



College Station 2019 CITIZEN SURVEY

Conducted in April 2019

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Survey Objectives

Identify key measures of quality of life.

Measure satisfaction with quality and importance of city services.

Assess experience with city communication tools.

Identify and prioritize resource allocation, budgeting and policy decisions.

Identify where to maintain or improve city services.



Methodology

- ✓ The sampling plan included a mailed survey to 8,000 households proportionately distributed within four geographic areas. Households had the option of completing the mailed survey or completing the survey online through the city website.
- ✓ Residents were informed about the survey through a multifaceted approach:
 - City press releases (one introductory release prior to the survey mailing).
 - Mailed survey to 8,000 households.
 - Promotional video played on YouTube, city cable channel, social media throughout the data collection period.
 - Email messages to homeowner associations throughout the data collection period.
 - Multiple social media posts on Facebook and Twitter throughout the data collection period.
 - Paid Facebook ads targeted at residents and specific demographic groups.
 - City website front page survey link throughout the data collection period.
- ✓ Surveys were mailed March 25, 2019.
- ✓ Survey cut-off date was May 12, 2019 when final mailed surveyed arrived.
- ✓ A total of 380 residents completed the mailed survey and 856 completed the online survey. The margin of error of this sample size (1,236) at a 95% confidence level is plus or minus 2.8%. About 22% of the respondents were college students.
- ✓ The citizen survey and detailed survey tables are presented in the Appendix of the technical volume report.



Methodology

Survey Design

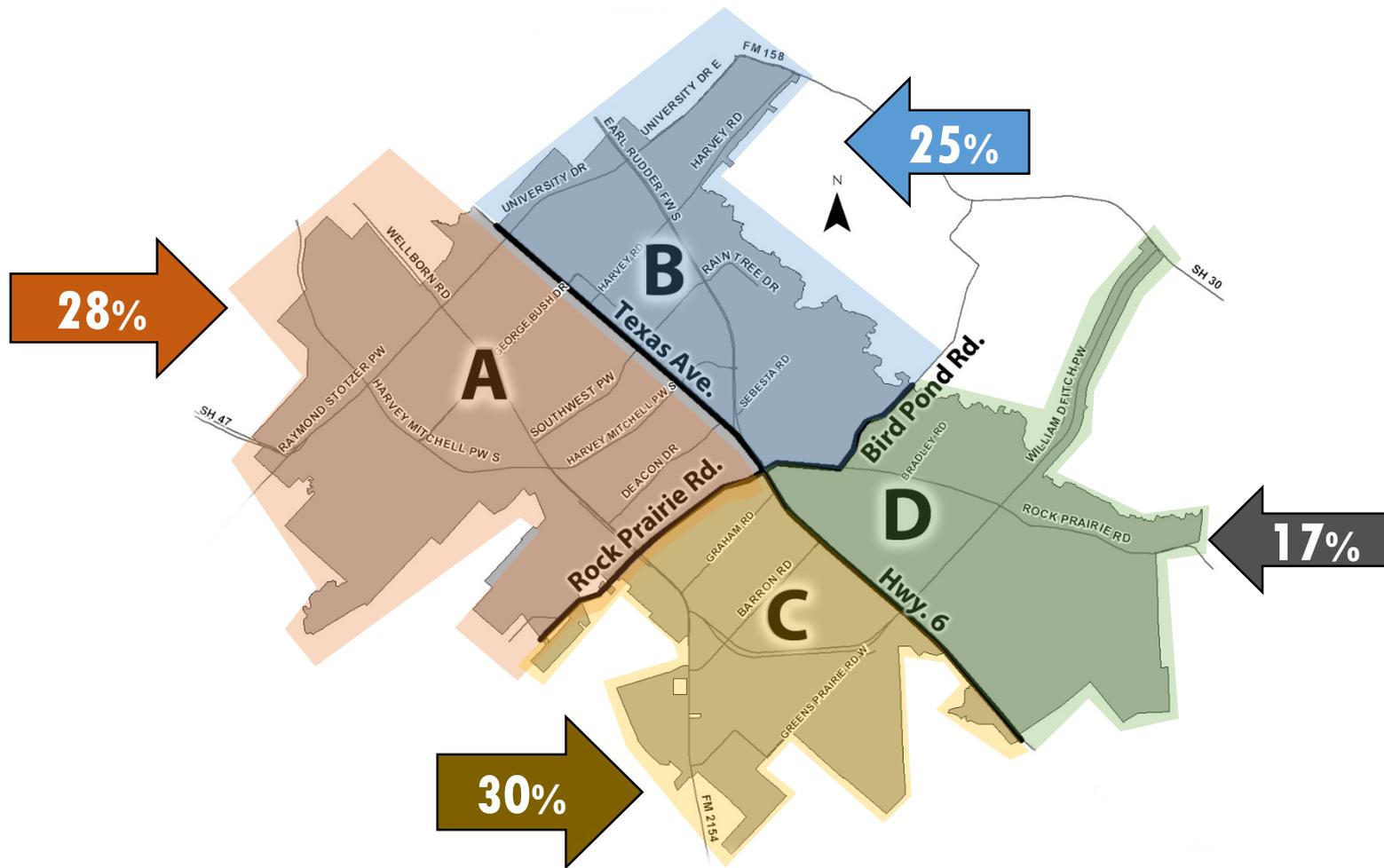
National Service Research (NSR) worked closely with City of College Station staff throughout the research process. The survey design was based upon the 2016 citizen survey with additional input from city staff.

This study provides a measurement of how citizens feel about city service delivery and programs. The data should be considered along with other factors such as input from city officials and city staff when making budget and policy decisions.



Geographic Survey Distribution

Q. In what area of College Station do you live?



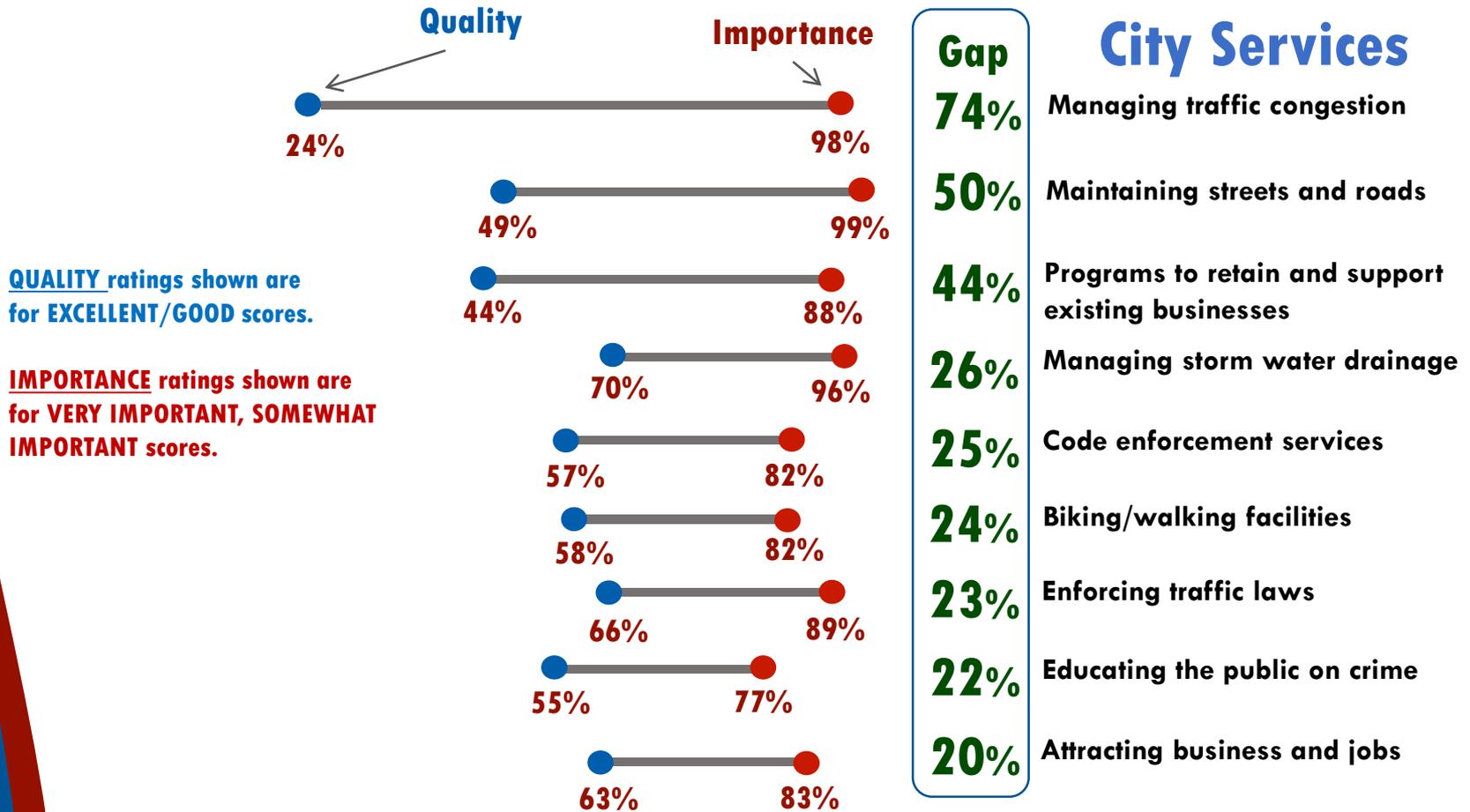


City Service Priorities

THE GAP – City Service Importance vs. Quality Rating

Largest Gaps (High Importance and Lower Quality)

Q. How would you rate the QUALITY of these City of College Station Services? Q. How IMPORTANT are these city services?



QUALITY ratings shown are for EXCELLENT/GOOD scores.

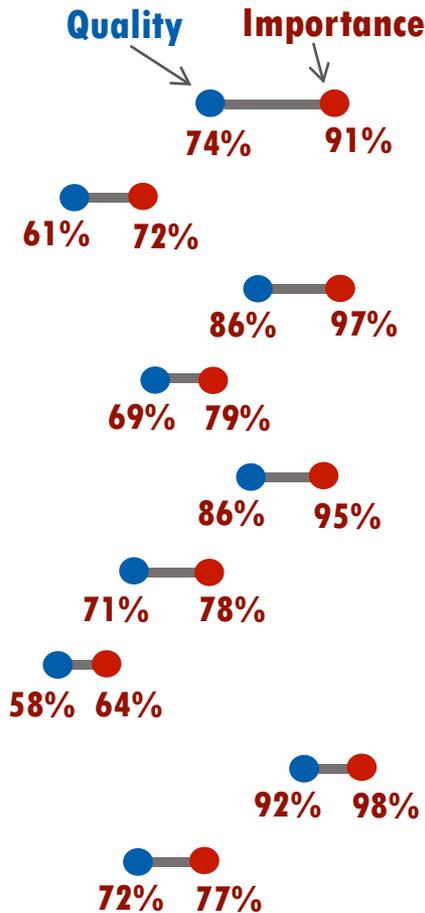
IMPORTANT ratings shown are for VERY IMPORTANT, SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT scores.

percentages exclude "no answer" responses.

