



# Community Survey 2021

## Report of Results

October 2021

Prepared by:



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# Survey Background

## About the Survey

The Town of Charlestown, RI contracted with Polco's National Research Center (NRC) to conduct a survey of community stakeholders to assess their opinions on the quality of life, services and the job the Town government is doing, and to get input on their views on growth overall as well as specific policy or programmatic decisions faced by the Town.

## Survey Administration

Where many surveys use postal address lists from the USPS, because of the variability of residency (seasonal and temporary stays versus long term residents and owners), the Town chose to use an internal list of registered voters with town addresses and homeowners from property tax assessments records to approximate its resident stakeholders. All addresses from these sources were combined and efforts were made to remove duplicated people. Duplicate addresses were allowed where the name on the record differed (as more than one adult could live in a home). Where clearly duplicated people were found, the duplicate was removed. This resulted in a list of 9,400 mailing addresses for voters (living at a Charlestown address) and Charlestown property owners (who may live in Charlestown permanently, seasonally or not at all).

To track response, each of the 9,400 mailing addresses were each given a PIN (passcode). This was printed on the paper survey and was entered by the respondent at the outset of the Online survey.

The 9,400 addresses received three mailed contacts:

- Week 1: A postcard invitation with a URL to complete the survey online was sent with a note that a paper survey would follow the next week.
- Week 2: A survey with a half page cover letter was mailed. The cover letter included a URL where respondents could go to complete the survey online, if desired. The packet also contained a postage-paid return envelope to return the completed survey.
- Week 4: A reminder letter, survey and postage paid envelope were sent. The second cover letter asked those who had not completed the survey to do so and those who have already done so to refrain from turning in another.

Of the 9,400 addresses, 2,270 completed the survey online (359) or returned a paper survey by mail (1,911) for an overall response rate of 24% for the address-based sample effort. The margin of error for this survey, with 2,270 respondents, is  $\pm 2.1\%$ . In essence, this means that, 95% of the time, any statistic given in this report will be within 2.1 percentage points of what the entire voter/homeowner population would have given had they all been surveyed.

Once all data was combined, the passcodes were analyzed and 170 of the 2,170 responses were identified as possibly (but not certainly) coming from outside the mailed sample. These respondents were found to be statistically similar to the overall respondents and no variation was found in the survey results when they were included or excluded. As such, they were included in the analyses (full detail is provided *Appendix H: Survey Methodology*).

Comparisons of results by respondent characteristics are reported in detail in the appendices and highlighted in text in the body of the report. More information about the survey methods can be found in *Appendix G: Comparison to National Benchmark*.

## Key Findings

### Overall, Charlestown residents enjoy a high quality of life.

- About 9 in 10 residents gave positive ratings to Charlestown as a place to live, raise children, retire, visit and enjoy its rural character and open space; 94% said the overall quality of life was excellent or good. Where comparisons were available, all these ratings were much higher than the National benchmark (national average from hundreds of communities across the country).
- Ninety-two percent of residents had positive ratings for their feelings of safety and the overall image of Charlestown, 85% gave high marks to the appearance and cleanliness of the Town, and 75% thought the sense of community was excellent or good.
- Eighty-eight percent of residents gave high marks to both the overall quality of green spaces and access to them; 80% also said outdoor recreation opportunities were excellent or good.

### Town services and facilities meet high standards.

- Ninety percent or more of residents are satisfied with the local police department (90%), Ninigret Park (91%), library and its programs (92%), volunteer fire department (93%) and ambulance rescue services (94%).
- Seventy percent or more of residents are satisfied with the senior center and its programs (70%), town-sponsored events (75%), stormwater management (76%), wastewater management (76%), animal control (77%), harbor management and boating (79%), parks and recreational activities (79%), recycling services (82%), town parks (82%), snow plowing and sanding (83%), customer service of town employees (85%), overall quality of town services (85%) and town-owned protected open spaces (86%).
- Almost all the services that could be compared to benchmarks received ratings that were higher than the National benchmarks.

### Town government is providing good value.

- The value of services for the taxes paid (71%) and overall confidence in Charlestown government (69%) were both rated highly and well above the National benchmark. The overall performance of Town government was rated as excellent or good by two-thirds of residents but fell short of the National benchmark.
- Treating residents fairly (59%), being open and transparent (54%), and the job the Town government does at welcoming resident involvement (54%) received higher rating by fewer residents, but these were similar to the National Benchmark.

### Residents vary in opinions on growth.

- Of those with an opinion, around half of residents, thought population (55%), commercial (51%), retail, (48%) residential housing (44%) and job (40%) growth rates were about right.
- Most others thought that residential housing (46%) and population (39%) growth were too fast and that job (55%), retail (42%), and commercial business (35%) growth rates were too slow.
- Renters and owners generally agreed about the pace of growth for all items, except more renters than owners thought residential housing was growing too slowly and more owners than renters thought it was too fast.

## **Jobs and affordable housing were a concern.**

- Charlestown received high ratings as a place to live, but lower ratings as a place to work. While almost half of respondents said they did not know enough to rate this, only 53% of those with an opinion thought the town was excellent or good as a place to work.
- Asked to rate job growth, 43% said they did not know enough to so; of those with an opinion, 55% thought it was too slow.
- While 71% rated the local economy and 65% rated overall business and service establishments as excellent or good, areas of improvement included availability of affordable housing (33%), dining (38%), shopping (32%) and employment (24%) opportunities. These ratings were lower than national benchmarks.

## **Travel is easier by car than foot or bike.**

- Ratings for the ease of travel by car were much higher than the National benchmark, but ratings for ease of travel by bicycle or walking were much lower.
- Half or more of residents said getting across Route 1 on foot or bike, traffic in the summer, speeding, and overall traffic safety were major or moderate problems in Charlestown; 50% thought getting across Route 1 on foot or bike was a major problem.

## **Local beaches, lakes, ponds and rivers have great ratings for quality and access.**

- Water-based recreation areas received top marks for quality with a majority saying each were excellent or good: Blue Shutters Town Beach (86%), Quonochontaug Pond (80%), Charlestown Town Beach (78%), Wachaug Pond (77%), Ninigret Pond (75%) and Pawcatuck River (71%).
- Access to water-based recreation areas also received excellent or good ratings by most respondents: freshwater ponds (71%), saltwater ponds (68%) access to the shoreline (66%) and boat launches (65%).
- Access to the Town's beach parking lots received positive ratings by fewer people; Charlestown Town Beach lot was rated excellent or good by 51% and Blue Shutters Town Beach lot by 37%.

## **Residents are concerned about coastal erosion and other environmental issues.**

- Coastal seashore erosion (88%), beach overcrowding (87%), sea level rise/climate change (87%), and pollution of coastal salt ponds (78%) were seen as at least a minor problem by a large majority of residents (and a major or moderate problem by half or more).
- Fewer said well-water pollution and air quality were a problem, but when residents were asked what to prioritize for the investment of tax dollars and staff time in the coming two years, top priorities were protecting the environment (94%), keeping taxes low (92%), helping mitigate pollution from septic systems (87%) and preventing well water contamination (87% essential or very important).

## **Ninigret Park is well used with residents somewhat open to non-commercial improvements.**

- Only 8% of residents said that they did not use Ninigret Park at all, and many (43%) used it at least monthly.
- Most residents did not want to see commercial additions to Ninigret Park; 69% somewhat or strongly prefer just maintaining it and 66% were open to some (non-commercial) improvements.

- The most supported improvements for Ninigret Park were more walking/jogging trails (78%), additional restrooms (73%), an arboretum (59%), and outdoor ice skating (57%). The strongest opposition was to the addition of a football field, more large festivals, concession stands, or a large band shell.
- The preferred ways to fund improvements were using the Town's budget surplus in the years that the surplus exceeds the recommended savings level (69%) and rental fees for park facilities and amenities (62%).

# Survey Results

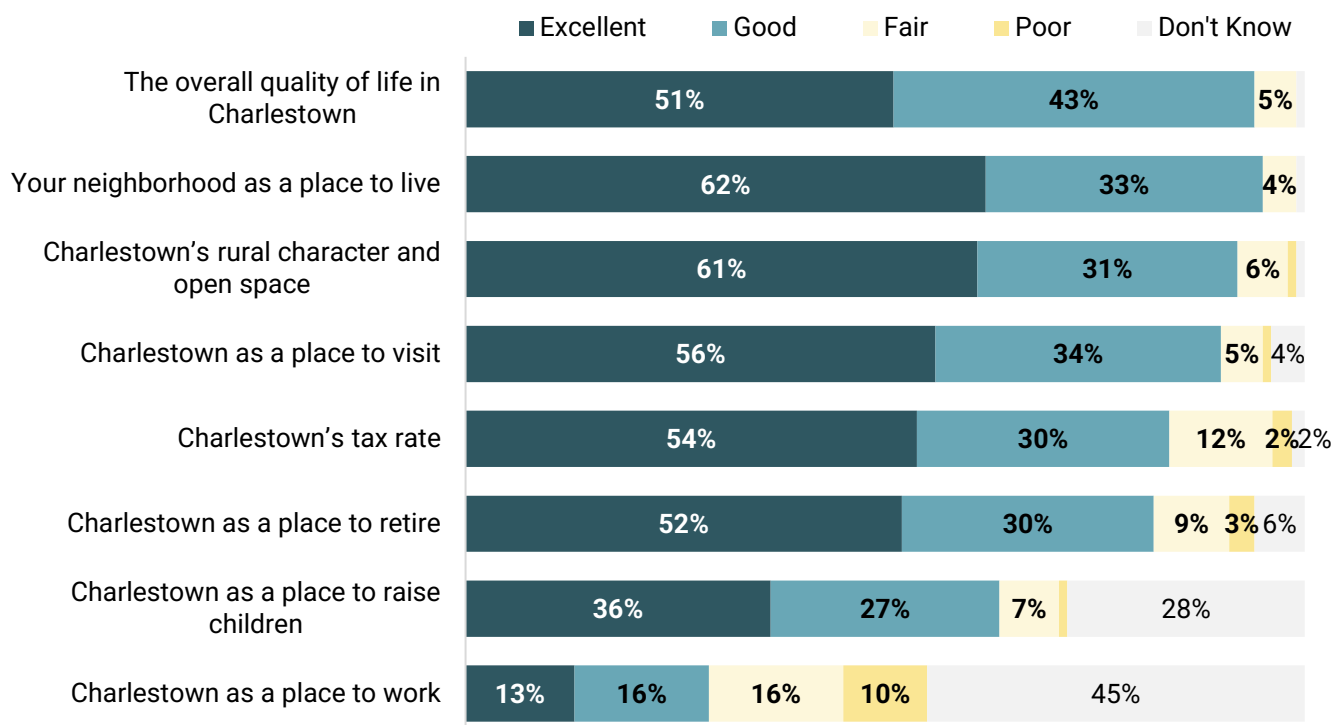
## Quality of Life and Community

The quality of life in any community has many components, to understand how residents broadly perceive Charlestown they were asked to rate the overall quality of life, and underlying aspects such as Charlestown as a place to work, visit, and retire. Charlestown residents gave high marks that were well above national benchmarks to all items measuring quality of life.

The exception was “Charlestown as a place to work” which was rated as excellent or good by only 53% of those with an opinion and was much lower than the benchmark (45% said they did not know enough to rate this item, see Figure 1 and Figure 2).

**Figure 1: Quality of Life in Charlestown**

Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in Charlestown.



**Figure 2: Quality of Life in Charlestown Compared to National Benchmark**

Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in Charlestown.	Excellent or Good (excluding don't know)	Compared to the National benchmark
The overall quality of life in Charlestown	94%	Much higher
Your neighborhood as a place to live	95%	Much higher
Charlestown as a place to visit	94%	Much higher
Charlestown as a place to retire	88%	Much higher
Charlestown as a place to raise children	88%	Much higher
Charlestown as a place to work	53%	Much lower

Residents who lived in the town full-time gave higher ratings to the tax rate (90% excellent or good) compared to those who lived in Town part time (73%). Full time residents had slightly higher ratings for the Town as a place to raise kids (89% versus 83%), while part-time residents gave slightly higher ratings to the town as a place to visit (96% versus 93%, see Table 25: Question 1 by Residency). Residents who had been in Charlestown for more than 20 years gave higher ratings than those with shorter residencies for the town as a place to work (56% versus 47%) and raise kids (90% versus 84%), and were a bit less satisfied with the tax rate (83% versus 89%, see Table 39: Question 1 by Housing Status).

Residents with no children in the household gave slightly higher ratings than those with children for Charlestown as a place to live, work, visit and retire (see Table 53: Question 1 by Household Composition). Ratings did not vary much by age group, gender or employment status, but those who worked in town gave higher ratings to Charlestown as a place to work (65% excellent or good) than did those who worked outside the town (46%, see Table 67: Question 1 by Age and Gender and Table 81: Question 1 by Employment Status).



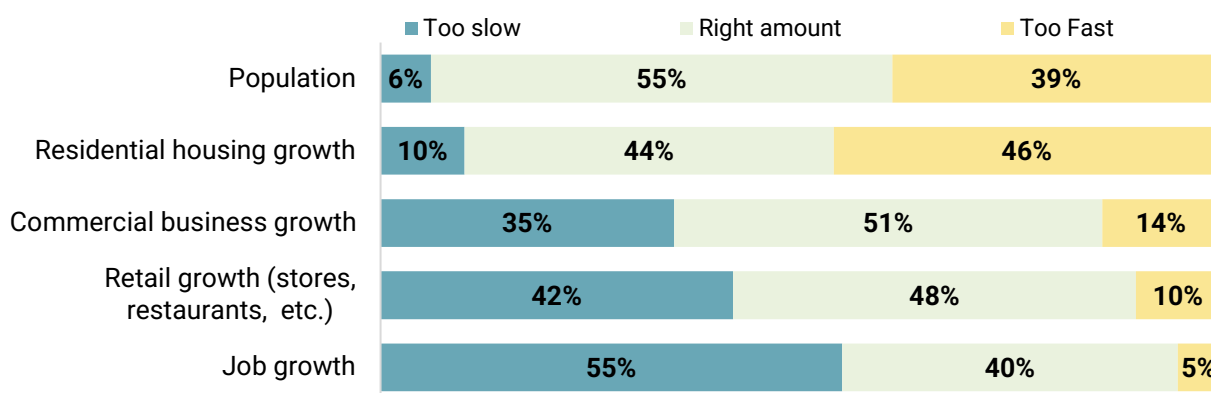
## Pace of Growth

Residents were asked to reflect on the pace of growth in the Charlestown and most had an opinion about population, housing, business and retail growth, but 43% said they did not know about job growth. Of those with an opinion, close to half thought the pace of commercial and retail growth was about right and most others thought it was too slow. Just over half of those with an opinion thought job growth was too slow, and just under half thought population and housing growth was too fast.

**Figure 3: Pace of Growth in Charlestown, for those with an Opinion**

Please rate the pace of growth in Charlestown in the following categories.

(Percent too slow, right amount, or too fast, excluding “don’t know”)



**Figure 4: Pace of Growth in Charlestown, All Respondents**

Please rate the pace of growth in Charlestown in the following categories.	Much too slow	Somewhat too slow	Right amount	Somewhat too fast	Much too fast	Don't know
Population	1%	4%	48%	25%	10%	12%
Residential housing growth	3%	6%	40%	25%	16%	10%
Commercial business growth	10%	20%	44%	7%	5%	14%
Retail growth (stores, restaurants, etc.)	11%	28%	45%	5%	4%	6%
Job growth	12%	20%	23%	1%	2%	43%

For the most part, part-time and full-time residents had similar opinions, but part-time residents were more likely to feel residential housing and population growth were about right. Full-time residents were slightly more likely to think retail and commercial businesses were growing too fast (see Table 26). Renters and owners also generally agreed about the pace of growth, but 25% of renters said residential housing was growing too slowly compared to 10% of owners, while 46% of owners thought the pace was too fast (compared to 27% of renters). Residents who lived in the town for 20 or more years were somewhat more likely than others to say the pace of growth for population, housing and retail were too fast (see Table 40).

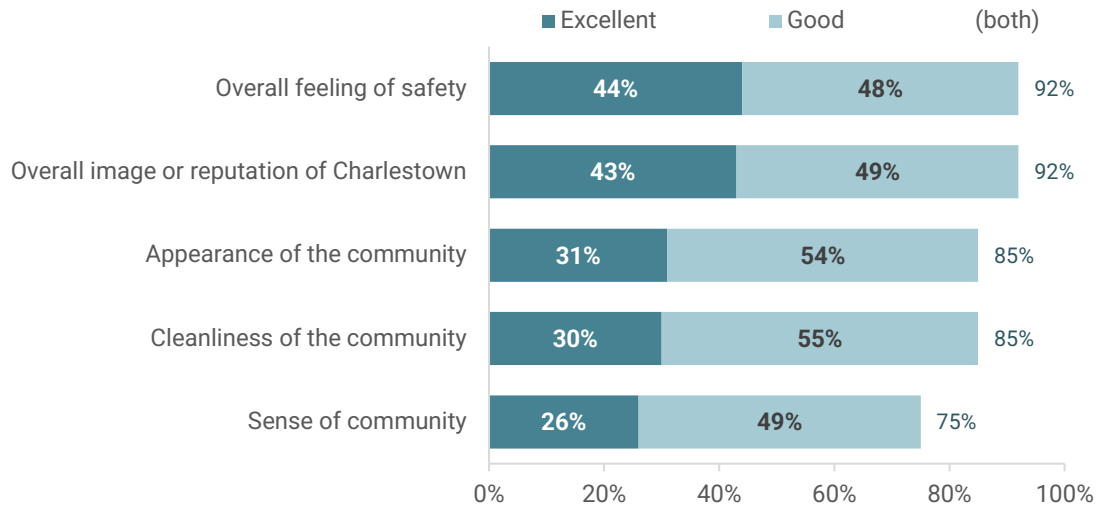
Residents with children were a bit more likely to think retail, commercial business and job growth were too slow (see Table 54). Women were more likely than men to say population and housing were growing at too fast of a pace and residents under age 55 were more likely than their older counterparts to say retail and commercial growth was too slow (see Table 68). Retired residents were less likely than those still working to say retail and commercial growth were too slow (see Table 82).

## Satisfaction with Charlestown

Overall, residents were very satisfied with their community. A large majority of residents felt safe in Charlestown and gave high ratings to the Town's overall appearance, reputation, cleanliness and sense of community. All of these ratings were higher or much higher than National benchmarks.

**Figure 5: Satisfaction with Charleston Overall**

Please rate your level of satisfaction with each of the following in Charlestown.  
(Percent excellent or good, excluding "don't know")



**Figure 6: Satisfaction with Town Compared to National Benchmarks**

Safety Items	Percent positive	Comparison to benchmark
Overall feeling of safety	92%	Much higher
Overall image or reputation of Charlestown	92%	Much higher
Appearance of the community	85%	Much higher
Cleanliness of the community	85%	Higher
Sense of community	75%	Much higher

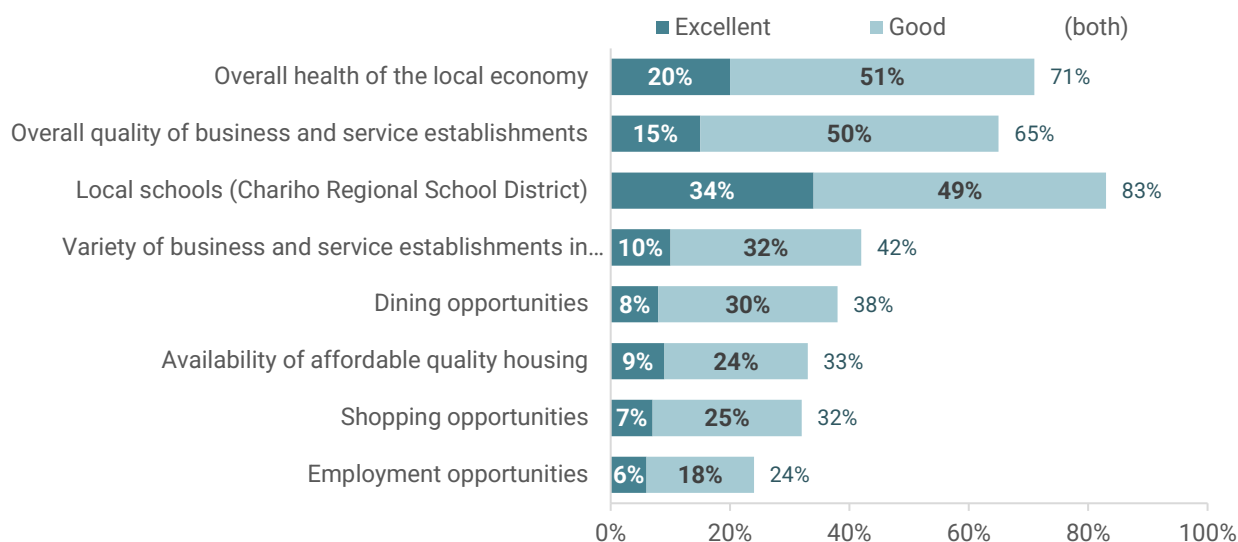
While residents across the board were very satisfied with these aspects of Charlestown, part-time residents gave slightly higher ratings than full-time residents for the sense of community, cleanliness and appearance of the community (see Table 27). Residents with no children, in comparison to those with children, were a bit more satisfied with the sense of community and appearance (see Table 55), while residents 55 years or older gave higher ratings than those aged 35-54 for the sense of community, cleanliness and appearance of the community (see Table 69). Lastly, retired residents gave slightly higher ratings than those still working to sense of community and Charlestown's overall reputation (see Table 83).

## Charlestown's Economy

While community members were very happy with the town as a place to live and visit, there was more concern about the local economy. A majority of residents rated the overall health of the economy, (71%), local schools (83%) and overall quality of business and service establishments (65%) as excellent or good, but less than half gave high ratings to the variety of businesses, the affordability of housing and opportunities for dining, shopping and employment in general. Further, all the items that could be compared to the National benchmark were below the average rating across the country.

**Figure 7: Satisfaction with Aspects of Charlestown's Economy**

Please rate your level of satisfaction with each of the following in Charlestown.  
(Percent excellent or good, excluding "don't know")



*\*Categories with higher proportions of respondents selecting "Don't Know" include: Employment opportunities (46%), Local schools (Chariho Regional School District) (35%), Availability of affordable quality housing (31%), Overall health of the local economy (18%)*

**Figure 8: Aspects of Charlestown's Economy Compared to the National Benchmark**

Economy Items	Percent positive	Comparison to benchmark
Overall quality of business and service establishments	65%	Lower
Variety of business and service establishments in Charlestown	42%	Much lower
Shopping opportunities	32%	Much lower
Availability of affordable quality housing	33%	Lower
Employment opportunities	23%	Much lower

Full-time residents were more satisfied with the quality and variety of businesses and services and with local schools than part-time residents and a bit less satisfied with the amount of affordable housing (see Table 27). Owners and renters held similar opinions, with the exception that renters were more concerned about the availability of affordable housing. Longer-term residents (20 years or more) were more satisfied with the local economy, variety of businesses and services and shopping opportunities than others (see Table 41) but gave lower marks for the affordability of housing.

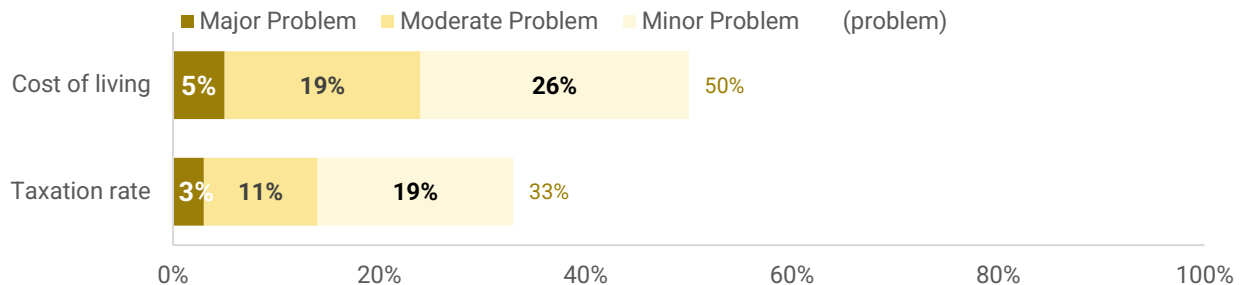
Residents without children at home gave higher marks than those with children in the household for the local economy and the variety of business (see Table 55), while women and men differed only in that women gave higher ratings for the overall quality of business and service establishments (Table 69). Retired residents were slightly more satisfied with the quality and variety of businesses and services than those still working (see Table 83).

## Cost of Living

The cost of living was at least a minor problem for about half of residents and was a major or moderate problem for about one-quarter. Taxations rates were of at least some concern to about one-third of residents, but only a major or moderate problem for about 14% of respondents.

**Figure 9: Potential Household Economic Problems**

How much of a problem, if at all, are the following for Charlestown? (Percent major or moderate problem)



Part-time residents were twice as likely to identify the tax rate as a major or moderate problem than full-time residents (21% compared to 11%, see Table 32).

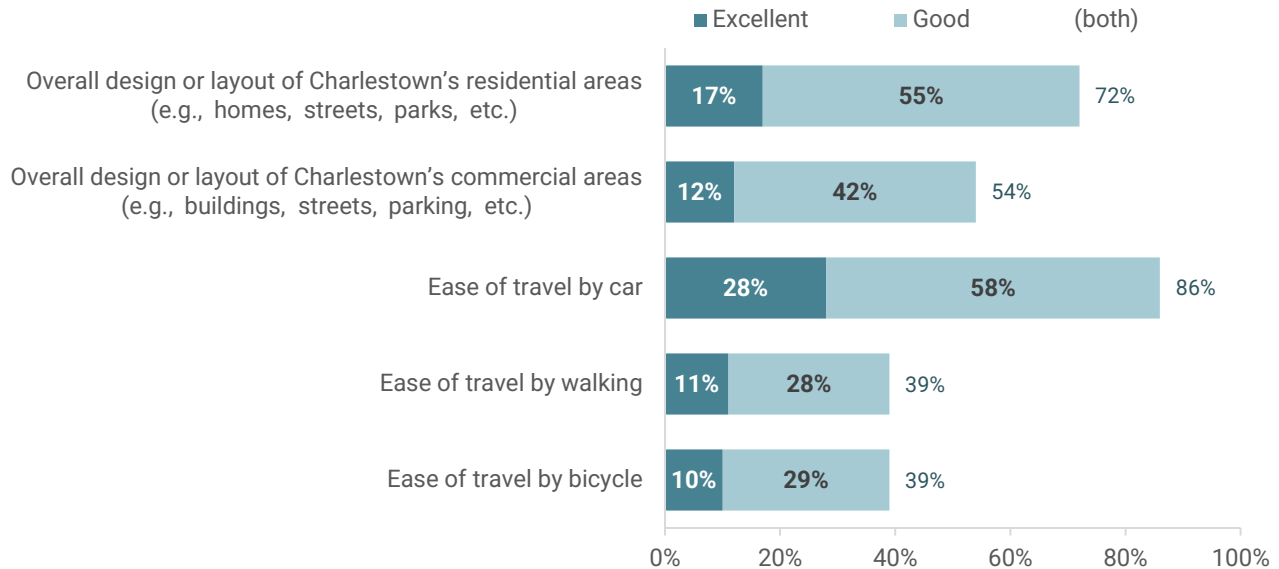
Most renters (61%) said the cost of living was a major or moderate problem, which was much higher than the 23% of homeowners who said the same (see Table 46). Those who lived in Charlestown 20 or more years were more likely to find the tax rate problematic (16%) compared to new residents (9% of those living in town 5 years or less). Residents aged 18-34 years old were more likely to name the cost of living as a major or moderate problem than their older counterparts (38% compared to 22%, see Table 74). Lastly, while the difference was not as wide as between other groups, 26% of employed residents had at least a moderate problem with the cost of living compared to 21% of retired residents (see Table 88).

