

Anoka, MN

The National Community Survey

Report of Results
2024

Report by:



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National Research Center at Polco is a charter member of the AAPOR Transparency Initiative, providing clear disclosure of our sound and ethical survey research practices.

About The NCS™

The National Community Survey™ (The NCS™) report is about the “livability” of Anoka. A livable community is a place that is not simply habitable, but that is desirable. It is not only where people do live, but where they want to live. The NCS was developed by the experts from National Research Center at Polco in partnership with the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) and has been administered in hundreds of communities across the United States.

Great communities are partnerships of the government, private sector, community-based organizations and residents, all geographically connected. The NCS focuses on the livability of Anoka by categorizing survey questions into the ten main “facets” of community livability shown below, which have been identified through years of extensive survey research as those that are most impactful to residents’ quality of life.

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



The report provides the opinions of a representative sample of 418 residents of the City of Anoka collected from May 17, 2024 to June 28, 2024. The margin of error around any reported percentage is 5% for all respondents and the response rate for the 2024 survey was 14%. Survey results were weighted so that the demographic profile of respondents was representative of the demographic profile of adults in Anoka.



How the results are reported

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

Comparisons to benchmarks

NRC's database of comparative resident opinion is comprised of resident perspectives gathered in surveys from over 500 communities whose residents evaluated the same kinds of topics on The National Community Survey. The comparison evaluations are from the most recent survey completed in each community in the last five years. NRC adds the latest results quickly upon survey completion, keeping the benchmark data fresh and relevant. The communities in the database represent a wide geographic and population range. In each tab, Anoka's results are noted as being "higher" than the benchmark, "lower" than the benchmark, or "similar" to the benchmark, meaning that the average rating given by Anoka residents is statistically similar to or different (greater or lesser) than the benchmark. Being rated as "higher" or "lower" than the benchmark means that Anoka's average rating for a particular item was more than 10 points different than the benchmark. If a rating was "much higher" or "much lower," then Anoka's average rating was more than 20 points different when compared to the benchmark.

Methods



Selecting survey recipients

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

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

Conducting the survey

The 3,000 randomly selected households received mailings beginning on May 17, 2024 and data collection for the survey remained open for six weeks. The first mailing was a postcard inviting the household to participate in the survey. The next mailing contained a cover letter with instructions, the survey questionnaire, and a postage-paid return envelope. All mailings included a web link to give residents the opportunity to respond to the survey online, as well as QR codes to further encourage participation. All follow-up mailings asked those who had not completed the survey to do so, and those who had already done so to refrain from completing the survey again.

About 1% of the 3,000 mailed invitations or surveys were returned because the household address was vacant or the postal service was unable to deliver the survey as addressed. Of the remaining 2,970 households that received the invitations to participate, 418 completed the survey, providing an overall response rate of 14%. The response rate was calculated using AAPOR's response rate #2 for mailed surveys of unnamed persons.¹

It is customary to describe the precision of estimates made from surveys by a "level of confidence" and accompanying "confidence interval" (or margin of error). A traditional level of confidence, and the one used here, is 95%. The 95% confidence interval can be any size and quantifies the sampling error or imprecision of the survey results because some residents' opinions are relied on to estimate all residents' opinions. The margin of error for the City of Anoka survey is no greater than plus or minus five percentage points around any given percent reported for all respondents (418 completed surveys).

In addition to the randomly selected "probability sample" of households, a link to an online open-participation survey was publicized by the City of Anoka. The open-participation survey was identical to the random sample survey, with two small updates; it asked a question to confirm the respondent was a resident of Anoka and also a question about where they heard about the survey. The open-participation survey was open to all city residents and became available on June 14, 2024. The survey remained open for two weeks. The data presented in the following tabs exclude the open participation survey data, but a tab at the end provides the complete frequency of responses to questions by the open-participation respondents.

Analyzing the data

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

The demographics of the survey respondents were compared to those found in the 2020 Census and 2022 American Community Survey estimates for adults in the City of Anoka. The primary objective of weighting survey data is to make the survey respondents reflective of the larger population of the community. The characteristics used for weighting were age, sex, race, Hispanic origin, housing type, and housing tenure. No adjustments were made for design effects. Weights were calculated using an iterative, multiplicative raking model known as the ANES Weighting Algorithm.² The results of the weighting scheme for the probability sample are presented in the following table.

NRC aligns demographic labels with those used by the U.S. Census for reporting purposes, when possible. Some categories (e.g., age, race/Hispanic origin, housing type, and length of residency) are combined into smaller subgroups.

		Unweighted	Weighted	Target ⁴
Age	18-34	10%	29%	29%
	35-54	24%	29%	29%
	55+	66%	42%	42%
Hispanic origin	No, not of Hispanic, Latino/a/x, or Spanish origin	97%	96%	96%
	Yes, I consider myself to be of Hispanic, Latino/a/x, or Spanish origin	3%	4%	4%
Housing tenure	Own	76%	57%	57%
	Rent	24%	43%	43%
Housing type	Attached	39%	48%	48%
	Detached	61%	52%	52%
Race & Hispanic ori..	Not white alone	10%	16%	16%
	White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	90%	84%	84%
Sex	Man	44%	49%	49%
	Woman	56%	51%	51%
Sex/age	Man 18-34	4%	15%	15%
	Man 35-54	11%	16%	16%
	Man 55+	29%	18%	18%
	Woman 18-34	6%	13%	13%
	Woman 35-54	13%	13%	13%
	Woman 55+	37%	24%	24%

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

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

Contact

The City of Anoka funded this research. Please contact Pam Bowman of the City of Anoka at PBowman@ci.anoka.mn.us if you have any questions about the survey.

