

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES ELEMENT

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IOWA COUNTY SMART GROWTH PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

QUALITY OF LIFE

1. What are the three most important reasons for you and your family to live in Iowa County? (Because of three selections per person the totals will be greater than 100%.)

a. Agriculture	14%
b. Appearance of homes	3%
c. Community services	3%
d. Cost of services	41%
e. Historical significance	2%
f. Low crime rate	19%
g. Natural beauty	44%
h. Near family and friends	50%
i. Near job or employment opportunities	25%
j. Property taxes	19%
k. Quality neighborhood	10%
l. Quality schools	9%
m. Recreational opportunities	8%
n. Small town atmosphere	61%

COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES

3. Please rate each of the following services excellent (E), good (G), fair (F), or poor (P). Choose “not applicable” (NA) if the item does not pertain to you or you are not sure about an item. “NR” means No Response

	E	G	F	P	NA	NR
a. Ambulance service	32%	42%	10%	5%	8%	2%
b. Fire Protection	27%	58%	10%	2%	3%	0%
c. Garbage collection	29%	47%	20%	0%	2%	2%
d. Municipal water supply	17%	36%	25%	8%	12%	2%
e. Park and recreation facilities	27%	42%	22%	7%	2%	0%
f. Police protection	10%	32%	34%	19%	5%	0%
g. Public library	10%	24%	12%	14%	41%	0%
h. Public school system	20%	47%	14%	5%	12%	2%
i. Recycling program	14%	53%	27%	3%	3%	0%
j. Sanitary sewer service	19%	44%	22%	2%	14%	0%
k. Snow removal	19%	54%	14%	10%	3%	0%
l. Storm water management	12%	34%	22%	12%	20%	0%
m. Street and road maintenance	7%	46%	32%	15%	0%	0%

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NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

4. The following questions ask your opinion about the importance of natural and cultural resources in your community. How important is it to protect the following?

Your responses are Essential (E), Very Important (VI), Important (I), Not Important (NI), Not Applicable (NA) and No Response (NR).

	E	VI	I	NI	NA	NR
a. Air quality	58%	31%	8%	0%	0%	3%
b. Farmland	39%	31%	22%	3%	2%	3%
c. Forested lands	42%	15%	32%	3%	2%	5%
d. Groundwater	58%	22%	14%	0%	0%	7%
e. Historic and cultural sites	17%	29%	36%	12%	2%	5%
f. Open space	39%	14%	29%	14%	0%	5%
g. Rivers and streams	46%	20%	22%	2%	3%	7%
h. Rural character	29%	24%	34%	5%	0%	8%
i. Scenic views and undeveloped hills/bluffs	36%	15%	36%	8%	0%	5%
j. Wetlands	34%	14%	27%	17%	2%	7%
k. Wildlife habitat	37%	19%	32%	7%	0%	5%

HOUSING

Housing is an important part of how a community grows. We would like your opinion about the development of housing in your community.

Your choices are: Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D), Strongly Disagree (SD), No Opinion (NO), and No Response (NR).

5. Your local jurisdiction should focus on improving existing housing quality.

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
25%	47%	10%	3%	7%	7%

6. The following types of housing are needed:

a. Single family housing

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
20%	47%	10%	8%	3%	10%

b. Duplexes (2 units)

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
7%	36%	24%	22%	3%	8%

c. Apartments (3 or more)

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
8%	15%	32%	31%	3%	10%

7. Affordable housing is needed in your local jurisdiction.

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
29%	42%	17%	2%	7%	3%

8. Elderly housing is needed in your local jurisdiction.

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
22%	36%	19%	7%	12%	5%

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9. Starter (first time buyer) homes are needed in your local jurisdiction.

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
24%	37%	22%	5%	7%	5%

10. Would you prefer housing built in a traditional design (option A) or a cluster design (option B)?

Option A (traditional design)	22%
Option B (cluster design)	58%
No response	20%

AGRICULTURE AND LAND USE

The following questions are asking for your opinion about agriculture and land use in Iowa County.

Your choices are: Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D), Strongly Disagree (SD), No Opinion (NO), and No Response (NR).

11. Productive agricultural land should be allowed to be used for:

a. Agricultural use

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
64%	31%	0%	0%	2%	3%

b. Residential use

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
8%	32%	31%	17%	2%	10%

c. Commercial use

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
2%	15%	32%	36%	3%	12%

d. Any use

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
5%	10%	31%	36%	5%	14%

12. Large scale farms (500 or more animal units) should be allowed to expand:

Your choices are: Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D), Strongly Disagree (SD), No Opinion (NO), and No Response (NR).

a. Anywhere in Iowa County

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
14%	14%	32%	27%	2%	12%

b. Nowhere in Iowa County

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
15%	15%	34%	20%	2%	14%

c. Outside a 2 mile radius of incorporated areas

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
25%	29%	14%	14%	7%	12%

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13. Landowners should be allowed to develop land any way they want.

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
19%	14%	36%	24%	2%	7%

14. The visual impacts (view of the landscape) of development are an important consideration when evaluating proposed development.

