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Executive Summary

Community leadership and involvement are important parts of community development. Rural communities rely on volunteers for many community development activities as well as local leadership positions. In smaller communities in particular, community members often take on multiple roles. Given these challenges, how involved are rural Nebraskans in community and political activities? How do they feel about the leadership in their community? How often do they have social interactions with others during a typical month? This paper provides a detailed analysis of these questions.

This report details 1,776 responses to the 2019 Nebraska Rural Poll, the 24th annual effort to understand rural Nebraskans' perceptions. Respondents were asked a series of questions about their community involvement and community leadership. Trends for some of the questions are examined by comparing data from the 2015 Rural Poll. 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:

- ***During the past year, many rural Nebraskans have worked with others to solve a problem in their community and served in a community organization in an unpaid role.*** Over one-third (35%) of rural Nebraskans worked together with someone or some group to solve a problem in the community where they live during the past year. Just under one-third (32%) served in a community organization in an unpaid role. Almost three in ten have spoken with their pocketbooks on political and social issues during the past year. However, rural Nebraskans have not been as involved in some other political activities during the past year.

- ***The proportion of rural Nebraskans working together with someone to solve an issue in their community during the past year increased compared to 2015.*** When comparing responses to 2015, the level of involvement in most activities remained about the same. However, the proportion saying they have worked together to solve an issue in their community during the past year increased from 29 percent in 2015 to 35 percent.

- ***Persons living in or near smaller communities are more likely than persons living in or near larger communities to have worked together with someone to solve a problem in their community, to have served in a community organization in an unpaid role, and to have contacted or visited a public official to express their opinion.*** As an example, at least 70 percent of persons living in or near communities with populations less than 5,000 have worked together with someone or some group to solve a problem in their community, compared to approximately 63 percent of persons living in or near communities with populations of 5,000 or more.

- ***Younger persons are involved in their community.*** Younger persons are more likely than older persons to have worked together to solve a problem in their community and to have signed an email petition about a social or political issue. Approximately 43 percent of persons under the

age of 40 have worked with others to solve a problem in their community, compared to 24 percent of persons age 65 and older.

- ***Most rural Nebraskans have positive feelings about their community leadership.*** Over half of rural Nebraskans (57%) agree or strongly agree that their community's leaders are effective and do a good job. And, although opinions are somewhat mixed on whether or not they have a leadership crisis in their community today, more disagree with that statement than agree with it.

- ***Most rural Nebraskans agree that strong and effective community leadership can prevent their community's decline and can solve the problems their community faces today.*** Over three-quarters of rural Nebraskans agree or strongly agree that strong effective leadership will prevent their community's decline. And, two-thirds agree that the problems their community faces today can be solved through effective leadership.

- ***Opinions are mixed on whether or not the youth are being prepared to be effective leaders in their community.*** While just over four in ten rural Nebraskans agree that "we are preparing our youth to be effective leaders in our community," three in ten (30%) disagree with that statement. Twenty-eight percent neither agree nor disagree with the statement.

- ***Most rural Nebraskans agree that ordinary citizens have a great deal of power to help make their community's leadership more effective. However, when asked about their personal responsibility to actively participate in making their community's leadership more effective, opinions are mixed.*** Almost six in ten rural Nebraskans agree or strongly agree that ordinary citizens have a great deal of power to help make their community's leadership more effective. Just over one-third (34%) agree that they feel a great deal of personal responsibility to actively participate in making their community's leadership more effective. Just over two in ten disagree with that statement and almost one-half (46%) neither agree nor disagree.
    - ✓ ***The proportions agreeing that ordinary citizens have a great deal of power to help make their community's leadership more effective and that they feel a great deal of personal responsibility to actively participate in making their community's leadership more effective both declined from 2015 to 2019.***

- ***Many rural Nebraskans see technology as a tool that can be used by community leaders to engage more residents. However, opinions are mixed on if they would participate more in community issues if given an opportunity to participate through digital platforms.*** One-half of rural Nebraskans (50%) agree or strongly agree that community leaders would be more effective if they engaged more with residents through digital platforms in addition to traditional methods. However, only three in ten (30%) agree that they would participate more in community issues if given an opportunity to participate through digital platforms. A similar proportion (29%) disagree with the statement and four in ten neither agree nor disagree.

- ***Persons living in or near larger communities are more likely than persons living in or near smaller communities to agree that strong effective leadership will prevent their community's decline.*** Eighty-one percent of persons living in or near communities with populations of 10,000

or more agree with this statement, compared to 72 percent of persons living in or near communities with less than 500 people

- ***Persons living in or near smaller communities are more likely than persons living in or near larger communities to agree that ordinary citizens have a great deal of power to help make their community's leadership more effective.*** Almost two-thirds (65%) of persons living in or near communities with populations under 1,000 agree with this statement, compared to 53 percent of persons living in or near communities with populations of 5,000 or more.

- ***Rural Nebraskans frequently interact with other members of their household, neighbors, and other friends and family not in their household.*** Most rural Nebraskans eat dinner with other members of their household every day. Most of rural Nebraskans do the following at least a few times per week: talk with any of their neighbors, see or hear from friends and family they don't live with using social media, see or hear from friends or family they don't live with by texting, and see or hear from friends and family they don't live with by phone.

Introduction

Community leadership and involvement are important parts of community development. Rural communities rely on volunteers for many community development activities as well as local leadership positions. In smaller communities in particular, community members often take on multiple roles. Given these challenges, how involved are rural Nebraskans in community and political activities? How do they feel about the leadership in their community? How often do they have social interactions with others during a typical month? This paper provides a detailed analysis of these questions.

This report details 1,776 responses to the 2019 Nebraska Rural Poll, the 24th annual effort to understand rural Nebraskans' perceptions. Respondents were asked a series of questions about their community involvement and leadership.

Methodology and Respondent Profile

This study is based on 1,776 responses from Nebraskans living in 86 counties in the state.[1] A self-administered questionnaire was mailed in March and April to 6,260 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, community involvement and leadership, immigration and education. This paper reports only results from the community involvement and leadership section.

A 28% 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 ten days later.
3. A reminder postcard was sent to those who had not yet responded approximately ten days after the questionnaire had been sent.
4. Those who had not yet responded within approximately 20 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 2013 - 2017 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 two 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 2010).

The average age of respondents is 50 years. Seventy percent are married (Appendix Table 1) and 69 percent live within the city limits of a town or village. On average, respondents have lived in Nebraska 43 years and have lived in their current community 27 years. Fifty-six 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.

Twenty-two percent of the respondents report their 2018 approximate household income from all sources, before taxes, as below $40,000. Sixty percent report incomes over $60,000.

Seventy-seven percent were employed in 2018 on a full-time, part-time, or seasonal basis. Eighteen percent are retired. Thirty-six percent of those employed reported working in a management, professional, or education occupation. Sixteen percent indicated they were employed in agriculture.

Community and Political Involvement

During the past year, many rural Nebraskans have worked with others to solve a problem in their community and served in a community organization in an unpaid role (Figure 1). Almost three in ten have spoken with their pocketbooks on political and social issues during the past year. However, rural Nebraskans have not been as involved in some other political activities during the past year.

When comparing responses to 2015, the level of involvement in most activities remained about the same. However, the proportion saying they have worked together to solve an issue in their community during the past year increased from 29 percent in 2015 to 35 percent. And, there were some substantial increases between the two surveys in some specific subgroups when asked about working with others to solve an issue in their community during the past year: persons living in or near communities with populations ranging from 500 to 999, Panhandle residents, North Central residents, persons age 19 to 29, persons with sales or office support occupations, persons with occupations in agriculture, and persons with occupations in production, transportation and warehousing.

When examining activities ever done, most respondents have done the following: worked together with someone or some group to solve a problem in the community (69%), served in a community organization in an unpaid role (54%), and signed a written petition about a political or social issue (51%). Almost one-half (49%) have contacted or visited a public official to express their opinion and the same proportion (49%) have bought or boycotted a certain product or service because of the social or political values of the company that provides it.

Certain groups are more likely than others to have done these activities (Appendix Table 2). Persons living in or near smaller communities are more likely than persons living in or near larger communities to have worked together with someone to solve a problem in their community, to have served in a community organization in an unpaid role, and to have contacted or visited a public official to express their opinion. As an example, at least seven in ten persons living in or near communities with

Figure 1. *Community and Political Activities During Past Year, 2015 and 2019*
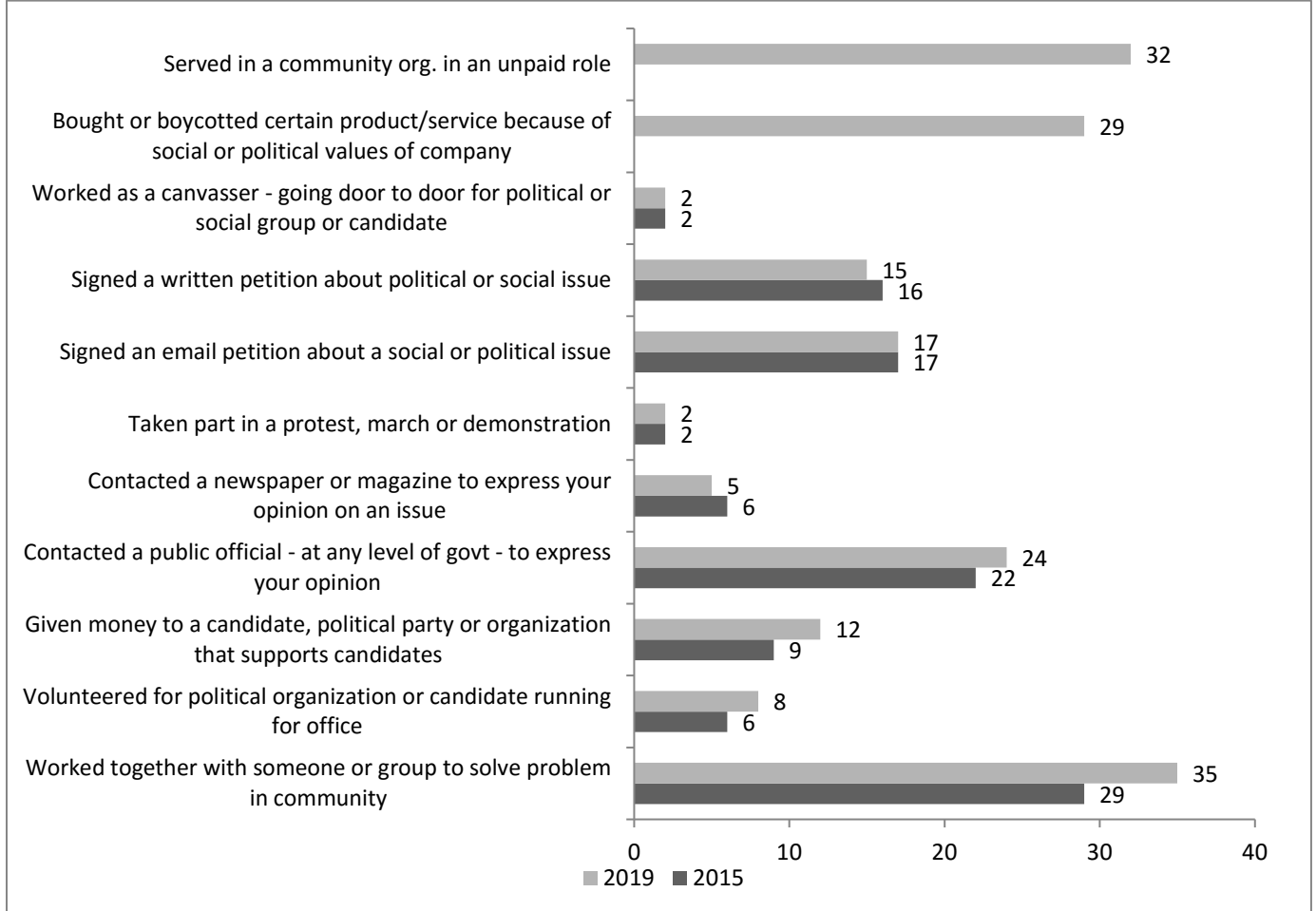
populations less than 5,000 have worked together with someone or some group to solve a problem in their community, compared to approximately 63 percent of persons living in or near communities with populations of 5,000 or more.

