

City of Ramsey
Agenda
City Council Work Session
Tuesday, March 14, 2023

5:30 pm
Lake Itasca Room, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW

Remote Attendance available at www.cityoframsey.com/meetings.
Those joining remotely and requesting to speak are asked to use a webcam when speaking.

1. **Call to Order**

2. **Topics for Discussion**
 1. City Board and Commission Interviews

 2. Receive Recommendation from the Charter Commissions to Amend Chapter 4 of the Charter - Nominations and Elections

 3. Discuss 2023 Citizen Survey

3. **Topics for Future Discussion**
 2. Review Future Topics/Calendar

4. **Mayor/Council/Staff Input**

5. **Adjournment***

***Note: the City Council may motion to recess this Work Session meeting and reconvene after the regular City Council meeting if items on the agenda are not completed.**

Meeting Date: 03/14/2023

Information

Title:

City Board and Commission Interviews

Purpose/Background:

The City conducts annual board and commission interviews every March for seats that are vacant and for terms that are set to expire on March 31, with new terms beginning on April 1. The recruitment process is conducted per City policy and includes the Economic Development Authority (EDA), the Environmental Policy Board (EPB), the Park and Recreation Commission and the Planning Commission. Due to the high number of applicants, this year, interviews will be held on both March 14 and March 21. Applicant application materials will be provided to the City Council at the meeting.

Background

The boards and commissions were advertised in the Ramsey Resident, the City's official newspaper, on the Community Sign, on Facebook, on the City's board and commission website page, as a Spotlight on the City's website homepage and on QCTV.

New Applicants

There are 12 new applicants for up to 6 open seats:

- One full 6 year term on the EDA
- Up to 3 partial terms on the EPB
- One partial term on the Planning Commission
- One partial term on the Park and Recreation Commission

Incumbents (Odd Year Policy/Process -- Includes Interview/Feedback Session)

One incumbent is seeking appointment to a third term. Based on the updated policy, this incumbent will attend an interview/feedback session with the City Council this evening to be considered for his third appointment to the Park and Recreation Commission.

Incumbents (Even Year Policy/Process - *No Interview/Feedback Session Required)

One incumbent is seeking appointment for the 4th time to the E.P.B.

One incumbent is seeking appointment for the 2nd time to the Park and Recreation Commission.

One incumbent is seeking appointment for the 2nd time to the Planning Commission.

*All incumbents have been recommended for reappointment by the respective Chair. One current member of the E.P.B. is seeking to discontinue serving on the E.P.B. and switch to the Park and Recreation Commission.

Per Minnesota Statue 469.095 (attached), the Mayor appoints members to the Economic Development Authority with approval from the Council. The City Council will receive a separate packet with specific non-public applicant information at the beginning of the work session.

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Timeframe:

Interviews this evening are scheduled for 5:30, 5:45, 6:00 and 6:15. The remaining interviews will occur on Tuesday, March 21st.

Funding Source:

N/A

Responsible Party(ies):

Colleen Lasher, Administrative Services Director

Outcome:

Outcome:

To begin the interview process this evening, which will conclude at a special work session on March 21, 2023.

Attachments

Statute 469.095

Recruitment Policy

Form Review

Inbox

Brian Hagen

Form Started By: Colleen Lasher

Final Approval Date: 03/09/2023

Reviewed By

Brian Hagen

Date

03/09/2023 11:10 AM

Started On: 03/07/2023 01:57 PM

469.095 COMMISSIONERS; APPOINTMENT, TERMS, VACANCIES, PAY, REMOVAL.

Subdivision 1. **Commissioners.** Except as provided in subdivision 2, paragraph (d), an economic development authority shall consist of either three, five, or seven commissioners who shall be appointed after the enabling resolution provided for in section 469.093 becomes effective. The resolution must indicate the number of commissioners constituting the authority.

Subd. 2. **Appointment, terms; vacancies.** (a) Three-member authority: the commissioners constituting a three-member authority, one of whom must be a member of the city council, shall be appointed by the mayor with the approval of the city council. Those initially appointed shall be appointed for terms of two, four, and six years, respectively. Thereafter all commissioners shall be appointed for six-year terms.

(b) Five-member authority: the commissioners constituting a five-member authority, two of whom must be members of the city council, shall be appointed by the mayor with the approval of the city council. Those initially appointed shall be appointed for terms of two, three, four, five, and six years respectively. Thereafter all commissioners shall be appointed for six-year terms.

(c) Seven-member authority: the commissioners constituting a seven-member authority, two of whom must be members of the city council, shall be appointed by the mayor with the approval of the city council. Those initially appointed shall be appointed for terms of one, two, three, four, and five years respectively and two members for six years. Thereafter all commissioners shall be appointed for six-year terms.

(d) The enabling resolution may provide that the members of the city council shall serve as the commissioners.

(e) The enabling resolution may provide for the appointment of members of the city council in excess of the number required in paragraphs (a), (b), and (c).

(f) A vacancy is created in the membership of an authority when a city council member of the authority ends council membership. A vacancy for this or another reason must be filled for the balance of the unexpired term, in the manner in which the original appointment was made. The city council may set the term of the commissioners who are members of the city council to coincide with their term of office as members of the city council.

Subd. 3. **Increase in commission members.** An authority may be increased from three to five or seven members, or from five to seven members by a resolution adopted by the city council following the procedure provided for modifying the enabling resolution in section 469.093.

Subd. 4. **Compensation and reimbursement.** A commissioner, including the president, shall be paid for attending each regular or special meeting of the authority in an amount to be determined by the city council. In addition to receiving pay for meetings, the commissioners may be reimbursed for actual expenses incurred in doing official business of the authority. All money paid for compensation or reimbursement must be paid out of the authority's budget.

Subd. 5. **Removal for cause.** A commissioner may be removed by the city council for inefficiency, neglect of duty, or misconduct in office. A commissioner shall be removed only after a hearing. A copy of the charges must be given to the commissioner at least ten days before the hearing. The commissioner must be given an opportunity to be heard in person or by counsel at the hearing. When written charges have been submitted against a commissioner, the city council may temporarily suspend the commissioner. If the city council finds that those charges have not been substantiated, the commissioner shall be immediately reinstated.

If a commissioner is removed, a record of the proceedings, together with the charges and findings, shall be filed in the office of the city clerk.

History: *1987 c 291 s 96*

**POLICY FOR THE RECRUITMENT, APPLICATION,
AND INTERVIEW PROCESS OF APPOINTING CITY
BOARD AND COMMISSION MEMBERS AND CHAIR
MEMBER TERM ROTATIONS**

PURPOSE: The Mayor and City Council of the City of Ramsey have the authority to establish volunteer boards and commissions to advise them on matters affecting the City, as detailed in Chapter 2, Article V, Section 2-155 of the City Code. The purpose of this policy is to outline a process for the recruitment, application, and interview process of appointing City board and commission members, as well as to limit Chair terms to two terms in a row.

SCOPE: This policy applies to the following advisory commissions established by the City of Ramsey: Economic Development Authority, Environmental Policy Board, Park and Recreation Commission and the Planning Commission. This policy excludes the Charter Commission application process. For information on the Charter Commission please visit: [Charter Commission | Ramsey, MN](#)

PROCESS: The intent of this policy is to ensure that openings on City boards and commissions are publicized to the community at large, that applicants are evaluated objectively and treated fairly and courteously, and that members of boards and commissions are selected on the basis of their qualifications and suitability for the position.

INCUMBENTS

Incumbent reapplication process for odd number term reappointment requests

Incumbents seeking reappointment for the third, fifth, seventh, etc. term, the following policy applies: Annually, staff will notify commission members by December 1st reminding them of their upcoming term expiration and invite them to attend a voluntary interactive feedback session with the City Council to highlight information such as accomplishments, personal contributions to the commission, and ideas for improving the effectiveness of the board or commission. This will also be an opportunity for the City Council to ask additional questions of the incumbent.

The chair of each board or commission for which appointments are being considered will be invited to submit written comments to the City Council, making a recommendation regarding reappointment. If the chair is the incumbent, the vice-chair will be contacted; if both are incumbents, the most senior member of the board or commission will be contacted. The form for written comments will be provided by the city. The final decision regarding appointments will rest with the City Council.

Incumbent reapplication process for even number term reappointment requests

Incumbents seeking reappointment for the second, fourth, sixth, etc. term, the following policy applies: Annually, staff will notify commission members by December 1st reminding them of the upcoming term expiration. If the incumbent wishes to be reappointed, the incumbent will not be required to interview with the City Council and a brief letter of intent will not be required; however, the chair of each board or commission for which appointments are being considered will be invited to submit written comments to the City Council, making a recommendation regarding reappointment. If the chair is the incumbent, the vice-chair will be contacted; if both are incumbents, the most senior member of the board or commission will be contacted. The form for written comments will be provided by the city. The final decision regarding appointments will rest with the City Council.

The general policy for all incumbents will include the following process:

- Regardless of the incumbent reapplication status, all board and commissions will be advertised to the public. This is important in order to secure as many applicants as possible for unexpected or unforeseen mid-recruitment vacancies.
- In one collective process, concurrent with new applicants, the City Council will meet, discuss, and determine whether or not a reappointment will be made.
- If it is determined that the City Council does not wish to reappoint the incumbent, the incumbent will be notified. If it is determined that the incumbent will be reappointed, the incumbent will be notified.
- In the event that a commissioner does not wish to be reappointed, staff will offer them an opportunity to contact member(s) of the City Council to discuss any concerns that they may have.

NON-INCUMBENTS

New member application process

Annually, prior to the normal ending date of boards and commissions terms, staff will prepare a detailed notice for publication in the City's January/February newsletter and in the City's official newspaper, as required by the Charter. The notice will publicize that applications are being accepted for boards and commissions, including the Economic Development Authority, Environmental Policy Board, Park and Recreation Commission and Planning Commission. The notice will provide language stating that applications will be considered by the City Council for current openings and future vacancies occurring in the next annual recruitment cycle. The notice will provide an application closing date of the last Friday in February.

The application materials will remain open on the City's website year-round. When an application is received, staff will make contact with the applicant to confirm the receipt of the application and advise the applicant of what to expect going forward based on the current recruiting needs of the City.

Unexpected Vacancy Process

Periodically, when an unexpected vacancy on a board or commission occurs, the board or commission staff liaison will notify the head of human resources, who will take one of the following three actions:

- 1) Refer back to the most recent recruitment file in an effort to identify a viable candidate that has already successfully passed the interview process. If a candidate is identified and willing to serve on the given board or commission, the head of Human Resources will consult with the City Administrator and act according to the City Administrator's direction; if applicable, a resolution appointing the new member will be presented to the City Council.
- 2) Refer to new applicants' applications that have been received through the continuous posting period, but not yet interviewed by the City Council and schedule mid-year interviews for the current vacancy.
- 3) If options 1 and 2 above are not viable, staff will prepare a detailed notice of position availability for publication once in the City newsletter with an application deadline date of the last day of the month of the first month of the newsletter edition and in the City's official newspaper, as required by the Charter. The City Administrator will provide the head of human resources with direction as to if this step should occur or to wait until the

next annual recruitment process. Interviews

INTERVIEWS

- Staff will arrange interview times and notify applicants and the City Council of the arrangements.
- If there are more than five applicants per the total number of vacancies to be filled, the City Council will evaluate the applications and select five applicants to be interviewed.
- Interview questions will be determined before the interview based on qualifications identified as necessary, as well as to accurately identify each applicant's knowledge, skills, and abilities, and the benefits that the applicant, if appointed, may bring to the board or commission in the future.
- All applicants will be asked the same questions. Depending on responses, some follow-up questions will differ from candidate to candidate for purposes of clarification.
- The City Council will evaluate applicants by comparing responses to interview questions, information contained in the letter of interest/application, and potential contribution to the existing diversity of expertise, experience and geographic representation on the applicable board or commission.
- Interviews will not be televised but will be held in an open meeting.

SELECTION

- Recommendations from the City Council regarding appointments will be forwarded to the next regular meeting of the City Council for consideration.
- When vacancies occur on the EDA, the Mayor will make a recommendation for appointment to the City Council.
- Except where a vacancy unexpectedly occurs, creating a vacant seat mid-term, all new appointments or reappointments to regular terms on a City board or commission will be effective on April 1. This is to allow the current members of the City Council the opportunity to review and select individuals for seats on boards and commissions.
- Chair and Vice-chair selections are generally decided by each board or commission in April. The City Council desires to offer members the opportunity to grow their experience on the commission; therefore, following a maximum of two consecutive terms as Chair of the respective commission, a new Chair will be selected. The outgoing Chair may be appointed to the Vice-chair role.

NOTIFICATION TO APPLICANTS

After appointments have been approved, the staff will notify all applicants of the results of the process and take the necessary steps to on-board new members.

TERMS

Board and Commission members shall serve four-year terms, with the exception of members of the Economic Development Authority serving six-year terms. There will be no limit to the number of terms that can be served. Terms will expire annually on March 31. Incumbents will be allowed to continue to serve until a successor is appointed.

STIPENDS FOR MEMBERS OF CITY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Effective July 1, 1996, members of all City boards and commissions are eligible for stipends to cover expenses for meetings actually attended. The amount of the stipends is established by City Council resolution and subject to change as deemed necessary by the City Council. Elected officials seated on a board or commission are not eligible for a stipend.

Stipends paid to members of City boards and commissions will be reported to the Internal Revenue Service as required by law.

SERVICE ON MORE THAN ONE CITY BOARD OR COMMISSION

Resolution 89-11-302 states that it is the policy of the Ramsey City Council “to avoid appointing individuals to more than one Board or Commission unless adequate representation cannot be accomplished or it is clearly in the best interest of the City of Ramsey to make such appointments to multiple Boards or Commission.”

REVISIONS

Adopted by the City Council August 13, 1996

Revised by the City Council August, 11, 1997

- Ordinance #97-10 amended City Code 2.03.02 changing terms of office for boards and commissions from two years to four years and establishing a limitation of two consecutive four-year terms, effective August 11, 1997.

Revised by the City Council December 11, 2001

Revised by the City Council December 17, 2002

- Evaluation panel defined as the three members of the Personnel Committee
- The two Board/Commission representatives will have 1.5 votes each

Revised by the City Council November 25, 2003

- New application/questionnaire to be reviewed and scored by evaluation panel. Top five scorers invited to interview.

Revised by the City Council December 9, 2003

- Incumbents who wish to apply for another term will submit a letter of interest which will be reviewed by the evaluation panel. The incumbent will be reappointed or the seat will be advertised.

Revised by the City Council March 14, 2006

- Each member of the evaluation panel will receive one vote in order to avoid a tie
- Term limits are abolished.
- Members of the evaluation panel will meet in person to discuss applications for reappointment, as they do with new applications

Revised by the City Council January 27, 2009

- Incumbents and new applicants will be considered in one collective recruitment, interview and selection process.
- Term expiration dates will be adjusted for current and future board and commission members to March 31
- Applicants will be interviewed by the full City Council (the evaluation panel) and the City Council will consult with the chair and vice chair of each board or commission regarding appointments, as deemed necessary; however, chairs and vice chairs will not vote on appointments
- If there are more than five applicants for a vacancy, the City Council will screen the applications and select five applicants to be interviewed

Revised by the City Council June 28, 2011

- Advertising for unexpected vacancies, if needed, will be advertised only once in the Ramsey Resident
- Interviewees will be invited to a short open house prior to interviews
- Interview questions will be revised to more accurately identify each applicant's knowledge, skills, and abilities based on the qualifications identified as necessary and the benefits that the applicant, if appointed, may bring to the board or commission in the future

Discussion by the City Council April, 2014 to make the following revisions:

- Omit "Incumbents seeking reappointment will be required to complete a City of Ramsey application for boards and commissions and will be considered in one collective recruitment, interview and selection process
- Omit inviting applicants to a short open house prior to interviews.
- Remove the term "evaluation panel" -- replacing it with the term "City Council."
- Remove "Reviewing applications -- After the application deadline has passed, the Human Resources Manager will forward all applications to the City Council for scoring. The Human Manager will total the scores and invite the top five scorers to interview."
- Omit several unnecessary headings / improved formatting.
- Omit the Charter Commission from the policy.

Revised by the City Council June 28, 2016

- Research and complete

Council January, 2023

- TBD based on Council direction

CC Work Session**2. 2.****Meeting Date:** 03/14/2023**By:** Katie Schmidt, Administrative Services

Information**Title:**

Receive Recommendation from the Charter Commissions to Amend Chapter 4 of the Charter - Nominations and Elections

Purpose/Background:**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this case is to receive the recommendations from the Charter Commission to Amend Chapter 4 of the City Charter.

BACKGROUND:Changes to State Election Law

The State Legislation previously set uniform election dates for special elections, which prompted a complete review of Chapter 4, Nominations and Elections, of the City's Charter. The current Charter language does not include these dates, is not entirely consistent with State law, and causes problems in administering City elections.

Charter Commission Actions - To Date

The Charter Commission started its work on updating Chapter 4 in February 2019. In cooperation with former City Attorney Langel, a draft ordinance (#19-15 " An Ordinance Amending the Charter by Repealing and Replacing Chapter 4 - Nominations and Elections") was drafted and then reviewed by the City Council on December 10, 2019, but it did not pass. In order for the ordinance to pass, all Councilmembers must motion in favor of the Ordinance.

- Section 4.1 and 4.2 Changes were approved by the Charter Commission on November 17, 2021
 - Slight revisions to Section 4.1 and 4.2 were approved by the Charter Commission on February 2, 2023
- Section 4.4 Changes were approved by the Charter Commission on October 26, 2022
- Section 4.5 Changes were approved by the Charter Commission on February 2, 2023

Within one month of receiving a recommendation to amend the charter by ordinance, the city must publish notice of a public hearing of the proposal. The city must hold the public hearing on the proposed charter amendment at least two weeks, but not more than one month after the notice is published. Within one month of the public hearing, the city council must vote on the proposed charter amendment ordinance. To pass, the vote must be unanimous, including approval by the mayor.

Timeframe:

Next Steps:

- Per State Statute 410.12 Subd. 7., the Council must vote on the proposed charter amendment ordinance within one month of the public hearing.
- Publish Public Hearing Notice March 24, 2023
- Hold Public Hearing and Introduce Ordinance #23-05 on April 11, 2023
- The Ordinance will come back for final consideration on either April 25, 2023 or May 9, 2023

Observations/Alternatives:

N/A

Funding Source:

N/A

Recommendation:

Staff recommends the Amendments to Chapter 4 brought forward by the Charter Commission.

Action:

Based on discussion.

Attachments

Ordinance #23-05
Current Chapter 4 of the Charter
Chapter 4 Clean Copy/Proposed Changes Accepted
Election Scenarios
Statute 205.16 Notice
Peer City Examples - Notice
Statute 205.10 Uniform Election Dates
Peer City Examples - Uniform Election Dates
Peer City Examples - Appoint/Special Election

Form Review

Inbox	Reviewed By	Date
Bruce Westby	Katie Schmidt	03/09/2023 11:35 AM
Brian Hagen	Brian Hagen	03/09/2023 12:09 PM
Form Started By: Katie Schmidt		Started On: 03/02/2023 12:42 PM
Final Approval Date: 03/09/2023		

ORDINANCE #23-05
CITY OF RAMSEY
ANOKA COUNTY
STATE OF MINNESOTA

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY CHARTER OF THE CITY OF
RAMSEY, MINNESOTA CHAPTER 4 – ELECTIONS AND NOMINATIONS**

The City of Ramsey ordains:

SECTION 1. AUTHORITY

This Ordinance is adopted pursuant to the authority of the City Charter of the City of Ramsey and such authority as it is given under Minnesota Statutes Section 410.12, subdivision 7.

SECTION 2.

The Section 4 of the City of Ramsey Charter is amended to read as follows (additions indicated by underline, deletions indicated by strikethrough):

“Sec. 4.1 – The regular municipal election.

A regular municipal election shall be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of each even-numbered year, ~~commencing in 1984~~, at such places as the city council shall designate. At least 15 days prior notice shall be given by the city clerk by posting a notice thereof in the city clerk’s office, on the city website at least one public place in each election precinct, and by publishing a notice thereof at least once in the official newspaper of the city stating the time and the places of holding such election and of the officers to be elected. Failure to give such notice shall not invalidate such election. Elected and qualified officers provided for by this Charter shall assume the duties of office to which they were elected on the first ~~business day~~ Monday in January following such election.

- 4.1.1 *Primary elections.* ~~The regular p~~Primary elections shall be held on the same date as prescribed by ~~the~~ Minnesota Election Law Statute, which establishes the statewide primary election date. The primary election shall be for the selection of two nominees for each elective office at the regular municipal election, ~~unless two nominees or fewer file for each elective office. If two candidates or fewer file for any elective office, that office shall not appear on the primary ballot and the candidates shall appear on the municipal general election ballot as the nominees for that office.~~

“Sec. 4.2 – Filing for office.

All persons who shall desire to be elected to any elected office shall file an affidavit not more than ~~ten weeks~~ 84 days nor less than ~~eight weeks~~ 70 days before the primary election with the city clerk, paying a filing fee to the city clerk in an amount as set by ordinance or filing a nominating petition. The clerk shall also accept an application for candidacy as authorized by state law.

The city clerk shall prepare and have printed at the expense of the city the necessary ballots or other required material for such election.

The ballots or other material shall contain no political party designation of any candidate and the names of the candidates for each office shall be rotated in the manner provided by state law may be arranged on the ballot alphabetically according to the surname of each candidate. Consistent with state law, the ballots or the results shall be counted and preserved and the city clerk shall be the final custodian of such ballots or returns for the city.

A sample ballot or a facsimile representation of the ballot shall be posted at the place of election in the city clerk's office and published in the official newspaper of the city at least one two weeks before such election by the city clerk, whose duty it is to preserve such sample ballots.

“Sec. 4.4 – Special and advisory elections except for elected office.

The council may, by resolution, order any special or advisory election deemed appropriate by the council, for any reason, and provide all means for holding it, except that any election so ordered shall only be held on the same date as a regular municipal election. At least 15 days' prior notice shall be given by the city clerk by posting a notice thereof in at least one public place in each election precinct, and by publishing a notice thereof at least once in the official newspaper of the city stating the time and the places of holding such election. This section does not apply to special elections to fill vacancies in municipal offices.

“Sec. 4.5 – Vacancy of municipal elected office.

- 4.5.1 In the event that ~~When~~ a vacancy in an elected office of the city occurs with 365 days or more remaining in the term of the vacated office, ~~there shall be~~ a special election shall occur on the date established by the City Council per Minn Stat. §205.10, as the same may be revised, amended or recodified, held within 90 days after the vacancy occurs to elect a successor to serve for the remainder of the unexpired term of the office vacated.
- 4.5.2 A person elected at a special election held pursuant to this section to fill the balance of the unexpired term shall take office immediately after being qualified. The city clerk shall give at least 60 days published prior notice of such special election, except as set forth under 4.5.5 of this section.
- 4.5.3 The procedure at such election ~~and assumption of duties of elected officers following such election~~ shall conform as nearly as practicable to that prescribed for other municipal elections under this Charter.
- 4.5.4 In the event ~~case~~ of a vacancy ~~where there remains less than 365 days in the unexpired term in an elected office of the city,~~ the council shall, by a majority vote, appoint a successor to serve the balance of for the unexpired remainder of said term or until a successor elected at a special election held pursuant to this section is qualified. In the case of a tie vote of the council, the mayor, or acting mayor if the office of mayor be vacant, shall make the appointment from the candidates involved in the tie vote.
- 4.5.5 If two or fewer candidates file an affidavit of candidacy, the special primary election shall be canceled and the special general election may be moved up to the primary date with Council approval. If this option is utilized, it must be noted on the resolution calling for a special election.

~~4.5.5—Office vacancy when less than eight weeks prior to primary election.~~

~~4.5.5.1—Special election. When a vacancy in an elected office of the city occurs when there is less than eight weeks prior to a primary election there shall be no primary election, except as provided in section 4.5.5.3 below. The special election to fill the vacancy shall coincide with the regular Municipal Election and the notice of such vacancy shall be published as soon as is practicable.~~

~~4.5.5.2—Vacancy in offices to be voted on in the regular Municipal Election. If a vacancy occurs less than eight weeks prior to the primary election, in the office of the mayor or the council members whose seats are to be voted on in the regular Municipal Election, said vacancy shall be considered not to exist for the purpose of the regular Municipal Election. The person elected to fill the vacancy in the regular Municipal Election, if approved by unanimous vote of the sitting council, may assume the duties of the office to which elected on the first business day following the city clerk's issuance of a certificate of election to said person.~~

~~4.5.5.3—Vacancy in an office not to be voted on in the regular Municipal Election. If a vacancy occurs in the office of the mayor or a councilmember not standing for election in the regular Municipal Election, a special primary election and a special election shall be held in January of the subsequent year following the vacancy to fill said vacancy. The election procedures for the special primary election and the special election shall be those election procedures for municipal office candidates as prescribed in Minnesota Statutes and this Charter. Notwithstanding section 2.3.1 of this Charter, which provides for a four-year term for the mayor and council members, the term of the mayor and/or a councilmember elected pursuant to this subsection will be for the remainder of the vacant term.~~

4.5.6 If a special election has been called to fill a vacancy in an elected office of the city, and no candidates filed an affidavit of candidacy prior to the expiration of the period for filing an affidavit of candidacy, the special election shall be cancelled. In the event that such a cancellation occurs there are insufficient numbers of candidates in a regular or special election to fill expiring or vacated municipal offices, the individual appointed by the city council to fill said vacancy under this section shall serve the balance of the unexpired term or until a successor elected at a special election held pursuant to this section is qualified. fill said offices by appointment until the next regular municipal election. In the case of a tie vote of the council, the mayor shall make said appointment from the candidates under consideration. In the event that such a cancellation occurs, a special election to fill the balance of the unexpired term shall be held on the same date as the next regular municipal election, unless the next regular municipal election would be in the fourth year of the term.”

SECTION 3. SUMMARY

The following official summary of Ordinance #23-05 has been approved by the City Council of the City of Ramsey as clearly informing the public of the intent and effect of the Ordinance.

Ordinance #23-05 amends Chapter 4 – Elections and Nominations of the Ramsey City Charter.

SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

This ordinance becomes effective 90 days after its passage and publication as provided by Minnesota Statutes Section 410.12, Subdivision 7, as may be modified by any action undertaken pursuant to City of Ramsey Charter Section 5.

PASSED by the City Council of the City of Ramsey, Minnesota, the ____ day of April, 2023.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

CHAPTER 4. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Sec. 4.1. The regular municipal election.

A regular municipal election shall be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of each even-numbered year, commencing in 1984, at such places as the city council shall designate. At least 15 days prior notice shall be given by the city clerk by posting a notice thereof in at least one public place in each election precinct, and by publishing a notice thereof at least once in the official newspaper of the city stating the time and the places of holding such election and of the officers to be elected. Failure to give such notice shall not invalidate such election. Elected and qualified officers provided for by this Charter shall assume the duties of office to which they were elected on the first business day in January following such election.

4.1.1 *Primary elections.* Primary elections shall be held on the same date as prescribed by the Minnesota Statute, which establishes the statewide primary election date. The primary election shall be for the selection of two nominees for each elective office at the regular municipal election, unless two nominees or fewer file for each elective office.

(Ord. of 1-24-2001; Ref. of 11-6-2001; Ord. No. 10-08, § 1, 5-4-2010)

Sec. 4.2. Filing for office.

All persons who shall desire to be elected to any elected office shall file an affidavit not more than ten weeks nor less than eight weeks before the primary election with the city clerk, paying a filing fee to the city clerk in an amount as set by ordinance.

The city clerk shall prepare and have printed at the expense of the city the necessary ballots or other required material for such election.

The ballots or other material shall contain no political party designation of any candidate and the names of the candidates for each office may be arranged on the ballot alphabetically according to the surname of each candidate. The ballots or the results shall be counted and preserved and the city clerk shall be the final custodian of such ballots or returns for the city.

A sample ballot or a facsimile representation of the ballot shall be posted at the place of election at least one week before such election by the city clerk, whose duty it is to preserve such sample ballots.

4.2.1. [Repealed].

(Ord. of 11-14-1994; Ref. of 1-24-2001; Ref. of 11-6-2001)

Sec. 4.3. Procedure at elections.

Consistent with the provisions of this Charter and applicable state statutes, the council may by ordinance further regulate the conduct of municipal elections. Except as otherwise provided by this Charter and supplementary ordinances, general state statutes on elections shall apply to municipal elections.

Sec. 4.4. Special and advisory elections except for elected office.

The council may by resolution order any special or advisory election deemed appropriate by the council, for any reason, and provide all means for holding it. At least 15 days' prior notice shall be given by the city clerk by posting a notice thereof in at least one public place in each election precinct, and by publishing a notice thereof at least once in the official newspaper of the city stating the time and the places of holding such election.

(Ord. of 1-24-2001)

Sec. 4.5. Vacancy of municipal elected office.

4.5.1 When a vacancy in an elected office of the city occurs with 365 days or more remaining in the term of the vacated office, there shall be a special election held within 90 days after the vacancy occurs to elect a successor to serve for the remainder of the unexpired term of the office vacated.

4.5.2 The city clerk shall give at least 60 days published prior notice of such special election, except as set forth under 4.5.5 of this section.

4.5.3 The procedure at such election and assumption of duties of elected officers following such election shall conform as nearly as practicable to that prescribed for other municipal elections under this Charter.

4.5.4 In the case of a vacancy where there remains less than 365 days in the unexpired term, the council shall, by a majority vote, appoint a successor to serve for the remainder of said term. In the case of a tie vote of the council, the mayor, or acting mayor if the office of mayor be vacant, shall make the appointment from the candidates involved in the tie vote.

4.5.5 *Office vacancy when less than eight weeks prior to primary election.*

4.5.5.1 *Special election.* When a vacancy in an elected office of the city occurs when there is less than eight weeks prior to a primary election there shall be no primary election, except as provided in section 4.5.5.3 below. The special election to fill the vacancy shall coincide with the regular Municipal Election and the notice of such vacancy shall be published as soon as is practicable.

4.5.5.2 *Vacancy in offices to be voted on in the regular Municipal Election.* If a vacancy occurs less than eight weeks prior to the primary election, in the office of the mayor or the council members whose seats are to be voted on in the regular Municipal Election, said vacancy shall be considered not to exist for the purpose of the regular Municipal Election. The person elected to fill the vacancy in the regular Municipal Election, if approved by unanimous vote of the sitting council, may assume the duties of the office to which elected on the first business day following the city clerk's issuance of a certificate of election to said person.

4.5.5.3 *Vacancy in an office not to be voted on in the regular Municipal Election.* If a vacancy occurs in the office of the mayor or a councilmember not standing for election in the regular Municipal Election, a special primary election and a special election shall be held in January of the subsequent year following the vacancy to fill said vacancy. The election procedures for the special primary election and the special election shall be those election procedures for municipal office candidates as prescribed in Minnesota Statutes and this Charter. Notwithstanding section 2.3.1 of this Charter, which provides for a four-year term for the mayor and council members, the term of the mayor and/or a councilmember elected pursuant to this subsection will be for the remainder of the vacant term.

