



THE NCSTM
The National Citizen SurveyTM

Meridian Township, MI

Technical Appendices

2015



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Appendix A: Complete Survey Responses

Responses excluding “don’t know”

The following pages contain a complete set of responses to each question on the survey, excluding the “don’t know” responses. The percent of respondents giving a particular response is shown followed by the number of respondents (denoted with “N=”).

Table 1: Question 1

Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in Meridian Township:	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Total	
Meridian Township as a place to live	48%	N=157	46%	N=151	7%	N=22	0%	N=0	100%	N=330
Your neighborhood as a place to live	43%	N=142	46%	N=153	9%	N=31	1%	N=4	100%	N=330
Meridian Township as a place to raise children	50%	N=147	43%	N=125	6%	N=16	1%	N=4	100%	N=292
Meridian Township as a place to work	35%	N=75	41%	N=90	18%	N=39	6%	N=13	100%	N=217
Meridian Township as a place to visit	20%	N=61	38%	N=119	29%	N=92	13%	N=41	100%	N=314
Meridian Township as a place to retire	28%	N=73	38%	N=101	26%	N=69	8%	N=22	100%	N=266
The overall quality of life in Meridian Township	33%	N=108	54%	N=178	13%	N=42	0%	N=1	100%	N=329

Table 2: Question 2

Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Meridian Township as a whole:	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Total	
Overall feeling of safety in Meridian Township	39%	N=127	54%	N=177	8%	N=25	0%	N=0	100%	N=329
Overall ease of getting to the places you usually have to visit	40%	N=131	48%	N=160	11%	N=36	1%	N=3	100%	N=330
Quality of overall natural environment in Meridian Township	43%	N=142	45%	N=147	11%	N=35	1%	N=5	100%	N=328
Overall "built environment" of Meridian Township (including overall design, buildings, parks and transportation systems)	18%	N=57	50%	N=163	28%	N=90	5%	N=16	100%	N=326
Health and wellness opportunities in Meridian Township	23%	N=69	55%	N=166	21%	N=63	2%	N=5	100%	N=302
Overall opportunities for education and enrichment	39%	N=116	43%	N=128	16%	N=48	2%	N=6	100%	N=298
Overall economic health of Meridian Township	27%	N=82	45%	N=135	24%	N=73	3%	N=9	100%	N=298
Sense of community	19%	N=63	41%	N=132	31%	N=100	9%	N=28	100%	N=323
Overall image or reputation of Meridian Township	30%	N=95	60%	N=190	8%	N=25	1%	N=5	100%	N=314

Table 3: Question 3

Please indicate how likely or unlikely you are to do each of the following:	Very likely		Somewhat likely		Somewhat unlikely		Very unlikely		Total	
Recommend living in Meridian Township to someone who asks	61%	N=201	32%	N=104	5%	N=16	2%	N=5	100%	N=326
Remain in Meridian Township for the next five years	54%	N=170	27%	N=86	7%	N=23	12%	N=38	100%	N=316

Table 4: Question 4

Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel:	Very safe		Somewhat safe		Neither safe nor unsafe		Somewhat unsafe		Very unsafe		Total	
In your neighborhood during the day	79%	N=257	20%	N=64	1%	N=4	1%	N=2	0%	N=0	100%	N=326
In Meridian Township's downtown/commercial area during the day	68%	N=212	28%	N=88	3%	N=9	2%	N=5	0%	N=0	100%	N=314

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Table 5: Question 5

Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Meridian Township as a whole:	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Traffic flow on major streets	17%	N=54	53%	N=174	24%	N=78	7%	N=22	100%	N=329
Ease of public parking	31%	N=99	55%	N=179	12%	N=40	2%	N=5	100%	N=323
Ease of travel by car in Meridian Township	33%	N=108	48%	N=157	16%	N=51	3%	N=11	100%	N=327
Ease of travel by public transportation in Meridian Township	17%	N=35	40%	N=84	28%	N=59	15%	N=32	100%	N=209
Ease of travel by bicycle in Meridian Township	23%	N=58	31%	N=79	31%	N=78	15%	N=39	100%	N=255
Ease of walking in Meridian Township	26%	N=81	44%	N=137	22%	N=70	7%	N=22	100%	N=311
Availability of paths and walking trails	29%	N=87	49%	N=146	17%	N=51	5%	N=16	100%	N=300
Air quality	39%	N=127	52%	N=168	9%	N=29	0%	N=1	100%	N=324
Cleanliness of Meridian Township	35%	N=115	52%	N=173	12%	N=38	1%	N=4	100%	N=330
Overall appearance of Meridian Township	29%	N=96	53%	N=172	16%	N=51	2%	N=8	100%	N=327
Public places where people want to spend time	20%	N=60	49%	N=150	24%	N=73	8%	N=24	100%	N=308
Variety of housing options	25%	N=75	50%	N=150	23%	N=69	2%	N=7	100%	N=301
Availability of affordable quality housing	16%	N=46	40%	N=119	38%	N=111	6%	N=18	100%	N=294
Fitness opportunities (including exercise classes and paths or trails, etc.)	26%	N=81	54%	N=170	17%	N=54	3%	N=9	100%	N=314
Recreational opportunities	22%	N=70	46%	N=144	24%	N=75	8%	N=24	100%	N=312
Availability of affordable quality food	30%	N=98	52%	N=169	16%	N=52	3%	N=9	100%	N=328
Availability of affordable quality health care	27%	N=79	48%	N=139	21%	N=62	4%	N=11	100%	N=290
Availability of preventive health services	26%	N=64	50%	N=123	21%	N=51	3%	N=8	100%	N=246
Availability of affordable quality mental health care	28%	N=44	30%	N=46	26%	N=41	16%	N=24	100%	N=156

Table 6: Question 6

Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Meridian Township as a whole:	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Availability of affordable quality child care/preschool	31%	N=47	40%	N=60	22%	N=33	7%	N=10	100%	N=149
K-12 education	61%	N=143	34%	N=79	5%	N=12	0%	N=0	100%	N=235
Adult educational opportunities	23%	N=49	49%	N=108	25%	N=54	3%	N=7	100%	N=219
Opportunities to attend cultural/arts/music activities	20%	N=58	35%	N=100	31%	N=88	14%	N=41	100%	N=287
Opportunities to participate in religious or spiritual events and activities	31%	N=66	45%	N=98	20%	N=43	4%	N=9	100%	N=216
Employment opportunities	13%	N=24	38%	N=70	34%	N=63	15%	N=28	100%	N=186
Shopping opportunities	28%	N=91	51%	N=165	18%	N=58	3%	N=9	100%	N=324
Cost of living in Meridian Township	10%	N=32	45%	N=142	40%	N=125	5%	N=17	100%	N=315
Overall quality of business and service establishments in Meridian Township	18%	N=58	53%	N=168	26%	N=83	2%	N=7	100%	N=316
Vibrant downtown/commercial area	7%	N=22	23%	N=70	42%	N=126	28%	N=83	100%	N=301
Overall quality of new development in Meridian Township	13%	N=33	34%	N=90	39%	N=102	14%	N=36	100%	N=261
Opportunities to participate in social events and activities	13%	N=34	40%	N=107	35%	N=95	12%	N=33	100%	N=269
Opportunities to volunteer	19%	N=41	45%	N=97	27%	N=57	9%	N=19	100%	N=213
Opportunities to participate in community matters	18%	N=42	41%	N=93	30%	N=69	11%	N=24	100%	N=228
Openness and acceptance of the community toward people of diverse backgrounds	23%	N=61	48%	N=129	24%	N=65	6%	N=16	100%	N=271
Neighborliness of residents in Meridian Township	23%	N=71	46%	N=140	25%	N=77	6%	N=18	100%	N=305

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Table 7: Question 7

Please indicate whether or not you have done each of the following in the last 12 months.	No		Yes		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N
Made efforts to conserve water	27%	N=87	73%	N=241	100%	N=328
Made efforts to make your home more energy efficient	19%	N=62	81%	N=263	100%	N=325
Observed a code violation or other hazard in Meridian Township	68%	N=223	32%	N=103	100%	N=326
Household member was a victim of a crime in Meridian Township	96%	N=314	4%	N=14	100%	N=328
Reported a crime to the police in Meridian Township	89%	N=292	11%	N=35	100%	N=327
Stocked supplies in preparation for an emergency	74%	N=243	26%	N=85	100%	N=328
Campaigned or advocated for an issue, cause or candidate	85%	N=280	15%	N=49	100%	N=329
Contacted Meridian Township (in-person, phone, email or web) for help or information	60%	N=197	40%	N=130	100%	N=327
Contacted Meridian Township elected officials (in-person, phone, email or web) to express your opinion	89%	N=291	11%	N=36	100%	N=327

Table 8: Question 8

In the last 12 months, about how many times, if at all, have you or other household members done each of the following in Meridian Township?	2 times a week or more		2-4 times a month		Once a month or less		Not at all		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Used Meridian Township recreation centers or their services	7%	N=23	15%	N=48	34%	N=109	44%	N=142	100%	N=321
Visited a neighborhood park or Township park	12%	N=39	27%	N=86	44%	N=143	18%	N=57	100%	N=326
Used Meridian Township public libraries or their services	15%	N=49	21%	N=69	31%	N=102	32%	N=106	100%	N=326
Participated in religious or spiritual activities in Meridian Township	7%	N=22	14%	N=47	12%	N=39	67%	N=220	100%	N=328
Attended a Township-sponsored event	1%	N=4	3%	N=9	40%	N=132	56%	N=183	100%	N=327
Used bus, rail, subway or other public transportation instead of driving	9%	N=31	5%	N=18	13%	N=43	72%	N=235	100%	N=327
Carpooled with other adults or children instead of driving alone	12%	N=39	12%	N=39	18%	N=59	58%	N=189	100%	N=326
Walked or biked instead of driving	13%	N=41	20%	N=64	26%	N=84	42%	N=139	100%	N=329
Volunteered your time to some group/activity in Meridian Township	3%	N=8	8%	N=27	17%	N=56	72%	N=235	100%	N=327
Participated in a club	4%	N=14	7%	N=22	15%	N=50	74%	N=240	100%	N=326
Talked to or visited with your immediate neighbors	36%	N=119	28%	N=91	23%	N=76	12%	N=40	100%	N=327
Done a favor for a neighbor	16%	N=52	19%	N=62	38%	N=124	27%	N=87	100%	N=325

Table 9: Question 9

Thinking about local public meetings (of local elected officials like City Council or County Commissioners, advisory boards, town halls, HOA, neighborhood watch, etc.), in the last 12 months, about how many times, if at all, have you or other household members attended or watched a local public meeting?	2 times a week or more		2-4 times a month		Once a month or less		Not at all		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Attended a local public meeting	0%	N=1	2%	N=5	14%	N=45	84%	N=273	100%	N=325
Watched (online or on television) a local public meeting	0%	N=1	6%	N=20	18%	N=58	76%	N=247	100%	N=326

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Table 10: Question 10

Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Meridian Township:	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Police/Sheriff services	45%	N=123	45%	N=124	6%	N=17	4%	N=12	100%	N=275
Fire services	54%	N=127	42%	N=99	3%	N=8	0%	N=0	100%	N=234
Ambulance or emergency medical services	58%	N=116	39%	N=78	3%	N=5	1%	N=2	100%	N=201
Crime prevention	34%	N=77	48%	N=109	12%	N=26	6%	N=14	100%	N=226
Fire prevention and education	38%	N=66	45%	N=79	12%	N=20	5%	N=9	100%	N=174
Traffic enforcement	23%	N=61	51%	N=136	20%	N=53	7%	N=18	100%	N=267
Street repair	7%	N=23	22%	N=68	34%	N=105	36%	N=109	100%	N=305
Street cleaning	12%	N=36	40%	N=118	35%	N=102	12%	N=35	100%	N=291
Street lighting	12%	N=38	40%	N=121	35%	N=107	13%	N=40	100%	N=307
Snow removal	10%	N=30	46%	N=137	32%	N=95	12%	N=36	100%	N=298
Sidewalk maintenance	11%	N=30	46%	N=127	29%	N=81	14%	N=39	100%	N=278
Traffic signal timing	8%	N=24	48%	N=149	31%	N=98	13%	N=42	100%	N=313
Bus or transit services	21%	N=39	46%	N=85	19%	N=35	14%	N=25	100%	N=184
Garbage collection	38%	N=102	50%	N=133	9%	N=23	3%	N=7	100%	N=264
Recycling	30%	N=79	32%	N=83	18%	N=47	20%	N=52	100%	N=261
Yard waste pick-up	21%	N=33	30%	N=49	22%	N=35	27%	N=42	100%	N=160
Storm drainage	18%	N=41	43%	N=99	26%	N=59	13%	N=29	100%	N=227
Drinking water	47%	N=144	40%	N=124	10%	N=29	3%	N=9	100%	N=307
Sewer services	32%	N=78	52%	N=128	13%	N=32	3%	N=6	100%	N=245
Power (electric and/or gas) utility	29%	N=89	49%	N=149	20%	N=60	3%	N=9	100%	N=306
Utility billing	24%	N=70	50%	N=149	23%	N=70	3%	N=9	100%	N=297
Township parks	36%	N=104	53%	N=154	7%	N=21	3%	N=10	100%	N=288
Recreation programs or classes	25%	N=49	50%	N=99	20%	N=40	5%	N=10	100%	N=199
Recreation centers or facilities	24%	N=48	48%	N=96	23%	N=47	5%	N=10	100%	N=201
Land use, planning and zoning	13%	N=26	39%	N=81	31%	N=65	17%	N=35	100%	N=208
Code enforcement (weeds, abandoned buildings, etc.)	15%	N=30	39%	N=78	34%	N=68	11%	N=22	100%	N=199
Animal control	21%	N=39	45%	N=84	22%	N=41	13%	N=24	100%	N=188
Economic development	15%	N=34	38%	N=88	34%	N=79	13%	N=30	100%	N=231
Health services	20%	N=44	56%	N=125	22%	N=49	2%	N=5	100%	N=223
Public library services	45%	N=120	43%	N=115	12%	N=31	1%	N=2	100%	N=268
Public information services	20%	N=43	43%	N=91	30%	N=64	7%	N=14	100%	N=213
Cable television	14%	N=33	45%	N=105	28%	N=64	13%	N=29	100%	N=232
Emergency preparedness (services that prepare the community for natural disasters or other emergency situations)	15%	N=22	47%	N=70	28%	N=41	10%	N=14	100%	N=147
Preservation of natural areas such as open space, farmlands and greenbelts	21%	N=57	50%	N=137	22%	N=59	7%	N=20	100%	N=273
Meridian Township open space	22%	N=60	46%	N=128	26%	N=71	7%	N=18	100%	N=277
Township-sponsored special events	18%	N=36	43%	N=86	34%	N=68	6%	N=12	100%	N=203
Overall customer service by Meridian Township employees (police, receptionists, planners, etc.)	30%	N=73	53%	N=128	15%	N=36	3%	N=6	100%	N=243

