Parkersburg Engagement Project: Community-Wide Survey Results

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Executive Summary

Introduction

The Parkersburg Engagement Project (PEP) conducted a community-wide survey between February 8th and April 2nd, 2025 to understand residents' perspectives on important issues facing the community. A total of 621 individuals participated[1], with a significant majority (93%, N = 576) being Parkersburg residents. The survey aimed to identify key concerns, gauge current civic engagement, and assess perspectives about how the community comes together to solve problems. The findings from this survey will inform the PEP's efforts to identify and collaboratively address a community issue.

Key Findings

1. Most Important Issues Impacting the Community

- **Substance Use** consistently emerged as the top-ranked issue impacting the community across all three rankings (first, second, and third most important). When combining the top three topics people think are most important for the community, **substance use** is the most important (N = 271, 15%), followed by **housing** (N = 221, 12%).
- Other significant community-wide issues identified include **Living Wage** (10%, N = 188) and **Employment** (10%, N = 177), indicating economic concerns are also prominent in residents' perceptions of community impact.
- The difference in ranking among the top several issues is very small, suggesting a wide range of concerns within the community.

2. Most Important Issues Impacting Individuals and Families

- When combining the top three topics people think most directly impact themselves and their family, **community liveability** is the most important (N = 215, 12%), followed by **healthcare** (N = 203, 11%), **living wage** (N = 202, 11%), and **recreational activities** (N = 199, 11%).
- Notably, while substance use was the top community concern, it ranked lower when respondents were identifying the issues that most impacted themselves and their families, suggesting a distinction between broader community challenges and immediate household concerns.

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[1] Based on the Parkersburg population of 29,025 people[9], a statistically representative sample size would require at least 380 respondents. 621 people completing the survey provides sufficient sample size to be reasonably confident that findings are representative of the broader Parkersburg community.

3. Alignment of Community and Personal Priorities

- When examining the #1 ranked issue for both the community and the respondent, **living wage** (13%, N = 157) and **community liveability** (12%, N = 151) were the most important, followed by **employment** (10%, N = 127) and **substance Use** (10%, N = 124).

4. Civic Engagement

- Almost half of respondents (44%) contacted a public official in the past year, 38% participated in neighborhood acts of service, and 24% attended a public meeting.
- The majority (80%) discussed political, societal, or local issues with their social circles at least a few times a month.

5. Bridging

- Most respondents (93%) expressed a willingness to understand different political viewpoints and felt comfortable (79%) engaging with community members holding differing opinions.
- A strong majority (90%) also believed they could contribute to a community that fosters collaboration across disagreements.
- However, there were more divided views (63% disagreed) on whether people in Parkersburg respect those who do not share their values, suggesting a potential area for improvement in fostering a more inclusive community environment.

6. Individual Efficacy and Agency

- A majority of respondents (75%) felt that the community could work together to solve problems.
- However, there was significant skepticism among more than half of respondents (63%) regarding their ability to influence city government decision-making in Parkersburg, indicating a potential disconnect between residents and local government.

7. Understanding Others and Social Cohesion

- Most respondents (79%) believe that community members with different opinions and backgrounds are committed to the community's well-being and most (72%) expressed trust in these individuals.
- However, there were mixed feelings (51% disagree) about whether respondents felt understood by those with differing opinions, highlighting a potential barrier to deeper social cohesion.

8. Demographics

- The survey respondents largely mirrored the demographic profile of Parkersburg.
- The vast majority of respondents identified as White (97%).
- Respondents are diverse in age, with the majority falling between 25 and 64 years old.
- More than half of respondents were women (63%)
- Educational attainment varied, with more than half (63%) having some college education or higher.

9. Open-Ended Comments

The 237 open-ended comments were about six main themes:

- **Substance Abuse and Homelessness:** Expressed as a major concern, often linked to crime and safety issues, with some criticism directed at the impact of rehab centers.
- **Community Dissatisfaction and Government Concerns:** Many respondents voiced dissatisfaction with the direction of Parkersburg, citing unresponsive or corrupt city officials and a lack of avenues for citizen input.
- **Streets and Appearance:** Infrastructure issues like potholes, litter, and abandoned buildings were frequently mentioned as detracting from the city's liveability.
- **Economic Challenges:** Concerns about the lack of good-paying jobs, limited opportunities, and the struggle to attract and retain residents were prominent.
- **Safety and Crime:** Respondents expressed feelings of insecurity and concerns about crime, often associated with substance abuse.
- **Community Division:** Some comments highlighted a lack of community cohesion, growing division among residents, and difficulties in fostering unity.

Conclusion

The PEP Community-Wide Survey provides valuable insights into the priorities and perceptions of Parkersburg residents. While substance use and housing are seen as critical community-wide issues, the topics that most impact respondents and their families are community liveability, healthcare, and economic stability. The findings illustrate that almost half of respondents were civically engaged at least once in the past year, and most people desire community collaboration, though challenges exist in bridging social divides and fostering trust in local governance. The open-ended comments underscore significant concerns related to substance abuse, infrastructure, economic opportunities, and a perceived decline in community well-being. These findings will guide the PEP's next steps in identifying a specific community challenge and working collaboratively towards solutions.

Topics that **most impact the community**

Figure 1. Most Important Topic for Community
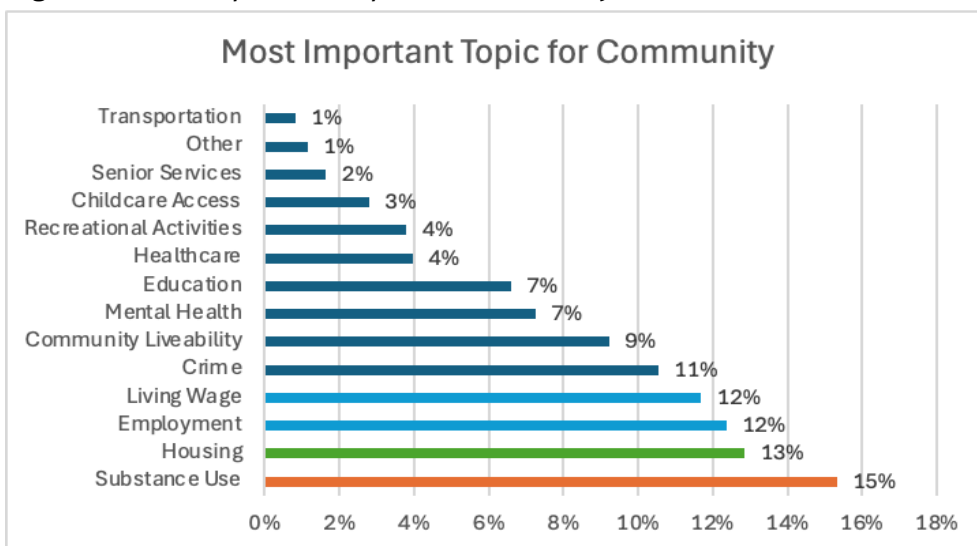
Overall, the topics people think most impact the community are wide-ranging, with the rankings closely contested. Across all rankings, **substance use** is consistently ranked as the most important, followed by **housing**.

Most Important Topic for Community

However, these are the top-ranked topics by a relatively small number (see Table 1).

For the most important topic**, substance use** (N = 93, 15%) is the most important, followed by **housing** (N = 78, 13%), **employment** (N = 75, 12%), and **living wage** (N = 71, 12%)**.**

Table 1. Most Important Topic for Community

Most Important Topic	Frequency (N)	%
Substance Use	93	15%
Housing	78	13%
Employment	75	12%
Living Wage	71	12%
Crime	64	11%
Community Liveability	56	9%
Mental Health	44	7%
Education	40	7%
Healthcare	24	4%
Recreational Activities	23	4%
Childcare Access	17	3%
Senior Services	10	2%
Other	7	1%
Transportation	5	1%
Total	**607**	**100%**

Figure 2. Second Most Important Topic for Community

For the second most important issue, **living wage** (N = 59, 10%) and **mental health** (N = 59, 10%) are significant after **substance use** (N = 101, 17%) and **housing** (N = 77, 13%).
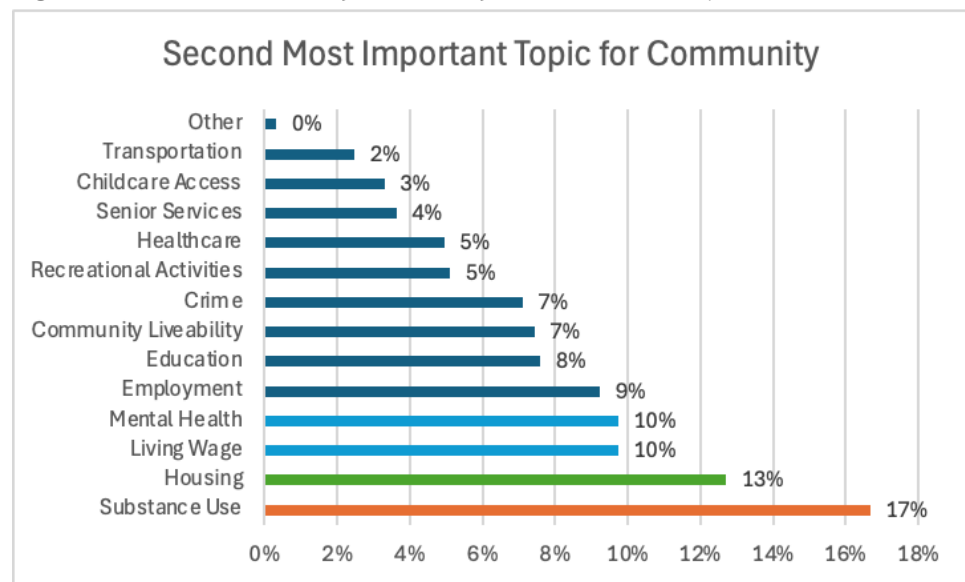
Table 2. Second Most Important Topic for Community

Second Most Important Topic	Frequency (N)	%
Substance Use	101	17%
Housing	77	13%
Living Wage	59	10%
Mental Health	59	10%
Employment	56	9%
Education	46	8%
Community Liveability	45	7%
Crime	43	7%
Recreational Activities	31	5%
Healthcare	30	5%
Senior Services	22	4%
Childcare Access	20	3%
Transportation	15	2%
Other	2	0%
Total	**606**	**100%**

Figure 3. Third Most Important Topic for Community
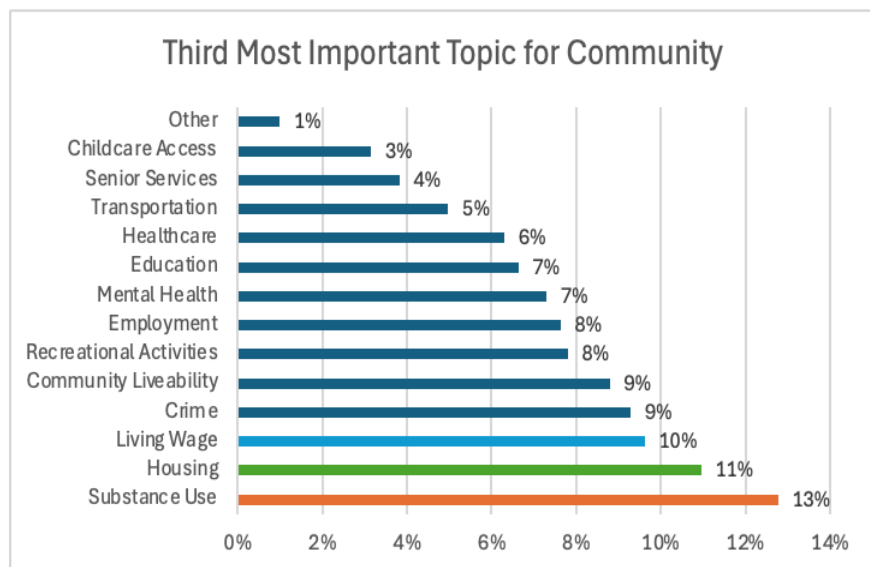
For the third most important issue, **living wage** (N = 58, 10%) is significant after **substance use** (N = 77, 13%) and **housing** (N = 66, 11%).