4.5.6 If there are insufficient numbers of candidates in a regular or special election to fill expiring or vacated municipal offices, the city council shall fill said offices by appointment until the next regular municipal election. In the case of a tie vote of the council, the mayor shall make said appointment from the candidates under consideration.

(Ord. of 1-24-2001; Ord. No. 04-47, § 1(Subd. 3), 11-23-2004; Ord. No. 09-18, § 2, 12-8-2009)

Charter Proposed Changes to Chapter 4 – Clean Copy/Changes Accepted

Sec. 4.1 – The regular municipal election.

A regular municipal election shall be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of each even-numbered year, at such places as the city council shall designate. At least 15 days prior notice shall be given by the city clerk by posting a notice thereof in the city clerk's office, on the city website and by publishing a notice thereof at least once in the official newspaper of the city stating the time and the places of holding such election and of the officers to be elected. Failure to give such notice shall not invalidate such election. Elected and qualified officers provided for by this Charter shall assume the duties of office to which they were elected on the first Monday in January following such election.

4.1.1 *Primary elections.* The regular primary elections shall be held on the same date as prescribed by Minnesota Election Law, which establishes the statewide primary election date. The primary election shall be for the selection of two nominees for each elective office at the regular municipal election. If two candidates or fewer file for any elective office, that office shall not appear on the primary ballot and the candidates shall appear on the municipal general election ballot as the nominees for that office.

Sec. 4.2 – Filing for office.

All persons who shall desire to be elected to any elected office shall file an affidavit not more than 84 days nor less than 70 days before the primary election with the city clerk, paying a filing fee to the city clerk in an amount as set by ordinance or filing a nominating petition. The clerk shall also accept an application for candidacy as authorized by state law.

The city clerk shall prepare and have printed at the expense of the city the necessary ballots or other required material for such election.

The ballots or other material shall contain no political party designation of any candidate and the names of the candidates for each office shall be rotated in the manner provided by state law. Consistent with state law, the ballots or the results shall be counted and preserved and the city clerk shall be the final custodian of such ballots or returns for the city.

A sample ballot or a facsimile representation of the ballot shall be posted in the city clerk's office and published in the official newspaper of the city at least two weeks before such election by the city clerk, whose duty it is to preserve such sample ballots.

Sec. 4.4 – Special and advisory elections except for elected office.

The council may, by resolution, order any special or advisory election deemed appropriate by the council, for any reason, and provide all means for holding it, except that any election so ordered shall only be held on the same date as a regular municipal election. This section does not apply to special elections to fill vacancies in municipal offices.

Sec. 4.5 – Vacancy of municipal elected office.

4.5.1 In the event that a vacancy in an elected office of the city occurs with 365 days or more remaining in the term of the vacated office, a special election shall occur on the date established by the City Council per Minn Stat. §205.10, as the same may be revised,

amended or recodified, to elect a successor to serve for the remainder of the unexpired term of the office vacated.

- 4.5.2 A person elected at a special election held pursuant to this section to fill the balance of the unexpired term shall take office immediately after being qualified.
- 4.5.3 The procedure at such election shall conform as nearly as practicable to that prescribed for other municipal elections under this Charter.
- 4.5.4 In the event of a vacancy in an elected office of the city, the council shall, by a majority vote, appoint a successor to serve the balance of the unexpired term or until a successor elected at a special election held pursuant to this section is qualified. In the case of a tie vote of the council, the mayor, or acting mayor if the office of mayor be vacant, shall make the appointment from the candidates involved in the tie vote.
- 4.5.5 If two or fewer candidates file an affidavit of candidacy, the special primary election shall be canceled and the special general election may be moved up to the primary date with Council approval. If this option is utilized, it must be noted on the resolution calling for a special election.
- 4.5.6 If a special election has been called to fill a vacancy in an elected office of the city, and no candidates filed an affidavit of candidacy prior to the expiration of the period for filing an affidavit of candidacy, the special election shall be cancelled. In the event that such a cancellation occurs, the individual appointed by the city council to fill said vacancy under this section shall serve the balance of the unexpired term or until a successor elected at a special election held pursuant to this section is qualified. In the event that such a cancellation occurs, a special election to fill the balance of the unexpired term shall be held on the same date as the next regular municipal election, unless the next regular municipal election would be in the fourth year of the term.

City of Ramsey Election Scenarios

2023 Uniform Election Dates

- Second Tuesday in February – February 14, 2023
 - Second Tuesday in April – April 11, 2023
 - Second Tuesday in May – May 9, 2023
 - Second Tuesday in August – August 8, 2023
 - First Tuesdays after first Monday in November – November 7, 2023
- The City has followed the uniform election dates since it took effect on January 1, 2018. We used the uniform election dates and timelines for the 8-13-2019 Special, the 11-5-2019 Special and the 2-9-2021 Special. Adding the State Statute to our Charter will add clear deadlines and more clarity to running elections.

State Statute §205.10 Subd. 3a.

Uniform election dates. (a) Except as allowed in paragraph (b) and subdivision 4, a special election held in a city or town must be held on one of the following dates: the second Tuesday in February, the second Tuesday in April, the second Tuesday in May, the second Tuesday in August, or the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. A home rule charter city must not designate additional dates in its charter.

Uniform Election Months with Corresponding General Election Months

February Primary

➤ April General

April Primary

➤ August General

May Primary

➤ August General

August Primary

➤ November General

November Primary

➤ February General

Notice Needed

Candidate Filing Notice based on State Statute 205.13 Subd. 2
Requires at least two weeks published notice before the first day to file affidavits of candidacy. Published notice is required at least 98 days before the election, which is a Tuesday. Our local newspaper requires notice by Wednesday at 10am prior to the weekly Friday publication. In order to meet the statutory deadline, we need 104 days' notice. Before the publication can happen, Council needs to pass a resolution calling for a special election. A conservative number of days' notice needed would be **125** days prior to the primary special election date.

Possible Option to shorten up Vacancy

- There is nothing in State Statute that prohibits moving up a Special General election if a Primary is not necessary
- The State Elections department stated several cities and school districts regularly move up their Special General when a Primary election is not necessary
- The process to utilize that option would be to state it in the resolution passed by Council calling for a special election
- This would shorten up a vacancy to approximately 5 months as oppose to 7-9 months
- The Charter Commission has recommended adding section 4.5.5 to the Charter to provide that option
- Council is not required, but *may* choose to use that option if it is added to the Charter

2023 Example Scenarios

February 14, 2023 Special Primary *Notice Needed by October 12, 2022*

- Primary (if needed) would be February 14, 2023
- Special General Election would be April 11, 2023
- Vacancy for approximately **7 months**
- *If the Charter is updated to move up the Special General if two or less candidates file, then Special General would take place on February 14, 2023*
- Vacancy for approximately **5 months**

April 11, 2023 Special Primary *Notice Needed by December 7, 2022*

- Primary (if needed) would be April 11, 2023
- Special General Election would be August 8, 2023
- Vacancy for approximately **9 months**
- *If the Charter is updated to move up the Special General if two or less candidates file, then Special General would take place on April 11, 2023*
- Vacancy for approximately **5 months**

May 9, 2023 Special Primary *Notice Needed by January 4, 2023*

- Primary (if needed) would be May 9, 2023
- Special General Election would be August 8, 2023
- Vacancy for approximately **8 months**
- *If the Charter is updated to move up the Special General if two or less candidates file, then Special General would take place on May 9, 2023*
- Vacancy for approximately **5 months**

August 8, 2023 Special Primary *Notice Needed by April 5, 2023*

- Primary (if needed) would be August 8, 2023
- Special General Election would be November 7, 2023
- Vacancy for approximately **8 months**
- *If the Charter is updated to move up the Special General if two or less candidates file, then Special General would take place on August 8, 2023*
- Vacancy for approximately **5 months**

November 7, 2023 Special Primary *Notice Needed by July 5, 2023*

- Primary (if needed) would be November 7, 2023
- Special General Election would be February 13, 2024
- Vacancy for approximately **8 months**
- *If the Charter is updated to move up the Special General if two or less candidates file, then Special General would take place on November 7, 2023*
- Vacancy for approximately **5 months**

Actual Past Examples

August 13, 2019 Special General Election Councilmember At-Large

- Resignation notice received November 6, 2018
- Special Primary Election (if needed) would have been April 9, 2019
- Special Election took place on August 13, 2019
- The Councilmember attended their first meeting on August 27, 2019
- *Vacancy for approximately **8 months***

November 5, 2019 Special General Election Councilmember Ward 3

- Resignation notice received April 9, 2019
- Special Primary Election (if needed) would have been August 13, 2019
- Special Election took place on November 5, 2019
- The Councilmember attended their first meeting on November 26, 2019
- *Vacancy for approximately **7 months***

February 9, 2021 Special General Election Councilmember Ward 1

- Resignation notice received July 14, 2020
- Special Primary Election (if needed) would have been November 3, 2020
- Special Election took place on February 9, 2021
- The Councilmember attended their first meeting on March 9, 2021
- *Vacancy for approximately **7 months***

205.16 MS 1957 [Repealed, 1959 c 675 art 13 s 1]

205.16 NOTICE.

Subdivision 1. **Publication and posting.** In every municipality, the municipal clerk shall, except as otherwise provided in this section, give two weeks' published notice, and may also give ten days' posted notice, of the election, stating the time of the election, the location of each polling place, the offices to be filled, and all propositions or questions to be voted upon at the election. In a city of the fourth class or a town not located within a metropolitan county as defined in section 473.121, the governing body may dispense with publication of the notice of the municipal general election, in which case ten days' posted notice shall be given. The municipal clerk shall also post a copy of the notice in the clerk's office for public inspection.

Subd. 2. **Sample ballot, publication.** For every municipal election, the municipal clerk shall, at least two weeks before the election, publish a sample ballot in the official newspaper of the municipality, except that the governing body of a fourth class city or a town not located within a metropolitan county as defined in section 473.121 may dispense with publication.

Subd. 3. **Sample ballot, posting.** For every municipal election, the municipal clerk shall at least two weeks before the election prepare a sample ballot for the municipality, make them available for public inspection in the clerk's office, and post a sample ballot in each polling place on election day.

Subd. 4. **Notice to auditor.** At least 74 days before every municipal election, the municipal clerk shall provide a written notice to the county auditor, including the date of the election, the offices to be voted on at the election, and the title and language for each ballot question to be voted on at the election. At least 74 days before every municipal election, the municipal clerk must provide written notice to the county auditor of any special election canceled under section 205.10, subdivision 6.

Subd. 5. **Notice to secretary of state.** At least 74 days before every municipal election for which a notice is provided to the county auditor under subdivision 4, the county auditor shall provide a notice of the election to the secretary of state, in a manner and including information prescribed by the secretary of state.

History: 1959 c 675 art 6 s 16; 1976 c 2 s 77,78; 1976 c 44 s 11; 1978 c 572 s 6,7; 1981 c 29 art 7 s 38; 1983 c 62 s 6; 1989 c 291 art 1 s 20; 1991 c 227 s 21; 1994 c 646 s 12,13; 1999 c 132 s 33; 2004 c 293 art 2 s 35,36; 2008 c 244 art 1 s 16; 2010 c 184 s 29,30; 2010 c 201 s 63-66; 2013 c 131 art 2 s 56,57

CHAPTER 4. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Section 4.01. The Regular Municipal Election.

The regular municipal election shall be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of each even numbered year at such place or places as the City Council may designate. The City Clerk shall give at least two (2) weeks previous notice of the time and place of holding such election and of the officers to be elected by posting in the City Clerk's office and on the City website and by publication at least once in the official newspaper, but failure to give such notice shall not invalidate such election.

(Amended, Bill 1994-4; Bill No. 2013-6)

Section 4.02. Primary Election.

On the second Tuesday in August preceding the regular municipal election there shall be a primary election for the selection of two nominees for each elected office at the regular municipal election unless no more than two nominees file for each elective office. The City Clerk shall give at least two weeks previous notice of the time and place of holding such election and of the officers to be elected by posting in at least one public place in each voting precinct and by publication at least once in the official newspaper, but failure to give such notice shall not invalidate such election.

Amended, Bill 1975-12; Bill 1994-4; Bill 2010-3)

Section 4.03. Special Elections.

The Council may by resolution order a special election and provide all means for holding it. At least two weeks published notice of a special election shall be given in the official newspaper. The procedure of such election shall conform as nearly as possible to that prescribed for other municipal elections.

Section 4.04. Nomination by Petition.

All candidates for elective office provided for by this Charter shall be nominated by petition. The name of any registered voter of the City shall be printed upon the ballot as a candidate for an office whenever a petition signed by at least ten registered voters has been filed with the City Clerk in a candidate's behalf within the time period provided by state law for such filings. No registered voter shall sign petitions for more candidates for any office than the number of persons to be chosen for that office at the election; should a signer do so, the signer's signature shall be void as to the petition or petitions last filed. Each petition presented shall be accompanied by a twenty-five dollar (\$25.00) filing fee.

(Amended, Bill 1987-8, Bill 1994-4)

Section 4.05. Nomination Petitions.

We, the undersigned registered voters of the City of Richfield, hereby nominate, _____ whose residence is _____, for the office of _____, to be voted for at the primary election to be held on the _____ day of _____, 19____, and/or the regular municipal election to be held on the _____ day of _____, 19____, and we individually certify that we are qualified registered voters and that we have not signed more nomination petitions of candidates for this office than there are persons to be elected thereto.

CHAPTER 2 NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

[Section 2.01 Procedure At Elections](#)

[Section 2.02 Regular Municipal Elections](#)

[Section 2.03 Special Elections](#)

[Section 2.04 Primary Elections](#)

[Section 2.05 Petitions For Election](#)

[Section 2.06 Canvass Of Elections](#)

[Section 2.07 Present Elective Officials To Continue Term](#)

Section 2.01 Procedure At Elections

Except as otherwise provided in this Charter or an ordinance adopted pursuant hereto, the general laws of the State of Minnesota pertaining to elections shall apply to Municipal elections. Subject to the provisions of this charter and applicable State laws, the Council may by ordinance and resolution further regulate the conduct of municipal elections.

Section 2.02 Regular Municipal Elections

A regular municipal election will be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of each even numbered year. The City Clerk shall give at least two weeks notice of the time and place of holding said election and of the officers to be elected at said election by publishing said notice at least once in the newspaper of general circulation in the City. However, failure to give such notice shall not invalidate said election.

Section 2.03 Special Elections

The Council may by resolution order a special election and provide all means for holding it. The City Clerk shall give at least two weeks notice of the time and place of holding said election and of the officers to be elected at said election by publishing said notice at least once in a newspaper of general circulation in the City. However, failure to give such notice shall not invalidate said election. The procedure at such special election shall conform as nearly as possible to that prescribed for regular municipal elections.

Section 2.04 Primary Elections

On the date indicated by State Law preceding any general City election or on the third Tuesday preceding any special election held for the purpose of election of City officials, an election of nominees hereinafter designated as the "primary election" shall be held in each voting precinct for the selection of candidates for all elective offices within the City of Hastings to be filled at such ensuing election. A primary election shall only be called in the event that three (3) or more qualified persons have filed for the same ward council seat or the Mayor's position. When both at-large council seats are to be filled, a primary election shall be called only in the event five or more qualified persons have filed for the at-large council seats. In the event only one at-large council seat is to be filled, a primary shall be called only in the event three or more qualified persons have filed for the at-large council seat. The City Clerk shall cause to be published in a newspaper of general circulation, at least once, a notice of the primary election which shall state the time and place of holding such election and of the officers to be elected at said election. At said primary election there shall be nominated by the qualified electors of the City, two candidates for each office to be filled within the City at the next ensuing general or special election.

205.10 MS 1957 [Repealed, 1959 c 675 art 13 s 1]

205.10 MUNICIPAL SPECIAL ELECTIONS.

Subdivision 1. **Questions.** Special elections may be held in a city or town on a question on which the voters are authorized by law or charter to pass judgment. A special election may be ordered by the governing body of the municipality on its own motion or, on a question that has not been submitted to the voters in an election within the previous six months, upon a petition signed by a number of voters equal to 20 percent of the votes cast at the last municipal general election. A question is carried only with the majority in its favor required by law or charter. The election officials for a special election shall be the same as for the most recent municipal general election unless changed according to law. Otherwise special elections shall be conducted and the returns made in the manner provided for the municipal general election.

Subd. 2. **Vacancies in city offices.** Special elections shall be held in statutory cities to fill vacancies in elective city offices as provided in section 412.02, subdivision 2a.

Subd. 3. [Repealed, 2017 c 92 art 2 s 26]

Subd. 3a. **Uniform election dates.** (a) Except as allowed in paragraph (b) and subdivision 4, a special election held in a city or town must be held on one of the following dates: the second Tuesday in February, the second Tuesday in April, the second Tuesday in May, the second Tuesday in August, or the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. A home rule charter city must not designate additional dates in its charter.

(b) A special election may be held on a date other than those designated in paragraph (a) if the special election is held in response to an emergency or disaster. "Emergency" means an unforeseen combination of circumstances that calls for immediate action to prevent a disaster from developing or occurring. "Disaster" means a situation that creates an actual or imminent serious threat to the health and safety of persons or a situation that has resulted or is likely to result in catastrophic loss to property or the environment.

Subd. 4. **Vacancies in town offices.** Special elections to fill vacancies in town offices as provided in section 367.03, subdivision 6, must be held with the town general election or on a date authorized by subdivision 3a.

Subd. 5. **Limit on ballot questions.** The governing body of a city or town may not act to submit a ballot question at a general or special election and may not accept a petition for submission of a ballot question at a general or special election unless all election-related deadlines can be met, including publication deadlines for all required notices. A petition rejected under this subdivision may be resubmitted at a time when compliance with all election-related deadlines is possible. Nothing in this subdivision requires the scheduling of a special election for a ballot question.

Subd. 6. **Cancellation.** A special election ordered by the governing body of the municipality on its own motion under subdivision 1 may be canceled by motion of the governing body, but not less than 74 days before the election.

History: 1959 c 675 art 6 s 10; 1976 c 2 s 74; 1976 c 44 s 6; 1981 c 29 art 7 s 38; 1981 c 172 s 1; 1983 c 62 s 4; 1993 c 375 art 7 s 7; 1994 c 646 s 8,9; 1997 c 147 s 42; 1999 c 75 s 1; 1999 c 132 s 31,32; 2003 c 75 s 1; 2008 c 244 art 1 s 15; 2013 c 131 art 2 s 54; 2016 c 161 art 1 s 14; 2017 c 92 art 2 s 10,11

Section 3.11 AMENDMENT AND REPEAL OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS. Every ordinance or resolution repealing all or part of a previous ordinance or resolution shall give the number, if any, and the title of the ordinance or resolution to be repealed in whole or in part. No ordinance or resolution shall be amended by reference to the title alone. Such an amending ordinance or resolution shall set forth in full each section or subdivision to be amended and shall indicate by appropriate type or symbols matter to be omitted or added.

Section 3.12 REVISION AND CODIFICATION OF ORDINANCES. The city may revise, rearrange, and codify its ordinances with such additions and deletions as may be deemed necessary. The ordinance code may be published in book, pamphlet, or continuously revised loose-leaf form. Copies shall be made available by the council at the office of the city clerk for general distribution to the public free or for a reasonable charge. Publication in such a code shall be a sufficient publication of any ordinance provision not previously published if a notice that copies of the codification are available at the office of the city clerk is published in the official newspaper for at least two successive weeks.

CHAPTER 4

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Section 4.01 THE REGULAR MUNICIPAL ELECTION. A regular municipal election shall be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of each even numbered year commencing in 1984 at such place or places as the city council may designate. The city clerk shall give at least two weeks published notice pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 205.16, as the same may be revised, amended or re-codified, of the time and place of holding such election and of the officers to be elected. Failure to give such notice shall not invalidate the election.

Section 4.02 PRIMARY ELECTION. In accordance with Minnesota Stat. § 205.065, as the same may be revised, amended or re-codified from time to time, on the day and month set therein for holding a state primary election, there shall be a primary election for the selection of two nominees for elective office at the regular municipal election, unless only two nominees file for each elective office.

Section 4.03 SPECIAL ELECTIONS. The council may, by resolution, order a special election and provide all means for holding it in accordance with Minn. Stat. §205.10, as the same may be revised, amended or re-codified. The city clerk shall give at least two weeks published notice of a special election. The procedure at such election shall conform as nearly as possible to that prescribed for other city elections.

When a special election is required to fill a vacant office, the special election shall occur on a date established by the City Council per Minn. Stat. §205.10, as the same may be revised, amended or re-codified. A special primary election shall be held if more than two candidates file for such office, with the two candidates receiving the most votes proceeding to the special election, except that if one candidate receives greater than 50 percent of all votes cast at the special primary election, that candidate shall be declared the winner and no special election shall be held. When a special primary election is held and no candidate receives greater than 50 percent of all votes cast, the special election shall be held pursuant to Minn. Stat. §205.10, as the same may be revised, amended, or re-codified.

Section 4.04 FILING FOR OFFICE. The City Clerk shall follow Minn. Stat. §205.13, as the same may be revised, amended or re-codified from time to time.

Section 4.05 PROCEDURE AT ELECTIONS. Subject to this Charter and applicable state laws, the council may by ordinance further regulate the conduct of municipal elections. Except as otherwise provided by this Charter and supplementary ordinances, general state laws on elections shall apply to municipal elections.

Chapter 4 **Elections**

Section 4.01 Conduct of Elections

All City elections shall be held and conducted and the votes canvassed in the manner provided by law.

Section 4.02 General Election

The City General Election shall be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November in every even-numbered year at such place or places as the Council may designate.

Section 4.03 Primary Election

The City Primary Election shall be held on the same date as the state primary election as determined by state statute at such place or places as the Council may designate. The city clerical officer shall place upon the City Primary Election ballot, without party designation, the names of individuals whose candidacy has been filed. The two candidates receiving the highest number of votes for any single office shall be placed on the City General Election ballot as nominees for that office. When no more than two individuals file for nomination to any single office, their names shall not be placed upon the City Primary Election but shall be placed upon the City General Election ballot as the nominees for that office and no Primary Election for that particular office shall be held.

Section 4.04 Filing

Not more than 10 nor less than 8 weeks before the City Primary Election any individual who is eligible and desires to become a candidate for either the office of Mayor or Council Member shall, upon payment of the fee established by law, file an Affidavit of Candidacy with the city clerical officer.

In addition, the city clerical officer shall also accept, without the payment of any fee, a Nominating Petition signed by at least 100 registered voters for the office of Mayor and Council Member-at-Large, 75 registered voters for the combined ward Council Members, and 50 registered voters for a Council Member elected from a ward, provided that the individual on whose behalf the petition has been circulated endorses the petition with a statement indicating his/her willingness to accept the office if duly elected. All signers of a petition to be counted as valid must be registered voters within a precinct eligible to vote for that particular office. No registered voter shall sign more than one petition for a particular office and should a voter do so, his/her signature shall be valid only as to the petition or petitions first filed.

All Affidavits of Candidacy and Nominating Petitions must be filed no later than 5:00 pm on the day filings close. Any candidate may withdraw from the election by filing an Affidavit of Withdrawal with the city clerical officer no later than 5:00 p.m. two days after the last day for filing affidavits of candidacy.

Section 4.05 Special Elections

The Council may by resolution order a special election and provide all means for holding it. A special election must be held on a date authorized by Minnesota Statutes Section 205.10, subdivision 3a, as amended. No primary shall be required in a special election

held under this section. All other procedures at such election shall conform as nearly as possible to that prescribed for other municipal elections.

Section 4.06 Affidavit of Candidacy

Any Affidavit of Candidacy or Nominating Petition to be valid must state the name of the office sought; shall state that the candidate is an eligible voter and is, or will be on assuming the office, 21 years of age; has no other affidavit on file as a candidate for any office to be elected at the next ensuing City General Election or any other election to be held in conjunction therewith that would be deemed to be in conflict with the City office sought; will have maintained residence in the City if seeking the office of Mayor or Council Member-at-Large, in one of the two combined wards for the combined ward Council Member seats, or in the respective ward if seeking the office of Council Member from a ward for at least 30 days before the City General Election; and include a statement that the candidate's name as written on the affidavit of Candidacy or Nominating Petition is the candidate's true name or the name by which the candidate is commonly and generally known within the City.

Section 4.07 Forms

The city clerical officer shall be responsible for devising the form of the Affidavit of Candidacy and Nominating Petition consistent with the provisions contained herein and by law. Any Nominating Petition need not be appended to one paper, but to each separate paper there shall be attached an affidavit by the circulator thereof stating the number of signers on such paper and that each signature appended thereto was made in his/her presence and is the genuine signature of the person whose name it purports to be. With each written signature a place for the legible printed name of the signer and his/her place of residence in sufficient form is required so as to identify whether he/she is a valid registered voter.

CHAPTER 4. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Sec. 4.01. General election laws to apply.

Except as hereinafter provided, the general laws of the State of Minnesota pertaining to registration of voters and the conduct of primary and general elections shall apply for all municipal elections of such officers as are specified in this charter. The council shall, through ordinances duly adopted in compliance with such state laws and this charter, adopt suitable and necessary regulations for the conduct of such elections.

Sec. 4.02. Regular municipal elections.

A regular municipal election shall be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of the year in which an election is to be held at such place or places as the city council may designate by resolution. At least fifteen (15) days' notice shall be given by the city clerk of the time and places holding such election, and of the offices to be elected, by posting a notice in a conspicuous place thereof at City Hall, online including but not limited to the city's website, and by publishing a notice thereof at least once in the official newspaper of the city, but failure to give such notice shall not invalidate such election.

(Ord. No. 01-1917, 11-15-2001; Ord. No. 17-2385 , 11-16-2017)

Sec. 4.03. Primary elections.

There shall be a primary election on the date established by Minnesota state law for the selection of two (2) nominees for each elective office at the regular municipal election, unless only two (2) nominees file for each elective office. Primary municipal elections shall be held every even numbered year, if necessary.

(Ord. No. 239, 7-2-1970; Ord. No. 10-2208, 7-15-2010)

Sec. 4.04. Special elections.

The council may, by resolution, order a special election and provide all means for holding it. Published notice of a special election shall be given in the official newspaper at least two (2) weeks prior to such special election. The procedure at such election shall conform as nearly as possible to that prescribed for other municipal elections, except that there shall be no primary election prior to a special election held pursuant to section 2.05 of the charter of the City of Blaine. Dates on which a special election may be held are: second Tuesday in February, the second Tuesday in April, the second Tuesday in May, the second Tuesday in August, or the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November (general election date), or as otherwise allowed by Minnesota state law.

(Ord. No. 98-1703, 4-2-1998; Ord. No. 17-2385 , 11-16-2017)

Sec. 4.05. Judges of election.

The council shall at least twenty-five (25) days before each election, appoint qualified eligible voters for each voting precinct to be judges of election as provided by Minnesota state law. The council shall set compensation for the election judges.

(Ord. No. 01-1917, 11-15-2001; Ord. No. 17-2385 , 11-16-2017)

Sec. 4.06. Candidate for office.

All candidates for office provided for by this chapter who desire to be elected to any elected office, shall file an affidavit not more than eighty-four (84) days nor less than seventy (70) days, or per Minnesota state law, prior to the primary election date, with the city clerk, paying the said officer a fee of fifty dollars (\$50.00). Such affidavit or application shall state that the candidate is an eligible voter of the City of Blaine and the name of the office for which such person is a candidate.

At the time of filing an affidavit of candidacy, a candidate may present a petition in place of the filing fee. The petition may be signed by an individual eligible to vote for the candidate. The number of signatures on the petition in place of a filing fee shall be the lesser of five hundred (500) signatures or five (5) percent of the total number of votes cast in the election ward at the preceding general election at which that office was on the ballot. The city clerk shall make available sample forms for petitions in place of filing fees.

A write-in candidate who wants their write-in votes to be counted in the general election must file a written request with the city clerk no later than seven (7) days before the general election. All write-in votes cast for candidates who have not filed a written request to have these votes counted shall be treated collectively as votes for a single candidate.

(Ord. No. 253, 1-21-1971; Ord. No. 750, 3-18-1982; Ord. No. 88-1098, 11-3-1988; Ord. No. 97-1685, 11-20-1997; Ord. No. 10-2208, 7-15-2010; Ord. No. 12-2239, 3-15-2012; Ord. No. 17-2385, 11-16-2017)

Sec. 4.07. Withdrawal of candidate.

Any person whose name has been presented in the manner provided for in the foregoing section as a candidate, may, not later than 5 o'clock p.m. of the second (2nd) day after the last day for filing or at such other time established by Minnesota state law, cause such person's name to be withdrawn from nomination by filing with the city clerk a request to do so in writing. No name so withdrawn shall be printed upon the ballot.

(Ord. No. 10-2208, 7-15-2010)

Sec. 4.08. Canvass of elections and taking of office.

The council must meet and canvass the election returns made in the manner provided for the state primary so far as practicable. The canvass may be conducted on either the second (2nd) or third (3rd) calendar day after any primary election and between the third (3rd) and tenth (10th) day after any general (regular) or special election, or at such other time established by Minnesota state law and shall make full declaration of the results as soon as possible and file a statement thereof with the city clerk, and said statement shall be made a part of the minutes.

(Ord. No. 10-2208, 7-15-2010; Ord. No. 17-2385, 11-16-2017)

Every elected officer may be removed from this office by vote of two-thirds of the City Council, provided that such official shall not be removed except for cause, after having been furnished with a written statement of the reasons therefore and after being given a reasonable opportunity to be heard in his/her defense. The City Council shall fix a date for a hearing on such charges not less than 10 days after notice to the accused officeholder and shall have authority to compel the attendance of witnesses and to request any necessary records and papers. In the event the officeholder neglects to appear to answer the charges or the City Council finds that the charges are sustained and provides sufficient cause for removal, it may, by two-thirds vote, declare the office vacant. Nothing contained in this section shall preclude the Council from establishing by ordinance criteria whereby an elected official who is absent from a prescribed number of meetings is deemed to have resigned.

Section 2.06 Vacancies

A vacancy in the Council or office of Mayor shall be deemed to exist when any of the following events occur:

- 1) The failure of the candidate elected to qualify on or before the date of the second regular meeting after the new Council's organizational meeting;
- 2) By reason of the death, resignation, removal from office, change of residence from the ward or wards from which elected, or continuous absence from the ward or wards from which elected for more than three months;
- 3) By reason of the conviction of a felony which disqualifies an individual from holding office.