Study Limitations

All public opinion research is subject to unmeasured error. While the methodologies employed for this survey were designed to minimize this error as much as possible, these other sources of potential error should be acknowledged, and can include non-response error, coverage error, recall bias and social desirability bias. Non-response error arises when those who were selected to participate in the survey did not do so, and may have different opinions or experiences than survey responders. For general resident surveys, where the results are meant to be generalized to the entire adult population living in households, the mailing lists based on the Delivery Sequence File from the United States Post Office may exclude certain types of housing units, such as those in multi-family buildings where mail is addressed to a named resident at the address rather than to a specific unit or where residents only receive their mail at a post office box and the geographic location of a residence cannot be determined, there may be a coverage error, although for most locations, this is minimal. Respondents may not perfectly remember their experiences in the past year (such as participation in social or civic events, for example), and for some survey items, they may answer in ways they think cast their responses in a more favorable light (recall bias and social desirability bias).

Survey Validity

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

1. See AAPOR's Standard Definitions for more information at <https://aapor.org/standards-and-ethics/standard-definitions/>
2. Pasek, J. (2014). ANES Weighting Algorithm. Retrieved from <https://surveyinsights.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Full-anesrake-paper.pdf>
3. Targets come from the 2020 Census and 2022 American Community Survey

Key Findings

Highest-performing areas:

- When compared to national benchmarks, a higher-than-average percentage of residents praised Anoka's:
 - o Preservation of the historical character of the community
 - o Public places where people want to spend time
 - o Availability of affordable quality housing
- Residents feel a strong sense of safety, naming it their top priority for the community and offering ratings across the board that were similar to comparison communities.
- Some items within the facet of economy defied national trends with above-benchmark ratings:
 - o Anoka as a place to visit
 - o Vibrancy of downtown/commercial area
 - o Shopping opportunities
 - o Cost of living in Anoka

Lowest-performing areas:

- All ratings were on par with or exceeded national benchmarks, but some focus areas were identified by examining the relative overall quality of a facet and its corresponding importance rating.
- The greatest gaps between quality and importance were found in ratings related to the economy, safety, and utilities. These were also listed as the top three priorities for the Anoka community. This could indicate possible room for additional focus, though all scores matched or exceeded benchmarks. Examining how these ratings change over time through future survey iterations will offer key insights into the City's efforts to improve on aspects of the community.

Other notable results:

- In a question unique to this survey, residents were asked their interest in a range of potential expanded services or amenities at Better Values Liquor. About 40% of respondents indicated that either the question wasn't applicable or that they don't shop at Better Values Liquor. Of those who responded positively, the idea of a rewards program obtained the greatest support, while home delivery and curbside pick-up garnered the lowest interest.
- All four proposed initiatives introduced by the City on the survey received support from approximately 90% of respondents.
- Residents identified the City website and the City View newsletter as their top sources of information about the City
- All aspects of City communications received excellent or good ratings by a majority of residents, with the usefulness of information in the City View newsletter receiving the highest rating among the options provided.

Comparisons to National Benchmarks:

Of the 123 evaluative questions which were compared to national averages, 111 were statistically similar to comparison communities. Much higher ratings were seen for 1 item. Higher ratings were provided for 11 survey items, while no items were lower. Being rated as "higher" or "lower" than the benchmark means that Anoka's average rating for a particular item was more than 10 points different than the benchmark. If a rating was "much higher" or "much lower," then Anoka's average rating was more than 20 points different when compared to the benchmark.

Much Higher:

- Vibrancy of downtown/commercial area

Higher:

- Anoka as a place to visit
- Shopping opportunities
- Cost of living
- Ease of travel by bicycle
- Ease of walking
- Preservation of the historical or cultural character of the community

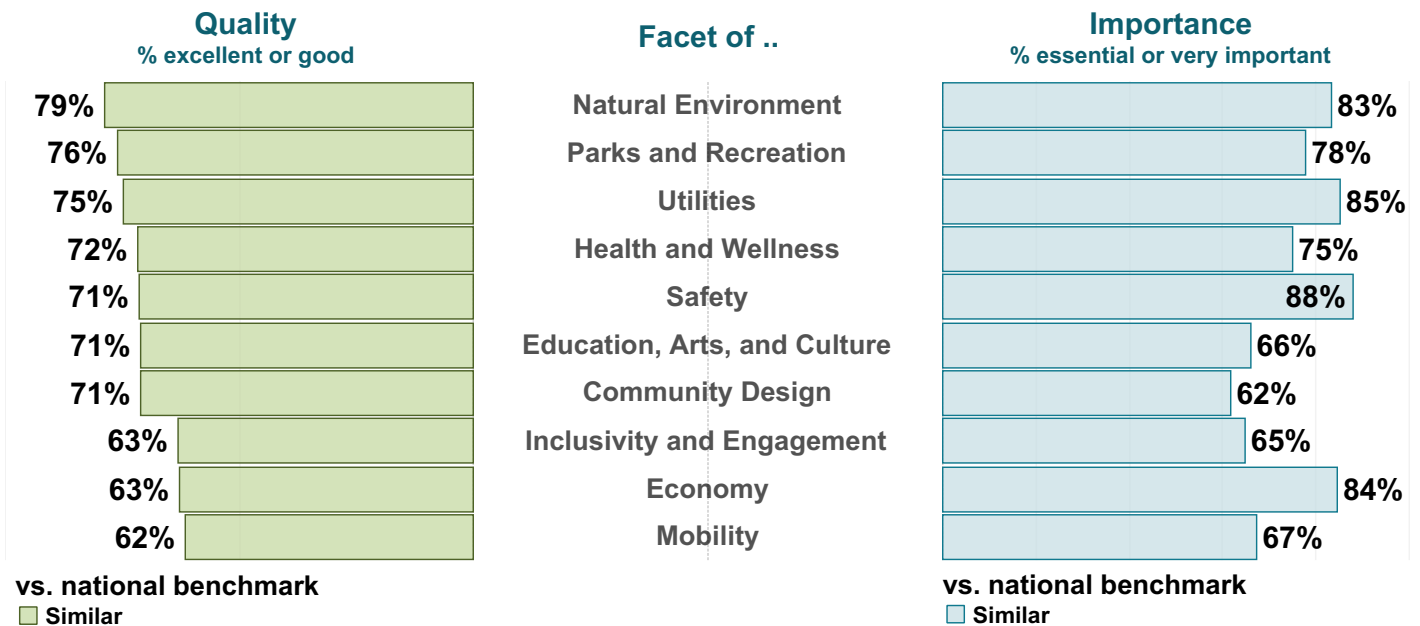
- Public places where people want to spend time
- Availability of affordable quality housing
- Opportunities to attend cultural/arts/music activities
- Community support for the arts
- Opportunities to attend special events and festivals