Table 3. Third Most Important Topic for Community

Third Most Important Topic	Frequency (N)	%
Substance Use	77	13%
Housing	66	11%
Living Wage	58	10%
Crime	56	9%
Community Liveability	53	9%
Recreational Activities	47	8%
Employment	46	8%
Mental Health	44	7%
Education	40	7%
Healthcare	38	6%
Transportation	30	5%
Senior Services	23	4%
Childcare Access	19	3%
Other	6	1%
Total	**603**	**100%**

Across all three rankings (first, second, and third most important), there is a wide distribution in which topics respondents think are most important. The difference in ranking for the top several choices is often less than 20 votes between topics. Another way of examining the data is by combining the three rankings. In other words, summarizing how many people ranked "housing" as one of their top three choices, how many people ranked "crime" as one of their top three, and so on.

When combining the top three topics people think are most important for the community, **substance use** is the most important (N = 271, 15%), followed by **housing** (N = 221, 12%), **living wage** (N = 188, 10%), and **employment** (N = 177, 10%).

Table 4. Top Three Most Important Topics for Community

Top Three Topics	Frequency (N)	%
Substance Use	271	15%
Housing	221	12%
Living Wage	188	10%
Employment	177	10%
Crime	163	9%
Community Liveability	154	8%
Mental Health	147	8%
Education	126	7%
Recreational Activities	101	6%
Healthcare	92	5%
Childcare Access	56	3%
Senior Services	55	3%
Transportation	50	3%
Other	15	1%
Total	**1,816**	**100%**

Figure 4. Top Three Most Important Topics for Community
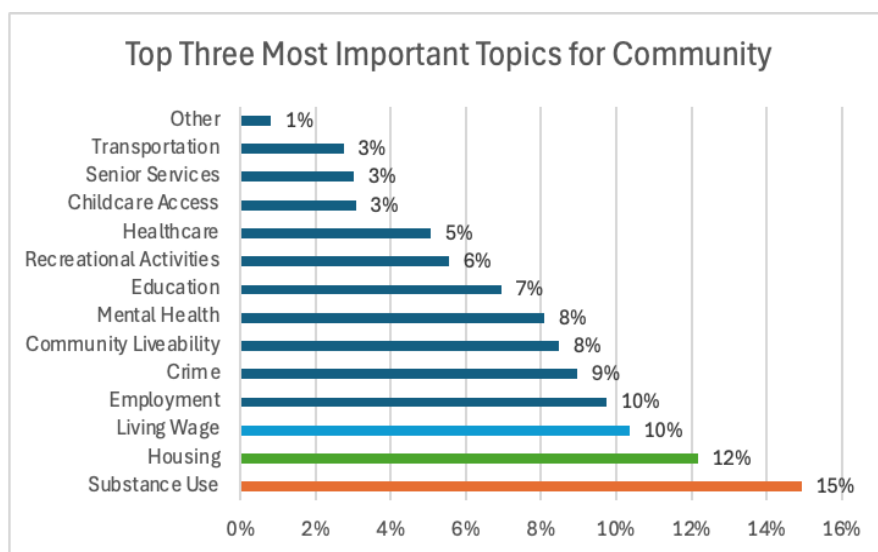
Topics that most **directly impact you and/or your family**

Table 5. Most Important Topic for Me and My Family

Most Important Topic	Frequency (N)	%
Community Liveability	95	16%
Living Wage	86	14%
Healthcare	77	13%
Employment	52	9%
Recreational Activities	43	7%
Housing	42	7%
Crime	40	7%
Mental Health	39	6%
Education	31	5%
Substance Use	31	5%
Senior Services	30	5%
Childcare Access	20	3%
Transportation	16	3%
Other	7	1%
Total	**609**	**100%**

Community liveability (N = 95, 16%) is the topic that most directly impacts the respondent and their family, followed by **living wage** (N = 86, 14%) and **healthcare** (N = 77, 13%).

Figure 5. Most Important Topic for Me and My Family
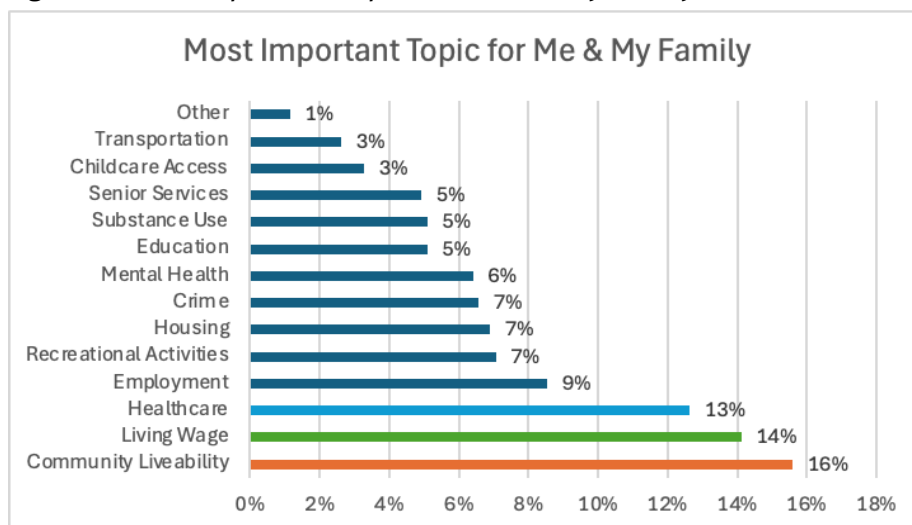
Figure 6. Second Most Important Topic for Me and My Family
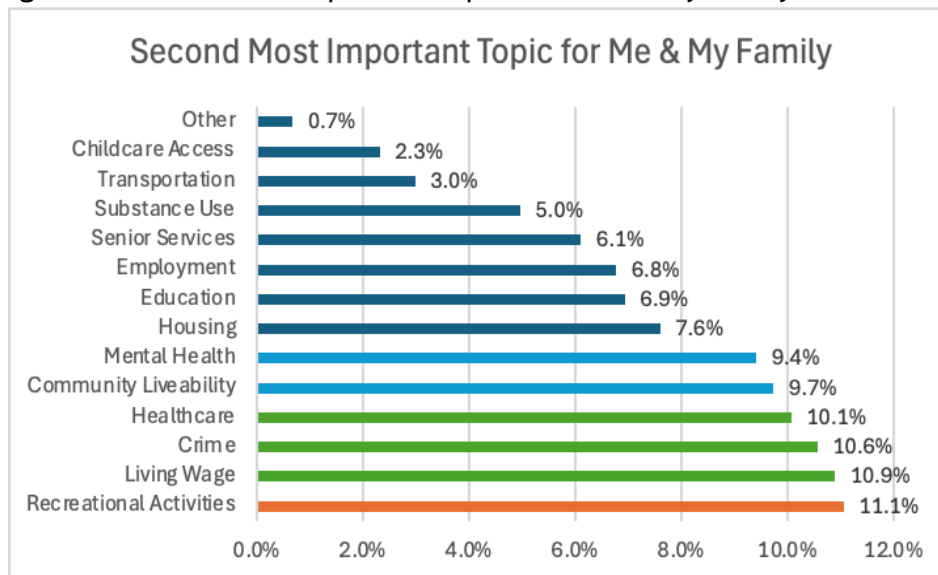
The second most important topic for respondents and their family is **recreational activities** (N = 67, 11%), followed by **living wage** (N = 66, 11%), **crime** (N = 64, 11%), and **healthcare** (N = 61, 10%).

Table 6. Second Most Important Topic for Me and My Family

Second Most Important Topic	Frequency (N)	%
Recreational Activities	67	11%
Living Wage	66	11%
Crime	64	11%
Healthcare	61	10%
Community Liveability	59	10%
Mental Health	57	9%
Housing	46	8%
Education	42	7%
Employment	41	7%
Senior Services	37	6%
Substance Use	30	5%
Transportation	18	3%
Childcare Access	14	2%
Other	4	1%
Total	**606**	**100%**

Table 7. Third Most Important Topic for Me and My Family

Third Most Important Topic	Frequency (N)	%
Recreational Activities	89	15%
Healthcare	65	11%
Community Liveability	61	10%
Living Wage	50	8%
Crime	47	8%
Mental Health	47	8%
Education	45	7%
Housing	43	7%
Substance Use	39	6%
Employment	37	6%
Senior Services	28	5%
Transportation	28	5%
Childcare Access	16	3%
Other	7	1%
Total	**602**	**100%**

The third most important topic for respondents and their families is **recreational activities** (N = 89, 15%), followed by **healthcare** (N = 65, 11%) and **community liveability** (N = 61, 10%).

Figure 7. Third Most Important Topic for Me and My Family

Table 8. Top Three Most Important Topics for Me and My Family

When combining the top three topics people think most directly impact themselves and their family, **community liveability** is the most important (N = 215, 12%), followed by **healthcare** (N = 203, 11%), **living wage** (N = 202, 11%), and **recreational activities** (N = 199, 11%).
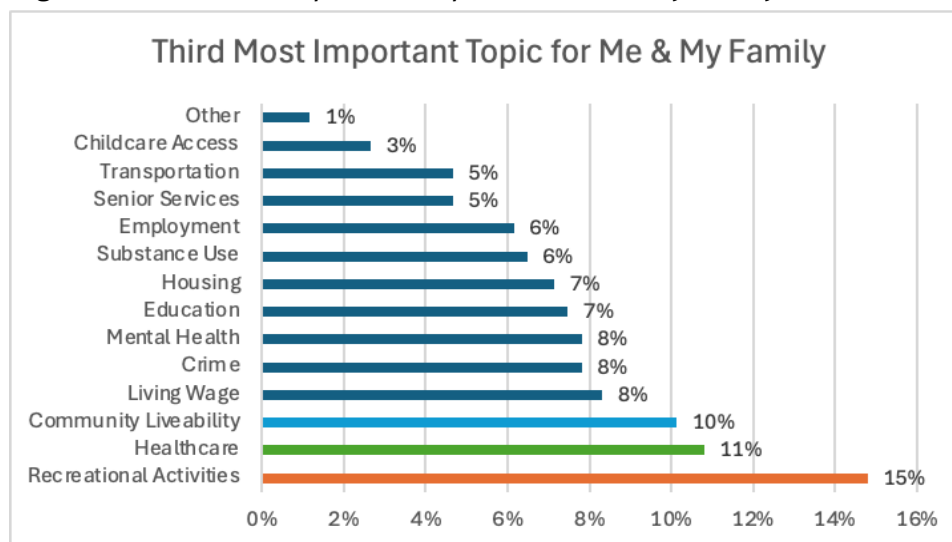
Top Three Topics	Frequency (N)	%
Community Liveability	215	12%
Healthcare	203	11%
Living Wage	202	11%
Recreational Activities	199	11%
Crime	151	8%
Mental Health	143	8%
Housing	131	7%
Employment	130	7%
Education	118	6%
Substance Use	100	6%
Senior Services	95	5%
Transportation	62	3%
Childcare Access	50	3%
Other	18	1%
Total	**1817**	**100%**