## Transportation and Design

Charlestown residents gave high marks to the ease of travel by car (86%) but also gave ratings that were much lower than the National benchmark for ease of walking and biking. The design of residential areas was considered excellent or good by close to three-quarters of residents (72%), but the design of commercial areas was rated positively by only about half of residents (54%).

**Figure 10: Satisfaction with Transportation and Design**

Please rate your level of satisfaction with each of the following in Charlestown.  
(Percent excellent or good, excluding “don’t know”)



**Figure 11: Satisfaction with Transportation Compared to National Benchmarks**

Mobility Items	Percent positive	Comparison to benchmark
Ease of travel by car	86%	Much higher
Ease of travel by bicycle	39%	Much lower
Ease of travel by walking	39%	Much lower

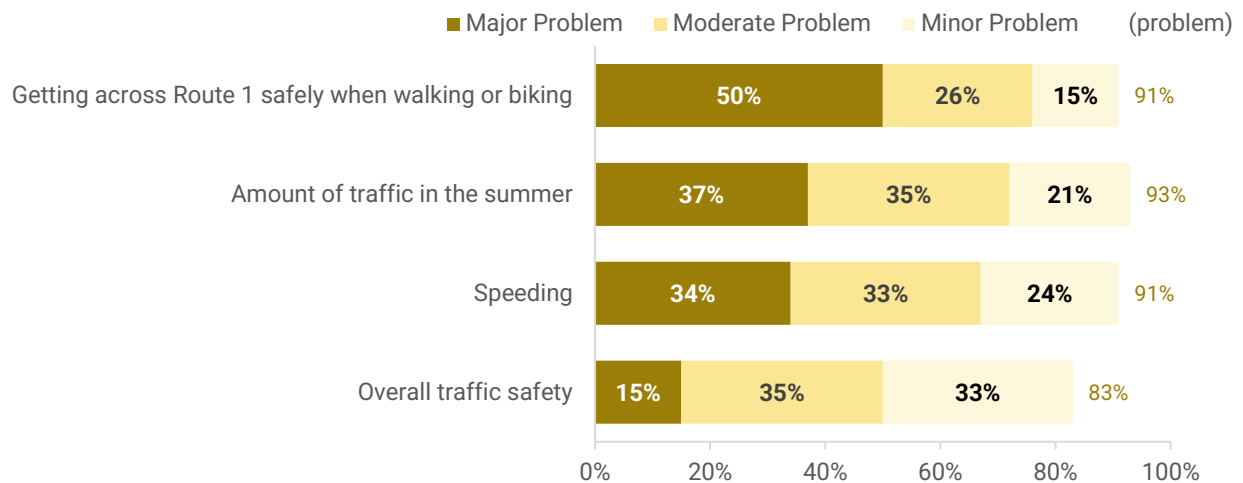
Part-time residents (43%) were a bit more likely than full time residents (37%) to be satisfied with the ease of walking (see Table 27). Renters gave higher marks than homeowners to the overall design of residential areas and to the ease of traveling by bicycle (see Table 41). Residents with no children at home had higher ratings than those living with children for the ease of walking (see Table 55), men gave higher ratings than women to the ease of biking in town (see Table 69).

## Transportation Concerns

Three-quarters of residents said getting across Route 1 on foot or bike was a major (50%) or moderate (26%) problem. A majority also cited major or moderate problems with the amount of traffic in the summer (72%), speeding in general (67%) and overall traffic safety (50%). All of these were named as at least a minor problem for 83% of more of residents.

**Figure 12: Potential Transportation Problems**

How much of a problem, if at all, are the following for Charlestown? (Percent major or moderate problem)



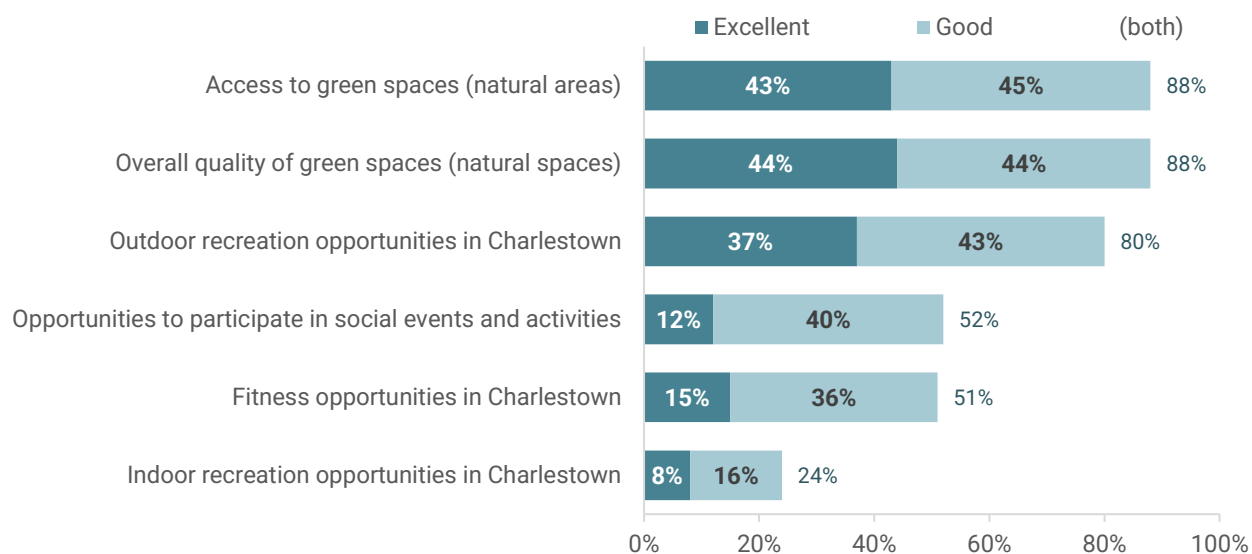
Full-time residents were more concerned than part-time residents about summer traffic and speeding (see Table 32) as were residents with 20 or more years in Charlestown compared to shorter tenured residents (see Table 46). Residents with no children at home and those who had people aged 65 or older at home had more concerns regarding speeding, summer and overall traffic than residents with children at home or those with no older adults in the household (see Table 60). Female residents were significantly more concerned about these traffic issues than males, as were those who were 55 years old or older compared to younger age groups (see Table 74). Retired residents were also significantly more concerned than employed residents about safely getting across Route 1, speeding and summer traffic (see Table 88).

## Parks, Recreation and Natural Places

Access to green spaces in Charlestown was rated excellent or good by 88% of respondents and that rating was much higher than the National benchmark. Residents also gave high marks to the overall quality of Charlestown's green spaces (88% excellent or good) and outdoor recreation opportunities in town (80%). Opportunities for social events and activities (52%) and fitness opportunities (51%) were rated as good or better by half of respondents while indoor recreation opportunities were thought to be good by only 24% of those with an opinion.

**Figure 13: Satisfaction with Aspects of Recreation**

Please rate your level of satisfaction with each of the following in Charlestown.  
(Percent excellent or good, excluding "don't know")



*\*Categories with higher proportions of respondents selecting "Don't Know" include Indoor recreation opportunities in Charlestown (33%), Fitness opportunities in Charlestown (21%) and Opportunities to participate in social events and activities (18%)*

**Figure 14: Access to Green Spaces Compared to the National Benchmark**

Natural Environment Items	Percent positive	Rank	Number of communities in comparison	Comparison to benchmark
Access to green spaces/natural areas	89%	71	291	Much higher

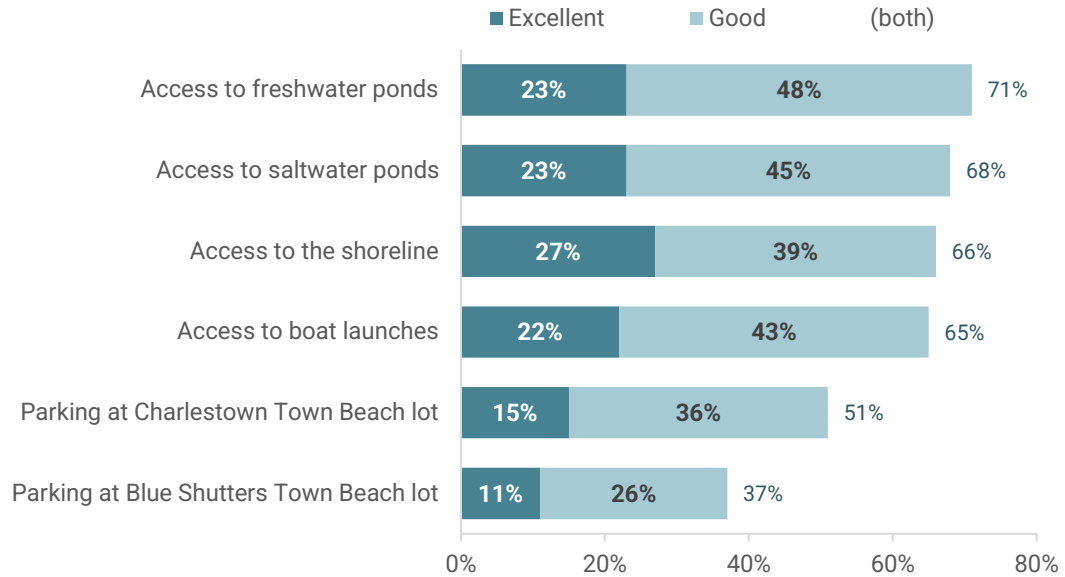
Full-time residents gave slightly higher ratings than part-time residents to the quality of green spaces but had similar opinion for the other items (see Table 27). Residents who had been in Charlestown for fewer than 5 years had higher ratings than others for opportunities for outdoor recreation as well as social events and activities (see Table 41). Lastly, younger residents (18- 34 years) or those who were employed were more likely to rate outdoor recreation opportunities higher than older and retired residents (Table 69 and Table 83).

## Access to Water-Based Recreation Areas

About two-thirds of residents thought access to Charlestown's water-based recreation areas were excellent or good, but half or fewer gave that rating to parking at Charlestown Town Beach lot (51%) and Blue Shutters Town Beach lot (37%).

**Figure 15: Satisfaction with Access to Water-based Recreation Areas**

Please rate each of the following in Charlestown (Percent excellent or good, excluding "don't know")



*\*Categories with higher proportions of respondents selecting "Don't Know" include Parking at Blue Shutters Town Beach lot (27%) and Parking at Charlestown Town Beach lot (21%)*

Part-time residents gave higher ratings for this access than full-time residents (see Table 27 and Table 28) as did shorter-term residents (lived in town 5 years or less) compared to long-term residents (see Table 41 and Table 42). Adults from 18 to 34 years old gave better ratings to both beach parking lots than their older counterparts, but all age groups rated access to shoreline, launches and ponds similarly (see Table 69 and Table 70). Employed residents were also more likely to give the Town Beach lots higher ratings than retired residents but rate general access to the water similarly (see Table 83 and Table 84).



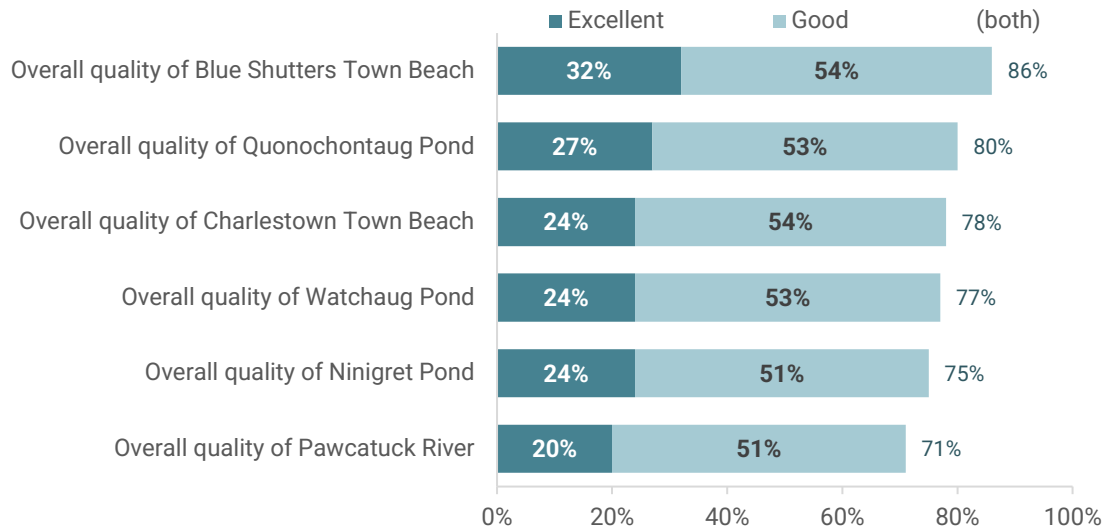
## Quality of Water-Based Recreation Areas

Residents were satisfied with the quality of Charlestown's water-based recreation areas, with all listed amenities being rated as excellent or good 7 in 10 or more of the residents who had an opinion.

It should be noted that for a few of these amenities a fairly large proportion of residents said they did not know enough to provide a rating; Pawcatuck River (55%), Watchaug Pond (41%), Quonochontaug Pond (35%), and Blue Shuttles Town Beach (25%).

**Figure 16: Quality of Water-based Recreation Areas**

Please rate each of the following in Charlestown. (Percent excellent or good, excluding "don't know")



*\*Categories with higher proportions of respondents selecting "Don't Know" include Overall quality of Pawcatuck River (55%), Overall quality of Watchaug Pond (41%), Overall quality of Quonochontaug Pond (35%), Overall quality of Blue Shuttles Town Beach (25%), Access to boat launches (22%), Access to freshwater ponds (19%), Overall quality of Charlestown Town Beach (17%), Overall quality of Ninigret Pond (15%)*

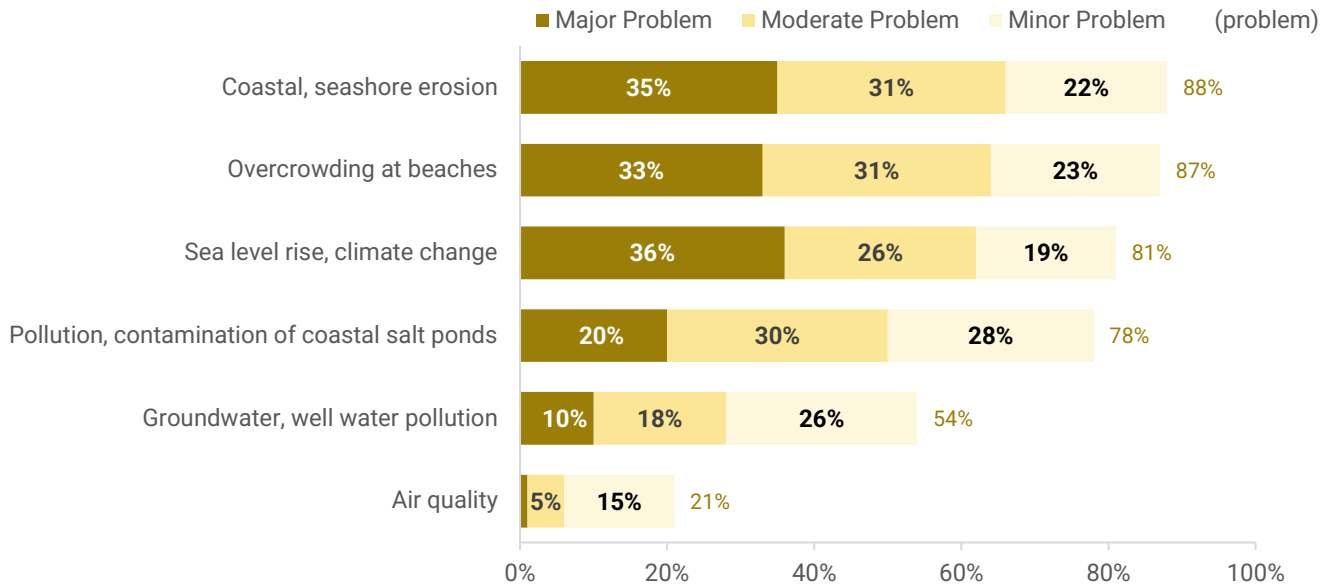
Part-time and full-time residents generally had similar opinions (see Table 28) as did owners and renters (Table 42), both differed only in rating Watchaug Pond; with owners and part-time residents giving higher marks. Longer-term residents (20 years or more) had lower ratings than others for several of these water amenities but still more than 70% said they were each excellent or good (see Table 42). There was little variation in opinion among men and women and between age groups (see Table 70). Residents who were employed significantly viewed the quality of Ninigret and Quonochontaug pond and Pawcatuck River as higher than retired residents (see Table 84).

## Environmental Challenges

About two-thirds of residents thought coastal erosion, overcrowding at beaches and rising sea levels were major or moderate problems for Charlestown, and most others thought they were at least minor problems. About half of Charlestown residents had at least moderate concerns about pollution or contamination of coastal salt ponds, but fewer had concerns about groundwater or air quality issues in the town.

**Figure 17: Potential Environmental Problems**

How much of a problem, if at all, are the following for Charlestown?  
(Percent major or moderate problem, excluding don't know)



Part-time residents were more concerned than full-time residents about well water and coastal salt pond pollution, while full-time residents were more concerned about beach overcrowding, climate change and coastal erosion (see Table 32). Opinions did not vary by length of residency, except that those who were in Charlestown for 20 years or more were a bit more concerned with beach overcrowding than were newcomers (see Table 46). Residents with no children at home were more concerned with coastal salt pond contamination than residents with children at home (see Table 60). Women, more than men, were concerned with all of the environmental issues listed (see Table 74). Lastly, retired residents were more likely to be concerned about climate change and coastal salt pond contamination than those who were still employed (see Table 88).

## Town Services and Facilities

Figure 19 on the following page shows residents' ratings of a wide array of Town services. A strong majority of residents gave ratings of excellent or good to each of the items; with the highest ratings going to ambulance fire and police services, libraries, and Ninigret Park (90% or more rated them excellent or good) and the lowest ratings to street maintenance (65%) and building and zoning (64%). Of the amenities that could be compared to the National benchmark most were higher than the national average, while fire services were similar, and parks and recreation programs and activities were lower than the benchmark.

Full-time and part-time residents mostly held similar opinions, but part-time residents did have lower ratings for recycling services and stormwater and wastewater management (see Table 29). Length of residency did not have an impact on most ratings, but newer residents had slightly higher ratings for Ninigret Park, and those who lived in town for 20+ years gave higher ratings than others for parks and recreation programs, town-sponsored events, the customer service of Town employees and the overall quality of Town services (see Table 43).

Residents with no children at home gave recycling and library programs and the customer service of Town employees higher ratings than those with children in the home (see Table 57). Adults over age 55 had higher ratings than their younger counterparts for animal control, recycling services, street maintenance, the customer service of Town employees and the overall quality of town services, while women generally had similar opinions to men, but gave higher ratings for Harbor Management & Boating and library programs (see Table 71).

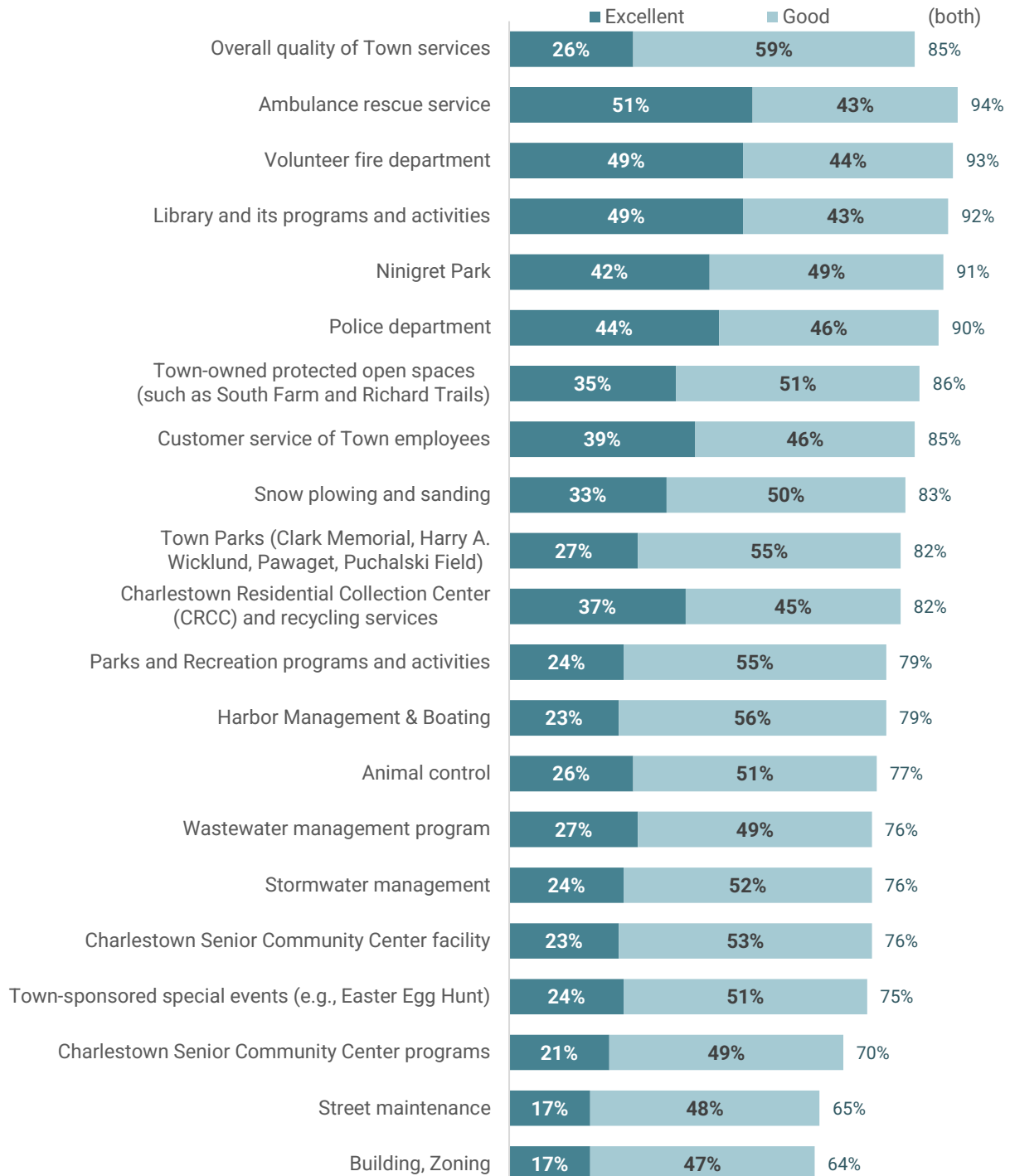
**Figure 18: Rating of Town Services and Facilities Compared to National Benchmarks**

	<b>Percent positive</b>	<b>Comparison to benchmark</b>
Ambulance rescue service	94%	Higher
Volunteer fire department	94%	Similar
Library and its programs and activities	92%	Higher
Police department	90%	Much higher
Customer service of Town employees	86%	Much higher
Snow plowing and sanding	84%	Much higher
Charlestown Residential Collection Center (CRCC) and recycling services	81%	Higher
Parks and Recreation programs and activities	78%	Much lower
Animal control	77%	Higher
Stormwater management	76%	Higher
Town-sponsored special events (e.g., Easter Egg Hunt)	75%	Higher
Street maintenance	64%	Much higher

**Figure 19: Quality of Town Services and Facilities**

Please rate the quality of each of the following services or facilities provided in Charlestown.

(Percent excellent or good, excluding “don’t know”)



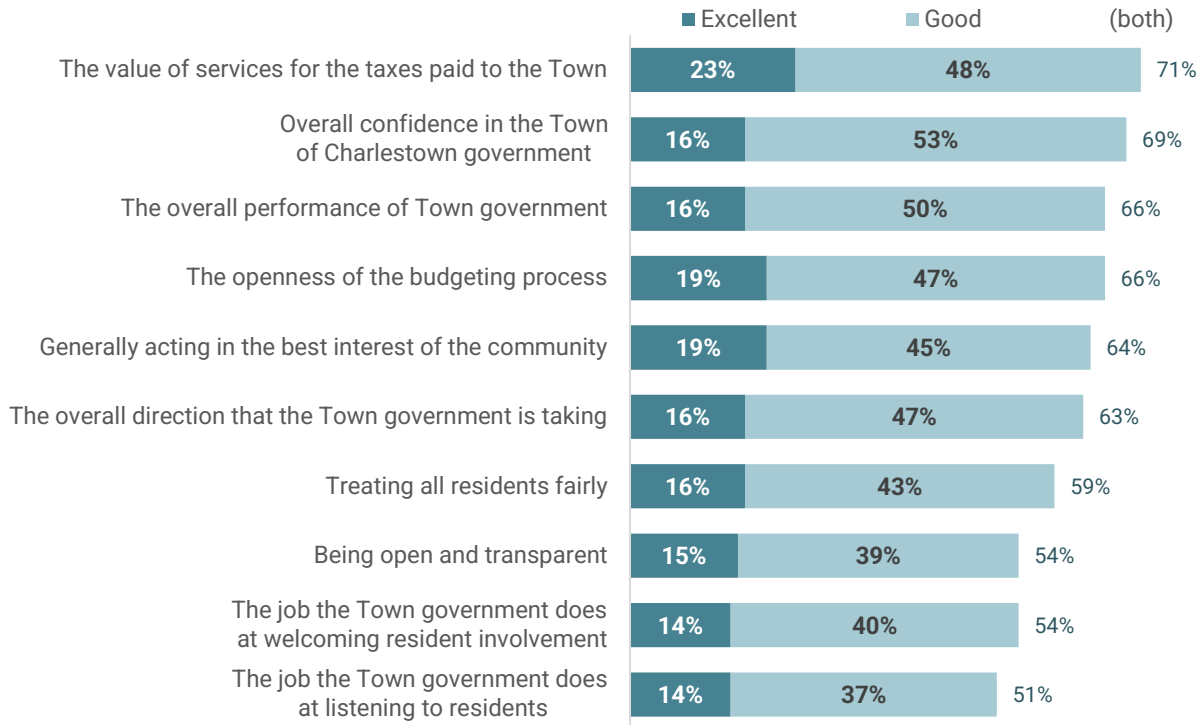
\*Categories with higher proportions of respondents selecting “Don’t Know” include Charlestown Senior Community Center programs (60%), Charlestown Senior Community Center facility (55%), Harbor Management & Boating (49%), Town-sponsored special events (e.g., Easter Egg Hunt) (48%), Town Parks (Clark Memorial, Harry A. Wicklund, Pawaget, Puchalski Field) (47%), Wastewater management program (46%), Animal control (43%), Stormwater management (41%), Town-owned protected open spaces (such as South Farm and Richard Trails) (40%), Parks and Recreation programs and activities (35%), Ambulance rescue service (30%), Building, Zoning (25%), Charlestown Residential Collection Center (CRCC) and recycling services (23%), Volunteer fire department (23%), Library and its programs and activities (20%), Snow plowing and sanding (16%)

## Government Performance

Residents were happy with the value of the services they get for their taxes and had confidence in the Town's government, both were rated much higher than the National Benchmark. About two-thirds of residents gave excellent or good ratings to the overall performance of the Town government, the openness of the budget process, the general direction the Town government is taking and in generally acting in the best interest of the community. Lower rated, but similar to National benchmarks, were being open and transparent and the job the Town government does at welcoming resident involvement.

