

**City of Ramsey**  
**Agenda**  
**City Council Work Session**  
**Tuesday, September 22, 2020**

**5:30 pm**

**Lake Itasca Room, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW**

Remote Attendance available at [www.cityoframsey.com/meetings](http://www.cityoframsey.com/meetings). To maximize social distancing due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, those that can join remotely are encouraged to do so.

Those joining remotely and requesting to speak are asked to use a webcam when speaking.

**Meeting by telephone or other electronic means in accordance with Minnesota Statute 13D.02**

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Topics for Discussion**
  1. Review Draft Letter to Utility Customers
  2. Discussion Regarding Executive Order 20-81 - Face Mask Mandate
  3. Discuss Council Committee Appointments due to the Ward 1 Vacancy.
  4. Discuss 2020 Citizen Survey
- 3. Topics for Future Discussion**
  1. Review Future Topics/Calendar
- 4. Mayor/Council/Staff Input**
- 5. Adjournment**

**CC Work Session**

2. 1.

**Meeting Date:** 09/22/2020

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**Information**

**Title:**

Review Draft Letter to Utility Customers

**Purpose/Background:**

Review a draft of the proposed letter from the City to utility customers about the adopted franchise fee and provide feedback.

**Timeframe:**

Up to 10 minutes.

**Funding Source:**

N/A

**Responsible Party(ies):**

Kurt Ulrich, City Administrator

**Outcome:**

Based on discussion.

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**Attachments**

utility letter

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**Form Review**

<b>Inbox</b>	<b>Reviewed By</b>	<b>Date</b>
Diana Lund	Diana Lund	09/17/2020 12:01 PM
Kurt Ulrich	Kurt Ulrich	09/17/2020 03:12 PM
Form Started By: Colleen Lasher		Started On: 08/31/2020 01:54 PM
Final Approval Date: 09/17/2020		

October 2020

Ramsey Utility Customers:

The City of Ramsey adopted ordinances #20-11, #20-12 and #20-13 implementing a franchise fee on gas and electric utility customers. The City of Ramsey can legally impose a franchise fee on gas and electric utilities that provide service within their city limits.

What this means is that effective October 2020, customers of Centerpoint Energy, Connexus Energy and City of Anoka Electric will begin to see a line item on their monthly utility bills that states "City of Ramsey Franchise Fee". Charges per month are as such:

**Electric Utility – City of Anoka & Connexus Energy**

<u>Customer Classification</u>	<u>Amount per Account per Month (\$)</u>
Residential	\$ 7
Small Commercial/Industrial – Non-Demand	\$ 10
Small Commercial/Industrial – Demand	\$ 45
Large Commercial/Industrial/Institutional	\$210

**Gas Utility – Centerpoint Energy**

<u>Customer Classification</u>	<u>Amount per Account per Month (\$)</u>
Residential	\$ 7
Commercial/Industrial A (Up to 1,500 Therms)	\$ 10
Commercial/Industrial B (1,500-4,999 Therms)	\$ 20
Commercial/Industrial C (5,000 + Therms)	\$ 70
Small Volume, Dual Fuel A,B	\$148
Large Volume, Dual Fuel ("LVDF")	\$800

The City implemented the franchise fee, and the revenue generated from the franchise fee will be used solely to fund road reconstruction and overlay projects, as outlined in the City's Pavement Management Program. The collection of this fee will eliminate the need to levy special assessments to benefitting properties, and will eliminate the need to increase property taxes for road improvements.

For those properties that were levied a special assessment for Pavement Management projects beginning in year 2015, they will be eligible for a "Rebate". The rebate will be the lesser of the special assessment paid for the respective year or the annual franchise fee amount. The City will annually notify eligible parties of the rebate program. Please contact the city at 763-427-1410 or [www.cityoframsey.com](http://www.cityoframsey.com) with any questions concerning the franchise fee. The city will work with customers to resolve any billing issues or incorrect charges.

Meeting Date: 09/22/2020

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### Information

**Title:**

Discussion Regarding Executive Order 20-81 - Face Mask Mandate

**Purpose/Background:**

The purpose of this case is to review the City's response to Executive Order 20-81 in regard to wearing face masks at governmental meetings.

Based upon feedback from city commission members, staff reviewed our current practice of allowing audience members, staff and board members to remove masks when seated. Given this concern, staff reviewed this matter with the City Attorney. The City Attorney will be present at the work session meeting to answer questions in regard to the face mask mandate under the Governor's Executive Order 20-81.

Our City Attorney has conveyed that the mask requirement has been interpreted differently based upon the City, and the language in the Executive Order might allow some room for interpretation. However, he noted that language clearly states that participants are to remove face masks only while actually "testifying, speaking, or performing." This specific language may allow Council members to not wear a mask when at the dais prepared to speak. See specific language from Executive Order 20-81 below:

*Circumstances where mandatory face coverings may be temporarily removed. Face coverings required under Paragraph 9 of this Executive Order may be temporarily removed under the following circumstances:*

...  
*10.c. When testifying, speaking, or performing in an indoor business or public indoor space, in situations or settings such as theaters, news conferences, legal proceedings, governmental meetings subject to the Open Meeting Law (Minnesota Statutes 2019, Chapter 13D), presentations, or lectures, provided that social distancing is always maintained. Face shields should be considered as an alternative in these situations.*

Staff is asking board and commission to consider these precautions during meetings. Staff will include a statement prior to each board or commission meeting that masks are required for the audience and that remote attendance options are available for the public. Masks will be available for the public.

In addition, temporary Plexiglas barriers will be placed between each commissioner in order to provide an enclosed work area at the dais. (Note: during non-meeting hours the Plexiglas barriers are used for absentee voting). Further enclosing the Council's "work area" provides an additional safety measure, plus rationale to allow removal of the masks.

Remote attendance by board members is another option. Under the Governor's current emergency declaration, the Attorney has confirmed that any meeting can be attended remotely, provided that the remote attendance is declared with a posting, 72 hours in advance. If a board member desires to attend, the City would need to declare that in-person attendance is not practical nor prudent due to the current pandemic and cite the applicable statute.

**Timeframe:**

**Funding Source:**

**Responsible Party(ies):**

Kurt Ulrich, City Administrator

**Outcome:**

Based upon discussion.

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**Attachments**

EO 20-81

Planning Vice Chair Email to State of MN

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**Form Review**

**Inbox**

Kurt Ulrich

Form Started By: Colleen Lasher

Final Approval Date: 09/17/2020

**Reviewed By**

Kurt Ulrich

**Date**

09/17/2020 04:33 PM

Started On: 09/15/2020 11:25 AM

# STATE OF MINNESOTA

Executive Department



## Governor Tim Walz

### Emergency Executive Order 20-81

#### **Requiring Minnesotans to Wear a Face Covering in Certain Settings to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19**

**I, Tim Walz, Governor of the State of Minnesota**, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and applicable statutes, issue the following Executive Order:

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to present an unprecedented and rapidly evolving challenge to our State. Since the World Health Organization characterized the COVID-19 outbreak as a pandemic on March 11, 2020, confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Minnesota have rapidly increased. On March 15, 2020, Minnesota detected the first confirmed cases caused by “community spread”—infections not epidemiologically linked to overseas travel. By March 17, 2020, all fifty states had reported a confirmed case of COVID-19, and on March 21, 2020, the Minnesota Department of Health (“MDH”) announced the first confirmed fatality due to COVID-19 in Minnesota.

The President declared a national emergency related to COVID-19 on March 13, 2020. Since then, and for the first time in history, the President has approved major disaster declarations for all fifty states and the District of Columbia. In concert with these federal actions and the actions of states across the nation, Minnesota has taken proactive steps to ensure that we remain ahead of the curve. On March 13, 2020, I issued Executive Order 20-01 and declared a peacetime emergency because this pandemic, an act of nature, endangers the lives of Minnesotans, and local resources were—and continue to be—inadequate to address the threat. After notifying the Legislature, on April 13, 2020, May 13, 2020, June 12, 2020, and July 13, 2020, I issued Executive Orders extending the peacetime emergency declared in Executive Order 20-01.

The need to slow the spread of the virus while we ensured that Minnesota had the resources and capacity to address a large outbreak initially required the closure of certain non-critical businesses in our economy. In Executive Order 20-33, seeking to balance public health needs and economic considerations, we began planning to allow more Minnesota workers to safely return to work. We drafted and implemented guidelines and requirements for appropriate social distancing, hygiene, and public health best practices. Executive Order 20-38 expanded exemptions for outdoor recreational activities and facilities, and Executive Orders 20-40, 20-48,

20-56, 20-63, and 20-74 allowed for the gradual reopening of certain non-critical businesses that planned for and provided safe workplaces.

The experience of other states shows that a COVID-19 surge can occur with little warning and disastrous consequences. Indeed, several states have had to reinstate limitations on businesses, gatherings, and activities as they have faced summer surges in COVID-19 cases. Although Minnesota had experienced a brief period of stable or decreasing numbers in COVID-19 cases, in the past week we have seen our cases begin to increase, with the largest single-day increase in cases in seven weeks reported on July 20, 2020. As such, we must continue to approach our reopening carefully, as the number of cases throughout the United States has increased rapidly in recent weeks. To that end, we know that certain public settings and establishments continue to pose a public health risk. In particular, the opportunities for COVID-19 transmission are elevated in confined indoor spaces, health care and congregate care facilities, settings where people gather and linger or where movement is unpredictable, and places where social distancing measures are not always possible. As we carefully consider and provide opportunities for a variety of businesses and other venues to scale up their operations, safety in these settings is a key priority.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”), face coverings are effective in preventing the transmission of respiratory droplets that may spread COVID-19. Recognizing the utility of face coverings to prevent wearers who are asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic, the Federal Occupational Health and Safety Administration recommends that employers encourage workers to wear face coverings at work.

Ideally, face coverings should be worn in combination with other infection control measures, including social distancing, but face coverings are especially important in settings where social distancing is difficult to maintain. As the CDC has explained, face coverings are most effective when they are worn by all individuals in public settings when around others outside of their households because many people infected with COVID-19 do not show symptoms. Consistent with this guidance, Minnesota has strongly recommended widespread use of face coverings since April. An increasing number of states are now mandating face coverings in certain settings to control the spread of COVID-19. As of July 17, 2020, 28 states, Washington D.C., and Puerto Rico have implemented a face covering requirement. With this order, we do the same to protect Minnesota.

In Minnesota Statutes 2019, section 12.02, the Minnesota Legislature conferred upon the Governor emergency powers to “(1) ensure that preparations of this state will be adequate to deal with disasters, (2) generally protect the public peace, health, and safety, and (3) preserve the lives and property of the people of the state.” Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 2019, section 12.21, subdivision 1, the Governor has general authority to control the state’s emergency management as well as carry out the provisions of Minnesota’s Emergency Management Act.

Minnesota Statutes 2019, section 12.21, subdivision 3(7), authorizes the Governor to cooperate with federal and state agencies in “matters pertaining to the emergency management of the state and nation.” This includes “the direction or control of . . . the conduct of persons in the state, including entrance or exit from any stricken or threatened public place, occupancy of facilities, and . . . public meetings or gatherings.” Pursuant to subdivision 3 of that same section, the Governor may “make, amend, and rescind the necessary orders and rules to carry out the

provisions” of Minnesota Statutes 2019, Chapter 12. When approved by the Executive Council and filed in the Office of the Secretary of State, such orders and rules have the force and effect of law during the peacetime emergency. Any inconsistent rules or ordinances of any agency or political subdivision of the state are suspended during the pendency of the emergency.

For these reasons, I order as follows:

1. Paragraph 3 of Executive Order 20-74 is rescinded as of Friday, July 24, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. All other provisions of Executive Order 20-74 remain in effect.
2. Beginning on Friday, July 24, 2020 at 11:59 p.m., Minnesotans must wear a face covering in indoor businesses and indoor public settings, as described in this order and the related industry guidance, available at the Stay Safe Minnesota website (<https://staysafe.mn.gov>), as well as any other guidance referenced in this order. Workers must also wear face coverings outdoors when it is not possible to maintain social distancing. When leaving home, Minnesotans are strongly encouraged to have a face covering with them at all times to be prepared to comply with the requirements of this Executive Order.
3. **Definitions.** For purposes of this Executive Order, the following terms are defined as follows:
  - a. A “face covering” must be worn to cover the nose and mouth completely, and can include a paper or disposable face mask, a cloth face mask, a scarf, a bandanna, a neck gaiter, or a religious face covering. Minnesotans are encouraged to refer to CDC guidance on *How to Make Cloth Face Coverings*, available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-to-make-cloth-face-covering.html>. Medical-grade masks and respirators are sufficient face coverings, but to preserve adequate supplies, their purchase and use is discouraged for Minnesotans who do not work in a health care setting or in other occupations that require medical-grade protective equipment (*e.g.*, certain construction occupations). Masks that incorporate a valve designed to facilitate easy exhaling, mesh masks, or masks with openings, holes, visible gaps in the design or material, or vents are **not** sufficient face coverings because they allow exhaled droplets to be released into the air.
  - b. “Business” and “businesses” are broadly defined to include entities that employ or engage workers, including private-sector entities, public-sector entities, non-profit entities, and state, county, and local governments.
  - c. “Worker” and “workers” are broadly defined to include owners, proprietors, employees, contractors, vendors, volunteers, and interns.
  - d. “Social distancing” means individuals keeping at least 6 feet of distance from other individuals who are not members of their household.
  - e. “Household” means a group of individuals who share the same living unit.