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Table 11: Question 11

Overall, how would you rate the quality of the services provided by each of the following?	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Total	
The Meridian Township	24%	N=70	61%	N=177	13%	N=37	2%	N=5	100%	N=290
The Federal Government	8%	N=22	34%	N=96	40%	N=111	18%	N=50	100%	N=279

Table 12: Question 12

Please rate the following categories of Meridian Township government performance:	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Total	
The value of services for the taxes paid to Meridian Township	11%	N=29	43%	N=114	39%	N=103	7%	N=20	100%	N=266
The overall direction that Meridian Township is taking	11%	N=29	48%	N=123	34%	N=88	6%	N=16	100%	N=255
The job Meridian Township government does at welcoming citizen involvement	13%	N=26	35%	N=73	37%	N=76	15%	N=32	100%	N=207
Overall confidence in Meridian Township government	10%	N=27	40%	N=108	43%	N=116	8%	N=21	100%	N=272
Generally acting in the best interest of the community	11%	N=31	43%	N=118	38%	N=104	7%	N=19	100%	N=272
Being honest	14%	N=31	51%	N=111	26%	N=56	9%	N=18	100%	N=216
Treating all residents fairly	16%	N=35	45%	N=97	30%	N=64	9%	N=21	100%	N=217

Table 13: Question 13

Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the Meridian Township community to focus on each of the following in the coming two years:	Essential		Very important		Somewhat important		Not at all important		Total	
Overall feeling of safety in Meridian Township	56%	N=178	33%	N=104	10%	N=32	1%	N=2	100%	N=316
Overall ease of getting to the places you usually have to visit	33%	N=105	43%	N=137	23%	N=72	1%	N=5	100%	N=319
Quality of overall natural environment in Meridian Township	43%	N=136	40%	N=126	15%	N=49	2%	N=5	100%	N=316
Overall "built environment" of Meridian Township (including overall design, buildings, parks and transportation systems)	30%	N=95	44%	N=138	24%	N=76	2%	N=5	100%	N=314
Health and wellness opportunities in Meridian Township	25%	N=79	39%	N=123	34%	N=108	2%	N=5	100%	N=316
Overall opportunities for education and enrichment	31%	N=99	41%	N=131	27%	N=85	1%	N=4	100%	N=318
Overall economic health of Meridian Township	37%	N=118	50%	N=159	13%	N=41	0%	N=1	100%	N=318
Sense of community	27%	N=86	45%	N=145	26%	N=84	1%	N=4	100%	N=319

Table 14: Question 14

Please indicate how important, if at all, each of the following projects and issues will be for the Township to address over the next five years:	Essential		Very important		Somewhat important		Not at all important		Total	
Increase the availability of single family residential development	17%	N=45	26%	N=70	39%	N=104	18%	N=49	100%	N=267
Increase the availability of multi-family (apartments) residential development	9%	N=25	20%	N=54	33%	N=92	38%	N=105	100%	N=277
Increase commercial development	11%	N=32	25%	N=75	41%	N=120	23%	N=69	100%	N=296
Redevelopment of downtown Haslett, Okemos and the Carriage Hills neighborhood	29%	N=86	40%	N=118	27%	N=79	4%	N=13	100%	N=295
Preservation of open space	40%	N=125	36%	N=113	20%	N=62	4%	N=11	100%	N=311
Extension of existing pathways	33%	N=99	32%	N=96	24%	N=73	11%	N=32	100%	N=300
Improvement of the local (neighborhood) roads	44%	N=137	35%	N=108	19%	N=58	2%	N=6	100%	N=309
Increase energy conservation measures and use of alternative/clean energy sources	32%	N=98	36%	N=110	24%	N=73	8%	N=24	100%	N=305
Public utility (water, sewer, cable, internet) improvement and expansion	29%	N=87	44%	N=133	23%	N=69	5%	N=16	100%	N=305

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Table 15: Question 15

Please indicate to what extent you would support or oppose a property tax increase for each of the following to fund new facilities, maintenance or services:	Strongly support		Somewhat support		Somewhat oppose		Strongly oppose		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Local (neighborhood) roads	34%	N=110	49%	N=156	10%	N=33	7%	N=22	100%	N=321
Preservation of open space	29%	N=93	45%	N=143	13%	N=43	12%	N=39	100%	N=318
Public safety- police, fire and rescue services	38%	N=123	46%	N=147	10%	N=32	6%	N=18	100%	N=320
Energy conservation measures and use of alternative/clean energy sources	25%	N=80	47%	N=150	18%	N=57	10%	N=32	100%	N=319
Pathways	26%	N=84	43%	N=136	21%	N=68	10%	N=32	100%	N=321
Library services	26%	N=83	45%	N=145	18%	N=58	10%	N=32	100%	N=318
Public transportation	21%	N=69	42%	N=135	23%	N=74	13%	N=43	100%	N=321
Code enforcement	13%	N=42	43%	N=138	30%	N=97	13%	N=43	100%	N=319
Additional street lighting	18%	N=56	39%	N=124	34%	N=110	9%	N=30	100%	N=320
Landscaping/beautification enhancements to Township buildings/properties	13%	N=43	38%	N=123	35%	N=114	13%	N=41	100%	N=321

Table 16: Question 16

Please indicate how much of a source, if at all, you consider each of the following to be for obtaining information about the Township government and its activities, events and services:	Major source		Minor source		Not a source		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Township Web site (www.meridian.mi.us)	53%	N=165	30%	N=94	17%	N=54	100%	N=314
Local media outlets (newspapers, radio, local television stations)	48%	N=150	40%	N=125	13%	N=41	100%	N=316
The local government cable Channel HOMTV	11%	N=34	34%	N=107	55%	N=172	100%	N=312
Township newsletter (Meridian Monitor)	30%	N=94	44%	N=138	26%	N=80	100%	N=311
Parks & Recreation Family Fun Guide	33%	N=104	50%	N=156	18%	N=55	100%	N=315
Township Board meetings and other public meetings	11%	N=36	36%	N=114	53%	N=166	100%	N=315
Talking with Township officials	11%	N=33	32%	N=101	57%	N=181	100%	N=315
Township communications via social media (i.e. Facebook, Twitter or YouTube)	15%	N=48	31%	N=97	54%	N=169	100%	N=313
Word-of-mouth	26%	N=83	53%	N=169	21%	N=67	100%	N=318

Table 17: Question 17

Currently under local laws (sign ordinance), the commercial business community is allowed to have one sign at a maximum size of 25 square feet. Please indicate to what extent you would support or oppose each of the following:	Strongly support		Somewhat support		Somewhat oppose		Strongly oppose		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Larger signs at local businesses	9%	N=29	31%	N=100	29%	N=95	30%	N=97	100%	N=321
More signs at local businesses	8%	N=27	30%	N=96	33%	N=107	28%	N=91	100%	N=320

Table 18: Question D1

How often, if at all, do you do each of the following, considering all of the times you could?	Never		Rarely		Sometimes		Usually		Always		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Recycle at home	7%	N=23	14%	N=44	17%	N=56	18%	N=57	44%	N=139	100%	N=318
Purchase goods or services from a business located in Meridian Township	0%	N=1	2%	N=7	17%	N=55	59%	N=187	21%	N=68	100%	N=319
Eat at least 5 portions of fruits and vegetables a day	3%	N=11	21%	N=67	30%	N=97	30%	N=96	15%	N=48	100%	N=320
Participate in moderate or vigorous physical activity	1%	N=4	15%	N=49	34%	N=108	32%	N=102	18%	N=57	100%	N=321
Read or watch local news (via television, paper, computer, etc.)	3%	N=10	18%	N=58	23%	N=74	26%	N=83	30%	N=98	100%	N=323
Vote in local elections	16%	N=51	6%	N=19	11%	N=37	23%	N=73	44%	N=141	100%	N=321

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Table 19: Question D2

Would you say that in general your health is:	Percent	Number
Excellent	20%	N=62
Very good	53%	N=167
Good	19%	N=59
Fair	8%	N=25
Poor	1%	N=3
Total	100%	N=316

Table 20: Question D3

What impact, if any, do you think the economy will have on your family income in the next 6 months? Do you think the impact will be:	Percent	Number
Very positive	4%	N=13
Somewhat positive	25%	N=78
Neutral	57%	N=180
Somewhat negative	14%	N=43
Very negative	1%	N=3
Total	100%	N=317

Table 21: Question D4

What is your employment status?	Percent	Number
Working full time for pay	56%	N=179
Working part time for pay	14%	N=45
Unemployed, looking for paid work	5%	N=17
Unemployed, not looking for paid work	5%	N=17
Fully retired	19%	N=60
Total	100%	N=318

Table 22: Question D5

Do you work inside the boundaries of Meridian Township?	Percent	Number
Yes, outside the home	21%	N=66
Yes, from home	4%	N=13
No	75%	N=236
Total	100%	N=315

Table 23: Question D6

How many years have you lived in Meridian Township?	Percent	Number
Less than 2 years	19%	N=61
2 to 5 years	17%	N=55
6 to 10 years	14%	N=45
11 to 20 years	19%	N=62
More than 20 years	31%	N=100
Total	100%	N=323

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Table 24: Question D7

Which best describes the building you live in?	Percent	Number
One family house detached from any other houses	60%	N=192
Building with two or more homes (duplex, townhome, apartment or condominium)	40%	N=130
Mobile home	0%	N=0
Other	0%	N=0
Total	100%	N=322

Table 25: Question D8

Is this house, apartment or mobile home...	Percent	Number
Rented	38%	N=123
Owned	62%	N=200
Total	100%	N=323

Table 26: Question D9

About how much is your monthly housing cost for the place you live (including rent, mortgage payment, property tax, property insurance and homeowners' association (HOA) fees)?	Percent	Number
Less than \$300 per month	3%	N=10
\$300 to \$599 per month	13%	N=39
\$600 to \$999 per month	43%	N=131
\$1,000 to \$1,499 per month	17%	N=53
\$1,500 to \$2,499 per month	17%	N=51
\$2,500 or more per month	7%	N=23
Total	100%	N=306

Table 27: Question D10

Do any children 17 or under live in your household?	Percent	Number
No	67%	N=212
Yes	33%	N=107
Total	100%	N=319

Table 28: Question D11

Are you or any other members of your household aged 65 or older?	Percent	Number
No	79%	N=253
Yes	21%	N=66
Total	100%	N=320

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Table 29: Question D12

How much do you anticipate your household's total income before taxes will be for the current year? (Please include in your total income money from all sources for all persons living in your household.)	Percent	Number
Less than \$25,000	15%	N=47
\$25,000 to \$49,999	20%	N=60
\$50,000 to \$99,999	29%	N=89
\$100,000 to \$149,999	17%	N=52
\$150,000 or more	19%	N=58
Total	100%	N=306

Table 30: Question D13

Are you Spanish, Hispanic or Latino?	Percent	Number
No, not Spanish, Hispanic or Latino	98%	N=309
Yes, I consider myself to be Spanish, Hispanic or Latino	2%	N=8
Total	100%	N=317

Table 31: Question D14

What is your race? (Mark one or more races to indicate what race(s) you consider yourself to be.)	Percent	Number
American Indian or Alaskan Native	0%	N=1
Asian, Asian Indian or Pacific Islander	10%	N=32
Black or African American	3%	N=11
White	83%	N=258
Other	5%	N=15

Total may exceed 100% as respondents could select more than one option.

Table 32: Question D15

In which category is your age?	Percent	Number
18 to 24 years	10%	N=30
25 to 34 years	20%	N=62
35 to 44 years	16%	N=49
45 to 54 years	22%	N=71
55 to 64 years	14%	N=45
65 to 74 years	11%	N=34
75 years or older	8%	N=24
Total	100%	N=316

Table 33: Question D16

What is your sex?	Percent	Number
Female	48%	N=154
Male	52%	N=164
Total	100%	N=318

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Table 34: Question D17

Do you consider a cell phone or landline your primary telephone number?	Percent	Number
Cell	68%	N=219
Land line	16%	N=53
Both	16%	N=51
Total	100%	N=323

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Responses including “don’t know”

The following pages contain a complete set of responses to each question on the survey, including the “don’t know” responses. The percent of respondents giving a particular response is shown followed by the number of respondents (denoted with “N=”).