Facets of Livability

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

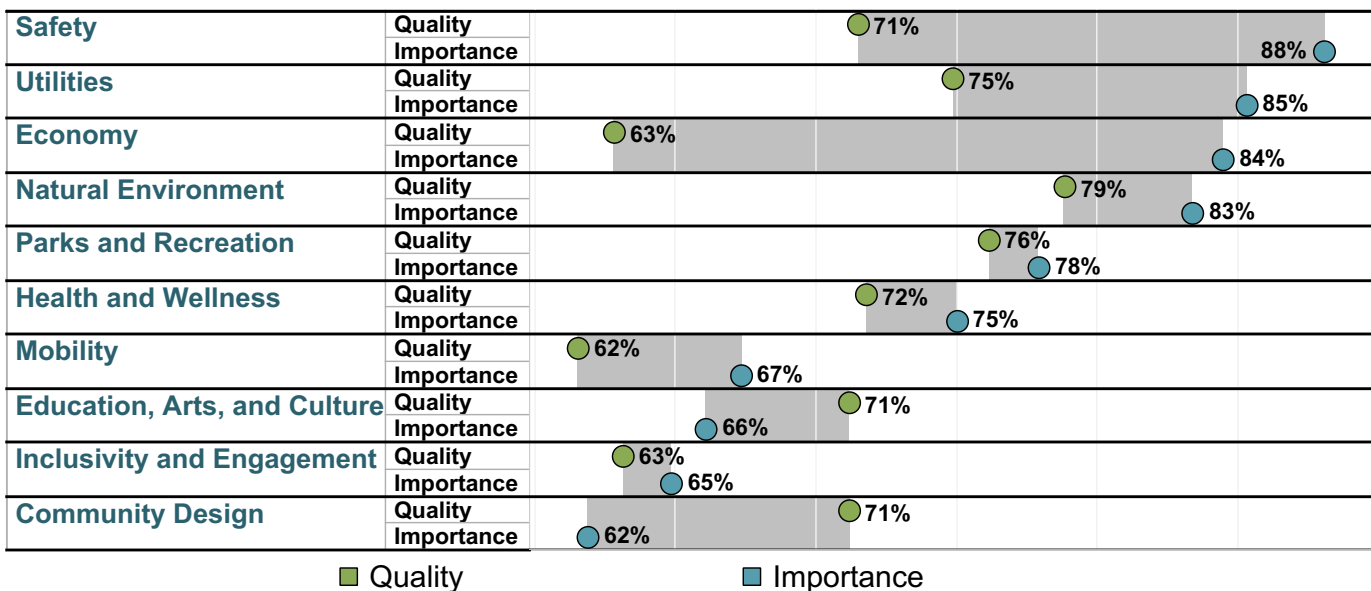
Quality and Importance by the Numbers

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



Quality/Importance Gap Analysis

The gap analysis chart below shows the same data as above; however, this chart more clearly illustrates the comparative differences in quality and importance ratings for each facet, as well as the absolute ratings for each.



The overall quality of life in Anoka, 2024



Quality of Life

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

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

		vs. benchmark ⁷
Anoka as a place to live	84%	Similar
The overall quality of life in Anoka	81%	Similar

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

Remain in Anoka for the next five years	88%	Similar
Recommend living in Anoka to someone who asks	85%	Similar

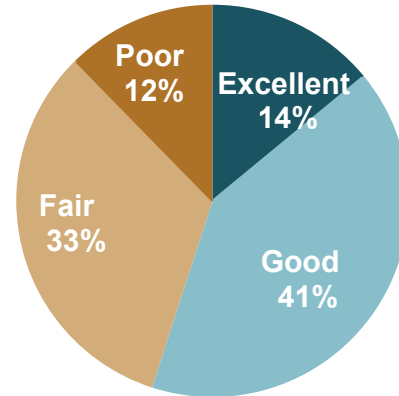
Please rate each of the following in the Anoka community.
(% excellent or good)

Overall image or reputation of Anoka	72%	Similar
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7. Comparison to the national benchmark is shown. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.

Governance

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



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

		vs. benchmark ^a
Overall customer service by Anoka employees (police, receptionists, planners, etc.)	82%	Similar
Public information services	70%	Similar

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

The overall direction that Anoka is taking	63%	Similar
Treating residents with respect	61%	Similar
The value of services for the taxes paid to Anoka	58%	Similar
Generally acting in the best interest of the community	58%	Similar
Being honest	56%	Similar
The job Anoka government does at welcoming resident involvement	56%	Similar
Overall confidence in Anoka government	55%	Similar
Being open and transparent to the public	54%	Similar
Treating all residents fairly	54%	Similar
Informing residents about issues facing the community	49%	Similar

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

The City of Anoka	73%	Similar
The Federal Government	38%	Similar

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

Contacted the City of Anoka (in-person, phone, email, or web) for help or information

53%

Similar

Watched (online or on television) a local public meeting

26%

Similar

Contacted Anoka elected officials (in-person, phone, email, or web) to express your opinion

21%

Similar

Attended a local public meeting (of local elected officials like City Council or County Commissioners, advisory boards, town halls, HOA, neighborhood watch, etc.)