- f. “Living unit” or “living units” are broadly defined to include single family homes; mobile homes; shelters and similar facilities; family foster care homes; individual units of multi-unit dwellings; hotel or motel rooms; dormitory rooms; residential programs licensed under Minnesota Statutes 2019, Chapter 245D; and assigned units or rooms in a hospital, long-term care facility, residential treatment facility, or correctional facility. Additionally, a “living unit” or “living units” includes any other setting used as a residence and shared only with members of the same household.
  - g. “Higher education institution” means all post-secondary institutions, including but not limited to institutions licensed and registered with the Office of Higher Education, with a physical campus in the State.
- 4. **Federal activities.** Nothing in this Executive Order will be construed to limit, prohibit, or restrict in any way the operations of the federal government or the movement of federal officials in Minnesota while acting in their official capacity, including federal judicial, legislative, and executive staff and personnel.
- 5. **Legislative proceedings.** This Executive Order does not apply to Legislative proceedings and meetings.
- 6. **Judicial Branch.** This Executive Order does not apply to the Minnesota Judicial Branch. Requirements for face coverings in judicial branch facilities and at proceedings held by the judicial branch are subject to policies or orders of the Chief Justice.
- 7. **Tribal activities and lands.**
  - a. Activities by tribal members within the boundaries of their tribal reservations are exempt from the restrictions in this Executive Order but may be subject to restrictions by tribal authorities.
  - b. Activities within the boundaries of federal land held in trust for one of the 11 Minnesota Tribal Nations are exempt from the restrictions in this Executive Order but may be subject to restrictions by tribal authorities.
- 8. **Exempt individuals.** The following individuals are exempt from face covering requirements of this Executive Order:
  - a. Individuals with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that makes it unreasonable for the individual to maintain a face covering. This includes, but is not limited to, individuals who have a medical condition that compromises their ability to breathe, and individuals who are unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face covering without assistance. These individuals should consider using alternatives to face coverings, including clear face shields, and staying at home as much as possible.

- b. Children who are five years old and under. Those who are under two-years-old should never wear a face covering due to the risk of suffocation. Those who are at least two are encouraged to wear a face covering if they can do so in compliance with CDC guidance on *How to Wear Cloth Face Coverings*, available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-to-wear-cloth-face-coverings.html> (*i.e.*, without frequently touching or removing the covering).
  - c. Individuals at their workplace when wearing a face covering would create a job hazard for the individual or others, as determined by local, state or federal regulators or workplace safety and health standards and guidelines.
9. **Situations where face coverings are mandatory.** Except for individuals who are exempt under paragraph 8 of this Executive Order, and except for the circumstances described in paragraphs 10 through 12, Minnesotans are required to wear a face covering:
- a. In an indoor business or public indoor space, including when waiting outdoors to enter an indoor business or public indoor space.
    - i. This requirement does not apply in living units except that (1) workers entering another person’s living unit for a business purpose are required to wear a face covering when doing so; and (2) visitors, patients, residents, or inmates of hospitals, shelters or drop-in centers, long-term care facilities, residential treatment facilities, residential programs licensed under Minnesota Statutes 2019, Chapter 245D, or correctional facilities must wear a face covering even when in a living unit if required by the facility.
    - ii. This requirement also does not apply in a private vehicle that is being used for private purposes.
  - b. When riding on public transportation, in a taxi, in a ride-sharing vehicle, or in a vehicle that is being used for business purposes.
  - c. In any other business, venue, or public space which has opted to require a face covering when it would not otherwise be required by this Executive Order.
  - d. For workers only, when working outdoors in situations where social distancing cannot be maintained.
  - e. When applicable industry guidance, available on the Stay Safe Minnesota website (<https://staysafe.mn.gov>) specifically requires face coverings. In some instances, face shields may be required in addition to or instead of face coverings or may be allowed as an alternative to face coverings.

**10. Circumstances where mandatory face coverings may be temporarily removed.**

Face coverings required under Paragraph 9 of this Executive Order may be temporarily removed under the following circumstances:

- a. When participating in organized sports in an indoor business or indoor public space while the level of exertion makes it difficult to wear a face covering.
- b. When exercising in an indoor business or public indoor space such as a gym or fitness center, while the level of exertion makes it difficult to wear a face covering, provided that social distancing is always maintained.
- c. When testifying, speaking, or performing in an indoor business or public indoor space, in situations or settings such as theaters, news conferences, legal proceedings, governmental meetings subject to the Open Meeting Law (Minnesota Statutes 2019, Chapter 13D), presentations, or lectures, provided that social distancing is always maintained. Face shields should be considered as an alternative in these situations.
- d. During practices or performances in an indoor business or indoor public space when a face covering cannot be used while playing a musical instrument, provided that social distancing is always maintained.
- e. During activities, such as swimming or showering, where the face covering will get wet.
- f. When eating or drinking in an indoor business or indoor public space, provided that at least 6 feet of physical distance is maintained between persons who are not members of the same party.
- g. When asked to remove a face covering to verify an identity for lawful purposes.
- h. While communicating with an individual who is deaf or hard of hearing or has a disability, medical condition, or mental health condition that makes communication with that individual while wearing a face covering difficult, provided that social distancing is maintained to the extent possible between persons who are not members of the same household.
- i. While receiving a service—including a dental examination or procedure, medical examination or procedure, or personal care service—that cannot be performed or would be difficult to perform when the individual receiving the service is wearing a face covering. Workers performing services for an individual who is allowed to temporarily remove their face covering under this provision must comply with face covering requirements in the applicable industry guidance, available at the Stay Safe Minnesota website (<https://staysafe.mn.gov>).

- j. When an individual is alone, including when alone in an office, a room, a cubicle with walls that are higher than face level when social distancing is maintained, a vehicle, or the cab of heavy equipment or machinery, or an enclosed work area. In such situations, the individual should still carry a face covering to be prepared for person-to-person interactions and to be used when no longer alone.
- k. When a public safety worker is actively engaged in a public safety role, including but not limited to law enforcement, firefighters, or emergency medical personnel, in situations where wearing a face covering would seriously interfere in the performance of their public safety responsibilities.

**11. Situations where face coverings are strongly encouraged.** I strongly encourage Minnesotans to wear face coverings in the following situations:

- a. During indoor or outdoor private social gatherings (*e.g.*, when visiting at a private home with friends or relatives who do not reside in the same household), particularly in settings where it is difficult or impossible to maintain social distancing.
- b. When riding in a private vehicle with a person or persons who do not reside in the same household.
- c. Inside your home, if you are infected with COVID-19 or experiencing COVID-19 symptoms and reside with others who could be infected.
- d. When participating as an athlete in indoor or outdoor organized sporting events, to the extent possible, where social distancing is not being maintained.
- e. Except for workers required to wear face coverings under paragraph 9.d, in any outdoor business or public outdoor space when it is not possible to consistently maintain social distancing, such as when entering or exiting a business, being seated, moving around in a space with others present, using the restroom, ordering food, or waiting in line.

**12. Child care, preschool, kindergarten through grade 12 schools, and higher education institutions.** Child care settings and educational institutions have unique needs that do not always permit universal face coverings when indoors. Child care and schools also require additional flexibility surrounding the use of face shields, which increase visibility of facial expressions and lip movements to aid in speech perception and child development and learning. To provide for an effective developmental and educational environment, and to ensure safety for workers, students, and children, these businesses and institutions must comply with the following specific requirements on the use of face coverings and face shields. These specific requirements and recommendations apply only within the premises of the child care settings, preschool, kindergarten through grade 12 schools, and higher education institutions discussed in this paragraph 12. These specific requirements do not apply when school, child care, or higher education buildings are used for purposes

other than child care, preschool, kindergarten through grade 12 education, or higher education—in which case, they should be treated like any other indoor public space or indoor business for purposes of this Executive Order.

- a. **Child care, preschool, and pre-kindergarten.** Child care settings—defined as family and group day care homes (licensed under Minnesota Rules 2019, Chapter 9502); child care centers (licensed under Minnesota Rules 2019, Chapter 9503); certified centers (certified under Minnesota Statutes 2019, Chapter 245H); legal nonlicensed child care providers (defined under Minnesota Statutes 2019, section 119B.011, subdivision 16); certain license-exempt Head Start, public and private school programs (defined under Minnesota Statutes 2019, section 245A.03, subdivision 2(a)(5), (13), and (26)); and other Head Start, preschool and pre-kindergarten programs—serving children five-years-old and under are required to comply with face covering and face shield guidance available at <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/masks.html>.

Basic requirements for these settings are detailed below, but child care providers must consult the guidance for the full list of face covering and face shield requirements, recommendations, and exceptions. These requirements, recommendations, and exceptions should be clearly documented in COVID-19 Preparedness Plans and made available to families and staff.

- i. **Children five and under exempt.** Children five years old and under are not required to wear a face shield or face covering, and children under two should never wear a face covering due to the risk of suffocation. A child between the ages of two and five who can reliably wear a face covering or face shield in compliance with CDC guidance on *How to Wear Cloth Face Coverings* (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-to-wear-cloth-face-coverings.html>) (*i.e.*, without frequently touching or removing the covering) may do so, except that children who are sleeping, unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face covering or face shield without assistance or who cannot tolerate a shield or covering due to a developmental, medical, or behavioral health condition should not wear a face covering or face shield.
- ii. **Workers exempt.** Workers meeting exemption criteria described in paragraph 8 of this Executive Order should not wear a face covering and should wear a face shield only if able to do so safely.
- iii. **Groupings.** To reduce the risk of exposure, child care settings should maintain consistent groups or cohorts of children and related workers and should take steps to avoid intermixing groups or cohorts of children and workers to the extent possible.

- iv. **Communal space.** Unless exempt, workers and children must wear a face covering or face shield in all indoor communal areas where groups intermix (*e.g.*, center or building hallways, lobbies, restrooms, breakrooms, etc.).
  - A. Non-exempt workers and children who are required to wear a face covering or shield may remove the covering or shield temporarily to engage in certain activities that make wearing a face shield difficult or impracticable (*e.g.*, when eating or drinking; when communicating with an individual who is deaf or hard of hearing or has a disability, medical condition, or mental health condition that makes communication with that individual while wearing a face covering difficult; when participating in certain physical activities or playing certain instruments, or when performing or presenting; during activities, such as swimming, where the face covering will get wet; or when receiving a service, such as nursing or medical service, that would be difficult or impossible to perform with a face covering), provided that social distancing is maintained to the extent possible.
  - B. Face coverings or face shields are strongly recommended outdoors for non-exempt workers and children when it is difficult or not possible to maintain social distancing.
- v. **Classrooms and in-home care.** A child care setting may allow non-exempt staff and workers to remove face coverings or face shields when in an indoor classroom or care setting (including family child care and in-home care providers) that is confined to one group or cohort. Non-exempt workers and children are strongly encouraged to wear coverings or shields in these settings to the extent possible, especially when social distancing cannot be maintained, unless wearing a covering or shield would interfere with child development.
- vi. **Optional exemption for children.** If a child care provider cares for children who are five and under, but also cares for children older than five, the business can exempt children older than five from face covering and face shield requirements only if the exemption is clearly communicated in writing with all enrolled families and included in the business's COVID-19 Preparedness Plan.
- vii. **More protective face covering policies permitted.** Nothing in this Executive Order should be construed as preventing a child care setting from developing a face covering policy that imposes more protective requirements, consistent with applicable law, than those in this Executive Order or applicable industry guidance.

- b. **Kindergarten through grade 12 schools.** Kindergarten through grade 12 schools must comply with face covering and face shield guidance available at <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/k12planguide.pdf>. The basic requirements for these settings are detailed below, but these schools must consult the guidance for the full list of face covering and face shield requirements, recommendations, and exceptions.
- i. In general, unless the individual is exempt under paragraph 8.a or .c of this Executive Order or is under the age of two, all students, staff, and other persons present indoors in school buildings and district offices or riding on school transportation vehicles are required to wear a face covering. This paragraph 12.b does not apply to child care, pre-kindergarten or preschool programs on school premises, which are subject to the requirements of paragraph 12.a.
  - ii. Face shields may be used as an alternative to face coverings in the following situations:
    - A. For students who are unable to tolerate a face covering due to a developmental, behavioral, or medical condition.
    - B. For teachers of all grades when a face covering would impede the educational process.
    - C. For staff providing direct support student services when a face covering would interfere with the services provided.
    - D. For students in kindergarten through grade 8 when wearing a face covering is otherwise problematic for the student.
  - iii. Staff may remove face coverings when working alone, including when alone in an office, classroom, vehicle, cubicle with walls at least face level when social distancing is maintained, or other enclosed work area.
  - iv. In addition, staff, students, and other persons present indoors in a school building or district office may temporarily remove face coverings in the following situations, provided that social distancing is maintained to the extent possible:
    - A. When engaged in physical activity (*e.g.*, during recess or physical education) or sporting events where the level of exertion makes wearing a face covering difficult or impracticable.
    - B. When eating or drinking.