Procedure for resignations shall be as provided by State law. In the case of a vacancy, the Council shall, by resolution adopted within seven days of the vacancy, declare such vacancy to exist and shall fill the vacancy by special election held on a date authorized by Minnesota Statutes section 205.10, subdivision 3a, as amended. The special election will be held on the first possible date authorized by said statute where the City can also follow the affidavit of candidacy filing period and notice of filing period requirements in Minnesota Statutes section 205.13, as amended. The vacant seat shall remain vacant until the replacement elected at the special election qualifies and takes office. The replacement elected at the special election shall fill the unexpired part of the term of the person requiring replacement.

If, however, a vacancy occurs in a general election year on or after April 1 and the term of the vacant seat is scheduled to expire the following year (in January), no special election shall be held. The vacant seat shall remain vacant until the replacement elected at the general election qualifies and takes office.

***No Appointment**

***Special Election at next Uniform Election
Date**

Section 2.05. Vacancies.

Subdivision 1. Existence.

- (1) A vacancy shall exist as of the date of death or resignation of a Council Member.
- (2) As soon as it is determined that a Council Member is ineligible because of any of the following reasons:
 - (i) the failure of any person elected to the Council to qualify on or before the date of the second regular meeting of the Council in the year following the year of election;
 - (ii) the Council Member ceasing to be a resident of the City;
 - (iii) a district Council Member ceasing to be a resident of the district which the member represents;
 - (iv) continuous absence of the Council Member from the City for more than 90 days;
 - (v) conviction of a Council member of a felony whether before or after qualification;
 - (vi) any other reason specified by law except those reasons specified in paragraph (1) of this subdivision; or
 - (vii) by reason of the failure of the Council Member without good cause to perform any of the duties of a Council Member for a period of 90 days, the Council shall, by resolution at a regular or special Council meeting, declare a vacancy on the Council to exist.

Subd. 2. Procedure Following Vacancy.

- (1) If 90 days or less remain in the Council Member's term after the vacancy, the person elected to that office for the term commencing on January 1 of the next year shall be appointed by the Council to fill the remaining portion of the unexpired term at the next regular Council meeting following the declaration of the results of the election with the City Clerk. The appointment shall be the first order of business of such meeting.
- (2) If less than 180 days and more than 90 days remain in the Council Member's term of office after the vacancy, the Council shall appoint an eligible person to fill the vacancy for the unexpired term. If the Council fails to agree upon an appointee to fill the vacancy within 30 days after the vacancy, the Mayor shall appoint a person to fill the vacancy.
- (3) If 180 days or more remain in the Council Member's term of office after the vacancy, the Council shall call a special election to fill the vacancy for the balance of the Council member's term. The special election shall be called at the same Council meeting at which the vacancy is declared to exist or at the next regular Council meeting following the death or resignation of a Council Member, as the case may be. The special election shall be held not less than 30 nor more than 60 days after the Council meeting at which the election is called. The election to fill the unexpired term shall be in accordance with the provisions of Section 4.03, except that there shall be no primary election and the candidate receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected to fill the unexpired term.

The term of the person so elected shall start as soon as the declaration of the results has been filed with the City Clerk and the person has qualified for office. (Amended, Bill No. 199 2-10)

***Special Election if more than 180 days left
in term
*If between 90 and 180 days left, Council
makes an appointment**

audits as it deems necessary. Such audits shall be made by the State or by a certified public accountant or firm or such accountants who have no personal interest, direct or indirect, in the fiscal affairs of the City government or any of its officers. The Council may, without requiring competitive bids, designate such accountant or firm annually.

The Council may investigate the affairs of the City and the conduct of any City department, office or agency, and for this purpose may subpoena witnesses, administer oaths, take testimony and require the production of evidence. Any person who fails or refuses to obey a lawful order issued in the exercise of these powers by the Council shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

Sect. 4.12. Council -- Meetings and Procedures. The Council shall make its rules of procedure and shall be the judge of the qualifications and election of its members and of the grounds for forfeiture of their offices, and for this purpose shall have the power to subpoena witnesses, administer oaths, and require the production of evidence. A member charged with conduct constituting grounds for forfeiture of office shall be entitled to a public hearing on demand, and notice of such hearing shall be published in the official newspaper at least one week in advance of the hearing. Decisions made by the Council under this section shall be subject to review by the courts.

Council vacancies shall be filled by appointment when the remaining term of office is less than six (6) months. The appointment shall be by majority vote of the Council. Notice of the vacancy shall be published by the City Clerk in the official newspaper one week prior to the meeting for the appointment.

Council vacancies shall be filled by special election when the remaining term of office is six (6) months or greater. The City Clerk shall, within fifteen (15) days of the vacancy, give legal notice in the official newspaper of the vacancy, with dates for filing and the date(s) of the special election(s). The period for filing for the vacancy shall be ten (10) calendar days from (including) the date of the legal notice. The special election shall occur within fifteen (15) to twenty (20) days after the close of filing. If more than two (2) candidates have filed for the vacancy, the first election date shall be considered the primary election with general election date occurring fourteen (14) days later. When two (2) or fewer candidates have filed for the vacancy, the general election shall occur on the first election date.

The Council at its first regular meeting in January following the annual municipal election shall set the day of its regular monthly meetings for the year. Special meetings may be called by the Mayor or by the Chair of the Council at any time. Reasonable public notice shall be given for all special Council meetings through the media. (Ref. Ord. 898, 8/24/93)

Three (3) members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, but a lesser number may adjourn from time to time. The Council shall have the power to compel the attendance of its members at regular and special meetings. The absence of a member from three (3) consecutive regular meetings shall be deemed as sufficient cause for removal from office.

Sect. 4.13. Chair of the Council -- Acting Mayor. At the first regular meeting of the Council in January following the annual municipal election, the Council shall elect one

***Appointment if less than 6 months
remaining in term**

***Special Election if 6 months or more
remaining in term**

election and qualification of such elective officer and shall continue until a successor is elected and qualified. If the first Monday is a holiday, the term of office shall then begin the first Tuesday in January.

Section 2.05. APPOINTIVE OFFICER. The appointive officer of the City, not including members of boards or commissions established herein or by ordinance, shall be appointed by majority vote of the council, and shall consist of a city administrator.

Section 2.06. MAYOR AND MAYOR PROTEM. The mayor shall be the presiding officer of the council. At its first regular meeting in January after each city election, the council shall choose a mayor protem who shall serve as presiding officer in the mayor's absence and as acting mayor in case of the mayor's disability or absence from the City, or in case of a vacancy in the office of mayor. The mayor shall have a vote as a member of the council. The mayor protem shall exercise all powers and perform all duties conferred and imposed upon the mayor by this Charter, the ordinances of the City and laws of the State of Minnesota.

The mayor shall be recognized as the official head of the City for all ceremonial purposes, by the courts for the purposes of serving civil process, and by the governor for the purposes of martial law. The mayor shall study the operations of the city government and shall report to the council any neglect, dereliction of duty, or waste on the part of any officer or department of the City. In time of public danger or emergency the mayor may, with the consent of the council, take command of the police, maintain order and enforce the law.

Section 2.07. INCOMPATIBLE OFFICES. No elective officer shall hold any other paid municipal office or employment for the City, and no former elective officer shall be appointed to any paid appointive office or employment for the city which office or employment was created or the compensation for which was increased during such elective officer's term of office, within one year of leaving such elective office.

Section 2.08. SALARIES. The salaries of the elective officers shall be established by Minnesota Statute 415.11, as such statute may be amended from time to time. The council shall establish the salary of the city administrator.

Section 2.09. VACANCIES IN THE COUNCIL. A vacancy in the council shall be deemed to exist in case of expiration of the term of any elective officer without an elected successor, the failure of any elective officer to qualify on or before the date of the second regular meeting of the new council, or by reason of the death, resignation, removal from office, removal from the city, continuous absence from the city of more than three months, conviction of a felony of any such elective officer whether before or after such qualification, or by reason of the failure of any elective officer without good cause to perform any of the duties of membership in the council for a period of three months. In each such case the council shall by resolution declare such vacancy to exist and shall forthwith appoint an eligible person to fill the same. In the case of a tie vote in the council, the mayor shall make the appointment. In the event the unexpired term of

*Appointment if less than 1 year
remaining in term

*Special Election if 1 year or more
remaining in term

the vacant seat is one year or less, such appointee shall complete the unexpired term. In the event the unexpired term of the vacant seat exceeds one year, a special election shall be held at or before the next regular municipal election to fill the remainder of the vacancy. The city administrator shall give published notice of such special election in the official newspaper of general circulation, at least 30 days prior to said special election.

Section 2.10. INVESTIGATION OF CITY AFFAIRS. The council and any person formally authorized by the council shall have power to make investigations into the City's affairs, to subpoena witnesses, administer oaths, and compel the production of books and papers. The council may at any time provide for an examination or audit of any commission, board, department or employee of the city government and it may cause to be made any survey or research study of any subject of municipal concern.

Section 2.11. INTERFERENCE WITH ADMINISTRATION. Neither the council nor any of its members shall dictate the appointment or removal of any city employee, but the council may express its views and freely discuss with the city administrator anything pertaining to appointment and removal of city employees. Except for the purpose of inquiry and investigation under Section 2.10, the council and its members shall deal with and control city employees under the jurisdiction of the city administrator solely through the city administrator, and neither the council nor any council member shall give orders to any city employee either publicly or privately.

CHAPTER 3

Procedure of Council

Section 3.01. COUNCIL MEETINGS. On the first Monday in January following a regular municipal election the council shall meet at the usual place and time for the holding of council meetings. If the first Monday is a holiday, the first Tuesday in January shall then be used. At this time the newly elected members of the council shall assume their duties. Thereafter the council shall meet at such time each month as may be prescribed by ordinance and resolution. The mayor or any other three members of the council may call special meetings of the council upon at least twelve hours notice to each member of the council and such reasonable public notice as may be prescribed by council rule in compliance with the laws of Minnesota. To the extent provided by law all meetings of the council shall be public, and any citizen shall have access to the minutes and records thereof at all reasonable times.

Section 3.02. SECRETARY OF THE COUNCIL. The city administrator may designate any employee of the City (except a member of the council) to act as secretary of the council. The secretary shall keep a journal of council proceedings and such other records and perform such other duties as this charter or the council may require. The council may provide for such other officers and employees as may be necessary to serve at its meetings.

Section 2.09. Vacancy - How Filled.

A vacancy in the office of any elected official shall be filled by city council appointment until an election is held as provided in this section. If the vacancy occurs before the first day to file affidavits of candidacy for the next regular city election and more than two years remain in the unexpired term, a special election shall be held at the next regular city election and the appointed person shall serve until the qualification of a successor elected at a special election to fill the unexpired portion of the term. If the vacancy occurs on or after the first day to file affidavits of candidacy for the regular city election, or when less than two years remain in the unexpired term, there shall be no special election to fill the vacancy and the appointed person shall serve until the qualification of a successor elected at a regular city election.

***Appointment if less than 2 years
remaining in term**

***Special Election if 2 years or more
remaining in term**

3.03 Filling of vacancies.

When a vacancy occurs in the office of Mayor or on the Council, the Council by majority vote of all remaining members shall appoint a qualified person to fill the vacancy to serve the remainder of the term. If this action is not taken within 60 days following the occurrence of the vacancy, a special election shall be called to fill the vacancy, to be held not sooner than 90 days and not later than 120 days following the occurrence of the vacancy, and to be otherwise governed by law. When a vacancy occurs in the office of the Mayor, the Vice-Mayor shall act as Mayor until the vacancy is filled.

(Ord. No. 822, 5-21-96; Ord. No. 1083, § 1, 10-6-15)

***Option - Appoint or hold Special Election**

1-205 Vacancies in the Council.

- (1) A vacancy in the membership of the Council shall be deemed to exist if a person elected thereto:
- (a) Fails to qualify on or before the date of the second regular meeting of the new Council.
 - (b) Dies before completing the term of office to which elected.
 - (c) Resigns from the office.
 - (d) Is removed from the office by a court of competent jurisdiction.
 - (e) Removes from the City or removes from the Ward to which elected.
 - (f) Attends no regular, special or emergency meetings of the City Council during any period of seventy (70) consecutive calendar days.
 - (g) Is convicted of a felony, whether before or after qualifying.

[Revised 1/3/95, Ordinance 1517]

- (2) In each such case, the Council shall, by resolution, declare such vacancy to exist and the Council shall, by resolution, within 30 days thereafter, either:
- (a) Appoint an eligible person to fill the office until the next regular municipal election when the office shall be filled for the unexpired term, unless the unexpired term is in its final two years in which case the person appointed shall serve until the term expires, or

[Revised 4/19/05, Ordinance 1887]

- (b) Order a special municipal election to fill such vacancy for the unexpired term.

The Council shall set times for filings for such office provided filings shall close not sooner than seven (7) days after the adoption of the resolution. Such election shall be held no less than 45 nor more than 60 days after the adoption of such resolution. If more than two candidates file for such office, a special primary election shall be held two weeks prior to the special municipal election.

[Revised 04/27/93, Ordinance 1449]

***Option - Appoint or hold Special Election**

CC Work Session

2.3.

Meeting Date: 03/14/2023

By: Colleen Lasher, Administrative Services

Information

Title:

Discuss 2023 Citizen Survey

Purpose/Background:

BACKGROUND (resident survey):

As a result of the 2013 Council strategic planning process, the City initiated a regular, statistically significant, resident surveying process (one survey every two years). Generally, survey results benefit the City in a wide range of applications (E.g., the budgeting process, policy discussions, capital improvement plan, strategic plan, and the comprehensive plan). The City has conducted a resident survey in 2014, 2016, 2018, and 2020. The results of the 2020 survey are attached. The 2020 survey was received by council during spring of 2021, the survey was not budgeted for in 2022.

Notification:

NA

Funding Source:

\$15,000 was budgeted in 2023 for a resident survey. This amount was based on a quote received late 2021 for a 2022 survey. The attached scope of services was provided by Polco NRC who has conducted our previous surveys. The base price is \$17,000 with two optional add-ons that mirror what Ramsey has utilized in the past. The total price shown is \$20,800 over a two-year period.

Recommendation:

NA

Outcome/Action:

Provide direction on whether to proceed forward with a 2023 Citizen Survey.

Attachments

2020 Citizen Survey Results

2023 Scope of Services Proposal

Form Review

Inbox

Brian Hagen

Brian Hagen

Form Started By: Colleen Lasher

Final Approval Date: 03/09/2023

Reviewed By

Brian Hagen

Brian Hagen

Date

03/09/2023 02:18 PM

03/09/2023 02:18 PM

Started On: 03/01/2023 11:12 AM

Ramsey, MN

The National Community Survey

Report of Results
2020

Report by:



Visit us online!
www.polco.us

About The NCS™

The National Community 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 considering ten central facets of a community:

- Economy
- Mobility
- Community Design
- Utilities
- Safety
- Natural Environment
- Parks and Recreation
- Health and Wellness
- Education, Arts, and Culture
- Inclusivity and Engagement

The report provides the opinions of a representative sample of 459 residents of the City of Ramsey collected from November 24, 2020 to January 12, 2021. The margin of error around any reported percentage is 5% for all respondents and the response rate for the 2020 survey was 27%. Survey results were weighted so that the demographic profile of respondents was representative of the demographic profile of adults in Ramsey...

How the results are reported

For the most part, the percentages presented in the following tabs represent the “percent positive.” Most commonly, the percent positive is the combination of the top two most positive response options (i.e., “excellent” and “good,” “very safe” and “somewhat safe,” etc.). On many of the questions in the survey respondents may answer “don’t know.” The proportion of respondents giving this reply is shown in the full set of responses included in the tab “Complete data.” However, these responses have been removed from the analyses presented in most of the tabs. In other words, the tables and graphs display the responses from respondents who had an opinion about a specific item.

Comparisons to benchmarks

NRC’s database of comparative resident opinion is comprised of resident perspectives gathered in surveys from over 600 communities whose residents evaluated the same kinds of topics on The National Community Survey. The comparison evaluations are from the most recent survey completed in each community in the last five years. NRC adds the latest results quickly upon survey completion, keeping the benchmark data fresh and relevant. The communities in the database represent a wide geographic and population range. In each tab, Ramsey’s results are noted as being “higher” than the benchmark, “lower” than the benchmark or “similar” to the benchmark, meaning that the average rating given by Ramsey residents is statistically similar to or different (greater or lesser) than the benchmark. Being rated as “higher” or “lower” than the benchmark means that Ramsey’s average rating for a particular item was more than 10 points different than the benchmark. If a rating was “much higher” or “much lower,” then Ramsey’s average rating was more than 20 points different when compared to the benchmark.

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similar to or different (greater or lesser) than the benchmark. Being rated as “higher” or “lower” than the benchmark means that Ramsey’s average rating for a particular item was more than 10 points different than the benchmark. If a rating was “much higher” or “much lower,” then Ramsey’s average rating was more than 20 points different when compared to the benchmark.

The survey was administered during the COVID-19 pandemic, a time of challenge for many local governments. While we provide comparisons to national benchmarks, it is important to note that much of the benchmark data was collected prior to the pandemic. This may impact how your City’s 2020 ratings compare to other communities’ ratings from the past five years.

Trends over time

Trend data for Ramsey represent important comparison data and should be examined for improvements or declines*. Deviations from stable trends over time represent opportunities for understanding how local policies, programs, or public information may have affected residents’ opinions. Changes between survey years have been noted with an arrow and the percent difference. If the difference is greater than 7% percentage points between the 2018 and 2020 surveys, the change is statistically significant.

* In 2020, The NCS survey was updated to include new and refreshed items. Consequently, some of the trends may be impacted due to wording modifications that could have potentially altered the meaning of the item for the respondent.

Methods

Selecting survey recipients

All households within the City of Ramsey were eligible to participate in the survey. A list of all households within the zip codes serving Ramsey was purchased from Go-Dog Direct based on updated listings from the United States Postal Service. Since some of the zip codes that serve the City of Ramsey households may also serve addresses that lie outside of the community, the exact geographic location of each housing unit was compared to community boundaries using the most current municipal boundary file. Addresses located outside of the City of Ramsey boundaries were removed from the list of potential households to survey. Each address identified as being within city boundaries was further identified as being within one of the four City Wards or two City Precincts. From that list, addresses were randomly selected as survey recipients, with multi-family housing units (defined as those with a unit number) sampled at a rate of 5:3 compared to single family housing units.

An individual within each household was selected using the birthday method. The birthday method selects a person within the household by asking the “person whose birthday has most recently passed” to complete the questionnaire. The underlying assumption in this method is that day of birth has no relationship to the way people respond to surveys. This instruction was contained in the introduction of the survey.

Conducting the survey

The 1,700 randomly selected households received mailings beginning on November 24, 2020 and the survey remained open for seven weeks. The first mailing was a postcard inviting the household to participate in the survey. The next mailing contained a cover letter with instructions, the survey questionnaire, and a postage-paid return envelope. The final mailing contained a reminder letter, another survey, and a postage-paid return envelope. All mailings included a web link to give residents the opportunity to respond to the survey online. All follow-up mailings asked those who had not completed the survey to do so and those who had already done so to refrain from completing the survey again.

About 1% of the 1,700 mailed invitations or surveys were returned because the household address was vacant or the postal service was unable to deliver the survey as addressed. Of the remaining 1,675 households that received the invitations to participate, 459 completed the survey, providing an overall response rate of 27%. The response rate was calculated using AAPOR’s response rate #2* for mailed surveys of unnamed persons.

It is customary to describe the precision of estimates made from surveys by a “level of confidence” and accompanying “confidence interval” (or margin of error). A traditional level of confidence, and the one used here, is 95%. The 95% confidence interval can be any size and quantifies the sampling error or imprecision of the survey results because some residents’ opinions are relied on to estimate all residents’ opinions. The margin of error for the City of Ramsey survey is no greater than plus or minus five percentage points around any given percent reported for all respondents (459 completed surveys).

Analyzing the data

Responses from mailed surveys were entered into an electronic dataset using a “key and verify” method, where all responses are entered twice and compared to each other. Any discrepancies were resolved in comparison to the original survey form. Range checks as well as other forms of quality control were also performed. Responses from surveys completed on Polco were downloaded and merged with the mailed survey responses.

The demographics of the survey respondents were compared to those found in the 2010 Census and 2017 American Community Survey estimates for adults in the City of Ramsey. The primary objective of weighting survey data is to make the survey respondents reflective of the larger population of the community. The characteristics used for weighting were age, sex, race, Hispanic origin, housing type, housing tenure, and area. No adjustments were made for design effects. Weights were calculated using an iterative, multiplicative raking model known as the ANES Weighting Algorithm.* The results of the weighting scheme for the probability sample are presented in the following table.

		Unweighted	Weighted	Target*
Age	18-34	9%	30%	31%
	35-54	32%	41%	40%
	55+	59%	29%	28%
Area	Ward 1/Precinct 1	18%	17%	17%
	Ward 1/Precinct 2	4%	5%	5%

	Ward 2/Precinct 1	8%	8%	8%
	Ward 2/Precinct 2	20%	16%	16%
	Ward 3/Precinct 1	21%	23%	23%
	Ward 3/Precinct 2	5%	8%	8%
	Ward 4/Precinct 1	11%	12%	12%
	Ward 4/Precinct 2	12%	11%	11%
Hispanic origin	Not Spanish, Hispanic or Latino	99%	99%	99%
	Spanish, Hispanic or Latino	1%	1%	1%
Housing tenure	Own	92%	87%	87%
	Rent	8%	13%	13%
Housing type	Attached	19%	18%	18%
	Detached	81%	82%	82%
Race & Hispanic origin	Not white alone	10%	7%	8%
	White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	90%	93%	92%
Sex	Female	53%	50%	49%
	Male	47%	50%	51%
Sex/age	Female 18-34	6%	16%	15%
	Female 35-54	17%	20%	20%
	Female 55+	30%	15%	14%
	Male 18-34	3%	15%	16%
	Male 35-54	16%	21%	21%
	Male 55+	28%	14%	14%

National Research Center aligns demographic labels with those used by the U.S. Census for reporting purposes, when possible. Some categories (e.g., age, race/Hispanic origin, housing type, and length of residency) are combined into smaller subgroups. When there is an insufficient number of respondents within a category for those subgroups to be able to make meaningful comparisons (generally, less than 50), that subgroup has been excluded from the analysis.

The survey datasets were analyzed using all or some of a combination of the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS), R, Python and Tableau. For the most part, the percentages presented in the reports represent the “percent positive.” The percent positive is the combination of the top two most positive response options (i.e., “excellent” and “good,” “very safe” and “somewhat safe,” “essential” and “very important,” etc.), or, in the case of resident behaviors/participation, the percent positive represents the proportion of respondents indicating “yes” or participating in an activity at least once a month.

On many of the questions in the survey respondents may answer “don’t know.” The proportion of respondents giving this reply is shown in the full set of responses included in the tab “Complete data”. However, these responses have been removed from the analyses presented in the reports. In other words, the tables and graphs display the responses from respondents who had an opinion about a specific item.

Contact

The City of Ramsey funded this research. Please contact Ramsey City Administrator Kurt Ulrich at kulrich@ci.ramsey.mn.us if you have any questions about the survey.

Survey Validity

See the Polco Knowledge Base article on survey validity at <https://info.polco.us/knowledge/statistical-validity>

* See AAPOR’s Standard Definitions for more information at

<https://www.aapor.org/Publications-Media/AAPOR-Journals/Standard-Definitions.aspx>

* Pasek, J. (2010). ANES Weighting Algorithm. Retrieved from

<https://web.stanford.edu/group/iriss/cgi-bin/anesrake/resources/RakingDescription.pdf>

* Targets come from the 2010 Census and 2017 American Community Survey

Highlights

Resident ratings of the livability of Ramsey remain positive and stable over time.

About 8 in 10 residents gave excellent or good ratings to Ramsey as a place to live and the overall quality of life in the city, while 9 in 10 were pleased with Ramsey as a place to raise children. Eight in 10 residents would recommend living in Ramsey to someone who asked and planned to remain in Ramsey for the next five years. At least 9 in 10 residents gave positive ratings to the overall image or reputation of Ramsey and the overall feeling of safety in the city. These ratings were similar to those given in other communities across the nation and in communities in Minnesota and Wisconsin with populations similar to Ramsey's.

The Economy is a resident priority and also a community feature.

Ramsey residents rated the facet of Economy as relatively higher than the median in importance and lower than the median in quality when compared to ratings for other facets of community livability, thus highlighting this as an area of focus for the City. Ratings for Economy in Ramsey tended to be similar to or lower than the national benchmarks. About 6 in 10 residents gave excellent or good ratings to the overall economic health of Ramsey, while about half gave favorable scores to Ramsey as a place to work, the overall quality of business and service establishments in the City, and cost of living. Only about 1 in 3 respondents gave positive marks to Ramsey as a place to visit, the variety of business and service establishments in Ramsey, vibrant downtown/commercial area, and employment opportunities. Finally, when asked about important priorities for the City to focus on in the next five years, 91% of respondents thought that creating financial stability for the City was essential or very important.

Government performance ratings remain positive and stable, even during the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is notable that residents' ratings for aspects of Ramsey government performance have largely remained stable since the previous survey iteration in 2018. Roughly half of residents gave excellent or good ratings to the job Ramsey government does at welcoming resident involvement, overall confidence in City government, generally acting in the best interest of the community, being honest, and being open and transparent to the public; these ratings were on par with those given elsewhere across the country. Two-thirds of residents gave favorable marks to public information services, while 8 in 10 were pleased with the overall customer service by Ramsey employees.

Parks and the Natural Environment are community features, with residents supporting improvements to these amenities.

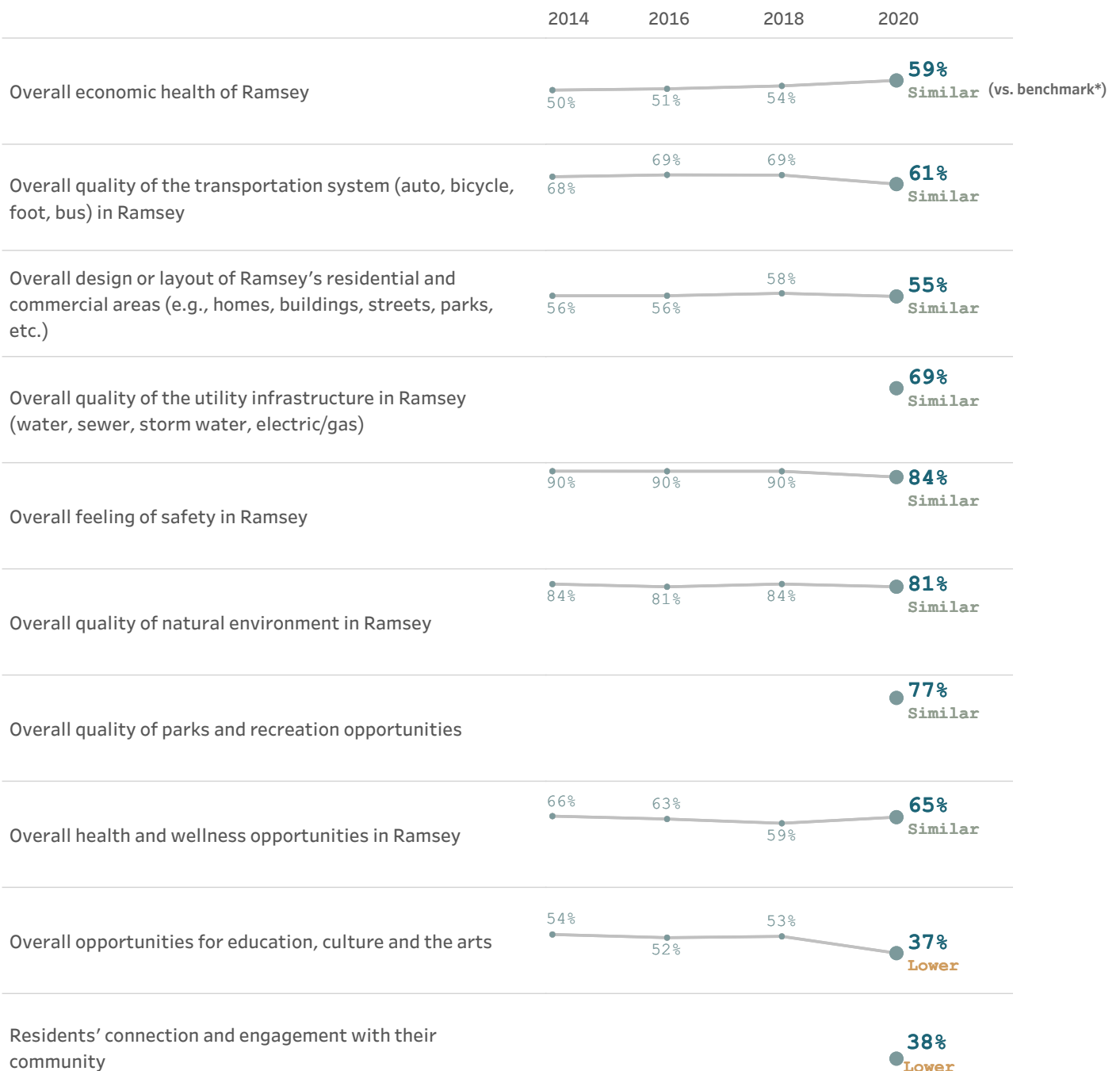
About 8 in 10 residents gave excellent or good ratings to the overall quality of the natural environment in Ramsey, the cleanliness of the city, overall quality of parks and recreation opportunities, City parks, and the availability of paths and walking trails (which was rated higher than the national benchmark). Nine in 10 respondents were pleased with air quality. When asked to rate their level of support for potential changes to new or existing amenities related to parks and recreation, 8 in 10 residents indicated support for making improvements to existing/established parks and existing trails; roughly 7 in 10 supported building new parks or new trails. Finally, when thinking about the importance of various priorities for the City to address, two-thirds thought it was essential or very important to create an active community around parks, trails, open space, and recreation. ...