Figure 8. Top Three Most Important Topics for Me and My Family
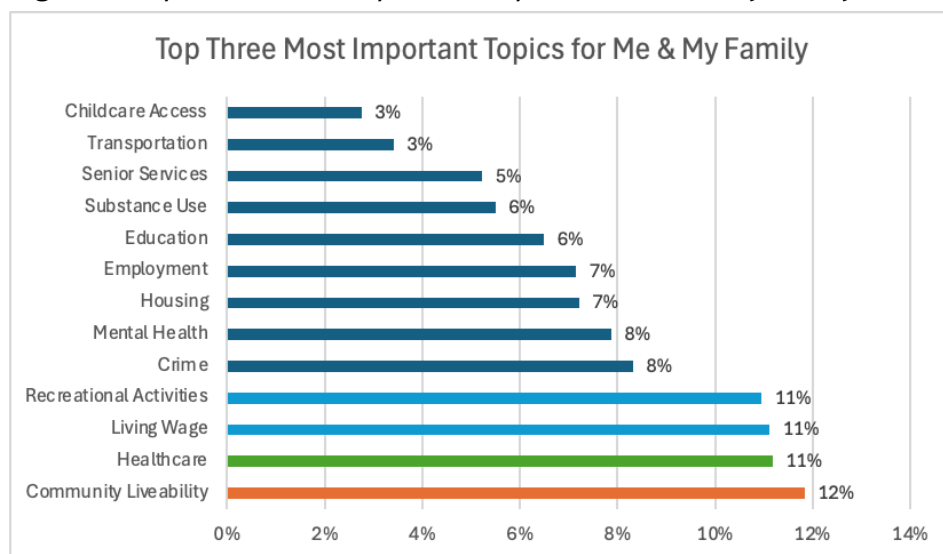
Does the ranking shift if limited to Parkersburg residents only?

No, the rankings do not change. The vast majority of survey respondents (N = 576, 93%) are Parkersburg residents. Limiting the sample to Parkersburg residents only does not shift the overall results. The order in which topics are ranked–for both the community and what most impacts the respondent and their family–is the same among the whole sample and limiting the sample to only those who live in Parkersburg.

Civic Engagement

Almost **half of respondents (44%) contacted or visited a public official**–at any level of government–to express their opinion in the past 12 months. About **two out of every five respondents (38%)** got together with people from their neighborhood to do an **act of service** in the community within the past year. In the past 12 months, **one out of every four (24%) respondents attended a public meeting**, such as a school board meeting, city council meeting, or zoning meeting, to discuss a local issue.

Figure 10. Civic Engagement in the Past 12 Months
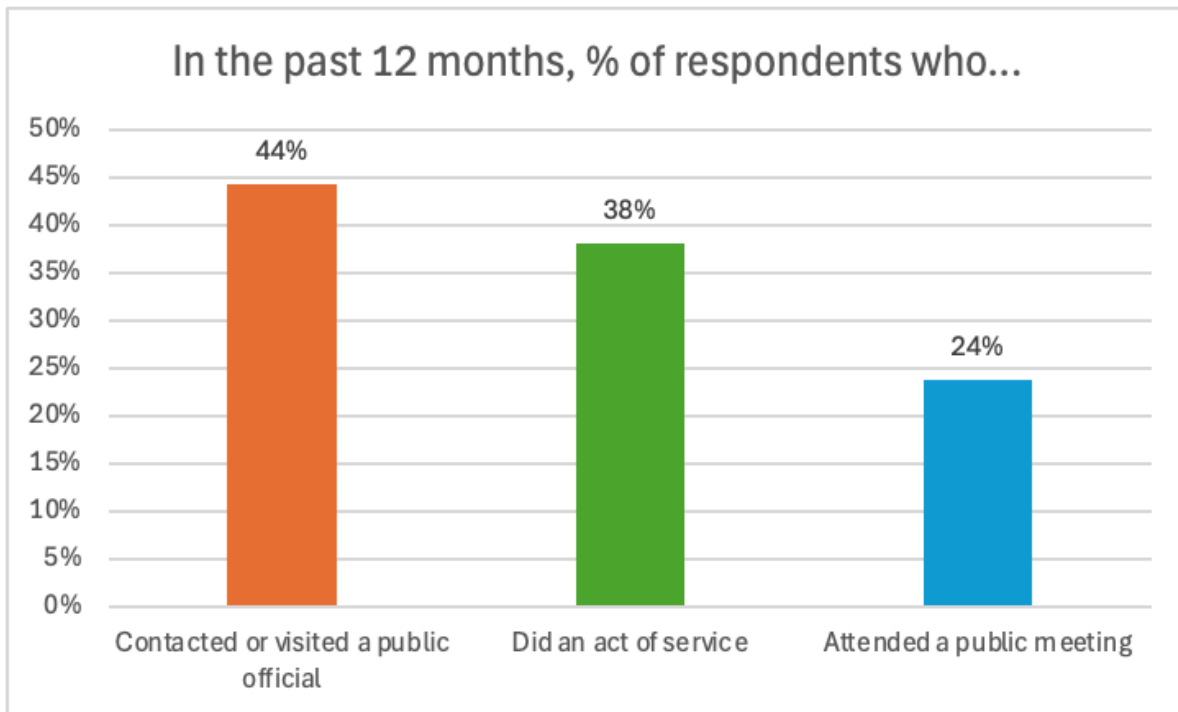
In the past 12 months, **one third (32%)** of respondents discussed political, societal, or local issues with their friends, family, or neighbors **nearly every day**. Another **third (32%)** of respondents discussed these issues a **few times a week**. A **majority of respondents (80%)** discussed political, societal, or local issues with their friends, family, or neighbors **at least a few times a month, with most of those people (64%) doing so at least a few times a week**.

8% of respondents do **not** discuss political, societal, or local issues with their friends, family, or neighbors.

Figure 11. Frequency of Discussing Political, Societal, or Local Issues with Friends, Family, or Neighbors
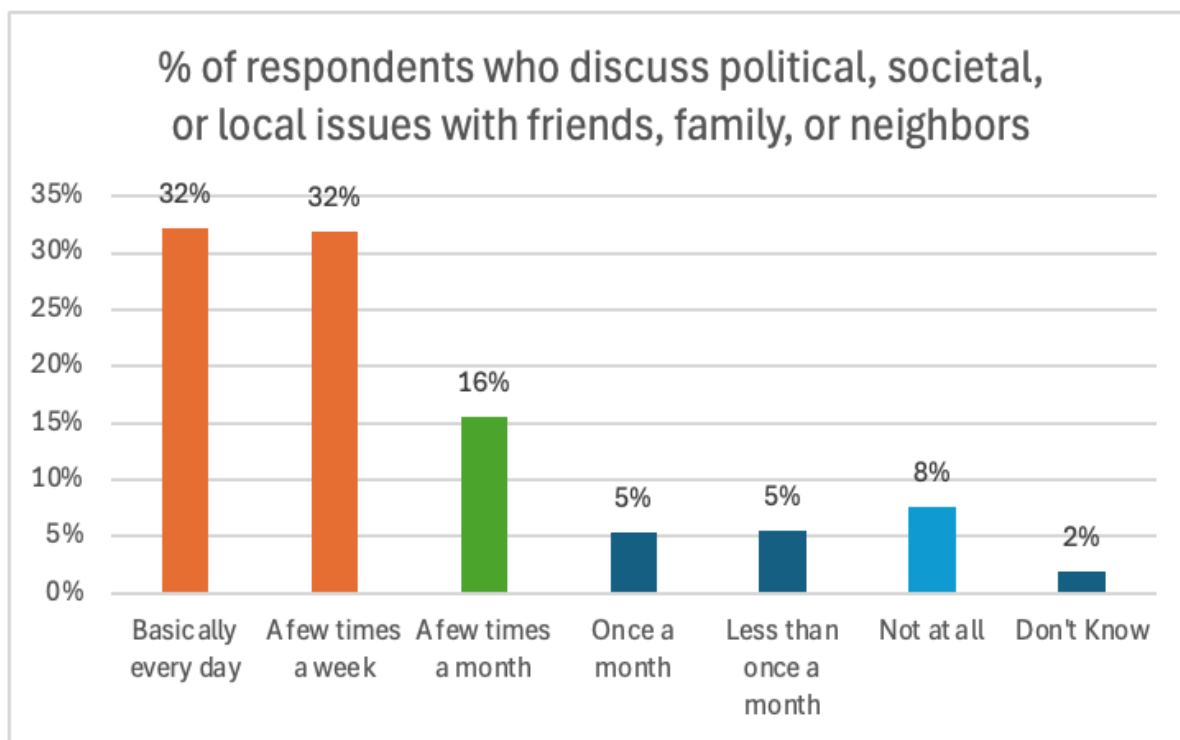
Bridging

Most respondents (63%) agree or somewhat agree (30%) that it's **important to understand Americans with other political views** by imagining how things look from their perspective. The **majority of respondents** agree (45%) or somewhat agree (34%) that they **felt comfortable talking with community members who had different points of view** to better understand each other. **Most respondents** agree (54%) or somewhat agree (36%) that they can **contribute to a community that promotes collaboration** between people who disagree.

Compared to the other three bridging questions, respondents had more **divergent views** on whether **people in Parkersburg respect others who do not share their values**: 9% strongly agree, 28% somewhat agree, but over half somewhat disagree (35%) or strongly disagree (28%).

