
Sales/office support	9	24	65	3	
Const, inst or maint	9	33	56	2	
Prodn/trans/warehs	4	7	51	38	
Agriculture	1	4	94	1	
Food serv/pers. care	12	29	33	27	
Hlthcare supp/safety	14	17	60	9	$\chi^2 = 199.48*$
Other	0	28	56	16	(.000)
Yrs Lived in Comm.		(n = 1069)			
Five years or less	23	9	58	10	$\chi^2 = 18.90*$
More than five years	14	19	59	8	(.000)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Appendix Table 19 continued.

	Liberal	Moderate, middle of road	Conservative	Don't know	Chi-square (sig.)
		Where would you place yourself and your community on the following scale of political views that people might hold?			
		Your political views on social issues			
Total	22	16	54	8	
Community Size		(n = 1057)			
Less than 500	13	19	61	8	
500 - 999	25	11	57	7	
1,000 - 4,999	17	15	62	6	
5,000 - 9,999	25	16	43	16	$\chi^2 = 52.47^*$
10,000 and up	32	14	46	9	(.000)
Region		(n = 1069)			
Panhandle	23	20	52	5	
North Central	14	14	61	11	
South Central	23	19	52	7	
Northeast	21	11	58	10	$\chi^2 = 24.41^*$
Southeast	28	14	48	9	(.018)
Income Level		(n = 1036)			
Under $40,000	20	15	42	23	
$40,000 - $74,999	25	15	54	7	
$75,000 - $99,999	17	23	59	1	$\chi^2 = 77.50^*$
$100,000 and over	24	14	57	6	(.000)
Age		(n = 1070)			
19 - 29	39	17	33	11	
30 - 39	23	11	60	6	
40 - 49	26	11	55	8	
50 - 64	12	19	61	8	$\chi^2 = 72.47^*$
65 and older	14	19	58	9	(.000)
Gender		(n = 1065)			
Male	13	11	69	7	$\chi^2 = 62.88^*$
Female	28	18	45	9	(.000)
Marital Status		(n = 1050)			
Married	20	17	58	6	
Never married	34	4	42	20	
Divorced/separated	17	16	55	13	$\chi^2 = 65.71^*$
Widowed	13	27	52	9	(.000)
Education		(n = 1070)			
H.S. diploma or less	13	15	50	21	
Some college	21	17	52	10	$\chi^2 = 75.89^*$
Bachelors degree	26	15	58	2	(.000)
Occupation		(n = 782)			
Mgt, prof, education	34	16	47	4	
Sales/office support	10	27	61	3	
Const, inst or maint	26	17	55	2	
Prodn/trans/warehs	11	7	44	38	
Agriculture	3	5	90	2	
Food serv/pers. care	36	10	28	26	
Hlthcare supp/safety	17	17	57	9	$\chi^2 = 196.25^*$
Other	0	24	60	16	(.000)
Yrs Lived in Comm.		(n = 1070)			
Five years or less	30	7	53	10	$\chi^2 = 18.64^*$
More than five years	20	17	55	8	(.000)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Appendix Table 19 continued.