**Figure 20: Town of Charlestown Government Performance**

Please rate the following categories of the Town of Charlestown government performance.  
(Percent excellent or good, excluding "don't know")



*\*Categories with higher proportions of respondents selecting "Don't Know" include Treating all residents fairly (29%), The job the Town government does at welcoming resident involvement (27%), The job the Town government does at listening to residents (27%), Being open and transparent (25%), The openness of the budgeting process (24%), The overall direction that the Town government is taking (21%), Generally acting in the best interest of the community (17%), The overall performance of Town government (14%)*

**Figure 21: Town Government Performance Compared to the National Benchmark**

	Percent positive	Comparison to benchmark
The value of services for the taxes paid to the Town	72%	Much higher
Overall confidence in the Town of Charlestown government	69%	Much higher
The overall performance of Town government	66%	Much lower
Generally acting in the best interest of the community	64%	Higher
The overall direction that the Town government is taking	63%	Similar
Treating all residents fairly	59%	Similar
Being open and transparent	54%	Similar
The job the Town government does at welcoming resident involvement	53%	Similar

Full and part-time residents held similar opinions with two differences: full-time residents gave higher ratings to the value of services for the taxes paid to the Town and part-time residents had more confidence in the town government overall (see Table 30). Compared to renters, homeowners gave higher ratings to almost all aspects of Town governance, while there was almost no variance in opinion by length of residency (see Table 44).

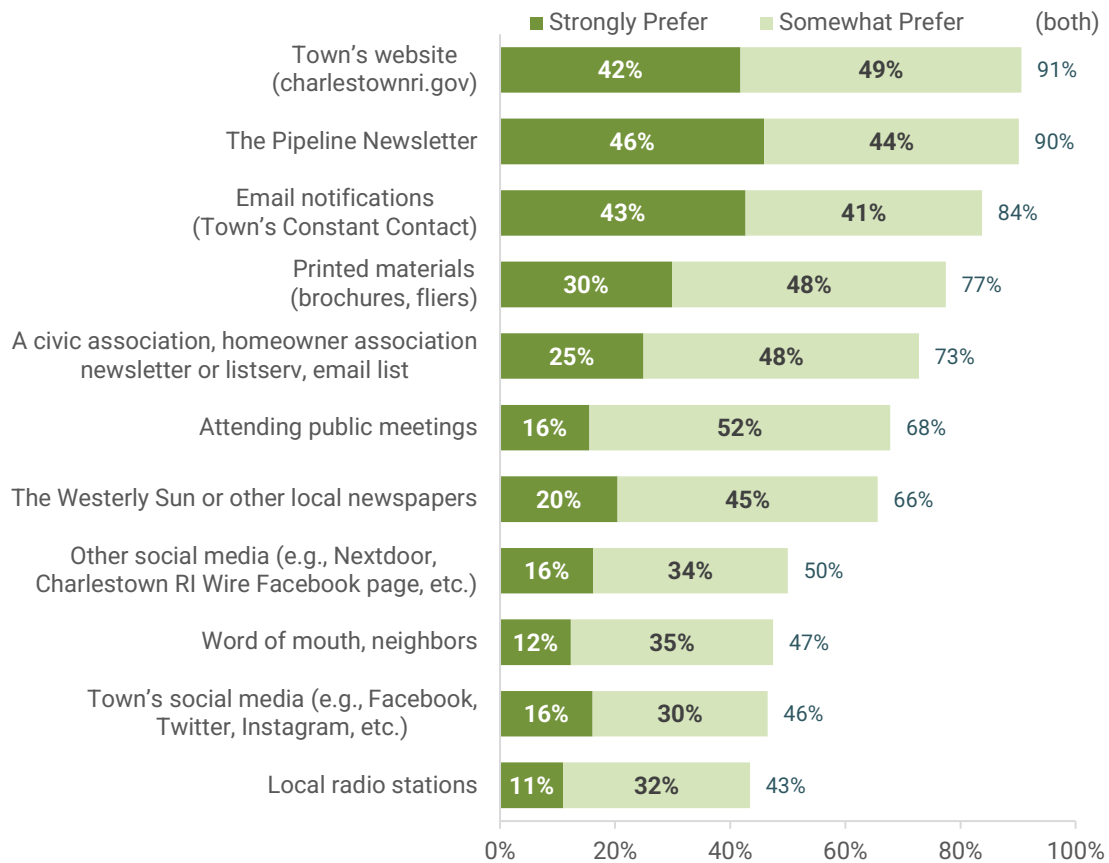
Residents with no children at home gave more positive ratings than those with children to the government's ability to listen to its residents, be open about the budget process and the overall Town government performance (see Table 58). Older adults (55+) gave higher ratings than their younger cohorts to almost all aspects of town government (see Table 72) and likely correlated, retired residents also had a more positive view on several of the items rated (confidence in the Town's government, direction the town is taking, openness about the budget process, acting in the best interest of residents and overall performance of the Town's government (see Table 86). Overall, older adults, retired adults and those with no children at home had higher satisfaction with government performance.

## Information Sources

Residents have become accustomed to the internet and value its capabilities, but newsletters and other printed materials are still desired by 73% or more of the community.

**Figure 22: Information Source Preferences (Excluding Don't Know)**

Please rate your preference for receiving information about the Charlestown Town government from each of the following sources: (Percent somewhat or strongly prefer, excluding don't know)



*\*Between 13% and 30% of respondents selected "Don't Know" for each of these items, the chart above shows the percents for the respondents who expressed their preference (i.e., it excludes those that chose don't know)*

Part-time residents were a bit more likely to use information from a civic association or HOA than full-time residents, while full-time residents were a bit more likely to prefer the Town's website, email lists and printed materials or local newspapers (see Table 31). Owners and renters did not vary in preference, but shorter-term residents were a bit more likely to use the Town website and various social media platforms, while longer-term residents had stronger preferences for printed materials, newsletters and newspapers (see Table 45). The preferences of older versus younger adults and retired versus employed adults mimicked those of longer- and shorter-term residents (see Table 73 and Table 87). Residents with children at home had stronger preferences for social media, while residents without children in the home were more likely to access information through public meetings, printed materials and newsletters (see Table 59). Women, more than men, preferred online information sources such as email, social media and the Town's website (see Table 73).

## Priorities for Planning

Residents overwhelmingly support prioritizing their own needs over policies that encourage tourism. This did not differ much, if at all, by age, gender, employment status, full or part-time residency or how long the respondent lived in the town.

**Figure 23: Prioritization of Resident versus Tourism Needs**

While you may agree with some parts of both statements, with which statement below do you most agree?

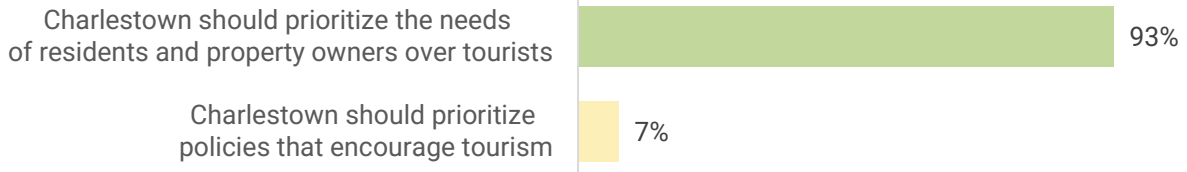


Figure 24 on the following page outlines a list of areas that residents were asked to prioritize for the investment of tax dollars and staff time in the coming two years. Top priorities for residents were protecting the environment (94%), keeping taxes low (92%), helping mitigate pollution from septic systems (87%) and preventing well water contamination (87%); with about 9 in 10 saying these were essential or very important. While limiting big box stores and national chains were essential or very important to about 8 in 10 respondents, about 6 in 10 felt this was essential.

Lowest on the list was expending resources on expanding large (27%) and medium (36%) special events and expanding recreation programs (42%).

When ranked by most important to least, full-time and part-time residents had largely similar orders for their priorities, but there was some variance in how strongly they felt about some items. Full-time residents were somewhat more likely to think it was important to put resources towards limiting big box stores and national chains, maintaining low taxes, increasing access to affordable housing and access to ponds and addressing climate change. Part-time residents had slightly stronger preferences than full-time residents for improving walking and biking infrastructure, encouraging economic development, mitigating pollution from septic systems and improving drinking water (see Table 34).

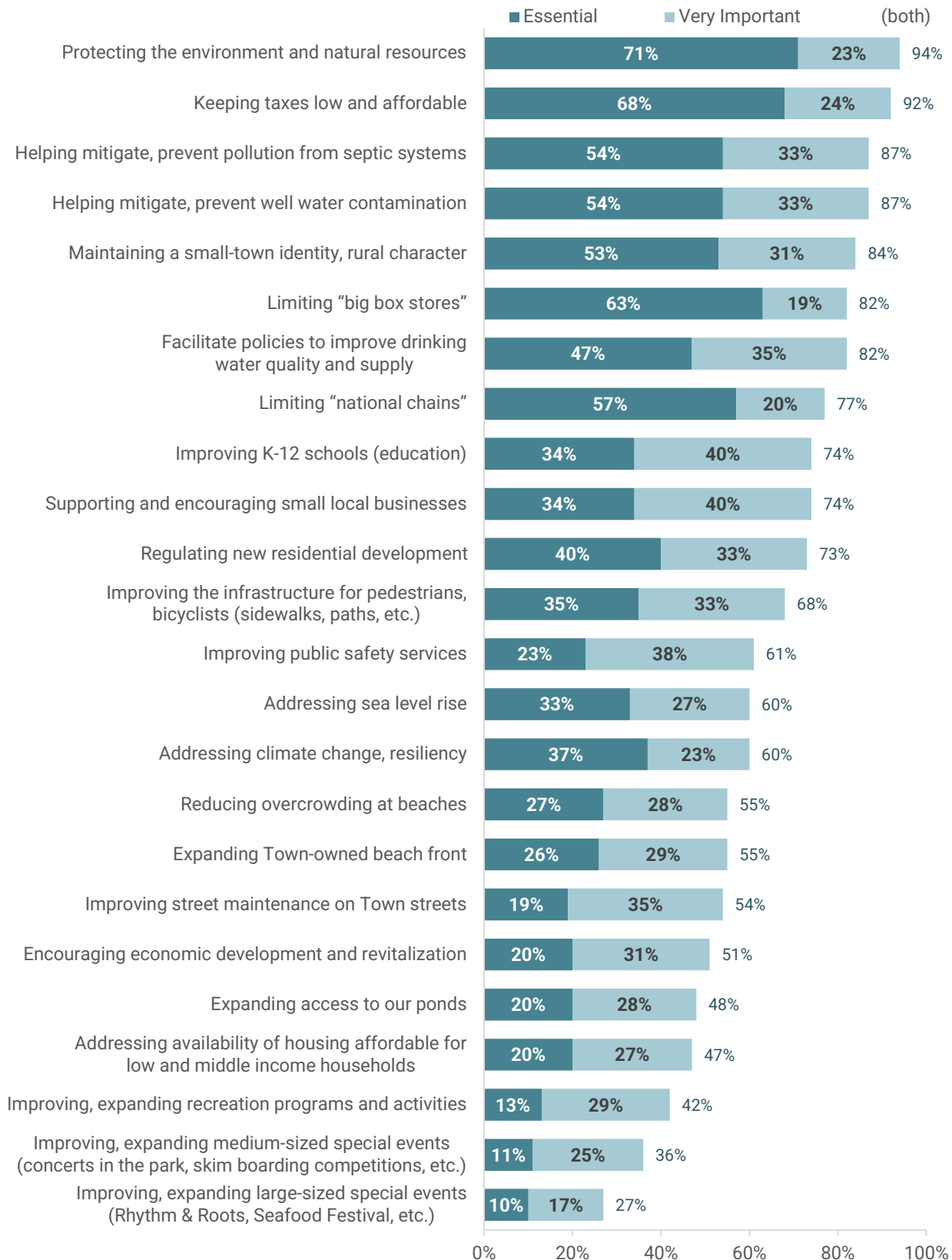
Homeowners (46%) were much less interested than renters (74%) in addressing the availability of housing affordable for low- and middle-income households and were somewhat more likely to want to maintain the small-town community, reduce beach crowding, protect the environment, improve walking and biking infrastructure, and mitigate pollution of the septic systems and well water (see Table 48). Priorities did not vary much by length of residency, but residents who have spent 20 or more years in Charlestown had slightly stronger desires to protect the environment, improve public safety services, improve street maintenance, reduce beach crowding and limit new residential development but also address the availability of affordable housing (see Table 48).

Residents with children at home were more likely to want to put more resources toward k-12 education and recreation programs, while residents with no children at home had similar preferences to longer-term residents (see Table 62). Residents 55 years and older were a bit more likely to want to maintain a small town community, mitigate well water and septic pollution and limit climate change compared to other age groups (see Table 76). Lastly, women had a similar ranking as men for the 24 items, but they were more likely to put a higher urgency on each of the items than men were.



**Figure 24: Prioritization of Town Resources in Next Two Years**

Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the Charlestown community to prioritize tax dollars and/or staff time for each of the following in the coming two years. (Percent essential or very important)

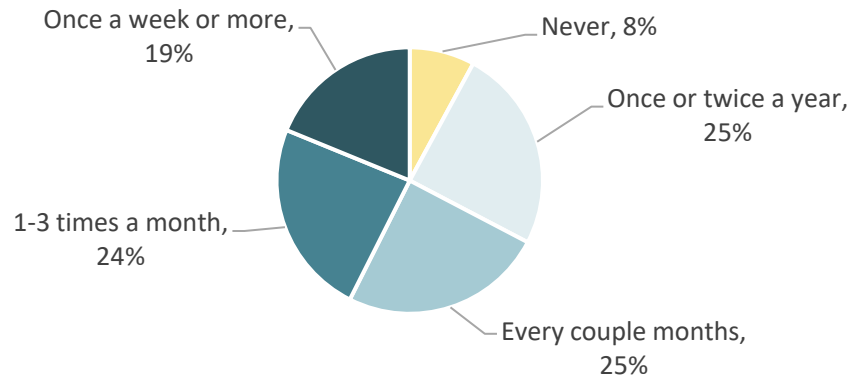


## Ninigret Park

Most residents said that in a typical year they would visit Ninigret Park at least once, with about half saying they would visit a few times a year and about 4 in 10 saying they would visit weekly or monthly. Full-time residents, those who are younger and those with children at home typically visit the park a bit more often than their counterparts (see Table 35, Table 63 and Table 77).

**Figure 25: Use of Ninigret Park**

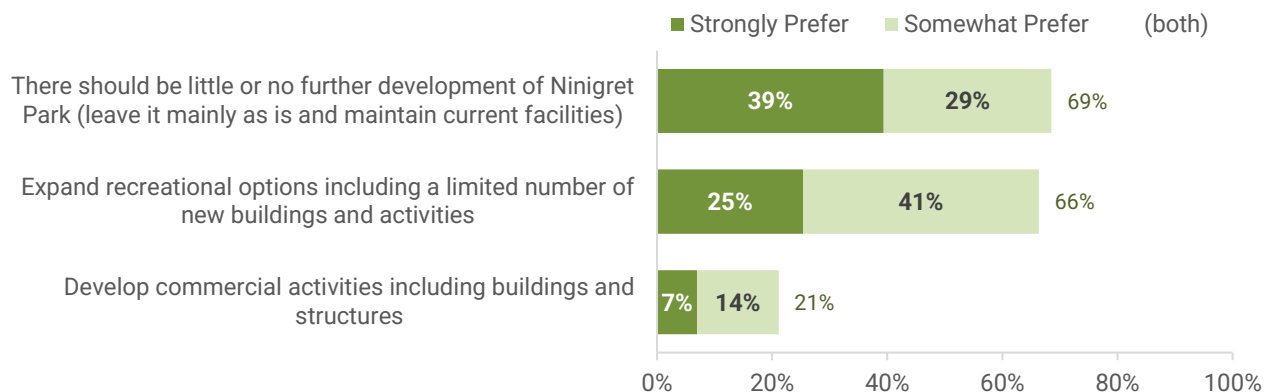
On average, about how often do you use Ninigret Park in a typical year?



Asked about their general preference for development options, about 4 in 10 had a strong preference for no further development (and just focusing on maintenance) and 25% had a strong preference for allowing a limited number of new buildings and activities. Few were interested in adding commercial activities. This did not vary by full or part-time residency, but renters were a little more open than homeowners to some expansion (see Table 50) as were people with kids in their household (see Table 64). Older adults were the most likely to prefer no development, middle aged were more likely to be open to expanding recreational options and younger and middle-aged adults were more likely to be open to development of commercial activities, although only 30% strongly or somewhat preferred this option (see Table 78). This was similar for retired versus those who were currently employed; retired residents preferred less development and those currently working were a bit more open to expanding recreational options, with more, but still a limited number, being open to commercial uses (see Table 92).

**Figure 26: Preference for Ninigret Park**

How strongly, if at all, do you prefer the following options for development of Ninigret Park:



Residents were presented with a list of amenities that could be developed at Ninigret Park and asked which ones they would like to see and which ones they would not. The results are summarized in Figure 27 on the following page.

About three-quarters of residents would like to see more walking or jogging trails and additional restrooms and few (1 in 10) would oppose adding these amenities. About 6 in 10 supported adding an outdoor ice-skating rink or an arboretum/tree farm, with about 14% saying they would rather not add these. About half would like to see improvements or additions for sports fields, a naval/air museum, a smaller band shell (for up to 1,000 attendees), volleyball courts and/or a new recreation/community center. However about one-quarter of residents do not want to see a naval/air museum, a smaller band shell or a new recreation/community center.

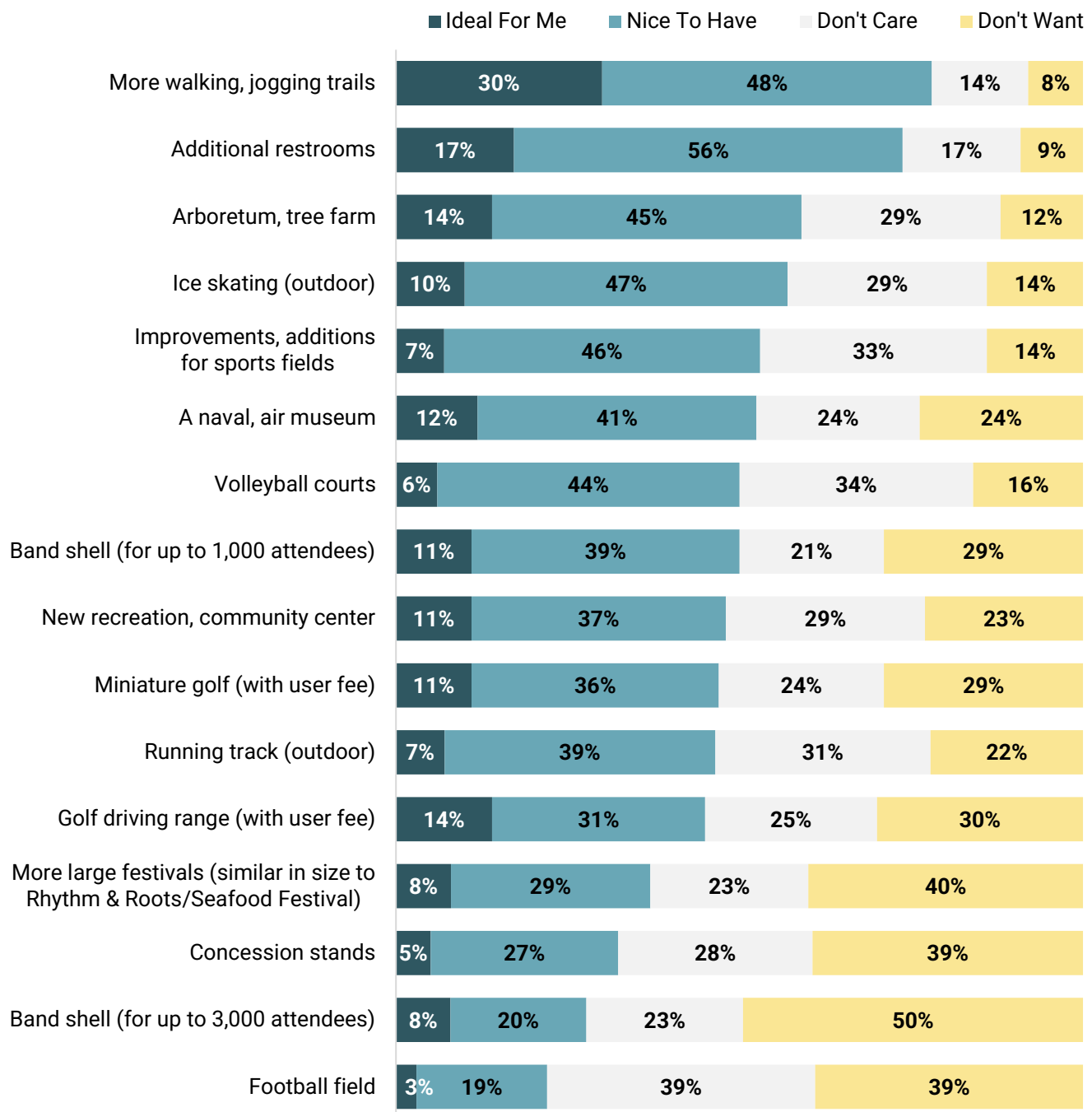
Strongest opposition was to the idea of adding a football field (half did not want to see this) and 4 in 10 did not want to see more large festivals, concession stands, or a large band shell added.

Full and part-time residents had similar preferences for most items, but part-time residents had somewhat stronger preferences for more trails, mini golf and golf driving range, while full-time residents had a stronger preference for an outdoor ice-skating rink and a small band shell (see Table 37). Renters and homeowners differed only in that homeowners were more likely to want to see a golf driving range. Those who had lived in Charlestown for 5 years or less were more likely than long-term residents to want more walking trails, a band shell for 1,000 or 3,000 attendees, an outdoor running track and a concession stand, while long-term residents were more interested than others in building a naval/air museum (see Table 51).

Residents with children at home were more likely than other households to be open to adding most of the items listed (see Table 65). Middle-aged residents (aged 35-54) were more likely than those who were younger or older to be open to most of the amenities (see Table 79). Women had stronger preferences than men for more walking trails, ice skating, an arboretum, a new recreational center, mini golf, volleyball courts and an outdoor running track, while men had a stronger preference than women for concession stands, a naval/air museum, a band shell for 3,000 attendees and larger festivals (see Table 79). Employed residents had a stronger preference than those who were retired for adding ice skating, large festivals, volleyball courts, concession stands and a band shell for either 1,000 or 3,000 attendees (see Table 93).

**Figure 27: Preferred Amenities for Development of Ninigret Park**

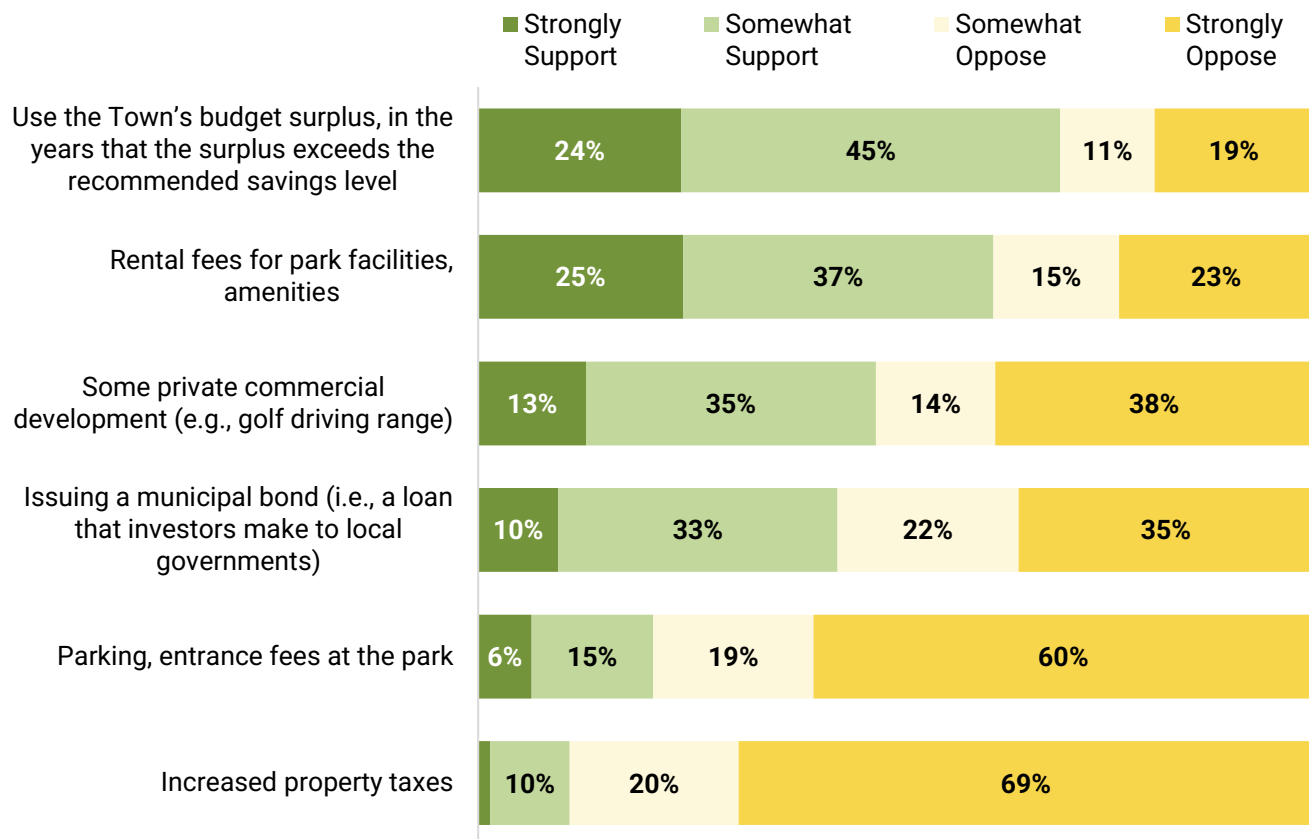
How strongly, if at all, do you prefer the following options for development of Ninigret Park:



When asked about how to fund possible future amenities, residents were strongly opposed to increasing property taxes and instituting park entrance fees, while using the town's surplus funds and rental fees for park facilities had the strongest support.

**Figure 28: Funding Options for Development of Ninigret Park**

How strongly would you support or oppose using each of the following as a funding source for Ninigret Park improvements?



Part-time residents were more supportive than full-time residents of 4 out of 6 of the funding options, excluding issuing bonds and increasing property taxes (see Table 38). Homeowners and renters had similar funding preferences but shorter-term residents were more likely than long term residents to support user fees (park rental, entrance or parking) and some private commercial development, while those who lived in Charlestown for 5 to 20 years were a bit more likely to support increasing property taxes or issuing a municipal bond (see Table 52). Residents with children at home were somewhat more likely than others to support all funding options excluding park entrance fees (see Table 66). Women gave stronger support than men to using the town's surplus. The 35-54 age group was more supportive than other age groups of using the surplus, establishing rental fees or issuing bonds (see Table 80). Lastly, employed residents were more likely than retirees to support most funding options except they were similar in their support for increasing property taxes and using the town's surplus (see Table 94).

## Appendix A: Full Set of Responses to the Survey

The full set of responses for each question on the random sample survey are displayed in the tables in this appendix. Each table displays the proportion of respondents and number of respondents who gave each response, plus the number of respondents who answered the given question.