Facets of livability

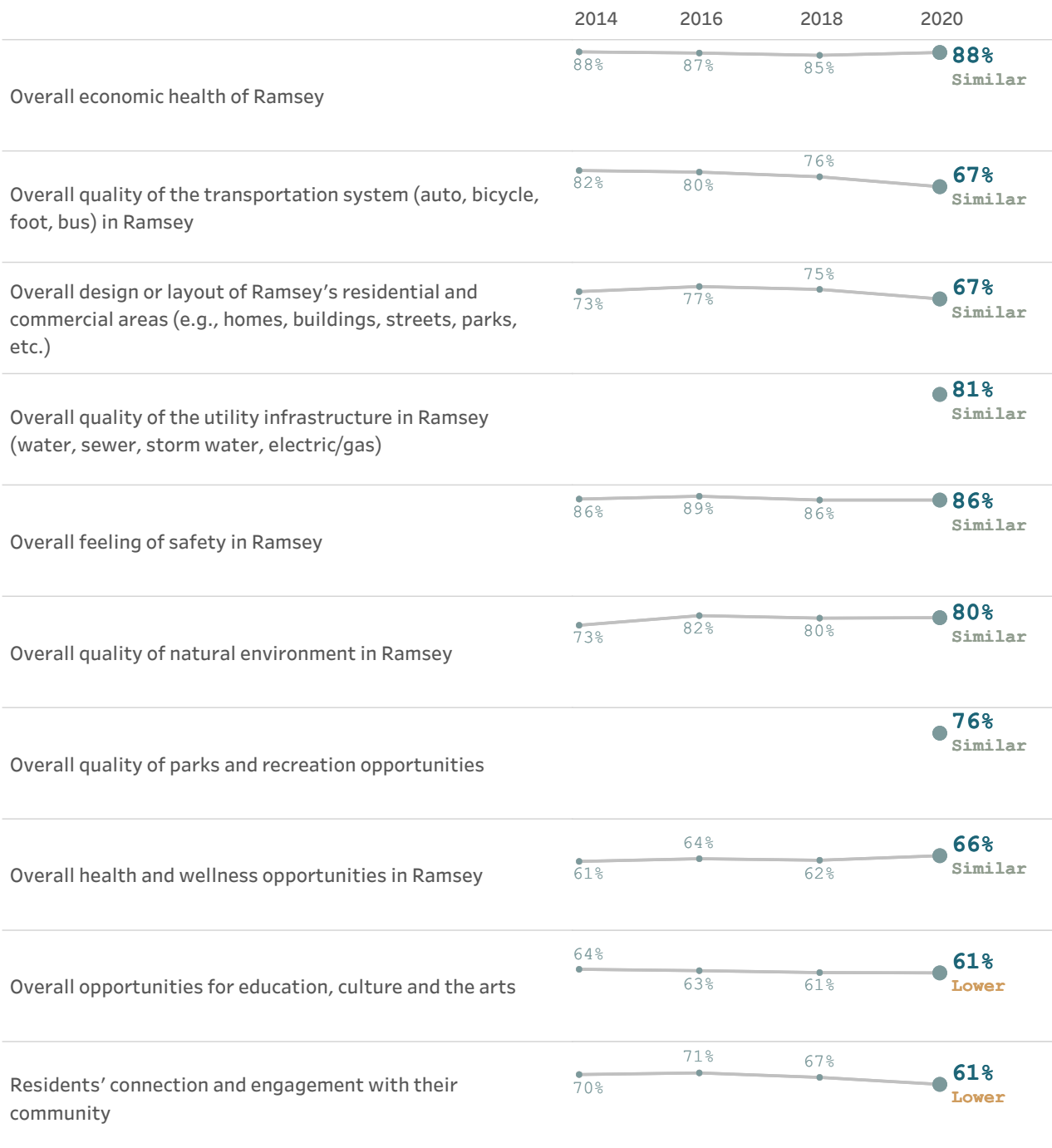
Resident perceptions of quality and importance for each of the facets of community livability provide an overview of community strengths and challenges that are useful for planning, budgeting and performance evaluation.

The charts below show the proportion of residents who rated the community facets positively for quality and the priority (importance) placed on each. Also displayed is whether local ratings were lower, similar, or higher than communities across the country (the national benchmark).

Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Ramsey as a whole.
(% excellent or good)



Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the Ramsey community to focus on each of the following in the coming two years.
 (% essential or very important)



* Comparison to the national benchmark is shown. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.

Balancing performance and importance

Every jurisdiction must balance limited resources while meeting resident needs and striving to optimize community livability. To this end, it is helpful to know what aspects of the community are most important to residents and which they perceive as being of higher or lower quality. It is especially helpful to know when a facet of livability is considered of high importance but rated as

of higher or lower quality. It is especially helpful to know when a facet of livability is considered of high importance but rated as lower quality, as this should be a top priority to address.

To help guide City staff and officials with decisions on future resource allocation, resident ratings of the importance of services were compared to their ratings of the quality of these services. To identify the services perceived by residents to have relatively lower quality at the same time as relatively higher importance, all services were ranked from highest perceived quality to lowest perceived quality and from highest perceived importance to lowest perceived importance. Some services were in the top half of both lists (higher quality and higher importance); some were in the top half of one list but the bottom half of the other (higher quality and lower importance or lower quality and higher importance); and some services were in the bottom half of both lists.

Services receiving quality ratings of excellent or good by 65% or more of respondents were considered of “higher quality” and those with ratings lower than 65% were considered to be of “lower quality.” Services were classified as “more important” if they were rated as essential or very important by 76% or more of respondents. Services were rated as “less important” if they received a rating of less than 76%. This classification uses the median ratings for quality and importance to divide the services in half.

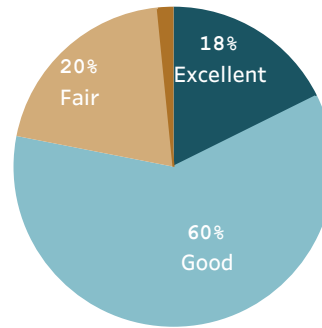
The quadrants in the figure below show which community facets were given higher or lower importance ratings (up-down) and which had higher or lower quality ratings (right-left). Services categorized as higher in importance and lower in quality may warrant further investigation to see if changes to their delivery are necessary.



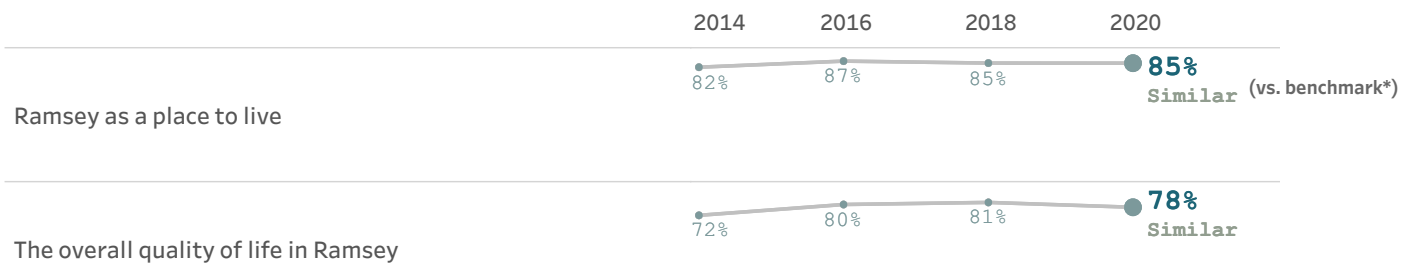
Quality of life

Measuring community livability starts with assessing the quality of life of those who live there, and ensuring that the community is attractive, accessible, and welcoming to all.

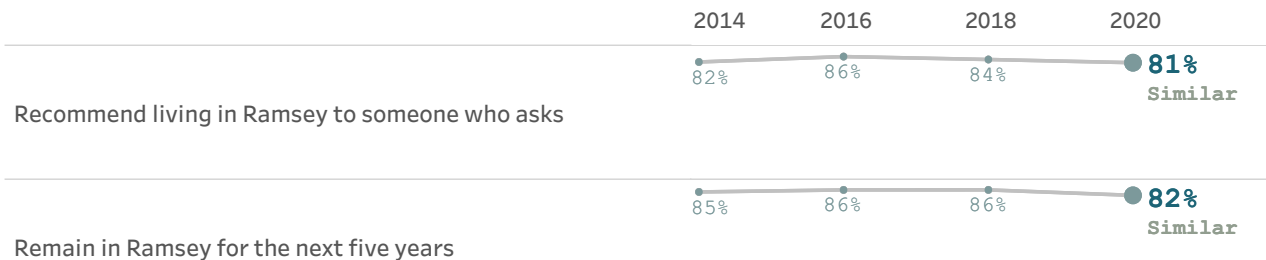
The overall quality of life in Ramsey, 2020



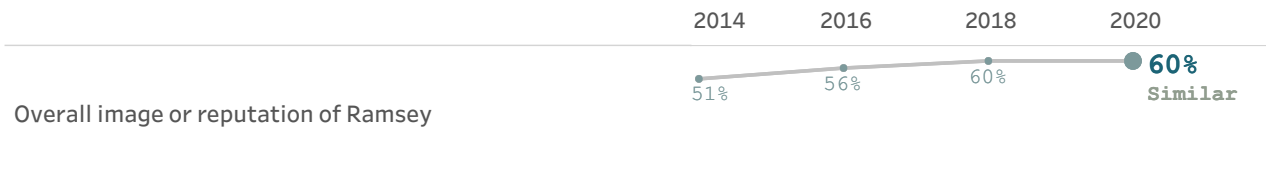
Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in Ramsey.
(% excellent or good)



Please indicate how likely or unlikely you are to do each of the following.
(% very or somewhat likely)



Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Ramsey as a whole.
(% excellent or good)

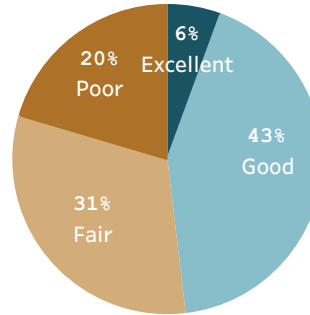


* Comparison to the national benchmark is shown. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.

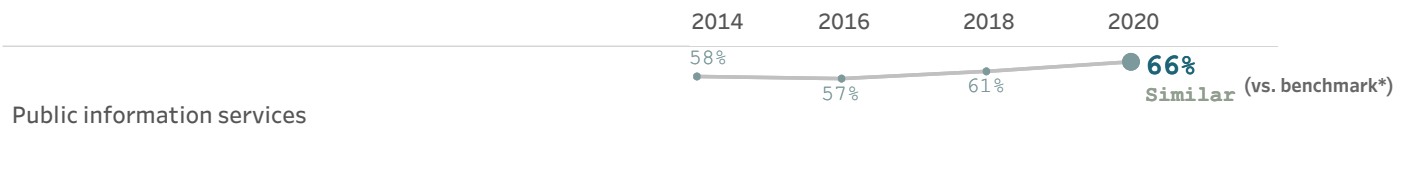
Governance

Strong local governments produce results that meet the needs of residents while making the best use of available resources, and are responsive to the present and future needs of the community as a whole.

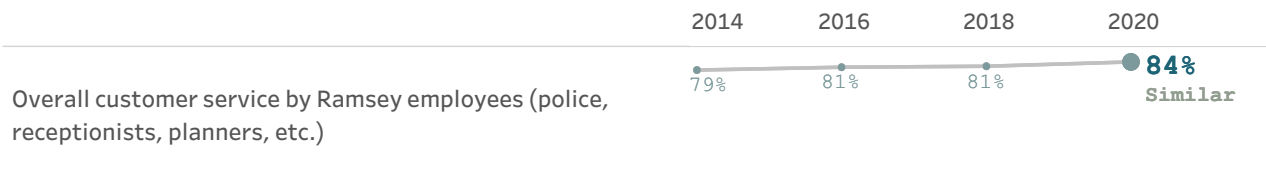
Overall confidence in Ramsey government, 2020



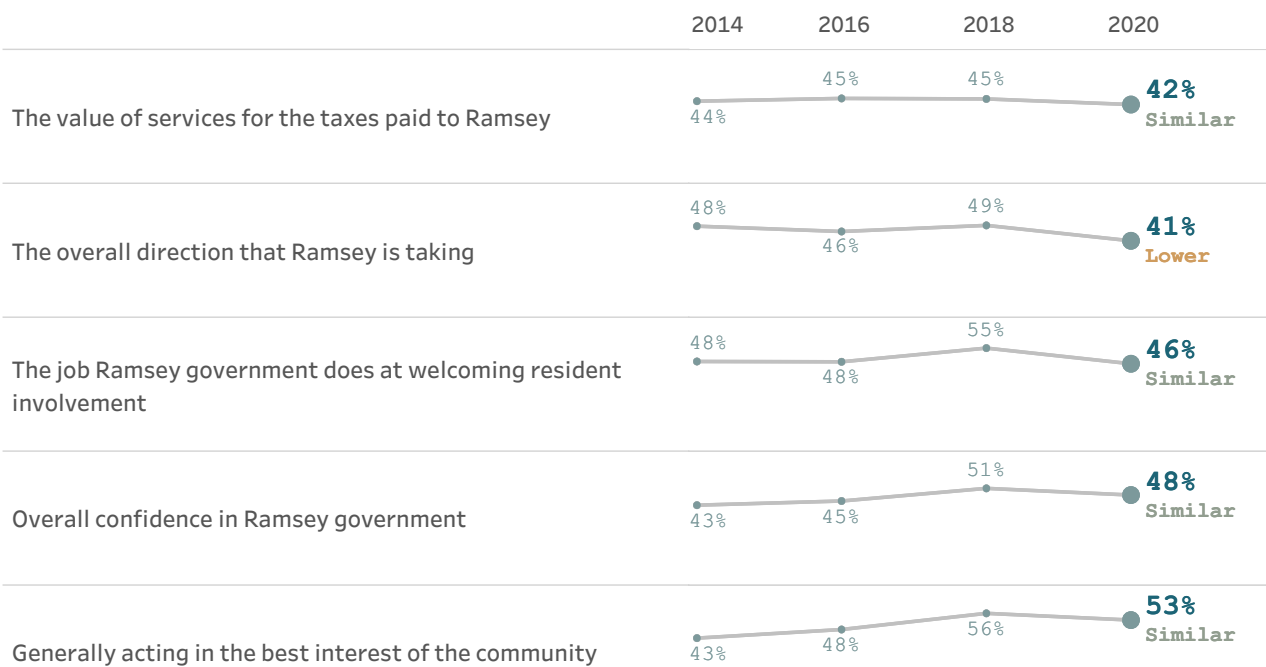
Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Ramsey.
(% excellent or good)

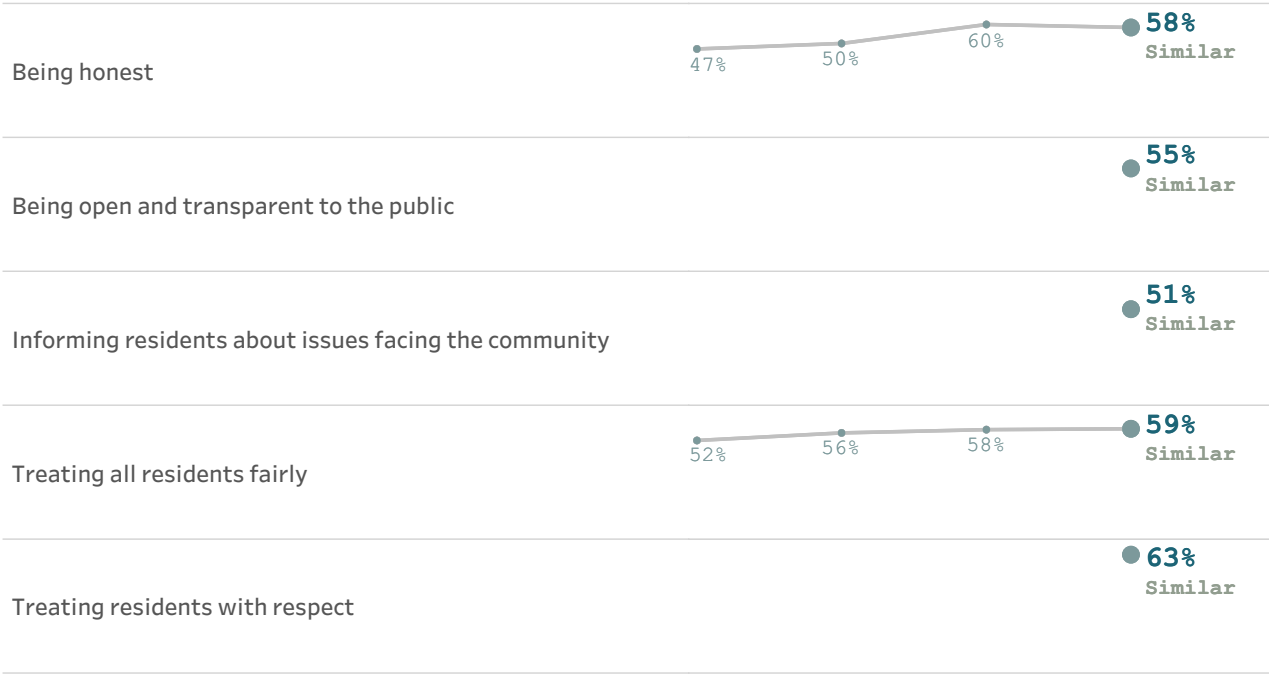


Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Ramsey.
(% excellent or good)

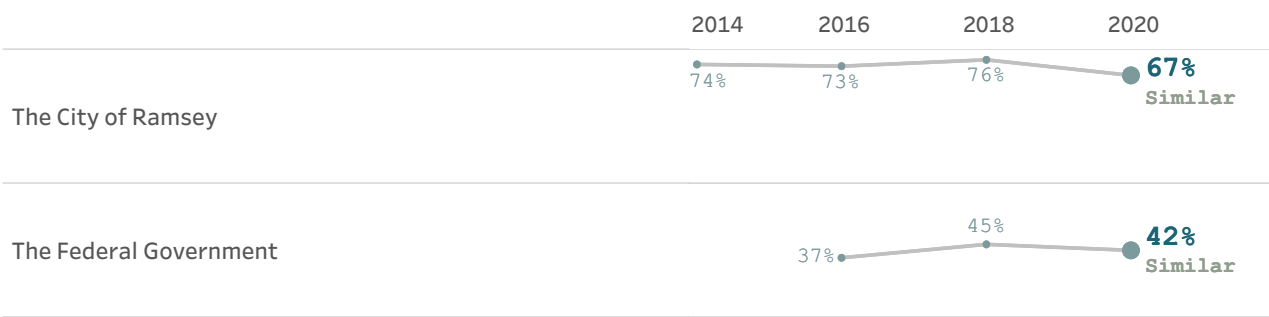


Please rate the following categories of Ramsey government performance.
(% excellent or good)





**Overall, how would you rate the quality of the services provided by each of the following?
(% excellent or good)**

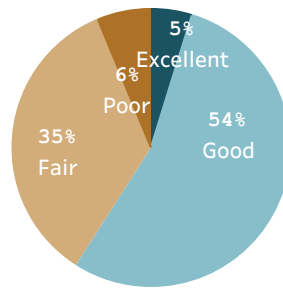


* Comparison to the national benchmark is shown. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.

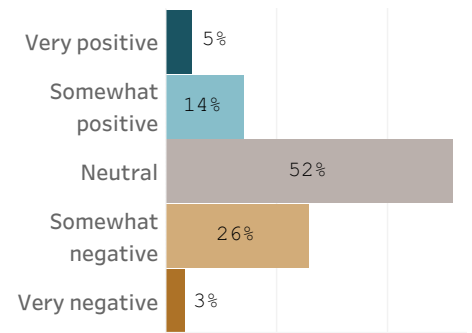
Economy

Local governments work together with private and nonprofit businesses, and with the community at large, to foster sustainable growth, create jobs, and promote a thriving local economy.

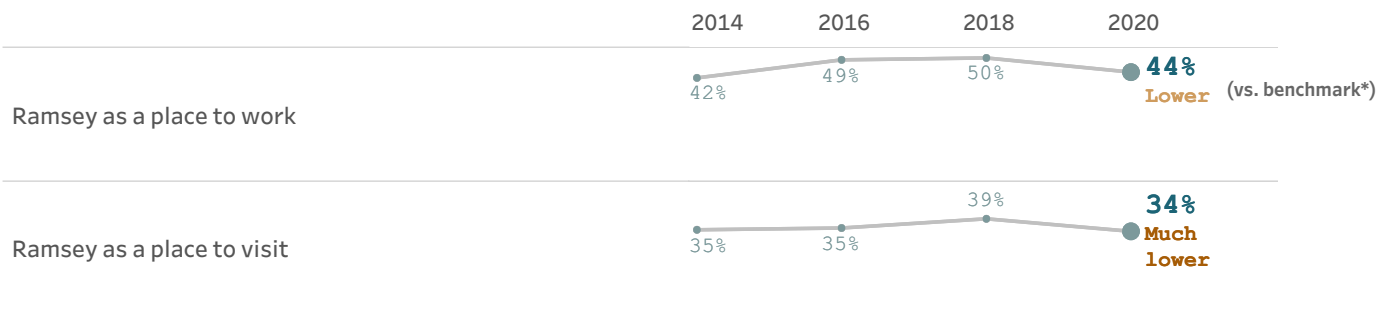
Overall economic health of Ramsey, 2020



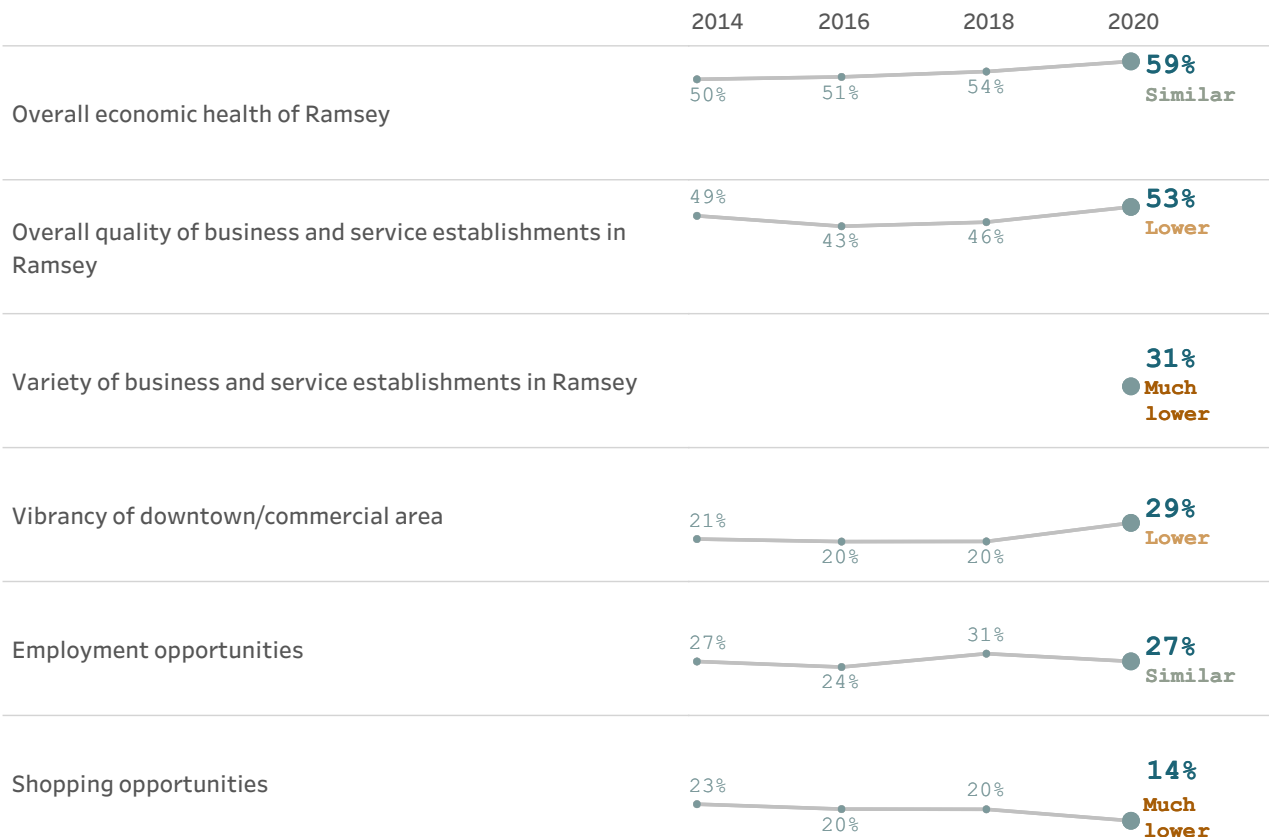
What impact, if any, do you think the economy will have on your family income in the next 6 months? Do you think the impact will be:



Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in Ramsey. (% excellent or good)



Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Ramsey as a whole. (% excellent or good)

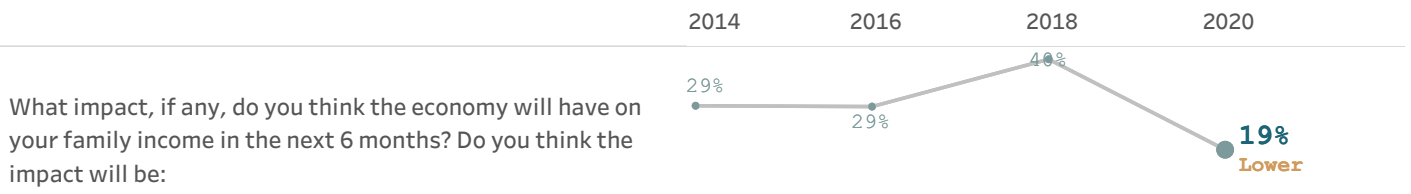




Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Ramsey.
(% excellent or good)



What impact, if any, do you think the economy will have on your family income in the next 6 months? Do you think the impact will be:
(% very or somewhat positive)

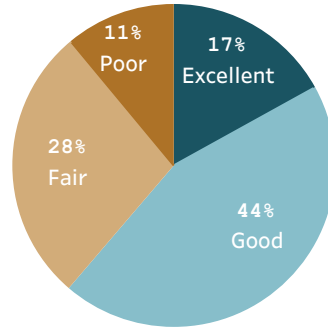


* Comparison to the national benchmark is shown. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.

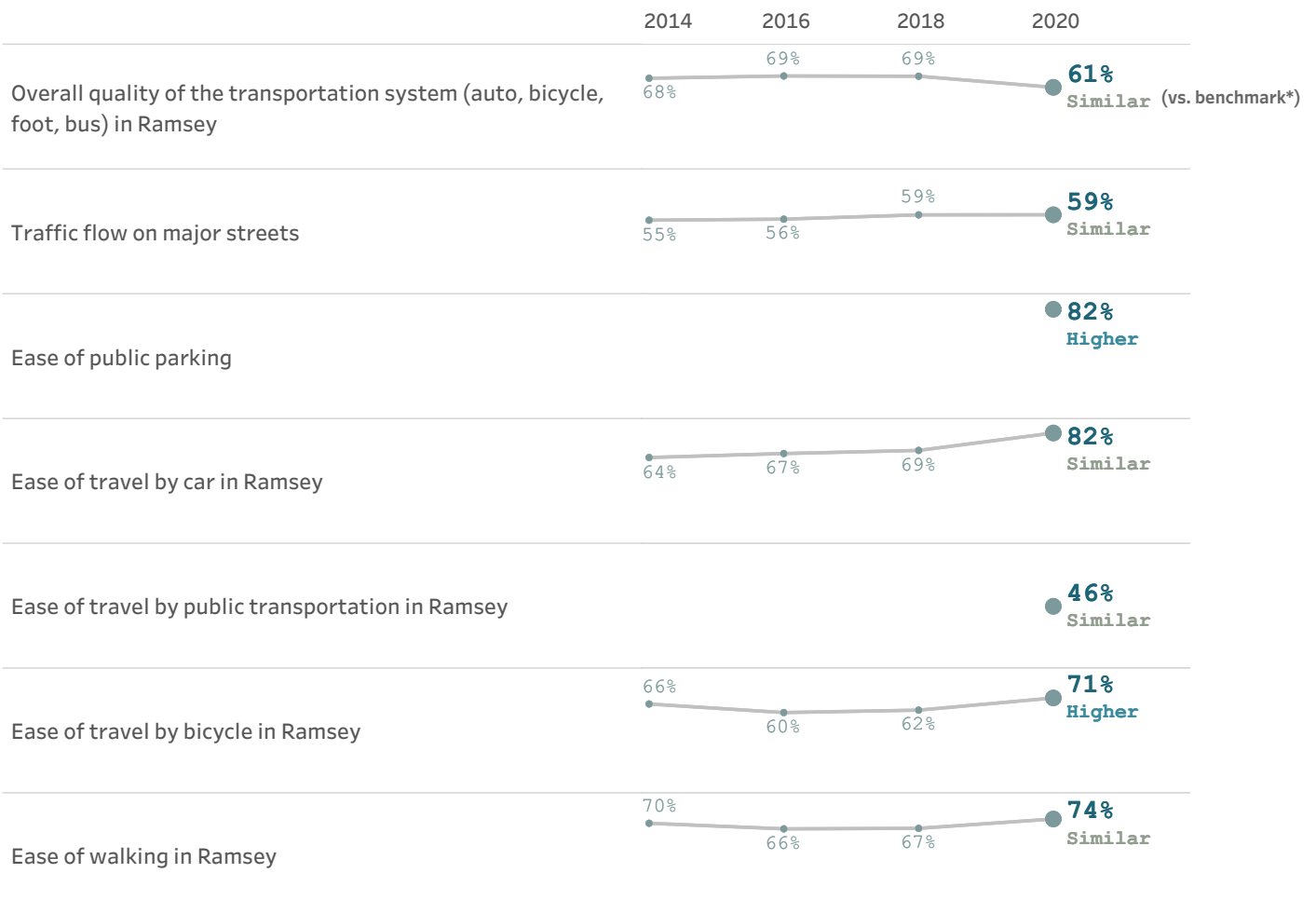
Mobility

The ease with which residents can move about their communities, whether for commuting, leisure, or recreation, plays a major role in the quality of life for all who live, work, and play in the community.

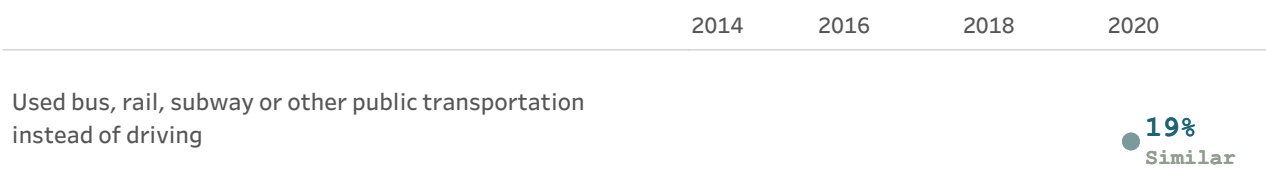
Overall quality of the transportation system in Ramsey, 2020



Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Ramsey as a whole. (% excellent or good)



Please indicate whether or not you have done each of the following in the last 12 months. (% yes)



Carpooled with other adults or children instead of driving alone

● **35%**
Similar

Walked or biked instead of driving

● **53%**
Similar

**Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Ramsey.
(% excellent or good)**



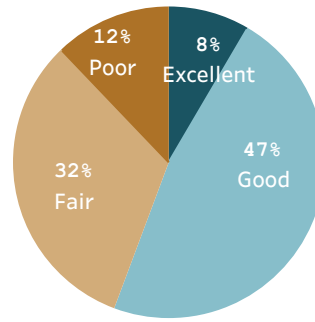
Note: Prior to 2020, "Overall quality of the transportation system" was "Overall ease of getting to the places you usually have to visit". Differences in ratings may be at least partially attributable to changes in question wording and should be interpreted cautiously.

..