Table 35: Question 1

Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in Meridian Township:	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Don't know		Total	
Meridian Township as a place to live	48%	N=157	46%	N=151	7%	N=22	0%	N=0	0%	N=1	100%	N=331
Your neighborhood as a place to live	43%	N=142	46%	N=153	9%	N=31	1%	N=4	0%	N=0	100%	N=330
Meridian Township as a place to raise children	44%	N=147	38%	N=125	5%	N=16	1%	N=4	12%	N=39	100%	N=330
Meridian Township as a place to work	23%	N=75	27%	N=90	12%	N=39	4%	N=13	34%	N=113	100%	N=330
Meridian Township as a place to visit	19%	N=61	36%	N=119	28%	N=92	13%	N=41	4%	N=15	100%	N=329
Meridian Township as a place to retire	22%	N=73	31%	N=101	21%	N=69	7%	N=22	19%	N=63	100%	N=329
The overall quality of life in Meridian Township	33%	N=108	54%	N=178	13%	N=42	0%	N=1	0%	N=0	100%	N=329

Table 36: Question 2

Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Meridian Township as a whole:	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Don't know		Total	
Overall feeling of safety in Meridian Township	39%	N=127	54%	N=177	8%	N=25	0%	N=0	0%	N=0	100%	N=329
Overall ease of getting to the places you usually have to visit	40%	N=131	48%	N=160	11%	N=36	1%	N=3	0%	N=0	100%	N=330
Quality of overall natural environment in Meridian Township	43%	N=142	45%	N=147	11%	N=35	1%	N=5	0%	N=0	100%	N=328
Overall "built environment" of Meridian Township (including overall design, buildings, parks and transportation systems)	17%	N=57	50%	N=163	27%	N=90	5%	N=16	0%	N=1	100%	N=327
Health and wellness opportunities in Meridian Township	21%	N=69	51%	N=166	19%	N=63	1%	N=5	7%	N=24	100%	N=327
Overall opportunities for education and enrichment	36%	N=116	39%	N=128	15%	N=48	2%	N=6	8%	N=28	100%	N=326
Overall economic health of Meridian Township	25%	N=82	41%	N=135	22%	N=73	3%	N=9	9%	N=30	100%	N=328
Sense of community	19%	N=63	40%	N=132	30%	N=100	9%	N=28	2%	N=6	100%	N=329
Overall image or reputation of Meridian Township	29%	N=95	58%	N=190	8%	N=25	1%	N=5	5%	N=15	100%	N=329

Table 37: Question 3

Please indicate how likely or unlikely you are to do each of the following:	Very likely		Somewhat likely		Somewhat unlikely		Very unlikely		Don't know		Total	
Recommend living in Meridian Township to someone who asks	61%	N=201	32%	N=104	5%	N=16	2%	N=5	1%	N=3	100%	N=329
Remain in Meridian Township for the next five years	52%	N=170	26%	N=86	7%	N=23	11%	N=38	4%	N=12	100%	N=328

Table 38: Question 4

Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel:	Very safe		Somewhat safe		Neither safe nor unsafe		Somewhat unsafe		Very unsafe		Don't know		Total	
In your neighborhood during the day	79%	N=257	20%	N=64	1%	N=4	1%	N=2	0%	N=0	0%	N=0	100%	N=326
In Meridian Township's downtown/commercial area during the day	65%	N=212	27%	N=88	3%	N=9	1%	N=5	0%	N=0	4%	N=13	100%	N=326

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Table 39: Question 5

Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Meridian Township as a whole:	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Don't know		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Traffic flow on major streets	17%	N=54	53%	N=174	24%	N=78	7%	N=22	0%	N=0	100%	N=329
Ease of public parking	30%	N=99	54%	N=179	12%	N=40	2%	N=5	2%	N=7	100%	N=329
Ease of travel by car in Meridian Township	33%	N=108	48%	N=157	16%	N=51	3%	N=11	1%	N=2	100%	N=329
Ease of travel by public transportation in Meridian Township	11%	N=35	26%	N=84	18%	N=59	10%	N=32	36%	N=118	100%	N=327
Ease of travel by bicycle in Meridian Township	18%	N=58	24%	N=79	24%	N=78	12%	N=39	22%	N=73	100%	N=327
Ease of walking in Meridian Township	25%	N=81	42%	N=137	21%	N=70	7%	N=22	5%	N=18	100%	N=328
Availability of paths and walking trails	27%	N=87	44%	N=146	16%	N=51	5%	N=16	8%	N=28	100%	N=327
Air quality	38%	N=127	51%	N=168	9%	N=29	0%	N=1	2%	N=6	100%	N=330
Cleanliness of Meridian Township	35%	N=115	52%	N=173	12%	N=38	1%	N=4	0%	N=0	100%	N=330
Overall appearance of Meridian Township	29%	N=96	53%	N=172	16%	N=51	2%	N=8	0%	N=0	100%	N=327
Public places where people want to spend time	18%	N=60	46%	N=150	22%	N=73	7%	N=24	6%	N=21	100%	N=328
Variety of housing options	23%	N=75	46%	N=150	21%	N=69	2%	N=7	8%	N=25	100%	N=326
Availability of affordable quality housing	14%	N=46	36%	N=119	34%	N=111	6%	N=18	10%	N=34	100%	N=328
Fitness opportunities (including exercise classes and paths or trails, etc.)	25%	N=81	52%	N=170	17%	N=54	3%	N=9	4%	N=13	100%	N=328
Recreational opportunities	21%	N=70	44%	N=144	23%	N=75	7%	N=24	4%	N=13	100%	N=326
Availability of affordable quality food	30%	N=98	51%	N=169	16%	N=52	3%	N=9	0%	N=1	100%	N=329
Availability of affordable quality health care	24%	N=79	42%	N=139	19%	N=62	3%	N=11	12%	N=39	100%	N=329
Availability of preventive health services	20%	N=64	38%	N=123	16%	N=51	2%	N=8	25%	N=80	100%	N=326
Availability of affordable quality mental health care	13%	N=44	14%	N=46	13%	N=41	7%	N=24	53%	N=172	100%	N=327

Table 40: Question 6

Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Meridian Township as a whole:	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Don't know		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Availability of affordable quality child care/preschool	15%	N=47	18%	N=60	10%	N=33	3%	N=10	54%	N=174	100%	N=323
K-12 education	44%	N=143	24%	N=79	4%	N=12	0%	N=0	27%	N=88	100%	N=323
Adult educational opportunities	15%	N=49	33%	N=108	17%	N=54	2%	N=7	32%	N=104	100%	N=322
Opportunities to attend cultural/arts/music activities	18%	N=58	31%	N=100	28%	N=88	13%	N=41	10%	N=32	100%	N=318
Opportunities to participate in religious or spiritual events and activities	21%	N=66	30%	N=98	13%	N=43	3%	N=9	32%	N=104	100%	N=320
Employment opportunities	8%	N=24	22%	N=70	20%	N=63	9%	N=28	42%	N=135	100%	N=321
Shopping opportunities	28%	N=91	51%	N=165	18%	N=58	3%	N=9	0%	N=1	100%	N=325
Cost of living in Meridian Township	10%	N=32	44%	N=142	39%	N=125	5%	N=17	2%	N=7	100%	N=322
Overall quality of business and service establishments in Meridian Township	18%	N=58	52%	N=168	26%	N=83	2%	N=7	3%	N=9	100%	N=324
Vibrant downtown/commercial area	7%	N=22	22%	N=70	39%	N=126	26%	N=83	6%	N=19	100%	N=320
Overall quality of new development in Meridian Township	10%	N=33	28%	N=90	32%	N=102	11%	N=36	18%	N=58	100%	N=319
Opportunities to participate in social events and activities	11%	N=34	33%	N=107	30%	N=95	10%	N=33	16%	N=53	100%	N=322
Opportunities to volunteer	13%	N=41	30%	N=97	18%	N=57	6%	N=19	34%	N=108	100%	N=322
Opportunities to participate in community matters	13%	N=42	29%	N=93	22%	N=69	8%	N=24	29%	N=92	100%	N=320
Openness and acceptance of the community toward people of diverse backgrounds	19%	N=61	40%	N=129	20%	N=65	5%	N=16	15%	N=48	100%	N=320
Neighborliness of residents in Meridian Township	22%	N=71	43%	N=140	24%	N=77	5%	N=18	6%	N=20	100%	N=325

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Table 41: Question 7

Please indicate whether or not you have done each of the following in the last 12 months.	No		Yes		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N
Made efforts to conserve water	27%	N=87	73%	N=241	100%	N=328
Made efforts to make your home more energy efficient	19%	N=62	81%	N=263	100%	N=325
Observed a code violation or other hazard in Meridian Township	68%	N=223	32%	N=103	100%	N=326
Household member was a victim of a crime in Meridian Township	96%	N=314	4%	N=14	100%	N=328
Reported a crime to the police in Meridian Township	89%	N=292	11%	N=35	100%	N=327
Stocked supplies in preparation for an emergency	74%	N=243	26%	N=85	100%	N=328
Campaigned or advocated for an issue, cause or candidate	85%	N=280	15%	N=49	100%	N=329
Contacted Meridian Township (in-person, phone, email or web) for help or information	60%	N=197	40%	N=130	100%	N=327
Contacted Meridian Township elected officials (in-person, phone, email or web) to express your opinion	89%	N=291	11%	N=36	100%	N=327

Table 42: Question 8

In the last 12 months, about how many times, if at all, have you or other household members done each of the following in Meridian Township?	2 times a week or more		2-4 times a month		Once a month or less		Not at all		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Used Meridian Township recreation centers or their services	7%	N=23	15%	N=48	34%	N=109	44%	N=142	100%	N=321
Visited a neighborhood park or Township park	12%	N=39	27%	N=86	44%	N=143	18%	N=57	100%	N=326
Used Meridian Township public libraries or their services	15%	N=49	21%	N=69	31%	N=102	32%	N=106	100%	N=326
Participated in religious or spiritual activities in Meridian Township	7%	N=22	14%	N=47	12%	N=39	67%	N=220	100%	N=328
Attended a Township-sponsored event	1%	N=4	3%	N=9	40%	N=132	56%	N=183	100%	N=327
Used bus, rail, subway or other public transportation instead of driving	9%	N=31	5%	N=18	13%	N=43	72%	N=235	100%	N=327
Carpooled with other adults or children instead of driving alone	12%	N=39	12%	N=39	18%	N=59	58%	N=189	100%	N=326
Walked or biked instead of driving	13%	N=41	20%	N=64	26%	N=84	42%	N=139	100%	N=329
Volunteered your time to some group/activity in Meridian Township	3%	N=8	8%	N=27	17%	N=56	72%	N=235	100%	N=327
Participated in a club	4%	N=14	7%	N=22	15%	N=50	74%	N=240	100%	N=326
Talked to or visited with your immediate neighbors	36%	N=119	28%	N=91	23%	N=76	12%	N=40	100%	N=327
Done a favor for a neighbor	16%	N=52	19%	N=62	38%	N=124	27%	N=87	100%	N=325

Table 43: Question 9

Thinking about local public meetings (of local elected officials like City Council or County Commissioners, advisory boards, town halls, HOA, neighborhood watch, etc.), in the last 12 months, about how many times, if at all, have you or other household members attended or watched a local public meeting?	2 times a week or more		2-4 times a month		Once a month or less		Not at all		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Attended a local public meeting	0%	N=1	2%	N=5	14%	N=45	84%	N=273	100%	N=325
Watched (online or on television) a local public meeting	0%	N=1	6%	N=20	18%	N=58	76%	N=247	100%	N=326

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Table 44: Question 10

Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Meridian Township:	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Don't know		Total	
Police/Sheriff services	38%	N=123	38%	N=124	5%	N=17	4%	N=12	15%	N=49	100%	N=324
Fire services	39%	N=127	31%	N=99	2%	N=8	0%	N=0	28%	N=91	100%	N=325
Ambulance or emergency medical services	36%	N=116	24%	N=78	2%	N=5	1%	N=2	38%	N=123	100%	N=324
Crime prevention	24%	N=77	34%	N=109	8%	N=26	4%	N=14	29%	N=92	100%	N=318
Fire prevention and education	21%	N=66	25%	N=79	6%	N=20	3%	N=9	46%	N=146	100%	N=320
Traffic enforcement	19%	N=61	42%	N=136	16%	N=53	5%	N=18	17%	N=55	100%	N=322
Street repair	7%	N=23	21%	N=68	33%	N=105	34%	N=109	5%	N=18	100%	N=323
Street cleaning	11%	N=36	37%	N=118	32%	N=102	11%	N=35	9%	N=28	100%	N=318
Street lighting	12%	N=38	38%	N=121	34%	N=107	12%	N=40	4%	N=12	100%	N=319
Snow removal	9%	N=30	43%	N=137	30%	N=95	11%	N=36	7%	N=22	100%	N=320
Sidewalk maintenance	9%	N=30	40%	N=127	25%	N=81	12%	N=39	13%	N=42	100%	N=320
Traffic signal timing	7%	N=24	46%	N=149	30%	N=98	13%	N=42	3%	N=10	100%	N=323
Bus or transit services	12%	N=39	26%	N=85	11%	N=35	8%	N=25	43%	N=138	100%	N=322
Garbage collection	32%	N=102	42%	N=133	7%	N=23	2%	N=7	16%	N=51	100%	N=315
Recycling	25%	N=79	26%	N=83	15%	N=47	16%	N=52	19%	N=61	100%	N=321
Yard waste pick-up	10%	N=33	15%	N=49	11%	N=35	13%	N=42	50%	N=159	100%	N=318
Storm drainage	13%	N=41	31%	N=99	19%	N=59	9%	N=29	28%	N=87	100%	N=315
Drinking water	45%	N=144	39%	N=124	9%	N=29	3%	N=9	5%	N=15	100%	N=322
Sewer services	25%	N=78	40%	N=128	10%	N=32	2%	N=6	23%	N=75	100%	N=319
Power (electric and/or gas) utility	28%	N=89	47%	N=149	19%	N=60	3%	N=9	4%	N=14	100%	N=320
Utility billing	22%	N=70	47%	N=149	22%	N=70	3%	N=9	7%	N=23	100%	N=320
Township parks	32%	N=104	48%	N=154	7%	N=21	3%	N=10	10%	N=31	100%	N=319
Recreation programs or classes	15%	N=49	31%	N=99	13%	N=40	3%	N=10	38%	N=121	100%	N=319
Recreation centers or facilities	15%	N=48	30%	N=96	15%	N=47	3%	N=10	37%	N=115	100%	N=316
Land use, planning and zoning	9%	N=26	26%	N=81	21%	N=65	11%	N=35	33%	N=100	100%	N=308
Code enforcement (weeds, abandoned buildings, etc.)	10%	N=30	24%	N=78	21%	N=68	7%	N=22	38%	N=119	100%	N=318
Animal control	12%	N=39	26%	N=84	13%	N=41	7%	N=24	42%	N=133	100%	N=321
Economic development	11%	N=34	27%	N=88	25%	N=79	9%	N=30	28%	N=88	100%	N=319
Health services	14%	N=44	39%	N=125	15%	N=49	2%	N=5	31%	N=99	100%	N=322
Public library services	37%	N=120	35%	N=115	10%	N=31	1%	N=2	17%	N=56	100%	N=325
Public information services	14%	N=43	29%	N=91	20%	N=64	5%	N=14	33%	N=107	100%	N=320
Cable television	10%	N=33	33%	N=105	20%	N=64	9%	N=29	28%	N=88	100%	N=320
Emergency preparedness (services that prepare the community for natural disasters or other emergency situations)	7%	N=22	22%	N=70	13%	N=41	4%	N=14	54%	N=174	100%	N=321
Preservation of natural areas such as open space, farmlands and greenbelts	18%	N=57	44%	N=137	19%	N=59	6%	N=20	13%	N=41	100%	N=313
Meridian Township open space	19%	N=60	40%	N=128	22%	N=71	6%	N=18	13%	N=41	100%	N=317
Township-sponsored special events	11%	N=36	27%	N=86	21%	N=68	4%	N=12	36%	N=116	100%	N=319
Overall customer service by Meridian Township employees (police, receptionists, planners, etc.)	23%	N=73	41%	N=128	11%	N=36	2%	N=6	23%	N=72	100%	N=315