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
17%	59%	10%	2%	3%	8%

15. It is important to require driveways that will meet standards for providing emergency services.

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
42%	42%	7%	2%	2%	5%

16. There should be a minimum lot size on residential development in rural areas.

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
27%	36%	20%	8%	3%	5%

17. In your opinion what should be the minimum lot size for rural residential development?

Less than 1 acre	24%
One to 5 acres	34%
5 to 10 acres	15%
11 to 40 acres	7%
40 or more acres	14%
No limitation	2%
No response	5%

TRANSPORTATION

Your choices are: Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D), Strongly Disagree (SD), No Opinion (NO), and No Response (NR).

18. The overall road network (roads, streets, and highways) in Iowa County meets the needs of its citizens.

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
14%	76%	7%	0%	0%	3%

19. The condition of local roads and streets in your community is adequate for intended uses.

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
10%	68%	14%	5%	0%	3%

20. Biking and walking are important modes of transportation in your community.

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
14%	47%	24%	5%	7%	3%

21. There should be more biking and walking lanes along public roadways.

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
7%	24%	46%	14%	7%	3%

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22. Rate the following in your local jurisdiction.

Your choices are Excellent (E), Good (G), Fair (F), Poor (P), Not Applicable (NA), and No Response (NR).

	E	G	F	P	NA	NR
a. Roads	8%	64%	19%	7%	0%	2%
b. Sidewalks	5%	36%	22%	22%	12%	3%
c. Bike trails	27%	53%	14%	2%	2%	3%
d. Airports	0%	14%	10%	10%	59%	5%
e. Bus service	0%	5%	3%	17%	66%	8%
f. Shared ride van services	0%	20%	17%	17%	36%	10%
g. Railroads	0%	2%	2%	8%	81%	7%

COMMUNICATION

23. Check the two most effective ways your local jurisdiction could provide smart growth information to its landowners and residents. (Because more than one response was asked, the totals will be more than 100%.)

a. Direct mailings	56%
b. Newspaper articles	54%
c. Radio	19%
d. Newsletters	39%
e. Public meetings	39%
f. Internet	10%

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The following questions are asking about how you view economic development in your local community.

Your choices are: Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D), Strongly Disagree (SD), No Opinion (NO), and No Response (NR).

24. Commercial or industrial buildings and activities involving truck traffic and manufacturing should be located:

a. In an existing city or village

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
7%	51%	22%	5%	5%	10%

b. Near a city or village

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
14%	61%	5%	7%	5%	8%

c. Anywhere in Iowa County

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
7%	14%	46%	20%	5%	8%

25. Iowa County should work to coordinate efforts to actively recruit new businesses and industry.

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
47%	41%	5%	3%	2%	2%

26. All Iowa County communities should provide at least some land with infrastructure (water, sewer, access, etc.) for industrial and commercial uses either owned publicly or privately.

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
19%	44%	24%	8%	3%	2%

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27. Development at the edge of cities and villages should be required to have municipal water and sewer services.

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
31%	41%	20%	2%	5%	2%

28. Iowa County jurisdictions should pursue the following energy alternatives as a form of economic development.

	SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
a. Ethanol plants	19%	37%	22%	7%	8%	7%
b. Solar energy	31%	54%	3%	2%	3%	7%
c. Wind energy	39%	56%	0%	0%	2%	3%

29. Rate the importance of the following.

Your choices are Essential (E), Very Important (VI), Important (I), Not Important (NI), No Opinion (NO), and No Response (NR).

	E	VI	I	NI	NO	NR
a. Agricultural related businesses	49%	34%	14%	2%	0%	2%
b. Commercial and retail development	27%	34%	32%	3%	2%	2%
c. Downtown development – Main Street	17%	39%	27%	12%	3%	2%
d. Home based businesses	12%	24%	37%	22%	3%	2%
e. Industrial manufacturing / development	19%	27%	36%	8%	7%	3%
f. Tourism and recreation	29%	19%	36%	8%	2%	7%

DEMOGRAPHICS

Please tell us some things about you:

1. Gender	
Male	64%
Female	27%
No response	8%
2. Age	
18 to 24	0%
25 to 34	12%
35 to 44	22%
45 to 54	25%
54 to 64	14%
65 and older	25%
No response	2%

3. Employment status	
a. Employed full time	53%
b. Employed part time	3%
c. Unemployed	2%
d. Self-employed	10%
e. Retired	25%
f. Other	7%
g. No response	0%

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4. Place of residence	
a. Own	92%
b. Rent	2%
c. Other	0%
d. No response	2%

5. Number of adults (over 18) in household	
a. None	2%
b. One	19%
c. Two	66%
d. Three	10%
e. Four	2%
f. Five or more	0%
g. No response	2%

6. Number of children (under 18) in household	
a. None	54%
b. One	15%
c. Two	20%
d. Three	2%
e. Four	2%
f. Five or more	2%
g. No response	5%

7. Income range	
a. Less than \$15,000	12%
b. \$15,000 to \$24,999	19%
c. \$25,000 to \$49,999	36%
d. \$50,000 to \$74,999	20%
e. \$75,000 to \$99,999	7%
f. \$100,000 or more	7%
g. No response	0%

8. How long have you lived in Iowa County?	
a. Less than 1 year	2%
b. 1 to 4 years	14%
c. 5 to 9 years	5%
d. 10 to 24 years	27%
e. 25 years or more	51%
f. No response	2%

9. How many acres of land do you own in Iowa County?	
a. Less than 1 acre	56%
b. 1 to 10 acres	19%
c. 11 to 100 acres	7%
d. 100 acres or more	17%
e. No response	2%

END OF SUMMARY