However, persons living in or near larger communities are more likely than persons living in or near smaller communities to have signed an email petition about a social or political issue. Just under one-half (45%) of persons living in or near communities with populations of 10,000 or more have signed an email petition about a social or political issue. In comparison, approximately 34 percent of

persons living in or near communities with less than 5,000 people have done this.

Some regional differences are also detected (see Appendix Figure 1 for the counties included in each region). Persons living in both the Panhandle and North Central regions are the groups most likely to have worked together with someone or some group to solve a problem in the community where they live. Approximately three-quarters of persons living in these two regions have done this activity, compared to almost two-thirds of the residents of the other three regions (Figure 2).

Figure 2. *Worked Together to Solve Problem in Community by Region*

Region	Yes, within last 12 mos.	Yes, but not within last 12 mos.	No, never
Southeast	28	38	34
Northeast	35	33	32
South Central	32	35	33
North Central	48	28	24
Panhandle	38	37	25

■ Yes, within last 12 mos.
■ Yes, but not within last 12 mos.
■ No, never
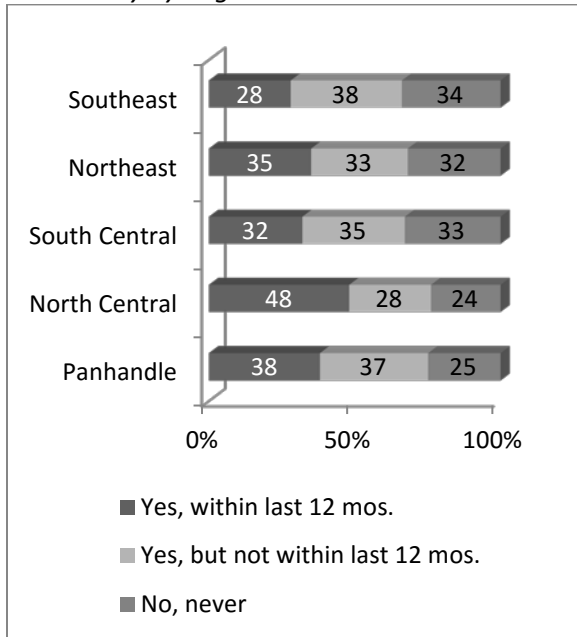
Residents of the North Central region are more likely than residents of the other regions of the state to have contacted or visited a public official to express their opinion. Almost six in ten residents of the North Central region (59%) have contacted a public official, compared to 45 percent of the residents of the Southeast region.

North Central region residents are also the regional group most likely to have bought or boycotted a certain product or service because of the social or political values of the company that provides it and to have served in a community organization in an unpaid role. Two-thirds of North Central region residents (66%) have served in a community organization in an unpaid role, compared to 44 percent of the residents of the Southeast region.

Persons with higher household incomes are more likely than persons with lower incomes to have done each of the activities listed, with the following exceptions: volunteered for a political

organization or candidate running for office; taken part in a protest, march or demonstration; and worked as a canvasser. For those three items, there were no statistically significant differences among the income groups. Just over seven in ten persons with household incomes of $100,000 or more (72%) have served in a community organization in an unpaid role, compared to 40 percent of persons with household incomes under $40,000.

Younger persons are more likely than older persons to have worked together to solve a problem in their community and to have signed an email petition about a social or political issue.

Older persons are more likely than younger persons to have done the following: volunteered for a political organization or candidate running for office; given money to a candidate, political party, or organization that supported candidates; contacted or visited a public official – at any level of government – to express their opinion; and contacted a newspaper or magazine to express their opinion on an issue. Six in ten persons between the ages of 50 and 64 (60%) have contacted or visited a public official to express their opinion, compared to 36 percent of persons age 19 to 29.

Persons age 50 to 64 are the age group most likely to have signed a written petition about a political or social issue. Persons age 30 to 64 are the groups most likely to have bought or boycotted a product or service because of the social or political values of the company that provides it. Persons ages 40 to 64 are the groups most likely to have served in a community organization in an unpaid role.

Males are more likely than females to have done the following: worked together to solve a

problem in the community; volunteered for a political organization or candidate running for office; given money to a candidate, political party or organization that supported candidates; contacted or visited a public official to express their opinion; contacted a newspaper or magazine to express their opinion; signed a written petition about a political or social issue; and bought or boycotted a certain product or service because of the social or political values of the company that provides it. Just over one-half (57%) of males have contacted a public official to express their opinion, compared to 43 percent of females.

Persons with higher education levels are more likely than persons with less education to have done each of the activities listed. As an example, 77 percent of persons with at least a four year degree have worked together to solve a problem in their community, compared to 52 percent of persons with a high school diploma or less education.

Long-term residents are more likely than newcomers to have done the following activities: worked together with someone or some group to solve a problem in the community; volunteered for a political organization or candidate running for office; given money to a candidate, political party or organization that supported candidates; contacted or visited a public official to express their opinion; contacted a newspaper or magazine to express their opinion on an issue; signed a written petition about a social or political issue; and served in a community organization in an unpaid role. As an example, 57 percent of persons who have lived in their community for more than five years have served in a community organization in an unpaid role. In comparison, 38 percent of

persons who have lived in the community for five years or less have done so.

Persons with management, professional or educational occupations are more likely than persons with different occupations to have signed an email petition about a social or political issue. The groups most likely to have signed a written petition about a social or political issue are persons with management, professional or education occupations and persons with occupations in agriculture.

Persons with occupations in agriculture are more likely than persons with different occupations to have done the following: worked together with someone or some group to solve a problem in the community; volunteered for a political organization or candidate running for office; contacted or visited a public official – at any level of government – to express their opinion; and served in a community organization in an unpaid role. Approximately two-thirds (66%) of persons with agriculture occupations have served in a community organization in an unpaid role. In comparison, 39 percent of persons with food service or personal care occupations have done the same (Figure 3).

Persons with production, transportation or warehousing occupations are more likely than persons with different occupations to have given money to a candidate, political party, or organization that supported candidates and to have worked as a canvasser.

Persons with construction, installation or maintenance occupations are the group most likely to have bought or boycotted a certain product or service because of the social or political values of the company that provides it.

Figure 3. *Served in a Community Organization in Unpaid Role by Occupation*

Occupation	Yes, within last 12 mos.	Yes, but not within last 12 mos.	No, never
Mgt, prof or education	44	20	36
Sales or office support	31	21	48
Construction, installation, maintenance	21	24	54
Production, transportation, warehousing	21	20	58
Agriculture	44	22	34
Food service or personal care	11	28	61
Healthcare support or public safety	31	19	51
Other	29	13	58

■ Yes, within last 12 mos.   ■ Yes, but not within last 12 mos.   ■ No, never

Community Leadership

Next, respondents were given a list of statements about the leadership in their community. They were asked to indicate their level of agreement or disagreement with each.

Most rural Nebraskans have positive feelings about their community leadership. Over one-half of rural Nebraskans (57%) agree or strongly agree that their community's leaders are effective and do a good job (Table 1). And, although opinions are somewhat mixed on whether or not they have a leadership crisis in their community today, more disagree with that statement than agree with it. However, approximately one-third neither agree nor disagree with that statement.

Most rural Nebraskans agree that strong and effective community leadership can prevent their community's decline and can solve the problems their community faces today. Over three-quarters of rural Nebraskans agree or strongly agree that strong effective leadership

will prevent their community's decline. And, two-thirds agree that the problems their community faces today can be solved through effective leadership.

Opinions are mixed on whether or not the youth are being prepared to be effective leaders in their community. While just over four in ten rural Nebraskans agree that "we are preparing our youth to be effective leaders in our community," three in ten (30%) disagree with that statement. Twenty-eight percent neither agree nor disagree with the statement.

Most rural Nebraskans agree that ordinary citizens have a great deal of power to help make their community's leadership more effective. However, when asked about their personal responsibility to actively participate in making their community's leadership more effective, opinions are mixed. Almost six in ten rural Nebraskans agree or strongly agree that ordinary citizens have a great deal of power to help make their community's leadership more effective. Just over one-third (34%) agree that they feel a great deal of personal responsibility

Table 1. *Opinions about Community Leadership*

	Strongly Disagree	*Disagree*	*Neither*	*Agree*	*Strongly Agree*
Overall, our community's leaders are effective and do a good job.	5%	14%	24%	51%	7%
We have a leadership crisis in our community today.	8	36	34	17	5
Strong effective leadership will prevent our community's decline.	1	5	16	57	21
We are preparing our youth to be effective leaders in our community.	6	24	28	36	6
The problems our community faces today can be solved through effective leadership.	2	8	24	55	11
Ordinary citizens have a great deal of power to help make our community's leadership more effective.	3	15	24	49	9
I feel a great deal of personal responsibility to actively participate in making our community's leadership more effective.	5	16	46	28	5
Community leaders would be more effective if they engaged more with residents through digital platforms such as mobile apps, social media, blogs, websites, or any other in addition to traditional methods such as meetings, town halls, etc.	2	13	35	39	11
I am satisfied with the online presence of my community including websites, social media, blogs, or any other digital platform.	6	16	47	30	2
I would participate more in community issues if given an opportunity to participate through mobile apps, social media, blogs, websites, or any other digital platform.	7	22	40	24	7

to actively participate in making their community's leadership more effective. Just over two in ten disagree with that statement and almost one-half (46%) neither agree nor disagree.

Many rural Nebraskans see technology as a tool that can be used by community leaders to engage more residents. However, opinions are mixed on if they would participate more in community issues if given an opportunity to participate through digital platforms.

One-half of rural Nebraskans (50%) agree or strongly agree that community leaders would be more effective if they engaged more with residents through digital platforms in addition to traditional methods. Fifteen percent disagree and just over one-third (35%) neither agree nor disagree.

However, only three in ten (30%) agree that they would participate more in community issues if given an opportunity to participate through digital platforms. A similar proportion (29%) disagree with the statement and four in ten neither agree nor disagree.

Opinions are also mixed about the online presence of their community. Just under one-third (32%) agree that they are satisfied with the online presence of their community, including websites, social media, blogs or any other digital platform. Just over two in ten (21%) disagree with the statement and almost one-half (47%) neither agree nor disagree.