Figure 12. Bridging-Related Perspectives on Parkersburg
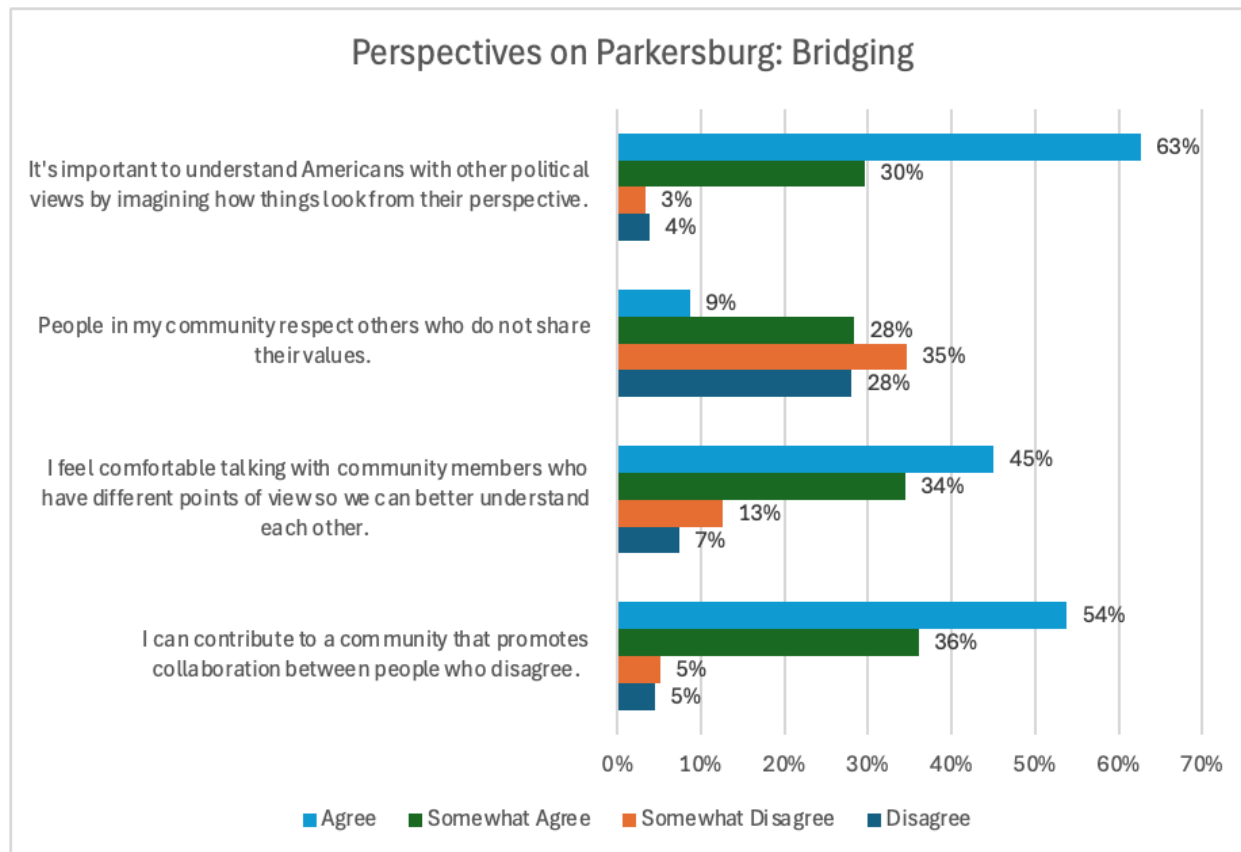
Individual Efficacy and Agency

More than half of respondents agree (38%) or somewhat agree (37%) that when the community faces problems, **people can work together to implement solutions**. However, the results are mixed about **influencing city government decision-making in Parkersburg: more than half disagree (36%) or somewhat disagree (27%)**, while 29% somewhat agree[2].

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[2] Question 11, "I am able to influence city government decision-making in Parkersburg," had one of the highest non-response rates in this section, with 8 people (1% of respondents) leaving it blank.

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Figure 13. Individual Efficacy and Agency
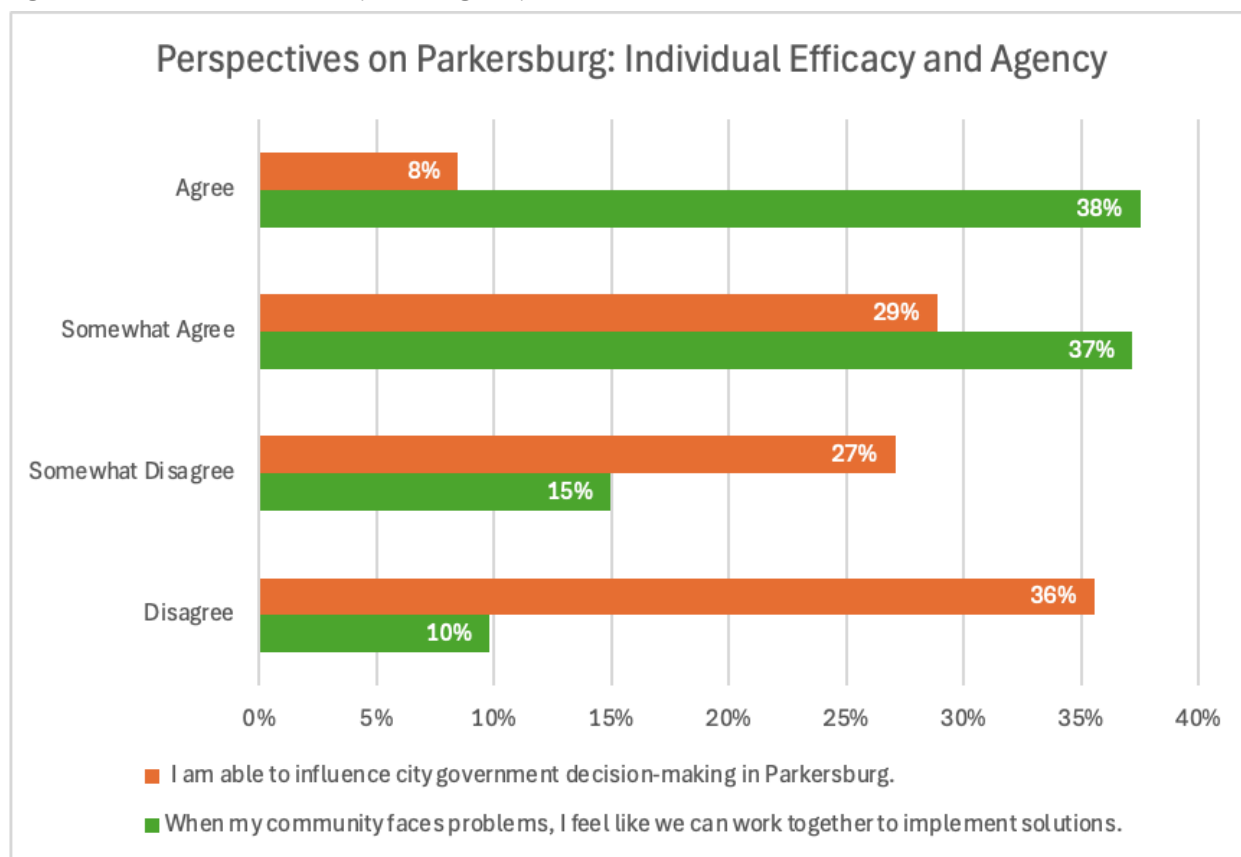
Understanding Others and Social Cohesion

Most respondents agree (35%) or somewhat agree (44%) that **community members whose opinions and backgrounds differ** from the respondent are also committed to helping the community thrive. Similarly, **most respondents** agree (24%) or somewhat agree (48%) that they **trust individuals** within the community whose opinions and backgrounds differ from their own. However, the results were **mixed for whether respondents feel understood** by community members whose opinions and backgrounds differ from their own: 11% agree, 38% somewhat agree, 30% somewhat disagree, and 21% disagree.

Figure 14. Understanding Others and Social Cohesion
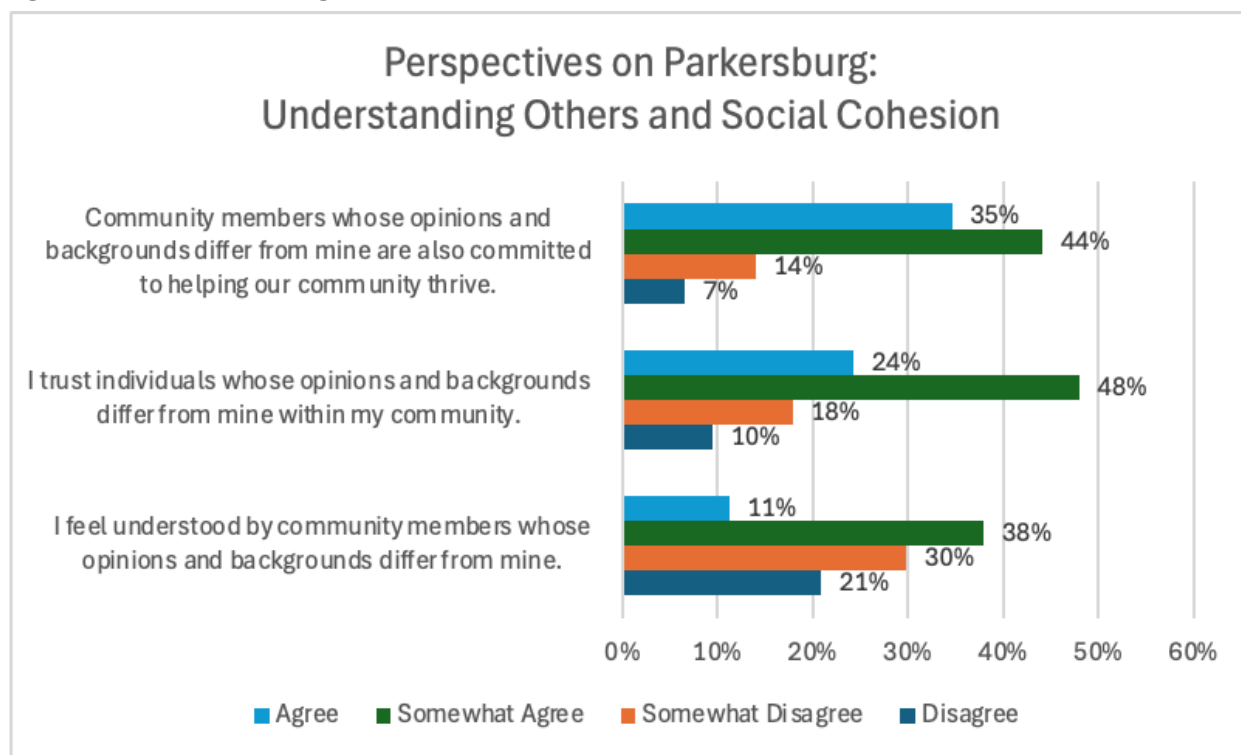
Demographics

The majority of respondents (N = 576, 93%) live in Parkersburg[3]. Of the 44 people whose primary residence is outside of Parkersburg, 41 provided their zip codes:

Table 10. Zip Codes of Respondents Who Do Not Live in Parkersburg

N	Zip Code and Town
1	25428: Clendenin, WV
1	25260: Eskdale, WV
1	25261: Ethel, WV
1	25312: Charleston, WV
3	26101: Parkersburg, WV[4]
5	26104: Parkersburg, WV[3]
11	26105: Vienna, WV

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[3] Three people left this question blank.
[4] There are residents who live outside of the Parkersburg geographical boundaries but whose zip codes are affiliated with the Parkersburg post office.