- C. During practices or performances involving singing, acting, public speaking, or playing musical instruments that make wearing a face covering difficult or impracticable.
  - D. In response to requests to verify an identity for lawful purposes.
  - E. When communicating with an individual who is deaf or hard of hearing or has a disability, medical condition, or mental health condition that makes communication with that individual while wearing a face covering difficult.
  - F. During activities, such as swimming or showering, where the face covering will get wet.
  - G. While receiving a service—including nursing, medical, or personal care services—that cannot be performed or would be difficult to perform when the individual receiving the service is wearing a face covering. Workers performing a service for an individual who is allowed to temporarily remove their face covering under this provision must comply with the face covering requirements in the applicable Industry Guidance, available at the Stay Safe Minnesota website (<https://staysafe.mn.gov>).
- v. Except for staff, children, or other persons who are exempt under paragraph 8.a or .c of this Executive Order or are under the age of two, face coverings (or, where applicable, face shields) are strongly recommended outdoors when it is not possible to maintain social distancing or where it will likely not be possible to maintain social distancing.
- c. **Higher education institutions.** Students and staff in higher education institutions must comply with the requirements of this Executive Order, except that students and faculty are permitted to wear face shields as an alternative to face coverings in the following situations:
- i. When faculty are teaching a class or giving a lecture, or when students are participating in classroom activities, where it is important for the face to be seen (for example, certain activities in language or communications classes).
  - ii. Where a face covering may pose a hazard due to the nature of the class or activity (for example, in a laboratory component of a class).
  - iii. When staff or faculty are providing direct support student services and a face covering impedes the service being provided.

- 13. Inclusion of face covering requirements in businesses' COVID-19 Preparedness Plans.** All businesses must update their COVID-19 Preparedness Plans to include the face covering requirements of this Executive Order, including those that have been incorporated into the Industry Guidance applicable to their business available on the Stay Safe Minnesota website (<https://staysafe.mn.gov>), inform their workers how their plan has been updated, and make the revised plan available to their workers. The Industry Guidance applicable to the business may include face covering requirements that are more protective than those of this Executive Order, consistent with applicable law.
- 14. Notice of face covering requirements.** Businesses must post one or more signs that are visible to all persons—including workers, customers, and visitors—instructing them to wear face coverings as required by this Executive Order.
- 15. Implementation of face covering requirements by businesses.**
- a. Businesses must require that all persons, including their workers, customers, and visitors, wear face coverings as required by this Executive Order.
  - b. When possible, businesses must provide accommodations to persons, including their workers and customers, who state they have a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that makes it unreasonable for the person to maintain a face covering, such as permitting use of an alternate form of face covering (*e.g.*, face shield) or providing service options that do not require a customer to enter the business.
  - c. Businesses may not require customers to provide proof of a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability, or require customers to explain the nature of their conditions or disability.
  - d. Businesses must follow the requirements of other applicable laws with respect to whether a business may require a worker to provide documentation of a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability related to their inability to wear a face covering and what the business may ask regarding the condition or disability.
  - e. Nothing in this Executive Order requires businesses or their workers to enforce this requirement when it is unsafe to do so, or authorizes them to restrain, assault or physically remove workers or customers who refuse to comply with this Executive Order.
  - f. Nothing in this Executive Order authorizes businesses or their workers to violate other laws, including anti-discrimination laws.
- 16. More protective policies permitted.** Nothing in this Executive Order should be construed to prevent a business from developing a policy that imposes more protective requirements with respect to face coverings, consistent with applicable law, than those in this Executive Order or applicable industry guidance. This Executive

Order does not authorize landlords or property managers to require tenants and others to wear face coverings in tenants' living units. Landlords and property managers must provide a clear means for tenants and others to request a reasonable accommodation to face covering requirements in common areas.

17. **Safe work.** The protections noted in Executive Order 20-54 (Protecting Workers from Unsafe Working Conditions and Retaliation) remain in full force and effect. Businesses are responsible for the safety and health of their workplaces and must adhere to the requirements set out in the Industry Guidance applicable to the business, available on the Stay Safe Minnesota website (<https://staysafe.mn.gov>), Minnesota OSHA Standards, and MDH and CDC Guidelines, including the face covering requirements of this Executive Order. Under existing law and authority, DLI may issue citations, civil penalties, or closure orders to places of employment with unsafe or unhealthy conditions, and DLI may penalize businesses that retaliate against employees who raise safety and health concerns.
18. **Enhanced local measures permitted.** Nothing in this Executive Order or previous Executive Orders should be construed to prohibit or prevent political subdivisions from implementing, within their jurisdictions and pursuant to applicable law and authority, requirements beyond those contained in this Executive Order, as long as the additional requirements have a real or substantial relation to the public health crisis caused by COVID-19. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 2019, section 12.32, political subdivisions may not relax or reduce this Executive Order's requirements. In other words, to the extent that they have authority to do so, cities and other political subdivisions may take actions that are more protective of the public health, consistent with applicable law, but may not take actions that are less protective of the public health.
19. **Relationship with other law.** Wearing a face covering in compliance with this Executive Order or local ordinances, rules, or orders is not a violation of Minnesota Statutes 2019, section 609.735.
20. **Enforcement.** I urge all Minnesotans to voluntarily comply with this Executive Order.
  - a. **Individual violations.** Any individual who willfully violates this Executive Order is guilty of a petty misdemeanor and upon conviction must be punished by a fine not to exceed \$100. This does not apply to: (1) children younger than 14 years old; or (2) students 14 years old and older who are enrolled in a school or higher education institution identified in Paragraph 12 of this Executive Order, and who are on the premises of the school or institution for educational purposes.
  - b. **Business violations.**
    - i. **Business compliance with this Executive Order.** As provided in paragraphs 13 through 15 of this Executive Order, a business is

compliant with this Executive Order if (1) their workers are wearing face coverings as required by this Executive Order; (2) the business has updated their COVID-19 Preparedness Plan to address the face covering requirements of this Executive Order; (3) the business has posted one or more signs that are visible to all persons—including workers, customers, and visitors—instructing them to wear face coverings as required by this Executive Order; and (4) the business makes reasonable efforts to enforce this order with respect to customers and visitors. For additional information about the steps businesses can take to ensure compliance with this order, refer to the face covering guidance and FAQs available at the Facemasks and Personal Protective Equipment webpage (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus.html#masks>). The guidance and FAQs may also be accessed at the following webpages:

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/facecover.html> (guidance document) and <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/facecoverfaq.html> (FAQ document).

ii. **Penalties for non-compliance.** Any business owner, manager, or supervisor who fails to comply with this Executive Order is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction must be punished by a fine not to exceed \$1,000, or by imprisonment for not more than 90 days. In addition to these criminal penalties, the Attorney General, as well as city and county attorneys, may seek any civil relief available pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 2019, section 8.31, for violations of this Executive Order, including civil penalties up to \$25,000 per occurrence from businesses and injunctive relief.


c. **Regulatory enforcement.** State and local licensing and regulatory entities that regulate businesses for compliance with statutes, rules, and codes to protect the public are encouraged to assess regulated businesses' compliance with this Executive Order and use existing enforcement tools to bring businesses into compliance.

d. **Individual rights.** Nothing in this Executive Order is intended to encourage or allow law enforcement to transgress individual constitutional rights.

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 2019, section 4.035, subdivision 2, and section 12.32, this Executive Order is effective immediately upon approval by the Executive Council. It remains in effect until the peacetime emergency declared in Executive Order 20-01 is terminated or until it is rescinded by proper authority.

A determination that any provision of this Executive Order is invalid will not affect the enforceability of any other provision of this Executive Order. Rather, the invalid provision will be modified to the extent necessary so that it is enforceable.

Signed on July 22, 2020.



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**Tim Walz**  
Governor

Filed According to Law:



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**Steve Simon**  
Secretary of State

Approved by the Executive Council on July 22, 2020:



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**Alice Roberts-Davis**  
Secretary, Executive Council

**Colleen Lasher**

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**To:** Colleen Lasher  
**Subject:** FW: mn.gov/covid19 contact submission: Business (Can I Be Open)

On Sep 14, 2020, at 2:13 PM, Gary Van Scoy [REDACTED] wrote:

Sent from Mail [REDACTED] for Windows 10

From: MN\_ADM\_Critical Sectors<<mailto:criticalsectors@state.mn.us>>  
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2020 8:27 AM  
To: [REDACTED]: MN\_ADM\_Critical Sectors<<mailto:criticalsectors@state.mn.us>>  
Subject: RE: [mn.gov/covid19](https://mn.gov/covid19) contact submission: Business (Can I Be Open)

Good morning Vice-Chair Van Scoy.

The city's interpretation is in conflict with the language of 20-81. The language in section 10.c of EO 20-81 does not generally exempt participants in public meetings from wearing face coverings, but instead allows temporary removal specifically when speaking (or testifying or performing), provided that social distancing is maintained.

In other words, a public meeting participant may only remove their face covering when actually speaking at the meeting, and even then may only do so if they are least 6 feet away from any person not in the same household as them. Once the person is done speaking, they must put a face covering back on.

Thank you and stay safe.

From: formstack wcm, mnit (MNIT) <[formstack.wcm.mnit@state.mn.us](mailto:formstack.wcm.mnit@state.mn.us)>  
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2020 12:25 PM  
To: MN\_ADM\_Critical Sectors <[criticalsectors@state.mn.us](mailto:criticalsectors@state.mn.us)>  
Subject: [mn.gov/covid19](https://mn.gov/covid19) contact submission: Business (Can I Be Open)

[https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.formstack.com/public/914954/image\\_mncovid19responsetlogo\\_tcm114842850\\_5.png](https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.formstack.com/public/914954/image_mncovid19responsetlogo_tcm114842850_5.png) | Topic: Business-Related Questions / Can my business be open?

Submission from:  
Vice-chair Gary Van Scoy

[REDACTED] subject=COVID-19%20response>

**Message:**

I am on the Planning Commission for the City of Ramsey. There is a question regarding the governor's order requiring the wearing of masks at indoor settings for public meetings. The city is interpreting the temporary exemption from wearing a mask while speaking as rationale to exempt all participants from the wearing of masks at public meetings.

Executive Order #20-81 item 10. Circumstances where mandatory face coverings may be temporarily removed.

c.: When testifying, speaking, or performing in an indoor business or public indoor space, in situations or settings such as theaters, news conferences, legal proceedings, governmental meetings subject to the Open Meeting Law (Minnesota Statutes 2019, Chapter 13D), presentations, or lectures, provided that social distancing is always maintained. Face shields should be considered as an alternative in these situations.

The city's communication to commissioners:

"Additionally, it is hereby clarified that public meetings are exempt from the current Face Mask Executive Order"

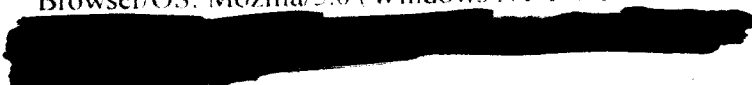
Please clarify mask usage requirements for local government meetings. For the most part, masks are worn but there are some people who won't and I am concerned regarding the health safety implications.

I was unable to find a category that fit my inquiry. Is it possible to add local government categories?  
<2E699123C4B14D99BC1ED29D9A91D1AE39.png>

Submission ID: 659142669

Time/date: Sep 10, 2020 12:24 PM

Browser/OS: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko)

  
Location (Lat/Long):

Meeting Date: 09/22/2020

**Information**

**Title:**

Discuss Council Committee Appointments due to the Ward 1 Vacancy.

**Purpose/Background:**

This agenda item The purpose of this discussion is to consider Council committee appointments due to former Council Member Nadine Heinrich's departure. (Note, this agenda item was scheduled for the August 25 work session and then the September 8th work session, but has been moved to this evening due to previous time constraints.) Ms. Heinrich was serving as the alternate member for the following committees: Public Works Committee, Joint Law Enforcement Council and the Northwestern Anoka County Community Consortium (Youth First).

Ms. Heinrich was also serving on the Highway 10 Committee and the Joint Fire Board. There is not currently an alternate member for the Highway 10 Committee; Council may wish to consider a replacement member. Council Member Kuzma is the current alternate member on the Joint Fire Board.

Staff recommends filling these vacancies.

**Timeframe:**

Up to 10 minutes.

**Funding Source:**

Not applicable.

**Responsible Party(ies):**

Colleen Lasher, Administrative Services Director.

**Outcome:**

For the City Council to direct staff to prepare a resolution for the next City Council agenda, revising the current committee appointments, or to direct staff on an alternative action based on discussion.

**Attachments**

*No file(s) attached.*

**Form Review**

<b>Inbox</b>	<b>Reviewed By</b>	<b>Date</b>
Kurt Ulrich	Kurt Ulrich	09/17/2020 03:21 PM
Form Started By: Colleen Lasher		Started On: 09/15/2020 11:55 AM
Final Approval Date: 09/17/2020		

Meeting Date: 09/22/2020

**Information**

**Title:**

Discuss 2020 Citizen Survey

**Purpose/Background:**

Note, this case was previously scheduled for discussion at the August 10, 25, and September 8 work sessions and was postponed due to time constraints.

The purpose of this case is to consider the final language on the road funding question on the 2020 Citizen Survey. At the July 28 City Council Work Session, it was requested that this question be revised based on recent actions of the City Council. The attached 2018 survey (Figure 14, Page 15) shows how the question was previously worded.

The question is now proposed as follows.