Some of these statements were also asked in 2015. The level of agreement with most of the statements are similar to those in these two time periods (Figure 4). However, the

Figure 4. *Agreement with Statements about Community Leadership, 2015 and 2019*
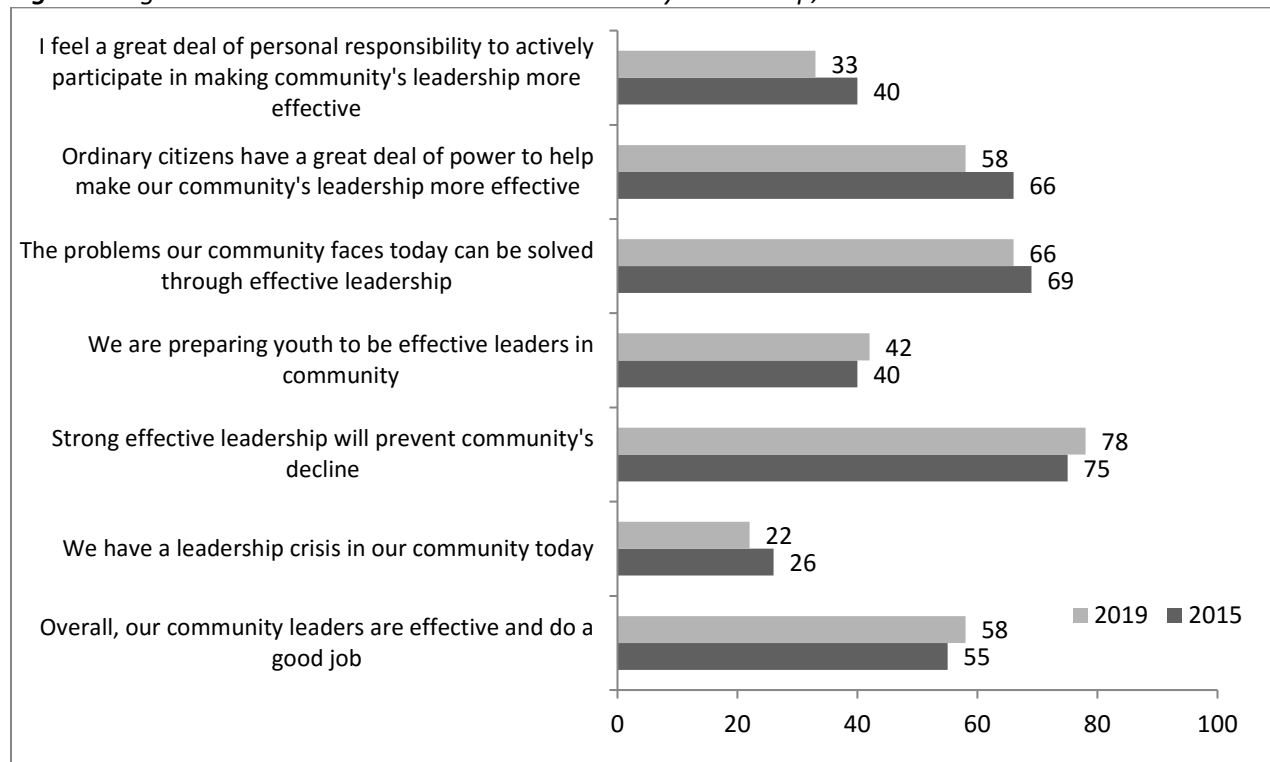
proportions agreeing that ordinary citizens have a great deal of power to help make their community's leadership more effective and that they feel a great deal of personal responsibility to actively participate in making their community's leadership more effective both declined from 2015 to 2019.

Opinions about the leadership in their community differ by community size, region and various individual attributes (Appendix Table 3).

Persons with higher education levels are more likely than persons with less education to agree that their community's leaders are effective and do a good job. Over six in ten persons (63%) with at least a four year degree agree with this statement, compared to 47 percent of persons with a high school diploma or less education.

Other groups most likely to agree that their community's leaders are effective and do a good job include: persons with higher household incomes, both the youngest and oldest respondents, newcomers to the community, and persons with management, professional and education occupations.

Residents of the Panhandle are *less* likely than persons living in other regions of the state to agree with this statement. Just over six in ten residents of the North Central region (62%) agree with this statement, compared to 40 percent of the Panhandle residents.

The groups most likely to agree with the statement that they have a leadership crisis in their community today include: Panhandle residents, persons with lower household incomes, persons over the age of 30, persons with less education, persons with food service or personal care occupations and long-term residents of the community.

Persons living in or near larger communities are more likely than persons living in or near smaller communities to agree that strong effective leadership will prevent their community's decline. Eighty-one percent of persons living in or near communities with populations of 10,000 or more agree with this statement, compared to 72 percent of persons living in or near communities with less than 500 people (Figure 5).

Other groups most likely to agree with this statement include: persons with higher household incomes, females, persons with higher education levels and persons with healthcare support or public safety occupations.

Residents of the North Central region are more likely than residents of other regions of the state to agree that the youth are being prepared to be effective leaders in the community. Almost one-half (49%) of North Central residents agree with this statement, compared to 33 percent of Panhandle residents.

Figure 5. *Belief that Strong Effective Leadership Will Prevent Community's Decline by Community Size*
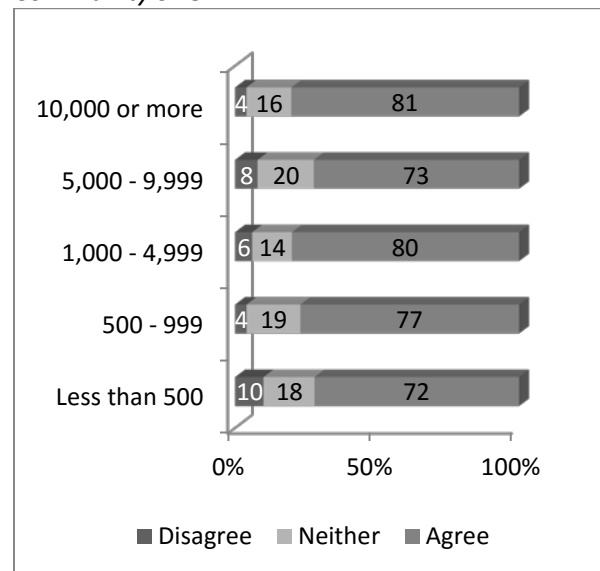
Other groups most likely to agree with this statement include: persons living in or near communities with populations ranging from 1,000 to 4,999; persons age 65 and older; females; and newcomers to the community.

The groups most likely to agree that the problems their community faces today can be solved through effective leadership include persons with higher household incomes and persons with healthcare support and public safety occupations. When comparing responses by region, residents of the Panhandle are *less* likely than residents of other regions to agree with this statement.

Persons living in or near smaller communities are more likely than persons living in or near larger communities to agree that ordinary citizens have a great deal of power to help make their community's leadership more effective. Almost two-thirds (65%) of persons living in or near communities with populations under 1,000 agree with this statement, compared to 53 percent of persons living in or near communities with populations of 5,000 or more (Figure 6).

Other groups most likely to agree with that statement include persons with higher education levels and persons with healthcare support or public safety occupations. Panhandle residents are *less* likely than residents of other regions of the state to agree that ordinary citizens have a great deal of power to help make the community's leadership more effective.

Younger persons are more likely than older persons to agree that they feel a great deal of personal responsibility to actively participate in making their community's leadership more effective. Four in ten persons (40%) age 19 to 29 agree with that statement, compared to 29
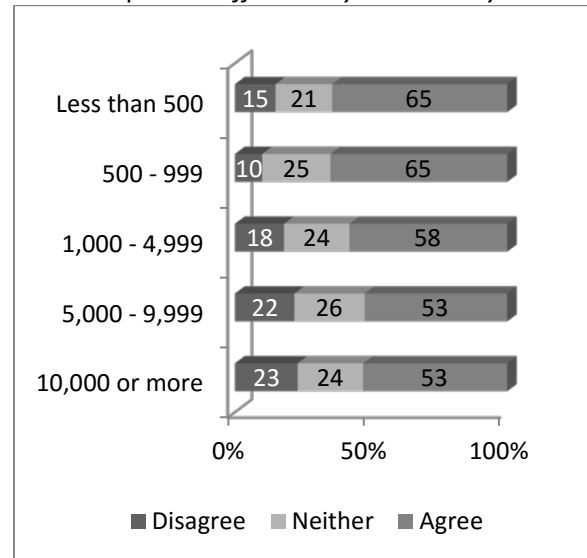
percent of persons age 65 and older.

Other groups most likely to agree with that statement include persons with higher household incomes and persons with higher education levels.

Persons living in or near larger communities are more likely than persons living in or near smaller communities to agree that community leaders would be more effective if they engaged more with residents through digital platforms in addition to traditional methods. Just over one-half of residents living in or near communities with populations of 5,000 or more agree with this statement, compared to 46 percent of persons living in or near communities with populations under 500.

Younger persons are more likely than older persons to agree that community leaders would be more effective if they engaged residents using digital platforms. Just under two-thirds (64%) of persons age 19 to 29 agree with this

statement, compared to 43 percent of persons age 65 and older (Figure 7).

Other groups most likely to agree with that statement include: females, persons with higher education levels, newcomers to the community and persons with production, transportation or warehousing occupations.

Younger persons are more likely than older persons to agree that they are satisfied with the online presence of their community. Other groups most likely to be satisfied with their community's online presence include persons with higher education levels and persons with management, professional or education occupations. Residents of the Panhandle are *less* likely than residents of other regions to agree that they are satisfied with the online presence of their community.

Younger persons are more likely than older persons to agree that they would participate more in community issues if given an opportunity to participate through digital

Figure 7. *Community Leaders Would Be More Effective if They Engaged More with Residents Through Digital Platforms by Age*
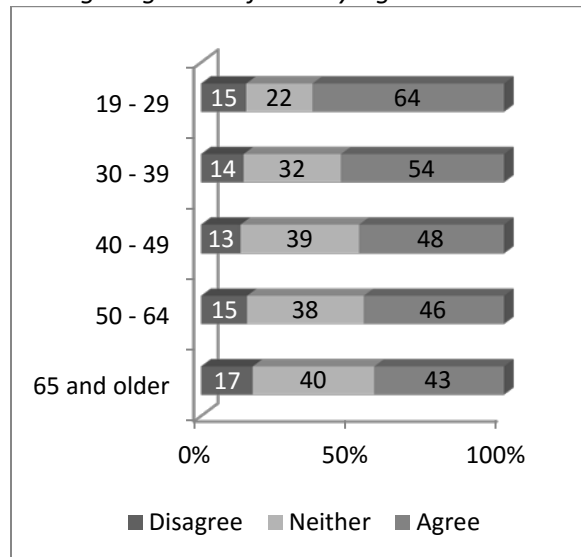
platforms. At least four in ten persons under the age of 40 agree with this statement, compared to 17 percent of persons age 65 and older.

Other groups most likely to agree with this statement include: persons living in or near larger communities, persons with higher household incomes, females, persons with higher education levels, newcomers to the community and persons with healthcare support or public safety occupations.

Social Interactions

Finally, respondents were asked about the frequency of various social interactions they have with others. Specifically, they were asked how often during a typical month they did the various items in the last 12 months.

Rural Nebraskans frequently interact with other members of their household, neighbors, and other friends and family not in their household. Most rural Nebraskans eat dinner with other members of their household every day. Most of rural Nebraskans do the following at least a few times per week: talk with any of their neighbors, see or hear from friends and family they don't live with using social media, see or hear from friends or family they don't live with by texting, and see or hear from friends and family they don't live with by phone (Table 2).

Most rural Nebraskans exchange favors for their neighbors at least a few times a month. And while most rural Nebraskans discuss politics with family or friends at least a few times a month, most rural Nebraskans do not use the Internet to express their opinions about political or community issues.

The frequency of these social interactions are examined by community size, region and

Table 2. *Frequency of Social Interactions During a Typical Month During the Last 12 Months*

	Basically every day	*A few times/ week*	*A few times/ month*	*Once a month*	*Less than once/ month*	*Not at all*
Discuss politics with family or friends	17%	23%	27%	9%	15%	8%
Eat dinner with any of the other members of your household	62	16	10	4	3	5
Talk with any of your neighbors	14	37	29	9	8	4
Did you and your neighbors do favors for each other (i.e., watching children, house sitting, scooping snow, lending tools and other things)	7	14	31	14	19	15
Use the Internet to express your opinions about political or community issues	4	7	8	5	17	59
See or hear from friends or family you don't live with…						
Using social media	34	24	16	4	6	16
By texting	38	30	15	4	4	9
By phone	26	34	22	7	7	3
In person	17	30	26	10	15	3

various individual attributes (Appendix Table 4). Many differences exist.