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Table 45: Question 11

Overall, how would you rate the quality of the services provided by each of the following?	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Don't know		Total	
The Meridian Township	22%	N=70	56%	N=177	12%	N=37	1%	N=5	9%	N=28	100%	N=318
The Federal Government	7%	N=22	30%	N=96	35%	N=111	16%	N=50	12%	N=36	100%	N=316

Table 46: Question 12

Please rate the following categories of Meridian Township government performance:	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Don't know		Total	
The value of services for the taxes paid to Meridian Township	9%	N=29	36%	N=114	32%	N=103	6%	N=20	17%	N=55	100%	N=321
The overall direction that Meridian Township is taking	9%	N=29	38%	N=123	27%	N=88	5%	N=16	20%	N=65	100%	N=319
The job Meridian Township government does at welcoming citizen involvement	8%	N=26	23%	N=73	24%	N=76	10%	N=32	35%	N=112	100%	N=319
Overall confidence in Meridian Township government	8%	N=27	34%	N=108	36%	N=116	6%	N=21	15%	N=46	100%	N=318
Generally acting in the best interest of the community	10%	N=31	37%	N=118	32%	N=104	6%	N=19	15%	N=48	100%	N=320
Being honest	10%	N=31	35%	N=111	17%	N=56	6%	N=18	32%	N=104	100%	N=320
Treating all residents fairly	11%	N=35	30%	N=97	20%	N=64	6%	N=21	32%	N=103	100%	N=319

Table 47: Question 13

Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the Meridian Township community to focus on each of the following in the coming two years:	Essential		Very important		Somewhat important		Not at all important		Total	
Overall feeling of safety in Meridian Township	56%	N=178	33%	N=104	10%	N=32	1%	N=2	100%	N=316
Overall ease of getting to the places you usually have to visit	33%	N=105	43%	N=137	23%	N=72	1%	N=5	100%	N=319
Quality of overall natural environment in Meridian Township	43%	N=136	40%	N=126	15%	N=49	2%	N=5	100%	N=316
Overall "built environment" of Meridian Township (including overall design, buildings, parks and transportation systems)	30%	N=95	44%	N=138	24%	N=76	2%	N=5	100%	N=314
Health and wellness opportunities in Meridian Township	25%	N=79	39%	N=123	34%	N=108	2%	N=5	100%	N=316
Overall opportunities for education and enrichment	31%	N=99	41%	N=131	27%	N=85	1%	N=4	100%	N=318
Overall economic health of Meridian Township	37%	N=118	50%	N=159	13%	N=41	0%	N=1	100%	N=318
Sense of community	27%	N=86	45%	N=145	26%	N=84	1%	N=4	100%	N=319

Table 48: Question 14

Please indicate how important, if at all, each of the following projects and issues will be for the Township to address over the next five years:	Essential		Very important		Somewhat important		Not at all important		Don't know		Total	
Increase the availability of single family residential development	14%	N=45	22%	N=70	33%	N=104	15%	N=49	16%	N=49	100%	N=317
Increase the availability of multi-family (apartments) residential development	8%	N=25	17%	N=54	29%	N=92	33%	N=105	13%	N=42	100%	N=318
Increase commercial development	10%	N=32	24%	N=75	38%	N=120	22%	N=69	6%	N=19	100%	N=315
Redevelopment of downtown Haslett, Okemos and the Carriage Hills neighborhood	27%	N=86	37%	N=118	25%	N=79	4%	N=13	7%	N=22	100%	N=317
Preservation of open space	39%	N=125	35%	N=113	19%	N=62	4%	N=11	3%	N=9	100%	N=320
Extension of existing pathways	31%	N=99	30%	N=96	23%	N=73	10%	N=32	5%	N=16	100%	N=316
Improvement of the local (neighborhood) roads	43%	N=137	34%	N=108	18%	N=58	2%	N=6	3%	N=8	100%	N=317
Increase energy conservation measures and use of alternative/clean energy sources	31%	N=98	35%	N=110	23%	N=73	8%	N=24	4%	N=13	100%	N=318
Public utility (water, sewer, cable, internet) improvement and expansion	27%	N=87	42%	N=133	22%	N=69	5%	N=16	5%	N=15	100%	N=319

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Table 49: Question 15

Please indicate to what extent you would support or oppose a property tax increase for each of the following to fund new facilities, maintenance or services:	Strongly support		Somewhat support		Somewhat oppose		Strongly oppose		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Local (neighborhood) roads	34%	N=110	49%	N=156	10%	N=33	7%	N=22	100%	N=321
Preservation of open space	29%	N=93	45%	N=143	13%	N=43	12%	N=39	100%	N=318
Public safety- police, fire and rescue services	38%	N=123	46%	N=147	10%	N=32	6%	N=18	100%	N=320
Energy conservation measures and use of alternative/clean energy sources	25%	N=80	47%	N=150	18%	N=57	10%	N=32	100%	N=319
Pathways	26%	N=84	43%	N=136	21%	N=68	10%	N=32	100%	N=321
Library services	26%	N=83	45%	N=145	18%	N=58	10%	N=32	100%	N=318
Public transportation	21%	N=69	42%	N=135	23%	N=74	13%	N=43	100%	N=321
Code enforcement	13%	N=42	43%	N=138	30%	N=97	13%	N=43	100%	N=319
Additional street lighting	18%	N=56	39%	N=124	34%	N=110	9%	N=30	100%	N=320
Landscaping/beautification enhancements to Township buildings/properties	13%	N=43	38%	N=123	35%	N=114	13%	N=41	100%	N=321

Table 50: Question 16

Please indicate how much of a source, if at all, you consider each of the following to be for obtaining information about the Township government and its activities, events and services:	Major source		Minor source		Not a source		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Township Web site (www.meridian.mi.us)	53%	N=165	30%	N=94	17%	N=54	100%	N=314
Local media outlets (newspapers, radio, local television stations)	48%	N=150	40%	N=125	13%	N=41	100%	N=316
The local government cable Channel HOMTV	11%	N=34	34%	N=107	55%	N=172	100%	N=312
Township newsletter (Meridian Monitor)	30%	N=94	44%	N=138	26%	N=80	100%	N=311
Parks & Recreation Family Fun Guide	33%	N=104	50%	N=156	18%	N=55	100%	N=315
Township Board meetings and other public meetings	11%	N=36	36%	N=114	53%	N=166	100%	N=315
Talking with Township officials	11%	N=33	32%	N=101	57%	N=181	100%	N=315
Township communications via social media (i.e. Facebook, Twitter or YouTube)	15%	N=48	31%	N=97	54%	N=169	100%	N=313
Word-of-mouth	26%	N=83	53%	N=169	21%	N=67	100%	N=318

Table 51: Question 17

Currently under local laws (sign ordinance), the commercial business community is allowed to have one sign at a maximum size of 25 square feet. Please indicate to what extent you would support or oppose each of the following:	Strongly support		Somewhat support		Somewhat oppose		Strongly oppose		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Larger signs at local businesses	9%	N=29	31%	N=100	29%	N=95	30%	N=97	100%	N=321
More signs at local businesses	8%	N=27	30%	N=96	33%	N=107	28%	N=91	100%	N=320

Table 52: Question D1

How often, if at all, do you do each of the following, considering all of the times you could?	Never		Rarely		Sometimes		Usually		Always		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Recycle at home	7%	N=23	14%	N=44	17%	N=56	18%	N=57	44%	N=139	100%	N=318
Purchase goods or services from a business located in Meridian Township	0%	N=1	2%	N=7	17%	N=55	59%	N=187	21%	N=68	100%	N=319
Eat at least 5 portions of fruits and vegetables a day	3%	N=11	21%	N=67	30%	N=97	30%	N=96	15%	N=48	100%	N=320
Participate in moderate or vigorous physical activity	1%	N=4	15%	N=49	34%	N=108	32%	N=102	18%	N=57	100%	N=321
Read or watch local news (via television, paper, computer, etc.)	3%	N=10	18%	N=58	23%	N=74	26%	N=83	30%	N=98	100%	N=323
Vote in local elections	16%	N=51	6%	N=19	11%	N=37	23%	N=73	44%	N=141	100%	N=321

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Table 53: Question D2

Would you say that in general your health is:	Percent	Number
Excellent	20%	N=62
Very good	53%	N=167
Good	19%	N=59
Fair	8%	N=25
Poor	1%	N=3
Total	100%	N=316

Table 54: Question D3

What impact, if any, do you think the economy will have on your family income in the next 6 months? Do you think the impact will be:	Percent	Number
Very positive	4%	N=13
Somewhat positive	25%	N=78
Neutral	57%	N=180
Somewhat negative	14%	N=43
Very negative	1%	N=3
Total	100%	N=317

Table 55: Question D4

What is your employment status?	Percent	Number
Working full time for pay	56%	N=179
Working part time for pay	14%	N=45
Unemployed, looking for paid work	5%	N=17
Unemployed, not looking for paid work	5%	N=17
Fully retired	19%	N=60
Total	100%	N=318

Table 56: Question D5

Do you work inside the boundaries of Meridian Township?	Percent	Number
Yes, outside the home	21%	N=66
Yes, from home	4%	N=13
No	75%	N=236
Total	100%	N=315

Table 57: Question D6

How many years have you lived in Meridian Township?	Percent	Number
Less than 2 years	19%	N=61
2 to 5 years	17%	N=55
6 to 10 years	14%	N=45
11 to 20 years	19%	N=62
More than 20 years	31%	N=100
Total	100%	N=323

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Table 58: Question D7

Which best describes the building you live in?	Percent	Number
One family house detached from any other houses	60%	N=192
Building with two or more homes (duplex, townhome, apartment or condominium)	40%	N=130
Mobile home	0%	N=0
Other	0%	N=0
Total	100%	N=322

Table 59: Question D8

Is this house, apartment or mobile home...	Percent	Number
Rented	38%	N=123
Owned	62%	N=200
Total	100%	N=323

Table 60: Question D9

About how much is your monthly housing cost for the place you live (including rent, mortgage payment, property tax, property insurance and homeowners' association (HOA) fees)?	Percent	Number
Less than \$300 per month	3%	N=10
\$300 to \$599 per month	13%	N=39
\$600 to \$999 per month	43%	N=131
\$1,000 to \$1,499 per month	17%	N=53
\$1,500 to \$2,499 per month	17%	N=51
\$2,500 or more per month	7%	N=23
Total	100%	N=306

Table 61: Question D10

Do any children 17 or under live in your household?	Percent	Number
No	67%	N=212
Yes	33%	N=107
Total	100%	N=319

Table 62: Question D11

Are you or any other members of your household aged 65 or older?	Percent	Number
No	79%	N=253
Yes	21%	N=66
Total	100%	N=320

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Table 63: Question D12

How much do you anticipate your household's total income before taxes will be for the current year? (Please include in your total income money from all sources for all persons living in your household.)	Percent	Number
Less than \$25,000	15%	N=47
\$25,000 to \$49,999	20%	N=60
\$50,000 to \$99,999	29%	N=89
\$100,000 to \$149,999	17%	N=52
\$150,000 or more	19%	N=58
Total	100%	N=306

Table 64: Question D13

Are you Spanish, Hispanic or Latino?	Percent	Number
No, not Spanish, Hispanic or Latino	98%	N=309
Yes, I consider myself to be Spanish, Hispanic or Latino	2%	N=8
Total	100%	N=317

Table 65: Question D14

What is your race? (Mark one or more races to indicate what race(s) you consider yourself to be.)	Percent	Number
American Indian or Alaskan Native	0%	N=1
Asian, Asian Indian or Pacific Islander	10%	N=32
Black or African American	3%	N=11
White	83%	N=258
Other	5%	N=15

Total may exceed 100% as respondents could select more than one option.

Table 66: Question D15

In which category is your age?	Percent	Number
18 to 24 years	10%	N=30
25 to 34 years	20%	N=62
35 to 44 years	16%	N=49
45 to 54 years	22%	N=71
55 to 64 years	14%	N=45
65 to 74 years	11%	N=34
75 years or older	8%	N=24
Total	100%	N=316

Table 67: Question D16

What is your sex?	Percent	Number
Female	48%	N=154
Male	52%	N=164
Total	100%	N=318

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Table 68: Question D17

Do you consider a cell phone or landline your primary telephone number?	Percent	Number
Cell	68%	N=219
Land line	16%	N=53
Both	16%	N=51
Total	100%	N=323

Appendix B: Benchmark Comparisons

Comparison Data

NRC’s database of comparative resident opinion is comprised of resident perspectives gathered in surveys from over 500 communities whose residents evaluated the same kinds of topics on The National Citizen Survey™. The comparison evaluations are from the most recent survey completed in each community; most communities conduct surveys every year or in alternating years. NRC adds the latest results quickly upon survey completion, keeping the benchmark data fresh and relevant. The communities in the database represent a wide geographic and population range. Meridian Township chose to have comparisons made to the entire database.

Interpreting the Results

Ratings are compared when there are at least five communities in which a similar question was asked. Where comparisons are available, four columns are provided in the table. The first column is Meridian Township’s “percent positive.” The percent positive is the combination of the top two most positive response options (i.e., “excellent” and “good,” “very safe” and “somewhat safe,” “essential” and “very important,” etc.), or, in the case of resident behaviors/participation, the percent positive represents the proportion of respondents indicating “yes” or participating in an activity at least once a month. The second column is the rank assigned to Meridian Township’s rating among communities where a similar question was asked. The third column is the number of communities that asked a similar question. The final column shows the comparison of Meridian Township’s rating to the benchmark.

In that final column, Meridian Township’s results are noted as being “higher” than the benchmark, “lower” than the benchmark or “similar” to the benchmark, meaning that the average rating given by Meridian Township residents is statistically similar to or different (greater or lesser) than the benchmark. More extreme differences are noted as “much higher” or “much lower.”