1	26148: Rockport, WV
3	26150: Mineral Wells, Weekleys, Beulah Hill, and Lucky, WV
1	26169: Walker, WV
2	26181: Washington, Lubeck, Blennerhassett, Wesley, Eli, and New England, WV
1	26187: Waverly, WV
1	26362: Middlebourne, WV
4	45714: Belpre and Dunham, OH
3	45750: Marietta, OH
1	45761: Newport, OH
1	90028: Hollywood, CA

Figure 15. Respondent Age

Respondents are **diverse in age, with the majority falling between 25 and 64 years old**. One respondent was under the age of 18.
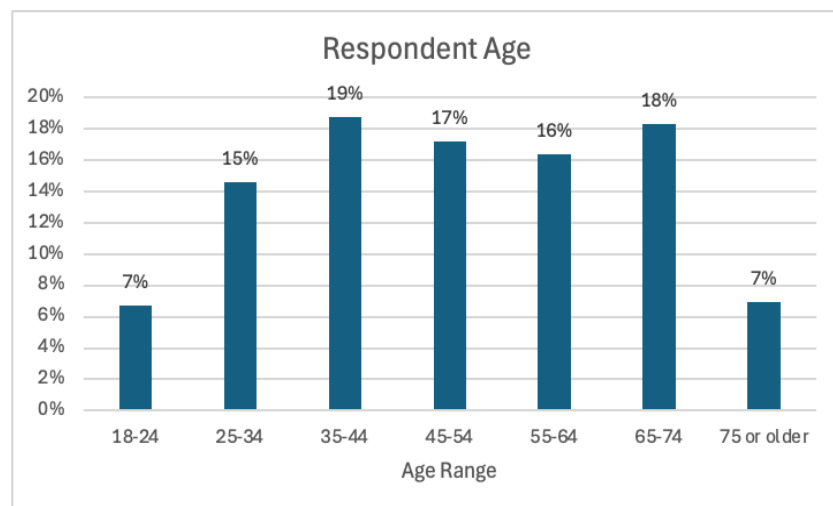
Figure 16. Respondent Gender
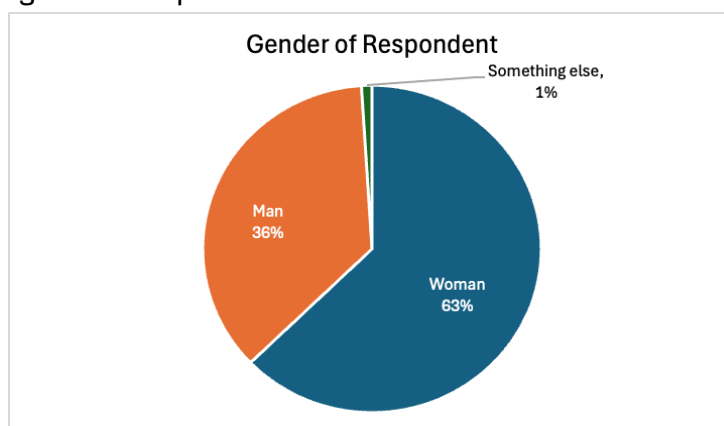
Most of the survey respondents identified as **women (63%)**, with 36% identifying as men; 1 % of respondents identified as something other than a man or woman[5].

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[5] The gender question on the survey was write-in.

Figure 17. Respondent Race/Ethnicity

The vast **majority of respondents (97%) are White**, and 2% are multiracial[6].
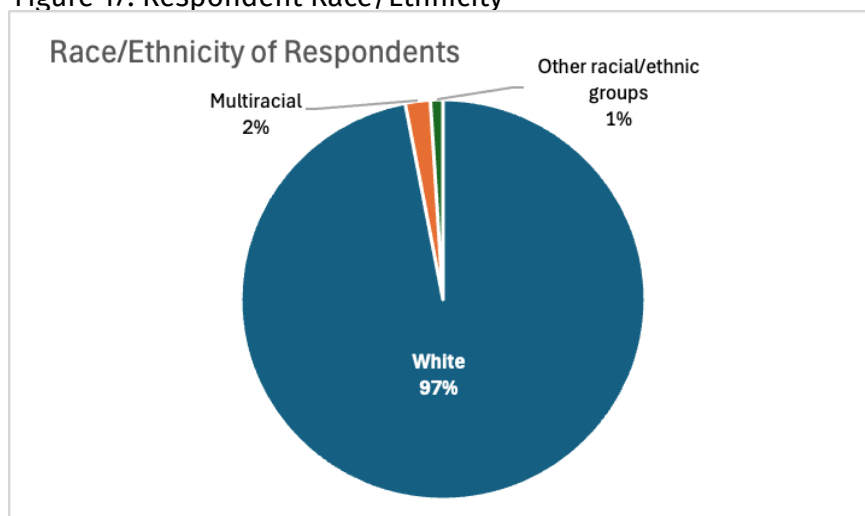
Figure 18. Respondent Highest Level of Education
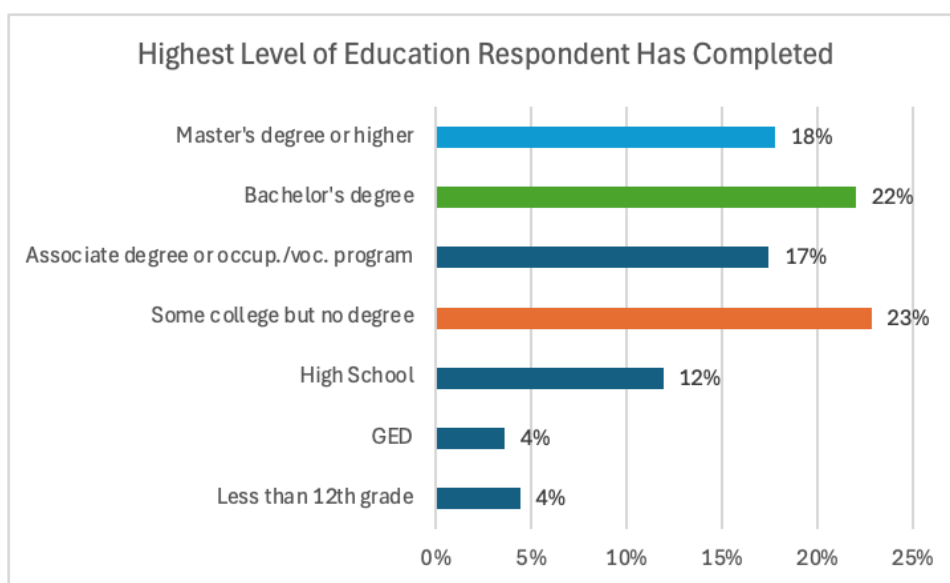
Respondents have a range of educational statuses[7]. About **one in four (23%) of respondents have completed some college**, **22% have a Bachelor's degree**, and **18% have a Master's degree** or higher.

Overall, the demographics of survey respondents are similar to the Parkersburg population. Census data[8] indicates that Parkersburg residents are:
- 51% female
- 94% White, 4% two or more races, and 2% Hispanic or Latino
- 86% have a High School diploma or higher and 19% have a Bachelor's degree or higher

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[6] 12 respondents (2%) left the race/ethnicity question blank.
[7] 10 respondents (2%) left the education level question blank.
[8] Source: https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/parkersburgcitywestvirginia/PST045223 Census data as of July 1, 2024 (most recent available at time of analysis) accessed on April 24, 2025.

Open-Ended Respondent Comments

237 people left comments in response to the *"Is there anything else you want to share with the PEP Steering Committee?"* question at the end of the survey. Responses can be summarized into six themes: substance abuse and homelessness, community dissatisfaction and government concerns, streets and appearance, economic challenges, safety and crime, and community division.

Substance Abuse and Homelessness

The prevalence of substance abuse in Parkersburg, its connection to homelessness, and the perceived negative impact of rehab centers on the community. Respondents express frustration with the rise in crime and safety concerns they attribute to these issues. Some of the comments included:

Please figure out a way to make the drug rehab centers accountable. They cannot "treat and street" the people who are shipped in to their facilities. This isn't working. It is making so many issues worse and many of our areas in town are undesirable for families to live or businesses to build due to the constant crime issues.

Why are people leaving Parkersburg? Drugs, homeless people, no good jobs.

Homelessness & drugs are seeming to get worse.

There is a bit of a drug problem as well. The "rehab center" downtown in Parkersburg is a waste of money and space. Those addicts are bussed here from wherever and get released to probably go back.

Community Dissatisfaction and Government Concerns

Many responses indicate a general dissatisfaction with the direction of Parkersburg. This includes feelings that city officials are unresponsive, corrupt, or out of touch with the needs of the community. There are complaints about the lack of public forums and limited avenues for citizens to express their concerns. Some of the comments include:

The city council needs to be cleaned out and replaced with caring individuals whose primary concerns are not lining their pockets.

The City councilmen have taken away public forum so the community cannot address the issues that actually matter. I am an advocate for those people.

The city and county are politically corrupt and have no understanding of the voters needs or desires nor do they care. The local governments have failed its constituents in so many ways.

Something has to be done with corrupt City Council Members and mayor.

Parkersburg needs to be revitalized and the sense of community and safety brought back. It's hard to be hopeful about the future when there aren't many opportunities in your area and city council members remove the public forum and raise their own salaries before essential workers.

The Parkersburg officials don't seem to care much about the people of Parkersburg. I see a lot of complaints towards officials on Facebook. This city could be a thriving one but it doesn't seem that's any concern to officials.

It is important that community leaders are responsive to all members of society- serving the least of these - not just affluent or home owners who complain about "not in my back yard" issues.

Streets and Appearance

Many people noted the need for infrastructure repair of roads, sidewalks, and general blight. Respondents mention issues like potholes, lighting, litter, abandoned houses, and the general upkeep of the city.

One of my biggest concerns is the appearance of Parkersburg. Weeds everywhere in the summer, filthy streets and potholes in the winter. The curbs are in terrible condition.

I'm embarrassed by the junk/trash outside my nice neighborhood at Stonebrook Dr. City keeps promising to do something about it but it is still there. Would like to see more sidewalks as I walk a lot in the city. Would like to see street parking addressed. Often can't drive on streets that are congested with parked cars.

If the city invested more in landscaping, litter collection, street maintenance and clearing of abandoned houses then communities would be safer and they would commit more to upkeeping of their properties too

Sidewalks and lighting on Murdoch and Emerson Ave are terrible. Clean it up and modernize. Too many vacant old factory buildings around. Tear them down or get businesses to occupy them.

I think making Parkersburg more walking and biking friendly would be an inexpensive improvement that would improve quality of life for people across economic and social classes.

Economic Challenges

Several responses highlight economic issues, such as the lack of good-paying jobs, limited opportunities, and the struggle to attract and retain residents and businesses.

We could have better jobs in this area but that doesn't seem to be a part of the agenda. New businesses can't seem to stay open like people hope. That's understandable due to the lack of

decent jobs and wages in the area. It's very hard to live in West Virginia although it's one of the cheapest states to live in. Nobody wants to come live here because there's no initiative to make anyone want to come here and live. Sometimes I wish I didn't live here in Parkersburg.

We need better paying jobs. Diversity is also needed in Parkersburg.

Concern about the decline in good jobs, urban decay, drugs. Good people here but need better income opportunities

I think Parkersburg is a good place to live, however I fear that limited economic opportunity and social politics are driving away young people.

Safety and Crime

Some respondents expressed feelings of insecurity and concerns about crime, often linked to drug-related issues but also as a broader concern for community safety.

Parkersburg needs to be revitalized and the sense of community and safety brought back. It's hard to be hopeful about the future when there aren't many opportunities in your area and city council members remove the public forum and raise their own salaries

A serious attempt to address the drug problem and homeless people in our community. These recovery facilities have brought people into our community that has increased crime and drug activity.

Although substance abuse treatment centers are needed, I feel that we have too many located in our area. Once these people are discharged from rehab, many stay here and the rate of relapse is incredibly high and thus the rate of crime increases. Please do not allow more of these centers to be opened here.