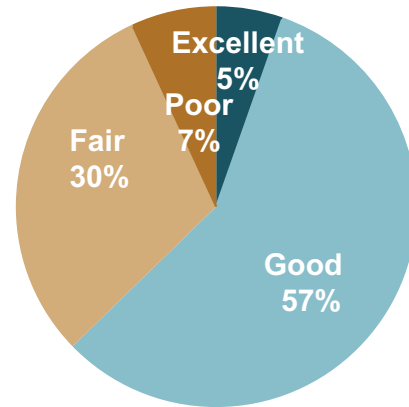
19%

Similar

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

Economy

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



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

vs.
benchmark⁹

Anoka as a place to visit	80%	Higher
Anoka as a place to work	64%	Similar

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

Overall economic health of Anoka	63%	Similar
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Please rate each of the following in the Anoka community.
(% excellent or good)

Overall quality of business and service establishment..	82%	Similar
Vibrancy of downtown/commercial area	80%	Much higher
Shopping opportunities	71%	Higher
Variety of business and service establishments in An..	69%	Similar
Cost of living in Anoka	56%	Higher
Employment opportunities	52%	Similar

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

Economic development	55%	Similar
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What impact, if any, do you think the economy will have on your family income in the next 6 months? Do you think the impact will be:
(% very or somewhat positive)

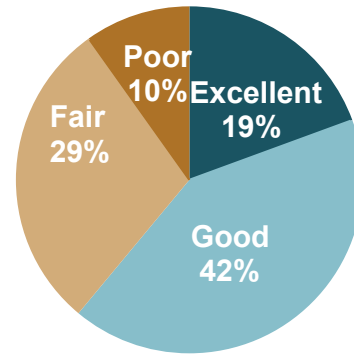
What impact, if any, do you think the economy will have on your family income in the next 6 months? Do you think the impact will be:	19%	Similar
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9. Comparison to the national benchmark is shown. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.

Overall quality of the transportation system in Anoka, 2024

Mobility

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



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

vs.
benchmark¹⁰

Overall quality of the transportation system (auto, bicycle, foot, bus) in Anoka	62%	Similar
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Please also rate each of the following in the Anoka community.
(% excellent or good)

Ease of walking in Anoka	79%	Higher
Ease of travel by bicycle in Anoka	72%	Higher
Ease of travel by car in Anoka	70%	Similar
Ease of public parking	67%	Similar
Traffic flow on major streets	46%	Similar
Ease of travel by public transportation in Anoka	43%	Similar

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

Walked or biked instead of driving	71%	Higher
Carpooled with other adults or children instead of driving alone	45%	Similar
Used bus, rail, subway, or other public transportation instead of driving	20%	Similar

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

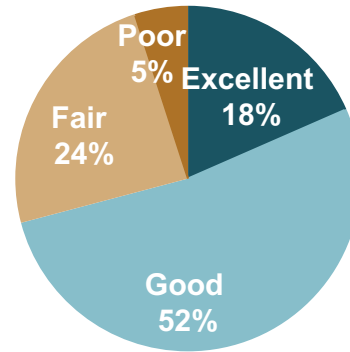
Snow removal	76%	Similar
Street lighting	73%	Similar
Street cleaning	72%	Similar
Sidewalk maintenance	67%	Similar
Traffic enforcement	61%	Similar
Street repair	52%	Similar
Bus or transit services	47%	Similar
Traffic signal timing	43%	Similar

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

Overall design or layout of Anoka's residential and commercial areas, 2024

Community Design

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



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

		vs. benchmark ¹¹
Your neighborhood as a place to live	76%	Similar

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

Overall design or layout of Anoka's residential and commercial areas (e.g., homes, buildings, streets, parks, etc.)	71%	Similar
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Please also rate each of the following in the Anoka community.
(% excellent or good)

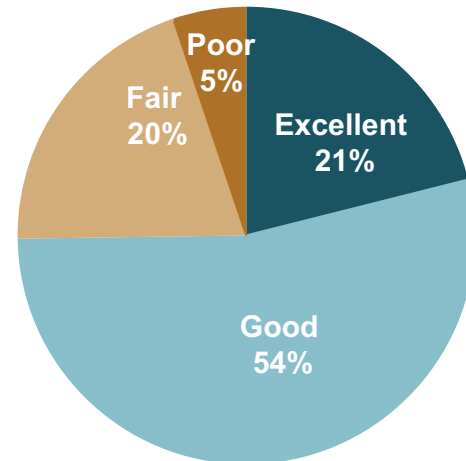
Preservation of the historical or cultural character of the community	80%	Higher
Public places where people want to spend time	79%	Higher
Overall appearance of Anoka	77%	Similar
Well-designed neighborhoods	70%	Similar
Well-planned residential growth	59%	Similar
Well-planned commercial growth	53%	Similar
Variety of housing options	53%	Similar
Overall quality of new development in Anoka	48%	Similar
Availability of affordable quality housing	39%	Higher

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

Land use, planning, and zoning	51%	Similar
Code enforcement (weeds, abandoned buildings, etc.)	38%	Similar

¹¹. Comparison to the national benchmark is shown. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.