Benchmark Database Characteristics	
Region	Percent
New England	3%
Middle Atlantic	5%
East North Central	15%
West North Central	13%
South Atlantic	22%
East South Central	3%
West South Central	7%
Mountain	16%
Pacific	16%
Population	Percent
Less than 10,000	10%
10,000 to 24,999	22%
25,000 to 49,999	23%
50,000 to 99,999	22%
100,000 or more	23%

National Benchmark Comparisons

Table 69: Community Characteristics General

	Percent positive	Rank	Number of communities in comparison	Comparison to benchmark
The overall quality of life in Meridian Township	87%	156	397	Similar
Overall image or reputation of Meridian Township	91%	70	296	Higher
Meridian Township as a place to live	93%	107	340	Similar
Your neighborhood as a place to live	89%	85	262	Similar
Meridian Township as a place to raise children	93%	80	331	Higher
Meridian Township as a place to retire	66%	133	314	Similar
Overall appearance of Meridian Township	82%	91	309	Similar

Table 70: Community Characteristics by Facet

		Percent positive	Rank	Number of communities in comparison	Comparison to benchmark	
Safety	Overall feeling of safety in Meridian Township	92%	74	225	Similar	
	In your neighborhood during the day	98%	60	302	Similar	
	In Meridian Township's downtown/commercial area during the day	96%	83	256	Similar	
Mobility	Overall ease of getting to the places you usually have to visit	88%	14	141	Higher	
	Availability of paths and walking trails	78%	66	265	Similar	
	Ease of walking in Meridian Township	70%	91	246	Similar	
	Ease of travel by bicycle in Meridian Township	54%	102	250	Similar	
	Ease of travel by public transportation in Meridian Township	57%	32	124	Similar	
	Ease of travel by car in Meridian Township	81%	21	253	Higher	
	Ease of public parking	86%	3	117	Much higher	
	Traffic flow on major streets	70%	37	298	Higher	
Natural Environment	Quality of overall natural environment in Meridian Township	88%	43	234	Higher	
	Cleanliness of Meridian Township	87%	59	227	Higher	
	Air quality	91%	30	210	Higher	
Built Environment	Overall "built environment" of Meridian Township (including overall design, buildings, parks and transportation systems)	67%	49	135	Similar	
	Overall quality of new development in Meridian Township	47%	167	242	Similar	
	Availability of affordable quality housing	56%	50	254	Higher	
	Variety of housing options	75%	24	233	Higher	
	Public places where people want to spend time	68%	58	128	Similar	
Economy	Overall economic health of Meridian Township	73%	44	140	Similar	
	Vibrant downtown/commercial area	30%	92	125	Lower	
	Overall quality of business and service establishments in Meridian Township	71%	65	227	Similar	
	Cost of living in Meridian Township	55%	31	134	Similar	
	Shopping opportunities	79%	37	252	Higher	
	Employment opportunities	51%	45	266	Higher	
	Meridian Township as a place to visit	58%	94	148	Similar	
	Meridian Township as a place to work	76%	64	305	Higher	
	Recreation and Wellness	Health and wellness opportunities in Meridian Township	78%	55	137	Similar

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		Percent positive	Rank	Number of communities in comparison	Comparison to benchmark
	Availability of affordable quality mental health care	58%	19	117	Higher
	Availability of preventive health services	76%	33	191	Similar
	Availability of affordable quality health care	75%	30	215	Higher
	Availability of affordable quality food	81%	18	191	Higher
	Recreational opportunities	68%	124	258	Similar
	Fitness opportunities (including exercise classes and paths or trails, etc.)	80%	44	132	Similar
Education and Enrichment	Overall opportunities for education and enrichment	82%	32	135	Higher
	Opportunities to participate in religious or spiritual events and activities	76%	86	171	Similar
	Opportunities to attend cultural/arts/music activities	55%	122	251	Similar
	Adult educational opportunities	72%	28	122	Similar
	K-12 education	95%	7	224	Much higher
	Availability of affordable quality child care/preschool	71%	10	213	Higher
Community Engagement	Opportunities to participate in social events and activities	52%	148	214	Similar
	Neighborliness of Meridian Township	69%	32	130	Similar
	Openness and acceptance of the community toward people of diverse backgrounds	70%	51	244	Similar
	Opportunities to participate in community matters	59%	124	227	Similar
	Opportunities to volunteer	64%	151	221	Similar

Table 71: Governance General

	Percent positive	Rank	Number of communities in comparison	Comparison to benchmark
Services provided by Meridian Township	85%	98	385	Similar
Overall customer service by Meridian Township employees (police, receptionists, planners, etc.)	83%	97	320	Similar
Value of services for the taxes paid to Meridian Township	54%	160	346	Similar
Overall direction that Meridian Township is taking	59%	132	277	Similar
Job Meridian Township government does at welcoming citizen involvement	48%	153	264	Similar
Overall confidence in Meridian Township government	50%	64	135	Similar
Generally acting in the best interest of the community	55%	61	135	Similar
Being honest	66%	47	131	Similar
Treating all residents fairly	61%	44	134	Similar
Services provided by the Federal Government	42%	48	205	Similar

Table 72: Governance by Facet

	Percent positive	Rank	Number of communities in comparison	Comparison to benchmark	
Safety	Police/Sheriff services	90%	70	382	Similar
	Fire services	97%	58	309	Similar
	Ambulance or emergency medical services	96%	30	298	Similar
	Crime prevention	82%	66	306	Similar
	Fire prevention and education	83%	78	243	Similar
	Animal control	65%	136	294	Similar
	Emergency preparedness (services that prepare the community for natural disasters or other emergency situations)	62%	131	240	Similar
	Traffic enforcement	74%	78	326	Similar
Mobility	Street repair	30%	307	371	Lower
	Street cleaning	53%	194	275	Similar
	Street lighting	52%	190	270	Similar

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		Percent positive	Rank	Number of communities in comparison	Comparison to benchmark
	Snow removal	56%	181	258	Similar
	Sidewalk maintenance	57%	143	275	Similar
	Traffic signal timing	55%	93	214	Similar
	Bus or transit services	67%	47	182	Similar
	Garbage collection	89%	106	307	Similar
	Recycling	62%	271	313	Lower
	Yard waste pick-up	51%	220	227	Lower
	Drinking water	87%	23	291	Higher
	Preservation of natural areas such as open space, farmlands and greenbelts	71%	57	218	Similar
Natural Environment	Meridian Township open space	68%	47	128	Similar
	Storm drainage	61%	194	314	Similar
	Sewer services	84%	61	275	Similar
	Power (electric and/or gas) utility	78%	58	139	Similar
	Utility billing	74%	37	120	Similar
	Land use, planning and zoning	52%	114	254	Similar
	Code enforcement (weeds, abandoned buildings, etc.)	55%	115	314	Similar
	Built Environment	Cable television	60%	58	163
Economy	Economic development	53%	106	242	Similar
	Township parks	89%	99	284	Similar
	Recreation programs or classes	75%	145	297	Similar
	Recreation centers or facilities	71%	124	241	Similar
	Health services	76%	50	167	Similar
Recreation and Wellness	Township-sponsored special events	60%	85	144	Similar
Education and Enrichment	Public library services	88%	92	299	Similar
Community Engagement	Public information services	63%	136	246	Similar

Table 73: Participation General

	Percent positive	Rank	Number of communities in comparison	Comparison to benchmark
Sense of community	60%	151	261	Similar
Recommend living in Meridian Township to someone who asks	93%	66	235	Similar
Remain in Meridian Township for the next five years	81%	158	230	Similar
Contacted Meridian Township (in-person, phone, email or web) for help or information	40%	195	267	Similar

Table 74: Participation by Facet

		Percent positive	Rank	Number of communities in comparison	Comparison to benchmark	
	Stocked supplies in preparation for an emergency	26%	100	121	Lower	
	Did NOT report a crime to the police	89%	8	131	Higher	
	Household member was NOT a victim of a crime	96%	3	227	Similar	
	Used bus, rail, subway or other public transportation instead of driving	28%	45	108	Similar	
	Carpooled with other adults or children instead of driving alone	42%	68	127	Similar	
	Walked or biked instead of driving	58%	58	131	Similar	
	Mobility	Made efforts to conserve water	73%	111	122	Similar
	Natural Environment	Made efforts to make your home more energy efficient	81%	25	122	Similar

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		Percent positive	Rank	Number of communities in comparison	Comparison to benchmark
	Recycle at home	79%	156	214	Similar
Built Environment	Did NOT observe a code violation or other hazard in Meridian Township	68%	15	123	Higher
	NOT experiencing housing costs stress	81%	16	210	Higher
	Purchase goods or services from a business located in Meridian Township	97%	56	127	Similar
Economy	Economy will have positive impact on income	29%	74	212	Similar
	Work inside boundaries of Meridian Township	25%	111	127	Lower
	Used Meridian Township recreation centers or their services	56%	108	199	Similar
Recreation and Wellness	Visited a neighborhood park or Township park	82%	137	230	Similar
	Eat at least 5 portions of fruits and vegetables a day	76%	120	124	Similar
	Participate in moderate or vigorous physical activity	84%	80	125	Similar
	In very good to excellent health	72%	55	126	Similar
Education and Enrichment	Used Meridian Township public libraries or their services	68%	93	200	Similar
	Participated in religious or spiritual activities in Meridian Township	33%	144	169	Lower
	Attended Township-sponsored event	44%	93	128	Similar
Community Engagement	Campaigned or advocated for an issue, cause or candidate	15%	107	119	Similar
	Contacted Meridian Township elected officials (in-person, phone, email or web) to express your opinion	11%	113	126	Similar
	Volunteered your time to some group/activity in Meridian Township	28%	182	219	Lower
	Participated in a club	26%	104	197	Similar
	Talked to or visited with your immediate neighbors	88%	99	127	Similar
	Done a favor for a neighbor	73%	114	123	Similar
	Attended a local public meeting	16%	166	219	Similar
	Watched (online or on television) a local public meeting	24%	114	184	Similar
	Read or watch local news (via television, paper, computer, etc.)	79%	117	126	Similar
	Vote in local elections	78%	129	212	Similar

Communities included in national comparisons

The communities included in Meridian Township's comparisons are listed on the below along with their population according to the 2010 Census.

Adams County, CO	441,603	Apache Junction city, AZ.....	35,840
Airway Heights city, WA	6,114	Apple Valley town, CA	69,135
Albany city, OR	50,158	Arapahoe County, CO	572,003
Albemarle County, VA.....	98,970	Arkansas City city, AR.....	366
Albert Lea city, MN.....	18,016	Arlington city, TX	365,438
Algonquin village, IL.....	30,046	Arlington County, VA	207,627
Aliso Viejo city, CA	47,823	Arvada city, CO	106,433
Altoona city, IA	14,541	Asheville city, NC	83,393
American Canyon city, CA.....	19,454	Ashland city, OR	20,078
Ames city, IA	58,965	Ashland town, VA.....	7,225
Andover CDP, MA.....	8,762	Aspen city, CO	6,658
Ankeny city, IA	45,582	Auburn city, AL	53,380
Ann Arbor city, MI.....	113,934	Auburn city, WA.....	70,180
Annapolis city, MD	38,394	Augusta CCD, GA	134,777

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Aurora city, CO	325,078	Cleveland Heights city, OH.....	46,121
Austin city, TX	790,390	Clive city, IA	15,447
Bainbridge Island city, WA	23,025	Clovis city, CA	95,631
Baltimore city, MD.....	620,961	College Park city, MD	30,413
Bartonville town, TX.....	1,469	College Station city, TX.....	93,857
Battle Creek city, MI.....	52,347	Colleyville city, TX	22,807
Bay City city, MI.....	34,932	Collinsville city, IL	25,579
Baytown city, TX.....	71,802	Columbia city, MO	108,500
Bedford city, TX.....	46,979	Columbia city, SC	129,272
Bedford town, MA	13,320	Columbia Falls city, MT.....	4,688
Bellevue city, WA	122,363	Columbus city, WI.....	4,991
Bellingham city, WA	80,885	Commerce City city, CO.....	45,913
Beltrami County, MN	44,442	Concord city, CA	122,067
Benbrook city, TX.....	21,234	Concord town, MA.....	17,668
Bend city, OR.....	76,639	Cookeville city, TN	30,435
Benicia city, CA	26,997	Coon Rapids city, MN	61,476
Bettendorf city, IA.....	33,217	Copperas Cove city, TX.....	32,032
Billings city, MT.....	104,170	Coronado city, CA	18,912
Blaine city, MN.....	57,186	Corvallis city, OR.....	54,462
Bloomfield Hills city, MI	3,869	Creve Coeur city, MO	17,833
Bloomington city, MN	82,893	Cross Roads town, TX	1,563
Blue Springs city, MO	52,575	Crystal Lake city, IL.....	40,743
Boise City city, ID.....	205,671	Dacono city, CO	4,152
Boone County, KY	118,811	Dade City city, FL.....	6,437
Boulder city, CO.....	97,385	Dakota County, MN	398,552
Bowling Green city, KY	58,067	Dallas city, OR	14,583
Brentwood city, MO.....	8,055	Dallas city, TX.....	1,197,816
Brentwood city, TN	37,060	Danville city, KY	16,218
Brighton city, CO.....	33,352	Dardenne Prairie city, MO	11,494
Bristol city, TN	26,702	Davenport city, IA	99,685
Broken Arrow city, OK	98,850	Davidson town, NC.....	10,944
Brookfield city, WI.....	37,920	Dayton city, OH	141,527
Brookline CDP, MA	58,732	Decatur city, GA.....	19,335
Broomfield city, CO	55,889	Del Mar city, CA	4,161
Brownsburg town, IN	21,285	Delray Beach city, FL.....	60,522
Bryan city, TX	76,201	Denison city, TX.....	22,682
Burien city, WA.....	33,313	Denton city, TX.....	113,383
Burleson city, TX.....	36,690	Denver city, CO.....	600,158
Cabarrus County, NC.....	178,011	Derby city, KS.....	22,158
Cambridge city, MA	105,162	Des Peres city, MO	8,373
Canton city, SD.....	3,057	Destin city, FL.....	12,305
Cape Coral city, FL	154,305	Dorchester County, MD	32,618
Cape Girardeau city, MO.....	37,941	Dothan city, AL	65,496
Carlisle borough, PA	18,682	Douglas County, CO	285,465
Carlsbad city, CA.....	105,328	Dover city, NH	29,987
Carroll city, IA.....	10,103	Dublin city, CA	46,036
Cartersville city, GA.....	19,731	Duluth city, MN.....	86,265
Cary town, NC	135,234	Duncanville city, TX.....	38,524
Casa Grande city, AZ.....	48,571	Durham city, NC	228,330
Casper city, WY	55,316	Eagle town, CO	6,508
Castine town, ME	1,366	East Baton Rouge Parish, LA.....	440,171
Castle Pines North city, CO	10,360	East Grand Forks city, MN.....	8,601
Castle Rock town, CO	48,231	East Lansing city, MI	48,579
Centennial city, CO.....	100,377	Eau Claire city, WI	65,883
Centralia city, IL.....	13,032	Eden Prairie city, MN	60,797
Chambersburg borough, PA	20,268	Edgerton city, KS	1,671
Chandler city, AZ	236,123	Edgewater city, CO	5,170
Chanhassen city, MN	22,952	Edina city, MN.....	47,941
Chapel Hill town, NC	57,233	Edmond city, OK	81,405
Charlotte city, NC.....	731,424	Edmonds city, WA.....	39,709
Charlotte County, FL	159,978	El Cerrito city, CA	23,549
Charlottesville city, VA	43,475	El Dorado County, CA	181,058
Chattanooga city, TN.....	167,674	El Paso city, TX.....	649,121
Chesterfield County, VA	316,236	Elk Grove city, CA	153,015
Chippewa Falls city, WI	13,661	Elk River city, MN.....	22,974
Citrus Heights city, CA	83,301	Elko New Market city, MN.....	4,110
Clackamas County, OR	375,992	Elmhurst city, IL.....	44,121
Clarendon Hills village, IL	8,427	Encinitas city, CA	59,518
Clayton city, MO.....	15,939	Englewood city, CO	30,255
Clearwater city, FL	107,685	Erie town, CO	18,135