Crime and drugs make a major impact in how livable a home is. And with children is a major issue in the area I live in.

Parkersburg is being overrun by homeless people who commit crimes. These people are not being held accountable for their actions when caught and it is not discouraging them from doing the same actions, or worse, in the future.

Community Division

Some respondents talk about a decline in community spirit, a lack of unity, and a growing division among residents, sometimes along political lines

The community is very divided. It's hard to discuss anything when people don't fact check and just follow their group.

I find it hard to find ways to help our community.

Moved to Parkersburg 50 years ago from New York, I had three children and thought it was the perfect community to raise children. Not so much now. I feel like it's gone down hill a lot.

People in my community are so fast & quick to point fingers

How to get those with differing political viewpoints to respect each other

Data Collection & Methodology

621 people completed the survey

- 373 (60%) completed online
- 248 (40%) completed a paper copy
- **Sample size**: Based on the Parkersburg population of 29,025 people[9], a Confidence Level of 95%, 5% margin of error, and population proportion of 50%, a statistically representative sample size is 380 people. This is estimated using a sample size calculator and confirmed with the Qualtrics calculator. 621 people completing the survey provides sufficient sample size to be reasonably confident that findings are representative of the broader Parkersburg community.
- The survey was fielded online and in person from February 8 - April 2, 2025. In addition to distributing the survey at community events, all households in Parkersburg received a mailer with the survey (see Appendix 4), inviting them to complete the paper copy and to mail it back or to complete it online via a listed URL and QR code. The listed due date was March 29, 2025.

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[9] Population estimate as of July 1, 2023—the most recent data available in February 2025 when the survey was being fielded. Source:
https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/parkersburgcitywestvirginia/PST045223

Figure 19. How Respondent Heard About Survey
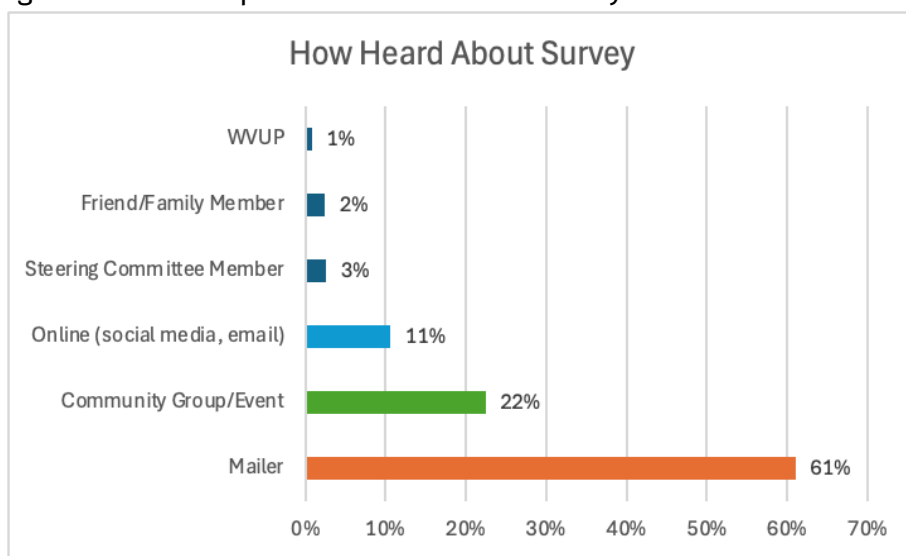
As Figure 19 and Table 11 show, most respondents (61%, N = 373) heard about the survey from the mailer that was sent to each Parkersburg household. About one in four respondents (22%, N = 137) heard about the survey at a community group or event, and 11% heard about it online.

Table 11. How Respondent Heard About Survey

How Heard About Survey	Frequency (N)	%
Mailer	373	61%
Community Group/Event	137	22%
Online (social media, email)	65	11%
Steering Committee Member	16	3%
Friend/Family Member	15	2%
WVUP	5	1%
Total	**611**	**100%**

Strategies for Missing Data

Because the online survey forced completion of questions, all of the missing data is on paper surveys.

The most missing data is on the questions that asked respondents to rank the three topics that most impact the community and their own lives. 30 respondents (<5%) did not rank the topics that most impact the community and 25 respondents (4%) did not rank the topics that most impact themself and their family. Some left the questions blank while others placed a "x" next to a varying number of topics instead of numerically ranking them.

- For the first question on the topics that most impact the community, of the 30 respondents who did not rank the topics:
  - 7 were left blank. There is no data from those questions to analyze.
  - 8 checked more than three topics (some checked almost all of the listed topics). The data from those questions are not included in the analysis.
  - 15 put a checkmark next to three topics but did not rank them. Those are added into the frequency distribution of the top three categories in alphabetical order by topic listed. For example, if the respondent put a check mark next to Community Liveability, Recreational Activities, and Substance Use, those are counted as their first, second, and third ranked choices respectively.
- For the second question on the topics that most impact the respondent and their family, of the 25 respondents who did not rank the topics:
  - 8 were left blank. There is no data from those questions to analyze.
  - 4 checked more than three topics (some checked almost all of the listed topics). The data from those questions are not included in the analysis.
  - 13 put a checkmark next to three topics but did not rank them. Those are added into the frequency distribution of the top three categories in alphabetical order by topic listed. For example, if the respondent put a check mark next to Community Liveability, Recreational Activities, and Substance Use, those are counted as their first, second, and third ranked choices respectively.
- Across both questions, a few respondents only selected two topics instead of three. Those are included as the respondent's first and second choice, and the third ranked choice is blank and therefore not included in analysis.

Appendix 1. Results by Age

In the below tables, green colored cells represent results that are higher than the overall average (>4%) and orange colored cells represent results that are lower than the overall average (<4%). The average for the entire survey sample is in the "total" row at the bottom of each table. Brief analytic notes follow each table.

Topic that Most Impacts the Community

Age of Resp.	Child. Access	Comm. Live.	Crime	Educ	Employ	Health	Hous-ing	Living Wage	Mental Health	Other	Rec. Act.	Senior Serv.	Subst. Use	Transp.	Total
18-24	2%	0%	10%	7%	12%	5%	7%	19%	12%	0%	7%	0%	19%	0%	100%
25-34	4%	4%	4%	8%	6%	3%	9%	22%	9%	0%	8%	0%	19%	3%	100%
35-44	4%	8%	4%	9%	11%	4%	18%	12%	9%	3%	4%	0%	15%	0%	100%
45-54	0%	8%	11%	6%	18%	5%	8%	12%	9%	0%	4%	1%	16%	1%	100%
55-64	3%	11%	11%	1%	19%	3%	18%	6%	6%	2%	3%	3%	13%	0%	100%
65-74	2%	13%	15%	6%	12%	2%	16%	9%	5%	1%	1%	2%	16%	0%	100%
75 or older	3%	11%	28%	11%	3%	14%	3%	3%	0%	3%	0%	8%	11%	3%	100%
Total	**3%**	**9%**	**11%**	**6%**	**12%**	**4%**	**13%**	**12%**	**7%**	**1%**	**4%**	**2%**	**16%**	**1%**	**100%**

- Young people (ages 18-24) were more likely to select living wage and mental health as the topics that most impact the community.
- Crime was less important to younger respondents (ages 25-44) and more likely to be named as the top issue for older respondents (ages 65+).
- Employment was less likely to be selected as the top issue impacting the community for 25-34 year olds, and more likely to be the top issue for respondents aged 45-64.
- Living wage was more likely to be the top issue for younger people (ages 18-34) and less likely to be the top issue for older people (ages 55+).

Topic that Most Impacts Respondent and Their Family

Age of Resp.	Child. Access	Comm. Live.	Crime	Educ	Employ	Health	Hous- ing	Living Wage	Mental Health	Other	Rec. Act.	Senior Serv.	Subst. Use	Transp.	Total
18-24	7%	5%	0%	7%	7%	10%	5%	31%	17%	0%	5%	0%	7%	0%	100%
25-34	9%	6%	2%	2%	8%	9%	10%	26%	9%	0%	10%	0%	3%	7%	100%
35-44	4%	10%	5%	11%	9%	7%	8%	20%	9%	1%	6%	0%	7%	4%	100%
45-54	2%	14%	6%	4%	12%	16%	5%	11%	9%	1%	7%	4%	8%	3%	100%
55-64	2%	16%	6%	3%	11%	20%	8%	9%	0%	3%	8%	8%	2%	2%	100%
65-74	0%	31%	9%	2%	7%	13%	6%	5%	3%	1%	7%	12%	4%	0%	100%
75 or older	3%	22%	25%	3%	0%	17%	0%	3%	3%	3%	0%	11%	8%	3%	100%
Total	**3%**	**15%**	**7%**	**5%**	**9%**	**13%**	**7%**	**15%**	**6%**	**1%**	**7%**	**5%**	**5%**	**3%**	**100%**

- Community liveability is less likely to be the top issue for younger respondents (age 18-44) and more likely to be the top issue for respondents age 65+
- Healthcare is less likely to be the top issue for respondents aged 35-44 and more likely to be the top issue for respondents aged 55-64.
- Young people (ages 18-44) are more likely to list living wage as the topic that most impacts them, while older people (those 55 and older) are less likely to list living wage as the topic that most impacts them.
- Respondents aged 65 and older are more likely to list senior services as the topic that most impacts them and their families.

Q3. I feel comfortable talking with community members who have different points of view so we can better understand each other.

Age of Respondents	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Total
18-24	10%	14%	48%	29%	100%
25-34	8%	10%	41%	42%	100%
35-44	8%	15%	23%	55%	100%
45-54	8%	12%	29%	50%	100%
55-64	7%	16%	45%	32%	100%
65-74	6%	12%	33%	48%	100%
75 or older	7%	2%	36%	55%	100%
Total	**7%**	**12%**	**35%**	**45%**	**100%**

- Young people (18-34) are more likely to somewhat agree, while respondents aged 35-54 are more likely to agree.

Q4. I can contribute to a community that promotes collaboration between people who disagree.

Age of Respondents	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Total
17 or younger	0%	0%	100%	0%	100%
18-24	7%	7%	36%	50%	100%
25-34	3%	3%	34%	59%	100%
35-44	4%	3%	33%	59%	100%
45-54	2%	8%	34%	57%	100%
55-64	7%	3%	38%	52%	100%
65-74	4%	6%	39%	51%	100%
75 or older	7%	10%	39%	44%	100%
Total	**4%**	**5%**	**36%**	**54%**	**100%**

- Younger respondents (ages 18-24) are less likely to agree, while those aged 25-44 are more likely to agree.
- Older respondents (age 75+) are more likely to somewhat disagree and less likely to agree.

Q5. When my community faces problems, I feel like we can work together to implement solutions.

Age of Respondent	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Total
17 or younger	0%	0%	0%	100%	100%
18-24	5%	24%	29%	43%	100%
25-34	13%	16%	33%	37%	100%
35-44	8%	16%	30%	46%	100%
45-54	9%	15%	37%	38%	100%
55-64	10%	16%	48%	26%	100%
65-74	11%	12%	45%	32%	100%
75 or older	12%	5%	31%	52%	100%
Total	**10%**	**15%**	**37%**	**38%**	**100%**

- Results for ages 18-24 are very mixed; they're less likely to disagree, more likely to somewhat disagree, less likely to somewhat agree, and more likely to agree.
- Respondents aged 55-74 are more likely to somewhat agree, less likely to agree.
- Older respondents (age 75+) are less likely to somewhat agree, more likely to agree.