Overall quality of the utility infrastructure in Anoka, 2024



Utilities

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

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

		vs. benchmark ¹²
Power (electric and/or gas) utility	82%	Similar
Sewer services	82%	Similar
Storm water management (storm drainage, dams, levees, etc.)	81%	Similar
Utility billing	76%	Similar
Garbage collection	76%	Similar
Drinking water	64%	Similar
Affordable high-speed internet access	59%	Similar

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

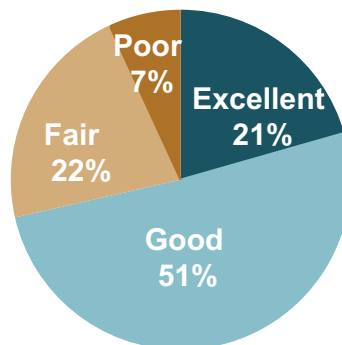
Overall quality of the utility infrastructure in Anoka (water, sewer, storm water, electric/gas, broadband)	75%	Similar
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¹². Comparison to the national benchmark is shown. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.

Safety

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

Overall feeling of safety in Anoka, 2024



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

vs.
benchmark¹³

Overall feeling of safety in Anoka	71%	Similar
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Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel:
(% very or somewhat safe)

In your neighborhood during the day	93%	Similar
In Anoka's downtown/commercial area during the day	92%	Similar
From fire, flood, or other natural disaster	85%	Similar
From violent crime	81%	Similar
From property crime	80%	Similar

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

Fire services	88%	Similar
Ambulance or emergency medical services	85%	Similar
Police/Sheriff services	80%	Similar
Animal control	76%	Similar
Crime prevention	74%	Similar
Fire prevention and education	74%	Similar
Emergency preparedness (services that prepare the community for natural disasters or other emergency situations)	71%	Similar

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

Overall quality of natural environment in Anoka, 2024

Natural Environment

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



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

		vs. benchmark ¹⁴
Overall quality of natural environment in Anoka	79%	Similar

Please also rate each of the following in the Anoka community.
(% excellent or good)

Cleanliness of Anoka	77%	Similar
Air quality	76%	Similar
Water resources (beaches, lakes, ponds, riverways, etc.)	73%	Similar

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

Recycling	75%	Similar
Preservation of natural areas (open space, farmlands, and greenbelts)	71%	Similar
Anoka open space	64%	Similar
Yard waste pick-up	60%	Similar

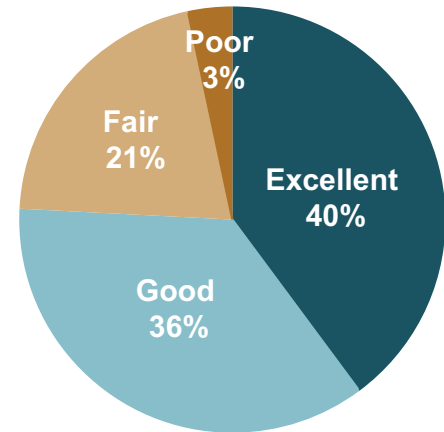
¹⁴. Comparison to the national benchmark is shown. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.

Overall quality of the parks and recreation opportunities, 2024

Parks and Recreation

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

- National Recreation and Park Association



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

vs.
benchmark¹⁵

Overall quality of parks and recreation opportunities	76%	Similar
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Please also rate each of the following in the Anoka community.
(% excellent or good)

Availability of paths and walking trails	81%	Similar
Fitness opportunities (including exercise classes and paths or trails, etc.)	71%	Similar
Recreational opportunities	68%	Similar

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

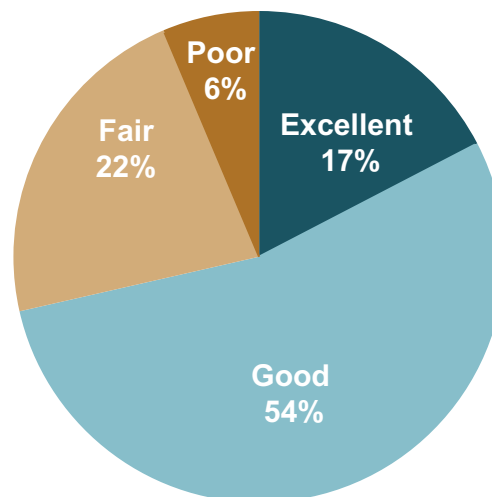
City parks	80%	Similar
Recreation programs or classes	75%	Similar
Recreation centers or facilities	67%	Similar

¹⁵. Comparison to the national benchmark is shown. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.

Overall health and wellness opportunities in Anoka, 2024

Health and Wellness

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



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

		vs. benchmark ¹⁶
Overall health and wellness opportunities in Anoka	72%	Similar

Please also rate each of the following in the Anoka community.
(% excellent or good)

Availability of preventive health services	64%	Similar
Availability of affordable quality health care	63%	Similar
Availability of affordable quality food	60%	Similar
Availability of affordable quality mental health care	46%	Similar

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

Health services	68%	Similar
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Please rate your overall health.
(% excellent or very good)

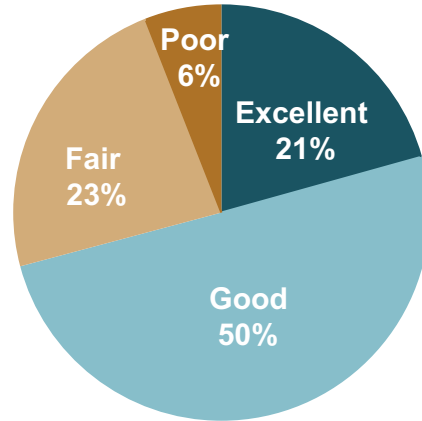
Please rate your overall health.	66%	Similar
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¹⁶. Comparison to the national benchmark is shown. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.