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Escambia County, FL.....	297,619	Hutto city, TX.....	14,698
Estes Park town, CO.....	5,858	Hyattsville city, MD.....	17,557
Fairview town, TX.....	7,248	Independence city, MO.....	116,830
Farmington Hills city, MI.....	79,740	Indian Trail town, NC.....	33,518
Fayetteville city, NC.....	200,564	Indianola city, IA.....	14,782
Fishers town, IN.....	76,794	Iowa City city, IA.....	67,862
Flower Mound town, TX.....	64,669	Issaquah city, WA.....	30,434
Forest Grove city, OR.....	21,083	Jackson County, MI.....	160,248
Fort Collins city, CO.....	143,986	James City County, VA.....	67,009
Fort Smith city, AR.....	86,209	Jefferson City city, MO.....	43,079
Fort Worth city, TX.....	741,206	Jefferson County, CO.....	534,543
Fountain Hills town, AZ.....	22,489	Jefferson County, NY.....	116,229
Franklin city, TN.....	62,487	Jerome city, ID.....	10,890
Fredericksburg city, VA.....	24,286	Johnson City city, TN.....	63,152
Fremont city, CA.....	214,089	Johnston city, IA.....	17,278
Friendswood city, TX.....	35,805	Jupiter town, FL.....	55,156
Fruita city, CO.....	12,646	Kalamazoo city, MI.....	74,262
Gahanna city, OH.....	33,248	Kansas City city, KS.....	145,786
Gaithersburg city, MD.....	59,933	Kansas City city, MO.....	459,787
Galveston city, TX.....	47,743	Keizer city, OR.....	36,478
Gardner city, KS.....	19,123	Kenmore city, WA.....	20,460
Geneva city, NY.....	13,261	Kennewick city, TX.....	6,763
Georgetown city, TX.....	47,400	Kennett Square borough, PA.....	6,072
Gilbert town, AZ.....	208,453	Kettering city, OH.....	56,163
Gillette city, WY.....	29,087	Key West city, FL.....	24,649
Glendora city, CA.....	50,073	King County, WA.....	1,931,249
Glenview village, IL.....	44,692	Kirkland city, WA.....	48,787
Globe city, AZ.....	7,532	Kirkwood city, MO.....	27,540
Golden Valley city, MN.....	20,371	Knoxville city, IA.....	7,313
Goodyear city, AZ.....	65,275	La Mesa city, CA.....	57,065
Grafton village, WI.....	11,459	La Plata town, MD.....	8,753
Grand Blanc city, MI.....	8,276	La Porte city, TX.....	33,800
Grand Island city, NE.....	48,520	La Vista city, NE.....	15,758
Grass Valley city, CA.....	12,860	Lafayette city, CO.....	24,453
Greeley city, CO.....	92,889	Laguna Beach city, CA.....	22,723
Green Valley CDP, AZ.....	21,391	Laguna Hills city, CA.....	30,344
Greenville city, NC.....	84,554	Laguna Niguel city, CA.....	62,979
Greenwich town, CT.....	61,171	Lake Oswego city, OR.....	36,619
Greenwood Village city, CO.....	13,925	Lake Stevens city, WA.....	28,069
Greer city, SC.....	25,515	Lake Worth city, FL.....	34,910
Guilford County, NC.....	488,406	Lake Zurich village, IL.....	19,631
Gunnison County, CO.....	15,324	Lakeville city, MN.....	55,954
Gurnee village, IL.....	31,295	Lakewood city, CO.....	142,980
Hailey city, ID.....	7,960	Lane County, OR.....	351,715
Haines Borough, AK.....	2,508	Larimer County, CO.....	299,630
Hallandale Beach city, FL.....	37,113	Las Cruces city, NM.....	97,618
Hamilton city, OH.....	62,477	Las Vegas city, NV.....	583,756
Hanover County, VA.....	99,863	Lawrence city, KS.....	87,643
Harrisonburg city, VA.....	48,914	League City city, TX.....	83,560
Harrisonville city, MO.....	10,019	Lee's Summit city, MO.....	91,364
Hayward city, CA.....	144,186	Lehi city, UT.....	47,407
Henderson city, NV.....	257,729	Lenexa city, KS.....	48,190
Herndon town, VA.....	23,292	Lewis County, NY.....	27,087
High Point city, NC.....	104,371	Lewisville city, TX.....	95,290
Highland Park city, IL.....	29,763	Libertyville village, IL.....	20,315
Highlands Ranch CDP, CO.....	96,713	Lincoln city, NE.....	258,379
Hillsborough town, NC.....	6,087	Lindsborg city, KS.....	3,458
Holland city, MI.....	33,051	Littleton city, CO.....	41,737
Honolulu County, HI.....	953,207	Livermore city, CA.....	80,968
Hooksett town, NH.....	13,451	Lombard village, IL.....	43,165
Hopkins city, MN.....	17,591	Lone Tree city, CO.....	10,218
Hopkinton town, MA.....	14,925	Long Grove village, IL.....	8,043
Hoquiam city, WA.....	8,726	Longmont city, CO.....	86,270
Horry County, SC.....	269,291	Longview city, TX.....	80,455
Hudson city, OH.....	22,262	Los Alamos County, NM.....	17,950
Hudson town, CO.....	2,356	Louisville city, CO.....	18,376
Hudsonville city, MI.....	7,116	Lynchburg city, VA.....	75,568
Huntersville town, NC.....	46,773	Lynnwood city, WA.....	35,836
Hurst city, TX.....	37,337	Macomb County, MI.....	840,978
Hutchinson city, MN.....	14,178	Madison city, WI.....	233,209

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Manhattan Beach city, CA	35,135	Oshkosh city, WI.....	66,083
Mankato city, MN	39,309	Oshemo charter township, MI.....	21,705
Maple Grove city, MN	61,567	Otsego County, MI	24,164
Maple Valley city, WA	22,684	Overland Park city, KS	173,372
Maricopa County, AZ	3,817,117	Oviedo city, FL	33,342
Martinez city, CA	35,824	Paducah city, KY	25,024
Maryland Heights city, MO	27,472	Palm Coast city, FL.....	75,180
Matthews town, NC.....	27,198	Palo Alto city, CA.....	64,403
McAllen city, TX	129,877	Papillion city, NE	18,894
McDonough city, GA.....	22,084	Park City city, UT	7,558
McKinney city, TX.....	131,117	Parker town, CO	45,297
McMinnville city, OR	32,187	Parkland city, FL	23,962
Medford city, OR.....	74,907	Pasadena city, CA	137,122
Menlo Park city, CA	32,026	Pasco city, WA.....	59,781
Mercer Island city, WA	22,699	Pasco County, FL	464,697
Meridian charter township, MI	39,688	Pearland city, TX.....	91,252
Meridian city, ID	75,092	Peoria city, AZ	154,065
Merriam city, KS.....	11,003	Peoria city, IL	115,007
Mesa County, CO	146,723	Peoria County, IL	186,494
Miami Beach city, FL	87,779	Petoskey city, MI	5,670
Miami city, FL	399,457	Pflugerville city, TX	46,936
Middleton city, WI.....	17,442	Phoenix city, AZ.....	1,445,632
Midland city, MI	41,863	Pinal County, AZ	375,770
Milford city, DE	9,559	Pinehurst village, NC	13,124
Milton city, GA	32,661	Piqua city, OH.....	20,522
Minneapolis city, MN	382,578	Pitkin County, CO.....	17,148
Mission Viejo city, CA	93,305	Plano city, TX	259,841
Modesto city, CA	201,165	Platte City city, MO.....	4,691
Monterey city, CA.....	27,810	Plymouth city, MN.....	70,576
Montgomery County, VA.....	94,392	Pocatello city, ID.....	54,255
Monticello city, UT.....	1,972	Polk County, IA.....	430,640
Monument town, CO	5,530	Pompano Beach city, FL	99,845
Mooresville town, NC.....	32,711	Port Huron city, MI.....	30,184
Morristown city, TN.....	29,137	Port Orange city, FL	56,048
Morrisville town, NC	18,576	Portland city, OR.....	583,776
Moscow city, ID	23,800	Post Falls city, ID	27,574
Mountain Village town, CO.....	1,320	Prince William County, VA.....	402,002
Mountlake Terrace city, WA	19,909	Prior Lake city, MN.....	22,796
Muscatine city, IA	22,886	Provo city, UT	112,488
Naperville city, IL	141,853	Pueblo city, CO	106,595
Needham CDP, MA.....	28,886	Purcellville town, VA	7,727
New Braunfels city, TX	57,740	Queen Creek town, AZ	26,361
New Brighton city, MN.....	21,456	Radnor township, PA.....	31,531
New Hanover County, NC	202,667	Ramsey city, MN	23,668
New Orleans city, LA	343,829	Rapid City city, SD	67,956
New Smyrna Beach city, FL	22,464	Raymore city, MO	19,206
Newberg city, OR.....	22,068	Redmond city, WA	54,144
Newport Beach city, CA	85,186	Rehoboth Beach city, DE	1,327
Newport News city, VA	180,719	Reno city, NV.....	225,221
Newton city, IA	15,254	Reston CDP, VA	58,404
Noblesville city, IN	51,969	Richmond city, CA	103,701
Nogales city, AZ.....	20,837	Richmond Heights city, MO.....	8,603
Norfolk city, VA.....	242,803	Rifle city, CO.....	9,172
North Richland Hills city, TX.....	63,343	River Falls city, WI	15,000
Northglenn city, CO.....	35,789	Riverdale city, UT.....	8,426
Novato city, CA	51,904	Riverside city, CA	303,871
Novi city, MI	55,224	Riverside city, MO	2,937
O'Fallon city, IL.....	28,281	Rochester Hills city, MI	70,995
O'Fallon city, MO.....	79,329	Rock Hill city, SC	66,154
Oak Park village, IL	51,878	Rockford city, IL	152,871
Oakland city, CA	390,724	Rockville city, MD.....	61,209
Oakland Park city, FL.....	41,363	Rogers city, MN	8,597
Oakley city, CA	35,432	Rolla city, MO	19,559
Ogdensburg city, NY	11,128	Roselle village, IL	22,763
Oklahoma City city, OK.....	579,999	Rosemount city, MN	21,874
Olathe city, KS	125,872	Roseville city, MN.....	33,660
Old Town city, ME	7,840	Roswell city, GA	88,346
Olmsted County, MN	144,248	Round Rock city, TX.....	99,887
Olympia city, WA	46,478	Royal Oak city, MI.....	57,236
Orland Park village, IL	56,767	Saco city, ME.....	18,482