Persons with higher household incomes are more likely than persons with lower incomes to discuss politics with family or friends. Other groups most likely to discuss politics with family or friends include younger persons, males, persons with higher education levels, and long-term residents of the community.

Younger persons are more likely than older persons to say they eat dinner with other members of their household basically every day. At least seven in ten persons under the age of 50 say they eat dinner with other members of their household every day. In comparison, 42 percent of persons age 65 and older do this.

Other groups most likely to eat dinner with members of their household basically every day include: persons living in or near larger communities, persons with higher household incomes, persons with higher education levels, and persons with management, professional or education occupations.

Persons living in or near smaller communities are more likely than persons living in or near larger communities to talk with any of their neighbors at least a few times a month. Almost nine in ten persons (86%) living in or near the smallest communities talk with any of their neighbors at least a few times a month, compared to 73 percent of persons living in or near the largest communities (Figure 8).

Figure 8. *Frequency of Talking with Any Neighbors During a Typical Month by Community Size*

Community Size	Basically every day	At least a few times a month	Once a month or less	
Less than 500	19	67	9	5
500 - 999	16	65	18	2
1,000 - 4,999	15	70	12	3
5,000 - 9,999	11	66	20	3
10,000 or more	10	63	23	4

■ Basically every day

■ At least a few times a month

■ Once a month or less
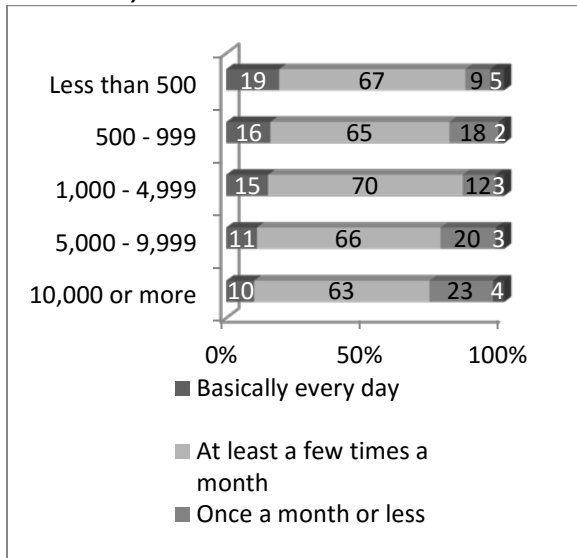
Other groups most likely to talk with any of their neighbors at least a few times a month include persons with higher household incomes and males.

Persons living in or near smaller communities are more likely than persons living in or near larger communities to exchange favors with their neighbors at least a few times per month. Almost six in ten persons living in or near communities with populations less than 5,000 exchange favors with their neighbors at least a few times per month, compared to just under one-half of persons living in or near communities with populations of 5,000 or more.

Other groups most likely to exchange favors with their neighbors at least a few times per month include: residents of the North Central region, males, and persons with occupations in agriculture.

The groups most likely to use the Internet to express their opinions about political or community issues include persons age 40 to 49 and persons with higher education levels.

The groups most likely to see or hear from friends or family they don't live with using social media include: persons with higher household incomes, younger persons, females, and persons with higher education levels.

Younger persons are more likely than older persons to use texting to hear from friends or family not in their household. Almost one-half (48%) of persons age 19 to 29 text friends and family they don't live with every day. In comparison, 23 percent of persons age 65 and older text friends and family every day.

Other groups most likely to use texting every day to hear from friends and family include: persons living in or near larger communities, persons with higher household incomes, females, persons with higher education levels, and newcomers to the community.

Younger persons are more likely than older persons to hear from friends and family they don't live with by phone basically every day. Over one-third of persons age 19 to 29 use the phone basically every day to hear from friends or family, compared to 21 percent of persons age 65 and older.

Other groups most likely to hear from friends and family by phone every day include females and persons with healthcare support or public safety occupations.

The groups most likely to see friends or family they don't live with in person include: persons with higher household incomes, younger persons, and persons with higher education levels.

Conclusion

During the past year, many rural Nebraskans have worked with others to solve a problem in their community and served in a community organization in an unpaid role. Almost three in ten have spoken with their pocketbooks on political and social issues during the past year. However, rural Nebraskans have not been as involved in some other political activities during the past year. The proportion of rural Nebraskans working together with someone to solve an issue in their community during the past year increased compared to 2015.

Persons living in or near smaller communities are more likely than persons living in or near larger communities to have worked together with someone to solve a problem in their community, to have served in a community organization in an unpaid role, and to have contacted or visited a public official to express their opinion.

Most rural Nebraskans have positive feelings about their community leadership and most agree that strong and effective community leadership can prevent their community's decline and can solve the problems their community faces today.

Opinions are mixed on whether or not the youth are being prepared to be effective leaders in their community. Most rural Nebraskans agree that ordinary citizens have a great deal of power to help make their community's leadership more effective. Yet, when asked about their personal responsibility to actively participate in making their community's leadership more effective, opinions are mixed.

Many rural Nebraskans see technology as a tool that can be used by community leaders to engage more residents. However, opinions are mixed on if they would participate more in community issues if given an opportunity to participate through digital platforms.

Rural Nebraskans frequently interact with other members of their household, neighbors, and other friends and family not in their household. Most rural Nebraskans eat dinner with other members of their household every day. Most of rural Nebraskans do the following at least a few times per week: talk with any of their neighbors, see or hear from friends and family they don't live with using social media, see or hear from friends or family they don't live with by texting, and see or hear from friends and family they don't live with by phone.

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 2013 – 2017 American Community Survey 5 Year Average for Nebraska**

	2019 Poll	2018 Poll	2017 Poll	2016 Poll	2015 Poll	2014 Poll	2013 - 2017 ACS
Age : [2]							
20 - 39	32%	32%	32%	31%	31%	32%	32%
40 - 64	44%	44%	44%	45%	45%	46%	43%
65 and over	24%	24%	24%	24%	24%	23%	25%
Gender: [3]							
Female	55%	55%	56%	59%	58%	57%	51%
Male	45%	46%	44%	41%	42%	43%	49%
Education: [4]							
Less than 9th grade	0.3%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	4%
9th to 12th grade (no diploma)	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%	3%	6%
High school diploma (or equiv.)	15%	18%	18%	21%	22%	18%	32%
Some college, no degree	18%	23%	22%	21%	23%	23%	26%
Associate degree	24%	17%	16%	19%	15%	16%	11%
Bachelors degree	29%	25%	25%	23%	24%	24%	14%
Graduate or professional degree	13%	13%	16%	14%	13%	16%	6%
Household Income: [5]							
Less than $20,000	7%	9%	10%	11%	12%	12%	16%
$20,000 - $39,999	15%	18%	18%	22%	18%	22%	22%
$40,000 - $59,999	18%	22%	26%	22%	23%	25%	19%
$60,000 - $74,999	16%	17%	12%	14%	15%	13%	12%
$75,000 - $99,999	19%	33%	34%	32%	32%	29%	13%
$100,000 - $149,999	16%	***[6]	***	***	***	***	12%
$150,000 - $199,999	5%	***	***	***	***	***	3%
$200,000 or more	3%	***	***	***	***	***	3%
Marital Status: [7]							
Married	70%	71%	68%	69%	68%	68%	62%
Never married	12%	10%	13%	11%	13%	12%	18%
Divorced/separated	9%	11%	11%	10%	10%	12%	12%
Widowed/widower	8%	8%	8%	9%	8%	8%	8%

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

[2] 2013-2017 American Community Survey universe is non-metro population 20 years of age and over.

[3] 2013-2017 American Community Survey universe is non-metro population 20 years of age and over.

[4] 2013-2017 American Community Survey universe is non-metro population 18 years of age and over.

[5] 2013-2017 American Community Survey universe is all non-metro households.

[6] Income categories for the Rural Polls were expanded in 2019. $75,000 or more was the largest category before then.

[7] 2013-2017 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. *Measures of Community Involvement by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes*

	Worked together with someone or some group to solve a problem in the community where you live				Volunteered for a political organization or candidate running for office			
	Yes, within last 12 mos.	*Yes, but not within last 12 mos.*	*No, never*	*Sig.*	*Yes, within last 12 mos.*	*Yes, but not within last 12 mos.*	*No, never*	*Sig.*
			Percentages					
Total	35	34	31		8	13	79	
Community Size	(n = 1666)				(n = 1658)			
Less than 500	43	31	25		11	11	78	
500 - 999	43	37	20		9	11	79	
1,000 - 4,999	38	34	29	$\chi^2 =$	10	15	75	$\chi^2 =$
5,000 - 9,999	23	40	38	43.51*	4	12	84	21.76*
10,000 and up	29	35	36	(.000)	5	13	82	(.005)
Region	(n = 1727)				(n = 1720)			
Panhandle	38	37	25		3	15	82	
North Central	48	28	24		9	17	73	
South Central	32	35	33	$\chi^2 =$	9	11	80	$\chi^2 =$
Northeast	35	33	32	26.01*	7	14	79	13.90
Southeast	28	38	34	(.001)	8	12	81	(.084)
Individual Attributes:								
Income Level	(n = 1588)				(n = 1587)			
Under $40,000	25	33	42		7	12	82	
$40,000 - $74,999	34	37	29	$\chi^2 =$	5	13	82	$\chi^2 =$
$75,000 - $99,999	44	29	27	41.37*	10	13	77	10.94
$100,000 and over	39	36	26	(.000)	10	14	76	(.090)
Age	(n = 1736)				(n = 1730)			
19 - 29	44	24	32		9	9	83	
30 - 39	43	29	28		9	8	83	
40 - 49	38	35	27	$\chi^2 =$	10	10	80	$\chi^2 =$
50 - 64	30	41	29	58.37*	7	18	75	32.13*
65 and older	24	39	38	(.000)	5	18	77	(.000)
Gender	(n = 1712)			$\chi^2 =$	(n = 1706)			$\chi^2 =$
Male	38	34	27	9.65*	11	15	74	25.34*
Female	32	34	34	(.008)	6	11	83	(.000)
Education	(n = 1677)				(n = 1674)			
H.S. diploma or less	20	32	49	$\chi^2 =$	3	9	87	$\chi^2 =$
Some college	33	36	32	72.12*	7	12	81	20.75*
Bachelors/grad degree	42	35	23	(.000)	10	15	75	(.000)
Yrs Lived in Community	(n = 1601)			$\chi^2 =$	(n = 1598)			$\chi^2 =$
Five years or less	30	26	45	27.82*	2	11	87	12.54*
More than five years	36	36	28	(.000)	8	14	78	(.002)
Occupation	(n = 1219)				(n = 1214)			
Mgt, prof or education	40	37	23		8	15	77	
Sales or office support	35	38	28		8	12	80	
Constrn, inst or maint	36	28	36		4	16	81	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	31	27	42		7	15	78	
Agriculture	49	32	20		16	10	74	
Food serv/pers. care	20	43	38	$\chi^2 =$	3	15	83	$\chi^2 =$
Hlthcare supp/safety	37	29	34	44.77*	8	9	84	29.48*
Other	19	42	39	(.000)	0	7	94	(.009)

