

THE NCSTM
The National Citizen SurveyTM

Meridian Charter Township, MI

Community Livability Report

2018



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The National Citizen Survey™
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The NCS™ is presented by NRC in collaboration with ICMA.

NRC is a charter member of the AAPOR Transparency Initiative, providing clear disclosure of our sound and ethical survey research practices.

About

The National Citizen Survey™ (The NCS) report is about the “livability” of Meridian Charter Township. The phrase “livable community” is used here to evoke a place that is not simply habitable, but that is desirable. It is not only where people do live, but where they want to live.

Great communities are partnerships of the government, private sector, community-based organizations and residents, all geographically connected. The NCS captures residents’ opinions within the three pillars of a community (Community Characteristics, Governance and Participation) across eight central facets of community (Safety, Mobility, Natural Environment, Built Environment, Economy, Recreation and Wellness, Education and Enrichment and Community Engagement).

The Community Livability Report provides the opinions of a representative sample of 345 residents of Meridian Charter Township. The margin of error around any reported percentage is 5% for all respondents. The full description of methods used to garner these opinions can be found in the *Technical Appendices* provided under separate cover.



Quality of Life in Meridian Charter Township

Most residents rated the quality of life in Meridian Charter Township as excellent or good. This rating was similar to the national comparison (see Appendix B of the *Technical Appendices* provided under separate cover).



Shown below are the eight facets of community. The color of each community facet summarizes how residents rated it across the three sections of the survey that represent the pillars of a community – Community Characteristics, Governance and Participation. When most ratings across the three pillars were higher than the benchmark, the color for that facet is the darkest shade; when most ratings were lower than the benchmark, the color is the lightest shade. A mix of ratings (higher and lower than the benchmark) results in a color between the extremes.

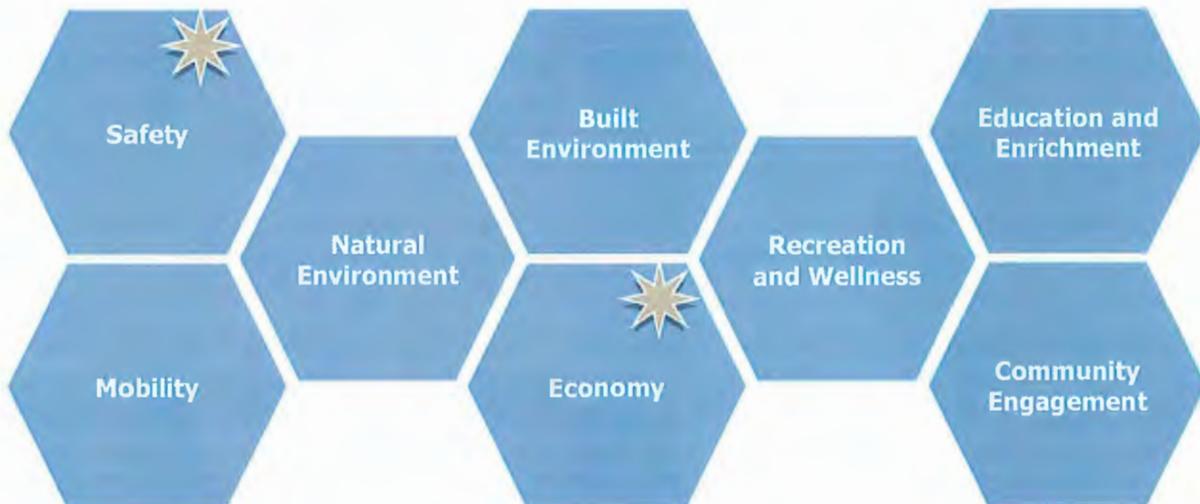
In addition to a summary of ratings, the image below includes one or more stars to indicate which community facets were the most important focus areas for the community. As in 2015, residents identified Safety and Economy as priorities for the Meridian Charter Township community in the coming two years. Ratings for these facets, as well as all other facets of community livability, were positive and similar to the national benchmarks. This overview of the key aspects of community quality provides a quick summary of where residents see exceptionally strong performance and where performance offers the greatest opportunity for improvement. Linking quality to importance offers community members and leaders a view into the characteristics of the community that matter most and that seem to be working best.