**Table 1: Question 1**

Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in Charlestown.	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't Know	Total
Your neighborhood as a place to live	62%	33%	4%	0%	1%	N=2246
Charlestown as a place to raise children	36%	27%	7%	1%	28%	N=2226
Charlestown as a place to work	13%	16%	16%	10%	45%	N=2224
Charlestown as a place to visit	56%	34%	5%	1%	4%	N=2233
Charlestown as a place to retire	52%	30%	9%	3%	6%	N=2239
Charlestown's rural character and open space	61%	31%	6%	1%	1%	N=2243

**Table 2: Question 2**

Please rate the pace of growth in Charlestown in the following categories.	Much Too Slow	Somewhat Too Slow	Right Amount	Somewhat Too Fast	Much Too Fast	Don't Know	Total
Population	1%	4%	48%	25%	10%	12%	N=2221
Residential housing growth	3%	6%	40%	25%	16%	10%	N=2212
Retail growth (stores, restaurants, etc.)	11%	28%	45%	5%	4%	6%	N=2233
Commercial business growth	10%	20%	44%	7%	5%	14%	N=2231
Job growth	12%	20%	23%	1%	2%	43%	N=2234

Table 3: Question 3

Please rate your level of satisfaction with each of the following in Charlestown.	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't Know	Total
Overall image or reputation of Charlestown	42%	48%	7%	1%	2%	N=2225
Sense of community	25%	47%	20%	4%	4%	N=2225
Cleanliness of the community	30%	55%	14%	1%	0%	N=2223
Appearance of the community	31%	54%	14%	1%	0%	N=2227
Overall feeling of safety	44%	47%	7%	1%	1%	N=2226
Overall health of the local economy	16%	42%	20%	4%	18%	N=2206
Overall design or layout of Charlestown's residential areas (e.g., homes, streets, parks, etc.)	17%	53%	23%	4%	4%	N=2205
Overall design or layout of Charlestown's commercial areas (e.g., buildings, streets, parking, etc.)	12%	40%	33%	11%	5%	N=2207
Overall quality of business and service establishments	14%	49%	28%	7%	3%	N=2198
Variety of business and service establishments in Charlestown	9%	32%	38%	18%	3%	N=2205
Employment opportunities	3%	10%	21%	20%	46%	N=2203
Shopping opportunities	7%	24%	42%	25%	2%	N=2214
Dining opportunities	8%	29%	42%	19%	1%	N=2206
Availability of affordable quality housing	6%	17%	24%	22%	31%	N=2199
Drinking water quality	21%	41%	19%	9%	11%	N=2197
Local schools (Chariho Regional School District)	22%	32%	9%	2%	35%	N=2206
Ease of travel by bicycle	9%	25%	31%	23%	12%	N=2208
Ease of travel by walking	10%	26%	32%	26%	5%	N=2214
Ease of travel by car	28%	58%	13%	1%	1%	N=2207
Access to green spaces (natural areas)	43%	44%	10%	1%	2%	N=2216
Overall quality of green spaces (natural spaces)	42%	43%	10%	2%	4%	N=2188
Indoor recreation opportunities in Charlestown	5%	11%	24%	26%	33%	N=2201
Outdoor recreation opportunities in Charlestown	34%	40%	15%	3%	7%	N=2202
Fitness opportunities in Charlestown	12%	28%	26%	12%	21%	N=2201
Opportunities to participate in social events and activities	10%	33%	31%	9%	18%	N=2185
Parking at Charlestown Town Beach lot	12%	28%	23%	16%	21%	N=2215
Parking at Blue Shutters Town Beach lot	8%	19%	25%	21%	27%	N=2218

Table 4: Question 4

Please rate each of the following in Charlestown.	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't Know	Total
Access to the shoreline	26%	38%	22%	12%	2%	N=2228
Access to boat launches	17%	34%	18%	10%	22%	N=2223
Access to freshwater ponds	19%	39%	18%	5%	19%	N=2217
Access to saltwater ponds	20%	40%	21%	8%	10%	N=2216
Overall quality of Ninigret Pond	21%	43%	16%	4%	15%	N=2218
Overall quality of Quonochontaug Pond	17%	34%	11%	2%	35%	N=2217
Overall quality of Watchaug Pond	14%	31%	11%	2%	41%	N=2208
Overall quality of Blue Shuttles Town Beach	24%	41%	9%	1%	25%	N=2227
Overall quality of Charlestown Town Beach	20%	45%	15%	2%	17%	N=2224
Overall quality of Pawcatuck River	9%	23%	11%	2%	55%	N=2216



Table 5: Question 5

Please rate the quality of each of the following services or facilities provided in Charlestown.	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't Know	Total
Ambulance rescue service	36%	30%	3%	1%	30%	N=2234
Animal control	15%	29%	9%	4%	43%	N=2222
Building, Zoning	13%	35%	20%	7%	25%	N=2201
Charlestown Residential Collection Center (CRCC) and recycling services	28%	34%	10%	4%	23%	N=2222
Charlestown Senior Community Center facility	10%	24%	8%	3%	55%	N=2230
Charlestown Senior Community Center programs	8%	20%	9%	3%	60%	N=2226
Town-owned protected open spaces (such as South Farm and Richard Trails)	21%	31%	7%	1%	40%	N=2195
Ninigret Park	39%	46%	8%	1%	6%	N=2141
Town Parks (Clark Memorial, Harry A. Wicklund, Pawaget, Puchalski Field)	15%	29%	8%	2%	47%	N=2184
Harbor Management & Boating	12%	29%	9%	2%	49%	N=2184
Library and its programs and activities	39%	35%	6%	1%	20%	N=2212
Parks and Recreation programs and activities	15%	35%	12%	3%	35%	N=2195
Police department	40%	42%	7%	1%	10%	N=2211
Volunteer fire department	38%	34%	4%	0%	23%	N=2212
Snow plowing and sanding	28%	42%	11%	3%	16%	N=2211
Stormwater management	14%	30%	10%	4%	41%	N=2190
Wastewater management program	15%	27%	9%	4%	46%	N=2186
Street maintenance	16%	45%	25%	8%	6%	N=2187
Town-sponsored special events (e.g., Easter Egg Hunt)	12%	27%	11%	2%	48%	N=2193
Customer service of Town employees	35%	42%	11%	2%	10%	N=2187
Overall quality of Town services	24%	56%	13%	2%	5%	N=2170

Table 6: Question 6

<b>Please rate the following categories of the Town of Charlestown government performance.</b>	<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Don't Know</b>	<b>Total</b>
Overall confidence in the Town of Charlestown government	14%	48%	22%	6%	10%	N=2202
The value of services for the taxes paid to the Town	22%	46%	21%	6%	6%	N=2200
The overall direction that the Town government is taking	12%	37%	22%	7%	21%	N=2195
The job the Town government does at welcoming resident involvement	10%	29%	23%	11%	27%	N=2193
The job the Town government does at listening to residents	10%	28%	24%	12%	27%	N=2199
Treating all residents fairly	12%	30%	18%	11%	29%	N=2195
Being open and transparent	12%	29%	22%	12%	25%	N=2201
The openness of the budgeting process	14%	36%	19%	7%	24%	N=2198
Generally acting in the best interest of the community	16%	37%	23%	7%	17%	N=2197
The overall performance of Town government	14%	43%	23%	7%	14%	N=2185

Table 7: Question 7

<b>Please rate your preference for receiving information about the Charlestown Town government from each of the following sources:</b>	<b>Strongly Prefer</b>	<b>Somewhat Prefer</b>	<b>Do Not Prefer</b>	<b>Don't Know</b>	<b>Total</b>
Town's website (charlestownri.gov)	35%	41%	8%	16%	N=2156
Town's social media (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.)	11%	21%	37%	30%	N=2151
Other social media (e.g., Nextdoor, Charlestown RI Wire Facebook page, etc.)	11%	24%	35%	30%	N=2143
Email notifications (Town's Constant Contact)	33%	32%	13%	23%	N=2167
Attending public meetings	12%	41%	25%	22%	N=2132
A civic association, homeowner association newsletter or listserv, email list	18%	35%	20%	27%	N=2144
Printed materials (brochures, fliers)	26%	41%	20%	13%	N=2144
The Pipeline Newsletter	37%	36%	8%	19%	N=2172
The Westerly Sun or other local newspapers	17%	38%	29%	15%	N=2161
Word of mouth, neighbors	10%	30%	44%	16%	N=2152
Local radio stations	8%	23%	40%	30%	N=2161

**Table 8: Question 9**

How much of a problem, if at all, are the following for Charlestown?	Not a Problem	Minor Problem	Moderate Problem	Major Problem	Don't Know	Total
Taxation rate	65%	18%	11%	3%	3%	N=2184
Cost of living	48%	25%	18%	5%	3%	N=2179
Air quality	77%	14%	4%	1%	4%	N=2181
Groundwater, well water pollution	42%	23%	16%	9%	11%	N=2176
Pollution, contamination of coastal salt ponds	18%	24%	25%	17%	16%	N=2175
Overcrowding at beaches	11%	21%	28%	30%	9%	N=2182
Sea level rise, climate change	18%	16%	23%	32%	12%	N=2181
Coastal, seashore erosion	11%	20%	27%	31%	11%	N=2166
Getting across Route 1 safely when walking or biking	8%	13%	23%	43%	13%	N=2201
Speeding	9%	23%	32%	33%	3%	N=2185
Amount of traffic in the summer	7%	21%	34%	37%	1%	N=2202
Overall traffic safety	16%	32%	34%	15%	2%	N=2201

**Table 9: Question 10**

	Charlestown should prioritize the needs of residents and property owners over tourists	Charlestown should prioritize policies that encourage tourism	Total
While you may agree with some parts of both statements, with which statement below do you most agree?	93%	7%	N=1995

Table 10: Question 11

Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the Charlestown community to prioritize tax dollars and/or staff time for each of the following in the coming two years.	Essential	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not At All Important	Don't Know	Total
Supporting and encouraging small local businesses	33%	39%	22%	4%	2%	N=2174
Encouraging economic development and revitalization	20%	30%	33%	14%	3%	N=2142
Maintaining a small-town identity, rural character	53%	31%	13%	3%	1%	N=2185
Limiting "big box stores"	62%	19%	12%	6%	1%	N=2204
Limiting "national chains"	57%	19%	14%	8%	1%	N=2203
Keeping taxes low and affordable	68%	24%	8%	1%	0%	N=2201
Addressing availability of housing affordable for low and middle income households	20%	26%	38%	14%	3%	N=2197
Protecting the environment and natural resources	70%	23%	6%	1%	1%	N=2197
Improving the infrastructure for pedestrians, bicyclists (sidewalks, paths, etc.)	35%	32%	24%	8%	1%	N=2201
Improving K-12 schools (education)	26%	31%	18%	3%	22%	N=2181
Reducing overcrowding at beaches	26%	26%	33%	10%	5%	N=2194
Expanding Town-owned beach front	24%	27%	26%	17%	6%	N=2185
Expanding access to our ponds	18%	26%	32%	17%	7%	N=2188
Improving street maintenance on Town streets	18%	34%	37%	8%	3%	N=2178
Helping mitigate, prevent well water contamination	53%	33%	11%	1%	2%	N=2198
Helping mitigate, prevent pollution from septic systems	53%	32%	12%	2%	1%	N=2199
Facilitate policies to improve drinking water quality and supply	46%	34%	15%	3%	3%	N=2188
Improving, expanding recreation programs and activities	12%	28%	42%	13%	5%	N=2156
Improving, expanding large-sized special events (Rhythm & Roots, Seafood Festival, etc., 8, 000- 14, 000 attendees per day)	9%	17%	33%	38%	3%	N=2197
Improving, expanding medium-sized special events (concerts in the park, skim boarding competitions, etc.)	10%	24%	41%	22%	3%	N=2195
Addressing sea level rise	31%	25%	24%	14%	5%	N=2196
Addressing climate change, resiliency	35%	22%	24%	14%	5%	N=2191
Improving public safety services	22%	37%	32%	6%	3%	N=2189
Regulating new residential development	39%	33%	21%	5%	2%	N=2199

Table 11: Question 12

	Once a week or more	1-3 times a month	Every couple months	Once or twice a year	Never	Total
On average, about how often do you use Ninigret Park in a typical year?	19%	24%	25%	25%	8%	N=2214

Table 12: Question 13

	Strongly Prefer	Somewhat Prefer	Do Not Prefer	Don't Know	Total
There should be little or no further development of Ninigret Park (leave it mainly as is and maintain current facilities)	36%	27%	29%	8%	N=2162
Expand recreational options including a limited number of new buildings and activities	23%	37%	31%	9%	N=2193
Develop commercial activities including buildings and structures	6%	12%	69%	12%	N=2180

Table 13: Question 14

If the Town were to explore funding further developing Ninigret Park, what improvements and/or additions, if any, would you prefer to see?	Ideal For Me	Nice To Have	Don't Care	Don't Want	Total
More walking, jogging trails	30%	48%	14%	8%	N=2152
Ice skating (outdoor)	10%	47%	29%	14%	N=2157
More large festivals (similar in size to Rhythm & Roots or the Seafood Festival 8, 000 to 14, 00 attendees per day)	8%	29%	23%	40%	N=2195
Band shell (for up to 1, 000 attendees)	11%	39%	21%	29%	N=2162
Band shell (for up to 3, 000 attendees)	8%	20%	23%	50%	N=2158
Additional restrooms	17%	56%	17%	9%	N=2184
Arboretum, tree farm	14%	45%	29%	12%	N=2166
New recreation, community center	11%	37%	29%	23%	N=2166
Miniature golf (with user fee)	11%	36%	24%	29%	N=2193
Volleyball courts	6%	44%	34%	16%	N=2181
Improvements, additions for sports fields	7%	46%	33%	14%	N=2166
Golf driving range (with user fee)	14%	31%	25%	30%	N=2199
Football field	3%	19%	39%	39%	N=2172
Running track (outdoor)	7%	39%	31%	22%	N=2173
Concession stands	5%	27%	28%	39%	N=2181
A naval, air museum	12%	41%	24%	24%	N=2193

Table 14: Question 17

How strongly would you support or oppose using each of the following as a funding source for Ninigret Park improvements?	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Don't Know	Total
Rental fees for park facilities, amenities	23%	35%	14%	22%	6%	N=2169
Parking, entrance fees at the park	6%	14%	19%	58%	3%	N=2191
Some private commercial development (e.g., golf driving range)	12%	33%	14%	36%	5%	N=2192
Increased property taxes	1%	9%	20%	67%	2%	N=2198
Use the Town's budget surplus, in the years that the surplus exceeds the recommended savings level	23%	43%	11%	18%	6%	N=2215
Issuing a municipal bond (i.e., a loan that investors make to local governments)	8%	29%	19%	31%	12%	N=2205

Table 15: Question 19

Do you live in Charlestown full-time or part-time?	Percent
Full-Time	74%
Part-Time	26%
Total	N=2209

Table 16: Question 20

Which times of year are you in Charlestown?(Check all that apply. If you live here year-round, go to question 21)	Percent
Spring	74%
Summer	89%
Fall	68%
Winter	21%
Weekends, holidays, select vacation days	43%
I own property there, but never live or visit there	8%
Total	N=572

Table 17: Question 21

Do you own or rent your home in Charlestown?	Percent
Own	97%
Rent	3%
Total	N=2213

Table 18: Question 22

How many years have you lived in Charlestown?	Percent
Less than 2 years	3%
2-5 years	14%
6-10 years	12%
11-20 years	20%
More than 20 years	51%
Total	N=2210

Table 19: Question 23

What is your employment status?	Percent
Fully retired	50%
Working full time for pay	39%
Working part time for pay	10%
Unemployed, looking for paid work	1%
Unemployed, not looking for paid work	1%
Total	N=2219

Table 20: Question 24

Do you work inside the boundaries of Charlestown?	Percent
No, work outside Charlestown	68%
Yes, outside my home	16%
Yes, from home	16%
Total	N=1147



Table 21: Question 25

Do any of the following live in your household?	Yes	No	Total
Children (ages 12 and under)	8%	92%	N=2229
Teenagers (ages 13 to 19)	9%	91%	N=2230
Adults (ages 20 to 64, including yourself)	58%	42%	N=2229
Older adults (ages 65 or older, including yourself)	62%	38%	N=2228

Table 22: Question 26

What is your race and/or ethnicity? (Mark one or more race to indicate what race you consider yourself to be.)	Percent
White	96%
Other	3%
Spanish, Hispanic or Latino, a	2%
Black or African American	1%
Arabic or Middle Eastern	1%
American Indian or Alaskan Native	1%
Asian, Asian Indian or Pacific Islander	1%
Total	N=2055

Table 23: Question 27

In which category is your age?	Percent
18-24 years	1%
25-34 years	3%
35-44 years	5%
45-54 years	10%
55-64 years	27%
65-74 years	34%
75 years or older	21%
Total	N=2193

**Table 24: Question 28**

<b>What is your current gender identity?</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Male	49%
Female	51%
Identify another way	1%
Total	N=2161

## Appendix B: Comparisons by Residency

### Understanding the Tables

The subgroup comparison tables contain the crosstabulations of responses to the random survey by responses to the open participation survey. Chi-square or ANOVA tests of significance were applied to these breakdowns of survey questions. A “p-value” of 0.05 or less indicates that there is less than a 5% probability that differences observed between groups are due to chance; or in other words, a greater than 95% probability that the differences observed in the selected categories of the sample represent “real” differences among those populations. As subgroups vary in size and each group has a unique margin of error, statistical testing is used to determine whether differences between subgroups are statistically significant.

Each column in the following tables is labeled with a letter for each subgroup being compared. The letters start over with “A” for each different characteristic. (For example, for “Full or Part Time Resident”, Full Time and Part Time are marked “A” and “B” and then for those who are Part Time, the “times of year they are in Charlestown” are marked “A” through “F”.)

For each pair of subgroup ratings within a characteristic within a row that has a statistically significant difference, an uppercase letter denoting significance is shown in the cell with the larger column proportion. The letter denotes the subgroup with the smaller column proportion from which it is statistically different. Subgroups that have no uppercase letter denotation in their column and that are also not referred to in any other column were not statistically different.

For example, looking at Table 25: Question 1 by Residency, the responses Full Time vs Part Time residents:

- the responses Full Time vs Part Time residents were not statistically significantly different in their ratings of “Your neighborhood as a place to live,” “Charlestown as a place to work,” “Charlestown as a place to retire,” “Charlestown’s rural character and open space” and “The overall quality of life in Charlestown” and as such there are no capital letters to indicate a difference.
- Full Time residents (A) had higher ratings than Part Time residents (B) in their ratings of “Charlestown as a place to raise children” and of “Charlestown’s tax rate” and therefore there is a B in column A for those two items.
- Part Time residents (B) had higher ratings than Full Time residents (A) in their ratings of “Charlestown as a place to visit” and therefore there is an A in column B for that item.
- However, for “times of year they are in Charlestown” (marked “A” through “F”), there are no statistically significant differences, and therefore there are no denotations using capital letters to indicate a difference. It should be noted that because this question is asked only of Part Time residents and there are also more subcategories, the number of respondents in each subcategory lower than that for the question about full or part time residents. With a lower number of respondents in a subcategory, the margin of error is higher, and therefore it requires a larger difference between subgroups for the difference to be statistically different.

Table 25: Question 1 by Residency

Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in Charlestown. (Percent excellent or good)	Full or Part Time Resident		Which times of year are you in Charlestown? (If not year-round, check all that apply)					
	Full Time	Part Time	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Weekends, holidays, select vacation days	I own property there, but never live or visit there
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)
Your neighborhood as a place to live	95%	96%	95%	96%	95%	95%	97%	98%
Charlestown as a place to raise children	89% B	83%	85%	82%	82%	82%	83%	96%
Charlestown as a place to work	53%	52%	53%	49%	50%	58%	56%	50%
Charlestown as a place to visit	93%	96% A	96%	96%	95%	92%	97%	100%
Charlestown as a place to retire	88%	88%	87%	87%	87%	90%	88%	92%
Charlestown's rural character and open space	93%	94%	94%	94%	93%	93%	96%	100%
Charlestown's tax rate	90% B	73%	72%	72%	74%	71%	74%	77%
The overall quality of life in Charlestown	95%	94%	94%	94%	94%	91%	94%	93%

Table 26: Question 2 by Residency

Please rate the pace of growth in Charlestown in the following categories: (Percent right amount)		Full or Part Time Resident		Which times of year are you in Charlestown? (If not year-round, check all that apply)					
		Full Time	Part Time	Spring	Summer	Weekends, holidays, select vacation days	I own property there, but never live or visit there	Fall	Winter
		(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)
Population	Too slow	6% B	3%	3%	3%	2%	3%	4%	2%
	Right amount	52%	65% A	60%	63%	68%	69%	61%	58%
	Too Fast	42% B	32%	37%	34%	30%	29%	36%	40%
Residential housing growth	Too slow	11% B	6%	6%	7%	8%	3%	6%	4%
	Right amount	41%	54% A	50%	52%	52%	54%	50%	50%
	Too Fast	48% B	40%	44%	41%	41%	43%	44%	47%
Retail growth (stores, restaurants, etc.)	Too slow	41%	44%	42%	43%	46%	34%	44%	43%
	Right amount	48%	49%	50%	50%	46%	63%	49%	46%
	Too Fast	11% B	7%	7%	7%	8%	3%	8%	11%
Commercial business growth	Too slow	35%	36%	33%	36%	36%	30%	35%	35%
	Right amount	50%	53%	55%	53%	54%	60%	53%	49%
	Too Fast	15% B	11%	12%	11%	10%	10%	12%	16%
Job growth	Too slow	55%	56%	54%	57%	56%	54%	56%	48%
	Right amount	40%	41%	41%	39%	41%	46%	39%	41%
	Too Fast	5%	3%	5%	4%	4%	0%	5%	11%

Table 27: Question 3 by Residency

Please rate your level of satisfaction with each of the following in Charlestown. (Percent excellent or good)	Full or Part Time Resident		Which times of year are you in Charlestown? (If not year-round, check all that apply)					
	Full Time	Part Time	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Weekends, holidays, select vacation days	I own property there, but never live or visit there
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)
Overall image or reputation of Charlestown	91%	93%	93%	93%	93%	95%	92%	88%
Sense of community	74%	81% A	82%	80%	81%	84%	80%	80%
Cleanliness of the community	83%	90% A	91%	90%	91%	88%	90%	95%
Appearance of the community	83%	89% A	90%	90%	90%	89%	90%	98%
Overall feeling of safety	92%	93%	93%	93%	93%	95%	94%	98%
Overall health of the local economy	72%	70%	72%	70%	70%	73%	72%	80%
Overall design or layout of Charlestown's residential areas (e.g., homes, streets, parks, etc.)	72%	72%	72%	71%	73%	71%	73%	85%
Overall design or layout of Charlestown's commercial areas (e.g., buildings, streets, parking, etc.)	56%	52%	53%	51%	54%	54%	52%	68%
Overall quality of business and service establishments	67% B	60%	60%	59%	60%	59%	58%	69%
Variety of business and service establishments in Charlestown	43% B	38%	40%	38%	40%	42%	38%	46%
Employment opportunities	24%	23%	25%	23%	22%	27%	25%	30%
Shopping opportunities	32%	30%	31%	30%	30%	33%	31%	48%
Dining opportunities	39%	35%	35%	33%	34%	37%	34%	49%
Availability of affordable quality housing	32%	38% A	41%	39%	43%	38%	37%	41%
Drinking water quality	74% B	55%	51%	53%	52%	52%	57%	53%

Please rate your level of satisfaction with each of the following in Charlestown. (Percent excellent or good)	Full or Part Time Resident		Which times of year are you in Charlestown? (If not year-round, check all that apply)					
	Full Time	Part Time	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Weekends, holidays, select vacation days	I own property there, but never live or visit there
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)
Local schools (Chariho Regional School District)	85% B	71%	70%	70%	72%	73%	68%	75%
Ease of travel by bicycle	38%	41%	42%	39%	41%	43%	38%	44%
Ease of travel by walking	37%	43% A	44% B	41%	42%	44%	36%	41%
Ease of travel by car	87% B	83%	83%	82%	82%	81%	85%	87%
Access to green spaces (natural areas)	89%	87%	88%	86%	88%	87%	87%	95%
Overall quality of green spaces (natural spaces)	89% B	84%	85%	83%	85%	82%	86%	92%
Indoor recreation opportunities in Charlestown	23%	28%	31%	27%	29%	34%	28%	35%
Outdoor recreation opportunities in Charlestown	80%	81%	82%	81%	82%	87%	86%	89%
Fitness opportunities in Charlestown	51%	52%	55%	52%	54%	58%	55%	67%
Opportunities to participate in social events and activities	52%	53%	55%	52%	56%	66%	56%	62%
Parking at Charlestown Town Beach lot	49%	56% A	56%	54%	55%	56%	58%	62%
Parking at Blue Shutters Town Beach lot	36%	40%	40%	38%	39%	42%	40%	35%

Table 28: Question 4 by Residency

Please each of the following in Charlestown. (Percent excellent or good)	Full or Part Time Resident		Which times of year are you in Charlestown? (If not year-round, check all that apply)					
	Full Time	Part Time	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Weekends, holidays, select vacation days	I own property there, but never live or visit there
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)
Access to the shoreline	63%	76% A	76%	76%	77%	74%	74%	69%
Access to boat launches	60%	76% A	77%	77%	77%	74%	80%	82%
Access to freshwater ponds	69%	77% A	79%	78%	79%	78%	77%	76%
Access to saltwater ponds	65%	77% A	79%	78%	79%	80%	77%	67%
Overall quality of Ninigret Pond	75%	77%	78%	77%	79%	80%	80%	89%
Overall quality of Quonochontaug Pond	79%	83%	83%	82%	84%	87%	85%	93%
Overall quality of Watchaug Pond	76%	82% A	83%	82%	86%	84%	84%	95%
Overall quality of Blue Shuttles Town Beach	86%	88%	88%	87%	90%	88%	88%	96%
Overall quality of Charlestown Town Beach	79%	80%	80%	78%	81%	82%	80%	73%
Overall quality of Pawcatuck River	72%	71%	70%	70%	70%	70%	78%	92%



Table 29: Question 5 by Residency

Please rate the quality of each of the following services or facilities provided in Charlestown. (Percent excellent or good)	Full or Part Time Resident		Which times of year are you in Charlestown? (If not year-round, check all that apply)					
	Full Time	Part Time	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Weekends, holidays, select vacation days	I own property there, but never live or visit there
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)
Ambulance rescue service	94%	96%	96%	95%	97%	100% F	94%	85%
Animal control	76%	82%	83%	82%	87%	95%	81%	69%
Building, Zoning	65%	61%	59%	60%	61%	60%	61%	65%
Charlestown Residential Collection Center (CRCC) and recycling services	83% B	78%	78%	78%	78%	75%	75%	72%
Charlestown Senior Community Center facility	76%	79%	81%	77%	82%	79%	81%	67%
Charlestown Senior Community Center programs	70%	73%	71%	72%	74%	74%	71%	67%
Town-owned protected open spaces (such as South Farm and Richard Trails)	86%	90%	90%	89%	90%	90%	87%	87%
Ninigret Park	90%	92%	93%	92%	93%	93%	90%	91%
Town Parks (Clark Memorial, Harry A. Wicklund, Pawaget, Puchalski Field)	81%	87% A	89%	86%	88%	98% A B C E	85%	86%
Harbor Management & Boating	79%	79%	82%	80%	83%	84%	83%	82%
Library and its programs and activities	92%	91%	91%	90%	91%	90%	92%	96%
Parks and Recreation programs and activities	78%	80%	80%	80%	81%	83%	82%	86%
Police department	91%	89%	90%	89%	89%	83%	87%	91%
Volunteer fire department	94%	92%	94%	92%	93%	91%	93%	96%
Snow plowing and sanding	84%	81%	81%	79%	84% B	81%	83%	87%
Stormwater management	78% B	69%	69%	68%	71%	68%	70%	84%
Wastewater management program	78% B	70%	69%	70%	73%	75%	70%	75%