THE GAP – City Service Importance vs. Quality Rating

Smallest Gaps (High Importance and High Quality)

Q. How would you rate the QUALITY of these City of College Station Services? Q. How IMPORTANT are these city services?



Gap

City Services

- 17% Maintaining appearance of parks
- 11% Senior citizen services
- 11% Managing trash and recycling
- 10% Animal control services
- 9% Police department services
- 7% Youth recreation programs
- 6% Adult recreation programs
- 6% Fire department services
- 5% Library services

QUALITY ratings shown are for EXCELLENT/GOOD scores.

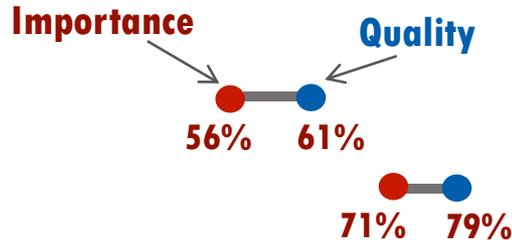
IMPORTANT ratings shown are for VERY IMPORTANT, SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT scores.

percentages exclude "no answer" responses.

THE GAP – City Service Importance vs. Quality Rating

Smallest Gaps (High Importance and High Quality)

Q. How would you rate the QUALITY of these City of College Station Services? Q. How IMPORTANT are these city services?



City Services

Attracting tourism

Special events

QUALITY ratings shown are for EXCELLENT/GOOD scores.

IMPORTANT ratings shown are for VERY IMPORTANT, SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT scores.

percentages exclude “no answer” responses.

Service Prioritization



GAP = difference between importance vs. quality ranking

Service Priority Rank with GAP

Q. Which THREE city services are the MOST important to you?

The city should address managing traffic congestion since it ranked No. 2 and the GAP is 74%. Secondly, maintaining streets and roads should also be a top priority since it ranked No. 4 and the GAP is 50%.

City Service	Priority Rank	GAP
Police Department services	1	9%
Managing traffic congestion	2	74%
Fire Department services	3	6%
Maintaining streets and roads	4	50%
Attracting business and jobs	5	20%
Biking and walking facilities	6	24%
Managing trash and recycling	7	11%
Enforcing traffic laws	8	23%
Programs to retain and support business	9	44%
Managing storm water drainage	10	26%

Service Priority Rank with GAP

Q. Which **THREE** city services are the **MOST** important to you?

City Service	Priority Rank	GAP
Maintaining appearance of parks	11	17%
Providing a variety of youth recreation programs	12	7%
Library services	13	5%
Code enforcement services	14	25%
Special events	15	+8%
Senior citizen services	16	11%
Providing a variety of adult recreation programs	17	6%
Attracting tourism	18	+5%
Educating the public on crime	19	22%
Animal control services	20	10%

Service Prioritization

- **Maintain Efforts** (*high importance and high quality*)
The city meets residents' expectations, which has a significant impact on their overall level of satisfaction. The city should maintain or slightly increase emphasis.
- **Increase Efforts – Opportunities for Improvement** (*high importance, lower quality*)
The city is not performing as well as residents expect, which has a substantial impact on satisfaction. The city should increase emphasis.
- **Exceeded Expectations** (*less importance, high quality*)
The city is performing better than residents expect, but it does not significantly affect overall satisfaction. The city should maintain or possibly reduce emphasis.
- **Less Important** (*lower importance, lower quality*)
The city is not performing well relative to its performance in other areas, but since these items are generally considered by citizens as less important, they do not significantly affect satisfaction. The city should maintain current levels of emphasis.

SERVICE PRIORITY RANK - Lists the city services in rank order based on respondents' first, second and third most important service.

Do you have comments about specific city services or departments?



Word Clouds

Several questions were asked in an open-ended fashion that allowed respondents to answer without being prompted or restricted to a particular list of answer options. For these responses, NSR prepared word clouds in which words mentioned most often appear larger than words that were mentioned less often.

Comments – Specific City Services or Departments

411 Grouped Responses

NSR grouped responses for the open-ended questions in order that they may be reported quantitatively.

17%

CITY – better growth planning, focus on infrastructure, too many apartments, protect neighborhoods, need affordable housing, more focus on family housing not just students

15%

UTILITIES – lower rates, more companies to choose from

13%

PARKS, RECREATION – more bike/trail connections, more dog parks, more family friendly attractions, more kid, teen, senior activities

12%

TRAFFIC – enforce traffic laws, improve traffic flow/congestion, ban texting and driving, need mass transit

12%

PUBLIC SAFETY – expand staff to growth areas, improve courtesy, more aggressive law enforcement

11%

STREETS/ROADS

7%

POSITIVE COMMENTS – great job, keep up the good work

5%

BUSINESS – maintain existing businesses, develop downtown, attract new businesses

4%

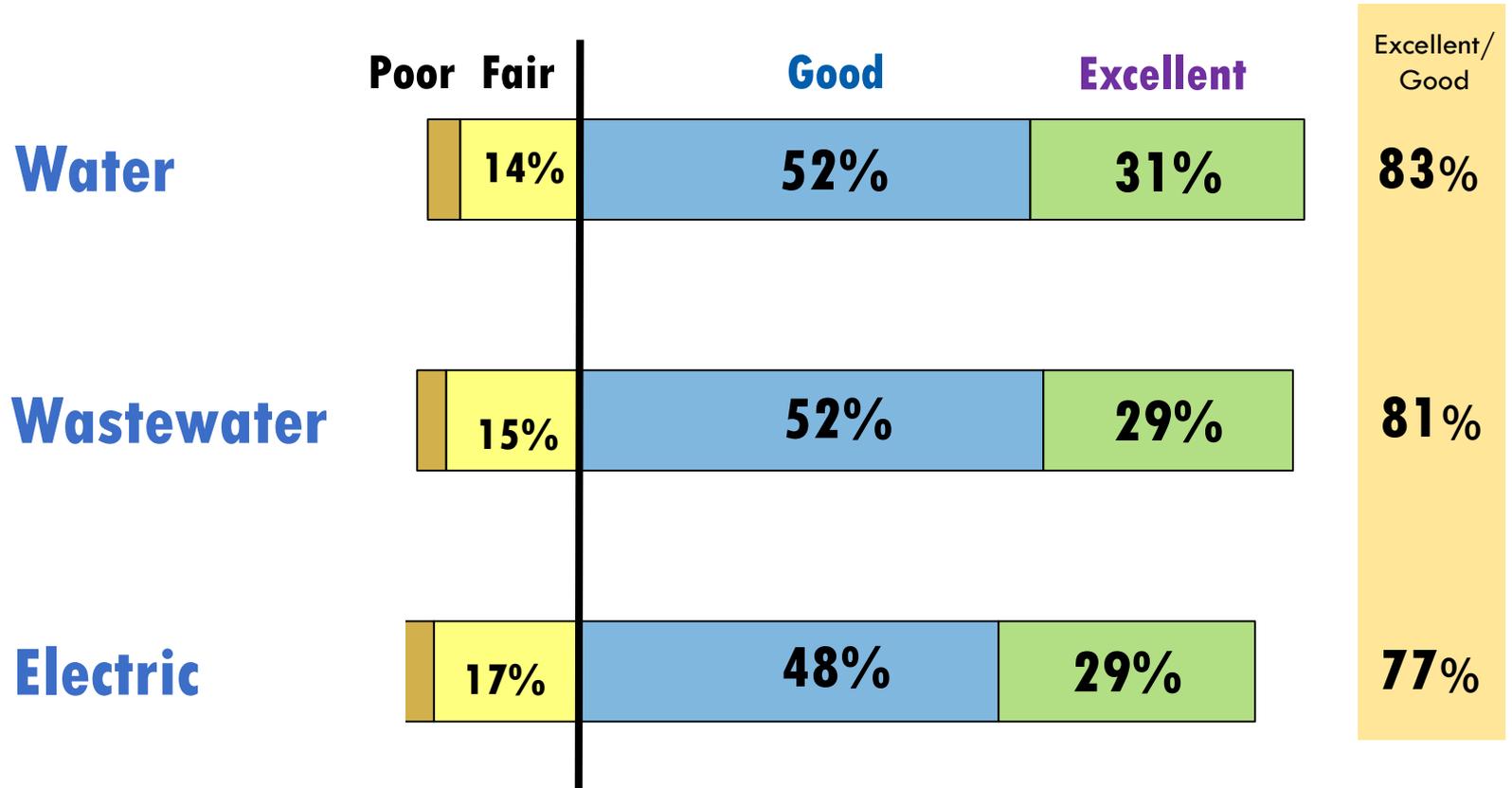
CODE ENFORCEMENT



Utility Service Ratings

Utility Quality Rating

8 of **10** participants rated the quality of College Station Utilities as excellent or good.