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

	Given money to a candidate, political party, or organization that supported candidates				Contacted or visited a public official (at any level of government) to express opinion			
	Yes, within last 12 mos.	Yes, but not within last 12 mos.	No, never	Sig.	Yes, within last 12 mos.	Yes, but not within last 12 mos.	No, never	Sig.
				Percentages				
Total	12	17	71		24	25	51	
Community Size		(n = 1662)				(n = 1669)		
Less than 500	15	17	68		32	27	42	
500 - 999	9	13	78		29	18	53	
1,000 - 4,999	10	16	74	$\chi^2 =$	25	25	50	$\chi^2 =$
5,000 - 9,999	10	18	72	16.51*	16	26	58	31.42*
10,000 and up	14	19	67	(.036)	20	26	55	(.000)
Region		(n = 1722)				(n = 1730)		
Panhandle	11	15	74		17	32	51	
North Central	11	23	66		32	27	41	
South Central	11	18	72	$\chi^2 =$	25	22	53	$\chi^2 =$
Northeast	13	16	71	9.11	23	25	52	21.68*
Southeast	15	16	69	(.333)	22	23	55	(.006)
Individual Attributes:								
Income Level		(n = 1587)				(n = 1590)		
Under $40,000	7	15	77		17	21	62	
$40,000 - $74,999	9	17	74	$\chi^2 =$	20	25	56	$\chi^2 =$
$75,000 - $99,999	15	18	68	33.09*	30	22	48	50.49*
$100,000 and over	19	17	64	(.000)	28	32	40	(.000)
Age		(n = 1729)				(n = 1736)		
19 - 29	10	9	81		17	19	64	
30 - 39	13	12	75		25	25	50	
40 - 49	11	14	76	$\chi^2 =$	25	21	54	$\chi^2 =$
50 - 64	14	21	64	58.72*	30	30	41	37.61*
65 and older	12	27	62	(.000)	22	27	51	(.000)
Gender		(n = 1704)		$\chi^2 =$		(n = 1712)		$\chi^2 =$
Male	15	20	66	16.42*	30	27	43	39.39*
Female	10	15	75	(.000)	20	23	58	(.000)
Education		(n = 1669)				(n = 1677)		
H.S. diploma or less	5	16	79	$\chi^2 =$	14	22	64	$\chi^2 =$
Some college	11	16	73	25.71*	23	22	55	44.36*
Bachelors/grad degree	16	19	66	(.000)	28	29	43	(.000)
Yrs Lived in Community		(n = 1592)		$\chi^2 =$		(n = 1599)		$\chi^2 =$
Five years or less	8	12	81	13.61*	16	21	64	19.15*
More than five years	13	18	69	(.001)	25	26	49	(.000)
Occupation		(n = 1212)				(n = 1218)		
Mgt, prof or education	16	17	68		26	30	44	
Sales or office support	14	16	70		21	19	60	
Constrn, inst or maint	9	21	70		26	20	54	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	16	19	65		24	23	54	
Agriculture	19	12	69		31	28	41	
Food serv/pers. care	3	21	77	$\chi^2 =$	20	26	54	$\chi^2 =$
Hlthcare supp/safety	1	10	89	55.38*	17	27	56	33.56*
Other	0	19	81	(.000)	19	10	71	(.002)

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

	Contacted a newspaper or magazine to express your opinion on an issue				Taken part in a protest, march or demonstration			
	Yes, within last 12 mos.	Yes, but not within last 12 mos.	No, never	Sig.	Yes, within last 12 mos.	Yes, but not within last 12 mos.	No, never	Sig.
	Percentages							
Total	5	14	81		2	8	90	
Community Size	(n = 1665)				(n = 1666)			
Less than 500	4	10	86		2	6	92	
500 - 999	5	12	82		0	8	92	
1,000 - 4,999	6	15	80	$\chi^2 =$	2	8	90	$\chi^2 =$
5,000 - 9,999	5	15	80	6.14	1	7	92	11.38
10,000 and up	5	15	80	(.631)	2	10	87	(.181)
Region	(n = 1717)				(n = 1717)			
Panhandle	5	14	81		2	10	88	
North Central	3	16	81		1	6	93	
South Central	6	14	81	$\chi^2 =$	2	8	90	$\chi^2 =$
Northeast	5	14	81	4.04	1	8	91	10.10
Southeast	6	12	83	(.853)	3	9	88	(.258)
Individual Attributes:								
Income Level	(n = 1587)				(n = 1583)			
Under $40,000	4	17	79		1	9	90	
$40,000 - $74,999	7	12	81	$\chi^2 =$	2	11	87	$\chi^2 =$
$75,000 - $99,999	3	16	82	14.01*	2	7	92	8.57
$100,000 and over	4	14	82	(.029)	2	7	92	(.199)
Age	(n = 1727)				(n = 1725)			
19 - 29	3	3	93		2	5	93	
30 - 39	5	10	85		2	12	86	
40 - 49	5	12	83	$\chi^2 =$	2	10	88	$\chi^2 =$
50 - 64	6	22	73	58.71*	2	7	91	14.07
65 and older	6	17	77	(.000)	2	6	92	(.080)
Gender	(n = 1701)		$\chi^2 =$		(n = 1701)			$\chi^2 =$
Male	7	15	78	11.62*	2	8	90	0.18
Female	4	13	84	(.003)	2	8	90	(.913)
Education	(n = 1672)				(n = 1671)			
H.S. diploma or less	3	12	85	$\chi^2 =$	1	4	95	$\chi^2 =$
Some college	4	13	83	10.44*	1	7	92	19.92*
Bachelors/grad degree	7	16	78	(.034)	3	10	87	(.001)
Yrs Lived in Community	(n = 1595)		$\chi^2 =$		(n = 1595)			$\chi^2 =$
Five years or less	5	5	90	17.61*	3	8	89	1.70
More than five years	5	16	80	(.000)	2	8	90	(.428)
Occupation	(n = 1210)				(n = 1210)			
Mgt, prof or education	8	14	78		3	10	87	
Sales or office support	3	13	84		0	6	94	
Constrn, inst or maint	3	11	87		4	8	89	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	4	22	75		1	2	96	
Agriculture	4	12	85		1	5	94	
Food serv/pers. care	3	18	79	$\chi^2 =$	0	3	97	$\chi^2 =$
Hlthcare supp/safety	3	13	84	19.40	1	10	89	22.37
Other	7	13	80	(.150)	0	3	97	(.071)

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

	Signed an email petition about a social or political issue				Signed a written petition about a political or social issue			
	Yes, within last 12 mos.	Yes, but not within last 12 mos.	No, never	Sig.	Yes, within last 12 mos.	Yes, but not within last 12 mos.	No, never	Sig.
				Percentages				
Total	17	22	62		15	36	49	
Community Size		(n = 1657)				(n = 1658)		
Less than 500	17	18	65		15	38	47	
500 - 999	11	23	66		14	34	53	
1,000 - 4,999	17	17	66	$\chi^2 =$	15	30	55	$\chi^2 =$
5,000 - 9,999	18	20	62	25.55*	18	34	49	20.87*
10,000 and up	18	27	55	(.001)	13	43	44	(.008)
Region		(n = 1710)				(n = 1712)		
Panhandle	16	24	60		15	34	52	
North Central	17	21	62		16	39	45	
South Central	17	25	58	$\chi^2 =$	15	39	46	$\chi^2 =$
Northeast	15	20	66	13.42	12	35	53	10.98
Southeast	19	16	65	(.098)	18	33	49	(.203)
Individual Attributes:								
Income Level		(n = 1581)				(n = 1580)		
Under $40,000	10	21	68		12	34	54	
$40,000 - $74,999	17	21	62	$\chi^2 =$	14	33	53	$\chi^2 =$
$75,000 - $99,999	26	20	54	30.96*	17	37	46	15.25*
$100,000 and over	17	25	58	(.000)	16	42	42	(.018)
Age		(n = 1716)				(n = 1719)		
19 - 29	23	19	58		18	26	56	
30 - 39	19	21	61		18	28	54	
40 - 49	20	20	60	$\chi^2 =$	16	37	47	$\chi^2 =$
50 - 64	14	28	59	37.71*	14	47	39	47.47*
65 and older	10	20	70	(.000)	10	37	53	(.000)
Gender		(n = 1694)		$\chi^2 =$		(n = 1693)		$\chi^2 =$
Male	17	22	61	0.67	17	39	45	11.50*
Female	16	21	63	(.717)	13	35	53	(.003)
Education		(n = 1665)				(n = 1666)		
H.S. diploma or less	10	17	73	$\chi^2 =$	8	33	60	$\chi^2 =$
Some college	14	22	64	38.68*	12	39	49	30.35*
Bachelors/grad degree	22	23	55	(.000)	19	36	45	(.000)
Yrs Lived in Community		(n = 1590)		$\chi^2 =$		(n = 1590)		$\chi^2 =$
Five years or less	16	16	67	5.17	16	27	58	11.59*
More than five years	17	22	61	(.076)	14	38	48	(.003)
Occupation		(n = 1207)				(n = 1206)		
Mgt, prof or education	21	26	54		19	37	44	
Sales or office support	21	19	60		10	40	50	
Constrn, inst or maint	17	20	63		12	38	50	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	13	15	72		16	34	50	
Agriculture	20	21	59		17	40	43	
Food serv/pers. care	15	21	64	$\chi^2 =$	9	31	60	$\chi^2 =$
Hlthcare supp/safety	13	19	68	34.02*	14	26	59	29.89*
Other	10	50	40	(.002)	7	60	33	(.008)

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

	Worked as a canvasser – going door to door for a political or social group or candidate				Bought or boycotted a certain product or service because of the social or political values of the company that provides it			
	Yes, within last 12 mos.	Yes, but not within last 12 mos.	No, never	Sig.	Yes, within last 12 mos.	Yes, but not within last 12 mos.	No, never	Sig.
				Percentages				
Total	2	6	93		29	20	51	
Community Size		(n = 1662)				(n = 1667)		
Less than 500	2	4	94		32	18	50	
500 - 999	1	2	97		28	21	51	
1,000 - 4,999	1	8	91	$\chi^2 =$	28	20	53	$\chi^2 =$
5,000 - 9,999	0	10	90	19.98*	27	21	51	2.80
10,000 and up	2	6	92	(.010)	29	21	50	(.946)
Region		(n = 1715)				(n = 1719)		
Panhandle	2	7	92		30	25	45	
North Central	1	9	90		35	24	41	
South Central	3	5	92	$\chi^2 =$	30	20	50	$\chi^2 =$
Northeast	2	6	93	12.66	26	20	55	23.67*
Southeast	0.4	5	95	(.124)	27	14	59	(.003)
Individual Attributes:								
Income Level		(n = 1584)				(n = 1591)		
Under $40,000	1	8	91		19	19	63	
$40,000 - $74,999	2	6	92	$\chi^2 =$	28	18	54	$\chi^2 =$
$75,000 - $99,999	3	3	95	12.52	36	22	42	48.62*
$100,000 and over	1	7	92	(.051)	35	23	42	(.000)
Age		(n = 1720)				(n = 1729)		
19 - 29	3	7	90		30	14	56	
30 - 39	1	4	96		37	19	44	
40 - 49	2	4	94	$\chi^2 =$	32	23	45	$\chi^2 =$
50 - 64	1	7	92	19.72*	31	23	46	53.34*
65 and older	1	7	92	(.011)	18	20	62	(.000)
Gender		(n = 1696)		$\chi^2 =$		(n = 1705)		$\chi^2 =$
Male	2	7	91	5.41	37	21	43	46.18*
Female	1	5	94	(.067)	23	20	57	(.000)
Education		(n = 1667)				(n = 1675)		
H.S. diploma or less	0.4	2	97	$\chi^2 =$	13	14	73	$\chi^2 =$
Some college	2	6	93	12.96*	30	20	50	65.66*
Bachelors/grad degree	2	8	91	(.011)	33	23	44	(.000)
Yrs Lived in Community		(n = 1593)		$\chi^2 =$		(n = 1599)		$\chi^2 =$
Five years or less	0.4	5	94	2.67	30	15	56	5.89
More than five years	2	6	92	(.264)	29	21	50	(.053)
Occupation		(n = 1210)				(n = 1209)		
Mgt, prof or education	3	8	90		34	21	45	
Sales or office support	1	5	95		32	20	48	
Constrn, inst or maint	1	2	97		29	32	39	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	6	5	89		26	20	54	
Agriculture	0	7	93		41	14	44	
Food serv/pers. care	0	6	94	$\chi^2 =$	29	18	53	$\chi^2 =$
Hlthcare supp/safety	0	5	95	28.58*	27	15	58	30.22*
Other	3	3	94	(.012)	42	13	45	(.007)