Please rate the quality of each of the following services or facilities provided in Charlestown. (Percent excellent or good)	Full or Part Time Resident		Which times of year are you in Charlestown? (If not year-round, check all that apply)					
	Full Time	Part Time	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Weekends, holidays, select vacation days	I own property there, but never live or visit there
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)
Street maintenance	64%	64%	63%	63%	66%	66%	62%	72%
Town-sponsored special events (e.g., Easter Egg Hunt)	75%	75%	74%	74%	77%	85%	75%	83%
Customer service of Town employees	85%	87%	87%	86%	87%	85%	86%	83%
Overall quality of Town services	85%	84%	84%	83%	86% B	86%	83%	78%

Table 30: Question 6 by Residency

Please rate the following categories of the Town of Charlestown government performance. (Percent excellent or good)	Full or Part Time Resident		Which times of year are you in Charlestown? (If not year-round, check all that apply)					
	Full Time	Part Time	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Weekends, holidays, select vacation days	I own property there, but never live or visit there
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)
Overall confidence in the Town of Charlestown government	68%	73% A	72%	72%	71%	74%	78%	77%
The value of services for the taxes paid to the Town	74% B	65%	64%	63%	66%	67%	67%	59%
The overall direction that the Town government is taking	63%	64%	65%	63%	63%	66%	68%	70%
The job the Town government does at welcoming resident involvement	55%	50%	51%	49%	51%	58%	54%	48%
The job the Town government does at listening to residents	52%	47%	46%	46%	48%	51%	50%	56%
Treating all residents fairly	59%	58%	54%	56%	56%	52%	59%	52%
Being open and transparent	54%	56%	51%	54%	54%	57%	57%	44%
The openness of the budgeting process	66%	65%	64%	64%	67%	70%	63%	68%
Generally acting in the best interest of the community	64%	66%	65%	65%	66%	68%	69%	68%
The overall performance of Town government	66%	64%	64%	63%	64%	67%	68%	66%

Table 31: Question 7 by Residency

Please rate your preference for receiving information about the Charlestown Town government from each of the following sources: (Percent somewhat or strongly prefer)	Full or Part Time Resident		Which times of year are you in Charlestown? (If not year-round, check all that apply)					
	Full Time	Part Time	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Weekends, holidays, select vacation days	I own property there, but never live or visit there
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)
Town's website (charlestownri.gov)	78% B	71%	72%	71%	73%	79%	73%	79%
Town's social media (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.)	34% B	29%	29%	29%	30%	37%	36%	44%
Other social media (e.g., Nextdoor, Charlestown RI Wire Facebook page, etc.)	36% B	31%	32%	32%	34%	38%	35%	49%
Email notifications (Town's Constant Contact)	66%	63%	64%	63%	64%	65%	64%	66%
Attending public meetings	59% B	35%	34%	36%	37%	37%	33%	26%
A civic association, homeowner association newsletter or listserv, email list	52%	57% A	56%	57%	58%	58%	61%	62%
Printed materials (brochures, fliers)	71% B	56%	57%	55%	58%	64% F	55%	37%
The Pipeline Newsletter	82% B	50%	49%	49%	49%	47%	43%	44%
The Westerly Sun or other local newspapers	59% B	49%	48%	48%	48%	49%	47%	37%
Word of mouth, neighbors	39%	43%	41%	42%	43%	39%	45%	54%
Local radio stations	32%	28%	26%	27%	29%	29%	27%	17%

Table 32: Question 9 by Residency

How much of a problem, if at all, are the following for Charlestown? (Percent major or moderate problem)	Full or Part Time Resident		Which times of year are you in Charlestown? (If not year-round, check all that apply)					
	Full Time	Part Time	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Weekends, holidays, select vacation days	I own property there, but never live or visit there
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)
Taxation rate	11%	21% A	23%	23%	21%	21%	21%	23%
Cost of living	24%	24%	26%	25%	25%	27%	23%	32%
Air quality	5%	6%	6%	6%	7%	10%	6%	6%
Groundwater, well water pollution	25%	37% A	38%	38%	38%	37%	38%	47%
Pollution, contamination of coastal salt ponds	47%	55% A	58%	56%	58%	52%	56%	61%
Overcrowding at beaches	66% B	60%	62%	62%	62%	70%	59%	55%
Sea level rise, climate change	63% B	56%	58%	57%	57%	58%	57%	58%
Coastal, seashore erosion	68% B	61%	63%	63%	62%	63%	61%	57%
Getting across Route 1 safely when walking or biking	76%	76%	77%	77%	77%	76%	77%	71%
Speeding	68% B	62%	62%	63%	60%	59%	60%	62%
Amount of traffic in the summer	75% B	62%	65%	64%	63%	64%	63%	63%
Overall traffic safety	51%	48%	51%	50%	50%	56%	48%	47%

Table 33: Question 10 by Residency

While you may agree with some parts of both statements, with which statement below do you most agree?	Full or Part Time Resident		Which times of year are you in Charlestown? (If not year-round, check all that apply)					
	Full Time	Part Time	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Weekends, holidays, select vacation days	I own property there, but never live or visit there
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)
Charlestown should prioritize the needs of residents and property owners over tourists	93% B	90%	91%	90%	89%	88%	91%	95%
Charlestown should prioritize policies that encourage tourism	7%	10% A	9%	10%	11%	12%	9%	5%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 34: Question 11 by Residency

Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the Charlestown community to prioritize tax dollars and/or staff time for each of the following in the coming two years. (Percent essential or very important)	Full or Part Time Resident		Which times of year are you in Charlestown? (If not year-round, check all that apply)					
	Full Time	Part Time	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Weekends, holidays, select vacation days	I own property there, but never live or visit there
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)
Supporting and encouraging small local businesses	73%	74%	74%	74%	76%	73%	74%	80%
Encouraging economic development and revitalization	50%	56% A	52%	55%	55%	50%	54%	51%
Maintaining a small-town identity, rural character	84%	84%	84%	84%	84%	85%	83%	90%
Limiting "big box stores"	83% B	77%	78%	78%	77%	83%	75%	82%
Limiting "national chains"	78% B	73%	74%	74%	73%	76%	72%	80%
Keeping taxes low and affordable	93% B	87%	89%	87%	88%	91%	87%	84%
Addressing availability of housing affordable for low and middle income households	51% B	36%	33%	36%	35%	29%	34%	35%

Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the Charlestown community to prioritize tax dollars and/or staff time for each of the following in the coming two years. (Percent essential or very important)	Full or Part Time Resident		Which times of year are you in Charlestown? (If not year-round, check all that apply)					
	Full Time	Part Time	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Weekends, holidays, select vacation days	I own property there, but never live or visit there
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)
Protecting the environment and natural resources	94%	93%	93%	93%	93%	90%	93%	93%
Improving the infrastructure for pedestrians, bicyclists (sidewalks, paths, etc.)	66%	74% A	76%	75%	76%	85%	76%	83%
Improving K-12 schools (education)	74%	71%	69%	72%	71%	62%	68%	71%
Reducing overcrowding at beaches	56%	55%	56%	57%	54%	59%	55%	58%
Expanding Town-owned beach front	54%	56%	55%	57% C	52%	59%	59%	50%
Expanding access to our ponds	50% B	42%	41%	42%	39%	46%	46%	50%
Improving street maintenance on Town streets	56% B	47%	48%	48%	48%	49%	46%	46%
Helping mitigate, prevent well water contamination	87%	89%	91%	90%	91%	86%	91%	90%
Helping mitigate, prevent pollution from septic systems	85%	89% A	91%	91%	91%	87%	91%	95%
Facilitate policies to improve drinking water quality and supply	81%	86% A	87%	86%	86%	82%	86%	95%
Improving, expanding recreation programs and activities	43%	40%	39%	40%	39%	34%	39%	47%
Improving, expanding large-sized special events (Rhythm & Roots, Seafood Festival, etc., 8, 000- 14, 000 attendees per day)	28% B	23%	21%	22%	22%	22%	22%	11%
Improving, expanding medium-sized special events (concerts in the park, skim boarding competitions, etc.)	36%	33%	32%	33%	32%	28%	32%	28%
Addressing sea level rise	61%	58%	59%	57%	57%	58%	60%	66%
Addressing climate change, resiliency	62% B	56%	57%	55%	55%	54%	58%	67%
Improving public safety services	61%	60%	62%	60%	60%	59%	62%	65%
Regulating new residential development	74%	71%	71%	72%	70%	70%	73%	78%

Table 35: Question 12 by Residency

On average, about how often do you use Ninigret Park in a typical year?	Full or Part Time Resident		Which times of year are you in Charlestown? (If not year-round, check all that apply)					
	Full Time	Part Time	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Weekends, holidays, select vacation days	I own property there, but never live or visit there
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)
Once or twice a year	22%	33% A	32%	33%	31%	29%	32%	40%
Every couple months	26% B	21%	21%	20%	23%	27%	23%	20%
1-3 times a month	25%	23%	25%	23%	25%	25%	24%	11%
Once a week or more	21% B	12%	11%	13%	12%	9%	10%	7%
Never	6%	10% A	11%	11%	9%	9%	10%	22% C
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 36: Question 13 by Residency

How strongly, if at all, do you prefer the following options for development of Ninigret Park: (Percent somewhat or strongly prefer)	Full or Part Time Resident		Which times of year are you in Charlestown? (If not year-round, check all that apply)					
	Full Time	Part Time	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Weekends, holidays, select vacation days	I own property there, but never live or visit there
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)
There should be little or no further development of Ninigret Park (leave it mainly as is and maintain current facilities)	69%	68%	71%	68%	69%	72%	70%	55%
Expand recreational options including a limited number of new buildings and activities	66%	68%	67%	68%	69%	69%	67%	63%
Develop commercial activities including buildings and structures	21%	23%	22%	22%	22%	19%	24%	29%



Table 37: Question 14 by Residency

If the Town were to explore funding further developing Ninigret Park, what improvements and/or additions, if any, would you prefer to see? (Percent ideal for me or nice to have)	Full or Part Time Resident		Which times of year are you in Charlestown? (If not year-round, check all that apply)					
	Full Time	Part Time	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Weekends, holidays, select vacation days	I own property there, but never live or visit there
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)
More walking, jogging trails	77%	84% A	83%	83%	84%	87%	86%	79%
Ice skating (outdoor)	61% B	47%	45%	44%	45%	50%	48%	45%
More large festivals (similar in size to Rhythm & Roots or the Seafood Festival 8, 000 to 14, 00 attendees per day)	38%	36%	34%	35%	35%	33%	38%	27%
Band shell (for up to 1, 000 attendees)	50%	51%	50%	51%	51%	55%	55%	43%
Band shell (for up to 3, 000 attendees)	29% B	23%	23%	23%	23%	21%	24%	20%
Additional restrooms	74%	74%	73%	74%	74%	77%	75%	65%
Arboretum, tree farm	60%	56%	58%	57%	55%	61%	60%	70%
New recreation, community center	49%	47%	44%	46%	45%	46%	49%	49%
Miniature golf (with user fee)	45%	54% A	53%	54%	52%	55%	56%	53%
Volleyball courts	50%	52%	52%	52%	50%	48%	55%	53%
Improvements, additions for sports fields	53%	51%	50%	52%	51%	46%	51%	49%
Golf driving range (with user fee)	43%	52% A	52%	53%	51%	46%	52%	53%
Football field	22%	20%	21%	21%	19%	18%	20%	15%
Running track (outdoor)	46%	48%	47%	47%	47%	47%	49%	43%
Concession stands	32%	33%	34%	34%	34%	34%	35%	27%
A naval, air museum	53%	53%	54%	54%	54%	53%	53%	35%

Table 38: Question 17 by Residency

How strongly would you support or oppose using each of the following as a funding source for Ninigret Park improvements? (Percent somewhat or strongly support)	Full or Part Time Resident		Which times of year are you in Charlestown? (If not year-round, check all that apply)					
	Full Time	Part Time	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Weekends, holidays, select vacation days	I own property there, but never live or visit there
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)
Rental fees for park facilities, amenities	60%	65% A	65%	65%	66%	68%	69%	70%
Parking, entrance fees at the park	19%	26% A	26%	26%	26%	24%	28%	25%
Some private commercial development (e.g., golf driving range)	44%	59% A	59%	60%	59%	57%	61%	57%
Increased property taxes	11%	11%	9%	10%	10%	7%	10%	13%
Use the Town's budget surplus, in the years that the surplus exceeds the recommended savings level	68%	74% A	73%	72%	73%	75%	76%	65%
Issuing a municipal bond (i.e., a loan that investors make to local governments)	42%	45%	45%	46%	46%	44%	49%	57%

## Appendix C: Comparisons by Housing Status

### Understanding the Tables

The subgroup comparison tables contain the crosstabulations of the random sample survey questions by various respondent demographic characteristics. Chi-square or ANOVA tests of significance were applied to these breakdowns of survey questions. A “p-value” of 0.05 or less indicates that there is less than a 5% probability that differences observed between groups are due to chance; or in other words, a greater than 95% probability that the differences observed in the selected categories of the sample represent “real” differences among those populations. As subgroups vary in size and each group (and each comparison to another group) has a unique margin of error, statistical testing is used to determine whether differences between subgroups are statistically significant.

Each column in the following tables is labeled with a letter for each subgroup being compared. The letters start over with “A” for each different characteristic. (For example, for housing tenure, renters and owners are marked “A” and “B”, and then for Length of Residency, they are marked “A” through “C”.)

For each pair of subgroup ratings within a characteristic within a row that has a statistically significant difference, an uppercase letter denoting significance is shown in the cell with the larger column proportion. The letter denotes the subgroup with the smaller column proportion from which it is statistically different. Subgroups that have no uppercase letter denotation in their column and that are also not referred to in any other column were not statistically different. See Appendix B (page 41) for an example.

**Table 39: Question 1 by Housing Status**

Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in Charlestown. (Percent excellent or good)	Housing Tenure		Length of Residency		
	Rent	Own	5 years or less	5 to 20 years	20 or more years
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)
Your neighborhood as a place to live	93%	96%	97%	94%	96%
Charlestown as a place to raise children	92%	88%	88%	84%	90% B
Charlestown as a place to work	50%	53%	54%	47%	56% B
Charlestown as a place to visit	93%	94%	94%	93%	94%
Charlestown as a place to retire	85%	88%	90%	88%	88%
Charlestown’s rural character and open space	95%	93%	95%	93%	93%
Charlestown’s tax rate	78%	86%	89% C	88% C	83%
The overall quality of life in Charlestown	95%	95%	96%	94%	95%

Table 40: Question 2 by Housing Status

Please rate the pace of growth in Charlestown in the following categories: (Percent right amount)		Housing Tenure		Length of Residency		
		Rent	Own	5 years or less	5 to 20 years	20 or more years
		(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)
Population	Too slow	13% B	5%	6%	7% C	5%
	Right amount	56%	55%	62% C	57%	51%
	Too Fast	31%	40%	33%	35%	44% A B
Residential housing growth	Too slow	25% B	10%	11%	10%	9%
	Right amount	48%	44%	46%	48% C	41%
	Too Fast	27%	46% A	43%	42%	49% B
Retail growth (stores, restaurants, etc.)	Too slow	48%	41%	43%	46% C	38%
	Right amount	38%	48%	47%	44%	51% B
	Too Fast	14%	10%	9%	10%	11%
Commercial business growth	Too slow	45%	35%	35%	38% C	33%
	Right amount	43%	51%	52%	48%	53%
	Too Fast	13%	14%	14%	14%	14%
Job growth	Too slow	67%	55%	54%	56%	55%
	Right amount	28%	40%	42%	39%	40%
	Too Fast	5%	5%	4%	4%	6%

**Table 41: Question 3 by Housing Status**

Please rate your level of satisfaction with each of the following in Charlestown. (Percent excellent or good)	Housing Tenure		Length of Residency		
	Rent	Own	5 years or less	5 to 20 years	20 or more years
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)
Overall image or reputation of Charlestown	91%	92%	91%	90%	93%
Sense of community	85%	75%	80%	74%	75%
Cleanliness of the community	89%	85%	83%	85%	85%
Appearance of the community	91%	84%	85%	83%	86%
Overall feeling of safety	91%	92%	92%	93%	91%
Overall health of the local economy	69%	71%	72%	67%	73% B
Overall design or layout of Charlestown's residential areas (e.g., homes, streets, parks, etc.)	85% B	72%	74%	73%	71%
Overall design or layout of Charlestown's commercial areas (e.g., buildings, streets, parking, etc.)	58%	54%	57%	52%	55%
Overall quality of business and service establishments	62%	65%	64%	62%	67%
Variety of business and service establishments in Charlestown	36%	42%	43%	37%	45% B
Employment opportunities	18%	24%	22%	21%	25%
Shopping opportunities	32%	32%	30%	29%	34% B
Dining opportunities	32%	38%	37%	37%	40%
Availability of affordable quality housing	14%	34% A	38%	37% C	30%
Drinking water quality	68%	70%	68%	66%	73% B
Local schools (Chariho Regional School District)	84%	83%	84%	80%	84%
Ease of travel by bicycle	55% B	39%	37%	38%	40%
Ease of travel by walking	48%	38%	40%	36%	39%
Ease of travel by car	88%	86%	89%	86%	85%

Please rate your level of satisfaction with each of the following in Charlestown. (Percent excellent or good)	Housing Tenure		Length of Residency		
	Rent	Own	5 years or less	5 to 20 years	20 or more years
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)
Access to green spaces (natural areas)	84%	89%	90%	91%	87%
Overall quality of green spaces (natural spaces)	91%	88%	91%	89%	87%
Indoor recreation opportunities in Charlestown	17%	24%	29%	21%	25%
Outdoor recreation opportunities in Charlestown	76%	80%	86% C	83% C	76%
Fitness opportunities in Charlestown	53%	51%	54%	49%	51%
Opportunities to participate in social events and activities	58%	52%	59% B	50%	52%
Parking at Charlestown Town Beach lot	44%	51%	57% C	54% C	46%
Parking at Blue Shutters Town Beach lot	25%	37%	44% C	38%	34%

**Table 42: Question 4 by Housing Status**

Please each of the following in Charlestown. (Percent excellent or good)	Housing Tenure		Length of Residency		
	Rent	Own	5 years or less	5 to 20 years	20 or more years
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)
Access to the shoreline	69%	66%	69%	67%	64%
Access to boat launches	64%	65%	68%	66%	63%
Access to freshwater ponds	77%	71%	76% C	72%	68%
Access to saltwater ponds	72%	68%	72% C	70%	65%
Overall quality of Ninigret Pond	76%	76%	85% B C	76%	72%
Overall quality of Quonochontaug Pond	74%	80%	87% C	82% C	76%
Overall quality of Watchaug Pond	62%	78% A	80%	78%	76%
Overall quality of Blue Shutters Town Beach	79%	87%	90% C	89% C	83%
Overall quality of Charlestown Town Beach	78%	79%	80%	82% C	76%
Overall quality of Pawcatuck River	77%	72%	70%	72%	72%

Table 43: Question 5 by Housing Status

Please rate the quality of each of the following services or facilities provided in Charlestown. (Percent excellent or good)	Housing Tenure		Length of Residency		
	Rent	Own	5 years or less	5 to 20 years	20 or more years
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)
Ambulance rescue service	93%	94%	92%	94%	95%
Animal control	63%	77% A	74%	78%	77%
Building, Zoning	50%	64%	62%	65%	65%
Charlestown Residential Collection Center (CRCC) and recycling services	72%	82%	78%	80%	83%
Charlestown Senior Community Center facility	75%	77%	70%	75%	78%
Charlestown Senior Community Center programs	64%	71%	63%	72%	70%
Town-owned protected open spaces (such as South Farm and Richard Trails)	82%	87%	88%	87%	86%
Ninigret Park	87%	91%	94% B	89%	91%
Town Parks (Clark Memorial, Harry A. Wicklund, Pawaget, Puchalski Field)	87%	82%	85%	80%	83%
Harbor Management & Boating	77%	79%	84%	83% C	75%
Library and its programs and activities	85%	92%	89%	92%	92%
Parks and Recreation programs and activities	76%	78%	75%	74%	81% B
Police department	86%	91%	90%	91%	90%
Volunteer fire department	89%	94%	96%	93%	93%
Snow plowing and sanding	87%	84%	85%	84%	83%
Stormwater management	90%	76%	78%	74%	77%
Wastewater management program	87%	76%	75%	76%	77%
Street maintenance	57%	64%	64%	64%	65%
Town-sponsored special events (e.g., Easter Egg Hunt)	88%	75%	77%	70%	77% B
Customer service of Town employees	78%	86%	84%	83%	88% B
Overall quality of Town services	81%	85%	87%	81%	86% B



**Table 44: Question 6 by Housing Status**

Please rate the following categories of the Town of Charlestown government performance. (Percent excellent or good)	Housing Tenure		Length of Residency		
	Rent	Own	5 years or less	5 to 20 years	20 or more years
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)
Overall confidence in the Town of Charlestown government	43%	70% A	74%	68%	69%
The value of services for the taxes paid to the Town	59%	72%	77% C	73%	70%
The overall direction that the Town government is taking	39%	64% A	68%	61%	63%
The job the Town government does at welcoming resident involvement	38%	54%	53%	54%	53%
The job the Town government does at listening to residents	27%	52% A	56%	51%	50%
Treating all residents fairly	41%	60% A	63%	60%	57%
Being open and transparent	40%	55%	61%	54%	53%
The openness of the budgeting process	47%	66% A	70%	63%	67%
Generally acting in the best interest of the community	43%	65% A	68%	63%	64%
The overall performance of Town government	43%	66% A	68%	65%	65%

**Table 45: Question 7 by Housing Status**

Please rate your preference for receiving information about the Charlestown Town government from each of the following sources: (Percent somewhat or strongly prefer)	Housing Tenure		Length of Residency		
	Rent	Own	5 years or less	5 to 20 years	20 or more years
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)
Town's website (charlestownri.gov)	75%	76%	83% C	79% C	73%
Town's social media (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.)	37%	32%	40% C	35% C	28%
Other social media (e.g., Nextdoor, Charlestown RI Wire Facebook page, etc.)	38%	35%	45% B C	37% C	31%
Email notifications (Town's Constant Contact)	57%	65%	65%	68%	63%
Attending public meetings	41%	53%	45%	55% A	55% A
A civic association, homeowner association newsletter or listserv, email list	41%	54%	57%	55%	51%
Printed materials (brochures, fliers)	71%	67%	60%	67%	70% A
The Pipeline Newsletter	65%	74%	54%	72% A	80% A B
The Westerly Sun or other local newspapers	55%	56%	48%	58% A	57% A
Word of mouth, neighbors	45%	40%	41%	39%	40%
Local radio stations	38%	30%	27%	29%	32%

Table 46: Question 9 by Housing Status

How much of a problem, if at all, are the following for Charlestown? (Percent major or moderate problem)	Housing Tenure		Length of Residency		
	Rent	Own	5 years or less	5 to 20 years	20 or more years
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)
Taxation rate	22%	14%	9%	13%	16% A
Cost of living	61% B	23%	21%	23%	25%
Air quality	2%	6%	5%	6%	5%
Groundwater, well water pollution	24%	28%	27%	29%	27%
Pollution, contamination of coastal salt ponds	46%	50%	44%	50%	51%
Overcrowding at beaches	56%	64%	59%	64%	66% A
Sea level rise, climate change	60%	61%	59%	63%	61%
Coastal, seashore erosion	58%	66%	66%	67%	65%
Getting across Route 1 safely when walking or biking	75%	76%	75%	77%	76%
Speeding	65%	67%	62%	63%	70% A B
Amount of traffic in the summer	70%	72%	63%	67%	77% A B
Overall traffic safety	42%	50%	44%	46%	54% A B

Table 47: Question 10 by Housing Status

While you may agree with some parts of both statements, with which statement below do you most agree?	Housing Tenure		Length of Residency		
	Rent	Own	5 years or less	5 to 20 years	20 or more years
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)
Charlestown should prioritize the needs of residents and property owners over tourists	100%	93%	93%	91%	94%
Charlestown should prioritize policies that encourage tourism	0%	7%	7%	9%	6%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 48: Question 11 by Housing Status

Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the Charlestown community to prioritize tax dollars and/or staff time for each of the following in the coming two years. (Percent essential or very important)	Housing Tenure		Length of Residency		
	Rent	Own	5 years or less	5 to 20 years	20 or more years
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)
Supporting and encouraging small local businesses	79%	73%	77%	74%	72%
Encouraging economic development and revitalization	62%	51%	55%	53%	50%
Maintaining a small-town identity, rural character	71%	85% A	86% B	80%	87% B
Limiting "big box stores"	71%	82% A	83%	81%	82%
Limiting "national chains"	67%	77%	77%	75%	79%
Keeping taxes low and affordable	88%	92%	93%	89%	93% B
Addressing availability of housing affordable for low and middle income households	74% B	46%	45%	42%	51% B
Protecting the environment and natural resources	83%	94% A	94%	91%	95% B
Improving the infrastructure for pedestrians, bicyclists (sidewalks, paths, etc.)	50%	69% A	70%	70%	66%

Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the Charlestown community to prioritize tax dollars and/or staff time for each of the following in the coming two years. (Percent essential or very important)	Housing Tenure		Length of Residency		
	Rent	Own	5 years or less	5 to 20 years	20 or more years
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)
Improving K-12 schools (education)	68%	74%	69%	75%	74%
Reducing overcrowding at beaches	33%	56% A	55%	51%	58% B
Expanding Town-owned beach front	45%	55%	57%	54%	54%
Expanding access to our ponds	41%	48%	48%	48%	47%
Improving street maintenance on Town streets	59%	53%	50%	48%	58% A B
Helping mitigate, prevent well water contamination	68%	88% A	86%	87%	88%
Helping mitigate, prevent pollution from septic systems	72%	87% A	84%	86%	88%
Facilitate policies to improve drinking water quality and supply	68%	82% A	82%	81%	83%
Improving, expanding recreation programs and activities	41%	42%	41%	42%	43%
Improving, expanding large-sized special events (Rhythm & Roots, Seafood Festival, etc., 8, 000-14, 000 attendees per day)	30%	27%	26%	27%	27%
Improving, expanding medium-sized special events (concerts in the park, skim boarding competitions, etc.)	39%	35%	36%	37%	34%
Addressing sea level rise	50%	60%	60%	61%	59%
Addressing climate change, resiliency	51%	61%	59%	61%	61%
Improving public safety services	60%	61%	61%	56%	64% B
Regulating new residential development	59%	74% A	74%	70%	75% B

**Table 49: Question 12 by Housing Status**

On average, about how often do you use Ninigret Park in a typical year?	Housing Tenure		Length of Residency		
	Rent	Own	5 years or less	5 to 20 years	20 or more years
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)
Once or twice a year	31%	25%	22%	23%	27%
Every couple months	28%	24%	26%	24%	25%
1-3 times a month	17%	24%	28%	27% C	22%
Once a week or more	22%	19%	19%	21%	18%
Never	2%	8%	5%	6%	9% A B
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

**Table 50: Question 13 by Housing Status**

How strongly, if at all, do you prefer the following options for development of Ninigret Park: (Percent somewhat or strongly prefer)	Housing Tenure		Length of Residency		
	Rent	Own	5 years or less	5 to 20 years	20 or more years
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)
There should be little or no further development of Ninigret Park (leave it mainly as is and maintain current facilities)	62%	69%	65%	66%	71%
Expand recreational options including a limited number of new buildings and activities	83% B	66%	72% C	68%	64%
Develop commercial activities including buildings and structures	29%	21%	21%	23%	19%

Table 51: Question 14 by Housing Status

If the Town were to explore funding further developing Ninigret Park, what improvements and/or additions, if any, would you prefer to see? (Percent ideal for me or nice to have)	Housing Tenure		Length of Residency		
	Rent	Own	5 years or less	5 to 20 years	20 or more years
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)
More walking, jogging trails	69%	79%	83% C	79%	76%
Ice skating (outdoor)	60%	57%	62%	58%	55%
More large festivals (similar in size to Rhythm & Roots or the Seafood Festival 8, 000 to 14, 00 attendees per day)	39%	37%	42%	37%	36%
Band shell (for up to 1, 000 attendees)	46%	50%	57% C	53% C	46%
Band shell (for up to 3, 000 attendees)	21%	28%	32% C	29%	25%
Additional restrooms	73%	74%	77%	72%	74%
Arboretum, tree farm	64%	59%	61%	60%	57%
New recreation, community center	41%	48%	52%	47%	47%
Miniature golf (with user fee)	37%	48%	46%	50%	45%
Volleyball courts	51%	51%	48%	52%	51%
Improvements, additions for sports fields	59%	53%	54%	52%	53%
Golf driving range (with user fee)	28%	46% A	48%	48%	42%
Football field	18%	22%	24%	21%	21%
Running track (outdoor)	43%	47%	54% C	46%	45%
Concession stands	32%	32%	39% C	34%	30%
A naval, air museum	51%	53%	48%	51%	55% A

Table 52: Question 17 by Housing Status

How strongly would you support or oppose using each of the following as a funding source for Ninigret Park improvements? (Percent somewhat or strongly support)	Housing Tenure		Length of Residency		
	Rent	Own	5 years or less	5 to 20 years	20 or more years
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)
Rental fees for park facilities, amenities	64%	62%	67% C	64%	58%
Parking, entrance fees at the park	15%	21%	25% B	18%	21%
Some private commercial development (e.g., golf driving range)	40%	48%	52% C	50%	45%
Increased property taxes	10%	11%	10%	15% A C	9%
Use the Town's budget surplus, in the years that the surplus exceeds the recommended savings level	69%	70%	72%	72%	67%
Issuing a municipal bond (i.e., a loan that investors make to local governments)	45%	43%	43%	48% C	40%



## Appendix D: Comparisons by Household Composition

### Understanding the Tables

The subgroup comparison tables contain the crosstabulations of the random sample survey questions by various respondent demographic characteristics. Chi-square or ANOVA tests of significance were applied to these breakdowns of survey questions. A “p-value” of 0.05 or less indicates that there is less than a 5% probability that differences observed between groups are due to chance; or in other words, a greater than 95% probability that the differences observed in the selected categories of the sample represent “real” differences among those populations. As subgroups vary in size and each group (and each comparison to another group) has a unique margin of error, statistical testing is used to determine whether differences between subgroups are statistically significant.

