



JEFFERSON COUNTY, CO 2010

Report of Geographic Subgroup Comparisons

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SURVEY BACKGROUND

ABOUT THE NATIONAL CITIZEN SURVEY™

The National Citizen Survey™ (The NCS™) is a collaborative effort between National Research Center, Inc. (NRC) and the International City/County Management Association (ICMA).

The survey and its administration are standardized to assure high quality survey methods and comparable results across The National Citizen Survey™ jurisdictions. Participating households are selected at random and the household member who responds is selected without bias. Multiple mailings give each household more than one chance to participate with self-addressed and postage paid envelopes. Results are statistically weighted to reflect the proper demographic composition of the entire community.

The National Citizen Survey™ customized for this jurisdiction was developed in close cooperation with local jurisdiction staff. Jefferson County staff selected items from a menu of questions about services and community problems; they defined the jurisdiction boundaries NRC used for sampling; and they provided the appropriate letterhead and signatures for mailings. Jefferson County staff also determined local interest in a variety of add-on options to The National Citizen Survey™ Basic Service.

UNDERSTANDING THE RESULTS

“DON’T KNOW” RESPONSES

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 Appendix A. However, these responses have been removed from the analyses presented in the body of the report. In other words, the tables and graphs display the responses from respondents who had an opinion about a specific item.

UNDERSTANDING THE TABLES

In this report, comparisons between geographic subgroups are shown. For most of the questions, we have shown only one number for each question. We have summarized responses to show only the proportion of respondents giving a certain answer; for example, the percent of respondents who rated the quality of life as “excellent” or “good”, or the percent of respondents who felt the rate of growth was “about right.”

ANOVA and chi-square tests of significance were applied to these comparisons of survey questions by geographic subgroups. A “p-value” of 0.05 or less indicates that there is less than a 5% probability that differences observed between subgroups are due to chance; or in other words, a greater than 95% probability that the differences observed are “real.” Where differences were statistically significant, they are marked in grey.

The 95 percent confidence level for this survey is generally no greater than plus or minus three percentage points around any given percent reported for the entire sample (1,1319 completed surveys). For each Commissioner District (1, 2 or 3, mountains or plains), the margin of error rises to approximately + or - 7% since sample sizes were approximately: 212 for District 1 – Mountains, 250 for District 1 – Plains, 232 for District 2 – Mountains, 216 for District 2 – Plains, 201 for District 3 – Mountains, and 208 for District 3 – Plains.

COMPARISONS

Cells shaded grey indicate statistically significant differences between subgroups.

Question 1: Quality of Life (Percent "excellent" or "good")						
Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in Jefferson County:	Commissioner District					
	District 1, Mountains	District 1, Plains	District 2, Mountains	District 2, Plains	District 3, Mountains	District 3, Plains
Jefferson County as a place to live	92%	97%	90%	95%	97%	95%
Your neighborhood as a place to live	94%	93%	97%	87%	95%	90%
Jefferson County as a place to raise children	88%	95%	90%	94%	92%	94%
Jefferson County as a place to work	71%	83%	78%	81%	59%	75%
Jefferson County as a place to retire	63%	72%	76%	74%	75%	68%
The overall quality of life in Jefferson County	87%	96%	93%	94%	97%	96%

Question 2: Community Characteristics (Percent "excellent" or "good")						
Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Jefferson County as a whole:	Commissioner District					
	District 1, Mountains	District 1, Plains	District 2, Mountains	District 2, Plains	District 3, Mountains	District 3, Plains
Sense of community	54%	56%	64%	65%	60%	60%
Recreational opportunities	89%	87%	92%	87%	85%	87%
Employment opportunities	27%	46%	45%	34%	31%	42%
Ease of car travel in Jefferson County	59%	64%	81%	74%	74%	67%
Ease of bus travel in Jefferson County	25%	29%	30%	48%	30%	36%
Ease of bicycle travel in Jefferson County	36%	47%	55%	45%	39%	59%
Ease of walking in Jefferson County	51%	56%	59%	48%	48%	63%
Traffic flow on major streets	42%	39%	65%	44%	56%	45%
Availability of affordable quality housing	37%	41%	43%	46%	42%	50%
Availability of affordable quality child care	36%	50%	46%	45%	35%	47%
Availability of affordable quality health care	44%	60%	55%	53%	51%	67%
Availability of preventive health services	51%	64%	61%	59%	57%	68%
Air quality	65%	62%	72%	55%	78%	67%
Quality of overall natural environment in Jefferson County	78%	86%	88%	79%	89%	82%
Overall image or reputation of Jefferson County	73%	88%	79%	83%	82%	86%