Overall opportunities for education, culture and the arts, 2024

Education, Arts, and Culture

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



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

		vs. benchmark ¹⁷
Overall opportunities for education, culture, and the arts	71%	Similar

Please also rate each of the following in the Anoka community.
(% excellent or good)

Opportunities to attend special events and festivals	81%	Higher
Community support for the arts	77%	Higher
Opportunities to attend cultural/arts/music activities	74%	Higher
K-12 education	71%	Similar
Adult educational opportunities	70%	Similar
Availability of affordable quality childcare/preschool	55%	Similar

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

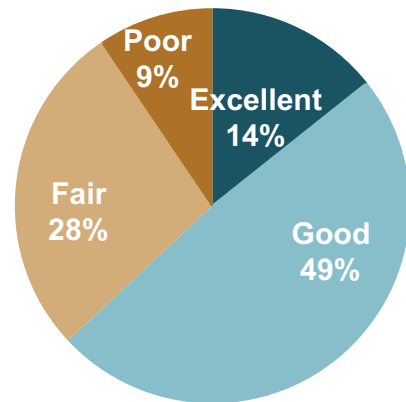
Public library services	90%	Similar
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¹⁷. Comparison to the national benchmark is shown. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.

Residents' connection and engagement with their community, 2024

Inclusivity and Engagement

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



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

		vs. benchmark ¹⁸
Anoka as a place to raise children	78%	Similar
Anoka as a place to retire	71%	Similar
Sense of community	65%	Similar

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

Residents' connection and engagement with their community	63%	Similar
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Please rate the job you feel the Anoka community does at each of the following.
(% excellent or good)

Making all residents feel welcome	71%	Similar
Taking care of vulnerable residents (elderly, disabled, homeless, etc.)	65%	Similar
Valuing/respecting residents from diverse backgrounds	60%	Similar
Attracting people from diverse backgrounds	57%	Similar

Please also rate each of the following in the Anoka community.
(% excellent or good)

Opportunities to volunteer	79%	Similar
Opportunities to participate in social events and activities	71%	Similar
Sense of civic/community pride	68%	Similar
Opportunities to participate in community matters	67%	Similar
Neighborliness of residents in Anoka	61%	Similar
Openness and acceptance of the community toward people of diverse b..	52%	Similar

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

Volunteered your time to some group/activity in Anoka	<div><div></div></div> 25%	Similar
Campaigned or advocated for a local issue, cause, or candidate	<div><div></div></div> 13%	Similar