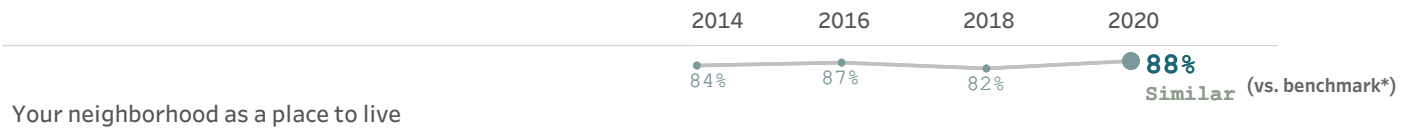
Community design

A well-designed community enhances the quality of life for its residents by encouraging smart land use and zoning, ensuring that affordable housing is accessible to all, and providing access to parks and other green spaces.

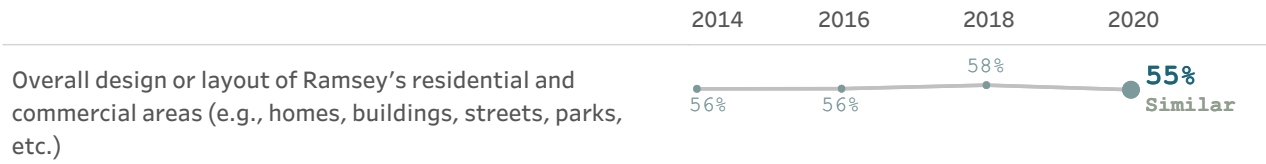
Overall design or layout of Ramsey's residential and commercial areas, 2020



Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in Ramsey.
(% excellent or good)



Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Ramsey as a whole.
(% excellent or good)



Well-planned residential growth

47% Similar

Well-planned commercial growth

33% Lower

Well-designed neighborhoods

50% Similar

Preservation of the historical or cultural character of the community

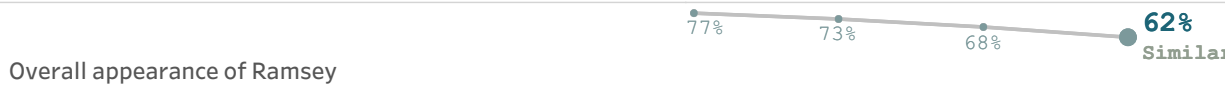
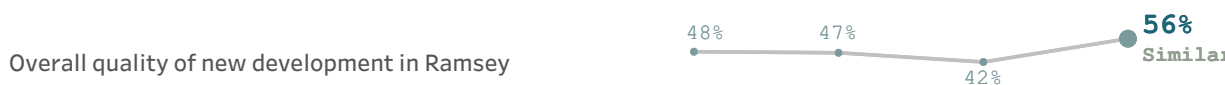
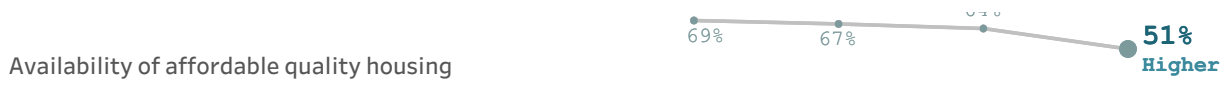
39% Lower

Year	Percentage
2014	50%
2016	56%
2018	51%
2020	41%

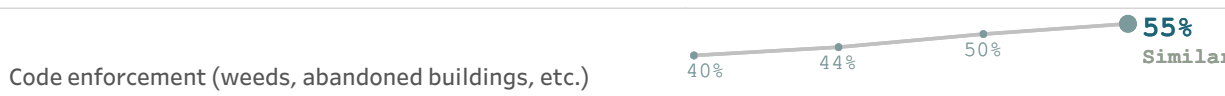
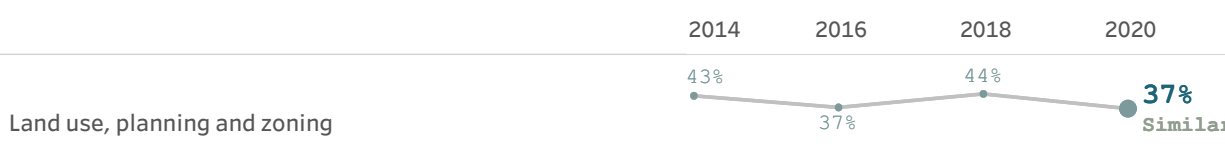
41% Lower

Year	Percentage
2014	75%
2016	73%
2018	68%
2020	64%

64% Similar

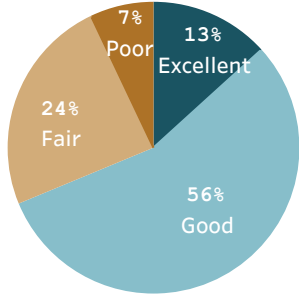


**Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Ramsey.
(% excellent or good)**



* Comparison to the national benchmark is shown. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.

Overall quality of the utility infrastructure in Ramsey, 2020



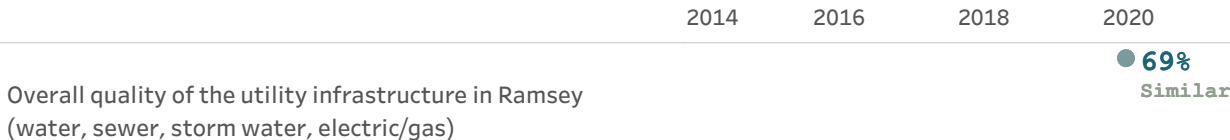
Utilities

Services such as water, gas, electricity, and internet access play a vital role in ensuring the physical and economic health and well-being of the communities they serve.

Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Ramsey.
(% excellent or good)



Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Ramsey as a whole.
(% excellent or good)

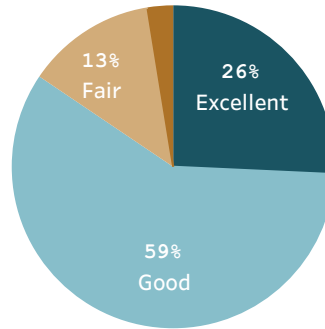


*Comparison to the national benchmark is shown. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.

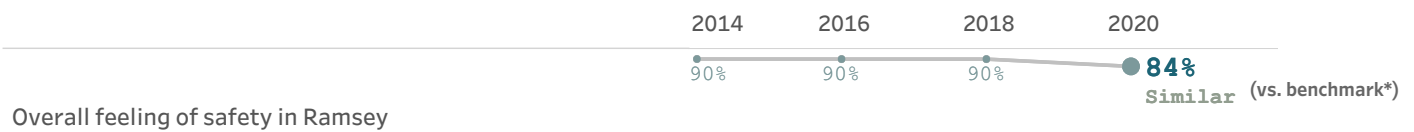
Safety

Public safety is often the most important task facing local governments. All residents should feel safe and secure in their neighborhoods and in the greater community, and providing robust safety-related services is essential to residents' quality of life.

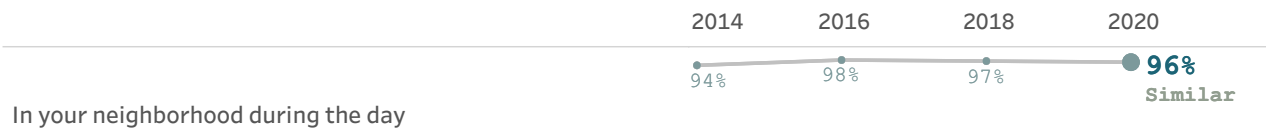
Overall feeling of safety in Ramsey, 2020



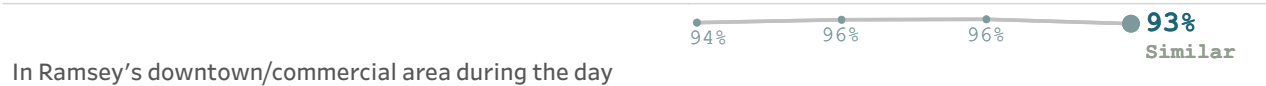
Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Ramsey as a whole.
(% excellent or good)



Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel:
(% very or somewhat safe)



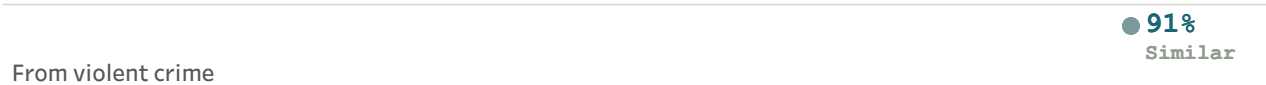
In your neighborhood during the day



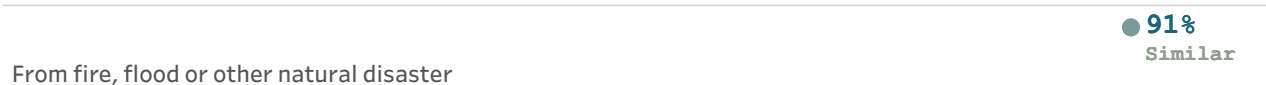
In Ramsey's downtown/commercial area during the day



From property crime



From violent crime



From fire, flood or other natural disaster

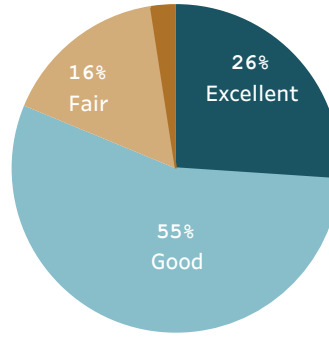
Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Ramsey.
(% excellent or good)





* Comparison to the national benchmark is shown. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.

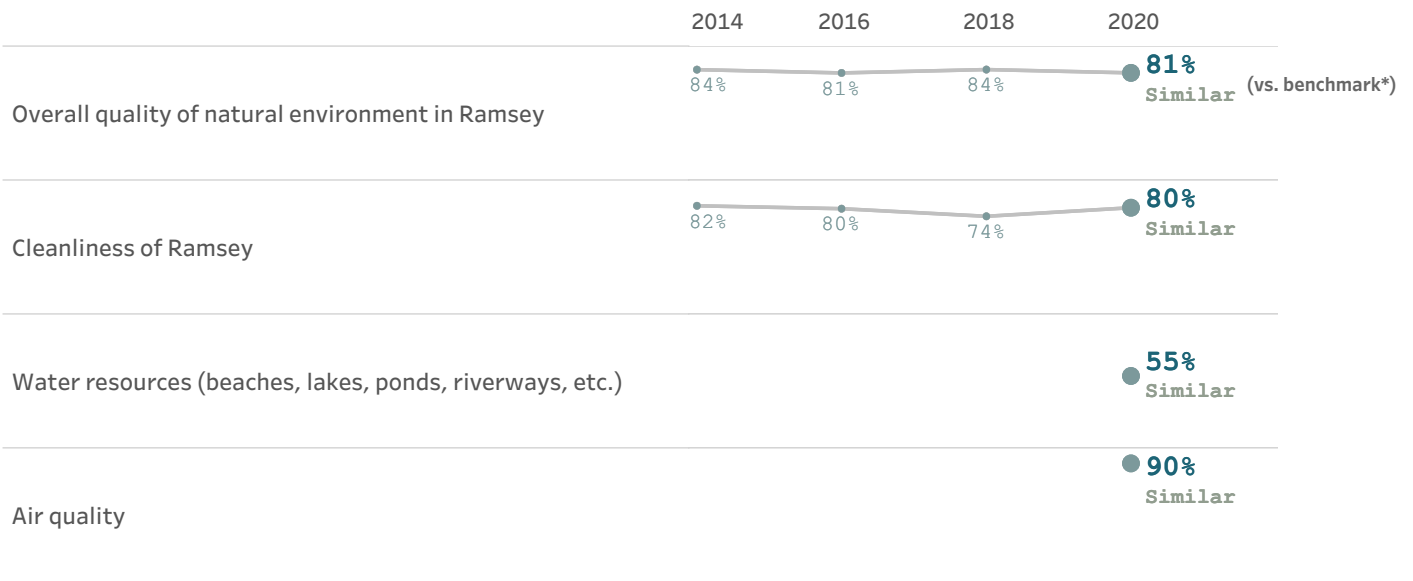
Overall quality of natural environment in Ramsey, 2020



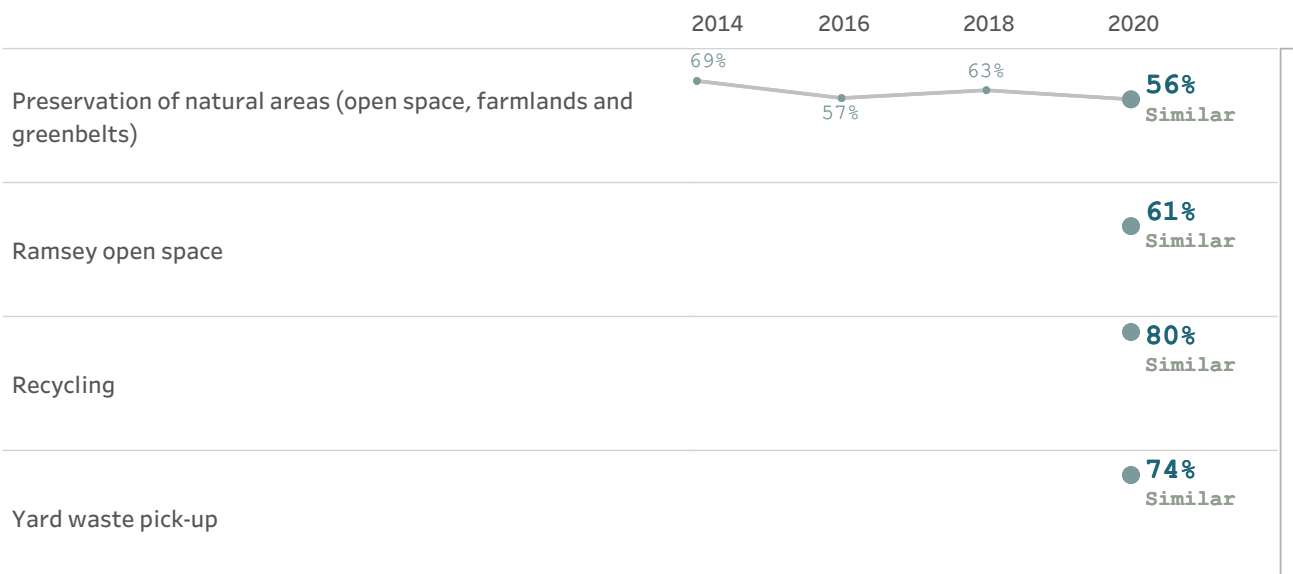
Natural environment

The natural environment plays a vital role in the health and well-being of residents. The natural spaces in which residents live and experience their communities has a direct and profound effect on quality of life.

Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Ramsey as a whole.
(% excellent or good)



Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Ramsey.
(% excellent or good)

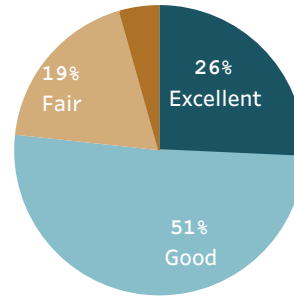


*Comparison to the national benchmark is shown. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.

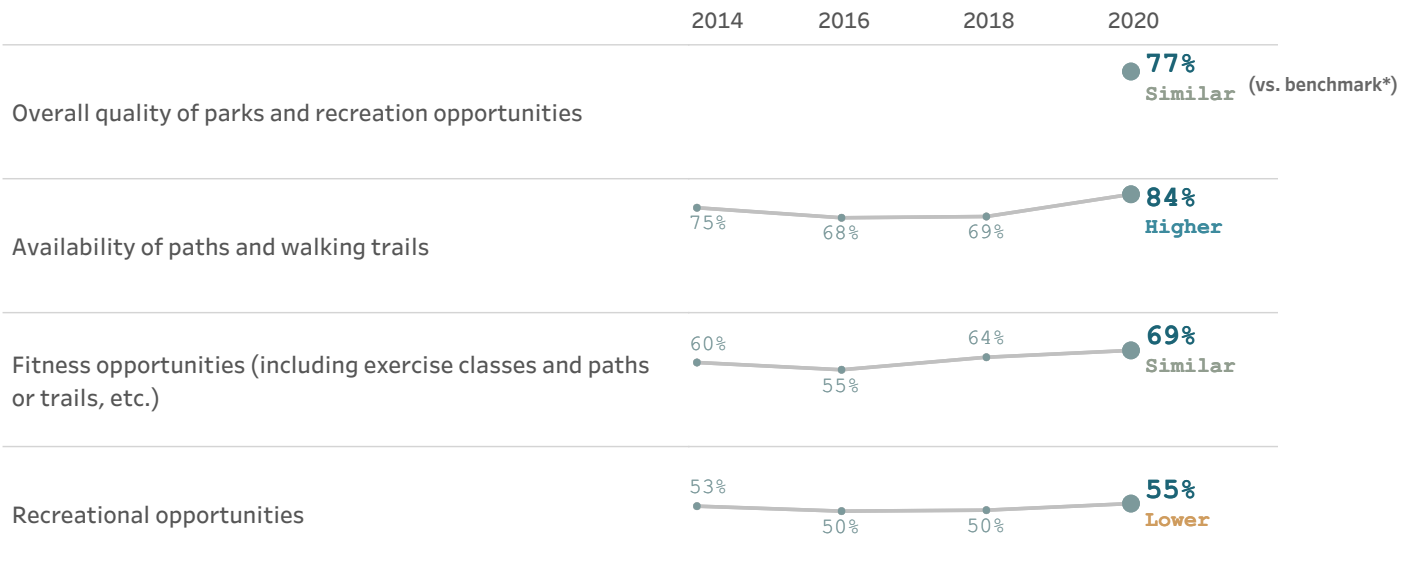
Parks and recreation

“There are no communities that pride themselves on their quality of life, promote themselves as a desirable location for businesses to relocate, or maintain that they are environmental stewards of their natural resources, without such communities having a robust, active system of parks and recreation programs for public use and enjoyment.”
 - National Recreation and Park Association

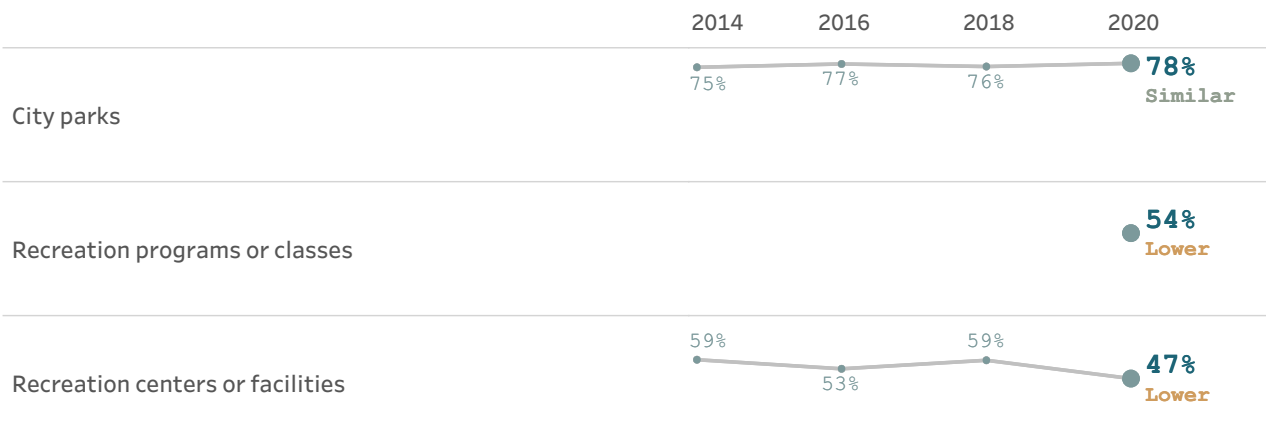
Overall quality of parks and recreation opportunities, 2020



Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Ramsey as a whole.
 (% excellent or good)



Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Ramsey.
 (% excellent or good)

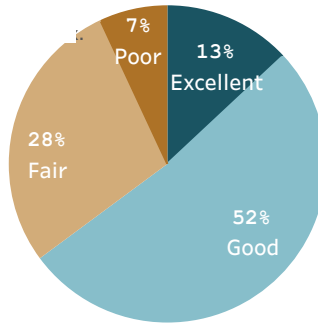


* Comparison to the national benchmark is shown. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.

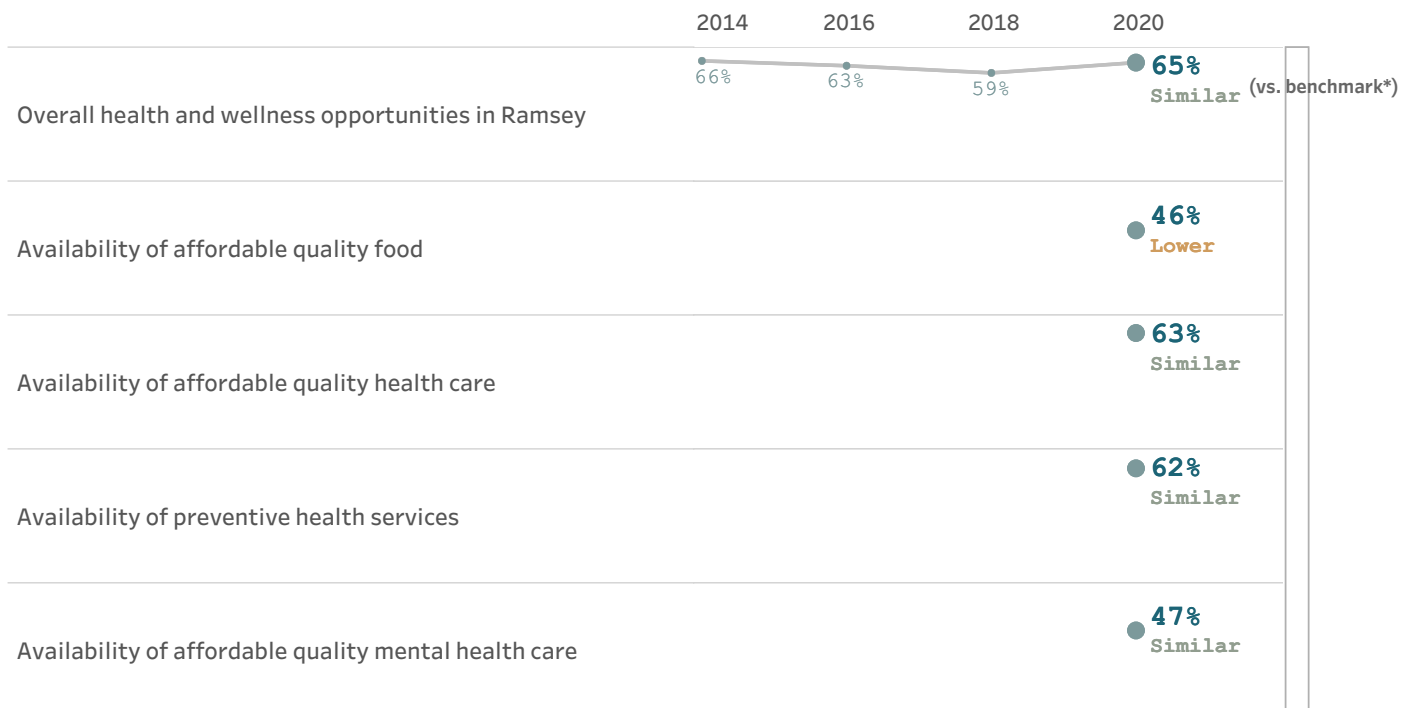
Health and wellness

The characteristics of and amenities available in the communities in which people live has a direct impact on the health and wellness of residents, and thus, on their quality of life overall.

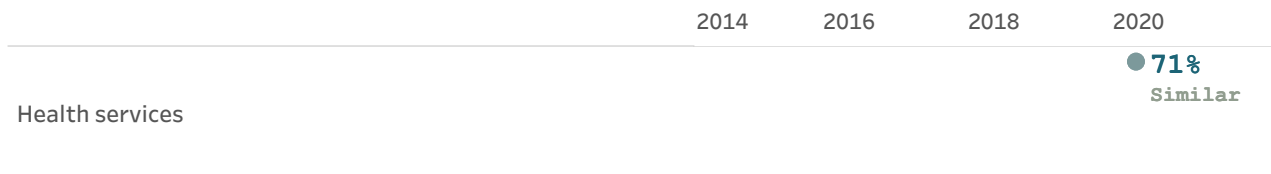
Overall health and wellness opportunities in Ramsey, 2020



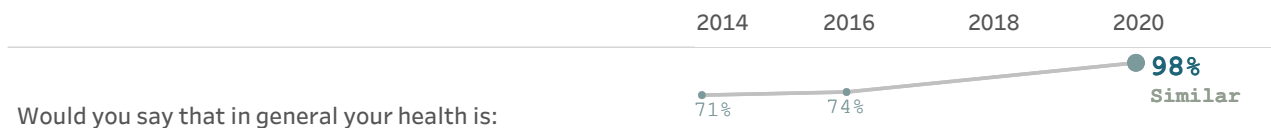
Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Ramsey as a whole. (% excellent or good)



Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Ramsey. (% excellent or good)



Would you say that in general your health is: (% excellent or very good)

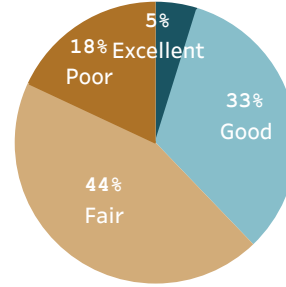


*Comparison to the national benchmark is shown. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.

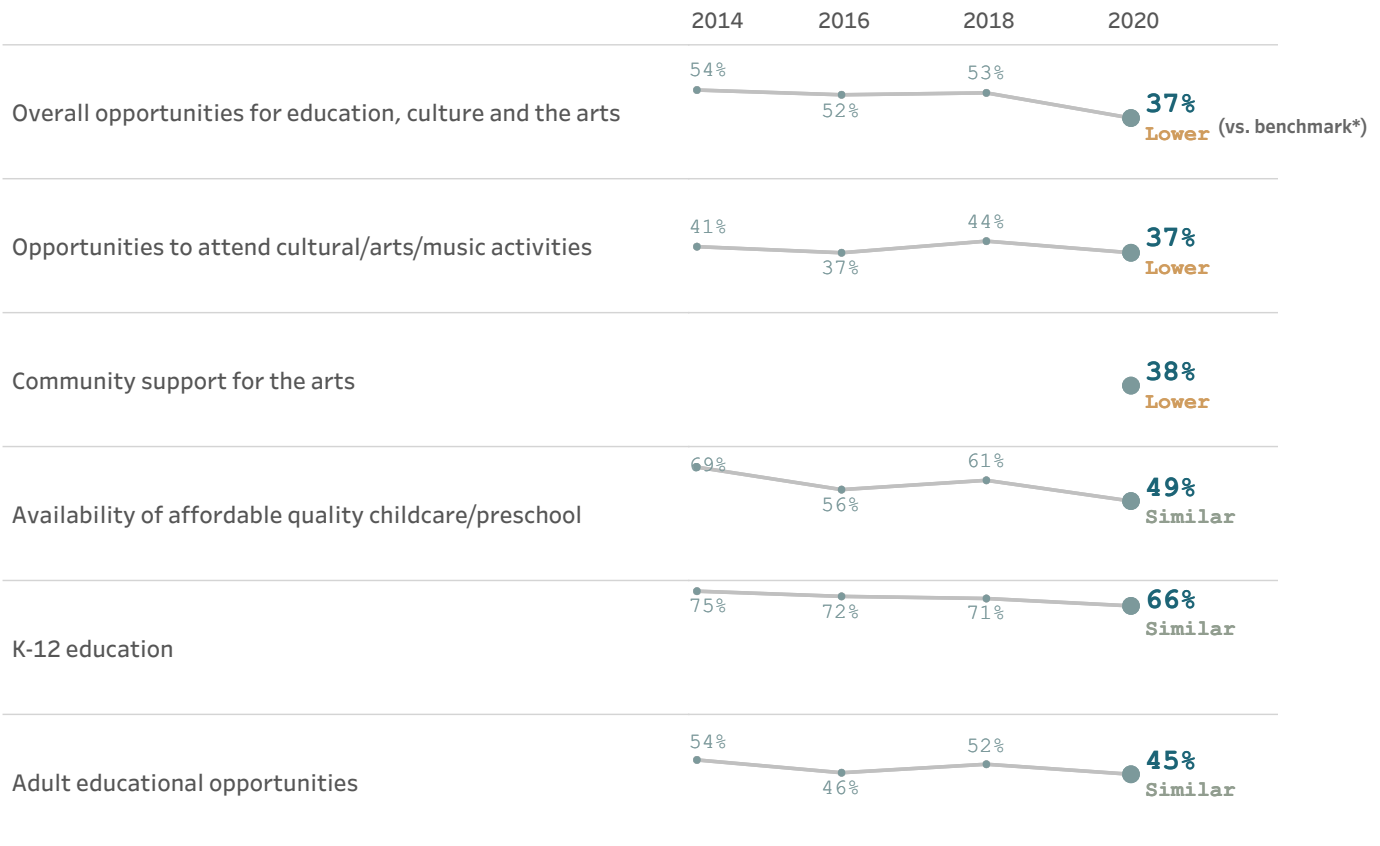
Education, arts, and culture

Participation in the arts, in educational opportunities, and in cultural activities is linked to increased civic engagement, greater social tolerance, and enhanced enjoyment of the local community.

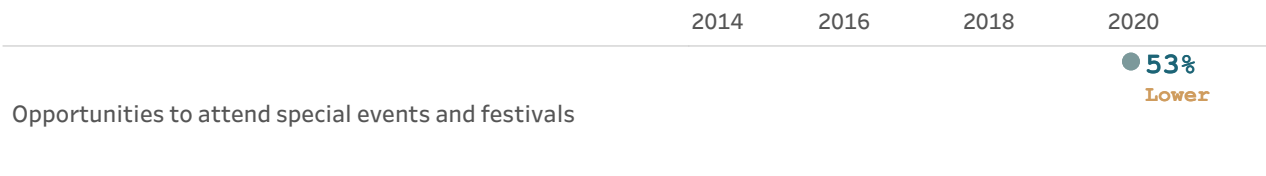
Overall opportunities for education, culture and the arts, 2020



Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Ramsey as a whole.
(% excellent or good)



Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Ramsey as a whole.
(% excellent or good)



Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Ramsey.
(% excellent or good)



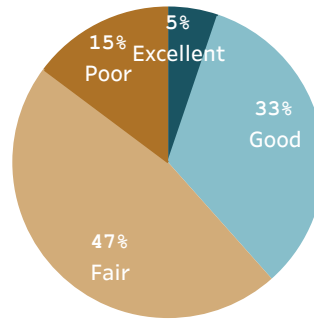
Public library services

* Comparison to the national benchmark is shown. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.