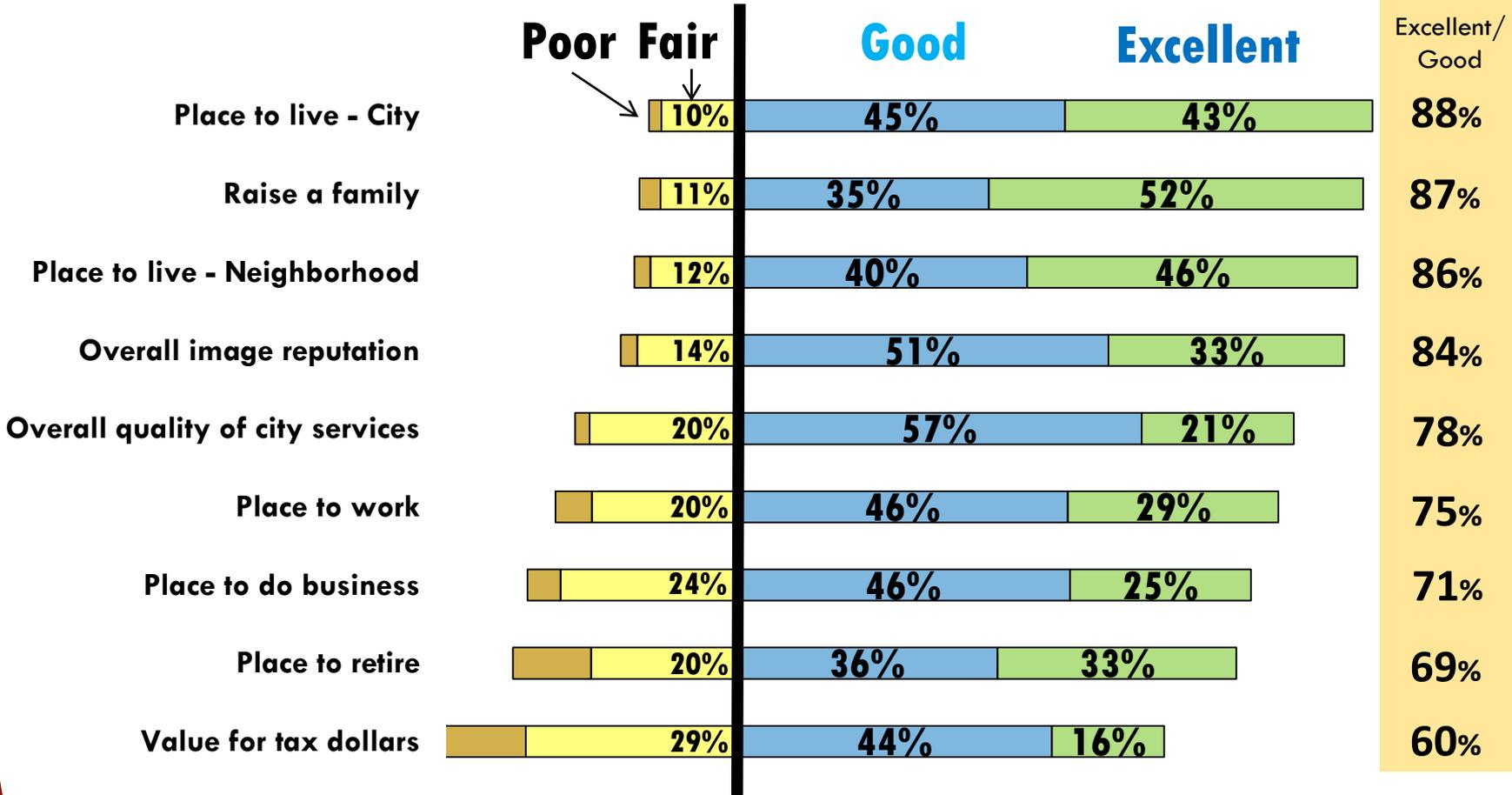




Quality of Life

Quality of Life Characteristics

9 of **10** participants rated College Station as an excellent or good place to live and raise a family.



What do you value most about living in College Station?

853 Grouped Responses

35%

Friendly people, family friendly, good quality of life

19%

Quality education opportunities (schools, Texas A&M), college atmosphere, proximity to A&M

19%

Small-town feel but has quality services of a larger city (entertainment, cultural, religious, etc.)

15%

Safety, low crime

9%

Entertainment/shopping/businesses

6%

Good city government (services, progressive, clean)

3%

Ease of getting around town

3%

Parks and trails

What would you say should be College Station's highest priority?

970 Grouped Responses

30%

CITY – managed growth, sustainability, maintain small town feel, quality growth/development

23%

TRAFFIC – reduce congestion, alternative transportation methods

19%

PUBLIC SAFETY

14%

MAINTAIN STREETS/ROADS

7%

HOUSING – affordable housing, lower cost of living, lower property taxes

6%

More businesses, shopping, restaurants, entertainment options

5%

PARKS/RECREATION
– maintain/grow P&R opportunities, create bike/pedestrian friendly city, provide culture/art events

2%

JOB CREATION

2%

EDUCATION

If you could change one thing about College Station, what would it be?

970 Grouped Responses

22%

TRAFFIC – Improve traffic flow and congestion, need mass transit

21%

CITY – Manage growth, quality development, enhance quality of life, less student housing, more single-family options.

12%

COSTS – Lower taxes, reduce cost of living, affordable housing options

11%

More businesses, shopping, entertainment options

8%

PARKS – Maintain and grow parks and recreation opportunities, create bike friendly city, provide culture art events.

7%

IMPROVE STREETS

5%

PUBLIC SAFETY

2%

CODE ENFORCEMENT

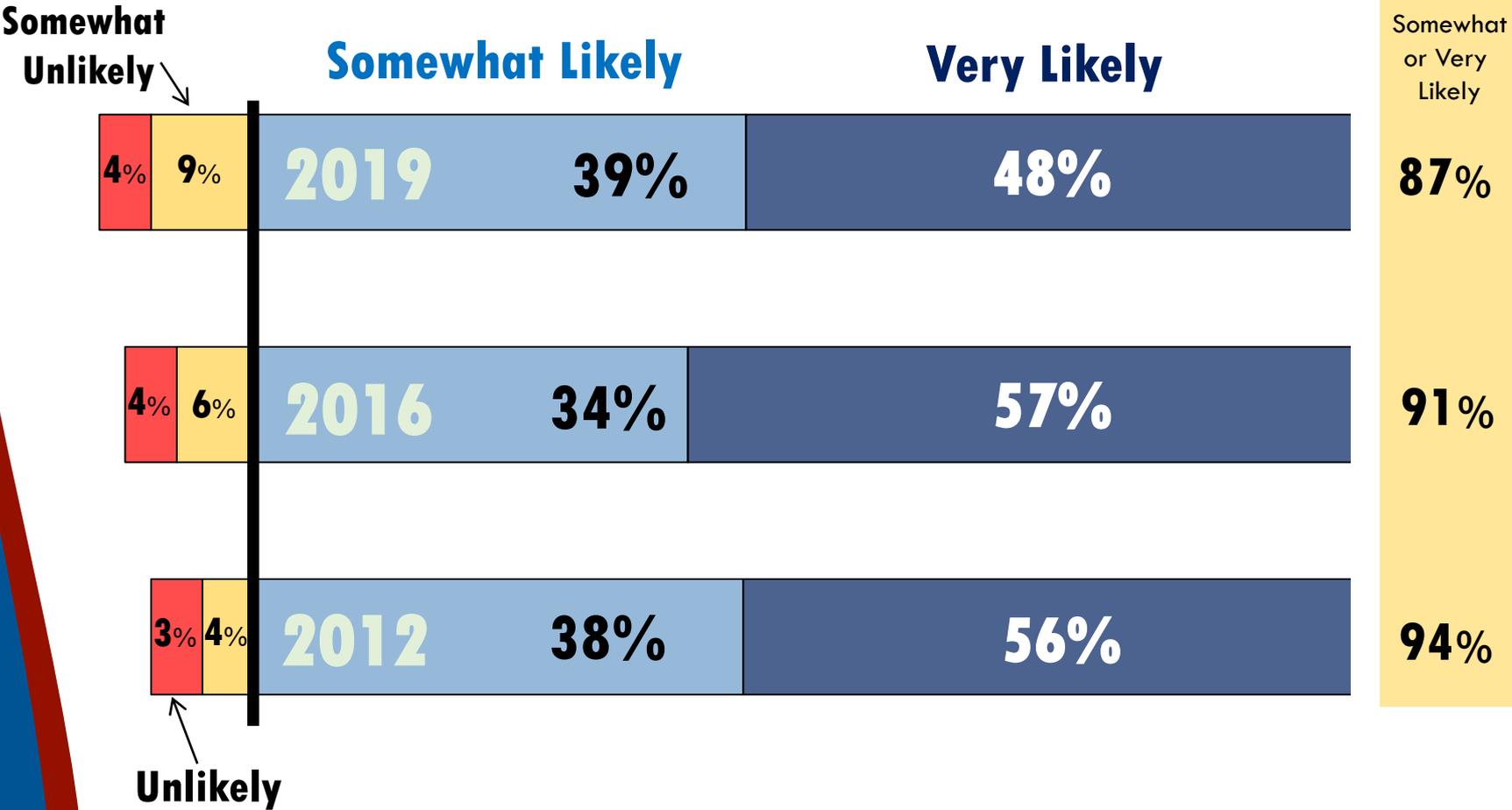
2%

JOB CREATION



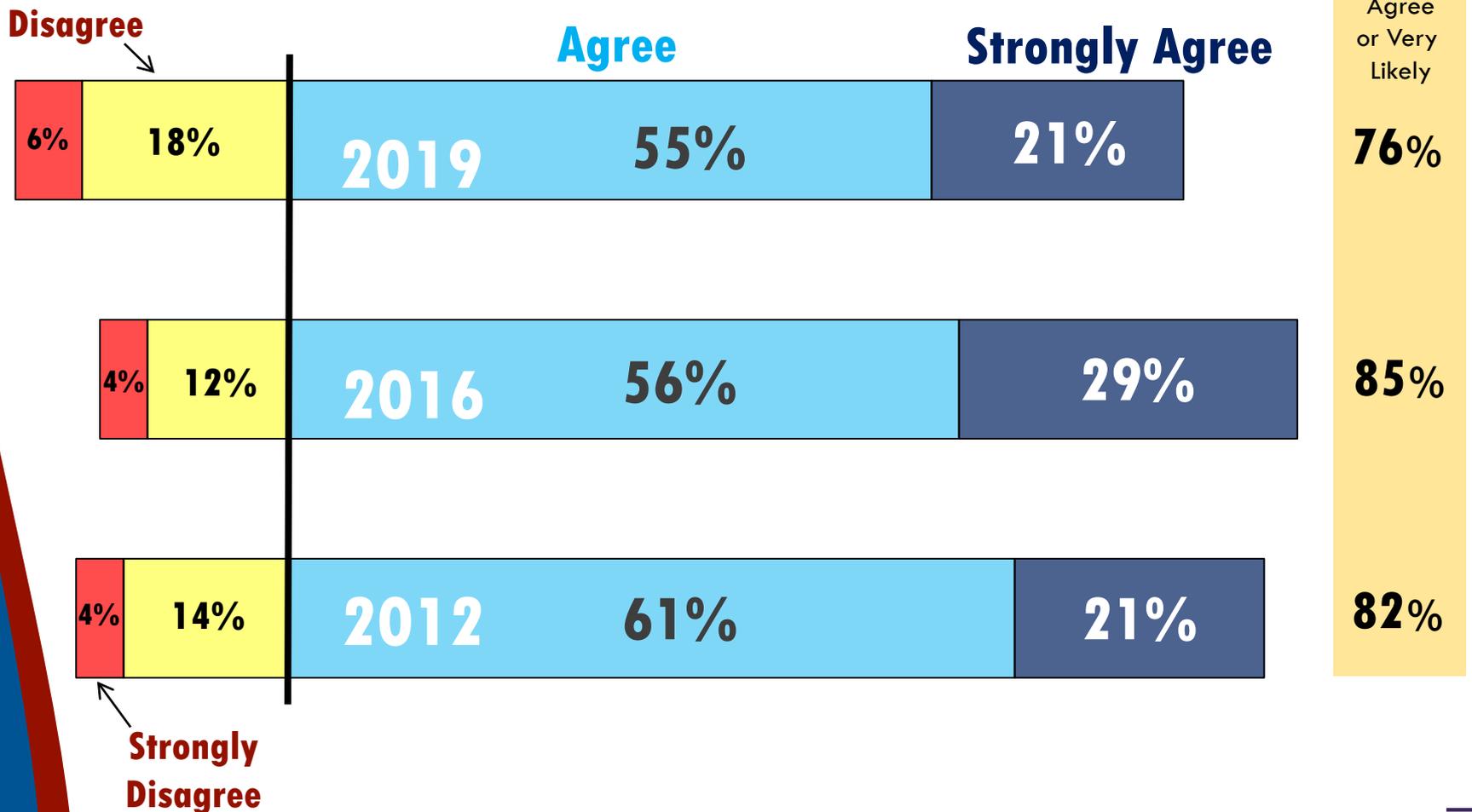
How likely are you to recommend College Station as a place to live?