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

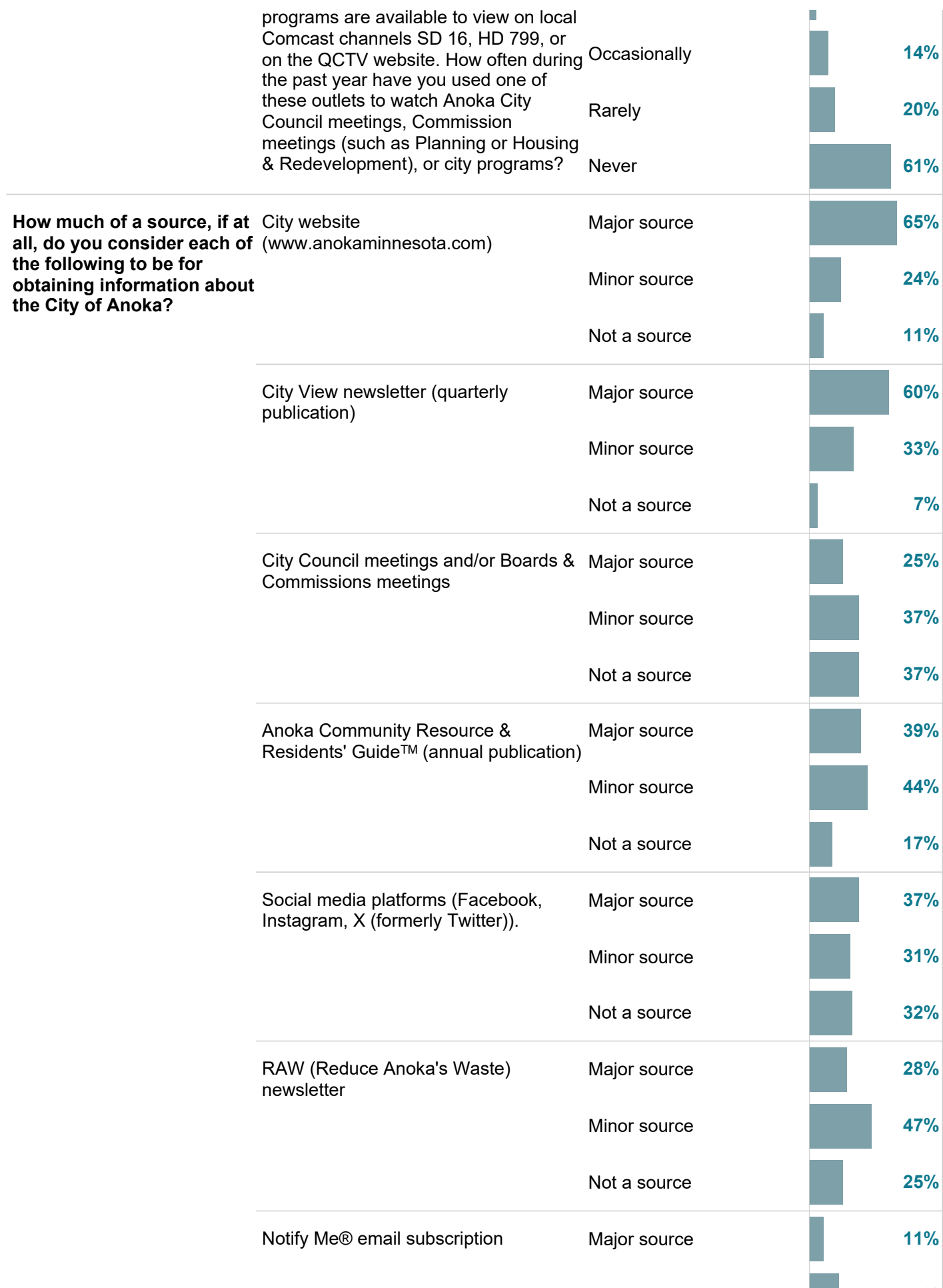
Custom Questions

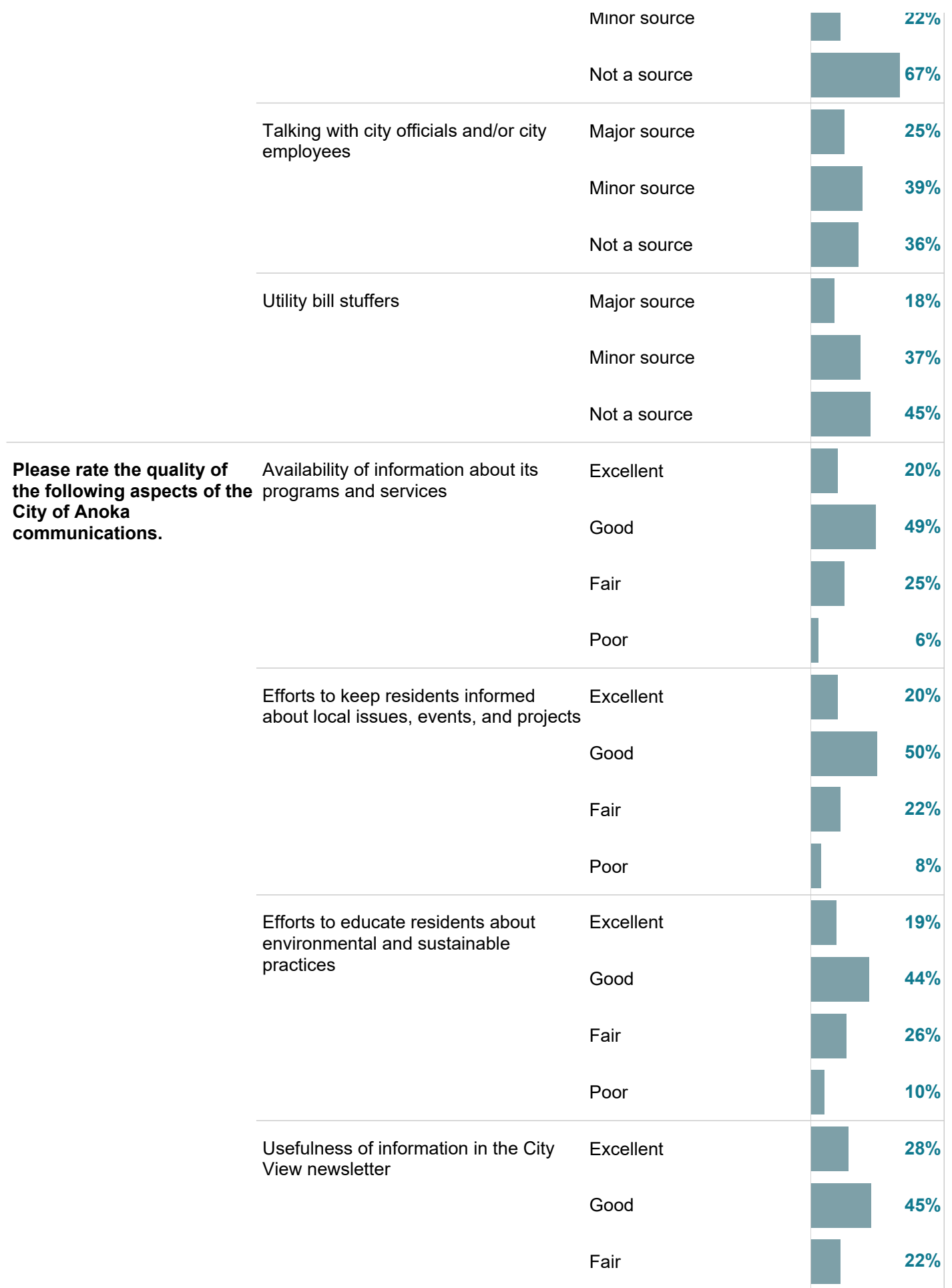


Below are the complete set of responses to each custom question on the survey. By default, “don’t know” responses are excluded, but may be added to the table using the response filter below.

			Include "don't know"
			No
The City of Anoka owns and operates the municipal liquor store Better Values Liquor. How interested, if at all, would you be in each of the following services or amenities if they were offered at Better Values Liquor?	Larger selection of beer	Very interested	18%
		Somewhat interested	16%
		Not at all interested	26%
		NA/I don't shop at BVL	40%
	Larger selection of wine	Very interested	10%
		Somewhat interested	20%
		Not at all interested	29%
		NA/I don't shop at BVL	41%
	Larger selection of spirits	Very interested	12%
		Somewhat interested	19%
		Not at all interested	28%
		NA/I don't shop at BVL	40%
	Rewards/loyalty program	Very interested	22%
		Somewhat interested	17%
		Not at all interested	19%
		NA/I don't shop at BVL	41%
	Home delivery	Very interested	13%
		Somewhat interested	12%