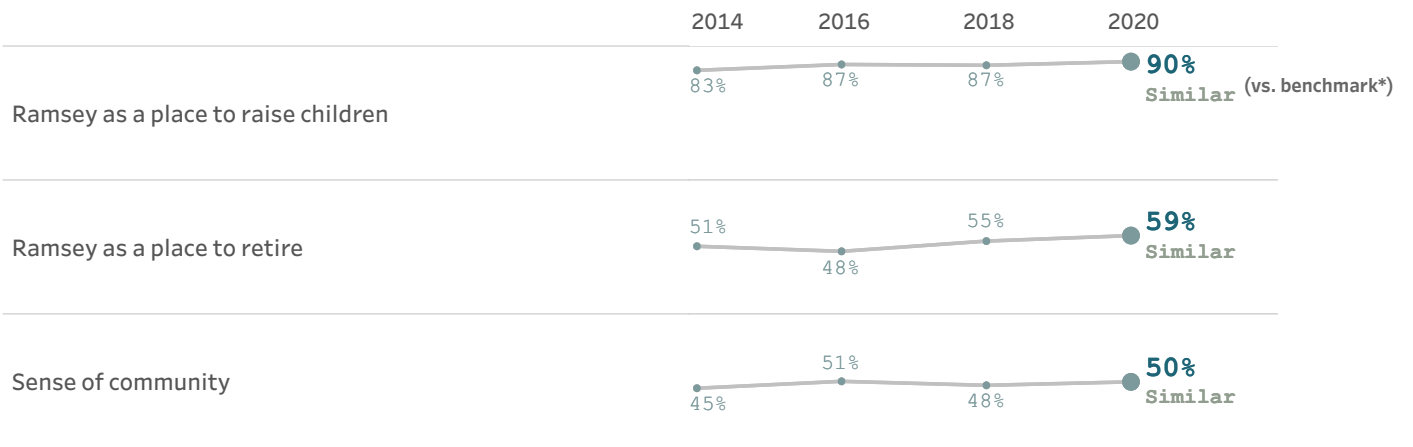
Inclusivity and engagement

Inclusivity refers to a cultural and environmental feeling of belonging; residents who feel invited to participate within their communities feel more included, involved, and engaged than those who do not.

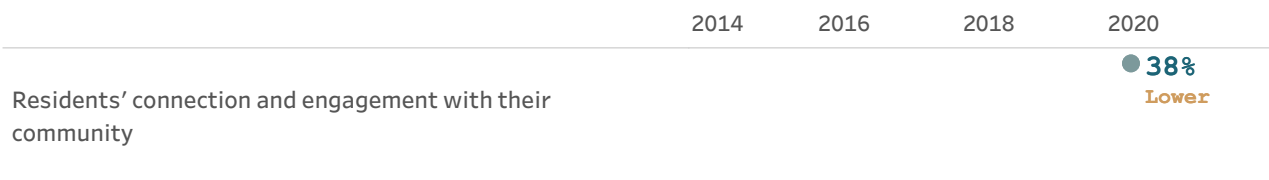
Residents' connection and engagement with their community, 2020



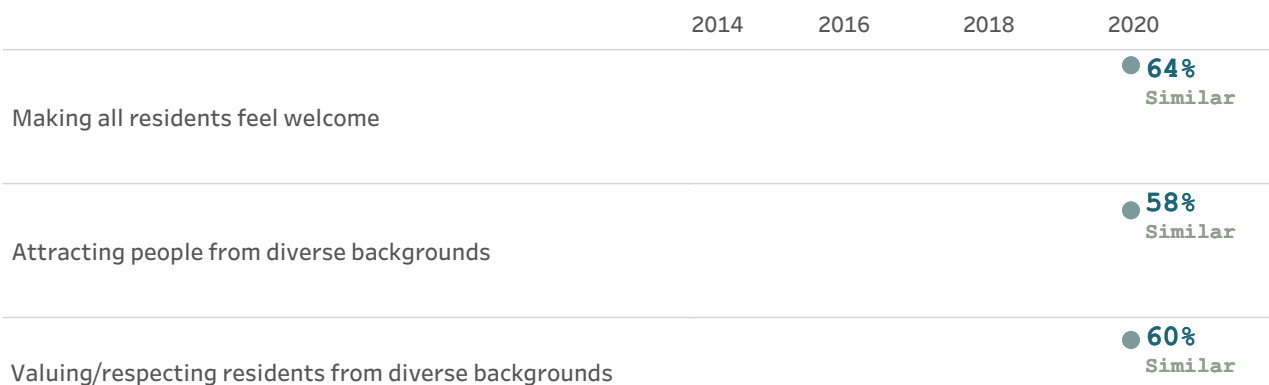
Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in Ramsey.
(% excellent or good)



Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Ramsey as a whole.
(% excellent or good)



Please rate the job you feel the Ramsey community does at each of the following.
(% excellent or good)



Taking care of vulnerable residents (elderly, disabled, homeless, etc.)

● **56%**
Similar

Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Ramsey as a whole.
(% excellent or good)

2014 2016 2018 2020

Sense of civic/community pride

● **50%**
Lower

Neighborliness of residents in Ramsey

● **65%**
Similar

Opportunities to participate in social events and activities

● **45%**
Lower

Opportunities to volunteer



Opportunities to participate in community matters



Openness and acceptance of the community toward people of diverse backgrounds

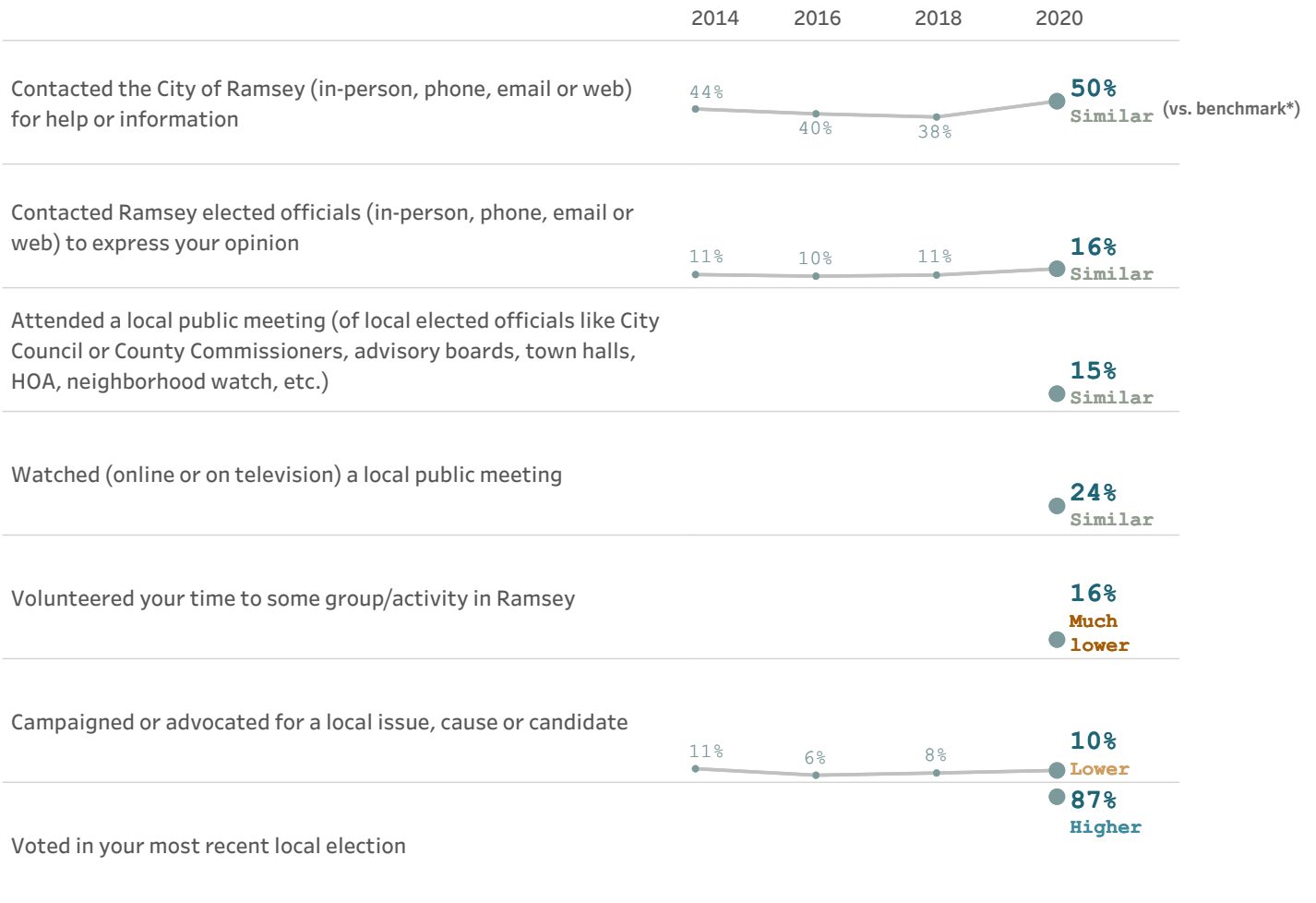
● **53%**
Similar

* Comparison to the national benchmark is shown. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.

Residents' participation levels

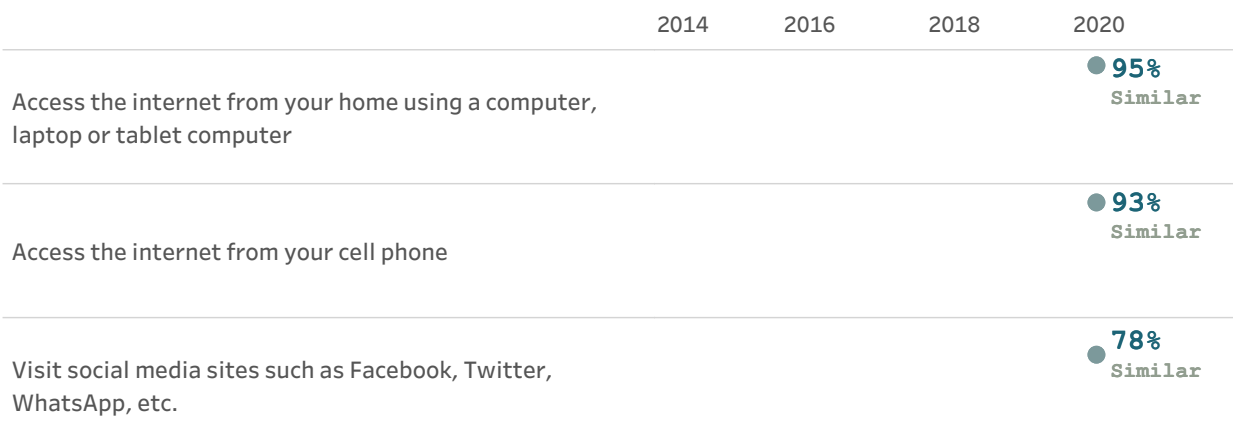
Please indicate whether or not you have done each of the following in the last 12 months.

(% yes)



In general, how many times do you:

(% a few times a week or more)



● **92%**
Similar

Use or check email

Share your opinions online

● **18%**
Similar

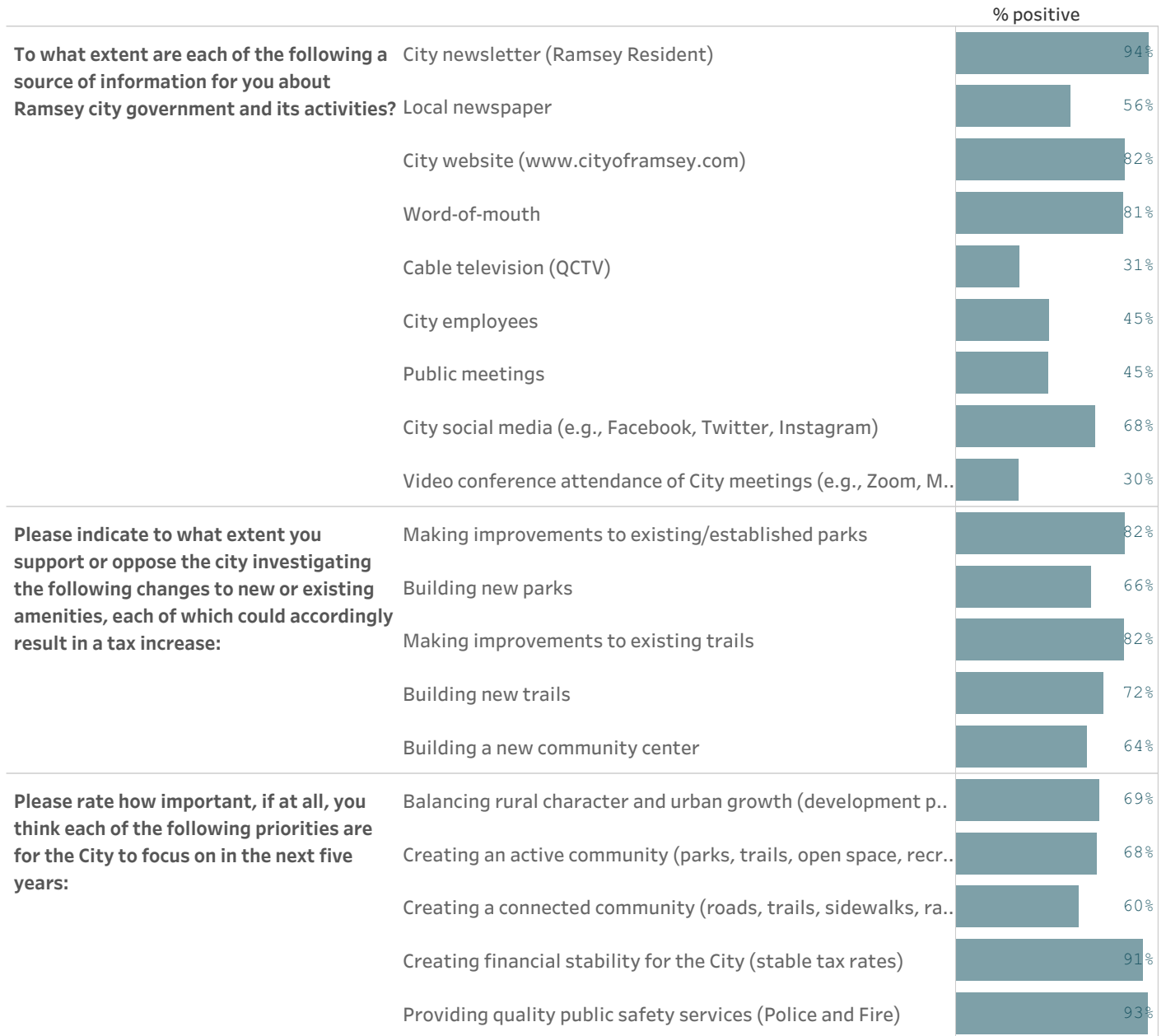
Shop online

●

* Comparison to the national benchmark is shown. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.

Custom questions

Below are the results of each custom question on the survey. The percentage of positive responses (major source/moderate source/minor source, strongly support/somewhat support, or essential/very important) is shown. By default, "don't know" responses are excluded, but may be added to the table using the response filter below.



National benchmark tables

This table contains the comparisons of Ramsey’s results to those from other communities. The first column shows the comparison of Ramsey’s rating to the benchmark. Ramsey’s results are noted as being “higher”, “lower” or “similar” to the benchmark, meaning that the average rating given by Ramsey residents is statistically similar to or different than the benchmark. The second column is Ramsey’s “percent positive.” Most commonly, the percent positive is the combination of the top two most positive response options (i.e., “excellent” and “good”). The third column is the rank assigned to Ramsey’s rating among communities where a similar question was asked. The fourth column is the number of communities that asked a similar question. The fifth column shows the percentile for Ramsey’s result -- that is what percent of surveyed communities had a lower rating than Ramsey.

			% positive	Rank	Number of communities	Percentile
Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in Ramsey.	Ramsey as a place to live	Similar	85%	245	356	32
	Your neighborhood as a place to live	Similar	88%	135	297	55
	Ramsey as a place to raise children	Similar	90%	175	356	51
	Ramsey as a place to work	Lower	44%	300	341	13
	Ramsey as a place to visit	Much lower	34%	269	285	6
	Ramsey as a place to retire	Similar	59%	242	343	30
	The overall quality of life in Ramsey	Similar	78%	264	393	33
	Sense of community	Similar	50%	247	296	17
Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Ramsey as a whole.	Overall economic health of Ramsey	Similar	59%	184	270	32
	Overall quality of the transportation system (auto, bicycle, foot, bus) i..	Similar	61%	212	272	23
	Overall design or layout of Ramsey’s residential and commercial areas ..	Similar	55%	193	265	28
	Overall quality of the utility infrastructure in Ramsey (water, sewer, s..	Similar	69%	32	50	37
	Overall feeling of safety in Ramsey	Similar	84%	191	338	44
	Overall quality of natural environment in Ramsey	Similar	81%	148	275	47
	Overall quality of parks and recreation opportunities	Similar	77%	39	50	24
	Overall health and wellness opportunities in Ramsey	Similar	65%	191	267	29
	Overall opportunities for education, culture and the arts	Lower	37%	251	266	6
	Residents’ connection and engagement with their community	Lower	38%	45	50	11
Please indicate how likely or unlikely you are to do each of the following.	Recommend living in Ramsey to someone who asks	Similar	81%	207	282	27
	Remain in Ramsey for the next five years	Similar	82%	185	275	33
Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel:	In your neighborhood during the day	Similar	96%	113	325	66
	In Ramsey’s downtown/commercial area during the day	Similar	93%	107	304	65

Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel:	From property crime	Similar	81%	28	62	55
	From violent crime	Similar	91%	17	62	73
	From fire, flood or other natural disaster	Similar	91%	5	50	91
Please rate the job you feel the Ramsey community does at each of the following.	Making all residents feel welcome	Similar	64%	35	50	31
	Attracting people from diverse backgrounds	Similar	58%	32	50	37
	Valuing/respecting residents from diverse backgrounds	Similar	60%	41	50	19
	Taking care of vulnerable residents (elderly, disabled, homeless, etc.)	Similar	56%	34	50	33
Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Ramsey as a whole.	Overall quality of business and service establishments in Ramsey	Lower	53%	240	273	13
	Variety of business and service establishments in Ramsey	Much lower	31%	48	49	3
	Vibrancy of downtown/commercial area	Lower	29%	219	251	13
	Employment opportunities	Similar	27%	236	298	21
	Shopping opportunities	Much lower	14%	277	286	4
	Cost of living in Ramsey	Similar	45%	113	268	58
Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Ramsey as a whole.	Overall image or reputation of Ramsey	Similar	60%	251	333	25
	Traffic flow on major streets	Similar	59%	91	312	71
	Ease of public parking	Higher	82%	23	236	91
	Ease of travel by car in Ramsey	Similar	82%	57	298	81
	Ease of travel by public transportation in Ramsey	Similar	46%	83	243	66
	Ease of travel by bicycle in Ramsey	Higher	71%	61	299	80
	Ease of walking in Ramsey	Similar	74%	108	299	64
	Well-planned residential growth	Similar	47%	39	52	26
	Well-planned commercial growth	Lower	33%	45	52	14
	Well-designed neighborhoods	Similar	50%	42	52	20
	Preservation of the historical or cultural character of the community	Lower	39%	47	48	3
	Public places where people want to spend time	Lower	41%	241	260	8
	Variety of housing options	Similar	64%	82	276	71
	Availability of affordable quality housing	Higher	51%	51	295	83
	Overall quality of new development in Ramsey	Similar	56%	193	286	33
	Overall appearance of Ramsey	Similar	62%	239	327	28
Cleanliness of Ramsey	Similar	80%	143	299	53	
Water resources (beaches, lakes, ponds, riverways, etc.)	Similar	55%	36	46	22	

Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Ramsey as a whole.	Air quality	Similar	90%	68	252	74
	Availability of paths and walking trails	Higher	84%	66	295	78
	Fitness opportunities (including exercise classes and paths or trails, et..	Similar	69%	160	256	38
	Recreational opportunities	Lower	55%	238	285	17
	Availability of affordable quality food	Lower	46%	232	251	8
	Availability of affordable quality health care	Similar	63%	130	265	51
	Availability of preventive health services	Similar	62%	146	246	41
	Availability of affordable quality mental health care	Similar	47%	111	243	55
	Opportunities to attend cultural/arts/music activities	Lower	37%	254	284	11
	Community support for the arts	Lower	38%	46	50	9
	Availability of affordable quality childcare/preschool	Similar	49%	159	261	40
	K-12 education	Similar	66%	178	261	32
	Adult educational opportunities	Similar	45%	197	251	22
	Sense of civic/community pride	Lower	50%	42	50	17
	Neighborliness of residents in Ramsey	Similar	65%	155	262	41
	Opportunities to participate in social events and activities	Lower	45%	243	266	9
	Opportunities to attend special events and festivals	Lower	53%	243	274	12
	Opportunities to volunteer	Lower	52%	252	266	6
	Opportunities to participate in community matters	Similar	51%	242	271	11
	Openness and acceptance of the community toward people of diverse ..	Similar	53%	241	292	18
Please indicate whether or not you have done each of the following in the last 12 months.	Contacted the City of Ramsey (in-person, phone, email or web) for help..	Similar	50%	86	320	74
	Contacted Ramsey elected officials (in-person, phone, email or web) to..	Similar	16%	163	259	38
	Attended a local public meeting (of local elected officials like City Coun..	Similar	15%	225	263	15
	Watched (online or on television) a local public meeting	Similar	24%	106	238	56
	Volunteered your time to some group/activity in Ramsey	Much lower	16%	262	267	2
	Campaigned or advocated for a local issue, cause or candidate	Lower	10%	245	249	2
	Voted in your most recent local election	Higher	87%	7	50	87
	Used bus, rail, subway or other public transportation instead of driving	Similar	19%	96	224	58
	Carpooled with other adults or children instead of driving alone	Similar	35%	216	254	15
	Walked or biked instead of driving	Similar	53%	156	260	41
Please rate the quality of each of the following	Public information services	Similar	66%	193	276	31

Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Ramsey.

Economic development	Similar	46%	213	276	23
Traffic enforcement	Similar	70%	139	335	59
Traffic signal timing	Similar	54%	140	261	47
Street repair	Lower	29%	273	322	16
Street cleaning	Similar	56%	197	286	32
Street lighting	Similar	60%	201	316	37
Snow removal	Similar	65%	133	248	47
Sidewalk maintenance	Similar	65%	118	287	60
Bus or transit services	Similar	49%	127	235	46
Land use, planning and zoning	Similar	37%	238	287	18
Code enforcement (weeds, abandoned buildings, etc.)	Similar	55%	151	340	56
Affordable high-speed internet access	Similar	55%	23	47	52
Garbage collection	Similar	85%	174	313	45
Drinking water	Lower	59%	237	281	16
Sewer services	Similar	76%	206	284	28
Storm water management (storm drainage, dams, levees, etc.)	Similar	73%	143	312	55
Power (electric and/or gas) utility	Similar	79%	116	192	40
Utility billing	Similar	73%	153	237	36
Police/Sheriff services	Similar	90%	157	382	60
Crime prevention	Similar	82%	124	337	64
Animal control	Similar	79%	104	300	66
Ambulance or emergency medical services	Similar	89%	237	302	22
Fire services	Similar	89%	240	330	28
Fire prevention and education	Similar	82%	157	275	44
Emergency preparedness (services that prepare the community for na..	Similar	66%	177	276	36
Preservation of natural areas (open space, farmlands and greenbelts)	Similar	56%	179	255	30
Ramsey open space	Similar	61%	136	246	45
Recycling	Similar	80%	168	320	48
Yard waste pick-up	Similar	74%	156	259	41
City parks	Similar	78%	204	295	32
Recreation programs or classes	Lower	54%	253	293	14

Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Ramsey.	Recreation centers or facilities	Lower	47%	252	268	6
	Health services	Similar	71%	143	231	39
	Public library services	Lower	69%	282	294	5
	Overall customer service by Ramsey employees (police, receptionists, ..	Similar	84%	81	351	77
Please rate the following categories of Ramsey government performance.	The value of services for the taxes paid to Ramsey	Similar	42%	281	357	22
	The overall direction that Ramsey is taking	Lower	41%	280	308	10
	The job Ramsey government does at welcoming resident involvement	Similar	46%	236	309	24
	Overall confidence in Ramsey government	Similar	48%	201	270	26
	Generally acting in the best interest of the community	Similar	53%	203	274	26
	Being honest	Similar	58%	156	266	42
	Being open and transparent to the public	Similar	55%	35	50	31
	Informing residents about issues facing the community	Similar	51%	33	55	42
	Treating all residents fairly	Similar	59%	128	269	53
	Treating residents with respect	Similar	63%	30	50	41
Overall, how would you rate the quality of the services provided by each ..	The City of Ramsey	Similar	67%	275	360	24
	The Federal Government	Similar	42%	121	254	53
Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the Ramsey community to focus on each of the following in the coming two years.	Overall economic health of Ramsey	Similar	88%	201	246	18
	Overall quality of the transportation system (auto, bicycle, foot, bus) i..	Lower	67%	211	246	14
	Overall design or layout of Ramsey's residential and commercial areas ..	Lower	67%	223	246	9
	Overall quality of the utility infrastructure in Ramsey (water, sewer, s..	Lower	81%	49	50	3
	Overall feeling of safety in Ramsey	Similar	86%	193	246	21
	Overall quality of natural environment in Ramsey	Similar	80%	136	246	45
	Overall quality of parks and recreation opportunities	Similar	76%	33	50	35
	Overall health and wellness opportunities in Ramsey	Lower	66%	222	245	9
	Overall opportunities for education, culture and the arts	Much lower	61%	241	246	2
Residents' connection and engagement with their community	Much lower	61%	245	247	1	
In general, how many times do you:	Access the internet from your home using a computer, laptop or tablet..	Similar	95%	1	50	99
	Access the internet from your cell phone	Similar	93%	3	50	95
	Visit social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp, etc.	Similar	78%	8	50	85
	Use or check email	Similar	92%	18	50	65
	Share your opinions online	Similar	18%	15	50	71

In general, how many times do you:	Shop online	Similar	29%	7	50	87
	Would you say that in general your health is:	Similar	98%	42	255	84
	What impact, if any, do you think the economy will have on your family..	Lower	19%	235	258	9

Custom benchmark tables

This table contains the comparisons of results to those from other communities in Minnesota and Wisconsin with populations similar to Ramsey. The first column shows the comparison of Ramsey’s rating to the benchmark. The results are noted as being “higher”, “lower” or “similar” to the benchmark, meaning that the average rating given by Ramsey residents is statistically similar to or different than the benchmark. The second column is Ramsey’s “percent positive.” Most commonly, the percent positive is the combination of the top two most positive response options (i.e., “excellent” and “good”). The third column is the rank assigned to Ramsey’s rating among communities where a similar question was asked. The fourth column is the number of communities that asked a similar question. The fifth column shows the percentile for Ramsey’s result -- that is what percent of surveyed communities had a lower rating than Ramsey.

			% positive	Rank	Number of communities	Percentile
Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in Ramsey.	Ramsey as a place to live	Similar	85%	14	16	18
	Your neighborhood as a place to live	Similar	88%	11	16	36
	Ramsey as a place to raise children	Similar	90%	9	16	48
	Ramsey as a place to work	Lower	44%	16	16	6
	Ramsey as a place to visit	Lower	34%	16	15	1
	Ramsey as a place to retire	Similar	59%	16	16	6
	The overall quality of life in Ramsey	Similar	78%	16	19	16
	Sense of community	Lower	50%	18	17	1
Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Ramsey as a whole.	Overall economic health of Ramsey	Similar	59%	13	15	19
	Overall quality of the transportation system (auto, bicycle, foot, bus) i..	Lower	61%	15	15	7
	Overall design or layout of Ramsey’s residential and commercial areas ..	Lower	55%	16	15	1
	Overall quality of the utility infrastructure in Ramsey (water, sewer, s..	Lower	69%	8	7	1
	Overall feeling of safety in Ramsey	Similar	84%	12	19	41
	Overall quality of natural environment in Ramsey	Similar	81%	13	16	24
	Overall quality of parks and recreation opportunities	Similar	77%	8	7	1
	Overall health and wellness opportunities in Ramsey	Similar	65%	14	15	13
	Overall opportunities for education, culture and the arts	Lower	37%	16	15	1
	Residents’ connection and engagement with their community	Lower	38%	8	7	1
Please indicate how likely or unlikely you are to do each of the following.	Recommend living in Ramsey to someone who asks	Similar	81%	15	16	12
	Remain in Ramsey for the next five years	Similar	82%	12	15	26
Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel:	In your neighborhood during the day	Similar	96%	10	16	42
	In Ramsey’s downtown/commercial area during the day	Similar	93%	9	15	44

Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel:	From property crime	Similar	81%	3	8	67
	From violent crime	Similar	91%	2	8	78
	From fire, flood or other natural disaster	Similar	91%	2	7	76
Please rate the job you feel the Ramsey community does at each of the following.	Making all residents feel welcome	Similar	64%	6	7	26
	Attracting people from diverse backgrounds	Similar	58%	5	7	38
	Valuing/respecting residents from diverse backgrounds	Similar	60%	6	7	26
	Taking care of vulnerable residents (elderly, disabled, homeless, etc.)	Similar	56%	8	7	1
Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Ramsey as a whole.	Overall quality of business and service establishments in Ramsey	Lower	53%	16	16	6
	Variety of business and service establishments in Ramsey	Much lower	31%	8	7	1
	Vibrancy of downtown/commercial area	Lower	29%	16	15	1
	Employment opportunities	Lower	27%	17	16	1
	Shopping opportunities	Much lower	14%	17	16	1
	Cost of living in Ramsey	Similar	45%	10	15	38
Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Ramsey as a whole.	Overall image or reputation of Ramsey	Similar	60%	14	16	18
	Traffic flow on major streets	Similar	59%	15	17	17
	Ease of public parking	Similar	82%	5	14	67
	Ease of travel by car in Ramsey	Similar	82%	13	16	24
	Ease of travel by public transportation in Ramsey	Similar	46%	6	14	61
	Ease of travel by bicycle in Ramsey	Similar	71%	11	16	36
	Ease of walking in Ramsey	Similar	74%	13	16	24
	Well-planned residential growth	Lower	47%	8	7	1
	Well-planned commercial growth	Lower	33%	8	7	1
	Well-designed neighborhoods	Lower	50%	7	6	1
	Preservation of the historical or cultural character of the community	Much lower	39%	8	7	1
	Public places where people want to spend time	Lower	41%	15	14	1
	Variety of housing options	Similar	64%	9	16	48
	Availability of affordable quality housing	Similar	51%	6	16	65
	Overall quality of new development in Ramsey	Similar	56%	16	16	6
	Overall appearance of Ramsey	Lower	62%	18	17	1
	Cleanliness of Ramsey	Similar	80%	11	17	39
	Water resources (beaches, lakes, ponds, riverways, etc.)	Similar	55%	8	7	1
	Air quality	Similar	90%	8	15	51

Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Ramsey as a whole.	Availability of paths and walking trails	Similar	84%	7	17	62
	Fitness opportunities (including exercise classes and paths or trails, et..	Similar	69%	16	15	1
	Recreational opportunities	Lower	55%	17	16	1
	Availability of affordable quality food	Lower	46%	15	15	7
	Availability of affordable quality health care	Similar	63%	12	15	26
	Availability of preventive health services	Similar	62%	15	15	7
	Availability of affordable quality mental health care	Similar	47%	10	15	38
	Opportunities to attend cultural/arts/music activities	Lower	37%	17	16	1
	Community support for the arts	Lower	38%	8	7	1
	Availability of affordable quality childcare/preschool	Similar	49%	15	15	7
	K-12 education	Lower	66%	14	16	18
	Adult educational opportunities	Lower	45%	16	15	1
	Sense of civic/community pride	Lower	50%	8	7	1
	Neighborliness of residents in Ramsey	Similar	65%	10	15	34
	Opportunities to participate in social events and activities	Lower	45%	16	15	1
	Opportunities to attend special events and festivals	Lower	53%	15	15	7
	Opportunities to volunteer	Lower	52%	17	16	1
	Opportunities to participate in community matters	Similar	51%	16	15	1
	Openness and acceptance of the community toward people of diverse ..	Similar	53%	14	16	18
Please indicate whether or not you have done each of the following in the last 12 months.	Contacted the City of Ramsey (in-person, phone, email or web) for help..	Similar	50%	2	16	89
	Contacted Ramsey elected officials (in-person, phone, email or web) to..	Similar	16%	7	15	57
	Attended a local public meeting (of local elected officials like City Coun..	Similar	15%	13	16	24
	Watched (online or on television) a local public meeting	Similar	24%	7	16	59
	Volunteered your time to some group/activity in Ramsey	Lower	16%	16	16	6
	Campaigned or advocated for a local issue, cause or candidate	Similar	10%	14	15	13
	Voted in your most recent local election	Higher	87%	1	7	88
	Used bus, rail, subway or other public transportation instead of driving	Similar	19%	6	13	58
	Carpooled with other adults or children instead of driving alone	Similar	35%	13	14	14
	Walked or biked instead of driving	Lower	53%	14	14	7
Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Ramsey.	Public information services	Similar	66%	16	16	6
	Economic development	Lower	46%	17	17	6
	Traffic enforcement	Similar	70%	13	17	28

Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Ramsey.