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Sahuarita town, AZ	25,259	Surprise city, AZ.....	117,517
Sammamish city, WA.....	45,780	Suwanee city, GA.....	15,355
San Anselmo town, CA	12,336	Tacoma city, WA.....	198,397
San Antonio city, TX.....	1,327,407	Takoma Park city, MD	16,715
San Carlos city, CA	28,406	Tamarac city, FL	60,427
San Diego city, CA	1,307,402	Temecula city, CA	100,097
San Francisco city, CA	805,235	Tempe city, AZ	161,719
San Jose city, CA	945,942	Temple city, TX.....	66,102
San Juan County, NM	130,044	The Woodlands CDP, TX.....	93,847
San Marcos city, CA.....	83,781	Thornton city, CO.....	118,772
San Marcos city, TX.....	44,894	Thousand Oaks city, CA.....	126,683
San Rafael city, CA.....	57,713	Tigard city, OR.....	48,035
Sandy Springs city, GA	93,853	Tracy city, CA	82,922
Sanford city, FL.....	53,570	Tualatin city, OR	26,054
Sangamon County, IL.....	197,465	Tulsa city, OK	391,906
Santa Clarita city, CA.....	176,320	Twin Falls city, ID	44,125
Santa Fe County, NM.....	144,170	Tyler city, TX	96,900
Santa Monica city, CA.....	89,736	Umatilla city, OR	6,906
Sarasota County, FL	379,448	Upper Arlington city, OH.....	33,771
Savage city, MN	26,911	Urbandale city, IA	39,463
Scarborough CDP, ME	4,403	Vail town, CO.....	5,305
Schaumburg village, IL.....	74,227	Vancouver city, WA	161,791
Scott County, MN	129,928	Vestavia Hills city, AL	34,033
Scottsdale city, AZ	217,385	Victoria city, MN.....	7,345
Seaside city, CA	33,025	Virginia Beach city, VA.....	437,994
SeaTac city, WA.....	26,909	Wake Forest town, NC.....	30,117
Sevierville city, TN.....	14,807	Walnut Creek city, CA.....	64,173
Shawnee city, KS	62,209	Washington County, MN	238,136
Sheboygan city, WI.....	49,288	Washington town, NH	1,123
Shoreview city, MN	25,043	Washoe County, NV	421,407
Shorewood city, MN	7,307	Watauga city, TX	23,497
Shorewood village, IL	15,615	Wauwatosa city, WI	46,396
Shorewood village, WI.....	13,162	Waverly city, IA	9,874
Sioux Center city, IA	7,048	Weddington town, NC	9,459
Sioux Falls city, SD.....	153,888	Wentzville city, MO.....	29,070
Skokie village, IL	64,784	West Carrollton city, OH	13,143
Snellville city, GA	18,242	West Chester borough, PA	18,461
Snowmass Village town, CO.....	2,826	West Des Moines city, IA	56,609
South Kingstown town, RI	30,639	West Richland city, WA.....	11,811
South Lake Tahoe city, CA.....	21,403	Western Springs village, IL	12,975
South Portland city, ME	25,002	Westerville city, OH.....	36,120
Southborough town, MA.....	9,767	Westlake town, TX.....	992
Southlake city, TX	26,575	Westminster city, CO.....	106,114
Sparks city, NV	90,264	Weston town, MA.....	11,261
Spokane Valley city, WA	89,755	Wheat Ridge city, CO	30,166
Spring Hill city, KS.....	5,437	White House city, TN.....	10,255
Springboro city, OH.....	17,409	Wichita city, KS.....	382,368
Springfield city, MO	159,498	Williamsburg city, VA.....	14,068
Springfield city, OR	59,403	Wilmington city, NC.....	106,476
Springville city, UT	29,466	Wilsonville city, OR.....	19,509
St. Charles city, IL.....	32,974	Winchester city, VA	26,203
St. Cloud city, FL.....	35,183	Windsor town, CO.....	18,644
St. Cloud city, MN	65,842	Windsor town, CT	29,044
St. Joseph city, MO	76,780	Winnetka village, IL.....	12,187
St. Louis County, MN.....	200,226	Winston-Salem city, NC	229,617
St. Louis Park city, MN.....	45,250	Winter Garden city, FL.....	34,568
Stallings town, NC.....	13,831	Woodbury city, MN.....	61,961
State College borough, PA	42,034	Woodland city, CA.....	55,468
Steamboat Springs city, CO	12,088	Woodland city, WA.....	5,509
Sterling Heights city, MI	129,699	Wrentham town, MA	10,955
Sugar Grove village, IL	8,997	Yakima city, WA.....	91,067
Sugar Land city, TX.....	78,817	York County, VA.....	65,464
Summit city, NJ.....	21,457	Yorktown town, IN	9,405
Summit County, UT.....	36,324		
Sunnyvale city, CA	140,081		

Appendix C: Detailed Survey Methods

The National Citizen Survey (The NCS™), conducted by National Research Center, Inc., was developed to provide communities an accurate, affordable and easy way to assess and interpret resident opinion about important local topics. Standardization of common questions and survey methods provide the rigor to assure valid results, and each community has enough flexibility to construct a customized version of The NCS.

Results offer insight into residents' perspectives about the community as a whole, including local amenities, services, public trust, resident participation and other aspects of the community in order to support budgeting, land use and strategic planning and communication with residents. Resident demographic characteristics permit comparison to the Census as well as comparison of results for different subgroups of residents. Meridian Township funded this research. Please contact the Meridian Township office at (517) 853-4258 if you have any questions about the survey.

Survey Validity

The question of survey validity has two parts: 1) how can a community be confident that the results from those who completed the questionnaire are representative of the results that would have been obtained had the survey been administered to the entire population? and 2) how closely do the perspectives recorded on the survey reflect what residents really believe or do?

To answer the first question, the best survey research practices were used for the resources spent to ensure that the results from the survey respondents reflect the opinions of residents in the entire community. These practices include:

- Using a mail-out/mail-back methodology, which typically gets a higher response rate than phone for the same dollars spent. A higher response rate lessens the worry that those who did not respond are different than those who did respond.
- Selecting households at random within the community to receive the survey to ensure that the households selected to receive the survey are representative of the larger community.
- Over-sampling multi-family housing units to improve response from hard-to-reach, lower income or younger apartment dwellers.
- Selecting the respondent within the household using an unbiased sampling procedure; in this case, the "birthday method." The cover letter included an instruction requesting that the respondent in the household be the adult (18 years old or older) who most recently had a birthday, irrespective of year of birth.
- Contacting potential respondents three times to encourage response from people who may have different opinions or habits than those who would respond with only a single prompt.
- Inviting response in a compelling manner (using appropriate letterhead/logos and a signature of a visible leader) to appeal to recipients' sense of civic responsibility.
- Providing a pre-addressed, postage-paid return envelope.
- Offering the survey in Spanish or other language when requested by a given community.
- Weighting the results to reflect the demographics of the population.

The answer to the second question about how closely the perspectives recorded on the survey reflect what residents really believe or do is more complex. Resident responses to surveys are influenced by a variety of factors. For questions about service quality, residents' expectations for service quality play a role as well as the "objective" quality of the service provided, the way the resident perceives the entire community (that is, the context in which the service is provided), the scale on which the resident is asked to record his or her opinion and, of course, the opinion, itself, that a resident holds about the service. Similarly a resident's report of certain behaviors is colored by what he or she believes is the socially desirable response (e.g., reporting tolerant behaviors toward "oppressed groups," likelihood of voting for a tax increase for services to poor people, use of alternative modes of travel to work besides the single occupancy vehicle), his or her memory of the actual behavior (if it is not a question speculating about future actions, like a vote), his or her confidence that he or she can be honest without suffering any negative consequences (thus the need for anonymity) as well as the actual behavior itself.

How closely survey results come to recording the way a person really feels or behaves often is measured by the coincidence of reported behavior with observed current behavior (e.g., driving habits), reported intentions to behave with observed future behavior (e.g., voting choices) or reported opinions about current community quality

with objective characteristics of the community (e.g., feelings of safety correlated with rates of crime). There is a body of scientific literature that has investigated the relationship between reported behaviors and actual behaviors. Well-conducted surveys, by and large, do capture true respondent behaviors or intentions to act with great accuracy. Predictions of voting outcomes tend to be quite accurate using survey research, as do reported behaviors that are not about highly sensitive issues (e.g., family abuse or other illegal or morally sanctioned activities). For self-reports about highly sensitive issues, statistical adjustments can be made to correct for the respondents' tendency to report what they think the "correct" response should be.

Research on the correlation of resident opinion about service quality and "objective" ratings of service quality vary, with some showing stronger relationships than others. NRC's own research has demonstrated that residents who report the lowest ratings of street repair live in communities with objectively worse street conditions than those who report high ratings of street repair (based on road quality, delay in street repair, number of road repair employees). Similarly, the lowest rated fire services appear to be "objectively" worse than the highest rated fire services (expenditures per capita, response time, "professional" status of firefighters, breadth of services and training provided). Resident opinion commonly reflects objective performance data but is an important measure on its own. NRC principals have written, "If you collect trash three times a day but residents think that your trash haul is lousy, you still have a problem."

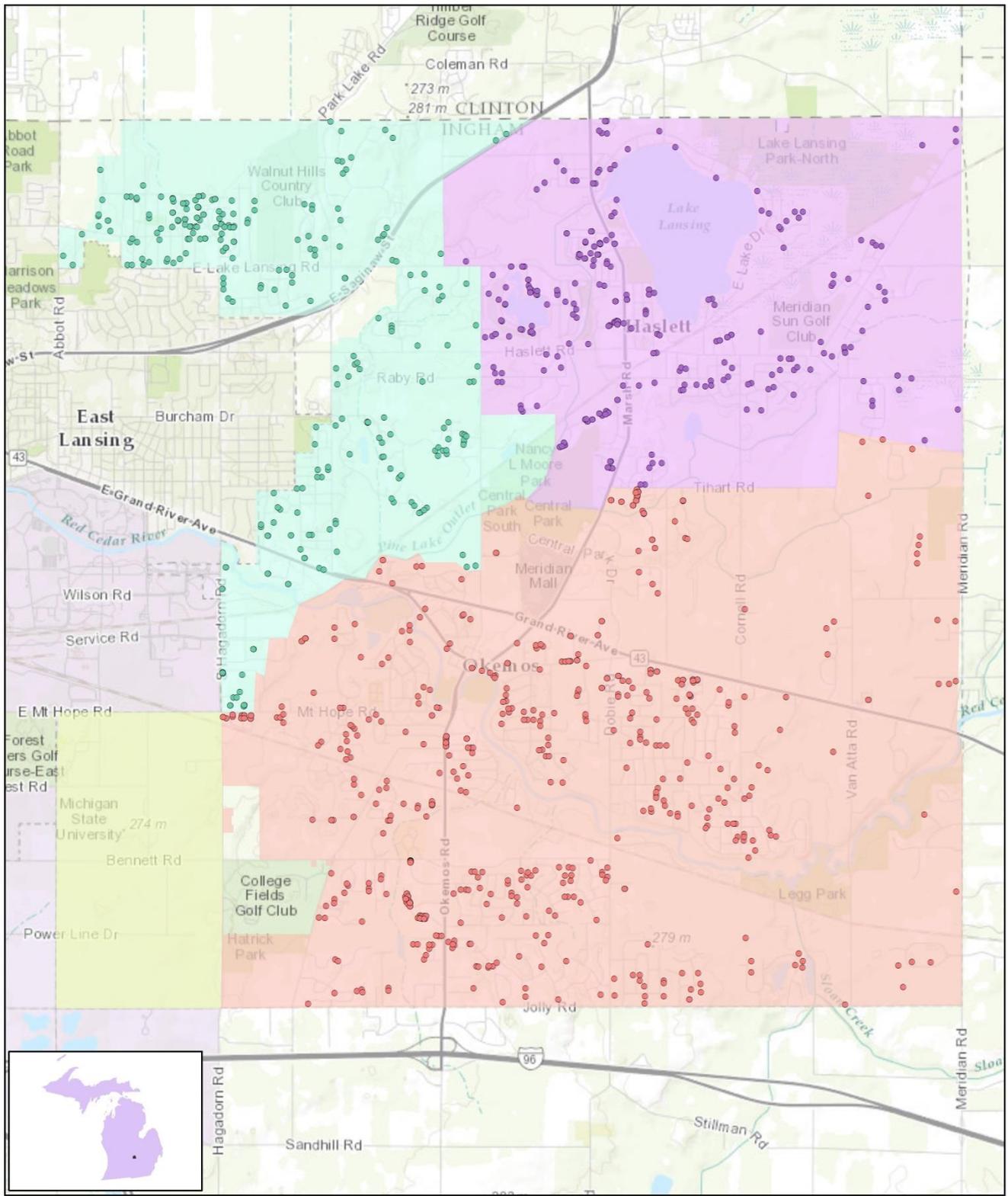
Survey Sampling

"Sampling" refers to the method by which households were chosen to receive the survey. All households within Meridian Township were eligible to participate in the survey. A list of all households within the zip codes serving Meridian Township was purchased based on updated listings from the United States Postal Service. Since some of the zip codes that serve Meridian Township households may also serve addresses that lie outside of the community, the exact geographic location of each housing unit was compared to community boundaries using the most current municipal boundary file (updated on a quarterly basis) and addresses located outside of Meridian Township boundaries were removed from consideration. Each address identified as being within township boundaries was further identified as being within one of the three listed zip codes.

To choose the 1,400 survey recipients, a systematic sampling method was applied to the list of households previously screened for geographic location. Systematic sampling is a procedure whereby a complete list of all possible households is culled, selecting every *Nth* one, giving each eligible household a known probability of selection, until the appropriate number of households is selected. Multi-family housing units were over sampled as residents of this type of housing typically respond at lower rates to surveys than do those in single-family housing units. Figure 1 displays a map of the households selected to receive the survey. In general, because of the random sampling techniques used, the displayed sampling density will closely mirror the overall housing unit density (which may be different from the population density). While the theory of probability assumes no bias in selection, there may be some minor variations in practice (meaning, an area with only 15% of the housing units might be sampled at an actual rate that is slightly above or below that).

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

Table 75: Location of Survey Recipients



Survey Recipients in Meridian Charter Township, MI

- In Zip 48823 ● In Zip 48864 ● Zip 48823 ● Zip 48864
- In Zip 48840 ● Zip 48840 ● Zip 48910



Survey Administration and Response

Selected households received three mailings, one week apart, beginning on October 7, 2015. The first mailing was a prenotification postcard announcing the upcoming survey. The next mailing contained a letter from the Township Manager inviting the household to participate, a questionnaire and a postage-paid return envelope. The final mailing contained a reminder letter, another survey and a postage-paid return envelope. The second cover letter asked those who had not completed the survey to do so and those who had already done so to refrain from turning in another survey. Respondents could opt to take the survey online. Completed surveys were collected over the following six weeks.

About 4% of the 1,400 surveys mailed were returned because the housing unit was vacant or the postal service was unable to deliver the survey as addressed. Of the remaining 1,339 households that received the survey, 331 completed the survey, providing an overall response rate of 25%. Of the 331 completed surveys, 32 were completed online. Additionally, responses were tracked by zip code; response rates by zip code ranged from 20% to 27%.

Table 76: Survey Response Rates by Area

Area name	Number mailed	Undeliverable	Eligible	Returned	Response rate
Zip Code 48823	380	12	368	74	20%
Zip Code 48840	332	17	315	81	26%
Zip Code 48864	688	32	656	176	27%
Overall	1,400	61	1,339	331	25%

Confidence Intervals

It is customary to describe the precision of estimates made from surveys by a “level of confidence” and accompanying “confidence interval” (or margin of error). A traditional level of confidence, and the one used here, is 95%. The 95% confidence interval can be any size and quantifies the sampling error or imprecision of the survey results because some residents’ opinions are relied on to estimate all residents’ opinions.¹

The margin of error for the Meridian Township survey is no greater than plus or minus five percentage points around any given percent reported for the entire sample (331 completed surveys).

For subgroups of responses, the margin of error increases because the sample size for the subgroup is smaller. For subgroups of approximately 100 respondents, the margin of error is plus or minus 10 percentage points.

Survey Processing (Data Entry)

Upon receipt, completed surveys were assigned a unique identification number. Additionally, each survey was reviewed and “cleaned” as necessary. For example, a question may have asked a respondent to pick two items out of a list of five, but the respondent checked three; in this case, NRC would use protocols to randomly choose two of the three selected items for inclusion in the dataset.