**Table 19: Question 19**

**The City employs a long-term Pavement management Program to cost-effectively maintain all 180 miles of City streets. From 2015-2020 the City funded projects by assessing 25% to benefiting property owners and contributed 75% through bonded debt, paid with property taxes. The City Council recently passed an ordinance to collect a monthly franchise fee on gas and electric customers and dedicate this funding to the Pavement Management Program, and to eliminate the need for additional property taxes or assessments. The City periodically evaluates funding sources for this ongoing program. Please indicate the extent to which you would support or oppose the following funding sources:**

- **Assess 25% of street project cost to benefiting property owners and pay 75% through bonded debt, paid with city-wide property taxes.**
- **Eliminate special assessments and pay 100% with property taxes, resulting in an estimated 15% increase in tax levy.**
- **Collect a monthly franchise fee on gas and electric customers in the amount of \$7 per utility per month.**

The current schedule for the, if approved this evening, will have the data collection starting in late October and finishing in early December. A draft of survey results would be available in early January.

**Timeframe:**

15 Minutes

**Funding Source:**

General Fund budgeted item.

**Responsible Party(ies):**

Deputy City Administrator

**Outcome:**

Staff is seeking consensus on the final language on the road funding question for the Citizen Survey.

**Attachments**

Citizen's Survey2018

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## Form Review

**Inbox**

Kurt Ulrich

Form Started By: Tim Gladhill

Final Approval Date: 09/21/2020

**Reviewed By**

Kurt Ulrich

**Date**

09/21/2020 11:02 AM

Started On: 09/21/2020 10:51 AM



**THE NCS**<sup>TM</sup>  
The National Citizen Survey<sup>TM</sup>

# Ramsey, MN

Community Livability Report

2018



2955 Valmont Road Suite 300  
Boulder, Colorado 80301  
n-r-c.com • 303-444-7863



777 North Capitol Street NE Suite 500  
Washington, DC 20002  
icma.org • 800-745-8780

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Governance ..... 5

Participation ..... 7

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Conclusions ..... 16



The National Citizen Survey™  
© 2001-2018 National Research Center, Inc.

The NCS™ is presented by NRC in collaboration with ICMA.

NRC is a charter member of the AAPOR Transparency Initiative, providing clear disclosure of our sound and ethical survey research practices.

# About

The National Citizen Survey™ (The NCS) report is about the “livability” of Ramsey. The phrase “livable community” is used here to evoke a place that is not simply habitable, but that is desirable. It is not only where people do live, but where they want to live.

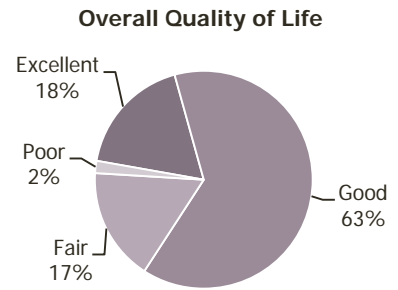
Great communities are partnerships of the government, private sector, community-based organizations and residents, all geographically connected. The NCS captures residents’ opinions within the three pillars of a community (Community Characteristics, Governance and Participation) across eight central facets of community (Safety, Mobility, Natural Environment, Built Environment, Economy, Recreation and Wellness, Education and Enrichment and Community Engagement).

The Community Livability Report provides the opinions of a representative sample of 465 residents of the City of Ramsey. The margin of error around any reported percentage is 5% for all respondents. The full description of methods used to garner these opinions can be found in the *Technical Appendices* provided under separate cover.



# Quality of Life in Ramsey

About 8 in 10 residents rated the quality of life in Ramsey as excellent or good. This was similar to ratings given in other communities across the nation (see Appendix B of the *Technical Appendices* provided under separate cover).



Shown below are the eight facets of community. The color of each community facet summarizes how residents rated it across the three sections of the survey that represent the pillars of a community – Community Characteristics, Governance and Participation. When most ratings across the three pillars were higher than the benchmark, the color for that facet is the darkest shade; when most ratings were lower than the benchmark, the color is the lightest shade. A mix of ratings (higher and lower than the benchmark) results in a color between the extremes.

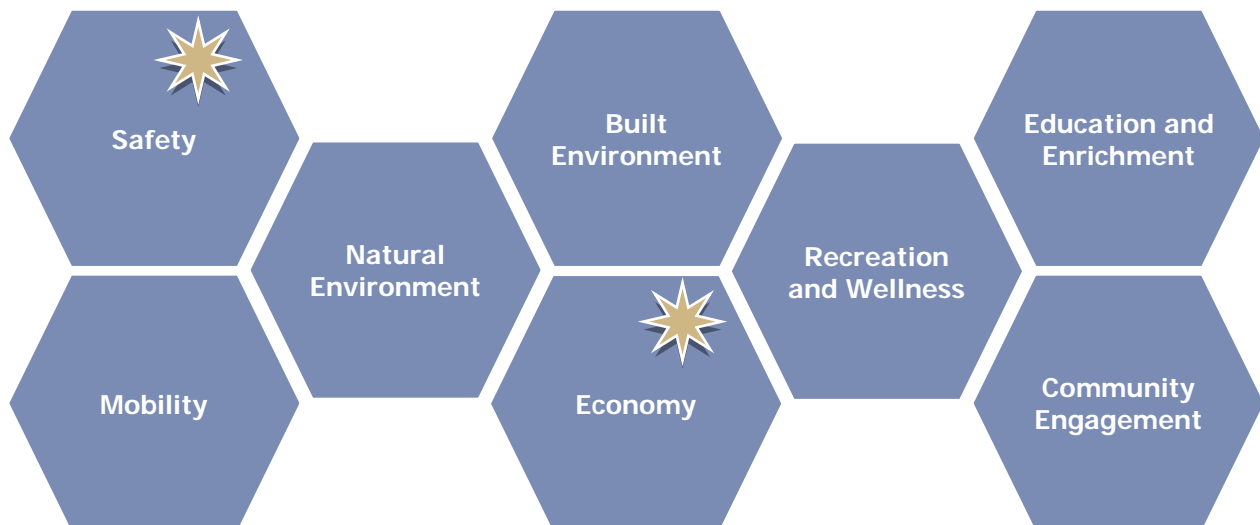
In addition to a summary of ratings, the image below includes one or more stars to indicate which community facets were the most important focus areas for the community. As in 2016, residents identified Safety and Economy as priorities for the Ramsey community in the coming two years. All facets of community livability were rated positively and similar to the national benchmark. This overview of the key aspects of community quality provides a quick summary of where residents see exceptionally strong performance and where performance offers the greatest opportunity for improvement. Linking quality to importance offers community members and leaders a view into the characteristics of the community that matter most and that seem to be working best.

Details that support these findings are contained in the remainder of this Livability Report, starting with the ratings for Community Characteristics, Governance and Participation and ending with results for Ramsey’s unique questions.

## Legend

- Higher than national benchmark
- Similar to national benchmark
- Lower than national benchmark

★ Most important



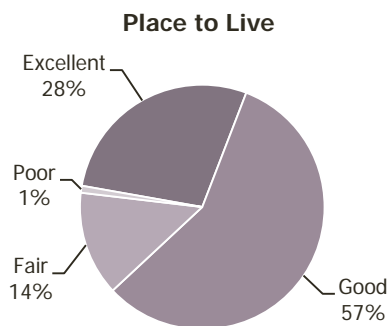
# Community Characteristics

*What makes a community livable, attractive and a place where people want to be?*

Overall quality of community life represents the natural ambience, services and amenities that make for an attractive community. How residents rate their overall quality of life is an indicator of the overall health of a community. In the case of Ramsey, 85% rated the city as an excellent or good place to live. Respondents' ratings of Ramsey as a place to live were similar to ratings in other communities across the nation.

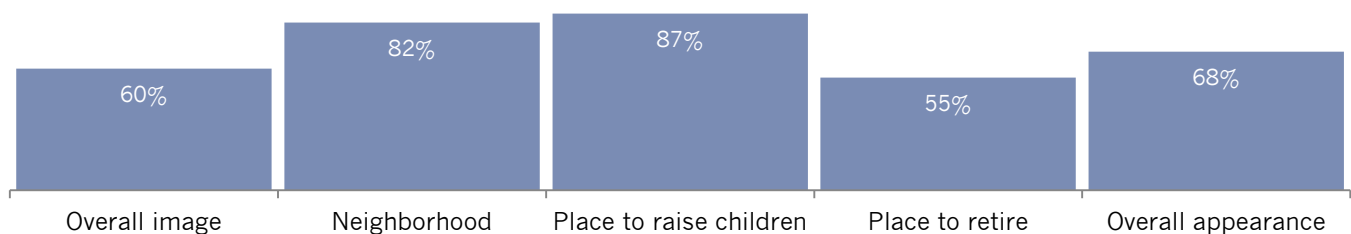
In addition to rating the city as a place to live, respondents rated several aspects of community quality including Ramsey as a place to raise children and to retire, their neighborhood as a place to live, the overall image or reputation of Ramsey and its overall appearance. While ratings for these aspects ranged from 55% to 87% excellent or good, all community quality ratings were similar to those given elsewhere.

Delving deeper into Community Characteristics, survey respondents rated over 40 features of the community within the eight facets of Community Livability. Resident evaluations within the facets of Safety, Mobility and Natural Environment were positive and similar to the benchmark. In Built Environment, the rating for affordable quality housing was more positive than seen in other communities, while the rating for public places where people want to spend time was perceived as less positive. Other aspects that received ratings lower than the benchmark were recreational, education/enrichment and volunteer opportunities as well as several aspects within the facet of Economy.



When compared to 2016, residents were more likely in 2018 to positively rate Ramsey as a place to retire, as well as employment and fitness opportunities and cultural/arts/music activities (for more information see the *Trends over Time* report under separate cover).

Percent rating positively (e.g., excellent/good)



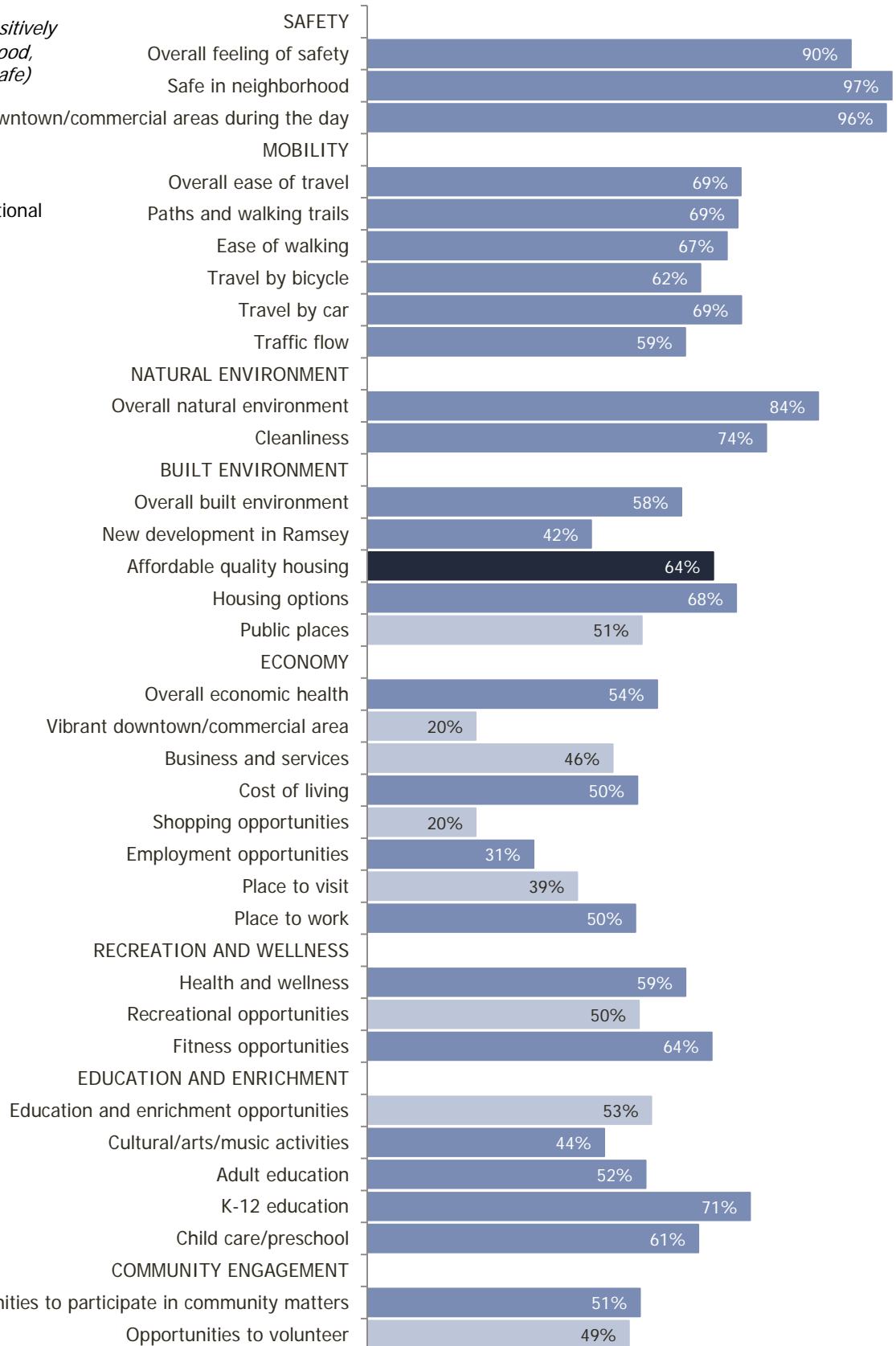
# The National Citizen Survey™

Figure 1: Aspects of Community Characteristics

*Percent rating positively  
(e.g., excellent/good,  
very/somewhat safe)*

Comparison to national  
benchmark

- Higher
- Similar
- Lower



# Governance

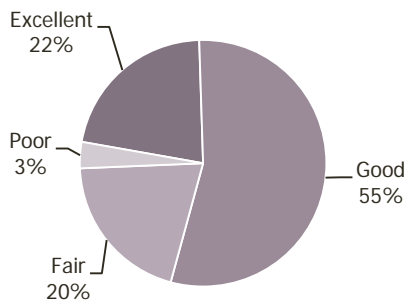
*How well does the government of Ramsey meet the needs and expectations of its residents?*

The overall quality of the services provided by Ramsey as well as the manner in which these services are provided is a key component of how residents rate their quality of life. About three-quarters of residents gave positive reviews to the overall quality of City services while about 4 in 10 favorably rated the services provided by the Federal Government; both of these evaluations were similar to those observed elsewhere across the country.