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

	Served in a community organization in an unpaid role (e.g., member of a board, committee member, organization officer, etc.)			
	Yes, within last 12 mos.	*Yes, but not within last 12 mos.*	*No, never*	*Sig.*
	Percentages			
Total	32	22	46	
Community Size		(n = 1665)		
Less than 500	37	20	43	
500 - 999	46	21	33	
1,000 - 4,999	33	23	43	$\chi^2 =$
5,000 - 9,999	22	20	59	40.21*
10,000 and up	28	22	50	(.000)
Region		(n = 1722)		
Panhandle	25	29	46	
North Central	39	27	34	
South Central	35	20	45	$\chi^2 =$
Northeast	33	20	47	33.07*
Southeast	24	20	55	(.000)
Individual Attributes:				
Income Level		(n = 1588)		
Under $40,000	21	19	61	
$40,000 - $74,999	29	22	49	$\chi^2 =$
$75,000 - $99,999	35	18	47	90.05*
$100,000 and over	46	26	28	(.000)
Age		(n = 1729)		
19 - 29	37	7	56	
30 - 39	28	21	50	
40 - 49	40	20	39	$\chi^2 =$
50 - 64	32	26	42	74.55*
65 and older	24	30	47	(.000)
Gender		(n = 1706)		$\chi^2 =$
Male	32	23	45	1.50
Female	32	21	47	(.473)
Education		(n = 1674)		
H.S. diploma or less	14	22	65	$\chi^2 =$
Some college	28	22	50	106.2*
Bachelors/grad degree	44	22	34	(.000)
Yrs Lived in Community		(n = 1598)		$\chi^2 =$
Five years or less	24	14	62	28.70*
More than five years	34	23	43	(.000)
Occupation		(n = 1209)		
Mgt, prof or education	44	20	36	
Sales or office support	31	21	48	
Constrn, inst or maint	21	24	54	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	21	20	58	
Agriculture	44	22	34	
Food serv/pers. care	11	28	61	$\chi^2 =$
Hlthcare supp/safety	31	19	51	59.28*
Other	29	13	58	(.000)

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

	Overall, our community's leaders are effective and do a good job.				We have a leadership crisis in our community today.			
	Disagree	*Neither*	*Agree*	*Significance*	*Disagree*	*Neither*	*Agree*	*Significance*
				Percentages				
Total	19	24	57		44	34	22	
Community Size		(n = 1683)				(n = 1670)		
Less than 500	21	21	58		43	31	26	
500 - 999	18	28	55		39	41	21	
1,000 - 4,999	17	21	63		45	34	21	
5,000 - 9,999	21	23	56	$\chi^2 = 13.45$	51	27	22	$\chi^2 = 12.07$
10,000 and up	19	27	53	(.097)	44	35	20	(.148)
Region		(n = 1746)				(n = 1733)		
Panhandle	36	24	40		33	37	30	
North Central	20	19	62		47	29	24	
South Central	16	24	60		48	33	18	
Northeast	17	23	60	$\chi^2 = 52.89*$	45	33	22	$\chi^2 = 25.94*$
Southeast	17	30	53	(.000)	38	41	21	(.001)
Individual Attributes:								
Household Income Level		(n = 1609)				(n = 1598)		
Under $40,000	21	27	51		43	35	22	
$40,000 - $74,999	18	30	52		35	41	24	
$75,000 - $99,999	19	15	66	$\chi^2 = 32.31*$	52	28	20	$\chi^2 = 38.27*$
$100,000 and over	17	23	61	(.000)	53	29	18	(.000)
Age		(n = 1752)				(n = 1742)		
19 - 29	8	30	62		47	42	12	
30 - 39	23	24	54		45	28	28	
40 - 49	21	25	55		44	34	22	
50 - 64	24	23	53	$\chi^2 = 35.41*$	43	31	25	$\chi^2 = 31.32*$
65 and older	18	21	62	(.000)	42	37	21	(.000)
Gender		(n = 1728)				(n = 1716)		
Male	19	26	55	$\chi^2 = 3.44$	47	31	22	$\chi^2 = 9.37*$
Female	18	23	59	(.179)	41	37	21	(.009)
Education		(n = 1688)				(n = 1682)		
High school diploma or less	24	30	47		32	41	28	
Some college	21	25	55	$\chi^2 = 26.60*$	42	37	22	$\chi^2 = 31.40*$
Bachelors or grad degree	15	22	63	(.000)	51	30	20	(.000)
Occupation		(n = 1227)				(n = 1218)		
Mgt, prof or education	16	19	66		52	29	19	
Sales or office support	23	25	52		37	34	29	
Constrn, inst or maint	25	28	47		38	33	29	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	19	35	46		46	37	17	
Agriculture	11	26	63		49	36	16	
Food serv/pers. care	18	30	53		25	40	35	
Hlthcare supp/safety	20	25	56	$\chi^2 = 40.24*$	44	35	21	$\chi^2 = 31.80*$
Other	33	27	40	(.000)	37	33	30	(.004)
Years Lived in Community		(n = 1615)				(n = 1602)		
Five years or less	8	29	63	$\chi^2 = 22.53*$	44	40	16	$\chi^2 = 6.38*$
More than five years	20	23	57	(.000)	44	33	22	(.041)

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

	Strong effective leadership will prevent our community's decline.				*We are preparing our youth to be effective leaders in our community.*			
	Disagree	*Neither*	*Agree*	*Significance*	*Disagree*	*Neither*	*Agree*	*Significance*
				Percentages				
Total	6	16	78		30	28	42	
Community Size		(n = 1668)				(n = 1678)		
Less than 500	10	18	72		25	30	45	
500 - 999	4	19	77		25	35	39	
1,000 - 4,999	6	14	80		27	25	49	
5,000 - 9,999	8	20	73	$\chi^2 = 23.96$*	39	26	35	$\chi^2 = 31.82$*
10,000 and up	4	16	81	(.002)	35	29	36	(.000)
Region		(n = 1733)				(n = 1741)		
Panhandle	9	19	72		39	29	33	
North Central	6	12	81		27	24	49	
South Central	4	16	80		33	28	39	
Northeast	5	16	79	$\chi^2 = 22.97$*	26	31	43	$\chi^2 = 21.23$*
Southeast	11	17	73	(.003)	28	27	45	(.007)
Individual Attributes:								
Household Income Level		(n = 1596)				(n = 1605)		
Under $40,000	7	22	71		25	31	44	
$40,000 - $74,999	9	18	74		32	31	37	
$75,000 - $99,999	2	12	87	$\chi^2 = 43.59$*	27	21	52	$\chi^2 = 32.15$*
$100,000 and over	4	13	84	(.000)	35	30	35	(.000)
Age		(n = 1737)				(n = 1747)		
19 - 29	3	18	78		30	28	42	
30 - 39	4	12	84		38	24	39	
40 - 49	7	16	77		35	23	43	
50 - 64	7	16	77	$\chi^2 = 14.22$	31	33	37	$\chi^2 = 37.70$*
65 and older	7	18	75	(.076)	21	32	47	(.000)
Gender		(n = 1716)				(n = 1723)		
Male	8	17	76	$\chi^2 = 6.13$*	33	33	34	$\chi^2 = 29.86$*
Female	5	16	80	(.047)	28	25	47	(.000)
Education		(n = 1681)				(n = 1691)		
High school diploma or less	7	20	73		25	33	42	
Some college	5	19	76	$\chi^2 = 15.33$*	31	29	40	$\chi^2 = 8.42$
Bachelors or grad degree	6	12	82	(.004)	32	26	43	(.077)
Occupation		(n = 1220)				(n = 1224)		
Mgt, prof or education	4	13	84		29	27	44	
Sales or office support	3	18	78		36	22	42	
Constrn, inst or maint	9	11	80		42	30	28	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	7	15	78		31	37	31	
Agriculture	13	23	63		29	33	38	
Food serv/pers. care	0	18	82		33	23	45	
Hlthcare supp/safety	2	10	89	$\chi^2 = 61.15$*	38	27	35	$\chi^2 = 33.00$*
Other	3	10	87	(.000)	58	19	23	(.003)
Years Lived in Community		(n = 1602)				(n = 1609)		
Five years or less	5	14	82	$\chi^2 = 2.18$	23	32	46	$\chi^2 = 8.10$*
More than five years	6	17	78	(.337)	32	28	40	(.017)

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

	The problems our community faces today can be solved through effective leadership.				Ordinary citizens have a great deal of power to help make our community's leadership more effective.			
	Disagree	*Neither*	*Agree*	*Significance*	*Disagree*	*Neither*	*Agree*	*Significance*
				Percentages				
Total	10	24	66		19	24	58	
Community Size		(n = 1674)				(n = 1670)		
Less than 500	17	24	59		15	21	65	
500 - 999	7	30	63		10	25	65	
1,000 - 4,999	9	22	69		18	24	58	
5,000 - 9,999	12	29	59	$\chi^2 = 33.91*$	22	26	53	$\chi^2 = 24.53*$
10,000 and up	7	23	70	(.000)	23	24	53	(.002)
Region		(n = 1735)				(n = 1734)		
Panhandle	19	24	56		23	26	51	
North Central	11	18	71		20	21	60	
South Central	9	28	64		20	20	59	
Northeast	8	23	69	$\chi^2 = 31.56*$	18	24	59	$\chi^2 = 21.94*$
Southeast	10	22	68	(.000)	12	31	57	(.005)
Individual Attributes:								
Household Income Level		(n = 1601)				(n = 1600)		
Under $40,000	12	24	64		21	28	51	
$40,000 - $74,999	11	26	63		18	24	59	
$75,000 - $99,999	6	23	71	$\chi^2 = 13.97*$	19	21	60	$\chi^2 = 10.71$
$100,000 and over	8	23	70	(.030)	17	21	62	(.098)
Age		(n = 1745)				(n = 1742)		
19 - 29	9	20	72		12	25	63	
30 - 39	7	23	70		20	21	59	
40 - 49	12	23	65		20	25	55	
50 - 64	11	27	62	$\chi^2 = 12.92$	22	22	56	$\chi^2 = 14.61$
65 and older	10	25	65	(.115)	18	24	58	(.067)
Gender		(n = 1719)				(n = 1719)		
Male	10	25	66	$\chi^2 = 0.30$	19	23	58	$\chi^2 = 0.52$
Female	10	24	67	(.863)	18	24	58	(.770)
Education		(n = 1685)				(n = 1682)		
High school diploma or less	9	24	67		20	28	52	
Some college	10	24	66	$\chi^2 = 1.10$	17	26	58	$\chi^2 = 11.65*$
Bachelors or grad degree	9	25	66	(.894)	19	20	61	(.020)
Occupation		(n = 1225)				(n = 1222)		
Mgt, prof or education	11	25	64		18	22	60	
Sales or office support	8	30	62		23	32	45	
Constrn, inst or maint	4	26	70		16	32	51	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	8	21	70		23	18	60	
Agriculture	15	22	63		19	18	63	
Food serv/pers. care	5	30	65		21	26	54	
Hlthcare supp/safety	8	17	75	$\chi^2 = 23.95*$	13	16	71	$\chi^2 = 40.02*$
Other	10	23	68	(.046)	13	42	45	(.000)
Years Lived in Community		(n = 1607)				(n = 1604)		
Five years or less	7	19	73	$\chi^2 = 5.86$	14	22	64	$\chi^2 = 4.30$
More than five years	10	25	65	(.053)	19	24	57	(.116)