Q6. People in my community respect others who do not share their values.

Age of Respondent	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Total
17 or younger	0%	0%	100%	0%	100%
18-24	21%	38%	33%	7%	100%
25-34	45%	26%	22%	7%	100%
35-44	25%	37%	27%	11%	100%
45-54	25%	37%	27%	10%	100%
55-64	23%	41%	30%	6%	100%
65-74	34%	32%	26%	7%	100%
75 or older	12%	26%	45%	17%	100%
Total	**28%**	**35%**	**29%**	**9%**	**100%**

- Younger respondents (ages 18-24) are less likely to disagree, more likely to somewhat agree, while those between the ages of 25-34 are more likely to disagree, and less likely to somewhat disagree and somewhat agree.
- Respondents between the ages of 55-64 are less likely to disagree and more likely to somewhat disagree.
- Older respondents (age 75+) are less likely to disagree and somewhat disagree and more likely to somewhat agree and agree.

Q7. I feel understood by community members whose opinions and backgrounds differ from mine.

Age of Respondent	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Total
17 or younger	0%	100%	0%	0%	100%
18-24	7%	48%	33%	12%	100%
25-34	32%	33%	22%	13%	100%
35-44	22%	26%	36%	16%	100%
45-54	20%	34%	35%	12%	100%
55-64	18%	31%	47%	4%	100%
65-74	23%	24%	44%	9%	100%
75 or older	10%	20%	56%	15%	100%
Total	**21%**	**30%**	**38%**	**11%**	**100%**

- Young people (ages 18-24) are less likely to disagree and somewhat agree, but more likely to somewhat disagree.

- Respondents aged 25-34 are more likely to disagree and less likely to somewhat agree.
- Respondents older than age 55 are more likely to somewhat agree and less likely to somewhat disagree or disagree.

Q8. I trust individuals whose opinions and backgrounds differ from mine within my community.

Age of Respondent	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Total
17 or younger	0%	0%	100%	0%	100%
18-24	10%	10%	50%	31%	100%
25-34	9%	24%	44%	23%	100%
35-44	6%	15%	48%	31%	100%
45-54	12%	19%	48%	21%	100%
55-64	11%	15%	56%	19%	100%
65-74	11%	24%	40%	25%	100%
75 or older	7%	10%	60%	24%	100%
Total	**10%**	**18%**	**48%**	**24%**	**100%**

- Young people (ages 18-24) are less likely to somewhat disagree and more likely to agree, while those aged 25-34 are more likely to somewhat disagree.
- Older respondents between ages 55-64 are more likely to somewhat agree and less likely to agree.

Q9. Community members whose opinions and backgrounds differ from mine are also committed to helping our community thrive.

Age of Respondent	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Total
17 or younger	0%	0%	100%	0%	100%
18-24	2%	14%	43%	40%	100%
25-34	8%	19%	38%	35%	100%
35-44	5%	12%	42%	41%	100%
45-54	6%	11%	50%	34%	100%
55-64	9%	11%	48%	32%	100%
65-74	7%	18%	46%	30%	100%
75 or older	7%	12%	41%	39%	100%
Total	**7%**	**14%**	**45%**	**35%**	**100%**

- Younger respondents (ages 18-24) are less likely to disagree and more likely to agree.

- Respondents aged 25-34 are more likely to somewhat disagree and less likely to somewhat agree.

Q10. It's important to understand Americans with other political views by imagining how things look from their perspective.

Age of Respondent	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Total
17 or younger	0%	0%	100%	0%	100%
18-24	5%	0%	31%	64%	100%
25-34	7%	0%	23%	70%	100%
35-44	1%	4%	30%	65%	100%
45-54	4%	6%	31%	59%	100%
55-64	5%	3%	33%	59%	100%
65-74	4%	3%	29%	65%	100%
75 or older	5%	10%	29%	57%	100%
Total	**4%**	**3%**	**30%**	**63%**	**100%**

- Respondents age 25-34 are less likely to somewhat agree and more likely to agree.

Q11. I am able to influence city government decision-making in Parkersburg.

Age of Respondent	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Total
17 or younger	100%	0%	0%	0%	100%
18-24	24%	24%	31%	21%	100%
25-34	34%	27%	31%	8%	100%
35-44	33%	29%	27%	10%	100%
45-54	33%	25%	34%	8%	100%
55-64	42%	29%	25%	5%	100%
65-74	37%	31%	26%	6%	100%
75 or older	38%	21%	33%	8%	100%
Total	**35%**	**27%**	**29%**	**9%**	**100%**

- Young people (respondents aged 18-24) are less likely to disagree and more likely to agree.

Q12a. In the past 12 months, did you attend a public meeting, such as a school board meeting, city council meeting, or zoning meeting, to discuss a local issue?

Age of Respondent	Yes	No	Don't Know	Total
18-24	10%	86%	5%	100%
25-34	18%	80%	2%	100%
35-44	26%	74%	0%	100%
45-54	21%	77%	2%	100%
55-64	29%	71%	0%	100%
65-74	29%	69%	2%	100%
75 or older	24%	71%	5%	100%
Total	**24%**	**75%**	**2%**	**100%**

- Younger people (age 18-34) are less likely to have attended a public meeting; older people (age 55-74) are more likely.

Q12b. In the past 12 months, did you contact or visit a public official – at any level of government – to express your opinion?

Age of Respondent	Yes	No	Don't Know	Total
18-24	31%	67%	2%	100%
25-34	30%	70%	0%	100%
35-44	39%	59%	2%	100%
45-54	35%	63%	2%	100%
55-64	54%	46%	0%	100%
65-74	62%	37%	1%	100%
75 or older	57%	40%	2%	100%
Total	**44%**	**54%**	**1%**	**100%**

- People under age 55 are less likely to have contacted or visited a public official, while people aged 55 and older are more likely.

Q13. In the past 12 months, how often did you discuss political, societal, or local issues with friends, family, or your neighbors?

Age of Respondent	Basically every day	A few times a week	A few times a month	Less than once a month	Once a month	Not at all	Don't Know	Total
18-24	29%	31%	12%	2%	5%	19%	2%	100%
25-34	41%	24%	11%	8%	5%	10%	1%	100%
35-44	29%	32%	20%	4%	4%	10%	1%	100%
45-54	29%	34%	16%	6%	5%	9%	2%	100%
55-64	33%	33%	16%	6%	6%	3%	3%	100%
65-74	35%	34%	16%	5%	4%	4%	3%	100%
75 or older	21%	37%	16%	7%	14%	2%	2%	100%
Total	**32%**	**32%**	**16%**	**6%**	**5%**	**8%**	**2%**	**100%**

- Respondents aged 18-24 are more likely not to discuss issues at all.
- Respondents aged 25-34 are more likely to discuss issues every day and less likely to discuss issues a few times a week or few times a month.
- People ages 55-64 and 75+ are less likely to not discuss issues at all.
- People aged 75+ are less likely to discuss issues every day and more likely to discuss issues a few times a week or once a month.

Q14. In the past 12 months, did you get together with other people from your neighborhood to do an act of service for your neighborhood or the community?

Age of Respondent	Yes	No	Don't Know	Total
18-24	33%	64%	2%	100%
25-34	35%	62%	3%	100%
35-44	47%	50%	3%	100%
45-54	43%	52%	5%	100%
55-64	39%	59%	2%	100%
65-74	31%	67%	3%	100%
75 or older	30%	63%	7%	100%
Total	**38%**	**59%**	**3%**	**100%**

- The youngest (age 18-24) and oldest (age 65+) respondents are less likely to have done an act of service than those aged 35-54.

Appendix 2. Results by Gender

In the below tables, green colored cells represent results that are higher than the overall average (>4%) and orange colored cells represent results that are lower than the overall average (<4%). The average for the entire survey sample is in the "total" column at the bottom of each table. Brief analytic notes follow each table.

Overall, men and women responded to the survey in very similar ways. There were very few gender differences across responses. The tables listed below are the *only survey questions that showed small gender differences*; the rest of the questions had no meaningful differences by gender.

Topic that Most Impacts the Community

Gender	Child. Access	Comm. Live.	Crime	Educ	Employ	Health	Hous- ing	Living Wage	Mental Health	Other	Rec. Act.	Senior Serv.	Subst. Use	Transp.	Total
Men	0%	8%	12%	7%	20%	6%	10%	10%	6%	1%	5%	1%	14%	0%	**100%**
Women	4%	9%	8%	7%	9%	3%	16%	14%	9%	1%	3%	2%	17%	1%	**100%**
Total	**2%**	**8%**	**10%**	**7%**	**13%**	**4%**	**13%**	**12%**	**8%**	**1%**	**4%**	**2%**	**16%**	**1%**	**100%**

- Compared to the overall average, men were more likely to say that employment was the top issue impacting the community.

Q8. I trust individuals whose opinions and backgrounds differ from mine within my community.

Gender	Disagree	Somewh. Disagree	Somew. Agree	Agree	Total
Men	10%	19%	43%	28%	**100%**
Women	7%	17%	53%	23%	**100%**
Total	**8%**	**18%**	**49%**	**25%**	**100%**

- Compared to the overall average, men were less likely to somewhat agree and women were more likely to somewhat agree.

Q9. Community members whose opinions and backgrounds differ from mine are also committed to helping our community thrive.

Gender	Disagree	Somewh. Disagree	Somewh. Agree	Agree	Total
Men	8%	16%	46%	31%	100%
Women	4%	13%	44%	38%	100%
Total	**5%**	**14%**	**45%**	**36%**	**100%**

- Compared to the overall average, men are less likely to agree.

Q10. It's important to understand Americans with other political views by imagining how things look from their perspective.

Gender	Disagree	Somewh. Disagree	Somewh. Agree	Agree	Total
Men	3%	4%	34%	59%	100%
Women	2%	2%	27%	68%	100%
Total	**3%**	**3%**	**30%**	**65%**	**100%**

- Compared to the overall average, men are less likely to agree and more likely to somewhat agree.

Q12b. In the past 12 months, did you contact or visit a public official – at any level of government – to express your opinion?

Gender	Yes	No	Don't Know	Total
Men	50%	50%	0%	100%
Women	42%	57%	1%	100%
Total	**45%**	**54%**	**1%**	**100%**

- Compared to the overall average, men are more likely to have contacted or visited a public official.

Appendix 3: Survey Handout at Community Events

Parkersburg Engagement Project: Community-Wide Survey

Thank you for taking the time to complete this short survey!

About the **Parkersburg Engagement Project (PEP)**
The **Parkersburg Engagement Project (PEP)** is an effort to support Parkersburg residents to come together and solve a community challenge. The project is happening within the city limits of Parkersburg, West Virginia from January through December 2025. Based on input from the community, we will identify an issue/topic to work on, identify a solution, and implement the solution. This survey is the first step, to help us identify the topic and understand residents' current views.

We will be holding **public community meetings** to discuss the results of the survey and next steps. Learn more and find upcoming opportunities to engage at **pkbengagementproject.org**.