Survey respondents also rated various aspects of Ramsey’s leadership and governance. About 8 in 10 residents gave favorable marks to the customer service provided by the City, and roughly half were pleased with the remaining aspects of government performance. These ratings were all similar to the national benchmark and several trended up since 2016 (welcoming citizen involvement, confidence in City government, acting in the best interest of Ramsey and being honest).

Respondents evaluated over 30 individual services and amenities available in Ramsey. Most services were rated positively by a majority of respondents and were similar to ratings given in other communities. Several service evaluations improved from 2016 to 2018, including those for traffic signal timing, economic development and most aspects of Built Environment.

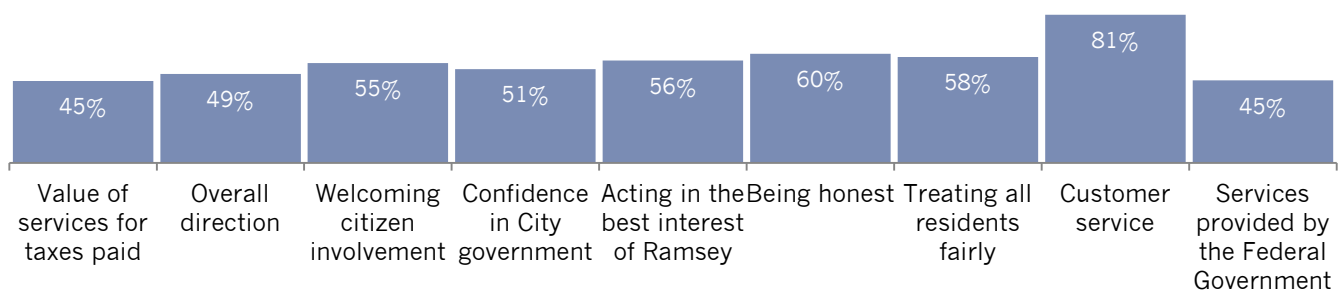
**Overall Quality of City Services**



*Percent rating positively (e.g., excellent/good)*

Comparison to national benchmark

■ Higher ■ Similar ■ Lower



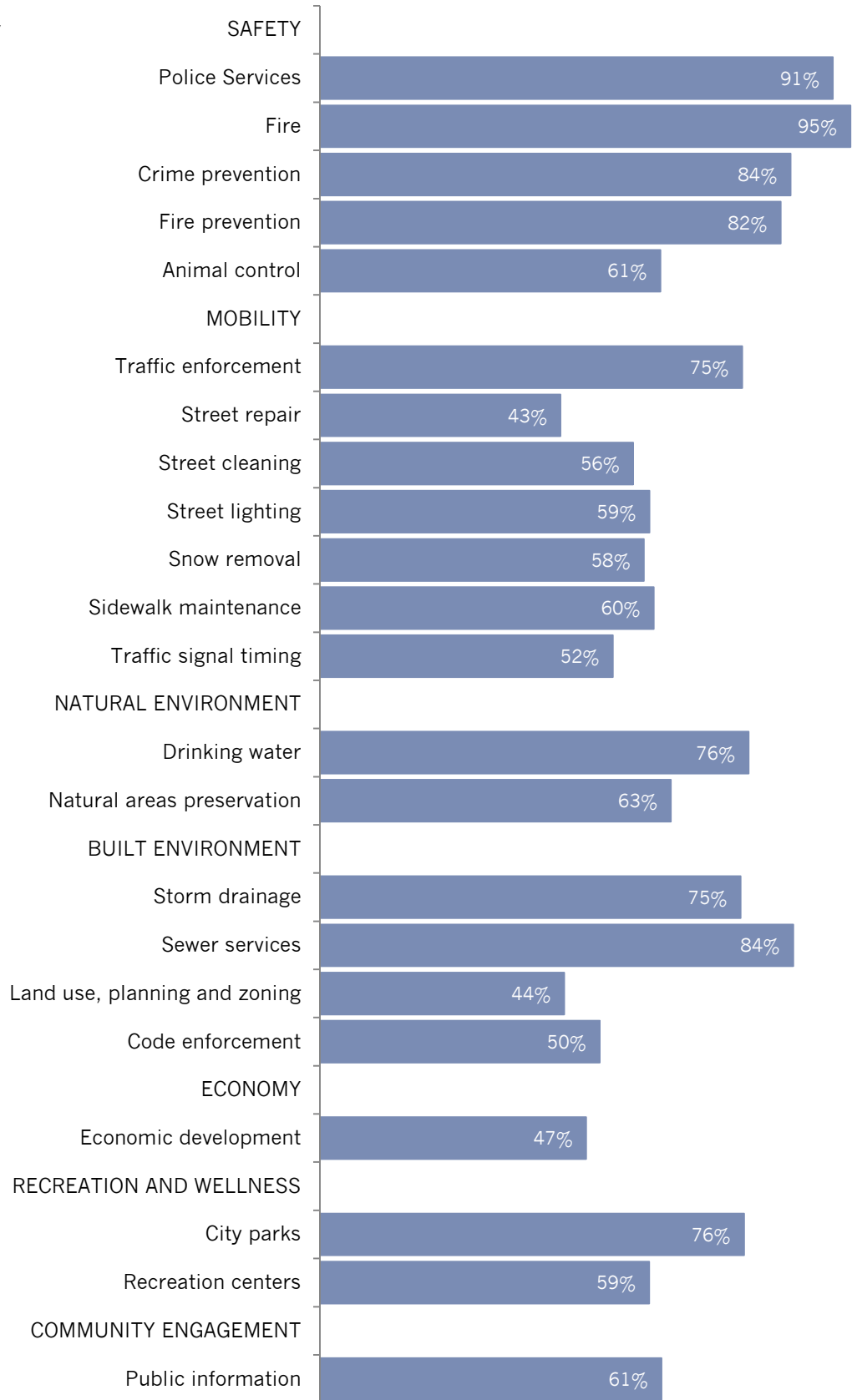
# The National Citizen Survey™

Figure 2: Aspects of Governance

Percent rating positively  
(e.g., excellent/good)

Comparison to national  
benchmark

- Higher
- Similar
- Lower

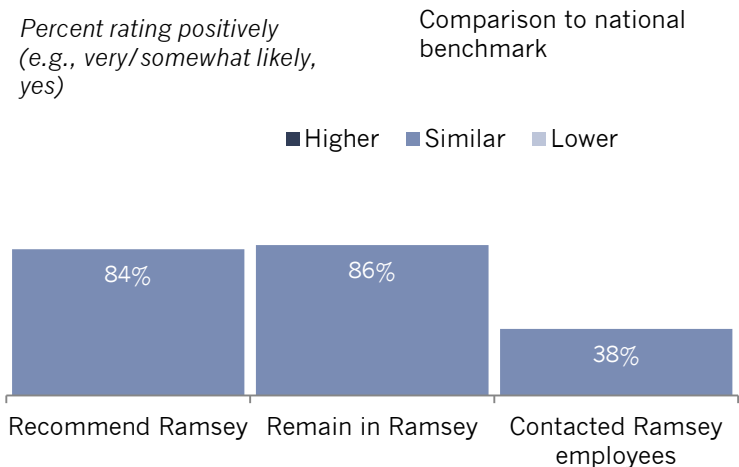
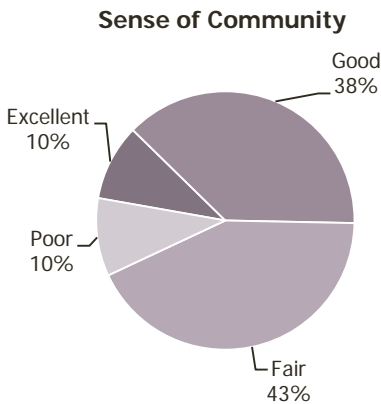


# Participation

*Are the residents of Ramsey connected to the community and each other?*

An engaged community harnesses its most valuable resource, its residents. The connections and trust among residents, government, businesses and other organizations help to create a sense of community, a shared sense of membership, belonging and history. About half of residents gave excellent or good marks to the sense of community in Ramsey, which was similar to ratings seen in other communities. More than 8 in 10 residents would recommend living in Ramsey to someone who asked and planned to remain there for the next five years; these ratings were also similar to the national benchmark.

The survey included over 30 activities and behaviors for which respondents indicated how often they participated in or performed each, if at all. Levels of participation tended to vary widely across the different facets, making the comparison to the benchmark (and to Ramsey's ratings over time) helpful for interpreting the results. Participation rates tended to be similar to the national benchmark for most items. However, Ramsey residents were more likely than those who lived in other communities to have recycled at home and to not feel they were under housing cost stress, but less likely to work in Ramsey, to have campaigned for an issue, cause or candidate or to have volunteered. Further, survey respondents were more likely in 2018 than in 2016 to believe the economy would positively impact their income and or to have attended a City-sponsored event.



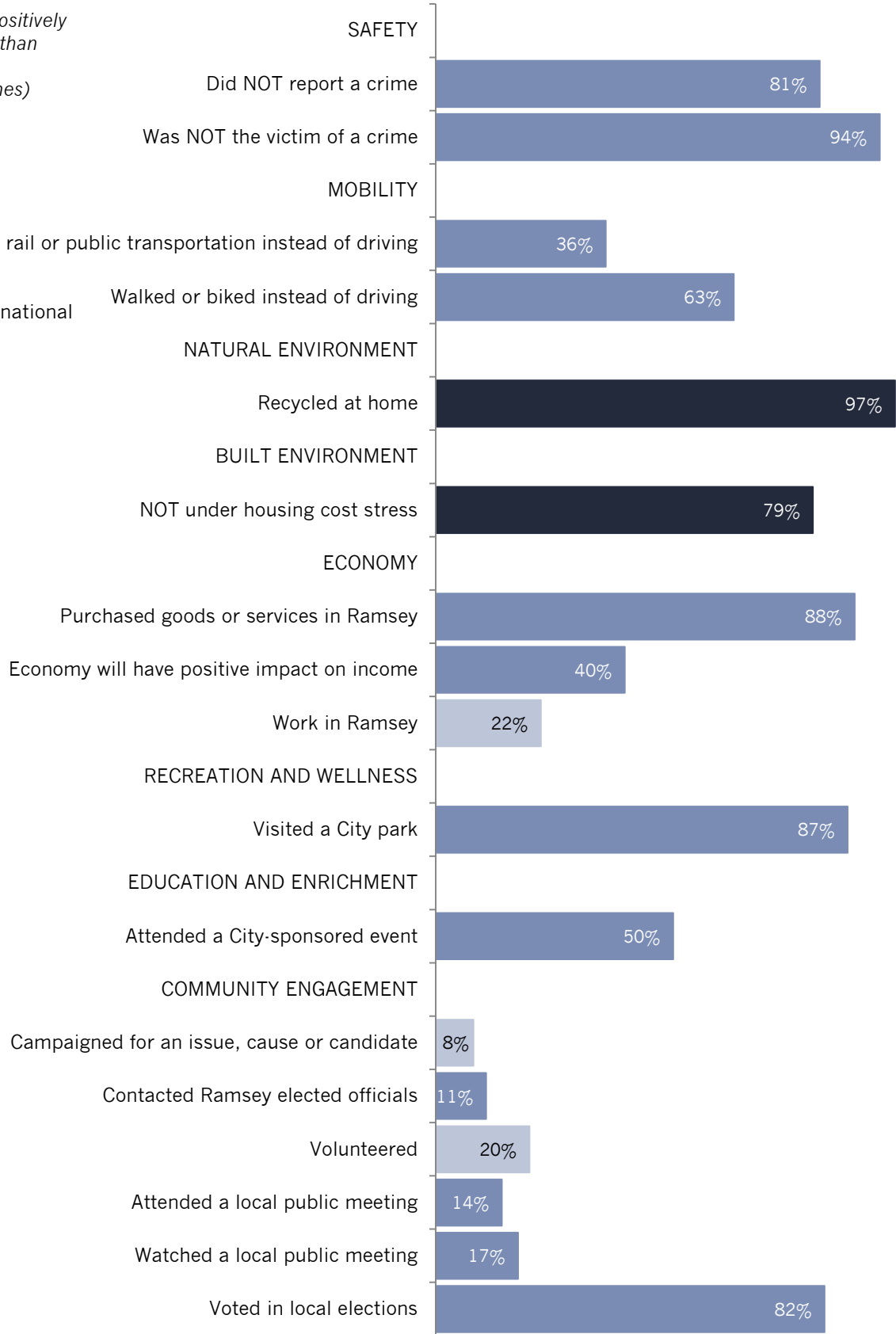
# The National Citizen Survey™

Figure 3: Aspects of Participation

Percent rating positively  
(e.g., yes, more than  
once a month,  
always/sometimes)

Comparison to national  
benchmark

- Higher
- Similar
- Lower

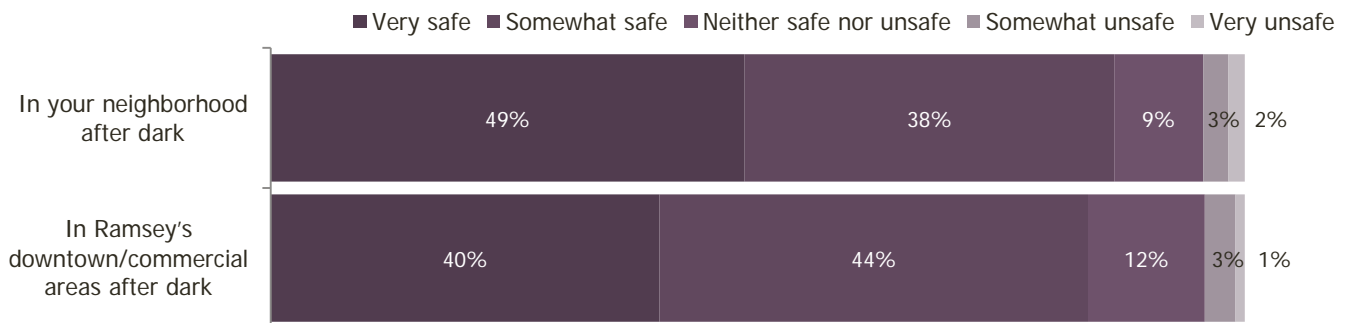


# Special Topics

The City of Ramsey included six questions of special interest on The NCS as well as several line additions to standard questions. Topic areas included sources of City information, changes to new or existing amenities, City priorities and funding options for street maintenance, among others.