Traffic signal timing	Similar	54%	17	16	1
Street repair	Much lower	29%	21	20	1
Street cleaning	Lower	56%	16	16	6
Street lighting	Similar	60%	19	18	1
Snow removal	Similar	65%	21	22	9
Sidewalk maintenance	Similar	65%	15	17	17
Bus or transit services	Similar	49%	8	12	39
Land use, planning and zoning	Lower	37%	17	16	1
Code enforcement (weeds, abandoned buildings, etc.)	Similar	55%	15	20	29
Affordable high-speed internet access	Similar	55%	6	7	26
Garbage collection	Similar	85%	12	16	30
Drinking water	Lower	59%	15	16	12
Sewer services	Similar	76%	17	16	1
Storm water management (storm drainage, dams, levees, etc.)	Similar	73%	17	19	16
Power (electric and/or gas) utility	Similar	79%	13	12	1
Utility billing	Similar	73%	15	14	1
Police/Sheriff services	Similar	90%	13	19	36
Crime prevention	Similar	82%	8	17	56
Animal control	Similar	79%	15	19	26
Ambulance or emergency medical services	Similar	89%	16	16	6
Fire services	Similar	89%	19	19	6
Fire prevention and education	Similar	82%	15	16	12
Emergency preparedness (services that prepare the community for na..	Similar	66%	13	14	14
Preservation of natural areas (open space, farmlands and greenbelts)	Lower	56%	16	15	1
Ramsey open space	Similar	61%	15	15	7
Recycling	Similar	80%	16	18	16
Yard waste pick-up	Similar	74%	8	14	47
City parks	Similar	78%	17	16	1
Recreation programs or classes	Lower	54%	18	17	1
Recreation centers or facilities	Lower	47%	17	16	1
Health services	Similar	71%	13	14	14
Public library services	Lower	69%	18	17	1

each of the following services in Ramsey.	Overall customer service by Ramsey employees (police, receptionists, ..	Similar	84%	7	17	62
Please rate the following categories of Ramsey government performance.	The value of services for the taxes paid to Ramsey	Lower	42%	19	19	1
	The overall direction that Ramsey is taking	Lower	41%	16	16	6
	The job Ramsey government does at welcoming resident involvement	Similar	46%	17	17	6
	Overall confidence in Ramsey government	Lower	48%	15	15	7
	Generally acting in the best interest of the community	Lower	53%	15	15	7
	Being honest	Similar	58%	14	15	13
	Being open and transparent to the public	Lower	55%	8	7	1
	Informing residents about issues facing the community	Similar	51%	7	7	13
	Treating all residents fairly	Similar	59%	13	15	19
	Treating residents with respect	Similar	63%	8	7	1
Overall, how would you rate the quality of the services provided by each ..	The City of Ramsey	Lower	67%	19	18	1
	The Federal Government	Similar	42%	11	15	32
Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the Ramsey community to focus on each of the following in the coming two years.	Overall economic health of Ramsey	Similar	88%	8	15	51
	Overall quality of the transportation system (auto, bicycle, foot, bus) i..	Similar	67%	10	15	38
	Overall design or layout of Ramsey's residential and commercial areas ..	Similar	67%	12	15	26
	Overall quality of the utility infrastructure in Ramsey (water, sewer, s..	Similar	81%	7	7	13
	Overall feeling of safety in Ramsey	Similar	86%	13	15	19
	Overall quality of natural environment in Ramsey	Similar	80%	7	15	57
	Overall quality of parks and recreation opportunities	Similar	76%	6	7	26
	Overall health and wellness opportunities in Ramsey	Similar	66%	16	15	1
	Overall opportunities for education, culture and the arts	Similar	61%	16	15	1
	Residents' connection and engagement with their community	Similar	61%	16	15	1
In general, how many times do you:	Access the internet from your home using a computer, laptop or tablet..	Similar	95%	1	7	88
	Access the internet from your cell phone	Similar	93%	1	7	88
	Visit social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp, etc.	Similar	78%	2	7	76
	Use or check email	Similar	92%	4	7	51
	Share your opinions online	Similar	18%	1	7	88
	Shop online	Higher	29%	1	7	88
	Would you say that in general your health is:	Similar	98%	3	15	82
	What impact, if any, do you think the economy will have on your family..	Similar	19%	11	15	32

Complete set of frequencies



































This dashboard contains a complete set of responses to each question on the survey. By default, "Don't know" responses are excluded, but may be added to the table using the response filter to the right. When a table for a question that only permitted a single response does not total to exactly 100%, it is due to the common practice of percentages being rounded to the nearest whole number.

In which category is your age?	18-24 years	4%	
	25-34 years	27%	
	35-44 years	21%	
	45-54 years	20%	
	55-64 years	12%	
	65-74 years	11%	
	75 years or older	6%	
What is your gender?	Female	50%	
	Male	50%	
	Identify in another way	0%	
Which best describes the building you live in?	One family house detached from any other houses	82%	
	Building with two or more homes (duplex, townhome, apa..	17%	
	Other	0%	
Do you rent or own your home?	Rent	13%	
	Own	87%	
Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in Ramsey.	Ramsey as a place to live	Excellent	25%
		Good	61%
		Fair	13%
		Poor	1%
Your neighborhood as a place to live	Excellent	41%	
	Good	46%	
	Fair	10%	
	Poor	2%	
Ramsey as a place to raise children	Excellent	31%	
	Good	58%	
	Fair	9%	
	Poor	2%	
Ramsey as a place to work	Excellent	9%	
	Good	36%	
	Fair	35%	
	Poor	21%	
Ramsey as a place to visit	Excellent	7%	

Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in Ramsey.	Ramsey as a place to visit	Good		27%
		Fair		39%
		Poor		26%
	Ramsey as a place to retire	Excellent		17%
		Good		42%
		Fair		25%
		Poor		16%
	The overall quality of life in Ramsey	Excellent		18%
		Good		60%
		Fair		20%
		Poor		2%
	Sense of community	Excellent		7%
Good			43%	
Fair			38%	
Poor			12%	
Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Ramsey as a whole.	Overall economic health of Ramsey	Excellent		5%
		Good		54%
		Fair		35%
		Poor		6%
	Overall quality of the transportation system (auto, bicycle, foot, bus) in Ramsey	Excellent		17%
		Good		44%
		Fair		28%
		Poor		11%
	Overall design or layout of Ramsey's residential and commercial areas (e.g., homes, buildings, streets, parks, etc.)	Excellent		8%
		Good		47%
		Fair		32%
		Poor		12%
	Overall quality of the utility infrastructure in Ramsey (water, sewer, storm water, electric/gas)	Excellent		13%
		Good		56%
		Fair		24%
		Poor		7%
	Overall feeling of safety in Ramsey	Excellent		26%
		Good		59%
Fair			13%	
Poor			3%	
Overall quality of natural environment in Ramsey	Excellent		26%	

Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Ramsey as a whole.	Overall quality of natural environment in Ramsey	Good		55%
		Fair		16%
		Poor		2%
	Overall quality of parks and recreation opportunities	Excellent		26%
		Good		51%
		Fair		19%
		Poor		4%
	Overall health and wellness opportunities in Ramsey	Excellent		13%
		Good		52%
		Fair		28%
		Poor		7%
	Overall opportunities for education, culture and the arts	Excellent		5%
Good			33%	
Fair			44%	
Poor			18%	
Residents' connection and engagement with their community	Excellent		5%	
	Good		33%	
	Fair		47%	
	Poor		15%	
Please indicate how likely or unlikely you are to do each of the following.	Recommend living in Ramsey to someone who asks	Very likely		38%
		Somewhat likely		43%
		Somewhat unlikely		13%
		Very unlikely		6%
	Remain in Ramsey for the next five years	Very likely		58%
		Somewhat likely		24%
		Somewhat unlikely		10%
		Very unlikely		8%
Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel:	In your neighborhood during the day	Very safe		78%
		Somewhat safe		18%
		Neither safe nor unsafe		2%
		Somewhat unsafe		1%
	In Ramsey's downtown/commercial area during the day	Very safe		69%
		Somewhat safe		24%
		Neither safe nor unsafe		7%
		Somewhat unsafe		0%
	From property crime	Very safe		35%





































Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel:	From property crime	Somewhat safe		47%
		Neither safe nor unsafe		10%
		Somewhat unsafe		8%
		Very unsafe		1%
	From violent crime	Very safe		66%
		Somewhat safe		26%
		Neither safe nor unsafe		6%
		Somewhat unsafe		2%
		Very unsafe		0%
	From fire, flood or other natural disaster	Very safe		62%
		Somewhat safe		29%
		Neither safe nor unsafe		9%
		Somewhat unsafe		0%
Very unsafe			0%	
Please rate the job you feel the Ramsey community does at each of the following.	Making all residents feel welcome	Excellent		16%
		Good		48%
		Fair		28%
		Poor		8%
	Attracting people from diverse backgrounds	Excellent		13%
		Good		45%
		Fair		29%
		Poor		13%
	Valuing/respecting residents from diverse backgrounds	Excellent		15%
		Good		46%
		Fair		25%
		Poor		15%
	Taking care of vulnerable residents (elderly, disabled, homeless, etc.)	Excellent		14%
		Good		42%
		Fair		31%
		Poor		14%
Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Ramsey as a whole.	Overall quality of business and service establishments in Ramsey	Excellent		7%
		Good		46%
		Fair		27%
		Poor		20%
	Variety of business and service establishments in Ramsey	Excellent		5%
		Good		26%

Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Ramsey as a whole.	Variety of business and service establishments in Ramsey	Fair		36%
		Poor		34%
	Vibrancy of downtown/commercial area	Excellent		2%
		Good		28%
		Fair		36%
		Poor		34%
	Employment opportunities	Excellent		1%
		Good		26%
		Fair		47%
		Poor		26%
	Shopping opportunities	Excellent		1%
		Good		13%
		Fair		31%
		Poor		55%
	Cost of living in Ramsey	Excellent		11%
		Good		35%
		Fair		41%
		Poor		13%
	Overall image or reputation of Ramsey	Excellent		10%
		Good		50%
		Fair		31%
		Poor		9%
Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Ramsey as a whole.	Traffic flow on major streets	Excellent		11%
		Good		48%
		Fair		29%
		Poor		12%
	Ease of public parking	Excellent		23%
		Good		59%
		Fair		17%
		Poor		2%
	Ease of travel by car in Ramsey	Excellent		28%
		Good		54%
		Fair		13%
		Poor		5%
Ease of travel by public transportation in Ramsey	Excellent		16%	
	Good		30%	





































Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Ramsey as a whole.





































Ease of travel by public transportation in Ramsey	Fair		26%
	Poor		28%
Ease of travel by bicycle in Ramsey	Excellent		21%
	Good		50%
	Fair		21%
	Poor		8%
Ease of walking in Ramsey	Excellent		25%
	Good		49%
	Fair		19%
	Poor		7%
Well-planned residential growth	Excellent		6%
	Good		41%
	Fair		33%
	Poor		21%
Well-planned commercial growth	Excellent		5%
	Good		28%
	Fair		35%
	Poor		31%
Well-designed neighborhoods	Excellent		5%
	Good		45%
	Fair		38%
	Poor		11%
Preservation of the historical or cultural character of the community	Excellent		6%
	Good		34%
	Fair		34%
	Poor		26%
Public places where people want to spend time	Excellent		9%
	Good		33%
	Fair		35%
	Poor		24%
Variety of housing options	Excellent		13%
	Good		51%
	Fair		29%
	Poor		7%
Availability of affordable quality housing	Excellent		13%
	Good		39%

Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Ramsey as a whole.

Availability of affordable quality housing	Fair		37%
	Poor		11%
Overall quality of new development in Ramsey	Excellent		10%
	Good		47%
	Fair		26%
	Poor		18%
Overall appearance of Ramsey	Excellent		13%
	Good		49%
	Fair		32%
	Poor		6%
Cleanliness of Ramsey	Excellent		24%
	Good		57%
	Fair		17%
	Poor		2%
Water resources (beaches, lakes, ponds, riverways, etc.)	Excellent		13%
	Good		41%
	Fair		29%
	Poor		16%
Air quality	Excellent		35%
	Good		54%
	Fair		9%
	Poor		1%
Availability of paths and walking trails	Excellent		36%
	Good		49%
	Fair		11%
	Poor		4%
Fitness opportunities (including exercise classes and paths or trails, etc.)	Excellent		19%
	Good		50%
	Fair		24%
	Poor		7%
Recreational opportunities	Excellent		12%
	Good		44%
	Fair		31%
	Poor		14%
Availability of affordable quality food	Excellent		11%
	Good		36%

Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Ramsey as a whole.

Availability of affordable quality food	Fair		30%
	Poor		23%
Availability of affordable quality health care	Excellent		17%
	Good		46%
	Fair		30%
	Poor		7%
Availability of preventive health services	Excellent		15%
	Good		48%
	Fair		28%
	Poor		9%
Availability of affordable quality mental health care	Excellent		12%
	Good		36%
	Fair		31%
	Poor		21%
Opportunities to attend cultural/arts/music activities	Excellent		10%
	Good		27%
	Fair		37%
	Poor		26%
Community support for the arts	Excellent		9%
	Good		29%
	Fair		33%
	Poor		29%
Availability of affordable quality childcare/preschool	Excellent		7%
	Good		43%
	Fair		33%
	Poor		18%
K-12 education	Excellent		18%
	Good		49%
	Fair		24%
	Poor		9%
Adult educational opportunities	Excellent		10%
	Good		36%
	Fair		34%
	Poor		20%
Sense of civic/community pride	Excellent		7%
	Good		43%

Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Ramsey as a whole.	Sense of civic/community pride	Fair		33%
		Poor		17%
	Neighborliness of residents in Ramsey	Excellent		12%
		Good		53%
		Fair		25%
		Poor		10%
	Opportunities to participate in social events and activities	Excellent		6%
		Good		40%
		Fair		38%
		Poor		17%
Opportunities to attend special events and festivals	Excellent		11%	
	Good		42%	
	Fair		32%	
	Poor		15%	
Opportunities to volunteer	Excellent		12%	
	Good		40%	
	Fair		35%	
	Poor		13%	
Opportunities to participate in community matters	Excellent		10%	
	Good		41%	
	Fair		34%	
	Poor		15%	
Openness and acceptance of the community toward people of diverse backgrounds	Excellent		12%	
	Good		41%	
	Fair		30%	
	Poor		17%	
Please indicate whether or not you have done each of the following in the last 12 months.	Contacted the City of Ramsey (in-person, phone, email or web) for help or information	No		49%
		Yes		51%
	Contacted Ramsey elected officials (in-person, phone, email or web) to express your opinion	No		85%
		Yes		15%
	Attended a local public meeting (of local elected officials like City Council or County Commissioners, advisory boards, town halls, HO..	No		86%
		Yes		14%
	Watched (online or on television) a local public meeting	No		77%
		Yes		23%
	Volunteered your time to some group/activity in Ramsey	No		84%
		Yes		16%





































Please indicate whether or not you have done each of the following in the last 12 months.

Campaigned or advocated for a local issue, cause or candidate	No	96%
	Yes	10%
Voted in your most recent local election	No	13%
	Yes	87%
Used bus, rail, subway or other public transportation instead of driving	No	81%
	Yes	19%
Carpooled with other adults or children instead of driving alone	No	66%
	Yes	34%
Walked or biked instead of driving	No	47%
	Yes	53%



































Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Ramsey.

Public information services	Excellent	10%
	Good	56%
	Fair	27%
	Poor	6%
Economic development	Excellent	5%
	Good	41%
	Fair	33%
	Poor	21%
Traffic enforcement	Excellent	14%
	Good	56%
	Fair	23%
	Poor	7%
Traffic signal timing	Excellent	8%
	Good	46%
	Fair	32%
	Poor	14%
Street repair	Excellent	3%
	Good	26%
	Fair	30%
	Poor	40%
Street cleaning	Excellent	11%
	Good	45%
	Fair	30%
	Poor	13%
Street lighting	Excellent	10%
	Good	50%





































Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Ramsey.



































Street lighting	Fair		25%
	Poor		15%
Snow removal	Excellent		19%
	Good		46%
	Fair		26%
	Poor		9%
Sidewalk maintenance	Excellent		11%
	Good		54%
	Fair		25%
	Poor		10%
Bus or transit services	Excellent		15%
	Good		34%
	Fair		30%
	Poor		22%
Land use, planning and zoning	Excellent		6%
	Good		32%
	Fair		34%
	Poor		29%
Code enforcement (weeds, abandoned buildings, etc.)	Excellent		13%
	Good		42%
	Fair		27%
	Poor		18%
Affordable high-speed internet access	Excellent		18%
	Good		36%
	Fair		22%
	Poor		23%
Garbage collection	Excellent		31%
	Good		55%
	Fair		12%
	Poor		2%
Drinking water	Excellent		13%
	Good		46%
	Fair		22%
	Poor		19%
Sewer services	Excellent		18%
	Good		58%



































Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Ramsey.

Sewer services	Fair		18%
	Poor		6%
Storm water management (storm drainage, dams, levees, etc.)	Excellent		16%
	Good		57%
	Fair		19%
	Poor		8%
Power (electric and/or gas) utility	Excellent		26%
	Good		54%
	Fair		15%
	Poor		6%
Utility billing	Excellent		13%
	Good		60%
	Fair		17%
	Poor		10%
Police/Sheriff services	Excellent		32%
	Good		58%
	Fair		8%
	Poor		2%
Crime prevention	Excellent		20%
	Good		62%
	Fair		15%
	Poor		2%
Animal control	Excellent		14%
	Good		65%
	Fair		15%
	Poor		6%
Ambulance or emergency medical services	Excellent		25%
	Good		65%
	Fair		9%
	Poor		1%
Fire services	Excellent		37%
	Good		52%
	Fair		9%
	Poor		2%
Fire prevention and education	Excellent		24%
	Good		58%

Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Ramsey.

Fire prevention and education	Fair		16%
	Poor		2%
Emergency preparedness (services that prepare the community for natural disasters or other emergency situations)	Excellent		14%
	Good		52%
	Fair		21%
	Poor		13%
Preservation of natural areas (open space, farmlands and greenbelts)	Excellent		16%
	Good		41%
	Fair		25%
	Poor		18%
Ramsey open space	Excellent		16%
	Good		46%
	Fair		28%
	Poor		10%
Recycling	Excellent		27%
	Good		54%
	Fair		16%
	Poor		4%
Yard waste pick-up	Excellent		28%
	Good		47%
	Fair		17%
	Poor		8%
City parks	Excellent		26%
	Good		52%
	Fair		18%
	Poor		4%
Recreation programs or classes	Excellent		12%
	Good		43%
	Fair		31%
	Poor		14%
Recreation centers or facilities	Excellent		9%
	Good		38%
	Fair		30%
	Poor		23%
Health services	Excellent		11%
	Good		60%

Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Ramsey.	Health services	Fair		23%
		Poor		6%
	Public library services	Excellent		25%
		Good		44%
Fair			16%	
Poor			14%	
Overall customer service by Ramsey employees (police, receptionists, planners, etc.)	Excellent		34%	
	Good		51%	
	Fair		13%	
	Poor		3%	
Please rate the following categories of Ramsey government performance.	The value of services for the taxes paid to Ramsey	Excellent		4%
		Good		38%
		Fair		40%
		Poor		17%
	The overall direction that Ramsey is taking	Excellent		4%
		Good		37%
		Fair		36%
		Poor		23%
	The job Ramsey government does at welcoming resident involvement	Excellent		8%
		Good		39%
		Fair		32%
		Poor		22%
Overall confidence in Ramsey government	Excellent		6%	
	Good		43%	
	Fair		31%	
	Poor		20%	
Generally acting in the best interest of the community	Excellent		7%	
	Good		46%	
	Fair		26%	
	Poor		22%	
Being honest	Excellent		13%	
	Good		45%	
	Fair		26%	
	Poor		16%	
Being open and transparent to the public	Excellent		9%	
	Good		46%	

Please rate the following categories of Ramsey government performance.	Being open and transparent to the public	Fair		23%
		Poor		22%
	Informing residents about issues facing the community	Excellent		13%
		Good		38%
Fair			29%	
Poor			20%	
Treating all residents fairly	Excellent		16%	
	Good		43%	
	Fair		30%	
	Poor		11%	
Treating residents with respect	Excellent		22%	
	Good		41%	
	Fair		29%	
	Poor		8%	
Overall, how would you rate the quality of the services provided by each of the following?	The City of Ramsey	Excellent		11%
		Good		56%
		Fair		26%
		Poor		7%
	The Federal Government	Excellent		6%
		Good		36%
		Fair		38%
		Poor		20%
Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the Ramsey community to focus on each of the following in the coming two years.	Overall economic health of Ramsey	Essential		40%
		Very important		48%
		Somewhat important		12%
		Not at all important		1%
	Overall quality of the transportation system (auto, bicycle, foot, bus) in Ramsey	Essential		26%
		Very important		42%
		Somewhat important		30%
		Not at all important		2%
	Overall design or layout of Ramsey's residential and commercial areas (e.g., homes, buildings, streets, parks, etc.)	Essential		26%
		Very important		41%
		Somewhat important		31%
		Not at all important		3%
	Overall quality of the utility infrastructure in Ramsey (water, sewer, storm water, electric/gas)	Essential		34%
		Very important		47%

Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the Ramsey community to focus on each of the following in the coming two years.	Overall quality of the utility infrastructure in Ramsey (water, sewer, storm water, electric/gas)	Somewhat important		17%
		Not at all important		2%
Overall feeling of safety in Ramsey	Essential		53%	
	Very important		33%	
	Somewhat important		12%	
	Not at all important		3%	
Overall quality of natural environment in Ramsey	Essential		39%	
	Very important		41%	
	Somewhat important		17%	
	Not at all important		3%	
Overall quality of parks and recreation opportunities	Essential		32%	
	Very important		44%	
	Somewhat important		22%	
	Not at all important		1%	
Overall health and wellness opportunities in Ramsey	Essential		21%	
	Very important		45%	
	Somewhat important		28%	
	Not at all important		5%	
Overall opportunities for education, culture and the arts	Essential		22%	
	Very important		40%	
	Somewhat important		31%	
	Not at all important		8%	
Residents' connection and engagement with their community	Essential		18%	
	Very important		43%	
	Somewhat important		35%	
	Not at all important		4%	
To what extent are each of the following a source of information for you about Ramsey city government and its activities?	City newsletter (Ramsey Resident)	Major source		56%
		Moderate source		27%
		Minor source		11%
		Not a source		6%
Local newspaper	Major source		7%	
	Moderate source		23%	
	Minor source		26%	
	Not a source		44%	
City website (www.cityoframsey.com)	Major source		16%	
	Moderate source		34%	

To what extent are each of the following a source of information for you about Ramsey city government and its activities?	City website (www.cityoframsey.com)	Minor source		32%
		Not a source		18%
	Word-of-mouth	Major source		15%
		Moderate source		33%
		Minor source		34%
		Not a source		19%
	Cable television (QCTV)	Major source		4%
		Moderate source		10%
		Minor source		17%
		Not a source		69%
	City employees	Major source		3%
		Moderate source		14%
		Minor source		28%
		Not a source		54%
	Public meetings	Major source		4%
		Moderate source		17%
Minor source			24%	
Not a source			55%	
City social media (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, Instagram)	Major source		18%	
	Moderate source		27%	
	Minor source		22%	
	Not a source		32%	
Video conference attendance of City meetings (e.g., Zoom, Microsoft Teams, etc.)	Major source		3%	
	Moderate source		12%	
	Minor source		15%	
	Not a source		69%	
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 a tax increase:	Making improvements to existing/established parks	Strongly support		43%
		Somewhat support		39%
		Somewhat oppose		12%
		Strongly oppose		6%
	Building new parks	Strongly support		31%
		Somewhat support		35%
		Somewhat oppose		22%
		Strongly oppose		13%
	Making improvements to existing trails	Strongly support		43%
		Somewhat support		39%

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 a tax increase:	Making improvements to existing trails	Somewhat oppose		13%
		Strongly oppose		6%
	Building new trails	Strongly support		36%
		Somewhat support		36%
		Somewhat oppose		19%
		Strongly oppose		9%
	Building a new community center	Strongly support		29%
		Somewhat support		35%
Somewhat oppose			16%	
Strongly oppose			20%	
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:	Balancing rural character and urban growth (development patterns)	Essential		34%
		Very important		36%
		Somewhat important		22%
		Not at all important		8%
	Creating an active community (parks, trails, open space, recreation)	Essential		31%
		Very important		37%
		Somewhat important		22%
		Not at all important		9%
	Creating a connected community (roads, trails, sidewalks, rail, transportation)	Essential		28%
		Very important		32%
		Somewhat important		32%
		Not at all important		8%
	Creating financial stability for the City (stable tax rates)	Essential		56%
		Very important		34%
		Somewhat important		9%
		Not at all important		1%
Providing quality public safety services (Police and Fire)	Essential		59%	
	Very important		34%	
	Somewhat important		6%	
	Not at all important		1%	
In general, how many times do you:	Access the internet from your home using a computer, laptop or tablet computer	Several times a day		85%
		Once a day		8%
		A few times a week		5%
		Every few weeks		0%
		Less often or never		3%
	Access the internet from your cell phone	Several times a day		90%

In general, how many times do you:	Access the internet from your cell phone	Once a day	3%
		A few times a week	3%
		Every few weeks	1%
		Less often or never	3%
Visit social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp, etc.	Several times a day	66%	
	Once a day	12%	
	A few times a week	6%	
	Every few weeks	2%	
	Less often or never	15%	
Use or check email	Several times a day	77%	
	Once a day	15%	
	A few times a week	5%	
	Every few weeks	1%	
	Less often or never	2%	
Share your opinions online	Several times a day	12%	
	Once a day	6%	
	A few times a week	16%	
	Every few weeks	14%	
	Less often or never	52%	
Shop online	Several times a day	17%	
	Once a day	12%	
	A few times a week	34%	
	Every few weeks	25%	
	Less often or never	13%	
Would you say that in general your health is:	Excellent	23%	
	Good	22%	
	Very good	52%	
	Fair	2%	
	Poor	1%	
What impact, if any, do you think the economy will have on your family income in the next 6 months? Do you think the impact will be:	Very positive	5%	
	Somewhat positive	14%	
	Neutral	52%	
	Somewhat negative	26%	
	Very negative	3%	
How many years have you lived in Ramsey?	Less than 2 years	12%	
	2-5 years	25%	

How many years have you lived in Ramsey?	6-10 years		18%
	11-20 years		16%
	More than 20 years		29%
About how much is your monthly housing cost for the place you live (including rent, mortgage payment, property tax, property insurance and homeowners' association (HOA) fees)?	Less than \$500		5%
	\$500 to \$999		9%
	\$1,000 to \$1,499		23%
	\$1,500 to \$1,999		38%
	\$2,000 to \$2,499		13%
	\$2,500 to \$2,999		8%
	\$3,000 to \$3,499		2%
	\$3,500 or more		3%
Do any children 17 or under live in your household?	No		55%
	Yes		45%
Are you or any other members of your household aged 65 or older?	No		81%
	Yes		19%
How much do you anticipate your household's total income before taxes will be for the current year? (Please include in your total income money from all sources for all persons living in your household.)	Less than \$25,000		4%
	\$25,000 to \$49,999		8%
	\$50,000 to \$74,999		11%
	\$75,000 to \$99,999		22%
	\$100,000 to \$149,999		34%
	\$150,000 or more		21%
Are you Spanish, Hispanic or Latino?	No, not Spanish, Hispanic or Latino		99%
	Yes, I consider myself to be Spanish, Hispanic or Latino		1%
What is your race? (Mark one or more races to indicate what race you consider yourself to be.)	American Indian or Alaskan Native		1%
	Asian, Asian Indian or Pacific Islander		2%
	Black or African American		2%
	Other		3%
	White		96%

Full trends

This table contains the trends over time for the City of Ramsey. The combined 'percent positive' responses for each survey year are presented (e.g., 'excellent/good' or 'yes'). If an item was not included during an administration of the survey, no percentage will be shown in the table. If the difference between the 2018 and 2020 surveys is greater than seven percentage points, the change is statistically significant.

It is important to note that in 2020, The NCS survey was updated to include new and refreshed items. Consequently, some of the trends may be impacted due to wording modifications that could have potentially altered the meaning of the item for the respondent.