87% of participants are likely to recommend College Station as a place to live



Is College Station moving in the right direction as a community?

76% of respondents agree College Station is moving in the right direction.



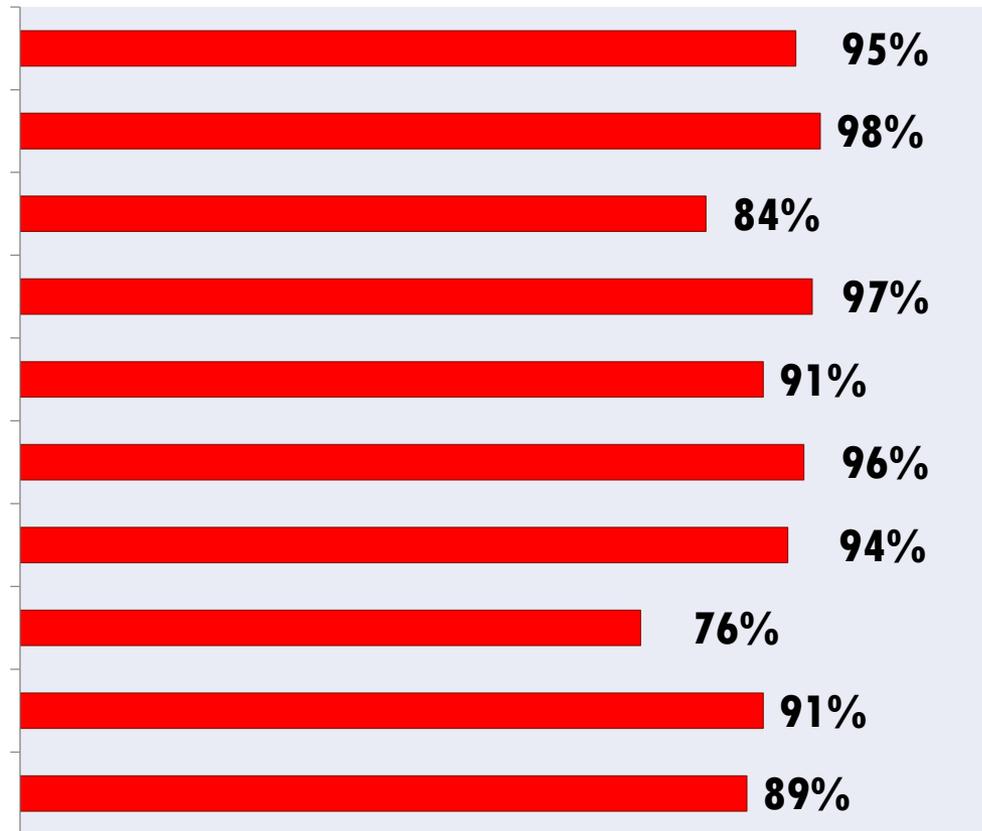


Community Characteristics

Community Characteristics – Importance Rating

The graph below depicts the respondents rating (very important/important) of each community characteristic. The **importance rank** lists the community characteristics in rank order based upon the respondents first, second and third most important.

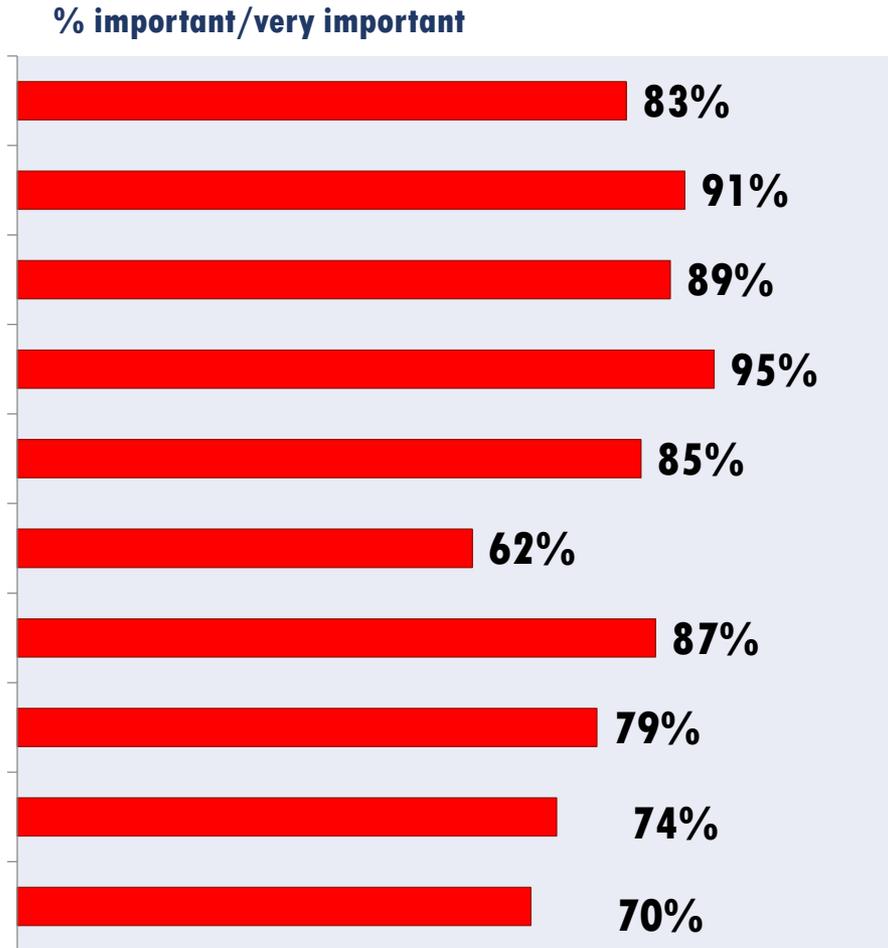
% important/very important



IMPORTANCE RANK

- 1 Ease of travel around town
- 2 Availability of medical/health facilities
- 3 Availability of quality affordable housing
- 4 Overall appearance of College Station
- 5 Job opportunities
- 6 Appearance of neighborhoods
- 7 Educational opportunities
- 8 Support of sustainability, green issues
- 9 Sense of community
- 10 Availability of open space

Community Characteristics – Importance Rating



- IMPORTANCE RANK**
- 11 Quality shopping opportunities
 - 12 Recreational opportunities
 - 13 Entertainment opportunities
 - 14 Quality of business/service establishments
 - 15 Business opportunities
 - 16 Ease of bicycle travel around town
 - 17 Quality of new development
 - 18 Cultural activities
 - 19 Opportunities to participate in local government
 - 20 Volunteer opportunities

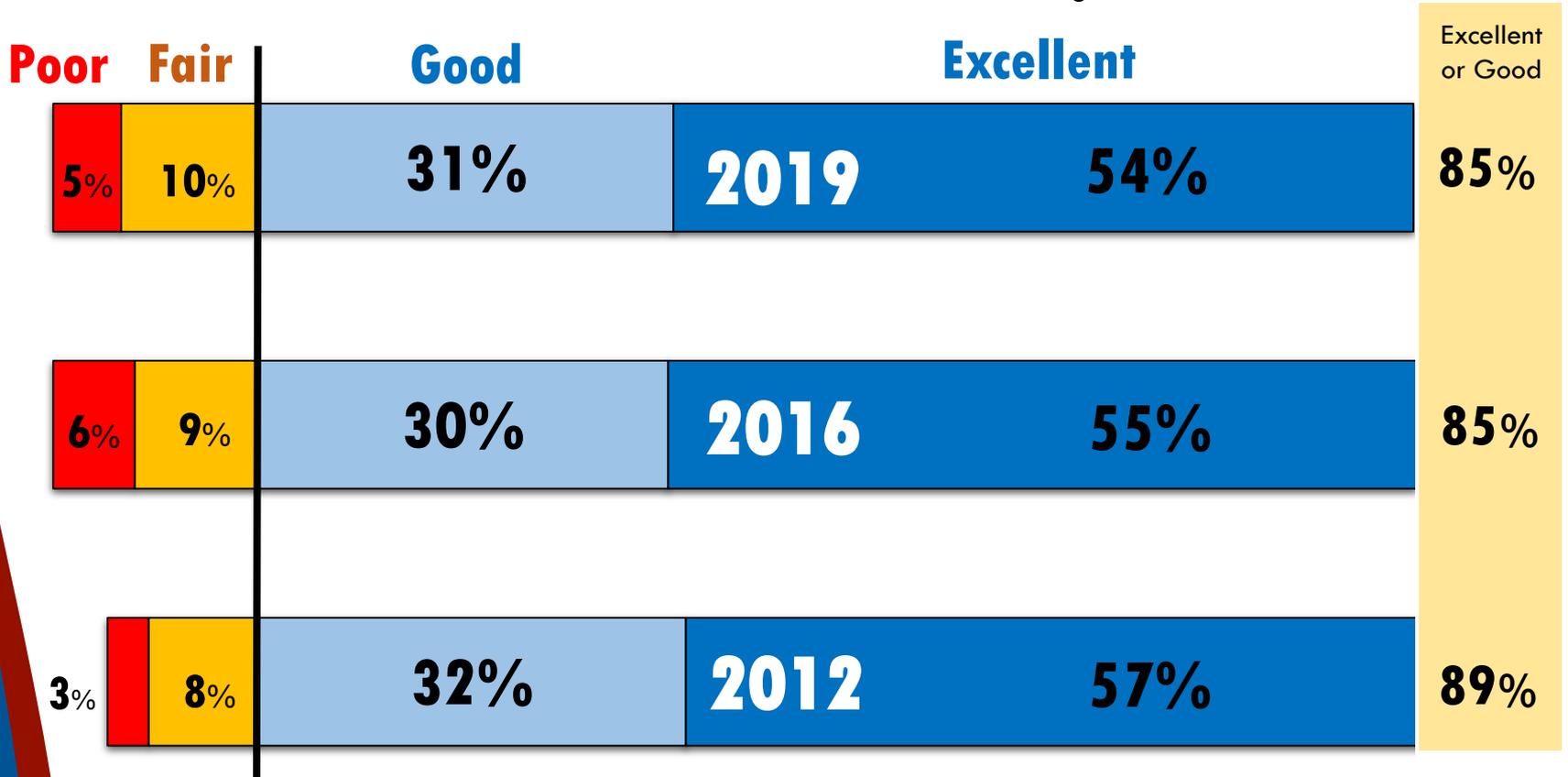


City Employees and Service

Rating of City Employee Contact

51% of respondents had contact with a city employee in the past 12 months.