Each column in the following tables is labeled with a letter for each subgroup being compared. The letters start over with “A” for each different characteristic. For each pair of subgroup ratings within a characteristic within a row that has a statistically significant difference, an uppercase letter denoting significance is shown in the cell with the larger column proportion. The letter denotes the subgroup with the smaller column proportion from which it is statistically different. Subgroups that have no uppercase letter denotation in their column and that are also not referred to in any other column were not statistically different. See Appendix B (page 41) for an example.

**Table 53: Question 1 by Household Composition**

Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in Charlestown. (Percent excellent or good)	Children in household		Adults (ages 20 to 64, including yourself)		Older adults (ages 65 or older, including yourself)	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)
Your neighborhood as a place to live	93%	96% A	95%	96%	96%	95%
Charlestown as a place to raise children	90%	88%	89%	87%	88%	89%
Charlestown as a place to work	46%	55% A	53%	54%	55%	51%
Charlestown as a place to visit	91%	94% A	93%	96% A	95% B	93%
Charlestown as a place to retire	83%	89% A	86%	91% A	89% B	86%
Charlestown’s rural character and open space	92%	94%	93%	94%	93%	93%
Charlestown’s tax rate	85%	85%	85%	85%	84%	87%
The overall quality of life in Charlestown	94%	95%	94%	95%	94%	95%

Table 54: Question 2 by Household Composition

Please rate the pace of growth in Charlestown in the following categories: (Percent right amount)		Children in household		Adults (ages 20 to 64, including yourself)		Older adults (ages 65 or older, including yourself)	
		Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
		(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)
Population	Too slow	9% B	5%	7%	5%	5%	7%
	Right amount	56%	55%	54%	56%	57% B	52%
	Too Fast	36%	40%	39%	39%	38%	41%
Residential housing growth	Too slow	12%	10%	11%	9%	10%	11%
	Right amount	48%	44%	44%	46%	45%	43%
	Too Fast	40%	46%	45%	46%	45%	46%
Retail growth (stores, restaurants, etc.)	Too slow	51% B	40%	45% B	36%	39%	45% A
	Right amount	41%	50% A	45%	53% A	50%	46%
	Too Fast	8%	10%	10%	11%	11%	9%
Commercial business growth	Too slow	43% B	33%	39% B	30%	33%	39% A
	Right amount	45%	52% A	48%	56% A	53%	49%
	Too Fast	11%	14%	13%	15%	15%	12%
Job growth	Too slow	62% B	54%	56%	54%	56%	54%
	Right amount	34%	41%	39%	42%	39%	41%
	Too Fast	4%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%

Table 55: Question 3 by Household Composition

Please rate your level of satisfaction with each of the following in Charlestown. (Percent excellent or good)	Children in household		Adults (ages 20 to 64, including yourself)		Older adults (ages 65 or older, including yourself)	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)
Overall image or reputation of Charlestown	91%	92%	92%	92%	92%	91%
Sense of community	67%	77% A	74%	78%	78% B	73%
Cleanliness of the community	83%	85%	83%	87% A	86% B	83%
Appearance of the community	81%	86% A	85%	85%	86% B	83%
Overall feeling of safety	92%	92%	92%	93%	92%	92%
Overall health of the local economy	64%	73% A	70%	73%	72%	71%
Overall design or layout of Charlestown's residential areas (e.g., homes, streets, parks, etc.)	75%	72%	74%	71%	72%	74%
Overall design or layout of Charlestown's commercial areas (e.g., buildings, streets, parking, etc.)	51%	55%	53%	57%	56%	53%
Overall quality of business and service establishments	62%	66%	63%	68% A	68% B	61%
Variety of business and service establishments in Charlestown	36%	43% A	41%	44%	43%	40%
Employment opportunities	23%	23%	25% B	20%	21%	27% A
Shopping opportunities	30%	32%	33%	31%	31%	33%
Dining opportunities	35%	38%	38%	38%	39%	37%
Availability of affordable quality housing	35%	33%	35%	31%	31%	37% A
Drinking water quality	70%	70%	71%	68%	69%	71%
Local schools (Charlton Regional School District)	82%	83%	83%	84%	83%	84%
Ease of travel by bicycle	36%	39%	39%	38%	38%	41%

Please rate your level of satisfaction with each of the following in Charlestown. (Percent excellent or good)	Children in household		Adults (ages 20 to 64, including yourself)		Older adults (ages 65 or older, including yourself)	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)
Ease of travel by walking	33%	40% A	38%	39%	39%	38%
Ease of travel by car	87%	86%	87%	85%	84%	88% A
Access to green spaces (natural areas)	92%	88%	89%	88%	88%	90%
Overall quality of green spaces (natural spaces)	90%	88%	88%	88%	88%	88%
Indoor recreation opportunities in Charlestown	24%	25%	26%	23%	24%	25%
Outdoor recreation opportunities in Charlestown	83%	80%	82% B	77%	77%	85% A
Fitness opportunities in Charlestown	53%	51%	52%	50%	49%	53%
Opportunities to participate in social events and activities	54%	52%	53%	52%	51%	55%
Parking at Charlestown Town Beach lot	54%	50%	53% B	48%	47%	56% A
Parking at Blue Shutters Town Beach lot	38%	37%	40% B	33%	34%	42% A

Table 56: Question 4 by Household Composition

Please each of the following in Charlestown. (Percent excellent or good)	Children in household		Adults (ages 20 to 64, including yourself)		Older adults (ages 65 or older, including yourself)	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)
Access to the shoreline	65%	66%	65%	67%	67%	65%
Access to boat launches	64%	65%	66%	63%	63%	67%
Access to freshwater ponds	70%	71%	71%	70%	70%	72%
Access to saltwater ponds	68%	68%	69%	66%	67%	69%
Overall quality of Ninigret Pond	79%	75%	78% B	72%	74%	79% A
Overall quality of Quonochontaug Pond	83%	79%	81%	78%	78%	83% A
Overall quality of Watchaug Pond	79%	77%	78%	75%	76%	79%
Overall quality of Blue Shuttles Town Beach	84%	86%	87%	85%	85%	87%
Overall quality of Charlestown Town Beach	79%	79%	79%	79%	79%	78%
Overall quality of Pawcatuck River	76%	70%	72%	69%	69%	74%

Table 57: Question 5 by Household Composition

Please rate the quality of each of the following services or facilities provided in Charlestown. (Percent excellent or good)	Children in household		Adults (ages 20 to 64, including yourself)		Older adults (ages 65 or older, including yourself)	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)
Ambulance rescue service	93%	95%	93%	96% A	95% B	93%
Animal control	75%	78%	74%	83% A	81% B	71%
Building, Zoning	62%	64%	62%	66%	65%	63%
Charlestown Residential Collection Center (CRCC) and recycling services	73%	83% A	79%	85% A	82%	81%
Charlestown Senior Community Center facility	71%	77%	76%	77%	75%	79%

Please rate the quality of each of the following services or facilities provided in Charlestown. (Percent excellent or good)	Children in household		Adults (ages 20 to 64, including yourself)		Older adults (ages 65 or older, including yourself)	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)
Charlestown Senior Community Center programs	75%	70%	73%	68%	68%	77% A
Town-owned protected open spaces (such as South Farm and Richard Trails)	87%	86%	86%	87%	86%	87%
Ninigret Park	88%	91%	90%	92%	91%	90%
Town Parks (Clark Memorial, Harry A. Wicklund, Pawaget, Puchalski Field)	78%	83%	82%	83%	83%	82%
Harbor Management & Boating	79%	79%	77%	81%	80%	78%
Library and its programs and activities	86%	93% A	90%	94% A	93% B	90%
Parks and Recreation programs and activities	75%	79%	76%	82% A	81% B	74%
Police department	90%	91%	89%	92% A	92% B	88%
Volunteer fire department	93%	94%	93%	94%	93%	94%
Snow plowing and sanding	82%	84%	82%	87% A	85%	82%
Stormwater management	76%	76%	76%	76%	76%	76%
Wastewater management program	76%	77%	77%	76%	76%	78%
Street maintenance	61%	65%	62%	68% A	66% B	61%
Town-sponsored special events (e.g., Easter Egg Hunt)	74%	75%	75%	75%	74%	76%
Customer service of Town employees	81%	87% A	83%	90% A	89% B	82%
Overall quality of Town services	82%	85%	83%	88% A	87% B	81%

Table 58: Question 6 by Household Composition

Please rate the following categories of the Town of Charlestown government performance. (Percent excellent or good)	Children in household		Adults (ages 20 to 64, including yourself)		Older adults (ages 65 or older, including yourself)	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)
Overall confidence in the Town of Charlestown government	65%	70%	66%	74% A	72% B	65%
The value of services for the taxes paid to the Town	70%	72%	70%	75% A	72%	71%
The overall direction that the Town government is taking	60%	64%	59%	68% A	66% B	59%
The job the Town government does at welcoming resident involvement	51%	54%	52%	57% A	55%	52%
The job the Town government does at listening to residents	45%	52% A	48%	56% A	53%	49%
Treating all residents fairly	57%	60%	57%	63% A	61%	56%
Being open and transparent	52%	55%	53%	58% A	56%	54%
The openness of the budgeting process	59%	67% A	63%	71% A	67%	64%
Generally acting in the best interest of the community	59%	65%	60%	70% A	68% B	59%
The overall performance of Town government	59%	67% A	61%	72% A	70% B	60%

Table 59: Question 7 by Household Composition

Please rate your preference for receiving information about the Charlestown Town government from each of the following sources: (Percent somewhat or strongly prefer)	Children in household		Adults (ages 20 to 64, including yourself)		Older adults (ages 65 or older, including yourself)	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)
Town's website (charlestownri.gov)	79%	75%	79% B	71%	72%	82% A
Town's social media (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.)	44% B	31%	40% B	23%	26%	44% A
Other social media (e.g., Nextdoor, Charlestown RI Wire Facebook page, etc.)	42% B	34%	41% B	27%	30%	44% A
Email notifications (Town's Constant Contact)	62%	65%	65%	64%	64%	66%
Attending public meetings	45%	55% A	50%	57% A	55%	51%
A civic association, homeowner association newsletter or listserv, email list	54%	53%	54%	52%	52%	56%
Printed materials (brochures, fliers)	60%	69% A	64%	73% A	70% B	63%
The Pipeline Newsletter	65%	75% A	69%	79% A	75% B	70%
The Westerly Sun or other local newspapers	53%	56%	53%	60% A	59% B	51%
Word of mouth, neighbors	48% B	39%	40%	41%	40%	40%
Local radio stations	36% B	30%	31%	30%	30%	32%



Table 60: Question 9 by Household Composition

How much of a problem, if at all, are the following for Charlestown? (Percent major or moderate problem)	Children in household		Adults (ages 20 to 64, including yourself)		Older adults (ages 65 or older, including yourself)	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)
Taxation rate	14%	14%	14%	13%	14%	13%
Cost of living	27%	23%	26% B	21%	23%	24%
Air quality	4%	6%	6%	5%	5%	6%
Groundwater, well water pollution	24%	28%	26%	30%	29%	26%
Pollution, contamination of coastal salt ponds	43%	51% A	45%	55% A	54% B	43%
Overcrowding at beaches	60%	65%	63%	66%	65%	62%
Sea level rise, climate change	57%	62%	59%	65% A	63%	59%
Coastal, seashore erosion	63%	66%	65%	67%	67%	64%
Getting across Route 1 safely when walking or biking	76%	76%	75%	78%	78% B	73%
Speeding	55%	69% A	63%	72% A	71% B	59%
Amount of traffic in the summer	58%	74% A	67%	78% A	76% B	64%
Overall traffic safety	41%	51% A	48%	52%	52% B	45%

Table 61: Question 10 by Household Composition

While you may agree with some parts of both statements, with which statement below do you most agree?	Children in household		Adults (ages 20 to 64, including yourself)		Older adults (ages 65 or older, including yourself)	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)
Charlestown should prioritize the needs of residents and property owners over tourists	91%	93%	92%	94%	93%	91%
Charlestown should prioritize policies that encourage tourism	9%	7%	8%	6%	7%	9%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 62: Question 11 by Household Composition

Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the Charlestown community to prioritize tax dollars and/or staff time for each of the following in the coming two years. (Percent essential or very important)	Children in household		Adults (ages 20 to 64, including yourself)		Older adults (ages 65 or older, including yourself)	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)
Supporting and encouraging small local businesses	77%	73%	75% B	71%	72%	75%
Encouraging economic development and revitalization	57%	51%	54% B	48%	50%	53%
Maintaining a small-town identity, rural character	80%	85% A	84%	85%	86%	82%
Limiting "big box stores"	77%	83% A	80%	84% A	82%	81%
Limiting "national chains"	72%	78% A	75%	79% A	78%	75%
Keeping taxes low and affordable	87%	93% A	91%	93%	93% B	90%
Addressing availability of housing affordable for low and middle income households	44%	48%	45%	51% A	49% B	44%
Protecting the environment and natural resources	90%	94% A	92%	95% A	94%	92%

Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the Charlestown community to prioritize tax dollars and/or staff time for each of the following in the coming two years. (Percent essential or very important)	Children in household		Adults (ages 20 to 64, including yourself)		Older adults (ages 65 or older, including yourself)	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)
Improving the infrastructure for pedestrians, bicyclists (sidewalks, paths, etc.)	69%	68%	69%	67%	69%	68%
Improving K-12 schools (education)	81% B	72%	70%	79% A	78% B	68%
Reducing overcrowding at beaches	50%	56% A	53%	59% A	58% B	51%
Expanding Town-owned beach front	55%	55%	54%	56%	55%	54%
Expanding access to our ponds	50%	47%	47%	48%	47%	48%
Improving street maintenance on Town streets	47%	55% A	54%	55%	56% B	51%
Helping mitigate, prevent well water contamination	81%	89% A	84%	92% A	91% B	83%
Helping mitigate, prevent pollution from septic systems	79%	88% A	83%	92% A	90% B	81%
Facilitate policies to improve drinking water quality and supply	75%	84% A	78%	88% A	87% B	75%
Improving, expanding recreation programs and activities	51% B	41%	43%	42%	42%	43%
Improving, expanding large-sized special events (Rhythm & Roots, Seafood Festival, etc., 8, 000- 14, 000 attendees per day)	30%	26%	29% B	24%	25%	30% A
Improving, expanding medium-sized special events (concerts in the park, skim boarding competitions, etc.)	41% B	35%	37%	34%	34%	38% A
Addressing sea level rise	57%	61%	56%	66% A	63% B	56%
Addressing climate change, resiliency	58%	61%	57%	66% A	63% B	56%
Improving public safety services	55%	62% A	58%	66% A	65% B	55%
Regulating new residential development	61%	76% A	69%	79% A	77% B	68%

**Table 63: Question 12 by Household Composition**

On average, about how often do you use Ninigret Park in a typical year?	Children in household		Adults (ages 20 to 64, including yourself)		Older adults (ages 65 or older, including yourself)	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)
Once or twice a year	19%	26% A	24%	25%	26%	23%
Every couple months	28%	24%	26%	23%	23%	27% A
1-3 times a month	31% B	23%	25%	23%	23%	26%
Once a week or more	19%	19%	19%	19%	19%	19%
Never	4%	8% A	6%	10% A	9% B	5%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

**Table 64: Question 13 by Household Composition**

How strongly, if at all, do you prefer the following options for development of Ninigret Park: (Percent somewhat or strongly prefer)	Children in household		Adults (ages 20 to 64, including yourself)		Older adults (ages 65 or older, including yourself)	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)
There should be little or no further development of Ninigret Park (leave it mainly as is and maintain current facilities)	52%	71% A	65%	73% A	73% B	62%
Expand recreational options including a limited number of new buildings and activities	77% B	65%	69% B	64%	64%	70% A
Develop commercial activities including buildings and structures	30% B	20%	25% B	16%	17%	28% A

Table 65: Question 14 by Household Composition

If the Town were to explore funding further developing Ninigret Park, what improvements and/or additions, if any, would you prefer to see? (Percent ideal for me or nice to have)	Children in household		Adults (ages 20 to 64, including yourself)		Older adults (ages 65 or older, including yourself)	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)
More walking, jogging trails	80%	78%	78%	79%	79%	78%
Ice skating (outdoor)	65% B	56%	60% B	53%	54%	63% A
More large festivals (similar in size to Rhythm & Roots or the Seafood Festival 8, 000 to 14, 00 attendees per day)	45% B	36%	41% B	32%	33%	44% A
Band shell (for up to 1, 000 attendees)	57% B	49%	54% B	45%	47%	56% A
Band shell (for up to 3, 000 attendees)	35% B	26%	32% B	21%	22%	36% A
Additional restrooms	78%	73%	75%	74%	74%	75%
Arboretum, tree farm	64%	58%	59%	59%	59%	59%
New recreation, community center	60% B	46%	50%	46%	46%	52% A
Miniature golf (with user fee)	57% B	46%	50% B	44%	45%	51% A
Volleyball courts	63% B	49%	51%	50%	49%	54% A
Improvements, additions for sports fields	67% B	51%	53%	53%	51%	56% A
Golf driving range (with user fee)	49%	45%	46%	44%	44%	47%
Football field	27% B	21%	22%	21%	21%	23%
Running track (outdoor)	55% B	46%	47%	47%	46%	48%
Concession stands	43% B	31%	36% B	29%	29%	38% A
A naval, air museum	56%	52%	53%	52%	53%	53%

Table 66: Question 17 by Household Composition

How strongly would you support or oppose using each of the following as a funding source for Ninigret Park improvements? (Percent somewhat or strongly support)	Children in household		Adults (ages 20 to 64, including yourself)		Older adults (ages 65 or older, including yourself)	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)
Rental fees for park facilities, amenities	67% B	60%	64% B	57%	58%	66% A
Parking, entrance fees at the park	23%	20%	22%	19%	20%	22%
Some private commercial development (e.g., golf driving range)	53% B	47%	51% B	43%	45%	52% A
Increased property taxes	16% B	10%	11%	11%	11%	11%
Use the Town's budget surplus, in the years that the surplus exceeds the recommended savings level	82% B	68%	71%	68%	68%	73% A
Issuing a municipal bond (i.e., a loan that investors make to local governments)	54% B	41%	45%	41%	41%	46%

## Appendix E: Comparisons by Age and Gender

### Understanding the Tables

The subgroup comparison tables contain the crosstabulations of the random sample survey questions by various respondent demographic characteristics. Chi-square or ANOVA tests of significance were applied to these breakdowns of survey questions. A “p-value” of 0.05 or less indicates that there is less than a 5% probability that differences observed between groups are due to chance; or in other words, a greater than 95% probability that the differences observed in the selected categories of the sample represent “real” differences among those populations. As subgroups vary in size and each group (and each comparison to another group) has a unique margin of error, statistical testing is used to determine whether differences between subgroups are statistically significant.

Each column in the following tables is labeled with a letter for each subgroup being compared. The letters start over with “A” for each different characteristic. For each pair of subgroup ratings within a characteristic within a row that has a statistically significant difference, an uppercase letter denoting significance is shown in the cell with the larger column proportion. The letter denotes the subgroup with the smaller column proportion from which it is statistically different. Subgroups that have no uppercase letter denotation in their column and that are also not referred to in any other column were not statistically different. See Appendix B (page 41) for an example.

**Table 67: Question 1 by Age and Gender**

Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in Charlestown. (Percent excellent or good)	Age			Gender	
	18-34 years old	35-54 years old	55 or more years old	Male	Female
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)
Your neighborhood as a place to live	95%	94%	96%	96%	96%
Charlestown as a place to raise children	92%	90%	88%	87%	90%
Charlestown as a place to work	52%	51%	54%	54%	53%
Charlestown as a place to visit	92%	91%	95% B	93%	95%
Charlestown as a place to retire	90%	81%	89% B	87%	90% A
Charlestown’s rural character and open space	91%	92%	94%	93%	94%
Charlestown’s tax rate	84%	89%	85%	84%	87%
The overall quality of life in Charlestown	96%	94%	95%	94%	96% A

Table 68: Question 2 by Age and Gender

Please rate the pace of growth in Charlestown in the following categories: (Percent right amount)		Age			Gender	
		18-34 years old	35-54 years old	55 or more years old	Male	Female
		(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)
Population	Too slow	10%	6%	6%	6%	5%
	Right amount	46%	55%	56%	59% B	52%
	Too Fast	44%	39%	39%	34%	43% A
Residential housing growth	Too slow	14%	13%	10%	10%	10%
	Right amount	36%	43%	45%	48% B	42%
	Too Fast	50%	44%	45%	42%	48% A
Retail growth (stores, restaurants, etc.)	Too slow	51%	50% C	39%	41%	42%
	Right amount	38%	42%	51% B	49%	49%
	Too Fast	10%	9%	10%	10%	9%
Commercial business growth	Too slow	41%	43% C	33%	36%	33%
	Right amount	45%	46%	53%	50%	54%
	Too Fast	14%	12%	14%	14%	13%
Job growth	Too slow	58%	58%	54%	53%	58%
	Right amount	40%	37%	41%	42%	37%
	Too Fast	2%	5%	5%	5%	4%



**Table 69: Question 3 by Age and Gender**

Please rate your level of satisfaction with each of the following in Charlestown. (Percent excellent or good)	Age			Gender	
	18-34 years old	35-54 years old	55 or more years old	Male	Female
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)
Overall image or reputation of Charlestown	93%	91%	92%	91%	93%
Sense of community	75%	68%	77% B	77%	75%
Cleanliness of the community	80%	80%	87% B	86%	85%
Appearance of the community	88%	79%	86% B	85%	86%
Overall feeling of safety	96%	92%	93%	92%	93%
Overall health of the local economy	72%	67%	73%	71%	72%
Overall design or layout of Charlestown's residential areas (e.g., homes, streets, parks, etc.)	78%	76%	72%	71%	74%
Overall design or layout of Charlestown's commercial areas (e.g., buildings, streets, parking, etc.)	65%	56%	54%	53%	57%
Overall quality of business and service establishments	62%	63%	66%	63%	68% A
Variety of business and service establishments in Charlestown	32%	38%	43%	41%	44%
Employment opportunities	32%	24%	23%	23%	24%
Shopping opportunities	30%	30%	32%	30%	33%
Dining opportunities	40%	35%	39%	39%	37%
Availability of affordable quality housing	45%	35%	33%	35%	31%
Drinking water quality	84% C	72%	69%	70%	69%
Local schools (Chariho Regional School District)	84%	84%	83%	83%	84%
Ease of travel by bicycle	48%	39%	39%	42% B	35%
Ease of travel by walking	39%	36%	39%	41%	37%
Ease of travel by car	92%	89%	85%	86%	87%
Access to green spaces (natural areas)	95%	89%	89%	88%	90%

Please rate your level of satisfaction with each of the following in Charlestown. (Percent excellent or good)	Age			Gender	
	18-34 years old	35-54 years old	55 or more years old	Male	Female
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)
Overall quality of green spaces (natural spaces)	94%	88%	88%	88%	89%
Indoor recreation opportunities in Charlestown	25%	22%	24%	23%	25%
Outdoor recreation opportunities in Charlestown	94% C	82%	79%	80%	80%
Fitness opportunities in Charlestown	53%	52%	50%	51%	51%
Opportunities to participate in social events and activities	63%	55%	51%	53%	52%
Parking at Charlestown Town Beach lot	67% C	55%	49%	52%	50%
Parking at Blue Shutters Town Beach lot	54% B C	37%	36%	38%	35%

Table 70: Question 4 by Age and Gender

Please each of the following in Charlestown. (Percent excellent or good)	Age			Gender	
	18-34 years old	35-54 years old	55 or more years old	Male	Female
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)
Access to the shoreline	64%	63%	66%	66%	65%
Access to boat launches	75%	62%	65%	64%	66%
Access to freshwater ponds	75%	69%	71%	70%	71%
Access to saltwater ponds	77%	66%	68%	67%	68%
Overall quality of Ninigret Pond	74%	81%	75%	76%	76%
Overall quality of Quonochontaug Pond	87%	84%	79%	79%	81%
Overall quality of Watchaug Pond	85%	76%	77%	80%	77%
Overall quality of Blue Shutters Town Beach	86%	85%	86%	85%	88% A
Overall quality of Charlestown Town Beach	89%	81%	78%	80%	79%
Overall quality of Pawcatuck River	69%	75%	71%	70%	74%