| | *Where would you place yourself and your community on the following scale of political views that people might hold?* | | | | |
| | *Your community's political views on economic issues* | | | | |
	Liberal	*Moderate, middle of road*	*Conservative*	*Don't know*	*Chi-square (sig.)*
Total	5	14	70	11	
Community Size		(n = 1058)			
Less than 500	3	13	76	9	
500 - 999	3	13	74	10	
1,000 - 4,999	5	14	72	9	
5,000 - 9,999	6	10	65	20	$\chi^2 = 23.58^*$
10,000 and up	8	16	65	12	(.023)
Region		(n = 1071)			
Panhandle	5	10	77	8	
North Central	3	15	69	13	
South Central	5	16	69	10	
Northeast	4	12	73	12	$\chi^2 = 20.97$
Southeast	10	14	62	14	(.051)
Income Level		(n = 1037)			
Under $40,000	5	16	51	27	
$40,000 - $74,999	9	15	65	10	
$75,000 - $99,999	3	17	76	4	$\chi^2 = 98.12^*$
$100,000 and over	3	9	81	7	(.000)
Age		(n = 1072)			
19 - 29	11	6	72	11	
30 - 39	0	10	83	7	
40 - 49	4	12	75	8	
50 - 64	5	18	65	12	$\chi^2 = 62.34^*$
65 and older	6	19	58	17	(.000)
Gender		(n = 1067)			
Male	3	11	77	9	$\chi^2 = 21.17^*$
Female	7	16	65	13	(.000)
Marital Status		(n = 1052)			
Married	4	13	75	8	
Never married	3	9	67	20	
Divorced/separated	5	17	60	19	$\chi^2 = 45.45^*$
Widowed	4	29	50	17	(.000)
Education		(n = 1070)			
H.S. diploma or less	2	15	56	27	
Some college	6	15	65	13	$\chi^2 = 84.27^*$
Bachelors degree	6	12	79	4	(.000)
Occupation		(n = 786)			
Mgt, prof, education	9	10	77	4	
Sales/office support	5	13	76	6	
Const, inst or maint	7	13	76	4	
Prodn/trans/warehs	0	7	56	38	
Agriculture	2	12	83	3	
Food serv/pers. care	2	10	62	26	
Hlthcare supp/safety	1	18	71	11	$\chi^2 = 109.26^*$
Other	0	20	56	24	(.000)
Yrs Lived in Comm.		(n = 1071)			
Five years or less	13	9	65	13	$\chi^2 = 28.38^*$
More than five years	4	15	71	11	(.000)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Where would you place yourself and your community on the following scale of political views that people might hold?
Your community's political views on social issues

	Liberal	Moderate, middle of road	Conservative	Don't know	Chi-square (sig.)
Total	6	13	70	11	
Community Size		(n = 1055)			
Less than 500	3	13	75	9	
500 - 999	4	11	74	11	
1,000 - 4,999	7	13	71	9	
5,000 - 9,999	8	10	64	19	$\chi^2 = 20.55$
10,000 and up	9	13	66	12	(.057)
Region		(n = 1072)			
Panhandle	5	11	77	8	
North Central	4	15	68	12	
South Central	6	14	70	10	
Northeast	5	10	73	12	$\chi^2 = 24.70^*$
Southeast	13	13	60	14	(.016)
Income Level		(n = 1036)			
Under $40,000	5	16	52	27	
$40,000 - $74,999	9	15	66	10	
$75,000 - $99,999	8	12	76	4	$\chi^2 = 84.71^*$
$100,000 and over	4	8	81	7	(.000)
Age		(n = 1070)			
19 - 29	11	6	72	11	
30 - 39	1	10	82	7	
40 - 49	6	8	78	8	
50 - 64	6	17	65	12	$\chi^2 = 63.53^*$
65 and older	6	20	57	17	(.000)
Gender		(n = 1066)			
Male	4	10	77	9	$\chi^2 = 16.81^*$
Female	8	14	65	13	(.000)
Marital Status		(n = 1053)			
Married	5	13	74	8	
Never married	8	4	67	20	
Divorced/separated	4	13	65	19	$\chi^2 = 52.68^*$
Widowed	7	28	48	17	(.000)
Education		(n = 1072)			
H.S. diploma or less	3	16	56	26	
Some college	7	13	66	14	$\chi^2 = 82.64^*$
Bachelors degree	8	11	78	4	(.000)
Occupation		(n = 784)			
Mgt, prof, education	10	10	76	4	
Sales/office support	6	10	76	8	
Const, inst or maint	4	15	77	4	
Prodn/trans/warehs	0	4	58	38	
Agriculture	8	9	80	3	
Food serv/pers. care	4	6	64	26	
Hlthcare supp/safety	3	16	71	11	$\chi^2 = 100.59^*$
Other	0	16	60	24	(.000)
Yrs Lived in Comm.		(n = 1072)			
Five years or less	14	7	66	13	$\chi^2 = 24.25^*$
More than five years	5	14	70	11	(.000)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

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