85% rated the contact as excellent or good.



How could the city's customer service be improved?

Word Cloud



How could the city's customer service be improved?

190 Grouped Responses

33%

POSITIVE COMMENTS – prompt, professional, courteous, helpful

21%

Improve customer service to citizens

9%

TRAINING - better training of employees to respond to citizen needs/questions

7%

Quicker response, follow-up to inquiries

4%

COMMUNICATION – more communication to citizens, easier communication with specific departments

4%

Improve website, more user friendly

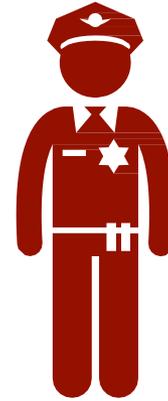
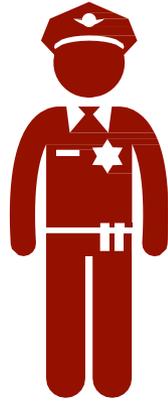
3%

More staff needed to respond to citizen inquiries

3%

Improve code enforcement





Public Safety

How safe do you feel in your neighborhood?



68% reported they feel safe in their neighborhood, a **9%** increase since 2016.

2019



1%
Not Safe



4%
Somewhat
unsafe



27%
Somewhat
safe



68%
Safe



2016



0.2%
Not Safe



4%
Somewhat
unsafe



37%
Somewhat
safe

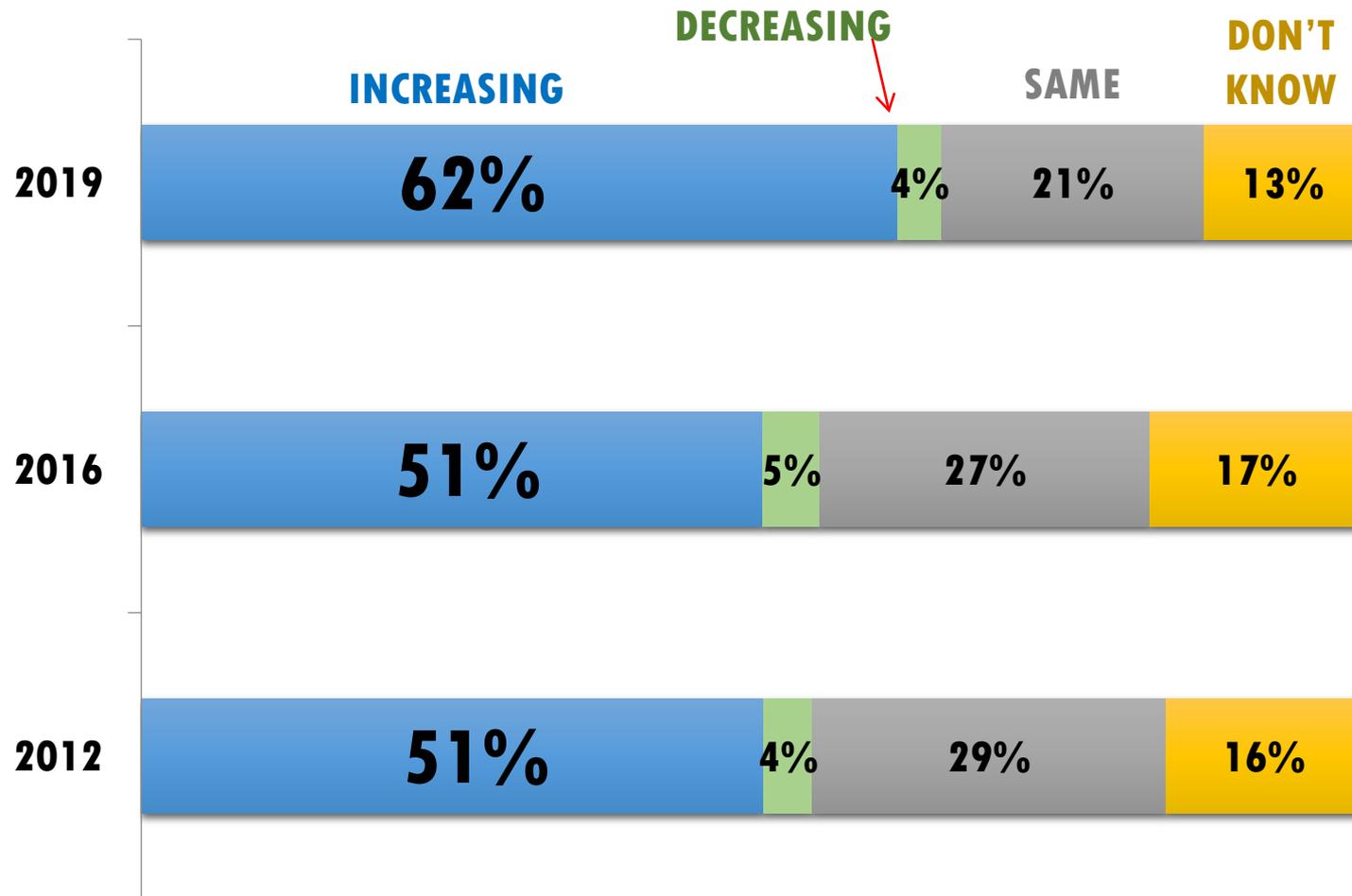


59%
Safe

Crime in College Station

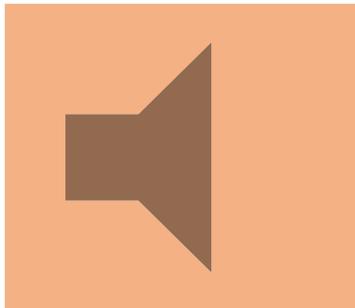
Do you think crime in College Station is increasing or decreasing?

62% reported they feel crime is increasing, an **11%** increase since 2016.





Communication

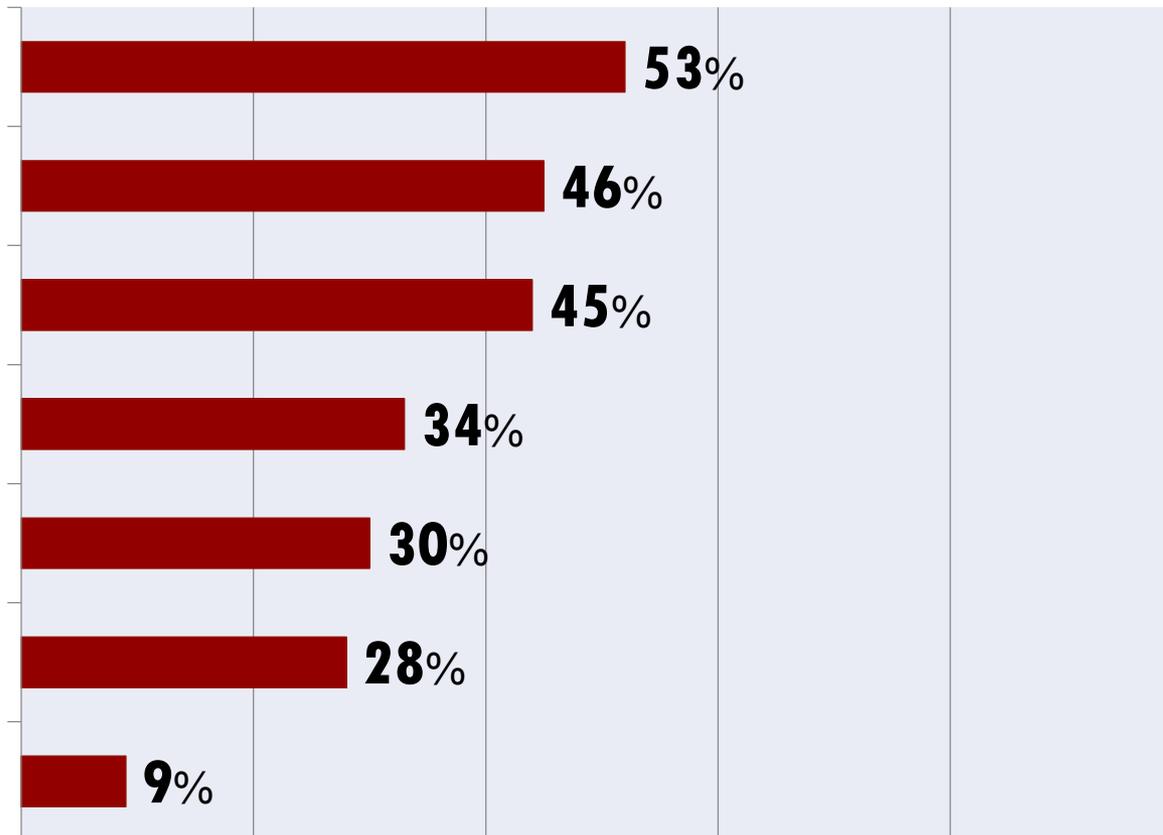




Public Communication

The graph below measures how respondents prefer to get information about city government activities, programs and services. The importance rank lists the communications methods in rank order based upon the respondents first, second and third most preferred method.