Question 3: Growth (Percent "too fast")						
Please rate the speed of growth in the following categories in Jefferson over the past 2 years:	Commissioner District					
	District 1, Mountains	District 1, Plains	District 2, Mountains	District 2, Plains	District 3, Mountains	District 3, Plains
Population growth	63%	62%	47%	58%	46%	44%
Retail growth (stores, restaurants, etc.)	43%	36%	26%	34%	38%	27%
Jobs growth	1%	4%	2%	1%	1%	5%

Question 4: Code Enforcement (Percent at least a "minor" problem)						
	Commissioner District					
	District 1, Mountains	District 1, Plains	District 2, Mountains	District 2, Plains	District 3, Mountains	District 3, Plains
To what degree, if at all, are run down buildings, weed lots or junk vehicles a problem in Jefferson County?	76%	83%	86%	82%	80%	83%

Question 5: Community Safety (Percent "very" or "somewhat" safe)						
Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel from the following in Jefferson:	Commissioner District					
	District 1, Mountains	District 1, Plains	District 2, Mountains	District 2, Plains	District 3, Mountains	District 3, Plains
Violent crime (e.g., rape, assault, robbery)	90%	91%	85%	86%	88%	85%
Property crimes (e.g., burglary, theft)	75%	83%	77%	78%	80%	70%
Environmental hazards, including toxic waste	77%	82%	77%	80%	81%	79%

Question 6: Personal Safety (Percent "very" or "somewhat" safe)						
Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel:	Commissioner District					
	District 1, Mountains	District 1, Plains	District 2, Mountains	District 2, Plains	District 3, Mountains	District 3, Plains
In your neighborhood during the day	97%	96%	94%	95%	97%	96%
In your neighborhood after dark	91%	90%	91%	82%	93%	82%
In Jefferson County's downtown area(s) during the day	91%	89%	89%	87%	88%	87%
In Jefferson County's downtown area(s) after dark	74%	66%	66%	66%	69%	63%

Questions 7 and 8: Crime Victimization and Reporting (Percent "yes")						
	Commissioner District					
	District 1, Mountains	District 1, Plains	District 2, Mountains	District 2, Plains	District 3, Mountains	District 3, Plains
During the past twelve months, were you or anyone in your household the victim of any crime?	9%	7%	7%	10%	10%	10%
If yes, was this crime (these crimes) reported to the police?	81%	86%	98%	97%	71%	73%

Question 9: Resident Behaviors (Percent at least once in past 12 months)						
In the last 12 months, about how many times, if ever, have you or other household members participated in the following activities in Jefferson?	Commissioner District					
	District 1, Mountains	District 1, Plains	District 2, Mountains	District 2, Plains	District 3, Mountains	District 3, Plains
Used Jefferson County public libraries or their services	72%	75%	71%	72%	88%	83%
Used recreation centers in Jefferson County	67%	82%	71%	69%	77%	75%
Participated in a recreation program or activity	53%	66%	53%	54%	57%	63%
Visited a neighborhood park or County park	92%	96%	95%	93%	97%	96%
Ridden a local bus within Jefferson County	30%	22%	20%	36%	35%	22%
Attended a meeting of local elected officials or other local public meeting	36%	32%	43%	28%	38%	25%
Watched a meeting of local elected officials or other local public meeting on cable television or on the internet	18%	29%	25%	32%	22%	19%
Visited the Jefferson County Web site (at www.jeffco.us)	77%	73%	76%	59%	79%	68%
Recycled used paper, cans or bottles from your home	88%	83%	85%	83%	82%	76%
Volunteered your time to some group or activity in Jefferson County	54%	53%	52%	41%	62%	41%
Provided help to a friend or neighbor	97%	96%	99%	96%	96%	98%

Question 10: Neighborliness (Percent at least once per month)						
	Commissioner District					
	District 1, Mountains	District 1, Plains	District 2, Mountains	District 2, Plains	District 3, Mountains	District 3, Plains
About how often, if at all, do you talk to or visit with your immediate neighbors (people who live in the 10 or 20 households that are closest to you)?	83%	84%	88%	84%	81%	82%