Table 71: Question 5 by Age and Gender

Please rate the quality of each of the following services or facilities provided in Charlestown. (Percent excellent or good)	Age			Gender	
	18-34 years old	35-54 years old	55 or more years old	Male	Female
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)
Ambulance rescue service	98%	92%	95%	95%	96%
Animal control	72%	70%	79% B	79%	76%
Building, Zoning	71%	63%	64%	65%	64%
Charlestown Residential Collection Center (CRCC) and recycling services	81%	74%	83% B	80%	84%
Charlestown Senior Community Center facility	90%	74%	76%	77%	77%
Charlestown Senior Community Center programs	88%	75%	69%	71%	70%
Town-owned protected open spaces (such as South Farm and Richard Trails)	89%	84%	87%	85%	88%
Ninigret Park	93%	88%	91%	91%	91%
Town Parks (Clark Memorial, Harry A. Wicklund, Pawaget, Puchalski Field)	83%	78%	84%	81%	85%
Harbor Management & Boating	85%	77%	79%	77%	83% A
Library and its programs and activities	86%	90%	93%	90%	94% A
Parks and Recreation programs and activities	79%	74%	79%	79%	78%
Police department	88%	88%	91%	91%	91%
Volunteer fire department	98%	91%	94%	93%	95%
Snow plowing and sanding	76%	82%	85%	85%	84%
Stormwater management	84%	75%	76%	75%	78%
Wastewater management program	84%	75%	77%	76%	79%
Street maintenance	63%	57%	66% B	66%	63%
Town-sponsored special events (e.g., Easter Egg Hunt)	75%	75%	75%	75%	76%
Customer service of Town employees	80%	77%	88% B	87%	86%
Overall quality of Town services	81%	78%	87% B	85%	86%

**Table 72: Question 6 by Age and Gender**

Please rate the following categories of the Town of Charlestown government performance. (Percent excellent or good)	Age			Gender	
	18-34 years old	35-54 years old	55 or more years old	Male	Female
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)
Overall confidence in the Town of Charlestown government	61%	63%	71% B	70%	70%
The value of services for the taxes paid to the Town	69%	71%	72%	71%	74%
The overall direction that the Town government is taking	60%	55%	65% B	63%	65%
The job the Town government does at welcoming resident involvement	47%	49%	55%	54%	54%
The job the Town government does at listening to residents	52%	43%	53% B	53%	51%
Treating all residents fairly	64%	51%	61% B	62%	57%
Being open and transparent	56%	47%	57% B	57%	54%
The openness of the budgeting process	58%	58%	68% B	68%	65%
Generally acting in the best interest of the community	56%	56%	67% B	65%	65%
The overall performance of Town government	57%	56%	68% B	66%	67%

**Table 73: Question 7 by Age and Gender**

Please rate your preference for receiving information about the Charlestown Town government from each of the following sources: (Percent somewhat or strongly prefer)	Age			Gender	
	18-34 years old	35-54 years old	55 or more years old	Male	Female
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)
Town's website (charlestownri.gov)	80%	82% C	75%	72%	79% A
Town's social media (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.)	55% C	53% C	28%	29%	36% A
Other social media (e.g., Nextdoor, Charlestown RI Wire Facebook page, etc.)	47% C	50% C	32%	30%	41% A
Email notifications (Town's Constant Contact)	57%	68%	65%	62%	67% A
Attending public meetings	47%	48%	54%	56% B	50%
A civic association, homeowner association newsletter or listserv, email list	55%	56%	53%	53%	54%
Printed materials (brochures, fliers)	56%	61%	69% B	68%	68%
The Pipeline Newsletter	58%	72% A	74% A	71%	75%
The Westerly Sun or other local newspapers	58%	48%	58% B	58%	55%
Word of mouth, neighbors	51%	46%	39%	43% B	38%
Local radio stations	28%	36%	30%	31%	30%

Table 74: Question 9 by Age and Gender

How much of a problem, if at all, are the following for Charlestown? (Percent major or moderate problem)	Age			Gender	
	18-34 years old	35-54 years old	55 or more years old	Male	Female
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)
Taxation rate	15%	9%	14% B	13%	14%
Cost of living	38% B C	22%	23%	24%	23%
Air quality	7%	5%	5%	5%	6%
Groundwater, well water pollution	21%	24%	28%	25%	31% A
Pollution, contamination of coastal salt ponds	36%	40%	52% A B	48%	51%
Overcrowding at beaches	54%	63%	65%	60%	68% A
Sea level rise, climate change	62%	55%	63% B	54%	70% A
Coastal, seashore erosion	60%	62%	67%	60%	72% A
Getting across Route 1 safely when walking or biking	72%	78%	76%	70%	81% A
Speeding	46%	57%	69% A B	62%	71% A
Amount of traffic in the summer	61%	61%	74% B	67%	75% A
Overall traffic safety	45%	40%	51% B	45%	54% A

Table 75: Question 10 by Age and Gender

While you may agree with some parts of both statements, with which statement below do you most agree?	Age			Gender	
	18-34 years old	35-54 years old	55 or more years old	Male	Female
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)
Charlestown should prioritize the needs of residents and property owners over tourists	91%	91%	93%	91%	94% A
Charlestown should prioritize policies that encourage tourism	9%	9%	7%	9% B	6%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 76: Question 11 by Age and Gender

Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the Charlestown community to prioritize tax dollars and/or staff time for each of the following in the coming two years. (Percent essential or very important)	Age			Gender	
	18-34 years old	35-54 years old	55 or more years old	Male	Female
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)
Supporting and encouraging small local businesses	83%	78%	72%	69%	78% A
Encouraging economic development and revitalization	62%	57%	50%	51%	53%
Maintaining a small-town identity, rural character	80%	80%	85% B	82%	88% A
Limiting "big box stores"	75%	79%	83%	79%	85% A
Limiting "national chains"	75%	71%	78% B	73%	80% A
Keeping taxes low and affordable	91%	90%	92%	90%	93% A
Addressing availability of housing affordable for low and middle income households	55%	46%	48%	41%	55% A
Protecting the environment and natural resources	95%	91%	94%	92%	95% A

Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the Charlestown community to prioritize tax dollars and/or staff time for each of the following in the coming two years. (Percent essential or very important)	Age			Gender	
	18-34 years old	35-54 years old	55 or more years old	Male	Female
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)
Improving the infrastructure for pedestrians, bicyclists (sidewalks, paths, etc.)	68%	67%	69%	65%	73% A
Improving K-12 schools (education)	68%	75%	74%	73%	76%
Reducing overcrowding at beaches	47%	51%	57%	51%	61% A
Expanding Town-owned beach front	40%	58% A	55%	52%	58% A
Expanding access to our ponds	41%	53%	48%	46%	50%
Improving street maintenance on Town streets	49%	50%	55%	52%	57% A
Helping mitigate, prevent well water contamination	74%	81%	90% A B	86%	90% A
Helping mitigate, prevent pollution from septic systems	77%	78%	89% A B	85%	89% A
Facilitate policies to improve drinking water quality and supply	68%	74%	85% A B	81%	84%
Improving, expanding recreation programs and activities	53%	48%	41%	41%	45%
Improving, expanding large-sized special events (Rhythm & Roots, Seafood Festival, etc., 8, 000- 14, 000 attendees per day)	39%	30%	26%	28%	27%
Improving, expanding medium-sized special events (concerts in the park, skim boarding competitions, etc.)	43%	40%	35%	35%	38%
Addressing sea level rise	66%	53%	62% B	52%	70% A
Addressing climate change, resiliency	68%	54%	62% B	53%	70% A
Improving public safety services	57%	56%	63%	56%	68% A
Regulating new residential development	70%	66%	75% B	68%	79% A



Table 77: Question 12 by Age and Gender

On average, about how often do you use Ninigret Park in a typical year?	Age			Gender	
	18-34 years old	35-54 years old	55 or more years old	Male	Female
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)
Once or twice a year	21%	19%	26% B	25%	25%
Every couple months	29%	28%	24%	24%	25%
1-3 times a month	28%	32% C	23%	24%	25%
Once a week or more	20%	18%	19%	20%	18%
Never	1%	4%	9% B	8%	7%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 78: Question 13 by Age and Gender

How strongly, if at all, do you prefer the following options for development of Ninigret Park: (Percent somewhat or strongly prefer)	Age			Gender	
	18-34 years old	35-54 years old	55 or more years old	Male	Female
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)
There should be little or no further development of Ninigret Park (leave it mainly as is and maintain current facilities)	61%	55%	71% B	68%	68%
Expand recreational options including a limited number of new buildings and activities	66%	80% C	65%	65%	70% A
Develop commercial activities including buildings and structures	33% C	30% C	19%	24% B	19%

Table 79: Question 14 by Age and Gender

If the Town were to explore funding further developing Ninigret Park, what improvements and/or additions, if any, would you prefer to see? (Percent ideal for me or nice to have)	Age			Gender	
	18-34 years old	35-54 years old	55 or more years old	Male	Female
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)
More walking, jogging trails	83%	78%	78%	76%	81% A
Ice skating (outdoor)	66%	67% C	55%	48%	66% A
More large festivals (similar in size to Rhythm & Roots or the Seafood Festival 8, 000 to 14, 00 attendees per day)	47%	46% C	36%	41% B	35%
Band shell (for up to 1, 000 attendees)	49%	56%	50%	52%	50%
Band shell (for up to 3, 000 attendees)	30%	36% C	26%	30% B	25%
Additional restrooms	72%	79%	74%	73%	76%
Arboretum, tree farm	70%	62%	58%	55%	63% A
New recreation, community center	44%	59% A C	46%	45%	52% A
Miniature golf (with user fee)	47%	55% C	46%	43%	53% A
Volleyball courts	61%	59% C	49%	49%	54% A
Improvements, additions for sports fields	66% C	63% C	51%	55%	52%
Golf driving range (with user fee)	41%	48%	45%	45%	46%
Football field	25%	26%	21%	23%	21%
Running track (outdoor)	47%	50%	47%	45%	50% A
Concession stands	33%	43% C	31%	35% B	31%
A naval, air museum	54%	53%	53%	56% B	50%

**Table 80: Question 17 by Age and Gender**

How strongly would you support or oppose using each of the following as a funding source for Ninigret Park improvements? (Percent somewhat or strongly support)	Age			Gender	
	18-34 years old	35-54 years old	55 or more years old	Male	Female
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(B)
Rental fees for park facilities, amenities	56%	72% A C	60%	63%	61%
Parking, entrance fees at the park	16%	25%	20%	22%	19%
Some private commercial development (e.g., golf driving range)	47%	54%	47%	49%	47%
Increased property taxes	9%	14%	10%	11%	11%
Use the Town's budget surplus, in the years that the surplus exceeds the recommended savings level	75%	77% C	69%	65%	76% A
Issuing a municipal bond (i.e., a loan that investors make to local governments)	48%	52% C	42%	42%	46%

## Appendix F: Comparisons by Employment Status

### Understanding the Tables

The subgroup comparison tables contain the crosstabulations of the random sample survey questions by various respondent demographic characteristics. Chi-square or ANOVA tests of significance were applied to these breakdowns of survey questions. A “p-value” of 0.05 or less indicates that there is less than a 5% probability that differences observed between groups are due to chance; or in other words, a greater than 95% probability that the differences observed in the selected categories of the sample represent “real” differences among those populations. As subgroups vary in size and each group (and each comparison to another group) has a unique margin of error, statistical testing is used to determine whether differences between subgroups are statistically significant.

Each column in the following tables is labeled with a letter for each subgroup being compared. The letters start over with “A” for each different characteristic. For each pair of subgroup ratings within a characteristic within a row that has a statistically significant difference, an uppercase letter denoting significance is shown in the cell with the larger column proportion. The letter denotes the subgroup with the smaller column proportion from which it is statistically different. Subgroups that have no uppercase letter denotation in their column and that are also not referred to in any other column were not statistically different. See Appendix B (page 41) for an example.

**Table 81: Question 1 by Employment Status**

Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in Charlestown. (Percent excellent or good)	Employment Status		Do you work inside the boundaries of Charlestown?		
	Employed	Retired	Yes, outside my home	Yes, from home	No, work outside Charlestown
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)
Your neighborhood as a place to live	95%	96%	91%	96%	96% A
Charlestown as a place to raise children	89%	88%	86%	88%	89%
Charlestown as a place to work	54%	53%	65% C	62% C	46%
Charlestown as a place to visit	92%	96% A	87%	92%	93% A
Charlestown as a place to retire	85%	91% A	82%	82%	86%
Charlestown’s rural character and open space	93%	94%	87%	94% A	94% A
Charlestown’s tax rate	85%	85%	85%	85%	84%
The overall quality of life in Charlestown	94%	96% A	88%	94% A	94% A

Table 82: Question 2 by Employment Status

Please rate the pace of growth in Charlestown in the following categories: (Percent right amount)		Employment Status		Do you work inside the boundaries of Charlestown?		
		Employed	Retired	Yes, outside my home	Yes, from home	No, work outside Charlestown
		(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)
Population	Too slow	6%	5%	14% B C	4%	5%
	Right amount	54%	56%	52%	48%	56%
	Too Fast	40%	39%	35%	47%	39%
Residential housing growth	Too slow	11%	9%	22% B C	8%	9%
	Right amount	42%	47% A	40%	34%	44% B
	Too Fast	48%	44%	38%	59% A C	47%
Retail growth (stores, restaurants, etc.)	Too slow	44% B	39%	49%	46%	43%
	Right amount	45%	51% A	40%	40%	47%
	Too Fast	11%	10%	11%	14%	10%
Commercial business growth	Too slow	38% B	32%	51% B C	34%	35%
	Right amount	49%	54%	38%	48%	51% A
	Too Fast	13%	15%	11%	17%	14%
Job growth	Too slow	56%	54%	65% B	48%	56%
	Right amount	39%	41%	31%	44%	39%
	Too Fast	5%	6%	4%	8%	5%

Table 83: Question 3 by Employment Status

Please rate your level of satisfaction with each of the following in Charlestown. (Percent excellent or good)	Employment Status		Do you work inside the boundaries of Charlestown?		
	Employed	Retired	Yes, outside my home	Yes, from home	No, work outside Charlestown
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)
Overall image or reputation of Charlestown	90%	93% A	85%	89%	92% A
Sense of community	73%	79% A	69%	71%	74%
Cleanliness of the community	84%	86%	82%	83%	84%
Appearance of the community	84%	86%	79%	80%	85%
Overall feeling of safety	92%	92%	88%	89%	93% A
Overall health of the local economy	70%	73%	62%	67%	72% A
Overall design or layout of Charlestown's residential areas (e.g., homes, streets, parks, etc.)	74%	71%	68%	73%	74%
Overall design or layout of Charlestown's commercial areas (e.g., buildings, streets, parking, etc.)	54%	55%	54%	45%	56% B
Overall quality of business and service establishments	63%	67% A	64%	57%	63%
Variety of business and service establishments in Charlestown	40%	44% A	33%	39%	42%
Employment opportunities	25%	22%	23%	26%	25%
Shopping opportunities	32%	31%	28%	33%	33%
Dining opportunities	38%	38%	36%	32%	40%
Availability of affordable quality housing	36%	31%	29%	36%	37%
Drinking water quality	72%	69%	74%	65%	71%
Local schools (Chariho Regional School District)	83%	83%	82%	80%	83%
Ease of travel by bicycle	41%	37%	45%	34%	42%
Ease of travel by walking	39%	39%	43%	34%	40%
Ease of travel by car	87%	85%	86%	87%	86%
Access to green spaces (natural areas)	90%	88%	87%	89%	90%

Please rate your level of satisfaction with each of the following in Charlestown. (Percent excellent or good)	Employment Status		Do you work inside the boundaries of Charlestown?		
	Employed	Retired	Yes, outside my home	Yes, from home	No, work outside Charlestown
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)
Overall quality of green spaces (natural spaces)	87%	89%	82%	89%	88%
Indoor recreation opportunities in Charlestown	25%	23%	22%	24%	27%
Outdoor recreation opportunities in Charlestown	83% B	77%	77%	82%	84%
Fitness opportunities in Charlestown	53%	49%	50%	53%	53%
Opportunities to participate in social events and activities	54%	50%	48%	51%	56%
Parking at Charlestown Town Beach lot	53% B	48%	44%	53%	54%
Parking at Blue Shutters Town Beach lot	40% B	34%	32%	42%	40%

**Table 84: Question 4 by Employment Status**

Please each of the following in Charlestown. (Percent excellent or good)	Employment Status		Do you work inside the boundaries of Charlestown?		
	Employed	Retired	Yes, outside my home	Yes, from home	No, work outside Charlestown
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)
Access to the shoreline	66%	65%	58%	69%	67% A
Access to boat launches	65%	64%	55%	71% A	66% A
Access to freshwater ponds	71%	70%	67%	72%	71%
Access to saltwater ponds	69%	66%	63%	70%	70%
Overall quality of Ninigret Pond	79% B	72%	76%	78%	79%
Overall quality of Quonochontaug Pond	83% B	76%	79%	87%	82%
Overall quality of Watchaug Pond	79%	76%	75%	80%	79%
Overall quality of Blue Shutters Town Beach	87%	85%	81%	91% A	87%
Overall quality of Charlestown Town Beach	80%	78%	80%	77%	80%
Overall quality of Pawcatuck River	75% B	67%	75%	77%	71%



Table 85: Question 5 by Employment Status

Please rate the quality of each of the following services or facilities provided in Charlestown. (Percent excellent or good)	Employment Status		Do you work inside the boundaries of Charlestown?		
	Employed	Retired	Yes, outside my home	Yes, from home	No, work outside Charlestown
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)
Ambulance rescue service	94%	95%	93%	96%	93%
Animal control	73%	81% A	69%	78%	74%
Building, Zoning	62%	65%	56%	67%	61%
Charlestown Residential Collection Center (CRCC) and recycling services	80%	83% A	77%	80%	79%
Charlestown Senior Community Center facility	78%	75%	74%	74%	77%
Charlestown Senior Community Center programs	75% B	67%	68%	76%	74%
Town-owned protected open spaces (such as South Farm and Richard Trails)	85%	88%	78%	91% A	86%
Ninigret Park	90%	92%	84%	92%	90% A
Town Parks (Clark Memorial, Harry A. Wicklund, Pawaget, Puchalski Field)	82%	83%	78%	85%	81%
Harbor Management & Boating	78%	80%	74%	83%	78%
Library and its programs and activities	90%	94% A	86%	93%	90%
Parks and Recreation programs and activities	75%	81% A	66%	73%	78% A
Police department	89%	93% A	90%	91%	88%
Volunteer fire department	93%	94%	95%	95%	92%
Snow plowing and sanding	82%	86% A	79%	82%	83%
Stormwater management	77%	75%	75%	81%	75%
Wastewater management program	78%	75%	77%	80%	77%
Street maintenance	63%	66%	57%	63%	63%

Please rate the quality of each of the following services or facilities provided in Charlestown. (Percent excellent or good)	Employment Status		Do you work inside the boundaries of Charlestown?		
	Employed	Retired	Yes, outside my home	Yes, from home	No, work outside Charlestown
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)
Town-sponsored special events (e.g., Easter Egg Hunt)	76%	73%	76%	68%	77%
Customer service of Town employees	82%	90% A	78%	79%	84%
Overall quality of Town services	81%	88% A	78%	77%	83%

Table 86: Question 6 by Employment Status

Please rate the following categories of the Town of Charlestown government performance. (Percent excellent or good)	Employment Status		Do you work inside the boundaries of Charlestown?		
	Employed	Retired	Yes, outside my home	Yes, from home	No, work outside Charlestown
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)
Overall confidence in the Town of Charlestown government	67%	72% A	58%	67%	68% A
The value of services for the taxes paid to the Town	71%	73%	68%	68%	70%
The overall direction that the Town government is taking	60%	66% A	54%	66%	58%
The job the Town government does at welcoming resident involvement	53%	55%	47%	54%	53%
The job the Town government does at listening to residents	50%	53%	44%	53%	49%
Treating all residents fairly	57%	62%	50%	60%	56%
Being open and transparent	52%	57%	48%	60%	51%
The openness of the budgeting process	63%	69% A	61%	66%	61%
Generally acting in the best interest of the community	60%	69% A	55%	59%	60%
The overall performance of Town government	61%	71% A	55%	63%	61%

**Table 87: Question 7 by Employment Status**

Please rate your preference for receiving information about the Charlestown Town government from each of the following sources: (Percent somewhat or strongly prefer)	Employment Status		Do you work inside the boundaries of Charlestown?		
	Employed	Retired	Yes, outside my home	Yes, from home	No, work outside Charlestown
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)
Town's website (charlestownri.gov)	79% B	73%	73%	88% A C	77%
Town's social media (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.)	40% B	25%	36%	36%	42%
Other social media (e.g., Nextdoor, Charlestown RI Wire Facebook page, etc.)	40% B	30%	41%	40%	40%
Email notifications (Town's Constant Contact)	65%	64%	65%	70%	63%
Attending public meetings	49%	57% A	46%	54%	49%
A civic association, homeowner association newsletter or listserv, email list	54%	53%	46%	51%	56% A
Printed materials (brochures, fliers)	65%	70% A	69% B	55%	65% B
The Pipeline Newsletter	71%	76% A	77% C	71%	68%
The Westerly Sun or other local newspapers	53%	59% A	49%	56%	53%
Word of mouth, neighbors	40%	40%	41%	39%	41%
Local radio stations	32%	29%	32%	27%	34%

Table 88: Question 9 by Employment Status

How much of a problem, if at all, are the following for Charlestown? (Percent major or moderate problem)	Employment Status		Do you work inside the boundaries of Charlestown?		
	Employed	Retired	Yes, outside my home	Yes, from home	No, work outside Charlestown
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)
Taxation rate	14%	14%	16%	14%	15%
Cost of living	26% B	21%	26%	24%	27%
Air quality	6%	6%	5%	9%	5%
Groundwater, well water pollution	27%	29%	23%	31%	27%
Pollution, contamination of coastal salt ponds	45%	55% A	39%	60% A C	44%
Overcrowding at beaches	63%	66%	58%	71% A	63%
Sea level rise, climate change	59%	65% A	47%	75% A C	58% A
Coastal, seashore erosion	64%	69%	54%	77% A C	64%
Getting across Route 1 safely when walking or biking	74%	79% A	68%	83% A C	73%
Speeding	62%	72% A	61%	71% C	60%
Amount of traffic in the summer	66%	78% A	67%	68%	66%
Overall traffic safety	48%	52%	47%	57%	47%

Table 89: Question 10 by Employment Status

While you may agree with some parts of both statements, with which statement below do you most agree?	Employment Status		Do you work inside the boundaries of Charlestown?		
	Employed	Retired	Yes, outside my home	Yes, from home	No, work outside Charlestown
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)
Charlestown should prioritize the needs of residents and property owners over tourists	91%	94% A	87%	95% A	91%
Charlestown should prioritize policies that encourage tourism	9% B	6%	13% B	5%	9%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 90: Question 11 by Employment Status

Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the Charlestown community to prioritize tax dollars and/or staff time for each of the following in the coming two years. (Percent essential or very important)	Employment Status		Do you work inside the boundaries of Charlestown?		
	Employed	Retired	Yes, outside my home	Yes, from home	No, work outside Charlestown
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)
Supporting and encouraging small local businesses	74%	72%	77%	72%	75%
Encouraging economic development and revitalization	54%	50%	64% B C	49%	53%
Maintaining a small-town identity, rural character	83%	86% A	75%	86% A	83% A
Limiting "big box stores"	81%	83%	72%	88% A	81% A
Limiting "national chains"	75%	79% A	68%	81% A	75%
Keeping taxes low and affordable	90%	94% A	90%	87%	90%
Addressing availability of housing affordable for low and middle income households	46%	49%	52%	44%	45%

Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the Charlestown community to prioritize tax dollars and/or staff time for each of the following in the coming two years. (Percent essential or very important)	Employment Status		Do you work inside the boundaries of Charlestown?		
	Employed	Retired	Yes, outside my home	Yes, from home	No, work outside Charlestown
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)
Protecting the environment and natural resources	92%	95% A	89%	99% A C	91%
Improving the infrastructure for pedestrians, bicyclists (sidewalks, paths, etc.)	70%	67%	62%	72%	70%
Improving K-12 schools (education)	70%	77% A	70%	68%	70%
Reducing overcrowding at beaches	53%	58%	47%	57%	55%
Expanding Town-owned beach front	55%	54%	53%	52%	57%
Expanding access to our ponds	48%	47%	51%	43%	49%
Improving street maintenance on Town streets	53%	54%	60%	51%	53%
Helping mitigate, prevent well water contamination	84%	91% A	79%	91% A	85%
Helping mitigate, prevent pollution from septic systems	83%	90% A	77%	88% A	83%
Facilitate policies to improve drinking water quality and supply	77%	87% A	73%	79%	78%
Improving, expanding recreation programs and activities	43%	41%	56% B C	39%	42%
Improving, expanding large-sized special events (Rhythm & Roots, Seafood Festival, etc., 8, 000- 14, 000 attendees per day)	28%	25%	38% B C	23%	28%
Improving, expanding medium-sized special events (concerts in the park, skim boarding competitions, etc.)	37%	34%	44%	33%	36%
Addressing sea level rise	56%	64% A	46%	70% A C	56% A
Addressing climate change, resiliency	56%	65% A	46%	68% A C	57% A
Improving public safety services	57%	65% A	55%	57%	58%
Regulating new residential development	70%	77% A	59%	81% A C	69% A

**Table 91: Question 12 by Employment Status**

On average, about how often do you use Ninigret Park in a typical year?	Employment Status		Do you work inside the boundaries of Charlestown?		
	Employed	Retired	Yes, outside my home	Yes, from home	No, work outside Charlestown
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)
Once or twice a year	24%	26%	17%	24%	26%
Every couple months	26%	23%	24%	26%	27%
1-3 times a month	26%	22%	29%	23%	26%
Once a week or more	18%	20%	21%	23%	16%
Never	6%	9% A	8%	4%	6%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

**Table 92: Question 13 by Employment Status**

How strongly, if at all, do you prefer the following options for development of Ninigret Park: (Percent somewhat or strongly prefer)	Employment Status		Do you work inside the boundaries of Charlestown?		
	Employed	Retired	Yes, outside my home	Yes, from home	No, work outside Charlestown
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)
There should be little or no further development of Ninigret Park (leave it mainly as is and maintain current facilities)	62%	75% A	54%	63%	65% A
Expand recreational options including a limited number of new buildings and activities	69% B	64%	66%	67%	70%
Develop commercial activities including buildings and structures	26% B	17%	31%	22%	25%

Table 93: Question 14 by Employment Status

If the Town were to explore funding further developing Ninigret Park, what improvements and/or additions, if any, would you prefer to see? (Percent ideal for me or nice to have)	Employment Status		Do you work inside the boundaries of Charlestown?		
	Employed	Retired	Yes, outside my home	Yes, from home	No, work outside Charlestown
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)
More walking, jogging trails	78%	79%	71%	81%	79%
Ice skating (outdoor)	60%	54%	66%	58%	59%
More large festivals (similar in size to Rhythm & Roots or the Seafood Festival 8, 000 to 14, 00 attendees per day)	41% B	34%	45% B	31%	41% B
Band shell (for up to 1, 000 attendees)	55% B	46%	52%	54%	54%
Band shell (for up to 3, 000 attendees)	32% B	22%	36%	36%	30%
Additional restrooms	76%	73%	72%	68%	77% B
Arboretum, tree farm	61%	58%	54%	64%	61%
New recreation, community center	49%	47%	50%	47%	48%
Miniature golf (with user fee)	49%	46%	45%	47%	51%
Volleyball courts	53% B	49%	54%	47%	54%
Improvements, additions for sports fields	54%	52%	50%	44%	56% B
Golf driving range (with user fee)	46%	45%	40%	45%	48%
Football field	23%	21%	25%	17%	24%
Running track (outdoor)	48%	46%	45%	48%	48%
Concession stands	36% B	29%	38%	30%	37%
A naval, air museum	53%	52%	52%	48%	54%



Table 94: Question 17 by Employment Status

How strongly would you support or oppose using each of the following as a funding source for Ninigret Park improvements? (Percent somewhat or strongly support)	Employment Status		Do you work inside the boundaries of Charlestown?		
	Employed	Retired	Yes, outside my home	Yes, from home	No, work outside Charlestown
	(A)	(B)	(A)	(B)	(C)
Rental fees for park facilities, amenities	66% B	57%	65%	61%	66%
Parking, entrance fees at the park	23% B	19%	24%	22%	23%
Some private commercial development (e.g., golf driving range)	50% B	45%	49%	49%	51%
Increased property taxes	12%	10%	12%	16%	11%
Use the Town's budget surplus, in the years that the surplus exceeds the recommended savings level	72%	68%	72%	72%	71%
Issuing a municipal bond (i.e., a loan that investors make to local governments)	46% B	41%	48%	48%	45%