Q. How do you prefer to get information about city government activities?



IMPORTANCE RANK

- 1 Social media
- 2 City website
- 3 Local TV stations
- 4 Utility bill newsletter
- 5 Local newspaper
- 6 Local radio
- 7 City cable channel 40

How could the city improve its public communication efforts?



Word Cloud



61% of respondents reported they receive enough information about city programs, activities and events.

How could the city improve its public communications efforts?

485 Grouped Responses





Growth and Development

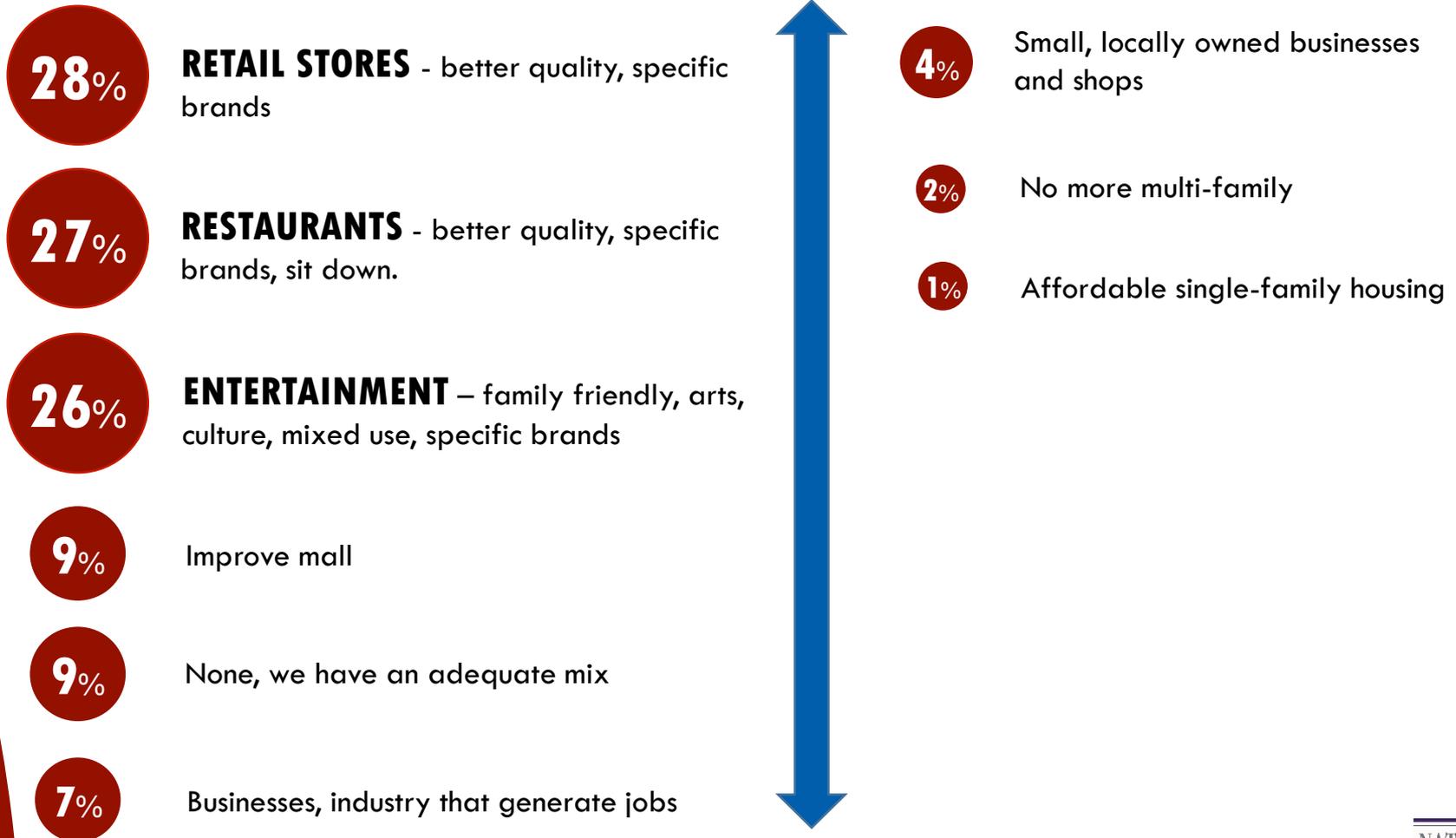
What types of retail and commercial development would you like to see in College Station?

Word Cloud



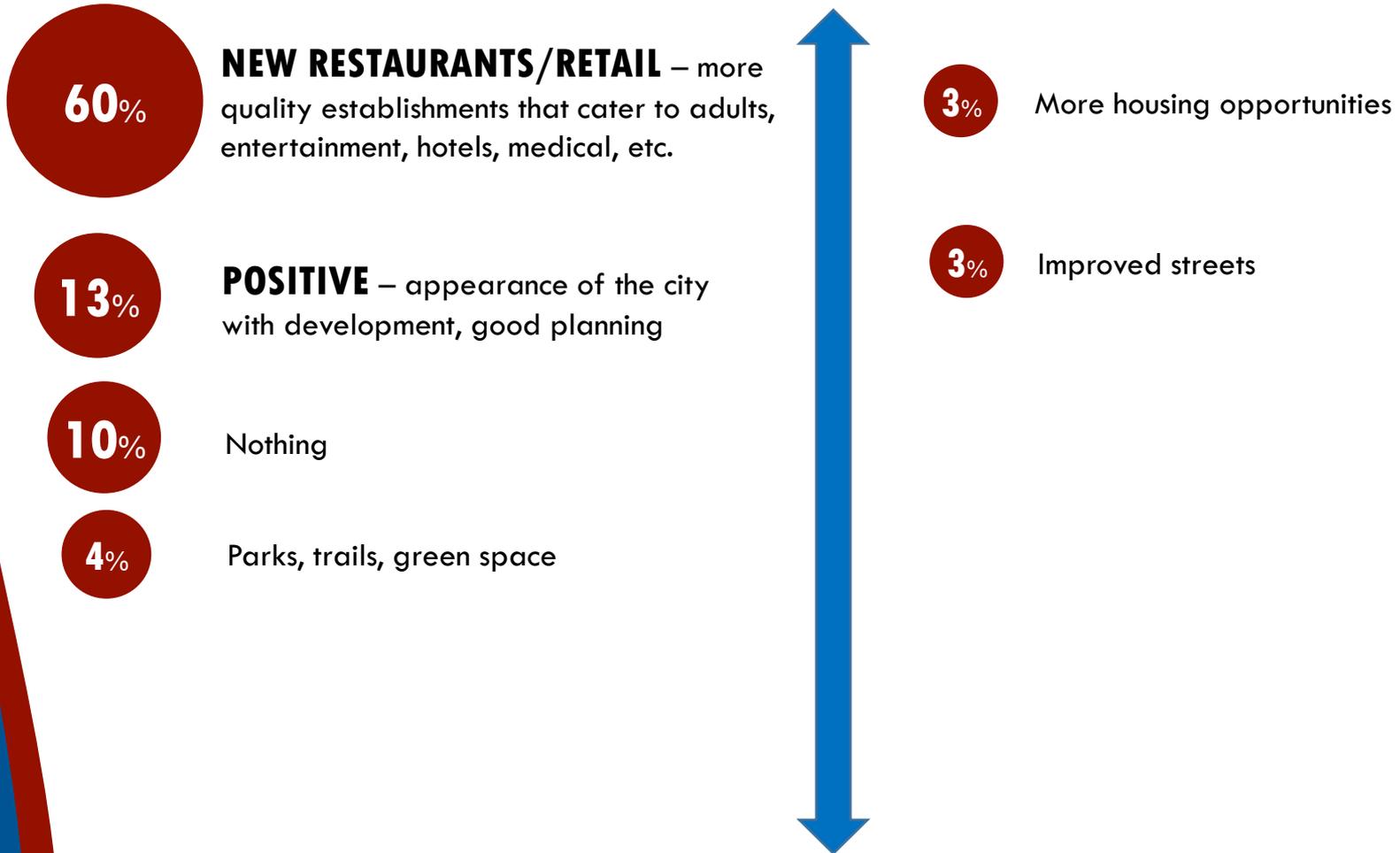
What types of retail and commercial development would you like to see in College Station?

871 Grouped Responses



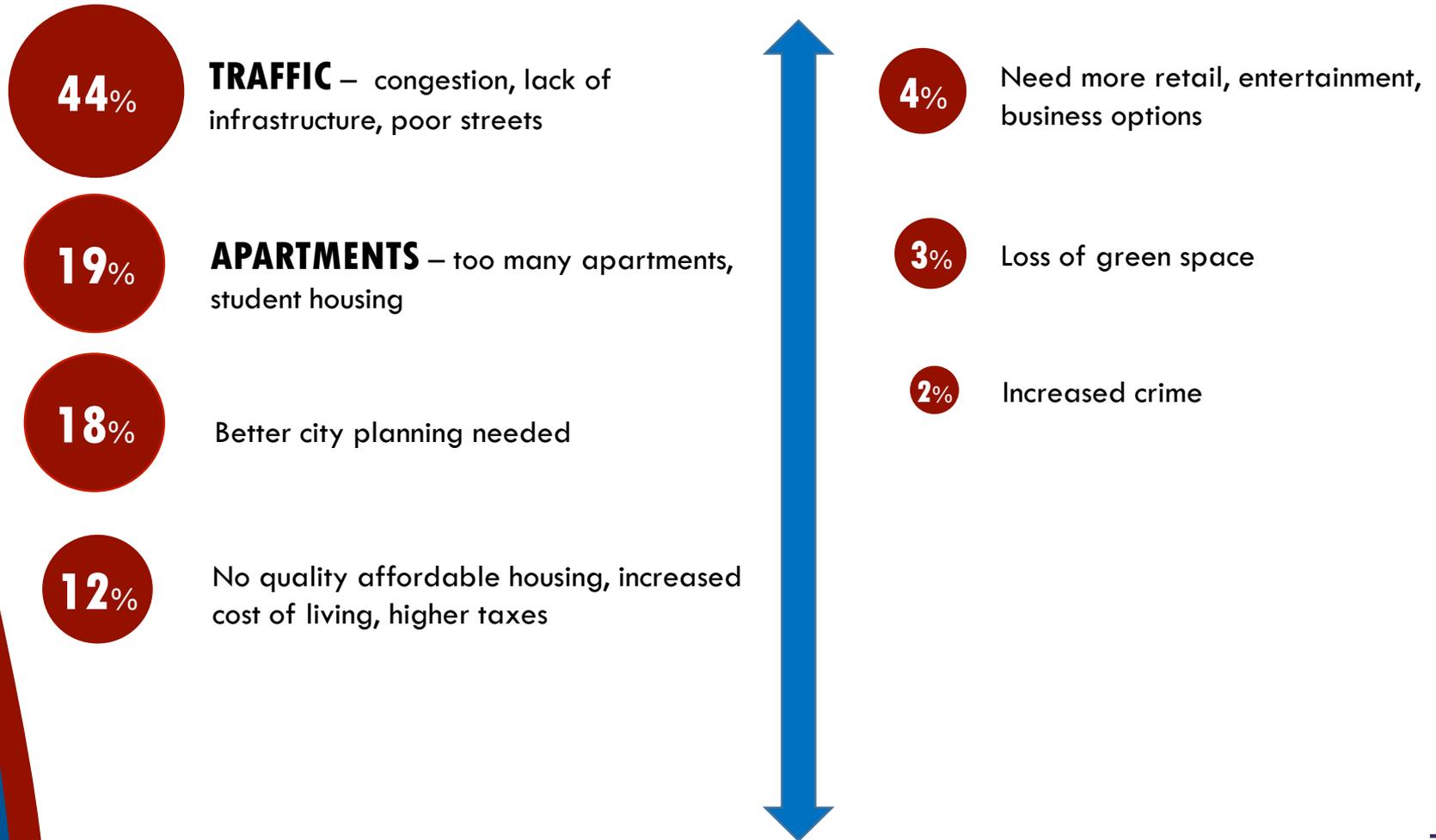
What do you LIKE about College Station's growth and development in the last 10 years?

