

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	24%
b. Appearance of homes	0%
c. Community services	0%
d. Cost of services	36%
e. Historical significance	0%
f. Low crime rate	33%
g. Natural beauty	36%
h. Near family and friends	55%
i. Near job or employment opportunities	15%
j. Property taxes	18%
k. Quality neighborhood	9%
l. Quality schools	21%
m. Recreational opportunities	0%
n. Small town atmosphere	55%

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	24%	55%	15%	0%	6%	0%
b. Fire Protection	49%	45%	3%	0%	3%	0%
c. Garbage collection	36%	55%	9%	0%	0%	0%
d. Municipal water supply	30%	48%	12%	3%	6%	1%
e. Park and recreation facilities	18%	58%	15%	6%	0%	3%
f. Police protection	6%	30%	33%	6%	18%	7%
g. Public library	3%	12%	21%	15%	45%	4%
h. Public school system	21%	58%	12%	0%	6%	3%
i. Recycling program	9%	76%	12%	0%	3%	0%
j. Sanitary sewer service	30%	52%	9%	0%	9%	0%
k. Snow removal	27%	46%	18%	6%	3%	0%
l. Storm water management	9%	36%	18%	9%	21%	7%
m. Street and road maintenance	9%	33%	36%	18%	0%	4%

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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%	21%	21%	0%	0%	0%
b. Farmland	45%	33%	21%	0%	0%	1%
c. Forested lands	39%	36%	21%	0%	0%	4%
d. Groundwater	70%	18%	9%	0%	0%	3%
e. Historic and cultural sites	9%	30%	48%	6%	0%	7%
f. Open space	12%	42%	33%	3%	0%	10%
g. Rivers and streams	39%	33%	18%	3%	0%	7%
h. Rural character	21%	30%	30%	3%	3%	13%
i. Scenic views and undeveloped hills/bluffs	33%	24%	33%	3%	3%	4%
j. Wetlands	30%	30%	24%	3%	9%	4%
k. Wildlife habitat	36%	21%	30%	6%	3%	4%

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
21%	45%	9%	0%	24%	1%

6. The following types of housing are needed:

a. Single family housing

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
21%	33%	9%	3%	21%	13%

b. Duplexes (2 units)

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
6%	36%	12%	6%	30%	10%

c. Apartments (3 or more)

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
12%	33%	15%	12%	15%	13%

7. Affordable housing is needed in your local jurisdiction.

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
30%	36%	12%	3%	18%	1%

8. Elderly housing is needed in your local jurisdiction.

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
18%	52%	21%	0%	6%	3%

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

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
33%	30%	15%	6%	9%	7%

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

Option A (traditional design)	30%
Option B (cluster design)	42%
No response	28%

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
67%	21%	0%	3%	0%	9%

b. Residential use

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
9%	33%	30%	12%	6%	10%

c. Commercial use

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
12%	6%	36%	24%	12%	10%

d. Any use

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
6%	12%	39%	27%	6%	10%

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
12%	0%	52%	21%	9%	6%

b. Nowhere in Iowa County

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
12%	9%	33%	21%	18%	7%

c. Outside a 2 mile radius of incorporated areas

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
18%	36%	9%	6%	24%	7%

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

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
15%	27%	39%	9%	3%	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
18%	55%	6%	3%	9%	9%

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

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
36%	48%	0%	6%	3%	7%

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

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
21%	39%	9%	12%	6%	13%

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

Less than 1 acre	6%
One to 5 acres	45%
5 to 10 acres	6%
11 to 40 acres	18%
40 or more acres	12%
No limitation	6%
No response	7%

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
12%	58%	15%	0%	9%	6%

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

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
9%	58%	27%	0%	0%	6%

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

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
12%	30%	36%	6%	9%	7%

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

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
18%	42%	18%	9%	6%	7%

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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	12%	36%	39%	6%	3%	4%
b. Sidewalks	0%	18%	48%	18%	12%	4%
c. Bike trails	0%	12%	9%	24%	52%	3%
d. Airports	3%	6%	0%	6%	76%	9%
e. Bus service	3%	3%	3%	15%	70%	6%
f. Shared ride van services	6%	0%	3%	15%	70%	6%
g. Railroads	3%	0%	0%	15%	76%	6%

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	73%
b. Newspaper articles	33%
c. Radio	9%
d. Newsletters	12%
e. Public meetings	61%
f. Internet	6%

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
18%	42%	3%	0%	15%	22%

b. Near a city or village

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
18%	42%	6%	0%	15%	19%

c. Anywhere in Iowa County

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
3%	16%	25%	22%	6%	28%

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

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
39%	42%	6%	0%	3%	10%

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
15%	42%	18%	3%	9%	13%

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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
24%	45%	6%	3%	9%	13%

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	18%	27%	9%	9%	21%	16%
b. Solar energy	33%	30%	6%	3%	15%	16%
c. Wind energy	39%	39%	0%	3%	6%	13%

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	45%	24%	18%	0%	0%	12%
b. Commercial and retail development	18%	33%	30%	3%	3%	12%
c. Downtown development – Main Street	15%	21%	30%	9%	6%	18%
d. Home based businesses	12%	18%	33%	12%	9%	15%
e. Industrial manufacturing / development	24%	18%	27%	12%	6%	12%
f. Tourism and recreation	15%	9%	52%	9%	0%	15%

DEMOGRAPHICS

Please tell us some things about you:

1. Gender	
Male	58%
Female	33%
No response	9%
2. Age	
18 to 24	0%
25 to 34	21%
35 to 44	12%
45 to 54	15%
54 to 64	18%
65 and older	33%
No response	1%

3. Employment status	
a. Employed full time	52%
b. Employed part time	6%
c. Unemployed	3%
d. Self-employed	9%
e. Retired	24%
	3%
f. Other	3%
g. No response	52%

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4. Place of residence	
a. Own	97%
b. Rent	3%
c. Other	0%
d. No response	0%

5. Number of adults (over 18) in household	
a. None	0%
b. One	18%
c. Two	82%
d. Three	0%
e. Four	0%
f. Five or more	0%
g. No response	0%

6. Number of children (under 18) in household	
a. None	61%
b. One	15%
c. Two	15%
d. Three	3%
e. Four	0%
f. Five or more	0%
g. No response	6%

7. Income range	
a. Less than \$15,000	6%
b. \$15,000 to \$24,999	21%
c. \$25,000 to \$49,999	30%
d. \$50,000 to \$74,999	21%
e. \$75,000 to \$99,999	6%
f. \$100,000 or more	0%
g. No response	16%

8. How long have you lived in Iowa County?	
a. Less than 1 year	0%
b. 1 to 4 years	9%
c. 5 to 9 years	9%
d. 10 to 24 years	12%
e. 25 years or more	70%
f. No response	0%

9. How many acres of land do you own in Iowa County?	
a. Less than 1 acre	70%
b. 1 to 10 acres	0%
c. 11 to 100 acres	15%
d. 100 acres or more	9%
e. No response	6%

END OF SUMMARY