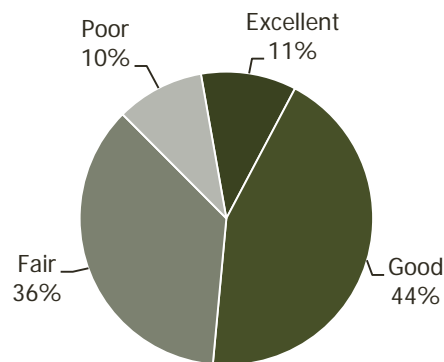
Thinking about their feelings of safety after dark, roughly 9 in 10 residents indicated that they felt safe in their neighborhoods or in Ramsey’s downtown/commercial areas after dark; very few residents felt unsafe in these areas.

Figure 4: Line Additions to Question 4  
Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel:



Slightly more than half of residents rated the overall condition of City maintained streets as excellent or good; about one-third thought the roads were in fair condition and 1 in 10 rated them as poor.

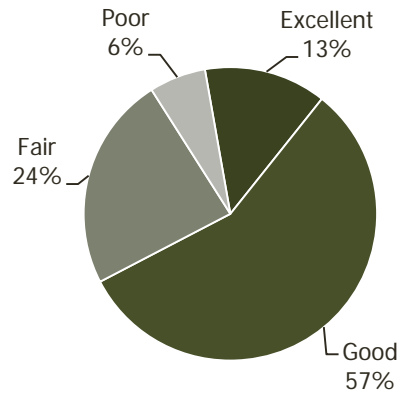
Figure 5: Line Addition to Question 5  
Please rate the overall condition of City maintained streets:



The National Citizen Survey™

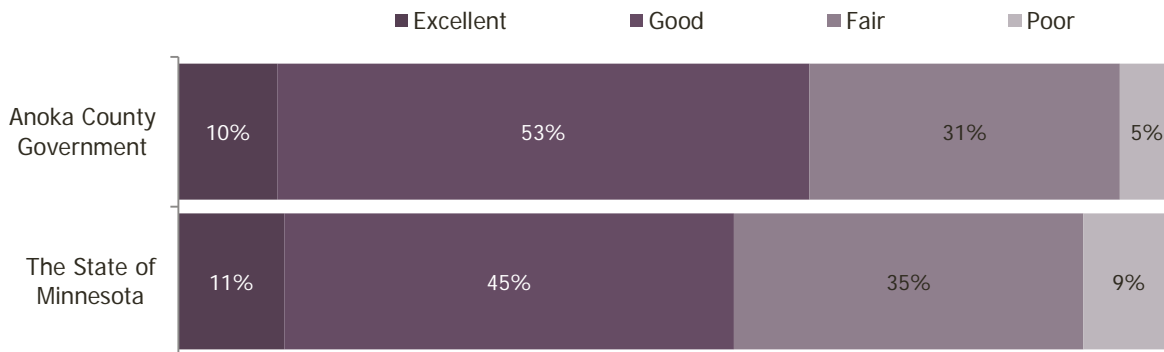
About 7 in 10 residents assessed the quality of Ramsey trail maintenance as excellent or good. About one-quarter rated the quality of the trails as fair and less than 1 in 10 thought it was poor.

Figure 6: Line Addition to Question 10  
Please rate the quality of trail maintenance in Ramsey:



Residents' sentiments toward the County and State governments were similar: about 6 in 10 thought each was excellent or good, 3 in 10 thought each was fair and 1 in 10 rated the governments as poor.

Figure 7: Line Additions to Question 11  
Overall, how would you rate the quality of the services provided by each of the following?

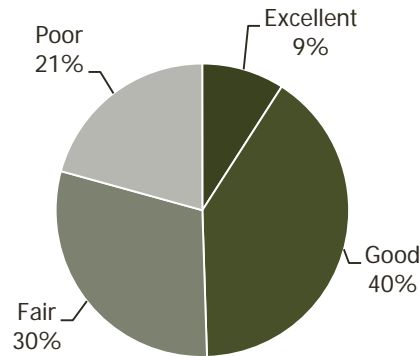


The National Citizen Survey™

When asked about the development and success of a Ramsey strategic plan, about half of residents thought that the Ramsey government had done an excellent or good job. Approximately 3 in 10 residents thought Ramsey had done a fair job on the plan and 2 in 10 rated it poorly.

Figure 8: Line Addition to Question 12

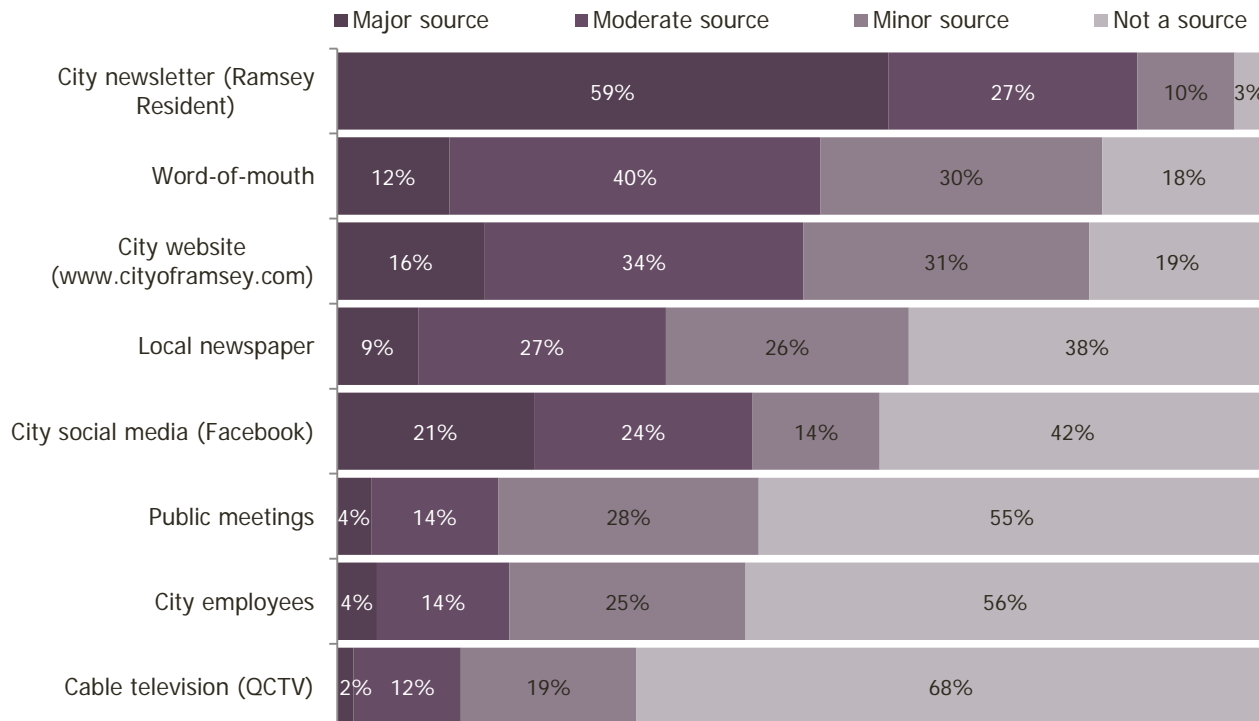
Please rate the following categories of Ramsey government performance: Development and success of a strategic action plan



Residents evaluated a list of sources of City information and indicated whether they considered each to be a major, moderate, minor or not a source of information. About 8 in 10 residents used the City newsletter as a major or moderate information source and another 1 in 10 considered it a minor source. About half of residents used word-of-mouth or the City website as major or moderate sources of information and another 3 in 10 used each of these as a minor source. The least-utilized sources of City information were public meetings, City employees and cable television; less than half of residents used any of these modes as an information source.

Figure 9: Sources of City Information

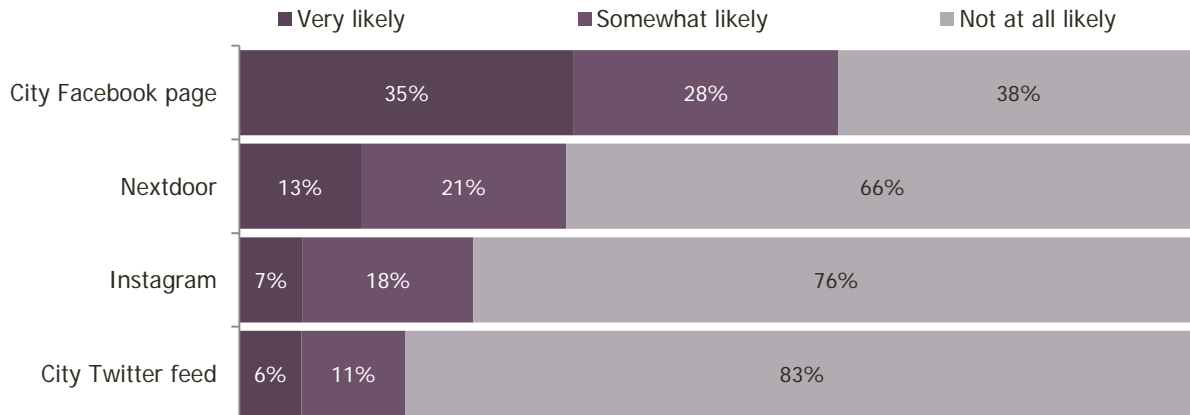
To what extent are each of the following a source of information for you about Ramsey city government and its activities?



When prompted about social media outlets, residents indicated they would be most likely to engage with the City in the future on Facebook (62% very or somewhat likely). In addition, about 4 in 10 would engage with the City on Nextdoor, one-quarter on Instagram and about 2 in 10 residents would be interested in engaging on the City Twitter feed.

Figure 10: Likelihood of Social Media Engagement

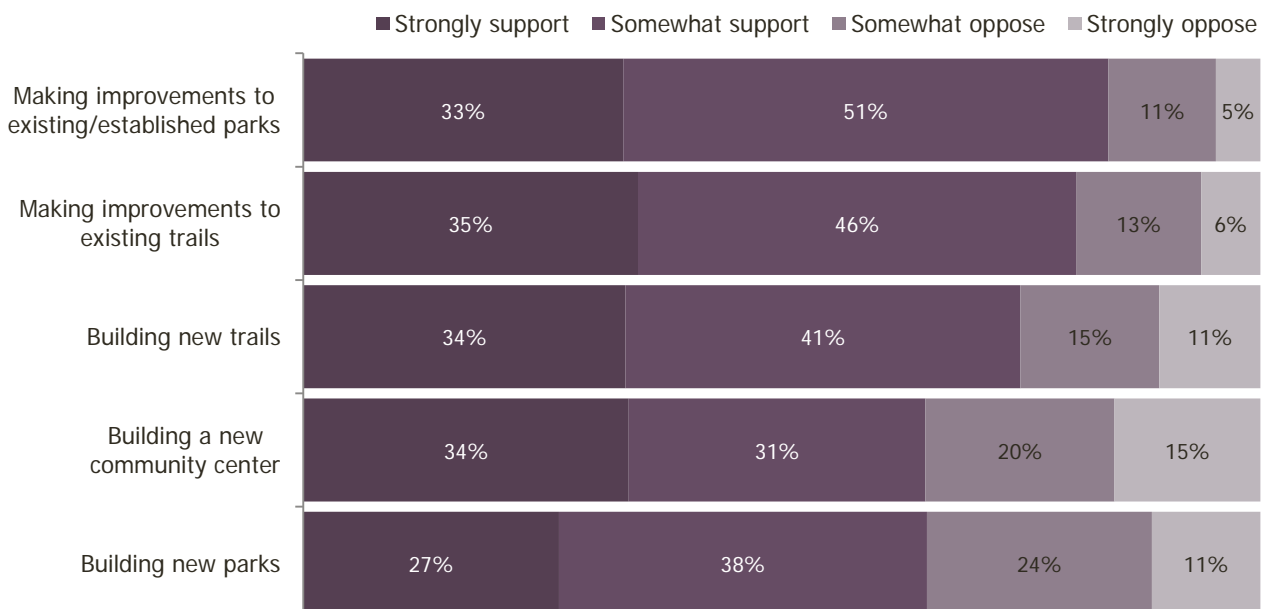
Please indicate how likely you would be, if at all, to engage with the City on the following social media platforms in the future:



Residents considered a list of City amenities and indicated the extent to which they would support or oppose the City investigating changes to each. Even though they were informed that changes to amenities could result in a tax increase, a strong majority of residents strongly or somewhat supported the City investigating each of the potential changes. Support was strongest for making improvements to existing/established parks and to existing trails as well as building new trails.