791 Grouped Responses



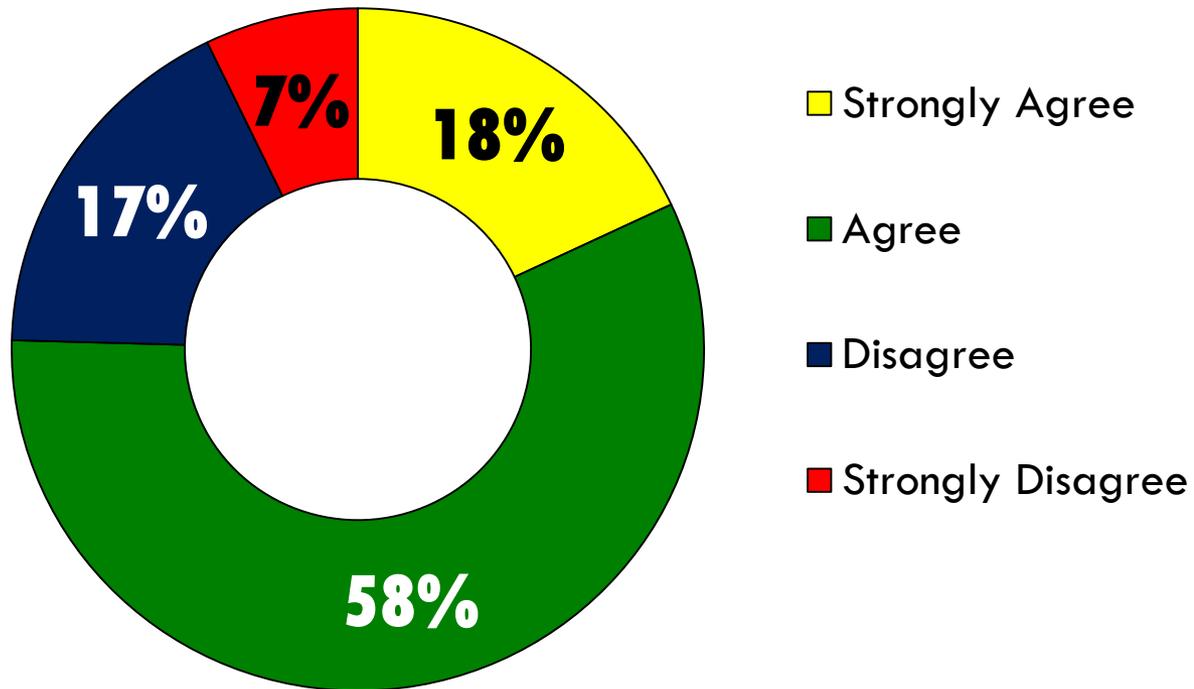
What do you DISLIKE about College Station's growth and development in the last 10 years?

909 Grouped Responses



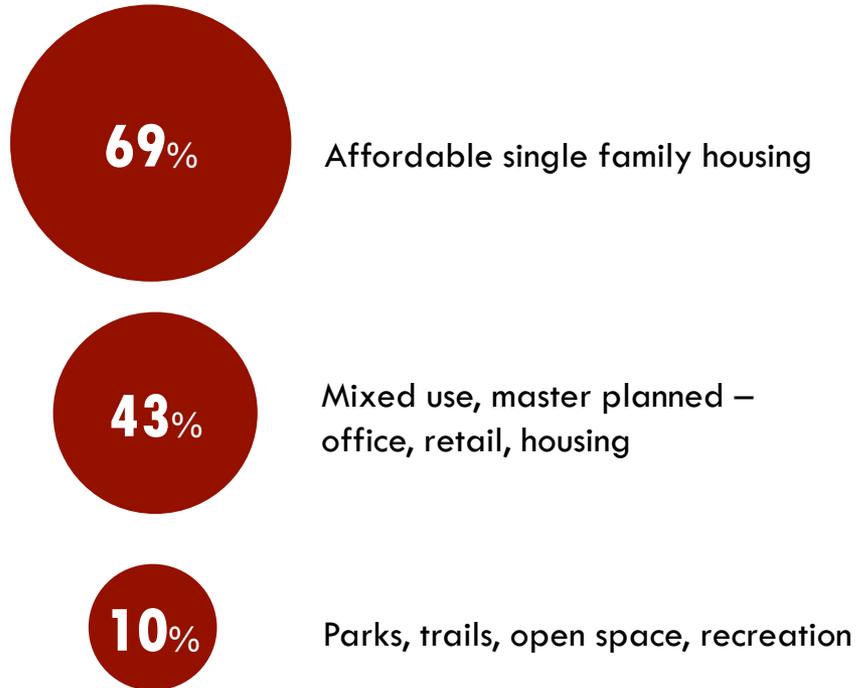
Growth and development have contributed positively to College Station's quality of life.

76% agree or strongly agree that growth and development has contributed positively to College Station's quality of life.



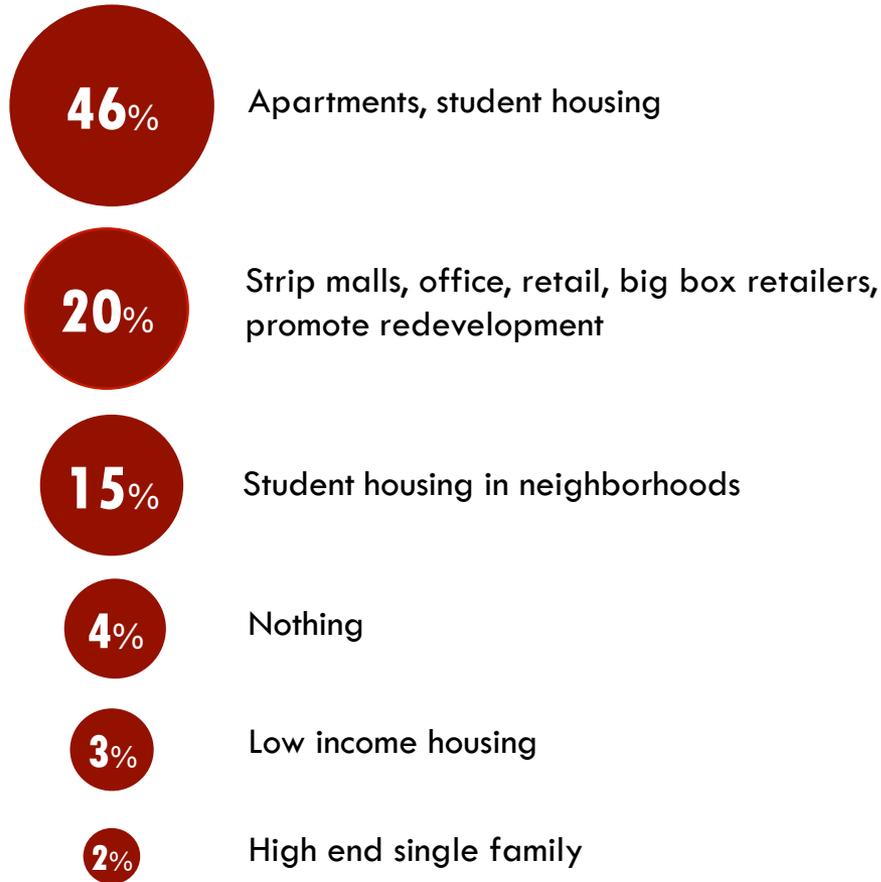
What types of land uses (single-family houses, office, retail, etc.) should be ENCOURAGED?