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

	I feel a great deal of personal responsibility to actively participate in making our community's leadership more effective.				*Community leaders would be more effective if they engaged more with residents through digital platforms in addition to traditional methods.*			
	Disagree	Neither	Agree	Significance	Disagree	Neither	Agree	Significance
				Percentages				
Total	21	46	34		15	35	50	
Community Size		(n = 1674)				(n = 1675)		
Less than 500	19	44	37		20	35	46	
500 - 999	19	41	40		20	32	48	
1,000 - 4,999	19	48	34		12	40	48	
5,000 - 9,999	24	48	28	$\chi^2 = 11.30$	17	30	54	$\chi^2 = 23.02*$
10,000 and up	22	47	31	(.185)	13	34	53	(.003)
Region		(n = 1736)				(n = 1731)		
Panhandle	20	51	29		26	28	46	
North Central	16	43	42		15	39	46	
South Central	22	45	34		14	33	53	
Northeast	23	44	33	$\chi^2 = 13.92$	13	39	49	$\chi^2 = 26.33*$
Southeast	18	50	31	(.084)	14	35	51	(.001)
Individual Attributes:								
Household Income Level		(n = 1601)				(n = 1603)		
Under $40,000	23	51	26		18	37	46	
$40,000 - $74,999	21	47	32		15	35	50	
$75,000 - $99,999	18	43	39	$\chi^2 = 19.52*$	15	31	54	$\chi^2 = 9.15$
$100,000 and over	21	41	38	(.003)	12	35	53	(.165)
Age		(n = 1742)				(n = 1739)		
19 - 29	23	37	40		15	22	64	
30 - 39	27	38	36		14	32	54	
40 - 49	21	45	35		13	39	48	
50 - 64	18	51	31	$\chi^2 = 34.58*$	15	38	46	$\chi^2 = 40.54*$
65 and older	18	54	29	(.000)	17	40	43	(.000)
Gender		(n = 1718)				(n = 1715)		
Male	21	43	36	$\chi^2 = 3.43$	18	35	48	$\chi^2 = 10.24*$
Female	20	48	32	(.180)	12	36	52	(.006)
Education		(n = 1684)				(n = 1682)		
High school diploma or less	20	58	23		15	42	42	
Some college	20	48	32	$\chi^2 = 27.03*$	17	35	48	$\chi^2 = 14.33*$
Bachelors or grad degree	21	41	38	(.000)	13	33	54	(.006)
Occupation		(n = 1226)				(n = 1224)		
Mgt, prof or education	22	38	40		12	34	54	
Sales or office support	28	48	24		16	34	51	
Constrn, inst or maint	13	49	38		9	42	49	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	21	52	26		14	26	60	
Agriculture	25	37	37		22	32	46	
Food serv/pers. care	17	44	39		25	40	35	
Hlthcare supp/safety	20	41	39	$\chi^2 = 28.06*$	8	36	56	$\chi^2 = 38.72*$
Other	30	47	23	(.014)	23	10	68	(.000)
Years Lived in Community		(n = 1606)				(n = 1608)		
Five years or less	17	51	33	$\chi^2 = 3.79$	15	26	59	$\chi^2 = 11.42*$
More than five years	21	45	34	(.151)	15	37	48	(.003)

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

	I am satisfied with the online presence of my community including websites, social media, blogs or any other digital platform.				*I would participate more in community issues if given an opportunity to participate through mobile apps, social media, blogs, websites or any other digital platform.*			
	Disagree	*Neither*	*Agree*	*Significance*	*Disagree*	*Neither*	*Agree*	*Significance*
				Percentages				
Total	21	47	32		29	40	30	
Community Size		(n = 1663)				(n = 1673)		
Less than 500	25	46	29		35	41	24	
500 - 999	23	50	27		35	41	24	
1,000 - 4,999	23	42	34		24	40	35	
5,000 - 9,999	24	44	33	$\chi^2 = 13.91$	30	43	27	$\chi^2 = 22.69*$
10,000 and up	17	49	34	(.084)	30	38	33	(.004)
Region		(n = 1725)				(n = 1735)		
Panhandle	33	46	22		32	35	33	
North Central	24	46	30		35	37	28	
South Central	19	48	34		28	40	32	
Northeast	19	50	32	$\chi^2 = 28.31*$	29	42	29	$\chi^2 = 8.97$
Southeast	21	41	38	(.000)	26	45	30	(.345)
Individual Attributes:								
Household Income Level		(n = 1596)				(n = 1603)		
Under $40,000	21	49	30		29	50	21	
$40,000 - $74,999	24	48	28		27	41	32	
$75,000 - $99,999	18	46	37	$\chi^2 = 11.65$	31	32	37	$\chi^2 = 33.20*$
$100,000 and over	22	43	35	(.070)	30	36	34	(.000)
Age		(n = 1732)				(n = 1743)		
19 - 29	25	38	37		27	33	40	
30 - 39	26	40	35		23	33	44	
40 - 49	22	47	31		29	35	35	
50 - 64	20	51	29	$\chi^2 = 26.22*$	30	46	24	$\chi^2 = 88.59*$
65 and older	16	53	31	(.001)	35	49	17	(.000)
Gender		(n = 1708)				(n = 1720)		
Male	21	46	33	$\chi^2 = 0.05$	35	40	26	$\chi^2 = 24.09*$
Female	21	46	32	(.975)	25	41	35	(.000)
Education		(n = 1677)				(n = 1687)		
High school diploma or less	20	58	22		27	52	21	
Some college	20	47	33	$\chi^2 = 20.89*$	30	41	29	$\chi^2 = 29.24*$
Bachelors or grad degree	23	43	35	(.000)	30	35	35	(.000)
Occupation		(n = 1223)				(n = 1229)		
Mgt, prof or education	22	39	39		30	35	35	
Sales or office support	26	40	34		21	43	36	
Constrn, inst or maint	20	55	25		28	44	28	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	16	58	27		29	37	34	
Agriculture	21	45	35		34	40	26	
Food serv/pers. care	20	63	17		24	46	29	
Hlthcare supp/safety	24	45	31	$\chi^2 = 26.92*$	22	36	42	$\chi^2 = 27.41*$
Other	19	45	36	(.020)	48	29	23	(.017)
Years Lived in Community		(n = 1597)				(n = 1608)		
Five years or less	23	43	34	$\chi^2 = 1.61$	25	35	40	$\chi^2 = 12.87*$
More than five years	21	48	31	(.447)	30	41	29	(.002)

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

Appendix Table 4. *Frequency of Social Interactions During a Typical Month in Last Year by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes*

	Discuss politics with family or friends					*Eat dinner with any of the other members of your household*				
	Basically every day	*At least a few times a month*	*Once a month or less*	*Not at all*	*Chi-square (sig.)*	*Basically every day*	*At least a few times a month*	*Once a month or less*	*Not at all*	*Chi-square (sig.)*
					Percentages					
Total	17	50	25	8		62	26	8	5	
Community Size		(n = 1684)					(n = 1659)			
Less than 500	20	49	23	9		57	29	9	5	
500 - 999	15	46	29	10		57	28	8	6	
1,000 - 4,999	16	52	24	8	$\chi^2 =$	66	26	6	2	$\chi^2 =$
5,000 - 9,999	18	56	21	5	9.50	61	26	5	8	21.27*
10,000 and up	16	51	26	8	(.660)	64	24	8	5	(.047)
Region		(n = 1746)					(n = 1720)			
Panhandle	16	49	27	8		63	26	8	4	
North Central	17	54	20	9		61	29	7	3	
South Central	15	51	26	9	$\chi^2 =$	64	26	6	5	$\chi^2 =$
Northeast	19	45	27	9	13.42	59	28	9	5	10.24
Southeast	16	56	21	7	(.339)	60	24	9	7	(.595)
Individual Attributes:										
Household Income Level		(n = 1606)					(n = 1589)			
Under $40,000	15	41	28	16		45	29	15	12	
$40,000 - $74,999	14	48	28	10	$\chi^2 =$	59	30	8	4	$\chi^2 =$
$75,000 - $99,999	22	52	22	4	92.77*	73	21	5	1	138.04*
$100,000 and over	16	63	20	1	(.000)	74	22	3	2	(.000)
Age		(n = 1755)					(n = 1731)			
19 - 29	18	38	36	8		72	20	7	2	
30 - 39	10	56	28	6		75	22	2	2	
40 - 49	16	57	21	7	$\chi^2 =$	72	20	4	4	$\chi^2 =$
50 - 64	19	54	22	6	69.61*	55	32	10	4	147.59*
65 and older	19	47	20	14	(.000)	42	35	13	10	(.000)
Gender		(n = 1730)			$\chi^2 =$		(n = 1709)			
Male	19	53	22	6	27.22*	60	26	8	6	$\chi^2 = 6.40$
Female	14	48	27	11	(.000)	63	26	7	4	(.094)
Education		(n = 1693)					(n = 1671)			
HS diploma or less	12	44	23	21	$\chi^2 =$	45	31	14	10	$\chi^2 =$
Some college	15	49	27	9	87.01*	60	29	8	4	78.41*
Bachelors or grad degree	19	55	23	4	(.000)	71	21	5	3	(.000)
Occupation		(n = 1230)					(n = 1222)			
Mgt, prof or education	18	54	24	5		76	18	5	2	
Sales or office support	18	53	24	5		65	24	5	5	
Constrn, inst or maint	21	53	22	4		64	31	4	2	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	19	49	23	9		61	23	9	7	
Agriculture	21	52	24	3		69	19	9	3	
Food serv/pers. care	13	43	25	20	$\chi^2 =$	69	18	10	3	$\chi^2 =$
Hlthcare supp/safety	10	53	30	7	36.16*	60	35	4	1	72.61*
Other	13	48	23	16	(.021)	45	29	26	0	(.000)
Years Lived in Community		(n = 1617)			$\chi^2 =$		(n = 1596)			$\chi^2 =$
Five years or less	17	41	29	13	13.78*	66	19	12	3	12.61*
More than five years	17	52	24	8	(.003)	63	26	7	5	(.006)