Figure 11: Support for Changes to City Amenities

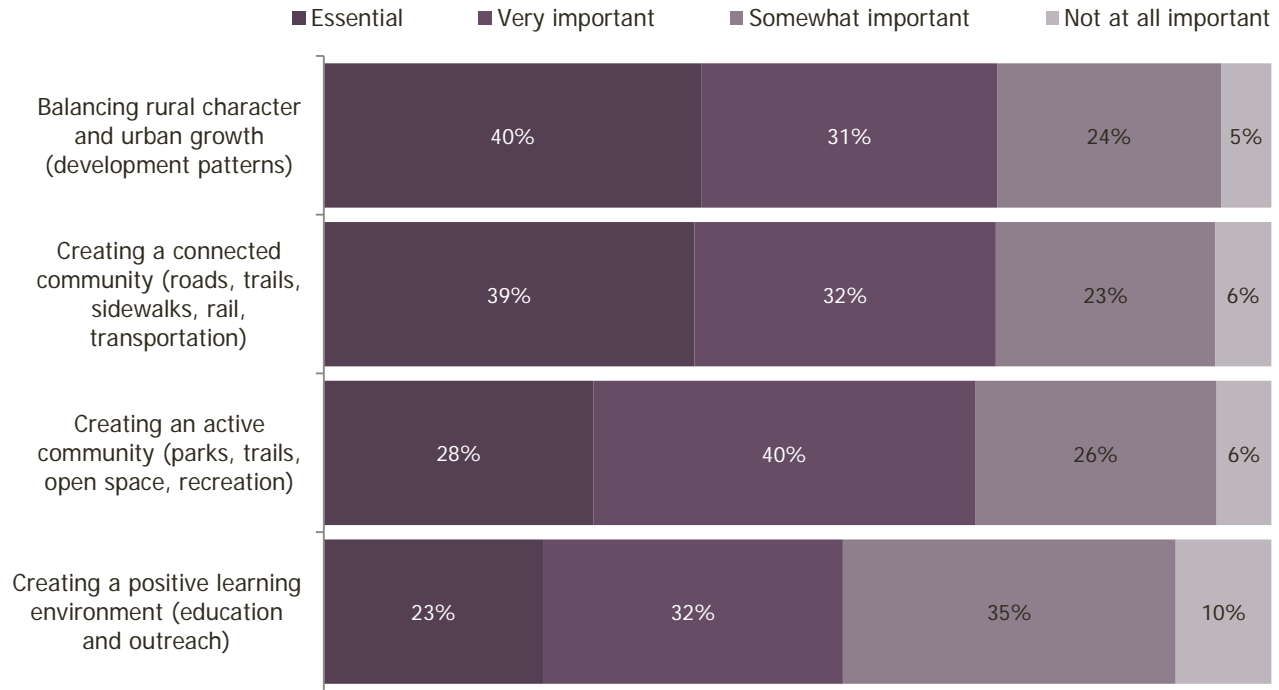
Please indicate to what extent you support or oppose the city investigating the following changes to new or existing amenities, each of which could accordingly result in an increase to the tax levy:



Thinking about the importance of four City priorities, about 7 in 10 residents thought that balancing rural character and urban growth, creating a connected community and creating an active community were each essential or very important. Creating a positive learning environment was rated as at least very important by a majority of Ramsey residents

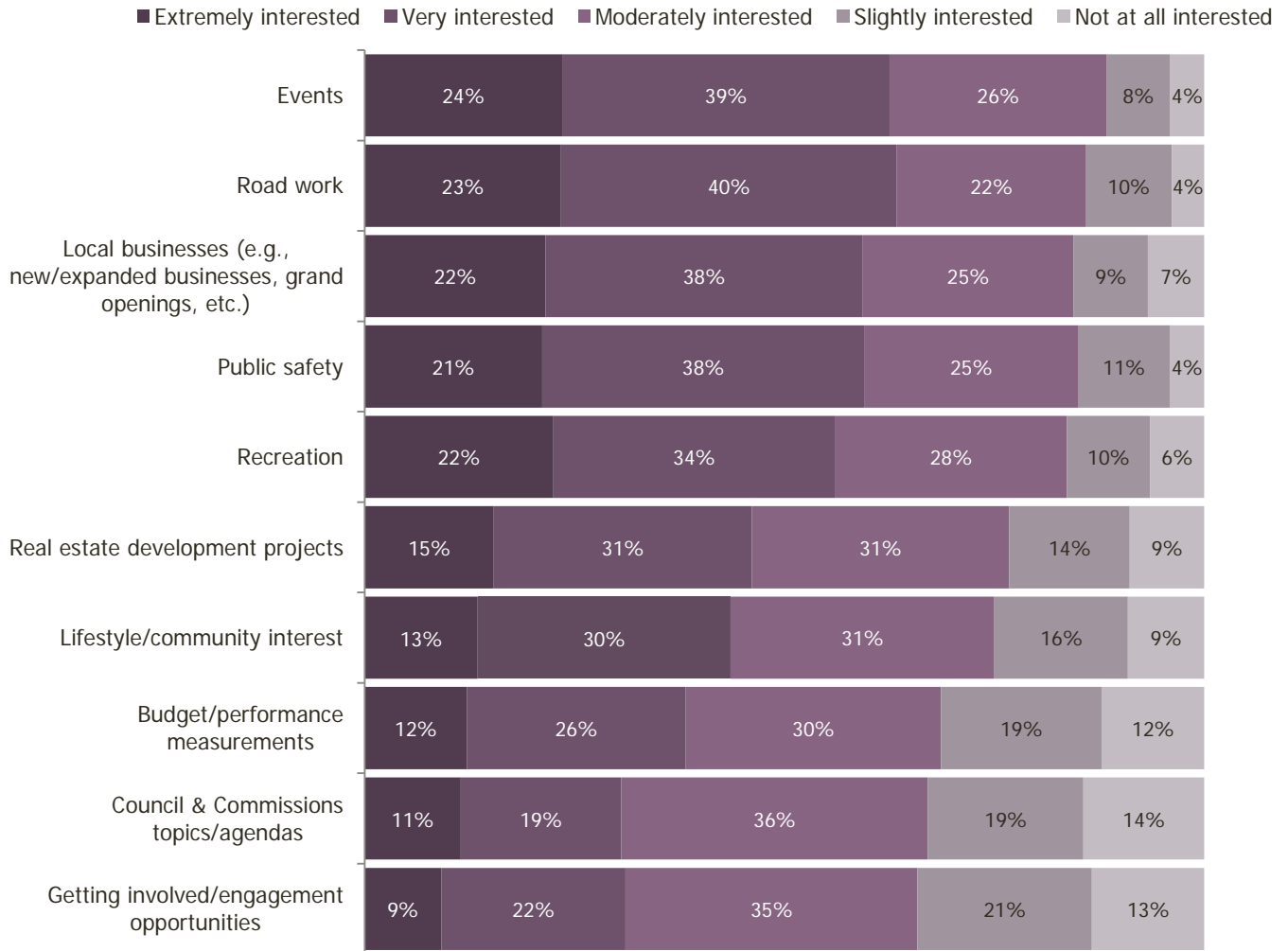
Figure 12: Importance of City Priorities

Please rate how important, if at all, you think each of the following priorities are for the City to focus on in the next five years:



Residents considered a list of news topics and indicated how interested they were in receiving information about each. About 8 in 10 residents were at least moderately interested in receiving information about events, road work, local business, public safety and recreation. Respondents were least interested in receiving information about Council and Commissions topics/agendas and getting involved/engagement opportunities; however, about 7 in 10 residents still expressed at least moderate interest in these topics.

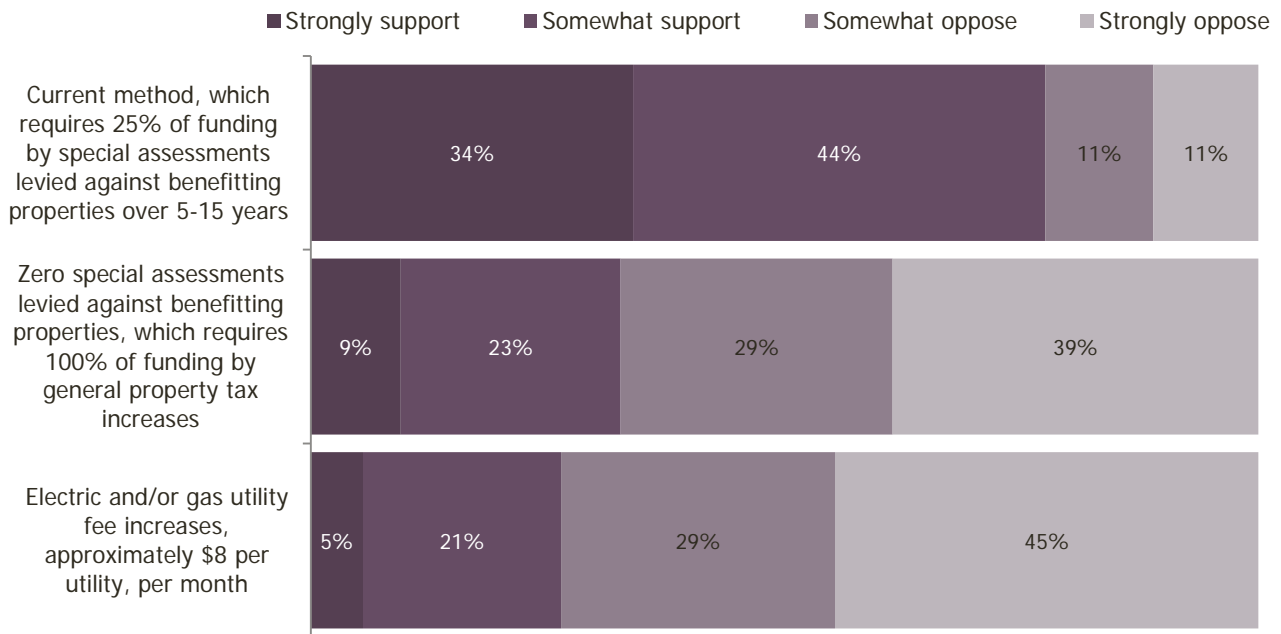
Figure 13: Interest in City Information  
*How interested are you, if at all, in receiving information from the City about each of the following topics?*



For the final special interest question on the survey, residents indicated their level of support for three different funding options for City street maintenance. About 8 in 10 residents strongly or somewhat supported the current method of funding which requires 25% of funding by special assessments of benefitting properties. Residents indicated stronger opposition to the other two types of funding described (general property tax increases or utility fee increases).

Figure 14: Sources of Funding for City Street Maintenance

*The City employs a long-term maintenance program to cost-effectively maintain all 175-plus miles of City streets. Currently, street reconstruction projects are funded 25% by special assessments levied against benefitting properties, and 75% by street reconstruction bonds, which are paid back using general property taxes. The City periodically evaluates funding sources for this on-going program. Please indicate the extent to which you would support or oppose the following funding sources:*



# Conclusions

## Resident satisfaction with City services and government performance is on the upswing.

When presented with a series of questions about leadership and governance in Ramsey, about 8 in 10 residents gave favorable marks to the customer service provided by the City, and roughly half were pleased with items related to local government performance, including the value of services for taxes paid, the overall direction of the City and the job Ramsey government does at welcoming citizen involvement. These ratings were all similar to the national benchmark. Most notably, ratings for welcoming citizen involvement, overall confidence in City government, government acting in the best interest of Ramsey and being honest improved since 2016, demonstrating a positive increase in public trust. Further, ratings for select City services, such as traffic signal timing, land use, planning and zoning, and code enforcement also increased since the last survey iteration, and no services declined in ratings during that time.

## The Economy continues to be a priority for residents.

As in 2016, residents indicated that the facet of Economy would be an important focus area for the City to address in the next two years. About half of residents gave favorable marks to the overall economic health of Ramsey, cost of living, the city as a place to work and economic development and these ratings were all similar to those given elsewhere. Further, resident sentiment toward employment opportunities and economic development improved since 2016, and more residents in 2018 believed that the economy would have a positive impact on their income in the next six months. Also, about 8 in 10 residents were quite interested in receiving information from the City about local business (e.g., new/expanded businesses, grand openings, etc.).

However, ratings for vibrant downtown area, overall quality of business and service establishments, shopping opportunities and Ramsey as a place to visit were lower than those seen in other communities across the country. While these ratings might be indicative of community support for greater economic development, it is important to note that balancing rural character and urban growth was identified as a key priority for the City in the upcoming five years.