		2014	2016	2018	2020
Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in Ramsey.	Ramsey as a place to live	82%	87%	85%	85%
	Your neighborhood as a place to live	84%	87%	82%	88%
	Ramsey as a place to raise children	83%	87%	87%	90%
	Ramsey as a place to work	42%	49%	50%	44%
	Ramsey as a place to visit	35%	35%	39%	34%
	Ramsey as a place to retire	51%	48%	55%	59%
	The overall quality of life in Ramsey	72%	80%	81%	78%
	Sense of community	45%	51%	48%	50%
Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Ramsey as a whole.	Overall economic health of Ramsey	50%	51%	54%	59%
	Overall quality of the transportation system (auto, bicycle, foot, bu..	68%	69%	69%	61%
	Overall design or layout of Ramsey's residential and commercial ar..	56%	56%	58%	55%
	Overall quality of the utility infrastructure in Ramsey (water, sewe..				69%
	Overall feeling of safety in Ramsey	90%	90%	90%	84%
	Overall quality of natural environment in Ramsey	84%	81%	84%	81%
	Overall quality of parks and recreation opportunities				77%
	Overall health and wellness opportunities in Ramsey	66%	63%	59%	65%
	Overall opportunities for education, culture and the arts	54%	52%	53%	37%
	Residents' connection and engagement with their community				38%
Please indicate how likely or unlikely you are to do each of the following.	Recommend living in Ramsey to someone who asks	82%	86%	84%	81%
	Remain in Ramsey for the next five years	85%	86%	86%	82%

Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel:	In your neighborhood during the day	94%	98%	97%	96%
	In Ramsey's downtown/commercial area during the day	94%	96%	96%	93%
	From property crime				81%
	From violent crime				91%
	From fire, flood or other natural disaster				91%
Please rate the job you feel the Ramsey community does at each of the following.	Making all residents feel welcome				64%
	Attracting people from diverse backgrounds				58%
	Valuing/respecting residents from diverse backgrounds				60%
	Taking care of vulnerable residents (elderly, disabled, homeless, et..				56%
Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Ramsey as a whole.	Overall quality of business and service establishments in Ramsey	49%	43%	46%	53%
	Variety of business and service establishments in Ramsey				31%
	Vibrancy of downtown/commercial area	21%	20%	20%	29%
	Employment opportunities	27%	24%	31%	27%
	Shopping opportunities	23%	20%	20%	14%
	Cost of living in Ramsey	49%	49%	50%	45%
	Overall image or reputation of Ramsey	51%	56%	60%	60%
Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Ramsey as a whole.	Traffic flow on major streets	55%	56%	59%	59%
	Ease of public parking				82%
	Ease of travel by car in Ramsey	64%	67%	69%	82%
	Ease of travel by public transportation in Ramsey				46%
	Ease of travel by bicycle in Ramsey	66%	60%	62%	71%
	Ease of walking in Ramsey	70%	66%	67%	74%
	Well-planned residential growth				47%
	Well-planned commercial growth				33%
	Well-designed neighborhoods				50%
	Preservation of the historical or cultural character of the community				39%
	Public places where people want to spend time	50%	56%	51%	41%

Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Ramsey as a whole.	Variety of housing options	75%	73%	68%	64%
	Availability of affordable quality housing	69%	67%	64%	51%
	Overall quality of new development in Ramsey	48%	47%	42%	56%
	Overall appearance of Ramsey	77%	73%	68%	62%
	Cleanliness of Ramsey	82%	80%	74%	80%
	Water resources (beaches, lakes, ponds, riverways, etc.)				55%
	Air quality				90%
	Availability of paths and walking trails	75%	68%	69%	84%
	Fitness opportunities (including exercise classes and paths or trail..	60%	55%	64%	69%
	Recreational opportunities	53%	50%	50%	55%
	Availability of affordable quality food				46%
	Availability of affordable quality health care				63%
	Availability of preventive health services				62%
	Availability of affordable quality mental health care				47%
	Opportunities to attend cultural/arts/music activities	41%	37%	44%	37%
	Community support for the arts				38%
	Availability of affordable quality childcare/preschool	69%	56%	61%	49%
	K-12 education	75%	72%	71%	66%
	Adult educational opportunities	54%	46%	52%	45%
	Sense of civic/community pride				50%
	Neighborliness of residents in Ramsey				65%
	Opportunities to participate in social events and activities				45%
	Opportunities to attend special events and festivals				53%
	Opportunities to volunteer	55%	46%	49%	52%
	Opportunities to participate in community matters	52%	47%	51%	51%
	Openness and acceptance of the community toward people of diver..				53%
	Please indicate whether or not you have done each of the following in	Contacted the City of Ramsey (in-person, phone, email or web) for ..	44%	40%	38%

Please indicate whether or not you have done each of the following in the last 12 months.	Contacted Ramsey elected officials (in-person, phone, email or web..	11%	10%	11%	16%
	Attended a local public meeting (of local elected officials like City C..				15%
	Watched (online or on television) a local public meeting				24%
	Volunteered your time to some group/activity in Ramsey				16%
	Campaigned or advocated for a local issue, cause or candidate	11%	6%	8%	10%
	Voted in your most recent local election				87%
	Used bus, rail, subway or other public transportation instead of dri..				19%
	Carpooled with other adults or children instead of driving alone				35%
	Walked or biked instead of driving				53%
Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Ramsey.	Public information services	58%	57%	61%	66%
	Economic development	43%	41%	47%	46%
	Traffic enforcement	68%	76%	75%	70%
	Traffic signal timing	42%	46%	52%	54%
	Street repair	45%	40%	43%	29%
	Street cleaning	57%	60%	56%	56%
	Street lighting	55%	57%	59%	60%
	Snow removal	55%	62%	58%	65%
	Sidewalk maintenance	61%	65%	60%	65%
	Bus or transit services				49%
	Land use, planning and zoning	43%	37%	44%	37%
	Code enforcement (weeds, abandoned buildings, etc.)	40%	44%	50%	55%
	Affordable high-speed internet access				55%
	Garbage collection				85%
	Drinking water	72%	72%	76%	59%
	Sewer services	81%	78%	84%	76%
	Storm water management (storm drainage, dams, levees, etc.)	73%	71%	75%	73%
Power (electric and/or gas) utility				79%	

Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Ramsey.	Utility billing				73%
	Police/Sheriff services	86%	90%	91%	90%
	Crime prevention	80%	79%	84%	82%
	Animal control	60%	62%	61%	79%
	Ambulance or emergency medical services				89%
	Fire services	92%	93%	95%	89%
	Fire prevention and education	83%	81%	82%	82%
	Emergency preparedness (services that prepare the community for..				66%
	Preservation of natural areas (open space, farmlands and greenbel..	69%	57%	63%	56%
	Ramsey open space				61%
	Recycling				80%
	Yard waste pick-up				74%
	City parks	75%	77%	76%	78%
	Recreation programs or classes				54%
	Recreation centers or facilities	59%	53%	59%	47%
	Health services				71%
	Public library services				69%
	Overall customer service by Ramsey employees (police, receptionis..	79%	81%	81%	84%
	Please rate the following categories of Ramsey government performance.	The value of services for the taxes paid to Ramsey	44%	45%	45%
The overall direction that Ramsey is taking		48%	46%	49%	41%
The job Ramsey government does at welcoming resident involveme..		48%	48%	55%	46%
Overall confidence in Ramsey government		43%	45%	51%	48%
Generally acting in the best interest of the community		43%	48%	56%	53%
Being honest		47%	50%	60%	58%
Being open and transparent to the public					55%
Informing residents about issues facing the community					51%
Treating all residents fairly		52%	56%	58%	59%

categories of Ramsey government performance.	Treating residents with respect	63%
Overall, how would you rate the quality of the services provided by each of the following?	The City of Ramsey	74% 73% 76% 67%
	The Federal Government	37% 45% 42%
Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the Ramsey community to focus on each of the following in the coming two years.	Overall economic health of Ramsey	88% 87% 85% 88%
	Overall quality of the transportation system (auto, bicycle, foot, bu..	82% 80% 76% 67%
	Overall design or layout of Ramsey's residential and commercial ar..	73% 77% 75% 67%
	Overall quality of the utility infrastructure in Ramsey (water, sewe..	81%
	Overall feeling of safety in Ramsey	86% 89% 86% 86%
	Overall quality of natural environment in Ramsey	73% 82% 80% 80%
	Overall quality of parks and recreation opportunities	76%
	Overall health and wellness opportunities in Ramsey	61% 64% 62% 66%
	Overall opportunities for education, culture and the arts	64% 63% 61% 61%
	Residents' connection and engagement with their community	70% 71% 67% 61%
In general, how many times do you:	Access the internet from your home using a computer, laptop or ta..	95%
	Access the internet from your cell phone	93%
	Visit social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp, etc.	78%
	Use or check email	92%
	Share your opinions online	18%
	Shop online	29%
	Would you say that in general your health is:	71% 74% 98%
	What impact, if any, do you think the economy will have on your fa..	29% 29% 40% 19%

Dear Ramsey Resident,

It won't take much of your time to make a big difference! Your household has been randomly selected to participate in a survey about our community. You can go online and complete the survey at:

<https://bit.ly/xxplaceholderxx>

Please do not share your survey link. This survey is for randomly selected households only. The City will conduct a separate survey that is open to all residents just a few weeks from now.

You can also wait a few days for the survey to arrive in the mail.

Thank you for taking the time to improve your community!

Sincerely,



John LeTourneau
Mayor

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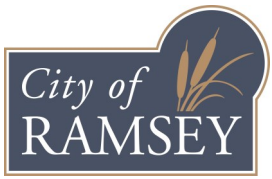
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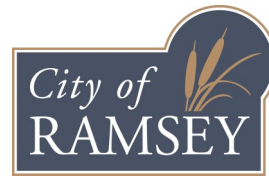


John LeTourneau
Mayor



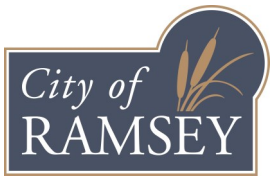
City of Ramsey
7550 Sunwood Drive NW
Ramsey, MN 55303

Presorted
First Class Mail
US Postage
PAID
Boulder, CO
Permit NO. 94



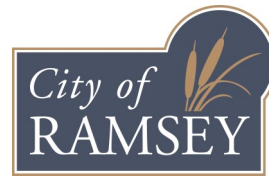
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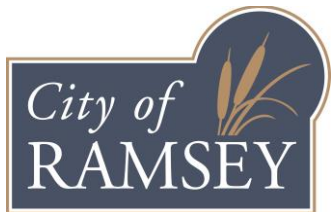
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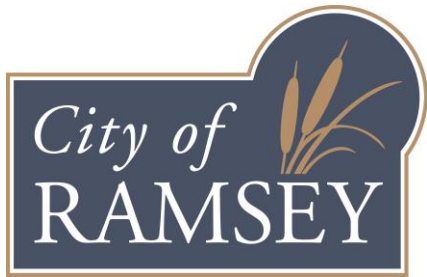
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7550 Sunwood Drive NW • Ramsey, MN 55303
City Hall: 763-427-1410 • Fax: 763-427-5543
www.cityoframsey.com

December 2020

Dear City of Ramsey Resident:

Please help us shape the future of Ramsey! You have been selected at random to participate in the 2020 Ramsey Community Survey.

Please take a few minutes to fill out the enclosed survey. Your participation in this survey is very important – especially since your household is one of only a small number being surveyed. Your feedback will help Ramsey make decisions that affect our City.

A few things to remember:

- **Your responses are completely anonymous.**
- In order to hear from a diverse group of residents, the adult 18 years or older in your household who most recently had a birthday should complete this survey.
- **You may return the survey by mail in the enclosed postage-paid envelope, or you can complete the survey online at:**

<https://bit.ly/xxplaceholderxx>

Please do not share your survey link. This survey is for randomly selected households only. The City will conduct a separate survey that is open to all residents just a few weeks from now.

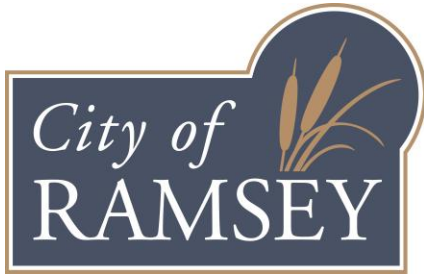
If you have any questions about the survey, please call 763-433-9845.

Thank you for taking the time to improve your community!

Sincerely,

John LeTourneau
Mayor

7550 Sunwood Drive NW • Ramsey, MN 55303
City Hall: 763-427-1410 • Fax: 763-427-5543
www.cityoframsey.com



December 2020

Dear City of Ramsey Resident:

Here's a second chance if you haven't already responded to the 2020 Ramsey Community Survey! **(If you completed it and sent it back, we thank you for your time and ask you to recycle this survey. Please do not respond twice.)**

Please help us shape the future of Ramsey! You have been selected at random to participate in the 2020 Ramsey Community Survey.

Please take a few minutes to fill out the enclosed survey. Your participation in this survey is very important – especially since your household is one of only a small number being surveyed. Your feedback will help Ramsey make decisions that affect our City.

A few things to remember:

- **Your responses are completely anonymous.**
- In order to hear from a diverse group of residents, the adult 18 years or older in your household who most recently had a birthday should complete this survey.
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If you have any questions about the survey, please call 763-433-9845.

Thank you for taking the time to improve your community!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John LeTourneau". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

John LeTourneau
Mayor

The City of Ramsey 2020 Community Survey

Please complete this survey if you are the adult (age 18 or older) in the household who most recently had a birthday (the year of birth does not matter). Your responses are anonymous and will be reported in group form only.

1. Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in Ramsey.

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
Ramsey as a place to live	1	2	3	4	5
Your neighborhood as a place to live	1	2	3	4	5
Ramsey as a place to raise children	1	2	3	4	5
Ramsey as a place to work.....	1	2	3	4	5
Ramsey as a place to visit.....	1	2	3	4	5
Ramsey as a place to retire	1	2	3	4	5
The overall quality of life in Ramsey	1	2	3	4	5
Sense of community.....	1	2	3	4	5

2. Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Ramsey as a whole.

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
Overall economic health of Ramsey.....	1	2	3	4	5
Overall quality of the transportation system (auto, bicycle, foot, bus) in Ramsey.....	1	2	3	4	5
Overall design or layout of Ramsey's residential and commercial areas (e.g., homes, buildings, streets, parks, etc.)	1	2	3	4	5
Overall quality of the utility infrastructure in Ramsey (water, sewer, storm water, electric/gas)	1	2	3	4	5
Overall feeling of safety in Ramsey	1	2	3	4	5
Overall quality of natural environment in Ramsey.....	1	2	3	4	5
Overall quality of parks and recreation opportunities.....	1	2	3	4	5
Overall health and wellness opportunities in Ramsey	1	2	3	4	5
Overall opportunities for education, culture and the arts.....	1	2	3	4	5
Residents' connection and engagement with their community	1	2	3	4	5

3. Please indicate how likely or unlikely you are to do each of the following.

	<u>Very likely</u>	<u>Somewhat likely</u>	<u>Somewhat unlikely</u>	<u>Very unlikely</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
Recommend living in Ramsey to someone who asks.....	1	2	3	4	5
Remain in Ramsey for the next five years.....	1	2	3	4	5

4. Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel:

	<u>Very safe</u>	<u>Somewhat safe</u>	<u>Neither safe nor unsafe</u>	<u>Somewhat unsafe</u>	<u>Very unsafe</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
In your neighborhood during the day.....	1	2	3	4	5	6
In Ramsey's downtown/commercial area during the day.....	1	2	3	4	5	6
From property crime.....	1	2	3	4	5	6
From violent crime.....	1	2	3	4	5	6
From fire, flood or other natural disaster	1	2	3	4	5	6

5. Please rate the job you feel the Ramsey community does at each of the following.

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
Making all residents feel welcome	1	2	3	4	5
Attracting people from diverse backgrounds.....	1	2	3	4	5
Valuing/respecting residents from diverse backgrounds.....	1	2	3	4	5
Taking care of vulnerable residents (elderly, disabled, homeless, etc.).....	1	2	3	4	5

6. Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Ramsey as a whole.

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
Overall quality of business and service establishments in Ramsey.....	1	2	3	4	5
Variety of business and service establishments in Ramsey	1	2	3	4	5
Vibrancy of downtown/commercial area	1	2	3	4	5
Employment opportunities	1	2	3	4	5
Shopping opportunities.....	1	2	3	4	5
Cost of living in Ramsey	1	2	3	4	5
Overall image or reputation of Ramsey.....	1	2	3	4	5

7. Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Ramsey as a whole.

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
Traffic flow on major streets.....	1	2	3	4	5
Ease of public parking.....	1	2	3	4	5
Ease of travel by car in Ramsey	1	2	3	4	5
Ease of travel by public transportation in Ramsey	1	2	3	4	5
Ease of travel by bicycle in Ramsey	1	2	3	4	5
Ease of walking in Ramsey.....	1	2	3	4	5
Well-planned residential growth.....	1	2	3	4	5
Well-planned commercial growth.....	1	2	3	4	5
Well-designed neighborhoods	1	2	3	4	5
Preservation of the historical or cultural character of the community	1	2	3	4	5
Public places where people want to spend time	1	2	3	4	5
Variety of housing options.....	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of affordable quality housing.....	1	2	3	4	5
Overall quality of new development in Ramsey	1	2	3	4	5
Overall appearance of Ramsey.....	1	2	3	4	5
Cleanliness of Ramsey.....	1	2	3	4	5
Water resources (beaches, lakes, ponds, riverways, etc.)	1	2	3	4	5
Air quality.....	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of paths and walking trails.....	1	2	3	4	5
Fitness opportunities (including exercise classes and paths or trails, etc.) ...	1	2	3	4	5
Recreational opportunities.....	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of affordable quality food	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of affordable quality health care.....	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of preventive health services	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of affordable quality mental health care	1	2	3	4	5
Opportunities to attend cultural/arts/music activities	1	2	3	4	5
Community support for the arts.....	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of affordable quality childcare/preschool.....	1	2	3	4	5
K-12 education.....	1	2	3	4	5
Adult educational opportunities	1	2	3	4	5
Sense of civic/community pride.....	1	2	3	4	5
Neighborliness of residents in Ramsey	1	2	3	4	5
Opportunities to participate in social events and activities	1	2	3	4	5
Opportunities to attend special events and festivals.....	1	2	3	4	5
Opportunities to volunteer.....	1	2	3	4	5
Opportunities to participate in community matters	1	2	3	4	5
Openness and acceptance of the community toward people of diverse backgrounds.....	1	2	3	4	5

8. Please indicate whether or not you have done each of the following in the last 12 months.

	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>
Contacted the City of Ramsey (in-person, phone, email or web) for help or information	1	2
Contacted Ramsey elected officials (in-person, phone, email or web) to express your opinion.....	1	2
Attended a local public meeting (of local elected officials like City Council or County Commissioners, advisory boards, town halls, HOA, neighborhood watch, etc.)	1	2
Watched (online or on television) a local public meeting.....	1	2
Volunteered your time to some group/activity in Ramsey	1	2
Campaigned or advocated for a local issue, cause or candidate.....	1	2
Voted in your most recent local election	1	2
Used bus, rail, subway or other public transportation instead of driving.....	1	2
Carpooled with other adults or children instead of driving alone.....	1	2
Walked or biked instead of driving.....	1	2

The City of Ramsey 2020 Community Survey

9. Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Ramsey.

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
Public information services.....	1	2	3	4	5
Economic development.....	1	2	3	4	5
Traffic enforcement.....	1	2	3	4	5
Traffic signal timing.....	1	2	3	4	5
Street repair.....	1	2	3	4	5
Street cleaning.....	1	2	3	4	5
Street lighting.....	1	2	3	4	5
Snow removal.....	1	2	3	4	5
Sidewalk maintenance.....	1	2	3	4	5
Bus or transit services.....	1	2	3	4	5
Land use, planning, and zoning.....	1	2	3	4	5
Code enforcement (weeds, abandoned buildings, etc.).....	1	2	3	4	5
Affordable high-speed internet access.....	1	2	3	4	5
Garbage collection.....	1	2	3	4	5
Drinking water.....	1	2	3	4	5
Sewer services.....	1	2	3	4	5
Storm water management (storm drainage, dams, levees, etc.).....	1	2	3	4	5
Power (electric and/or gas) utility.....	1	2	3	4	5
Utility billing.....	1	2	3	4	5
Police/Sheriff services.....	1	2	3	4	5
Crime prevention.....	1	2	3	4	5
Animal control.....	1	2	3	4	5
Ambulance or emergency medical services.....	1	2	3	4	5
Fire services.....	1	2	3	4	5
Fire prevention and education.....	1	2	3	4	5
Emergency preparedness (services that prepare the community for natural disasters or other emergency situations).....	1	2	3	4	5
Preservation of natural areas (open space, farmlands and greenbelts).....	1	2	3	4	5
Ramsey open space.....	1	2	3	4	5
Recycling.....	1	2	3	4	5
Yard waste pick-up.....	1	2	3	4	5
City parks.....	1	2	3	4	5
Recreation programs or classes.....	1	2	3	4	5
Recreation centers or facilities.....	1	2	3	4	5
Health services.....	1	2	3	4	5
Public library services.....	1	2	3	4	5
Overall customer service by Ramsey employees (police, receptionists, planners, etc.).....	1	2	3	4	5

10. Please rate the following categories of Ramsey government performance.

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
The value of services for the taxes paid to Ramsey.....	1	2	3	4	5
The overall direction that Ramsey is taking.....	1	2	3	4	5
The job Ramsey government does at welcoming resident involvement.....	1	2	3	4	5
Overall confidence in Ramsey government.....	1	2	3	4	5
Generally acting in the best interest of the community.....	1	2	3	4	5
Being honest.....	1	2	3	4	5
Being open and transparent to the public.....	1	2	3	4	5
Informing residents about issues facing the community.....	1	2	3	4	5
Treating all residents fairly.....	1	2	3	4	5
Treating residents with respect.....	1	2	3	4	5

11. Overall, how would you rate the quality of the services provided by each of the following?

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
The City of Ramsey	1	2	3	4	5
The Federal Government.....	1	2	3	4	5

12. Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the Ramsey community to focus on each of the following in the coming two years.

	<u>Essential</u>	<u>Very important</u>	<u>Somewhat important</u>	<u>Not at all important</u>
Overall economic health of Ramsey.....	1	2	3	4
Overall quality of the transportation system (auto, bicycle, foot, bus) in Ramsey.....	1	2	3	4
Overall design or layout of Ramsey's residential and commercial areas (e.g., homes, buildings, streets, parks, etc.).....	1	2	3	4
Overall quality of the utility infrastructure in Ramsey (water, sewer, storm water, electric/gas)	1	2	3	4
Overall feeling of safety in Ramsey	1	2	3	4
Overall quality of natural environment in Ramsey.....	1	2	3	4
Overall quality of parks and recreation opportunities.....	1	2	3	4
Overall health and wellness opportunities in Ramsey	1	2	3	4
Overall opportunities for education, culture and the arts.....	1	2	3	4
Residents' connection and engagement with their community	1	2	3	4

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

	<u>Major source</u>	<u>Moderate source</u>	<u>Minor source</u>	<u>Not a source</u>
City newsletter (<i>Ramsey Resident</i>)	1	2	3	4
Local newspaper	1	2	3	4
City website (www.cityoframsey.com)	1	2	3	4
Word-of-mouth.....	1	2	3	4
Cable television (QCTV)	1	2	3	4
City employees.....	1	2	3	4
Public meetings.....	1	2	3	4
City social media (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, Instagram).....	1	2	3	4
Video conference attendance of City meetings (e.g., Zoom, Microsoft Teams, etc.)	1	2	3	4

14. 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 a tax increase:

	<u>Strongly support</u>	<u>Somewhat support</u>	<u>Somewhat oppose</u>	<u>Strongly oppose</u>
Making improvements to existing/established parks	1	2	3	4
Building new parks.....	1	2	3	4
Making improvements to existing trails	1	2	3	4
Building new trails	1	2	3	4
Building a new community center	1	2	3	4

15. 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:

	<u>Essential</u>	<u>Very important</u>	<u>Somewhat important</u>	<u>Not at all important</u>
Balancing rural character and urban growth (development patterns).....	1	2	3	4
Creating an active community (parks, trails, open space, recreation)	1	2	3	4
Creating a connected community (roads, trails, sidewalks, rail, transportation).....	1	2	3	4
Creating financial stability for the City (stable tax rates).....	1	2	3	4
Providing quality public safety services (Police and Fire).....	1	2	3	4

The City of Ramsey 2020 Community Survey

Our last questions are about you and your household.
Again, all of your responses to this survey are completely anonymous and will be reported in group form only.

D1. In general, how many times do you:

	Several times a day	Once a day	A few times a week	Every few weeks	Less often or never	Don't know
Access the internet from your home using a computer, laptop or tablet computer	1	2	3	4	5	6
Access the internet from your cell phone.....	1	2	3	4	5	6
Visit social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp, etc.	1	2	3	4	5	6
Use or check email.....	1	2	3	4	5	6
Share your opinions online.....	1	2	3	4	5	6
Shop online	1	2	3	4	5	6

D2. Would you say that in general your health is:

- Excellent
 Very good
 Good
 Fair
 Poor

D3. What impact, if any, do you think the economy will have on your family income in the next 6 months?

Do you think the impact will be:

- Very positive
 Somewhat positive
 Neutral
 Somewhat negative
 Very negative

D4. How many years have you lived in Ramsey?

- Less than 2 years
 2-5 years
 6-10 years
 11-20 years
 More than 20 years

D5. Which best describes the building you live in?

- One family house detached from any other houses
 Building with two or more homes (duplex, townhome, apartment or condominium)
 Mobile home
 Other

D6. Do you rent or own your home?

- Rent
 Own

D7. About how much is your monthly housing cost for the place you live (including rent, mortgage payment, property tax, property insurance and homeowners' association (HOA) fees)?

- Less than \$500 \$2,000 to \$2,499
 \$500 to \$999 \$2,500 to \$2,999
 \$1,000 to \$1,499 \$3,000 to \$3,499
 \$1,500 to \$1,999 \$3,500 or more

D8. Do any children 17 or under live in your household?

- No Yes

D9. Are you or any other members of your household aged 65 or older?

- No Yes

D10. How much do you anticipate your household's total income before taxes will be for the current year? (Please include in your total income money from all sources for all persons living in your household.)

- Less than \$25,000 \$75,000 to \$99,999
 \$25,000 to \$49,999 \$100,000 to \$149,999
 \$50,000 to \$74,999 \$150,000 or more

D11. Are you Spanish, Hispanic or Latino?

- No, not Spanish, Hispanic or Latino
 Yes, I consider myself to be Spanish, Hispanic or Latino

D12. What is your race? (Mark one or more races to indicate what race you consider yourself to be.)

- American Indian or Alaskan Native
 Asian, Asian Indian or Pacific Islander
 Black or African American
 White
 Other

D13. In which category is your age?

- 18-24 years 55-64 years
 25-34 years 65-74 years
 35-44 years 75 years or older
 45-54 years

D14. What is your gender?

- Female
 Male
 Identify in another way

Thank you! Please return the completed survey in the postage-paid envelope to:
National Research Center, Inc., PO Box 549, Belle Mead, NJ 08502



Scope of Services for the City of Ramsey, MN

Polco Performance Plan - The National Community Survey

All Polco Premium Features are available to you during your subscription term to engage with your target audiences. Respondents answer questions via Polco's civic surveying and engagement platform which includes real time results and the option to have respondents verified against voter lists. As participants respond they become part of your community's digital panel available for follow up questions, surveys, polls, and other engagement.

The Performance plan includes 1 benchmark survey per 24-month period. Your online report will include comparisons to our National Benchmarks, and demographic and geographic comparisons (if response is sufficient by subgroup). Our customer success team will guide your benchmark survey process to ensure smooth implementation.

A representative sample of residents (or other appropriate stakeholders) will be invited to complete the survey to ensure statistically significant response and results. We will use statistically appropriate methodologies to garner community-wide representativeness with approximately a 6% margin of error (4-6% is typical and meets best practices for performance measurement, about 250-450 responses) per local jurisdiction. The invitations will contain an introduction outlining the importance of the survey and instructions for completing it. To supplement this effort, the client will be asked to participate in outreach efforts with guidance on best practices from Polco. Responses will be statistically weighted to ensure the best representation of your community (or stakeholder group, if applicable).

\$17,000.00 / two years
for 2 years

½ Page of Custom Questions

As The NCS is a comprehensive survey we suggest not adding custom questions to minimize respondent burden and recommend asking custom questions in a separate survey on Polco. However, we recognize that while you are making this larger effort to get input from your residents you may want to add a few custom items. This is not included in the Polco Performance plan, but can be added.

\$2,000.00 / two years
for 2 years

The NCS - Online Custom Benchmark Comparisons

In addition to the national benchmarks (included with The NCS Online reporting), Custom Benchmarks can be purchased to compare your results to custom cohorts such as communities within a state or region, with similar population sizes, university or resort towns, or other specifications. Your program manager will assess the viability of unique cohorts (i.e., if too specific, there may not be enough communities in the database to provide a comparison). Cost is per custom group and will be included as an additional tab in your online report

\$1,800.00 / two years
for 2 years

Subtotals

Per Two Year Subtotal

\$20,800.00

Total

\$20,800.00

CC Work Session

3.2.

Meeting Date: 03/14/2023

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.

Timeframe:

Funding Source:

Responsible Party(ies):

Outcome:

For Council review - no formal action necessary.

Attachments

Future Topics List

Form Review

Inbox

Brian Hagen

Form Started By: Katie Schmidt

Final Approval Date: 03/08/2023

Reviewed By

Brian Hagen

Date

03/08/2023 06:57 PM

Started On: 03/07/2023 11:39 AM

Row #		<u>Tentative City Council Future Work Session Topics</u>	
	Proposed Date	Topic	Minutes (Estimate)
	2023		
	March 28	Rental Licensing/Crime Free Multi-Family Housing	60
	March 28	Parcel 46 Concept Plan Review	30
	March 28?	Quarterly Communications Update	15
	April 11	Home Occupation Discussion and Update	30
	May 23	Discuss Policy Project and Begin Policy Review	20
	June 13	Discuss Amending 2023 Water and Sewer Rates and Charges	15
	June 27	Discuss Polling Locations – Fire Station #2 and Independent Baptist	20
	TBD	Consider Public Art	30
	TBD	Happy Days Program Update/25th Anniversary	20
	TBD	Draft Trail Maintenance Policy – Riverblood	30
	TBD	Draft Stormwater Pond Maintenance Policy – Westby	30
	TBD	Highway 10 Ramsey Contribution Costs - Hagen	TBD
	TBD	Review procedure/policy/best practice for introduction of resolutions/proclamations – Staff	20
	TBD	Discuss Council and B/C Remote Meetings Policy - Staff	15
	TBD 2024 Budget	Discuss Election Judge Pay - Schmidt	20
	TBD 2024 Budget	Discuss applying the COLA to: Firefighter, Seasonal, Intern, Rink Attendant, Plow Driver and other temporary employee pay scales - Lasher	20