Question 11: Service Quality (Percent "excellent" or "good")						
Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Jefferson:	Commissioner District					
	District 1, Mountains	District 1, Plains	District 2, Mountains	District 2, Plains	District 3, Mountains	District 3, Plains
Sheriff services	80%	87%	92%	80%	83%	83%
Crime prevention	74%	82%	90%	75%	80%	75%
Fire prevention and education	77%	88%	91%	87%	86%	83%
Traffic enforcement on County road and highways	71%	72%	74%	63%	80%	71%
Road repair	46%	38%	54%	31%	56%	39%
Snow removal on County road and highways	81%	75%	79%	62%	80%	61%
Bus or transit services	31%	30%	39%	52%	48%	56%
Recycling	47%	48%	57%	43%	42%	62%
Storm drainage	70%	62%	77%	54%	76%	62%
Drinking water	77%	91%	81%	71%	79%	89%
Jefferson County open space	90%	94%	94%	87%	95%	93%
Nature programs or classes	79%	88%	89%	85%	90%	79%
Land use, planning and zoning	34%	42%	53%	43%	52%	54%
Code enforcement (weeds, abandoned buildings, etc)	48%	56%	50%	43%	62%	50%
Animal control	74%	75%	64%	72%	61%	70%
Economic development	44%	41%	51%	47%	37%	53%
Public health services	59%	57%	64%	57%	58%	60%
Services to seniors	64%	56%	68%	48%	75%	56%
Services to youth	56%	69%	69%	62%	55%	71%
Services to low-income people	43%	55%	36%	37%	44%	52%
Public library services	88%	90%	85%	83%	91%	90%
Emergency preparedness (services that prepare the community for natural disasters or other emergency situations)	47%	67%	69%	45%	65%	61%
Adult protective services	41%	74%	59%	46%	62%	54%

Question 12: Government Services Overall (Percent "excellent" or "good")						
Overall, how would you rate the quality of the services provided by each of the following?	Commissioner District					
	District 1, Mountains	District 1, Plains	District 2, Mountains	District 2, Plains	District 3, Mountains	District 3, Plains
Jefferson County	69%	82%	81%	73%	78%	79%
The Federal Government	30%	34%	32%	29%	34%	31%
The State Government	38%	43%	41%	41%	41%	40%

Question 13: Contact with County Employees (Percent "yes")						
	Commissioner District					
	District 1, Mountains	District 1, Plains	District 2, Mountains	District 2, Plains	District 3, Mountains	District 3, Plains
Have you had any in-person or phone contact with an employee of Jefferson County within the last 12 months (including police, receptionists, planners or any others)?	72%	57%	72%	61%	66%	54%

Question 14: County Employees (Percent "excellent" or "good")						
What was your impression of the employee(s) of the Jefferson County in your most recent contact?	Commissioner District					
	District 1, Mountains	District 1, Plains	District 2, Mountains	District 2, Plains	District 3, Mountains	District 3, Plains
Knowledge	84%	89%	83%	83%	89%	81%
Responsiveness	78%	88%	82%	66%	84%	77%
Courtesy	85%	84%	86%	80%	88%	77%
Overall impression	81%	87%	81%	72%	84%	77%

Question 15: Government Performance (Percent "excellent" or "good")						
Please rate the following categories of Jefferson County government performance:	Commissioner District					
	District 1, Mountains	District 1, Plains	District 2, Mountains	District 2, Plains	District 3, Mountains	District 3, Plains
The value of services for the taxes paid to Jefferson County	45%	57%	55%	56%	55%	54%
The overall direction that Jefferson County is taking	36%	58%	54%	50%	53%	51%
The job Jefferson County government does at welcoming citizen involvement	30%	45%	55%	42%	47%	45%
The job Jefferson County government does at listening to citizens	22%	40%	33%	40%	36%	38%

Question 16: Recommendation and Longevity (Percent "somewhat" or "very" likely)						
Please indicate how likely or unlikely you are to do each of the following:	Commissioner District					
	District 1, Mountains	District 1, Plains	District 2, Mountains	District 2, Plains	District 3, Mountains	District 3, Plains
Recommend living in Jefferson County to someone who asks	88%	96%	94%	94%	94%	93%
Remain in Jefferson County for the next five years	95%	94%	94%	85%	96%	92%

Question 17: Impact of the Economy (Percent "somewhat" or "very" positive)						
	Commissioner District					
	District 1, Mountains	District 1, Plains	District 2, Mountains	District 2, Plains	District 3, Mountains	District 3, Plains
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:	11%	13%	15%	9%	17%	12%