All surveys then were entered twice into an electronic dataset; any discrepancies were resolved in comparison to the original survey form. Range checks as well as other forms of quality control were also performed.

Survey Data Weighting

The demographic characteristics of the survey sample were compared to those found in the 2010 Census and American Community Survey estimates for adults in Meridian Township. The primary objective of weighting survey data is to make the survey sample reflective of the larger population of the community. The characteristics used for weighting were housing unit type, housing tenure, race, ethnicity, gender and age. The results of the weighting scheme are presented in the following table.

¹ A 95% confidence interval indicates that for every 100 random samples of this many residents, 95 of the confidence intervals created will include the “true” population response. This theory is applied in practice to mean that the “true” perspective of the target population lies within the confidence interval created for a single survey. For example, if 75% of residents rate a service as “excellent” or “good,” then the 4% margin of error (for the 95% confidence interval) indicates that the range of likely responses for the entire community is between 71% and 79%. This source of uncertainty is called sampling error. In addition to sampling error, other sources of error may affect any survey, including the non-response of residents with opinions different from survey responders. Though standardized on The NCS, on other surveys, differences in question wording, order, translation and data entry, as examples, can lead to somewhat varying results.

The National Citizen Survey™

Table 77: Meridian Township, MI 2015 Weighting Table

Characteristic	Population Norm	Unweighted Data	Weighted Data
Housing			
Rent home	39%	20%	38%
Own home	61%	80%	62%
Detached unit	58%	74%	60%
Attached unit	42%	26%	40%
Race and Ethnicity			
White	82%	86%	81%
Not white	18%	14%	19%
Not Hispanic	97%	98%	98%
Hispanic	3%	2%	2%
Sex and Age			
Female	53%	53%	48%
Male	47%	47%	52%
18-34 years of age	33%	15%	29%
35-54 years of age	32%	26%	38%
55+ years of age	35%	59%	33%
Females 18-34	17%	10%	16%
Females 35-54	17%	15%	16%
Females 55+	19%	28%	17%
Males 18-34	16%	4%	14%
Males 35-54	25%	11%	23%
Males 55+	16%	32%	15%
Zip Code			
48823	26%	22%	22%
48840	26%	24%	25%
48864	48%	53%	53%

Survey Data Analysis and Reporting

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

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

Appendix D: Survey Materials

The Meridian Township 2015 Citizen Survey

Please complete this questionnaire if you are the adult (age 18 or older) in the household who most recently had a birthday. The adult's year of birth does not matter. Please select the response (by circling the number or checking the box) that most closely represents your opinion for each question. Your responses are anonymous and will be reported in group form only.

1. Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in Meridian Township:

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

2. Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Meridian Township as a whole:

	<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Overall feeling of safety in Meridian Township.....	1	2	3	4	5
Overall ease of getting to the places you usually have to visit	1	2	3	4	5
Quality of overall natural environment in Meridian Township.....	1	2	3	4	5
Overall "built environment" of Meridian Township (including overall design, buildings, parks and transportation systems)	1	2	3	4	5
Health and wellness opportunities in Meridian Township	1	2	3	4	5
Overall opportunities for education and enrichment	1	2	3	4	5
Overall economic health of Meridian Township	1	2	3	4	5
Sense of community	1	2	3	4	5
Overall image or reputation of Meridian Township	1	2	3	4	5

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

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

4. Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel:

	<i>Very safe</i>	<i>Somewhat safe</i>	<i>Neither safe nor unsafe</i>	<i>Somewhat unsafe</i>	<i>Very unsafe</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
In your neighborhood during the day	1	2	3	4	5	6
In Meridian Township's downtown/commercial area during the day.....	1	2	3	4	5	6

5. Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Meridian Township as a whole:

	<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Traffic flow on major streets.....	1	2	3	4	5
Ease of public parking	1	2	3	4	5
Ease of travel by car in Meridian Township.....	1	2	3	4	5
Ease of travel by public transportation in Meridian Township.....	1	2	3	4	5
Ease of travel by bicycle in Meridian Township	1	2	3	4	5
Ease of walking in Meridian Township	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of paths and walking trails	1	2	3	4	5
Air quality.....	1	2	3	4	5
Cleanliness of Meridian Township.....	1	2	3	4	5
Overall appearance of Meridian Township.....	1	2	3	4	5
Public places where people want to spend time	1	2	3	4	5
Variety of housing options.....	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of affordable quality housing	1	2	3	4	5
Fitness opportunities (including exercise classes and paths or trails, etc.).....	1	2	3	4	5
Recreational opportunities.....	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of affordable quality food	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of affordable quality health care	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of preventive health services	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of affordable quality mental health care	1	2	3	4	5

6. Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Meridian Township as a whole:

	<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Availability of affordable quality child care/preschool.....	1	2	3	4	5
K-12 education	1	2	3	4	5
Adult educational opportunities	1	2	3	4	5
Opportunities to attend cultural/arts/music activities	1	2	3	4	5
Opportunities to participate in religious or spiritual events and activities	1	2	3	4	5
Employment opportunities	1	2	3	4	5
Shopping opportunities	1	2	3	4	5
Cost of living in Meridian Township.....	1	2	3	4	5
Overall quality of business and service establishments in Meridian Township.	1	2	3	4	5
Vibrant downtown/commercial area.....	1	2	3	4	5
Overall quality of new development in Meridian Township	1	2	3	4	5
Opportunities to participate in social events and activities	1	2	3	4	5
Opportunities to volunteer.....	1	2	3	4	5
Opportunities to participate in community matters	1	2	3	4	5
Openness and acceptance of the community toward people of diverse backgrounds.....	1	2	3	4	5
Neighborliness of residents in Meridian Township.....	1	2	3	4	5

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

	<i>No</i>	<i>Yes</i>
Made efforts to conserve water	1	2
Made efforts to make your home more energy efficient	1	2
Observed a code violation or other hazard in Meridian Township (weeds, abandoned buildings, etc.).....	1	2
Household member was a victim of a crime in Meridian Township.....	1	2
Reported a crime to the police in Meridian Township	1	2
Stocked supplies in preparation for an emergency	1	2
Campaigned or advocated for an issue, cause or candidate.....	1	2
Contacted Meridian Township (in-person, phone, email or web) for help or information.....	1	2
Contacted Meridian Township elected officials (in-person, phone, email or web) to express your opinion	1	2

8. In the last 12 months, about how many times, if at all, have you or other household members done each of the following in Meridian Township?

	<i>2 times a week or more</i>	<i>2-4 times a month</i>	<i>Once a month or less</i>	<i>Not at all</i>
Used Meridian Township recreation centers or their services	1	2	3	4
Visited a neighborhood park or Township park	1	2	3	4
Used Meridian Township public libraries or their services.....	1	2	3	4
Participated in religious or spiritual activities in Meridian Township	1	2	3	4
Attended a Township-sponsored event	1	2	3	4
Used bus, rail, subway or other public transportation instead of driving.....	1	2	3	4
Carpooled with other adults or children instead of driving alone	1	2	3	4
Walked or biked instead of driving.....	1	2	3	4
Volunteered your time to some group/activity in Meridian Township.....	1	2	3	4
Participated in a club.....	1	2	3	4
Talked to or visited with your immediate neighbors	1	2	3	4
Done a favor for a neighbor.....	1	2	3	4

9. Thinking about local public meetings (of local elected officials like City Council or County Commissioners, advisory boards, town halls, HOA, neighborhood watch, etc.), in the last 12 months, about how many times, if at all, have you or other household members attended or watched a local public meeting?

	<i>2 times a week or more</i>	<i>2-4 times a month</i>	<i>Once a month or less</i>	<i>Not at all</i>
<u>Attended</u> a local public meeting	1	2	3	4
<u>Watched</u> (online or on television) a local public meeting.....	1	2	3	4

The Meridian Township 2015 Citizen Survey

10. Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Meridian Township:

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

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

	<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
The Meridian Township	1	2	3	4	5
The Federal Government	1	2	3	4	5

12. Please rate the following categories of Meridian Township government performance:

	<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
The value of services for the taxes paid to Meridian Township.....	1	2	3	4	5
The overall direction that Meridian Township is taking	1	2	3	4	5
The job Meridian Township government does at welcoming citizen involvement	1	2	3	4	5
Overall confidence in Meridian Township government.....	1	2	3	4	5
Generally acting in the best interest of the community	1	2	3	4	5
Being honest	1	2	3	4	5
Treating all residents fairly	1	2	3	4	5

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

	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Very important</i>	<i>Somewhat important</i>	<i>Not at all important</i>
Overall feeling of safety in Meridian Township	1	2	3	4
Overall ease of getting to the places you usually have to visit	1	2	3	4
Quality of overall natural environment in Meridian Township.....	1	2	3	4
Overall “built environment” of Meridian Township (including overall design, buildings, parks and transportation systems)	1	2	3	4
Health and wellness opportunities in Meridian Township	1	2	3	4
Overall opportunities for education and enrichment	1	2	3	4
Overall economic health of Meridian Township	1	2	3	4
Sense of community	1	2	3	4

14. Please indicate how important, if at all, each of the following projects and issues will be for the Township to address over the next five years:

	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Very important</i>	<i>Somewhat important</i>	<i>Not at all important</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Increase the availability of single family residential development	1	2	3	4	5
Increase the availability of multi-family (apartments) residential development.....	1	2	3	4	5
Increase commercial development	1	2	3	4	5
Redevelopment of downtown Haslett, Okemos and the Carriage Hills neighborhood .	1	2	3	4	5
Preservation of open space.....	1	2	3	4	5
Extension of existing pathways.....	1	2	3	4	5
Improvement of the local (neighborhood) roads	1	2	3	4	5
Increase energy conservation measures and use of alternative/clean energy sources.....	1	2	3	4	5
Public utility (water, sewer, cable, internet) improvement and expansion	1	2	3	4	5

15. Please indicate to what extent you would support or oppose a property tax increase for each of the following to fund new facilities, maintenance or services:

	<i>Strongly support</i>	<i>Somewhat support</i>	<i>Somewhat oppose</i>	<i>Strongly oppose</i>
Local (neighborhood) roads	1	2	3	4
Preservation of open space.....	1	2	3	4
Public safety- police, fire and rescue services	1	2	3	4
Energy conservation measures and use of alternative/clean energy sources	1	2	3	4
Pathways.....	1	2	3	4
Library services	1	2	3	4
Public transportation.....	1	2	3	4
Code enforcement.....	1	2	3	4
Additional street lighting	1	2	3	4
Landscaping/beautification enhancements to Township buildings/properties	1	2	3	4

16. Please indicate how much of a source, if at all, you consider each of the following to be for obtaining information about the Township government and its activities, events and services:

	<i>Major source</i>	<i>Minor source</i>	<i>Not a source</i>
Township Web site (www.meridian.mi.us)	1	2	3
Local media outlets (newspapers, radio, local television stations)	1	2	3
The local government cable Channel HOMTV.....	1	2	3
Township newsletter (Meridian Monitor)	1	2	3
Parks & Recreation Family Fun Guide.....	1	2	3
Township Board meetings and other public meetings.....	1	2	3
Talking with Township officials	1	2	3
Township communications via social media (i.e. Facebook, Twitter or YouTube)	1	2	3
Word-of-mouth.....	1	2	3

17. Currently under local laws (sign ordinance), the commercial business community is allowed to have one sign at a maximum size of 25 square feet. Please indicate to what extent you would support or oppose each of the following:

	<i>Strongly support</i>	<i>Somewhat support</i>	<i>Somewhat oppose</i>	<i>Strongly oppose</i>
Larger signs at local businesses.....	1	2	3	4
More signs at local businesses	1	2	3	4

The Meridian Township 2015 Citizen Survey

Our last questions are about you and your household. Again, all of your responses to this survey are completely anonymous and will be reported in group form only.

D1. How often, if at all, do you do each of the following, considering all of the times you could?

	<i>Never</i>	<i>Rarely</i>	<i>Sometimes</i>	<i>Usually</i>	<i>Always</i>
Recycle at home	1	2	3	4	5
Purchase goods or services from a business located in Meridian Township..	1	2	3	4	5
Eat at least 5 portions of fruits and vegetables a day	1	2	3	4	5
Participate in moderate or vigorous physical activity	1	2	3	4	5
Read or watch local news (via television, paper, computer, etc.)	1	2	3	4	5
Vote in local elections	1	2	3	4	5

D2. Would you say that in general your health is:

- Excellent
 Very good
 Good
 Fair
 Poor

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

- Very positive
 Somewhat positive
 Neutral
 Somewhat negative
 Very negative

D4. 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

D5. Do you work inside the boundaries of Meridian Township?

- Yes, outside the home
 Yes, from home
 No

D6. How many years have you lived in Meridian Township?

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

D7. Which best describes the building you live in?

- One family house detached from any other houses
 Building with two or more homes (duplex, townhome, apartment or condominium)
 Mobile home
 Other

D8. Is this house, apartment or mobile home...

- Rented
 Owned

D9. About how much is your monthly housing cost for the place you live (including rent, mortgage payment, property tax, property insurance and homeowners' association (HOA) fees)?

- Less than \$300 per month
 \$300 to \$599 per month
 \$600 to \$999 per month
 \$1,000 to \$1,499 per month
 \$1,500 to \$2,499 per month
 \$2,500 or more per month

D10. Do any children 17 or under live in your household?

- No Yes

D11. Are you or any other members of your household aged 65 or older?

- No Yes

D12. How much do you anticipate your household's total income before taxes will be for the current year? (Please include in your total income money from all sources for all persons living in your household.)

- Less than \$25,000
 \$25,000 to \$49,999
 \$50,000 to \$99,999
 \$100,000 to \$149,999
 \$150,000 or more

Please respond to both questions D13 and D14:

D13. Are you Spanish, Hispanic or Latino?

- No, not Spanish, Hispanic or Latino
 Yes, I consider myself to be Spanish, Hispanic or Latino

D14. What is your race? (Mark one or more races to indicate what race you consider yourself to be.)

- American Indian or Alaskan Native
 Asian, Asian Indian or Pacific Islander
 Black or African American
 White
 Other

D15. 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

D16. What is your sex?

- Female Male

D17. Do you consider a cell phone or land line your primary telephone number?

- Cell Land line Both

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