## Appendix G: Comparison to National Benchmark

**Table 95: Quality of Life**

Quality of Life Items	Percent positive	Rank	Number of communities in comparison	Comparison to benchmark
Overall image or reputation of Charlestown	92%	53	355	Much higher
The overall quality of life in Charlestown	94%	51	416	Much higher

**Table 96: Governance**

Governance Items	Percent positive	Rank	Number of communities in comparison	Comparison to benchmark
Overall confidence in the Town of Charlestown government	69%	62	285	Much higher
The overall direction that the Town government is taking	63%	146	329	Similar
The value of services for the taxes paid to the Town	72%	34	379	Much higher
Generally acting in the best interest of the community	64%	106	287	Higher
Being open and transparent	54%	57	102	Similar
The job the Town government does at welcoming resident involvement	53%	180	323	Similar
Treating all residents fairly	59%	167	286	Similar
Customer service of Town employees	86%	82	373	Much higher
The overall performance of Town government	66%	292	376	Much lower

**Table 97: Economy**

Economy Items	Percent positive	Rank	Number of communities in comparison	Comparison to benchmark
Charlestown as a place to visit	94%	28	304	Much higher
Overall quality of business and service establishments	65%	193	288	Lower
Variety of business and service establishments in Charlestown	42%	88	100	Much lower
Shopping opportunities	32%	258	302	Much lower
Charlestown as a place to work	53%	256	361	Much lower
Employment opportunities	23%	280	317	Much lower

**Table 98: Mobility**

<b>Mobility Items</b>	<b>Percent positive</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Number of communities in comparison</b>	<b>Comparison to benchmark</b>
Ease of travel by car	86%	64	315	Much higher
Ease of travel by bicycle	39%	240	315	Much lower
Ease of travel by walking	39%	297	316	Much lower
Street maintenance	64%	76	355	Much higher
Snow plowing and sanding	84%	35	261	Much higher

**Table 99: Community Design**

<b>Community Design Items</b>	<b>Percent positive</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Number of communities in comparison</b>	<b>Comparison to benchmark</b>
Appearance of the community	85%	114	343	Much higher
Your neighborhood as a place to live	95%	26	312	Much higher
Availability of affordable quality housing	33%	202	317	Lower
Building/Zoning	64%	50	306	Much higher

**Table 100: Utilities**

<b>Utilities Items</b>	<b>Percent positive</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Number of communities in comparison</b>	<b>Comparison to benchmark</b>
Drinking water quality	70%	189	299	Lower
Stormwater management	76%	129	325	Higher

**Table 101: Safety**

<b>Safety Items</b>	<b>Percent positive</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Number of communities in comparison</b>	<b>Comparison to benchmark</b>
Overall feeling of safety	92%	105	360	Much higher
Police department	90%	95	409	Much higher
Animal control	77%	115	322	Higher
Ambulance rescue service	94%	113	316	Higher
Volunteer fire department	94%	172	347	Similar

**Table 102: Natural Environment**

<b>Natural Environment Items</b>	<b>Percent positive</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Number of communities in comparison</b>	<b>Comparison to benchmark</b>
Access to green spaces/natural areas	89%	71	291	Much higher
Cleanliness of the community	85%	137	316	Higher
Air quality	94%	3	271	Much higher
Charlestown Residential Collection Center (CRCC) and recycling services	81%	142	339	Higher

**Table 103: Parks and Recreation**

<b>Parks and Recreation Items</b>	<b>Percent positive</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Number of communities in comparison</b>	<b>Comparison to benchmark</b>
Parks and Recreation programs and activities	78%	76	103	Much lower

**Table 104: Education, Arts, and Culture**

<b>Education, Arts, and Culture Items</b>	<b>Percent positive</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Number of communities in comparison</b>	<b>Comparison to benchmark</b>
Town-sponsored special events (e.g., Easter Egg Hunt)	75%	100	288	Higher
Library and its programs and activities	92%	108	318	Higher

**Table 105: Inclusivity and Engagement**

<b>Inclusivity and Engagement Items</b>	<b>Percent positive</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Number of communities in comparison</b>	<b>Comparison to benchmark</b>
Sense of community	75%	76	311	Much higher
Charlestown as a place to raise children	88%	134	377	Much higher
Charlestown as a place to retire	88%	18	363	Much higher
Opportunities to participate in social events and activities	52%	220	284	Much lower

## Appendix H: Survey Methodology

### About the Survey

The Town of Charlestown, RI contracted with Polco's National Research Center (NRC) to conduct a survey of community stakeholders to assess their opinions on the quality of life, services and the job the Town government is doing and to get input on their views on growth overall as well as specific policy or programmatic decisions faced by the Town. Because there of the variability of residency (seasonal and temporary stays versus long term residents and owners), the town chose to use an internal list of registered voters with town addresses and homeowners from property tax assessments records (who may or may not live in the town).

The survey was developed in collaboration with the Town Council. The process began in 2020 with a short post card survey of stakeholders to give them an opportunity to make suggestions on what issues the town faced that stakeholders would like to give input on. The results of that survey were reviewed by the Town Council and through an iterative process, with the Town Council and Polco staff, a 5.5-page survey was created. This research was sponsored by the Town of Charlestown, RI and questions about this survey can be directed to Mark Stankiewicz (mstankiewicz@charlestownri.gov).

### Administering Survey

The Town created a list of 9,400 mailing addresses that were selected from voter lists for residents living in the town and property tax lists for those who own homes in the Town (and may live there permanently, seasonally or not at all). As the addresses came from administrative sources, the formats for names and addresses were not standardized, and while attempts were made to remove duplicates of the same people, some may have been missed due to mismatches in format (e.g., a person may use a full first name in one file and a shorter name in another – Michael/Mike). Additionally, each household address was likely to correspond to more than one adult voter, and property tax records may reflect an LLC rather than the resident's name (as the voter file would). Where clear duplicates were found, they were removed.

To track response, each of the 9,400 mailing addresses were each given a PIN (passcode). This was printed on the paper survey and was entered by the respondent into the Online survey.

The 9,400 addresses received three mailed contacts:

- Week 1: A postcard invitation with a URL to complete the survey online was sent with a note that a paper survey would follow the next week.
- Week 2: A survey with a half page cover letter was mailed. The cover letter included a URL where respondents could go to complete the survey online, if desired. The packet also contained a postage-paid return envelope to return the completed survey.
- Week 4: A reminder letter, survey and postage paid envelope were sent. The second cover letter asked those who had not completed the survey to do so and those who have already done so to refrain from turning in another.

Of the 9,400 addresses, 2,270 completed the survey online (359) or returned a paper survey by mail (1,911) for an overall response rate of 24% for the address-based sample effort.

### Confidence Intervals

The 95% confidence interval (or "margin of error") quantifies the "sampling error" or precision of the estimates made from the survey results. A 95% confidence interval can be calculated for any number of respondents, and indicates that in 95 of 100 surveys conducted like this one, for a particular item, a result would be found that is within a certain number of percentage points of the result that would be found if everyone in the population of interest was surveyed. The practical difficulties of conducting any resident

survey may introduce other sources of error in addition to sampling error. Despite the best efforts to boost participation and ensure potential inclusion of all households, some selected households will decline participation in the survey (referred to as non-response error) and some eligible households may be unintentionally excluded from the listed sources for the sample (referred to as coverage error).

The margin of error for this survey, with 2,270 respondents, is  $\pm 2.1\%$ . In essence, this means that, 95% of the time, any statistic given in this report will be within 2.1 percentage points of what the entire voter/homeowner population would have given had they all been surveyed.

## Analyzing the Results

### Cleaning the Data

Once all data was combined, the passcodes were analyzed to identify duplicates and those passcodes that did not match passcodes in the sample. A total of 170 were found (7% of all responses) that either did not match (81) the sample or were used twice (89). The first of the two duplicates was considered to be verified and the second was considered as potentially suspect.

While some of these 170 may have come from one person answering twice, or a person not in the sample answering, there are a few scenarios where the duplicate or unmatched passcode could be a response from a person that was legitimately meant to complete the survey.

- The passcode could have been mistyped
- Two people from the same household who received separate invitations could have used the same passcode unintentionally.
- About 40 people who responded online to the 2020 postcard survey, where accidentally included in an automated mailing from Polco that invited them to complete the survey in advance of receiving their passcode and may have responded without a correct code (they were all legitimately in the sample, as they had responded to the 2020 pre-survey).

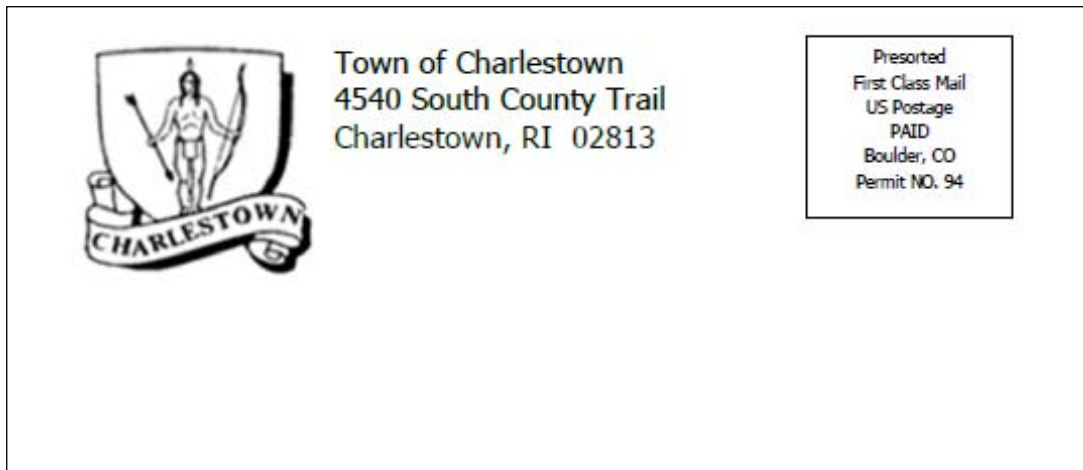
To address this issue, the demographics of the 170 respondents who may have come from outside of the sample were compared to those who were verified and where statistically similar. Additionally, results from the survey including and excluding these respondents were compared, and no variation was found (of 746 data points in the survey 80% were the same, 10% were one percentage point higher and 10% were one percentage point lower, all were within the margin of error). As the 170 respondents may be legitimate stakeholders, and as including their responses did not change the results of the survey, they were included in the analyses.

### Weighting the Data

Statistical weighting is generally based on comparing the Census demographics for all residents of a community to the respondents in the survey. However, for this survey the Town chose to limit the sample to registered voters with town addresses and homeowners from property tax assessments (who may or may not live in the town). The demographic characteristics of the population sampled was not known and statistical weighting was not applied. While, when possible, weighting is a survey best practice the adjustments it applies are generally small, especially in the case of such a large number of responses.

## Appendix I: Survey Materials

The following pages contain copies of the contents of the mailed survey outreach materials and a list of the survey questions, as formatted for the mailed survey.



Dear Charlestown Resident and/or Property Owner,

The Town of Charlestown has compiled the results of our pre-survey conducted at the end of last year, and now want to dig deeper. Please participate in our full survey!

Your survey packet will arrive in a few days. If you would like to do the survey now, you can do so online at

[www. polco.us/XXXX](http://www.polco.us/XXXX)

You will need this PIN to do the survey: **XXXX**

It won't take much of your time to make a big difference so please take a few minutes to complete the survey now or when you receive the survey packet!

Thank you for helping to create a better community!

Sincerely,  
The Charlestown Town Council

T O W N O F

# CHARLESTOWN

*Rhode Island*

Dear Charlestown Resident and/or Property Owner,

**We sent you a survey about two weeks ago but wanted to give you one more chance to participate!**

- **If you haven't found time yet, please complete and return this survey as soon as you can!**  
If you already responded please recycle this reminder survey – ONLY RESPOND ONCE.

We are evaluating public support, attitudes, and perceptions towards Town services, programs, and capital assets. The results of this survey will be used to guide Town budget priorities, service delivery, and investments in buildings and structures.

**Please note:**

- Your responses are completely confidential.
- No individually identifiable answers will be shared, and your information will never be sold.
- You may return the survey by mail in the enclosed postage-paid envelope,  
or you can complete the survey online at:

**<https://polco.us/smebe4> → You will need this PIN to do the survey online: XXXXX**

*The PIN helps ensure each person who receives an invitation with a unique PIN only responds once and will allow analysis by voting district.*

**Thank you for your time and participation!**

**Sincerely, The Charlestown Town Council**



TOWN OF

# CHARLESTOWN

*Rhode Island*

Dear Charlestown Resident and/or Property Owner,

**We want to hear from you!** We compiled the results of the pre-survey conducted at the end of last year, and now want to dig deeper. We are evaluating public support, attitudes, and perceptions towards Town services, programs, and capital assets. The results of this survey will be used to guide Town budget priorities, service delivery, and investments in buildings and structures. Please participate in this full survey!

**Please note:**

- Your responses are completely confidential.
- No individually identifiable answers will be shared, and your information will never be sold.
- You may return the survey by mail in the enclosed postage-paid envelope, or you can complete the survey online at:

<https://polco.us/smebe4> → You will need this PIN to do the survey online: XXXXX

*The PIN helps ensure each household only responds once and will allow analysis by voting district.*

Thank you for your time and participation!

Sincerely,

The Charlestown Town Council

## Charlestown Town-wide Survey 2021

Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in Charlestown.

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
Your neighborhood as a place to live.....	1	2	3	4	DK
Charlestown as a place to raise children .....	1	2	3	4	DK
Charlestown as a place to work .....	1	2	3	4	DK
Charlestown as a place to visit.....	1	2	3	4	DK
Charlestown as a place to retire .....	1	2	3	4	DK
Charlestown's rural character and open space .....	1	2	3	4	DK
Charlestown's tax rate .....	1	2	3	4	DK
The overall quality of life in Charlestown .....	1	2	3	4	DK

Please rate the pace of growth in Charlestown in the following categories:

	<u>Much too slow</u>	<u>Somewhat too slow</u>	<u>Right amount</u>	<u>Somewhat too fast</u>	<u>Much too fast</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
Population.....	1	2	3	4	5	DK
Residential housing growth .....	1	2	3	4	5	DK
Retail growth (stores, restaurants, etc.) .....	1	2	3	4	5	DK
Commercial/business growth .....	1	2	3	4	5	DK
Job growth.....	1	2	3	4	5	DK

## 3. Please rate your level of satisfaction with each of the following in Charlestown.

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
Overall image or reputation of Charlestown .....	1	2	3	4	DK
Sense of community.....	1	2	3	4	DK
Cleanliness of the community.....	1	2	3	4	DK
Appearance of the community .....	1	2	3	4	DK
Overall feeling of safety .....	1	2	3	4	DK
Overall health of the local economy.....	1	2	3	4	DK
Overall design or layout of Charlestown's residential areas (e.g., homes, streets, parks, etc.) .....	1	2	3	4	DK
Overall design or layout of Charlestown's commercial areas (e.g., buildings, streets, parking, etc.) .....	1	2	3	4	DK
Overall quality of business and service establishments .....	1	2	3	4	DK
Variety of business and service establishments in Charlestown .....	1	2	3	4	DK
Employment opportunities .....	1	2	3	4	DK
Shopping opportunities.....	1	2	3	4	DK
Dining opportunities .....	1	2	3	4	DK
Availability of affordable quality housing .....	1	2	3	4	DK
Drinking water quality.....	1	2	3	4	DK
Local schools (Charlton Regional School District) .....	1	2	3	4	DK
Ease of travel by bicycle.....	1	2	3	4	DK
Ease of travel by walking.....	1	2	3	4	DK
Ease of travel by car .....	1	2	3	4	DK
Access to green spaces/natural areas.....	1	2	3	4	DK
Overall quality of green spaces/natural spaces .....	1	2	3	4	DK
Indoor recreation opportunities in Charlestown.....	1	2	3	4	DK
Outdoor recreation opportunities in Charlestown .....	1	2	3	4	DK
Fitness opportunities in Charlestown .....	1	2	3	4	DK
Opportunities to participate in social events and activities .....	1	2	3	4	DK
Parking at Charlestown Town Beach lot .....	1	2	3	4	DK
Parking at Blue Shutters Town Beach lot.....	1	2	3	4	DK

## 4. Please rate each of the following in Charlestown.

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
Access to the shoreline .....	1	2	3	4	DK
Access to boat launches .....	1	2	3	4	DK
Access to freshwater ponds .....	1	2	3	4	DK
Access to saltwater ponds .....	1	2	3	4	DK
Overall quality of Ninigret Pond.....	1	2	3	4	DK
Overall quality of Quonochontaug Pond .....	1	2	3	4	DK
Overall quality of Watchaug Pond .....	1	2	3	4	DK
Overall quality of Blue Shutters Town Beach.....	1	2	3	4	DK
Overall quality of Charlestown Town Beach.....	1	2	3	4	DK
Overall quality of Pawcatuck River .....	1	2	3	4	DK

## 5. Please rate the quality of each of the following services or facilities provided in Charlestown.

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
Ambulance rescue service .....	1	2	3	4	DK
Animal control.....	1	2	3	4	DK
Building/Zoning.....	1	2	3	4	DK
Charlestown Residential Collection Center (CRCC) and recycling services.....	1	2	3	4	DK
Charlestown Senior/Community Center facility .....	1	2	3	4	DK
Charlestown Senior/Community Center programs .....	1	2	3	4	DK

## 5. (continued) Please rate the quality of each of the following services or facilities provided in Charlestown.

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
Town-owned protected open spaces (such as South Farm and Richard Trails).....	1	2	3	4	DK
Ninigret Park .....	1	2	3	4	DK
Town Parks (Clark Memorial, Harry A. Wicklund, Pawaget, Puchalski Field).....	1	2	3	4	DK
Harbor Management & Boating.....	1	2	3	4	DK
Library and its programs and activities .....	1	2	3	4	DK
Parks and Recreation programs and activities.....	1	2	3	4	DK
Police department.....	1	2	3	4	DK
Volunteer fire department.....	1	2	3	4	DK
Snow plowing and sanding .....	1	2	3	4	DK
Stormwater management.....	1	2	3	4	DK
Wastewater management program .....	1	2	3	4	DK
Street maintenance.....	1	2	3	4	DK
Town-sponsored special events (e.g., Easter Egg Hunt) .....	1	2	3	4	DK
Customer service of Town employees.....	1	2	3	4	DK
Overall quality of Town services .....	1	2	3	4	DK

## 6. Please rate the following categories of the Town of Charlestown government performance.

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
Overall confidence in the Town of Charlestown government.....	1	2	3	4	DK
The value of services for the taxes paid to the Town .....	1	2	3	4	DK
The overall direction that the Town government is taking .....	1	2	3	4	DK
The job the Town government does at welcoming resident involvement.....	1	2	3	4	DK
The job the Town government does at listening to residents.....	1	2	3	4	DK
Treating all residents fairly.....	1	2	3	4	DK
Being open and transparent .....	1	2	3	4	DK
The openness of the budgeting process .....	1	2	3	4	DK
Generally acting in the best interest of the community.....	1	2	3	4	DK
The overall performance of Town government.....	1	2	3	4	DK

## 7. Please rate your preference for receiving information about the Charlestown Town government from each of the following sources:

	<u>Strongly prefer</u>	<u>Somewhat prefer</u>	<u>Do not prefer</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
Town's website (charlestownri.gov).....	1	2	3	DK
Town's social media (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.).....	1	2	3	DK
Other social media (e.g., Nextdoor, Charlestown RI Wire Facebook page, etc.).....	1	2	3	DK
Email notifications (Town's Constant Contact).....	1	2	3	DK
Attending public meetings.....	1	2	3	DK
A civic association/homeowner association newsletter or listserv/email list.....	1	2	3	DK
Printed materials (brochures/fliers) .....	1	2	3	DK
The Pipeline Newsletter .....	1	2	3	DK
The Westerly Sun or other local newspapers .....	1	2	3	DK
Word of mouth/neighbors.....	1	2	3	DK
Local radio stations .....	1	2	3	DK

## 8. Are there other sources you would prefer for getting information about the Charlestown Town government?

## 9. How much of a problem, if at all, are the following for Charlestown?

	<u>Not a problem</u>	<u>Minor problem</u>	<u>Moderate problem</u>	<u>Major problem</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
Taxation rate .....	1	2	3	4	DK
Cost of living .....	1	2	3	4	DK
Air quality .....	1	2	3	4	DK
Groundwater/well water pollution .....	1	2	3	4	DK
Pollution/contamination of coastal salt ponds .....	1	2	3	4	DK
Overcrowding at beaches .....	1	2	3	4	DK
Sea level rise/climate change .....	1	2	3	4	DK
Coastal/seashore erosion .....	1	2	3	4	DK
Getting across Route 1 safely when walking or biking .....	1	2	3	4	DK
Speeding .....	1	2	3	4	DK
Amount of traffic in the summer .....	1	2	3	4	DK
Overall traffic safety .....	1	2	3	4	DK

10. While you may agree with some parts of both statements, with which statement below do you most agree?

- ☐ Charlestown should prioritize the needs of residents and property owners over tourists  
☐ Charlestown should prioritize policies that encourage tourism

11. Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the Charlestown community to prioritize tax dollars and/or staff time for 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>	<u>Don't know</u>
Supporting and encouraging small local businesses .....	1	2	3	4	DK
Encouraging economic development and revitalization .....	1	2	3	4	DK
Maintaining a small-town identity/rural character .....	1	2	3	4	DK
Limiting "big box stores" .....	1	2	3	4	DK
Limiting "national chains" .....	1	2	3	4	DK
Keeping taxes low and affordable .....	1	2	3	4	DK
Addressing availability of housing affordable for low and middle income households .....	1	2	3	4	DK
Protecting the environment and natural resources .....	1	2	3	4	DK
Improving the infrastructure for pedestrians/ bicyclists (sidewalks, paths, etc.) .....	1	2	3	4	DK
Improving K-12 schools/education .....	1	2	3	4	DK
Reducing overcrowding at beaches .....	1	2	3	4	DK
Expanding Town-owned beach front .....	1	2	3	4	DK
Expanding access to our ponds .....	1	2	3	4	DK
Improving street maintenance on Town streets .....	1	2	3	4	DK
Helping mitigate/prevent well water contamination .....	1	2	3	4	DK
Helping mitigate/prevent pollution from septic systems .....	1	2	3	4	DK
Facilitate policies to improve drinking water quality and supply .....	1	2	3	4	DK
Improving/expanding recreation programs and activities .....	1	2	3	4	DK
Improving/expanding large-sized special events (Rhythm & Roots, Seafood Festival, etc., 8,000- 14,000 attendees per day) .....	1	2	3	4	DK
Improving/expanding medium-sized special events (concerts in the park, skim boarding competitions, etc.) .....	1	2	3	4	DK
Addressing sea level rise .....	1	2	3	4	DK
Addressing climate change/resiliency .....	1	2	3	4	DK
Improving public safety services .....	1	2	3	4	DK
Regulating new residential development .....	1	2	3	4	DK



12. On average, about how often do you use Ninigret Park in a typical year?  
☐ Once a week or more ☐ 1-3 times a month ☐ Every couple months ☐ Once or twice a year ☐ Never

13. There have been past studies and continued conversations about further development of Ninigret Park. The implementation of any new development will require a plan with cost analyses. How strongly, if at all, do you prefer the following options for development:

	<u>Strongly prefer</u>	<u>Somewhat prefer</u>	<u>Do not prefer</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
There should be little or no further development of Ninigret Park (leave it mainly as is and maintain current facilities) .....	1	2	3	DK
Expand recreational options including a limited number of new buildings and activities .....	1	2	3	DK
Develop commercial activities including buildings and structures.....	1	2	3	DK

14. If the Town were to explore funding further developing Ninigret Park, what improvements and/or additions, if any, would you prefer to see?

	<u>Ideal for me</u>	<u>Nice to have</u>	<u>Don't care</u>	<u>Don't want</u>
More walking/jogging trails .....	1	2	3	4
Ice skating (outdoor) .....	1	2	3	4
More large festivals (similar in size to Rhythm & Roots or the Seafood Festival 8,000 to 14,00 attendees per day) .....	1	2	3	4
Band shell (for up to 1,000 attendees) .....	1	2	3	4
Band shell (for up to 3,000 attendees) .....	1	2	3	4
Additional restrooms .....	1	2	3	4
Arboretum/tree farm.....	1	2	3	4
New recreation/community center .....	1	2	3	4
Miniature golf (with user fee).....	1	2	3	4
Volleyball courts.....	1	2	3	4
Improvements/additions for sports fields .....	1	2	3	4
Golf driving range (with user fee) .....	1	2	3	4
Football field .....	1	2	3	4
Running track (outdoor).....	1	2	3	4
Concession stands.....	1	2	3	4
A naval/air museum.....	1	2	3	4

15. Are there any other amenities you would like to see at Ninigret Park?

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16. Are there any other recreational amenities you would like to see added in Charlestown in general?

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17. How strongly would you support or oppose using each of the following as a funding source for Ninigret Park improvements?

	<u>Strongly support</u>	<u>Somewhat support</u>	<u>Somewhat oppose</u>	<u>Strongly oppose</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
Rental fees for park facilities/amenities .....	1	2	3	4	DK
Parking/entrance fees at the park .....	1	2	3	4	DK
Some private commercial development (e.g., golf driving range) .....	1	2	3	4	DK
Increased property taxes .....	1	2	3	4	DK
Use the Town's budget surplus, in the years that the surplus exceeds the recommended savings level .....	1	2	3	4	DK
Issuing a municipal bond (i.e., a loan that investors make to local governments) .....	1	2	3	4	DK

18. If you have comments you would like to make about living or owning property in Charlestown, please make them here. This could include suggestions for improvements, focus areas for the Town, residential or commercial development, any stores or services you would or would not like to see – or anything else you would like to share.

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Our last questions are about you and your household.

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

19. Do you live in Charlestown full-time or part-time?

☐ Full-time → go to question 21  
☐ Part-time

20. Which times of year are you in Charlestown?  
 (Check all that apply.)

If you live here year-round, go to question 21)

☐ Spring ☐ Fall  
☐ Summer ☐ Winter  
☐ Weekends, holidays, select vacation days  
☐ I own property there, but never live or visit there

21. Do you own or rent your home in Charlestown?

☐ Own ☐ Rent

22. How many years have you lived in Charlestown?

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

23. What is your employment status?

☐ Working full time for pay  
☐ Working part time for pay  
☐ Unemployed, looking for paid work  
☐ Unemployed, not looking for paid work  
☐ Fully retired → go to question 25

24. Do you work inside the boundaries of Charlestown?

☐ Yes, outside my home  
☐ Yes, from home  
☐ No, work outside Charlestown

25. Do any of the following live in your household?

	Yes	No
Children (ages 12 and under) .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teenagers (ages 13 to 19).....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adults (ages 20 to 64, including yourself) .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Older adults (ages 65 or older, including yourself) .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

☐ Spanish, Hispanic or Latino/a  
☐ Arabic or Middle Eastern  
☐ American Indian or Alaskan Native  
☐ Asian, Asian Indian or Pacific Islander  
☐ Black or African American  
☐ White  
☐ Other

27. 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

28. What is your current gender identity?

☐ Male  
☐ Female  
☐ Identify another way

Thank you for completing this survey.

Please return it in the postage-paid envelope to:

National Research Center, PO Box 549, Belle Mead, NJ 08502