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

	Talk with any of your neighbors					Did you and your neighbors do favors for each other				
	Basically every day	At least a few times a month	Once a month or less	Not at all	Chi-square (sig.)	Basically every day	At least a few times a month	Once a month or less	Not at all	Chi-square (sig.)
					Percentages					
Total	14	66	17	4		7	45	33	15	
Community Size		(n = 1664)					(n = 1682)			
Less than 500	19	67	9	5		11	48	30	11	
500 - 999	16	65	18	2		5	50	36	8	
1,000 - 4,999	15	70	12	3	$\chi^2 =$	9	47	32	12	$\chi^2 =$
5,000 - 9,999	11	66	20	3	50.60*	5	41	36	17	42.14*
10,000 and up	10	63	23	4	(.000)	6	42	33	20	(.000)
Region		(n = 1728)					(n = 1746)			
Panhandle	13	64	18	4		8	42	37	13	
North Central	15	71	12	2		9	51	33	8	
South Central	11	67	18	4	$\chi^2 =$	5	45	33	17	$\chi^2 =$
Northeast	15	65	18	3	16.26	9	43	32	17	22.41*
Southeast	16	65	14	5	(.180)	7	47	30	15	(.033)
Individual Attributes:										
Household Income Level		(n = 1589)					(n = 1608)			
Under $40,000	20	57	16	7		9	44	27	20	
$40,000 - $74,999	10	66	20	4	$\chi^2 =$	6	42	33	19	$\chi^2 =$
$75,000 - $99,999	14	73	12	1	53.73*	8	51	35	6	42.39*
$100,000 and over	12	70	17	1	(.000)	7	45	36	12	(.000)
Age		(n = 1737)					(n = 1753)			
19 - 29	8	70	20	2		5	49	26	20	
30 - 39	12	65	21	2		7	45	29	19	
40 - 49	17	65	16	2	$\chi^2 =$	9	42	39	10	$\chi^2 =$
50 - 64	12	69	14	5	35.63*	6	45	37	12	37.94*
65 and older	17	63	15	6	(.000)	9	44	30	17	(.000)
Gender		(n = 1710)			$\chi^2 =$		(n = 1730)			
Male	13	70	15	3	8.27*	6	50	33	11	$\chi^2 = 32.8*$
Female	14	64	19	4	(.041)	9	41	32	19	(.000)
Education		(n = 1675)					(n = 1693)			
HS diploma or less	16	60	17	7	$\chi^2 =$	7	43	29	21	$\chi^2 =$
Some college	14	67	15	3	15.76*	8	43	34	15	14.21*
Bachelors or grad degree	12	67	18	2	(.015)	7	47	33	12	(.027)
Occupation		(n = 1223)					(n = 1230)			
Mgt, prof or education	11	71	15	3		5	46	38	11	
Sales or office support	11	69	18	3		8	44	26	22	
Constrn, inst or maint	15	70	11	4		4	52	32	12	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	14	62	20	5		9	38	39	14	
Agriculture	20	67	11	2		8	60	25	7	
Food serv/pers. care	16	71	11	3	$\chi^2 =$	10	51	18	21	$\chi^2 =$
Hlthcare supp/safety	10	60	26	3	40.29*	6	35	37	22	67.96*
Other	7	65	19	10	(.007)	3	42	26	29	(.000)
Years Lived in Community		(n = 1601)			$\chi^2 =$		(n = 1616)			$\chi^2 =$
Five years or less	13	68	17	2	1.18	7	48	30	15	1.75
More than five years	14	66	17	4	(.757)	7	44	34	15	(.625)

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

	Use the Internet to express your opinions about political or community issues					See or hear from friends or family you don't live with using social media				
	Basically every day	At least a few times a month	Once a month or less	Not at all	Chi-square (sig.)	Basically every day	At least a few times a month	Once a month or less	Not at all	Chi-square (sig.)
					Percentages					
Total	4	15	22	59		34	40	10	16	
Community Size		(n = 1672)					(n = 1649)			
Less than 500	4	15	19	62		32	41	6	21	
500 - 999	3	14	19	64		34	44	9	13	
1,000 - 4,999	5	17	21	58	$\chi^2 =$	38	39	10	12	$\chi^2 =$
5,000 - 9,999	3	18	25	54	18.98	29	42	11	18	19.31
10,000 and up	5	11	25	59	(.089)	34	40	10	16	(.081)
Region		(n = 1738)					(n = 1710)			
Panhandle	2	14	25	59		37	38	12	14	
North Central	4	19	20	57		30	44	4	21	
South Central	4	14	24	58	$\chi^2 =$	32	44	9	15	$\chi^2 =$
Northeast	5	13	19	63	13.19	36	36	11	17	20.09
Southeast	5	16	21	58	(.355)	35	39	11	15	(.065)
Individual Attributes:										
Household Income Level		(n = 1601)					(n = 1584)			
Under $40,000	2	16	25	57		29	33	12	27	
$40,000 - $74,999	5	10	22	63	$\chi^2 =$	37	39	9	15	$\chi^2 =$
$75,000 - $99,999	6	16	26	51	27.83*	38	47	8	8	70.12*
$100,000 and over	4	17	19	61	(.001)	32	48	8	11	(.000)
Age		(n = 1746)					(n = 1717)			
19 - 29	5	10	25	61		48	36	15	2	
30 - 39	2	16	27	56		40	42	9	9	
40 - 49	4	19	25	53	$\chi^2 =$	37	41	7	15	$\chi^2 =$
50 - 64	5	16	23	56	44.45*	28	43	10	20	136.76*
65 and older	5	13	14	69	(.000)	23	39	8	29	(.000)
Gender		(n = 1720)			$\chi^2 =$		(n = 1692)			
Male	6	15	22	57	5.85	25	41	13	20	$\chi^2 = 68.4*$
Female	3	14	22	61	(.119)	41	40	6	13	(.000)
Education		(n = 1685)					(n = 1660)			
HS diploma or less	2	11	16	72	$\chi^2 =$	23	34	10	33	$\chi^2 =$
Some college	5	16	24	56	24.19*	39	37	10	14	87.45*
Bachelors or grad degree	4	14	23	59	(.000)	33	47	8	12	(.000)
Occupation		(n = 1232)					(n = 1220)			
Mgt, prof or education	5	14	21	60		39	45	9	7	
Sales or office support	5	16	20	60		38	45	10	8	
Constrn, inst or maint	5	16	30	50		33	30	13	25	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	8	17	17	57		24	49	5	22	
Agriculture	4	20	26	50		37	42	9	12	
Food serv/pers. care	5	12	29	54	$\chi^2 =$	42	39	10	10	$\chi^2 =$
Hlthcare supp/safety	2	11	25	62	28.71	37	41	11	11	48.96*
Other	6	22	38	34	(.121)	40	43	3	13	(.001)
Years Lived in Community		(n = 1610)			$\chi^2 =$		(n = 1589)			$\chi^2 =$
Five years or less	4	11	23	61	1.99	36	43	9	13	2.49
More than five years	4	15	22	59	(.575)	34	40	10	16	(.477)

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

	See or hear from friends or family you don't live with by texting					See or hear from friends or family you don't live with by phone				
	Basically every day	At least a few times a month	Once a month or less	Not at all	Chi-square (sig.)	Basically every day	At least a few times a month	Once a month or less	Not at all	Chi-square (sig.)
					Percentages					
Total	38	45	8	9		26	56	15	3	
Community Size		(n = 1656)					(n = 1681)			
Less than 500	31	49	7	14		23	57	15	5	
500 - 999	41	47	4	9		31	54	12	3	
1,000 - 4,999	37	47	9	8	$\chi^2 =$	27	59	13	1	$\chi^2 =$
5,000 - 9,999	37	47	6	10	23.03*	26	55	15	5	18.68
10,000 and up	41	42	9	8	(.027)	24	55	16	4	(.097)
Region		(n = 1716)					(n = 1745)			
Panhandle	44	36	11	9		30	53	16	2	
North Central	36	49	4	11		21	64	11	4	
South Central	38	46	8	9	$\chi^2 =$	27	53	16	4	$\chi^2 =$
Northeast	39	43	9	9	21.00	27	53	17	4	20.88
Southeast	35	49	5	11	(.050)	24	63	10	3	(.052)
Individual Attributes:										
Household Income Level		(n = 1585)					(n = 1606)			
Under $40,000	31	37	9	23		23	57	12	7	
$40,000 - $74,999	40	44	8	8	$\chi^2 =$	31	47	19	3	$\chi^2 =$
$75,000 - $99,999	40	50	6	4	134.22*	20	69	10	1	68.13*
$100,000 and over	40	51	8	1	(.000)	22	60	16	2	(.000)
Age		(n = 1723)					(n = 1752)			
19 - 29	48	41	10	2		36	41	21	2	
30 - 39	45	48	6	2		28	53	15	4	
40 - 49	43	46	8	3	$\chi^2 =$	24	59	15	2	$\chi^2 =$
50 - 64	35	50	7	8	258.62*	25	60	12	4	52.17*
65 and older	23	39	8	29	(.000)	21	62	12	5	(.000)
Gender		(n = 1697)			$\chi^2 =$		(n = 1729)			
Male	29	52	9	10	53.22*	19	61	17	3	$\chi^2 = 43.7*$
Female	46	40	6	8	(.000)	32	52	12	4	(.000)
Education		(n = 1665)					(n = 1692)			
HS diploma or less	28	38	10	24	$\chi^2 =$	25	55	14	6	$\chi^2 =$
Some college	42	43	7	8	95.53*	29	53	14	4	18.09*
Bachelors or grad degree	37	50	8	5	(.000)	22	60	16	2	(.006)
Occupation		(n = 1227)					(n = 1231)			
Mgt, prof or education	40	50	9	2		23	59	16	2	
Sales or office support	48	46	4	2		28	54	16	2	
Constrn, inst or maint	27	57	7	9		18	61	19	2	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	35	48	5	12		20	63	13	5	
Agriculture	39	50	8	4		31	50	17	2	
Food serv/pers. care	49	27	12	12	$\chi^2 =$	27	51	20	2	$\chi^2 =$
Hlthcare supp/safety	47	44	7	2	68.37*	34	53	10	2	32.92*
Other	32	52	3	13	(.000)	36	45	10	10	(.047)
Years Lived in Community		(n = 1592)			$\chi^2 =$		(n = 1615)			$\chi^2 =$
Five years or less	44	44	8	4	8.08*	31	55	11	3	7.07
More than five years	37	45	8	9	(.044)	25	57	16	3	(.070)

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

Appendix Table 4 continued.

| | See or hear from friends or family you don't live with in person | | | | |
	Basically every day	At least a few times a month	Once a month or less	Not at all	Chi-square (sig.)
	Percentages				
Total	17	56	24	3	
Community Size		(n = 1677)			
Less than 500	15	57	23	6	
500 - 999	18	56	25	2	
1,000 - 4,999	14	62	23	2	$\chi^2 =$
5,000 - 9,999	19	54	24	3	21.47*
10,000 and up	18	52	27	3	(.044)
Region		(n = 1739)			
Panhandle	19	51	29	2	
North Central	18	56	22	4	
South Central	16	58	23	3	$\chi^2 =$
Northeast	16	55	27	3	8.24
Southeast	17	58	22	3	(.766)
Individual Attributes:					
Household Income Level		(n = 1601)			
Under $40,000	17	55	19	9	
$40,000 - $74,999	19	50	29	2	$\chi^2 =$
$75,000 - $99,999	13	68	19	0.3	84.06*
$100,000 and over	14	56	29	1	(.000)
Age		(n = 1746)			
19 - 29	21	51	26	2	
30 - 39	17	57	25	1	
40 - 49	20	48	29	3	$\chi^2 =$
50 - 64	14	62	22	2	47.65*
65 and older	13	61	21	6	(.000)
Gender		(n = 1724)			$\chi^2 =$
Male	14	57	26	3	7.26
Female	18	56	23	3	(.064)
Education		(n = 1687)			
HS diploma or less	13	56	23	7	$\chi^2 =$
Some college	20	56	22	3	41.13*
Bachelors or grad degree	13	57	28	2	(.000)
Occupation		(n = 1229)			
Mgt, prof or education	15	54	30	1	
Sales or office support	12	60	26	2	
Constrn, inst or maint	13	66	19	2	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	14	61	22	4	
Agriculture	20	58	21	2	
Food serv/pers. care	20	63	15	3	$\chi^2 =$
Hlthcare supp/safety	22	58	18	2	42.91*
Other	19	26	52	3	(.003)
Years Lived in Community		(n = 1611)			$\chi^2 =$
Five years or less	11	60	26	4	6.54
More than five years	17	55	25	3	(.088)

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

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