Please indicate to what extent you support or oppose the City moving forward with the following initiatives:		Not at all interested	<div></div>	35%
		NA/I don't shop at BVL	<div></div>	39%
	Curbside pick-up	Very interested	<div></div>	10%
		Somewhat interested	<div></div>	12%
		Not at all interested	<div></div>	36%
		NA/I don't shop at BVL	<div></div>	42%
	Improvements to the Anoka Aquatic Center	Strongly support	<div></div>	38%
		Somewhat support	<div></div>	51%
		Somewhat oppose	<div></div>	9%
		Strongly oppose	<div></div>	2%
Enhancements to the Anoka Senior Center	Strongly support	<div></div>	47%	
	Somewhat support	<div></div>	47%	
	Somewhat oppose	<div></div>	5%	
	Strongly oppose	<div></div>	1%	
Construction of a community center	Strongly support	<div></div>	46%	
	Somewhat support	<div></div>	42%	
	Somewhat oppose	<div></div>	9%	
	Strongly oppose	<div></div>	3%	
Development of a recycling center	Strongly support	<div></div>	49%	
	Somewhat support	<div></div>	41%	
	Somewhat oppose	<div></div>	8%	
	Strongly oppose	<div></div>	2%	
Local government meetings and	Frequently	<div></div>	5%	





Poor



4%

The City of Anoka 2024 Community Survey

Please complete this survey if you are the adult (age 18 or older) in the household who most recently had a birthday (the year of birth does not matter). Your responses are confidential and no identifying information will be shared.

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

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

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

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

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

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

4. Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel:

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

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

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

6. Please rate each of the following in the Anoka community.

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

7. Please also rate each of the following in the Anoka community.

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

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

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

The City of Anoka 2024 Community Survey

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

13. The City of Anoka owns and operates the municipal liquor store Better Values Liquor. How interested, if at all, would you be in each of the following services or amenities if they were offered at Better Values Liquor?

	<u>Very interested</u>	<u>Somewhat interested</u>	<u>Not at all interested</u>	<u>NA/ I don't shop at BVL</u>
Larger selection of beer.....	1	2	3	4
Larger selection of wine.....	1	2	3	4
Larger selection of spirits.....	1	2	3	4
Rewards/loyalty program.....	1	2	3	4
Home delivery.....	1	2	3	4
Curbside pick-up.....	1	2	3	4

14. Please indicate to what extent you support or oppose the City moving forward with the following initiatives:

	<u>Strongly support</u>	<u>Somewhat support</u>	<u>Somewhat oppose</u>	<u>Strongly oppose</u>
Improvements to the Anoka Aquatic Center.....	1	2	3	4
Enhancements to the Anoka Senior Center.....	1	2	3	4
Construction of a community center.....	1	2	3	4
Development of a recycling center.....	1	2	3	4

15. Local government meetings and programs are available to view on local Comcast channels SD 16, HD 799, or on the QCTV website. How often during the past year have you used one of these outlets to watch Anoka City Council meetings, Commission meetings (such as Planning or Housing & Redevelopment), or city programs?

☐ Frequently ☐ Occasionally ☐ Rarely ☐ Never

16. How much of a source, if at all, do you consider each of the following to be for obtaining information about the City of Anoka?

	<u>Major source</u>	<u>Minor source</u>	<u>Not a source</u>
City website (www.anokaminnesota.com).....	1	2	3
City View newsletter (quarterly publication).....	1	2	3
City Council meetings and/or Boards & Commissions meetings.....	1	2	3
Anoka Community Resource & Residents' Guide™ (annual publication).....	1	2	3
Social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, X (formerly Twitter)).....	1	2	3
RAW (Reduce Anoka's Waste) newsletter.....	1	2	3
Notify Me® email subscription.....	1	2	3
Talking with city officials and/or city employees.....	1	2	3
Utility bill stuffers.....	1	2	3

17. Please rate the quality of the following aspects of the City of Anoka communications

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
Availability of information about its programs and services.....	1	2	3	4	5
Efforts to keep residents informed about local issues, events, and projects.....	1	2	3	4	5
Efforts to educate residents about environmental and sustainable practices.....	1	2	3	4	5
Usefulness of information in the City View newsletter.....	1	2	3	4	5

The City of Anoka 2024 Community Survey

Our last questions are about you and your household.

Again, all of your responses to this survey are confidential and no identifying information will be shared.

D1. In general, how many times do you:

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

D2. Please rate your overall health.

☐ Excellent ☐ Very good ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor

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

Do you think the impact will be:

☐ Very positive ☐ Somewhat positive ☐ Neutral ☐ Somewhat negative ☐ Very negative

D4. How many years have you lived in Anoka?

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

D5. Which best describes the building you live in?

☐ Single-family detached home
☐ Townhouse or duplex (may share walls but
no units above or below you)
☐ Condominium or apartment (have units
above or below you)
☐ Mobile home
☐ Other

D6. Do you rent or own your home?

☐ Rent
☐ Own

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

☐ Less than \$300 ☐ \$2,500 to \$3,999
☐ \$300 to \$599 ☐ \$4,000 to \$6,999
☐ \$600 to \$999 ☐ \$7,000 to \$9,999
☐ \$1,000 to \$1,499 ☐ \$10,000 or more
☐ \$1,500 to \$2,499

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

☐ No ☐ Yes

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

☐ No ☐ Yes

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

☐ Less than \$25,000 ☐ \$100,000 to \$149,999
☐ \$25,000 to \$49,999 ☐ \$150,000 to \$199,999
☐ \$50,000 to \$74,999 ☐ \$200,000 to \$299,999
☐ \$75,000 to \$99,999 ☐ \$300,000 or more

D11. Are you of Hispanic, Latino/a/x, or Spanish origin?

☐ No ☐ Yes

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

☐ American Indian or Alaskan Native
☐ Asian
☐ Black or African American
☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
☐ White
☐ A race not listed

D13. In which category is your age?

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

D14. What is your gender?

☐ Woman
☐ Man
☐ Identify in another way → go to D14a

D14a. If you identify in another way, how would you describe your gender?

☐ Agender/I don't identify with any gender
☐ Genderqueer/gender fluid
☐ Non-binary
☐ Transgender man
☐ Transgender woman
☐ Two-spirit
☐ Identify in another way

Thank you!

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