899 Grouped Responses



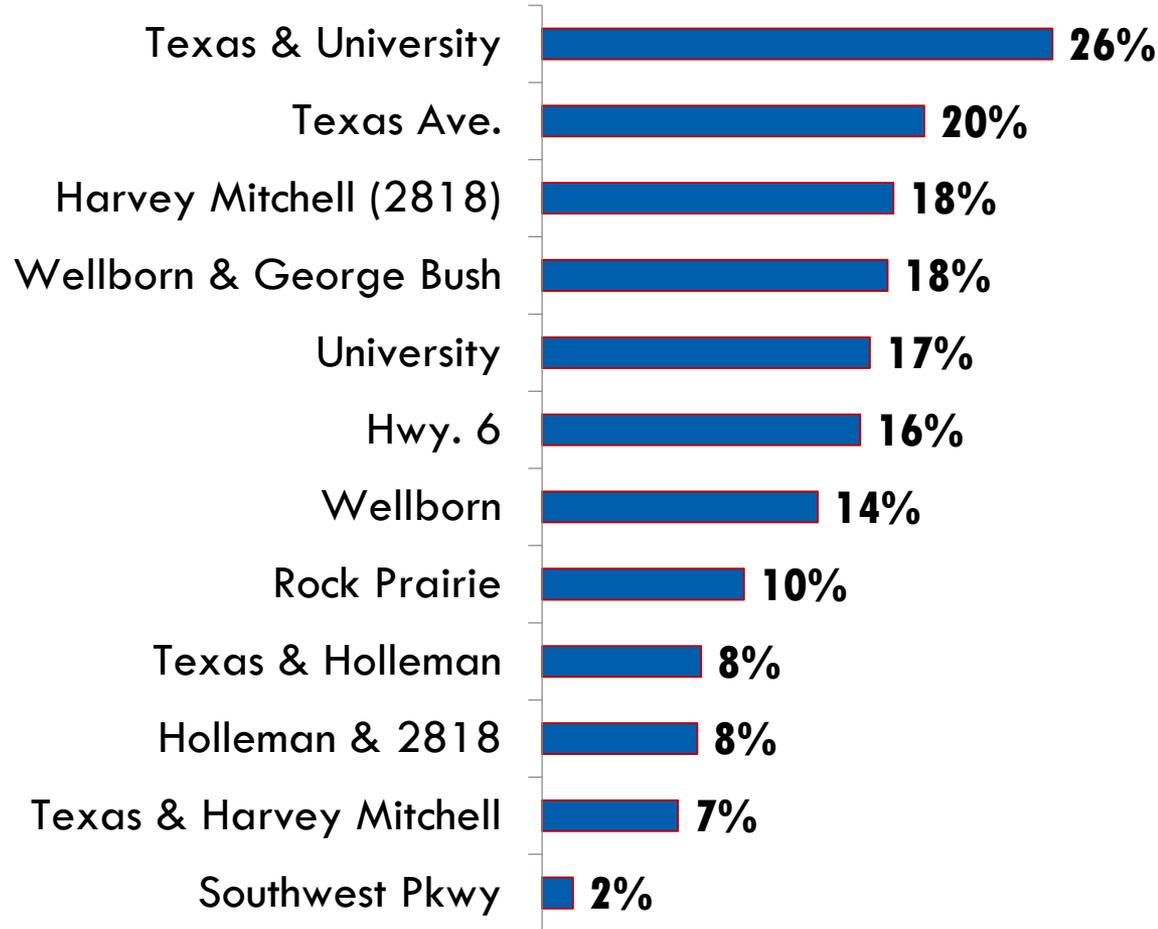
What types of land uses (single-family houses, office, retail, etc.) should be DISCOURAGED?

827 Grouped Responses



What streets or intersections in College Station are the most congested?

1,006 Grouped Responses





Benchmark Data

Benchmark Data

- ✓ To provide College Station a reference for how the city is performing, benchmark data is presented for Texas peer cities and the state as a whole.
- ✓ Peer cities have a population range of roughly 60,000-180,000. College Station's population in April 2019 was estimated at 121, 994.
- ✓ These peer city municipal surveys were conducted from 2017 to 2018:

Flower Mound 2017	McKinney 2017	Mesquite 2018
Denton 2018	The Woodlands 2018	Round Rock 2018
New Braunfels 2017	Pearland 2017	Baytown 2018
Tyler 2018	Sugar Land 2017	North Richland Hills 2018
Missouri City 2018	Georgetown 2018	Pflugerville 2017
- ✓ In some cases, not all cities listed are included in the benchmark averages because some questions were not included in all the surveys.

Benchmark Data

Quality of City Services - % of Excellent/Good Ratings

Green Numbers: increase outside the margin of error since 2016; **Red Numbers:** decrease.

Characteristic	College Station 2019	College Station 2016	College Station 2012	Peers	Texas
Fire Services	92%	93%	93%	91%	90%
Police Services	86	86	93	82	81
Customer Service	85	85	89	74	75
Trash and Recycling	86	84	86	85	84
Wastewater Services	81	81	92	76	74
Water Services	83	80	92	74	72
Electric Utility	77	77	89	81	78
Maintaining Appearance of Parks	74	75	79	80	81
Library Services	72	75	77	84	83
Special Events	79	74	77	72	76
Variety of Youth Recreation Programs	71	69	78	64	63

Benchmark Data

Quality of City Services - % for Excellent/Good Ratings

Green Numbers: increase outside the margin of error since 2016; **Red Numbers:** decrease.

Characteristic	College Station 2019	College Station 2016	College Station 2012	Peer	Texas
Stormwater Drainage	70%	68%	79%	65%	64%
Animal Control	69	66	70	72	68
Enforcing Traffic Laws	66	63	74	69	70
Biking/Walking Facilities	58	56	70	59	62
Variety of Adult Recreation Programs	58	56	78	59	58
Senior Citizen Services	61	56	67	62	57
Code Enforcement	57	53	65	60	56
Crime Prevention Education	55	50	58	75	71
Maintaining Streets/Roads	49	48	71	53	51
Managing Traffic Congestion	24	28	50	42	43

Benchmark Data

Quality of Life - % for Excellent/Good Ratings

Characteristic	College Station 2019	College Station 2016	College Station 2012	Peers	Texas
Your City as a Place to Live	88%	91%	93%	87%	86%
Recommend Your City as Place to Live	87	91	92	92	91
Your City as a Place to Raise a Family	87	89	93	84	78
Your City's Overall Image/Reputation	84	87	80	78	78
Your Neighborhood as a Place to Live	86	86	87	84	81
Quality of City Services	78	84	85	80	78
Your City as a Place to Work	75	80	77	67	68
Your City as a Place to do Business	71	79	74	69	68
Your City as a Place to Retire	69	74	77	72	69
Value of City Services for Tax Dollars	59	68	69	59	57

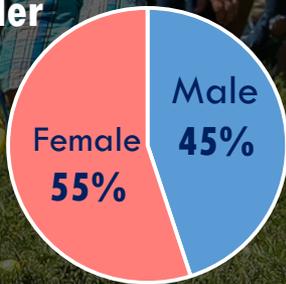


Respondent Demographics



Respondent Demographics

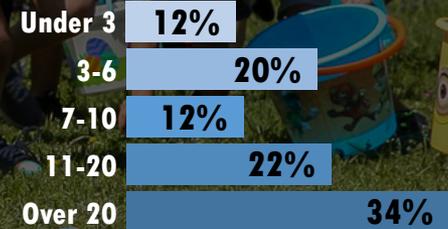
Gender



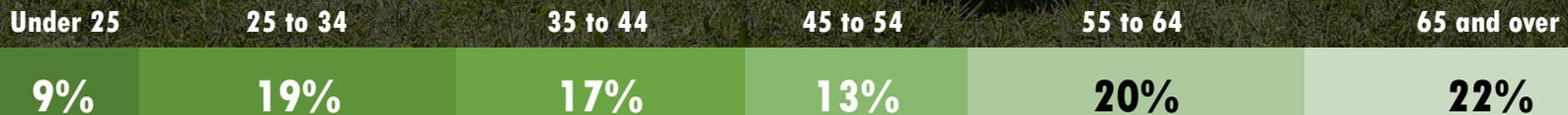
Own vs. Rent



Years Lived in College Station

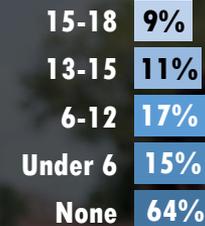


Respondent Age



Respondent Demographics

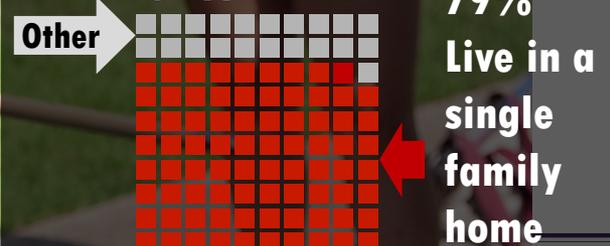
Age Groups of Children



Household Size



Housing Type



Respondent Demographics

Attended Texas A&M or Blinn College?

Neither
78%

18%



4%



Highest Education

37%

Graduate/advanced degree

43%

Graduated college

3%

Completed technical school

14%

Some college/technical

3%

High School

65



Conclusions

Conclusions – Top Candidates for Improvement

Manage Traffic Congestion

(GAP 74%, Importance Rank #2)



Maintaining Streets/Roads

(GAP 50%, Importance Rank #4)



Attracting businesses and jobs

(GAP 20%, Importance Rank #5)



Biking/walking facilities

(GAP 24%, Importance Rank #6)

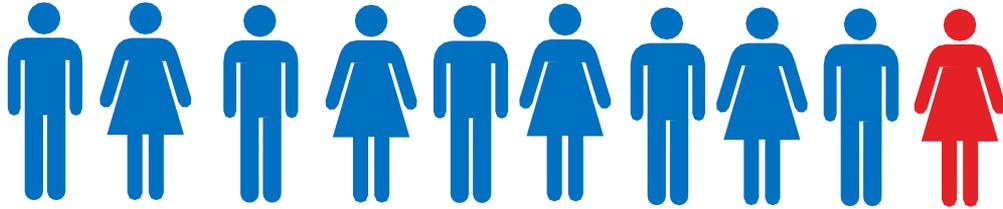


Programs to retain and support existing businesses

(GAP 44%, Importance Rank #9)



Conclusions – Quality of Life / Safety



✓ **9** out of **10** respondents rated College Station as an EXCELLENT or GOOD place to live.

✓ **9** out of **10** respondents rated College Station as an EXCELLENT or GOOD place to raise a family.

✓ **9** out of **10** are likely to recommend College Station as a place to live.

94%

feel very or somewhat safe in their neighborhood

85%

feel the city's customer service is good or excellent

84%

feel College Station has a good or excellent image and reputation

Conclusions

- It was clear that throughout the report that managing traffic is a high priority among residents.
- 75% of all respondents in 2019 agree College Station is moving in the right direction.
- 74% agree that growth and development has contributed positively to College Station's quality of life.

5 Most Important Community Characteristics to Residents

1. Ease of car travel around town.
2. Availability of medical/health facilities.
3. Availability of high-quality affordable housing.
4. Overall appearance of community.
5. Job opportunities.

Where do we go from here?

Communicate

- Community
- Employees

Use results to inform decision making

- Budgeting
- Resource Allocation and Planning

National Service Research

Contact: Andrea Thomas, Owner

2601 Ridgmar Plaza, Suite 2

Fort Worth, Texas 76116

817-312-3606

e-mail: andrea@nationalservicersearch.com

web site: nationalservicersearch.com

National Service Research (NSR), founded in 1989, is a full-service market research consulting firm and conducts market studies for the public and private sector. NSR conducts various types of consumer and business research including focus groups and surveys nationwide. NSR's owner and founder, Andrea Thomas, over thirty-five years of professional market research experience.