Survey Instructions
The survey should take about **10 minutes** to complete. *All responses will remain confidential, and only summary results will be shared publicly.* **Only complete the survey one time.**

Please complete this survey and mail it back by <u>March 29, 2025</u> **to:**
Wendy Tuck and LIsa Doyle Parsons, Co-Chairs
Parkersburg Engagement Project
PO Box 1643
Parkersburg, WV 26102

Prefer to complete the survey online? Please visit
https://tinyurl.com/pkbsurvey or scan this QR code:

<u>*We ask that you provide your name for project evaluation purposes*</u>. Personal information will not be associated with your answers.

Name:

You are invited to get involved in the Parkersburg Engagement Project! <u>*Providing your contact information is optional*</u>.

___ No, I do not want to be contacted with more information about the project
___ Yes, please contact me with invitations to engage further with the project:
    Email:
    Phone Number:

Sincerely,
Parkersburg Engagement Project Steering Committee

First, we want to know about the issues you think are most important in Parkersburg.

1. Rank the **_three topics that you feel most impact the community_**. *Place a 1 next to the item you think is most important, a 2 next to the item that is second most important, and a 3 next to the item that is third most important.*

    ___ Childcare Access   ___ Living Wage
    ___ Community Liveability   ___ Mental Health
    ___ Crime   ___ Recreational Activities
    ___ Education   ___ Senior Services
    ___ Employment   ___ Substance Use
    ___ Healthcare   ___ Transportation
    ___ Housing   ___ Other: _____

2. Rank the **_three topics that you feel most directly impact you and/or your family._** *Place a 1 next to the item you think is most important, a 2 next to the item that is second most important, and a 3 next to the item that is third most important.*

    ___ Childcare Access   ___ Living Wage
    ___ Community Liveability   ___ Mental Health
    ___ Crime   ___ Recreational Activities
    ___ Education   ___ Senior Services
    ___ Employment   ___ Substance Use
    ___ Healthcare   ___ Transportation
    ___ Housing   ___ Other: _____

Next, we'd like to know about your perspective about living in Parkersburg. *Choose one answer for each question.*

3. **I feel comfortable talking with community members who have different points of view so we can better understand each other.**
   ___ Disagree   ___ Somewhat Disagree   ___ Somewhat Agree   ___ Agree

4. **I can contribute to a community that promotes collaboration between people who disagree.** ___ Disagree   ___ Somewhat Disagree   ___ Somewhat Agree   ___ Agree

5. **When my community faces problems, I feel like we can work together to implement solutions.** ___ Disagree   ___ Somewhat Disagree   ___ Somewhat Agree   ___ Agree

6. **People in my community respect others who do not share their values.**
   ___ Disagree   ___ Somewhat Disagree   ___ Somewhat Agree   ___ Agree

7. **I feel understood by community members whose opinions and backgrounds differ from mine.** ___ Disagree   ___ Somewhat Disagree   ___ Somewhat Agree   ___ Agree

8. **I trust individuals whose opinions and backgrounds differ from mine within my community.**
   ___ Disagree   ___ Somewhat Disagree   ___ Somewhat Agree   ___ Agree

9. **Community members whose opinions and backgrounds differ from mine are also committed to helping our community thrive.**
   ___ Disagree   ___ Somewhat Disagree   ___ Somewhat Agree   ___ Agree

10. **It's important to understand Americans with other political views by imagining how things look from their perspective.**
    ___ Disagree   ___ Somewhat Disagree   ___ Somewhat Agree   ___ Agree

11. **I am able to influence city government decision-making in Parkersburg.**
___ Disagree   ___ Somewhat Disagree   ___ Somewhat Agree   ___ Agree

Next, we'd like to know about your experiences in Parkersburg. Choose one answer for each question.

12. **In the past 12 months, did you…**
    a. **Attend a public meeting, such as a school board meeting, city council meeting, or zoning meeting, to discuss a local issue?**
       ___ Yes   ___ No   ___ Don't Know
    b. **Contact or visit a public official – at any level of government – to express your opinion?** ___ Yes   ___ No   ___ Don't Know

13. **In the past 12 months, how often did you discuss political, societal, or local issues with friends, family, or your neighbors?**
    ___ Basically every day   ___ Once a month   ___ Don't Know
    ___ A few times a week   ___ Less than once a month
    ___ A few times a month ___ Not at all

14. **In the past 12 months, did you get together with other people from your neighborhood to do an act of service for your neighborhood or the community?**
    ___ Yes   ___ No   ___ Don't Know

Finally, we'd like to know a little more about you.

15. **Are you a Parkersburg resident?**
    ___ Yes   ___ No. Please share the zip code you live in: _____

16. **What is your age?**
    ___ 17 or younger   ___ 35-44   ___ 65-74
    ___ 18-24   ___ 45-54   ___ 75 or older
    ___ 25-34   ___ 55-64

17. **What is your gender?**

18. **What is your race/ethnicity?** Check all that apply.
    ___ White   ___ American Indian or Alaska Native
    ___ Black or African American   ___ Asian or Pacific Islander
    ___ Hispanic or Latino   ___ Not listed, please specify: _____

19. **What is the highest level of education you have completed?**
    ___ Less than 12th grade   ___ Associate degree or occupational/vocational program
    ___ GED   ___ Bachelor's degree
    ___ High School   ___ Master's degree or higher
    ___ Some college but no degree

20. **Is there anything else you want to share with the PEP Steering Committee?** Please use this space to provide additional comments.

Appendix 4: Survey Mailer

Steering Committee

Lisa Doyle Parsons
Executive Director
Circles of Parkersburg
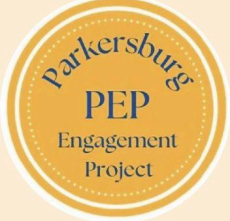
Wendy Tuck
City Council District 4

Rosemary Ketchum
SHIFT Action Lab Partner

Get in Touch
PKBengagementproject@gmail.com

Parkersburg Engagement Project
Wendy Tuck and Lisa Doyle Parsons, Co-Chairs
PO Box 1643
Parkersburg, WV 26102

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Community-Wide Survey

The Parkersburg Engagement Project (PEP) is an effort to support Parkersburg residents to come together and solve a community challenge. The project is hap-pening within the city limits of Park-ers-burg, West Virginia from January through De-cember 2025. Based on input from the community, we will identify an issue/topic to work on, identify a solution, and imple-ment the solution. This survey is the first step, to help us identify the topic and un-derstand residents' current views.

We will be holding public community meet-ings to discuss the results of the survey and next steps. Learn more and find up-coming opportunities to engage at:

pkbengagementproject.org

Survey Instructions

The survey should take about 10 minutes to com-plete. All responses will remain confidential. Only summary results will be shared publicly.

Please complete this survey and mail it back to Parkersburg Engagement Project,
PO Box 1643,
Parkersburg, WV 26102
by **March 10, 2025**.

Only complete the survey one time.
Prefer to complete the survey online? Visit:
https://tinyurl.com/pkbsurvey

or scan this QR code:

We ask that you provide your name for project evaluation purposes. Personal information will not be associated with your answers.
You are invited to get involved in the Park-ers-burg Engagement Project! Providing your contact information is optional.

___ No, I do not want to be contacted.

___ Yes, please contact me with invitations.

Email: _____
Phone Number: _____

Sincerely,
Parkersburg Engagement Project
Steering Committee

Name: _____

First, we want to know about the issues you think are most important in Parkersburg.

1. Rank the *three topics that you feel most impact the community*. Place a 1 next to the item you think is most important, a 2 next to the item that is second most important, and a 3 next to the item that is third most important.

___ Childcare Access   ___ Crime
___ Community Liveability ___ Education
___ Employment   ___ Healthcare
___ Housing   ___ Living Wage
___ Mental Health   ___ Transportation
___ Recreational Activities
___ Senior Services
___ Substance Use
___ Other: _____

2. Rank the *three topics that you feel most directly impact you and/or your family.* Place a 1 next to the item you think is most important, a 2 next to the item that is second most important, and a 3 next to the item that is third most important.

___ Childcare Access   ___ Crime
___ Community Liveability ___ Education
___ Employment   ___ Healthcare
___ Housing   ___ Living Wage
___ Mental Health   ___ Transportation
___ Recreational Activities
___ Senior Services
___ Substance Use
___ Other: _____

Next, we'd like to know about your perspective about living in Parkersburg. Choose one answer for each question.

3. I feel comfortable talking with community members who have different points of view so we can better understand each other.

___ Disagree   ___ Somewhat Disagree
___ Somewhat Agree   ___ Agree

4. I can contribute to a community that promotes collaboration between people who disagree.

___ Disagree   ___ Somewhat Disagree
___ Somewhat Agree   ___ Agree

5. When my community faces problems, I feel like we can work together to implement solutions.

___ Disagree   ___ Somewhat Disagree
___ Somewhat Agree   ___ Agree

6. People in my community respect others who do not share their values.

___ Disagree   ___ Somewhat Disagree
___ Somewhat Agree   ___ Agree

7. I feel understood by community members whose opinions and backgrounds differ from mine.

___ Disagree   ___ Somewhat Disagree
___ Somewhat Agree   ___ Agree

8. I trust individuals whose opinions and backgrounds differ from mine within my community.

___ Disagree   ___ Somewhat Disagree
___ Somewhat Agree   ___ Agree

9. Community members whose opinions and back-grounds differ from mine are also committed to helping our community thrive.

___ Disagree   ___ Somewhat Disagree
___ Somewhat Agree   ___ Agree

10. It's important to understand Americans with other political views by imagining how things look from their perspective.

___ Disagree   ___ Somewhat Disagree
___ Somewhat Agree   ___ Agree

11. I am able to influence city government deci-sion-making in Parkersburg.

___ Disagree   ___ Somewhat Disagree
___ Somewhat Agree   ___ Agree

Next, we'd like to know about your experiences in Parkersburg. Choose one answer for each question.

12. In the past 12 months, did you…
a. Attend a public meeting, such as a school board meeting, city council meeting, or zoning meeting, to discuss a local issue?

___ Yes ___ No ___ Don't Know

b.   Contact or visit a public official – at any level of government – to express your opinion?

___ Yes ___ No ___ Don't Know

13. In the past 12 months, how often did you discuss political, societal, or local issues with friends, family, or your neighbors?

___ Basically every day ___ Once a month
___ A few times a week ___ Don't Know
___ Less than once a month ___ Not at all
___ A few times a month

14. In the past 12 months, did you get together with other people from your neighborhood to do an act of service for your neighborhood or the community?

___ Yes ___ No ___ Don't Know

Finally, we'd like to know more about you.

15. Are you a Parkersburg resident?

___ Yes   ___ No. Please share the zip code
you live in: _____

16. What is your age?

___ 17 or younger ___ 18-24 ___ 25-34
___ 35-44 ___ 45-54 ___ 55-64
___ 65-74 ___ 75 or older

17. What is your gender? _____

18. What is your ethnicity? Check all that apply.

___ White
___ American Indian or Alaska Native
___ Black or African American
___ Asian or Pacific Islander
___ Hispanic or Latino
___ Not listed, please specify: _____

19. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

___ Less than 12th grade
___ GED
___ High School
___ Some college but no degree
___ Associate degree or Trades program
___ Bachelors degree
___ Masters degree or higher

20. Is there anything else you want to share with the PEP Steering Committee? Please use this space to provide additional comments.

_____
_____
_____
_____