## Residents support improvements to Mobility.

About 6 in 10 residents or more gave positive ratings to most aspects of Mobility, including overall ease of travel, ease of travel by car, availability of paths and walking trails and traffic enforcement; these ratings were all similar to those given in other communities across the nation.

Road maintenance was important to residents with nearly 85% of respondents reporting they were interested in receiving information from the City about road work; the only type of information of greater interest related to community events. When asked about street maintenance funding, about 8 in 10 residents supported the current method of funding for City street maintenance, which requires 25% of funding by special assessments of benefitting properties.

Finally, connectivity is a priority for Ramsey residents. Seven in 10 residents thought that creating a connected community (roads, trails, sidewalks, rail, and transportation) was essential or very important to the future of the community. Further, when asked to consider a number of community enhancements (with a potential for a tax increase), a strong majority of residents supported the City making improvements to existing trails as well as building new trails.



**THE NCS**<sup>TM</sup>  
The National Citizen Survey<sup>TM</sup>

# Ramsey, MN

Trends over Time

2018



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# Summary

The National Citizen Survey™ (The NCS™) is a collaborative effort between National Research Center, Inc. (NRC) and the International City/County Management Association (ICMA). The survey and its administration are standardized to assure high quality research methods and directly comparable results across The NCS communities. The NCS captures residents' opinions within the three pillars of a community (Community Characteristics, Governance and Participation) across eight central facets of community (Safety, Mobility, Natural Environment, Built Environment, Economy, Recreation and Wellness, Education and Enrichment and Community Engagement). This report discusses trends over time, comparing the 2018 ratings for the City of Ramsey to its previous survey results in 2014 and 2016. Additional reports and technical appendices are available under separate cover.

Trend data for Ramsey represent important comparison data and should be examined for improvements or declines. Deviations from stable trends over time, especially, represent opportunities for understanding how local policies, programs or public information may have affected residents' opinions.

Meaningful differences between survey years have been noted within the following tables as being "higher" or "lower" if the differences are greater than six percentage points between the 2016 and 2018 surveys, otherwise the comparisons between 2016 and 2018 are noted as being "similar." Additionally, benchmark comparisons for all survey years are presented for reference. Changes in the benchmark comparison over time can be impacted by various trends, including varying survey cycles for the individual communities that comprise the benchmarks, regional and national economic or other events, as well as emerging survey methodologies.

Overall, ratings in Ramsey for 2018 generally remained stable. Of the 94 items for which comparisons were available, 78 items were rated similarly in 2016 and 2018 and 16 showed an increase in ratings; no items showed a decrease in ratings. Notable trends over time included the following:

- No items trended down from 2016 to 2018.
- In the pillar of Community Characteristics, Ramsey residents were more likely in 2018 than in 2016 to give positive ratings to the city as a place to retire as well as to employment, fitness and cultural/arts/music activities.
- Residents in 2018 tended to give higher ratings to Built Environment-related services than in 2016.
- Survey respondents were more likely in 2018 to favorably rate aspects of government performance such welcoming citizen involvement and overall confidence in City government.
- Respondents were more likely in 2018 than in 2016 to believe the economy would positively impact their income. They were also more likely to have attended a City-sponsored event.

The National Citizen Survey™

Table 1: Community Characteristics General

	Percent rating positively (e.g., excellent/good)			2018 rating compared to 2016	Comparison to benchmark		
	2014	2016	2018		2014	2016	2018
Overall quality of life	72%	80%	81%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar
Overall image	51%	56%	60%	Similar	Lower	Lower	Similar
Place to live	82%	87%	85%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar
Neighborhood	84%	87%	82%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar
Place to raise children	83%	87%	87%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar
Place to retire	51%	48%	55%	Higher	Lower	Lower	Similar
Overall appearance	77%	73%	68%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar

Table 2: Community Characteristics by Facet

		Percent rating positively (e.g., excellent/good, very/somewhat safe)			2018 rating compared to 2016	Comparison to benchmark		
		2014	2016	2018		2014	2016	2018
Safety	Overall feeling of safety	90%	90%	90%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar
	Safe in neighborhood	94%	98%	97%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar
	Safe downtown/commercial areas	94%	96%	96%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar
Mobility	Overall ease of travel	68%	69%	69%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar
	Paths and walking trails	75%	68%	69%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar
	Ease of walking	70%	66%	67%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar
	Travel by bicycle	66%	60%	62%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar
	Travel by car	64%	67%	69%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar
	Traffic flow	55%	56%	59%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar
	Overall natural environment	84%	81%	84%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar
Natural Environment	Cleanliness	82%	80%	74%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar
	Overall built environment	56%	56%	58%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar
Built Environment	New development in Ramsey	48%	47%	42%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar
	Affordable quality housing	69%	67%	64%	Similar	Higher	Higher	Higher
	Housing options	75%	73%	68%	Similar	Higher	Similar	Similar
	Public places	50%	56%	51%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Lower
	Overall economic health	50%	51%	54%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar
	Vibrant downtown/commercial area	21%	20%	20%	Similar	Lower	Lower	Much lower
Economy	Business and services	49%	43%	46%	Similar	Lower	Lower	Lower
	Cost of living	49%	49%	50%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar
	Shopping opportunities	23%	20%	20%	Similar	Much lower	Much lower	Much lower
	Employment opportunities	27%	24%	31%	Higher	Similar	Similar	Similar
	Place to visit	35%	35%	39%	Similar	Lower	Lower	Lower

The National Citizen Survey™

		Percent rating positively (e.g., excellent/good, very/somewhat safe)			2018 rating compared to 2016	Comparison to benchmark		
		2014	2016	2018		2014	2016	2018
Recreation and Wellness	Place to work	42%	49%	50%	Similar	Lower	Similar	Similar
	Health and wellness	66%	63%	59%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar
	Recreational opportunities	53%	50%	50%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Lower
	Fitness opportunities	60%	55%	64%	Higher	Similar	Similar	Similar
Education and Enrichment	Education and enrichment opportunities	54%	52%	53%	Similar	Lower	Similar	Lower
	Cultural/arts/music activities	41%	37%	44%	Higher	Similar	Lower	Similar
	Adult education	54%	46%	52%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar
	K-12 education	75%	72%	71%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar
	Child care/preschool	69%	56%	61%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar
Community Engagement	Opportunities to participate in community matters	52%	47%	51%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar
	Opportunities to volunteer	55%	46%	49%	Similar	Lower	Lower	Lower

Table 3: Governance General

		Percent rating positively (e.g., excellent/good)			2018 rating compared to 2016	Comparison to benchmark		
		2014	2016	2018		2014	2016	2018
Services provided by Ramsey		74%	73%	76%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar
Customer service		79%	81%	81%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar
Value of services for taxes paid		44%	45%	45%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar
Overall direction		48%	46%	49%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar
Welcoming citizen involvement		48%	48%	55%	Higher	Similar	Similar	Similar
Confidence in City government		43%	45%	51%	Higher	Similar	Similar	Similar
Acting in the best interest of Ramsey		43%	48%	56%	Higher	Similar	Similar	Similar
Being honest		47%	50%	60%	Higher	Similar	Similar	Similar
Treating all residents fairly		52%	56%	58%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar
Services provided by the Federal Government		NA	37%	45%	Higher	NA	Similar	Similar

Table 4: Governance by Facet

		Percent rating positively (e.g., excellent/good)			2018 rating compared to 2016	Comparison to benchmark		
		2014	2016	2018		2014	2016	2018
Safety	Police	86%	90%	91%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar
	Fire	92%	93%	95%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar
	Crime prevention	80%	79%	84%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar
	Fire prevention	83%	81%	82%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar
	Animal control	60%	62%	61%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar
Mobility	Traffic enforcement	68%	76%	75%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar
	Street repair	45%	40%	43%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar

The National Citizen Survey™

		Percent rating positively (e.g., excellent/good)			2018 rating compared to 2016	Comparison to benchmark		
		2014	2016	2018		2014	2016	2018
	Street cleaning	57%	60%	56%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar
	Street lighting	55%	57%	59%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar
	Snow removal	55%	62%	58%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar
	Sidewalk maintenance	61%	65%	60%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar
	Traffic signal timing	42%	46%	52%	Higher	Similar	Similar	Similar
Natural Environment	Drinking water	72%	72%	76%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar
	Natural areas preservation	69%	57%	63%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar
Built Environment	Storm drainage	73%	71%	75%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar
	Sewer services	81%	78%	84%	Higher	Similar	Similar	Similar
	Land use, planning and zoning	43%	37%	44%	Higher	Similar	Similar	Similar
	Code enforcement	40%	44%	50%	Higher	Similar	Similar	Similar
Economy	Economic development	43%	41%	47%	Higher	Similar	Similar	Similar
Recreation and Wellness	City parks	75%	77%	76%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar
Community Engagement	Recreation centers	59%	53%	59%	Similar	Lower	Lower	Similar
	Public information	58%	57%	61%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar

Table 5: Participation General

	Percent rating positively (e.g., always/sometimes, more than once a month, yes)			2018 rating compared to 2016	Comparison to benchmark		
	2014	2016	2018		2014	2016	2018
Sense of community	45%	51%	48%	Similar	Lower	Similar	Similar
Recommend Ramsey	82%	86%	84%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar
Remain in Ramsey	85%	86%	86%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar
Contacted Ramsey employees	44%	40%	38%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar

Table 6: Participation by Facet

		Percent rating positively (e.g., always/sometimes, more than once a month, yes)			2018 rating compared to 2016	Comparison to benchmark		
		2014	2016	2018		2014	2016	2018
Safety	Did NOT report a crime	90%	85%	81%	Similar	Higher	Similar	Similar
	Was NOT the victim of a crime	94%	92%	94%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar
Mobility	Used public transportation instead of driving	38%	35%	36%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar
	Walked or biked instead of driving	56%	65%	63%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar
Natural Environment	Recycled at home	95%	96%	97%	Similar	Higher	Higher	Higher
Built Environment	NOT under housing cost stress	78%	80%	79%	Similar	Higher	Higher	Higher
Economy	Purchased goods or services in Ramsey	95%	90%	88%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar
	Economy will have positive impact on income	29%	29%	40%	Higher	Similar	Similar	Similar

The National Citizen Survey™

		Percent rating positively (e.g., always/sometimes, more than once a month, yes)			2018 rating compared to 2016	Comparison to benchmark		
		2014	2016	2018		2014	2016	2018
	Work in Ramsey	20%	24%	22%	Similar	Much lower	Lower	Lower
Recreation and Wellness	Visited a City park	83%	88%	87%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar
Education and Enrichment	Attended a City-sponsored event	53%	42%	50%	Higher	Similar	Lower	Similar
Community Engagement	Campaigned for an issue, cause or candidate	11%	6%	8%	Similar	Lower	Lower	Lower
	Contacted Ramsey elected officials	11%	10%	11%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar
	Volunteered	22%	17%	20%	Similar	Much lower	Much lower	Much lower
	Attended a local public meeting	14%	11%	14%	Similar	Lower	Lower	Similar
	Watched a local public meeting	26%	21%	17%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar
	Voted in local elections	83%	79%	82%	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar

**CC Work Session**

**3.1.**

**Meeting Date:** 09/22/2020

**By:** Katie Schmidt, Administrative Services

**Information**

**Title:**

Review Future Topics/Calendar

**Purpose/Background:**

Attached is the current list of future topics for work session discussion. Items are drawn from Council requests at meetings, or are related to topics that have been identified in the City's strategic plan. Tentative dates have been assigned.

**Recommendation:**

N/A

**Action:**

For Council review - no formal action necessary.

**Attachments**

Future Topics List

**Form Review**

**Inbox**

Colleen Lasher

Kurt Ulrich

Form Started By: Katie Schmidt

Final Approval Date: 09/17/2020

**Reviewed By**

Colleen Lasher

Kurt Ulrich

**Date**

09/16/2020 04:27 PM

09/17/2020 03:29 PM

Started On: 09/14/2020 03:20 PM

## City Council Future Topics – Work Session

### (Tentative Dates)

<b>Proposed Date</b>	<b>Topics for Discussion – Council Action</b>	<b>Minutes</b>
TBD	Joint Fire Services JPA	15
2020	Discussion Regarding Recycling Services - Anderson	30
2020	Discuss the General Topic of Holding Joint Meeting(s) with the Council and Commissions & Other Cities. Based on discussion, future work sessions TBD.	20
2020	Discuss proposed amendments in regard to election law	30
	<b>Topics for Discussion – Planning and Budget</b>	
2020	Discuss Historic Town Hall – Ulrich	30
2020	City Branding Presentation - Ulrich	40
2020	Fire Department Duty Crew Analysis - Kohner	20
2020	Comprehensive Plan Review - Gladhill	30-45
2020	CR-5 Corridor Study Review - Westby	45
2020	Park System Plan – Riemer/Riverblood	60
2020	Union Contracts - Lasher	45
2020	Review Council Member Compensation Study	20
	<b>Topics for Discussion – Policy</b>	
10/27/2020	Draft Trail Maintenance Policy – Westby/Riemer	30
11/24/2020	Draft Stormwater Pond Maintenance Policy – Westby/Riemer	30
11/24-2020	Discuss City Communications / Areas for Emphasis	20
11/24/2020	Accounting of City Engineering Staff Time for City Projects - Westby	30
11/24/2020	Discussion Regarding the Remote Attendance Policy – Retain unlimited annual use or revise	15