Details that support these findings are contained in the remainder of this Livability Report, starting with the ratings for Community Characteristics, Governance and Participation and ending with results for Meridian Charter Township's unique questions.

Legend

- Higher than national benchmark
- Similar to national benchmark
- Lower than national benchmark

* Most important



Community Characteristics

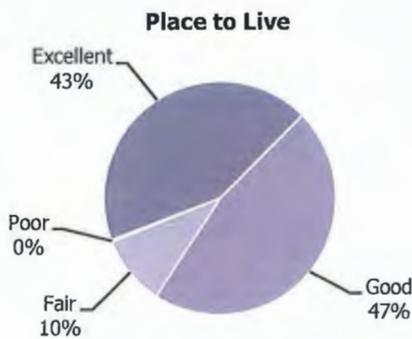
What makes a community livable, attractive and a place where people want to be?

Overall quality of community life represents the natural ambience, services and amenities that make for an attractive community. How residents rate their overall quality of life is an indicator of the overall health of a community. In the case of Meridian Charter Township, 90% rated the Township as an excellent or good place to live. Respondents' ratings of Meridian Charter Township as a place to live were similar to those observed in other communities across the nation.

In addition to rating the Township as a place to live, respondents rated several aspects of community quality including Meridian Charter Township as a place to raise children and to retire, their neighborhood as a place to live, the overall image or reputation of the Township and its overall appearance. Nine in 10 residents rated Meridian Charter Township positively as a place to raise children, a rating which was higher than the national average. About 7 in 10 gave favorable marks to Meridian Charter Township as a place to retire and its overall appearance, and more than 8 in 10 were pleased with the overall image or reputation of Meridian Charter Township and their neighborhood as a place to live. However, ratings for the overall image and reputation of the Township declined from 2015 to 2018 (for more information see the *Trends over Time* report under separate cover).

Delving deeper into Community Characteristics, survey respondents rated over 40 features of the community within the eight facets of Community Livability. All aspects of Recreation and Wellness and Community Engagement received ratings on par with other communities and were rated positively by a majority of residents. Residents gave ratings higher than the national averages for several aspects of Mobility, including overall ease of travel, ease of travel by public transportation, ease of travel by car and public parking. However, ratings for public parking and traffic flow decreased from 2015 to 2018.

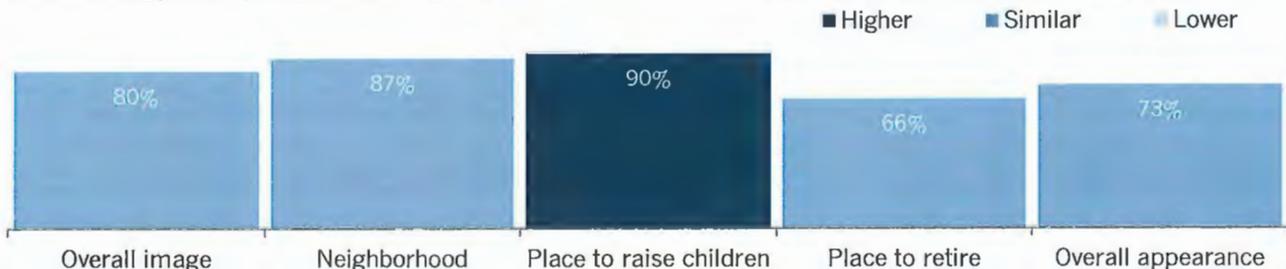
Marks for Education and Enrichment were strong, with residents giving education and enrichment opportunities, K-12 education and child care/preschool higher evaluations than other communities in the nation.



In items related to Economy and affordability, Meridian Charter Township residents rated affordable quality housing, variety of housing options and employment and shopping opportunities higher than the national benchmarks. Ratings for employment opportunities have been on the rise since 2009. However, residents gave ratings lower than the national average to vibrant downtown/commercial area, and evaluations for shopping opportunities and overall quality of business and service establishments decreased from 2015 to 2018.

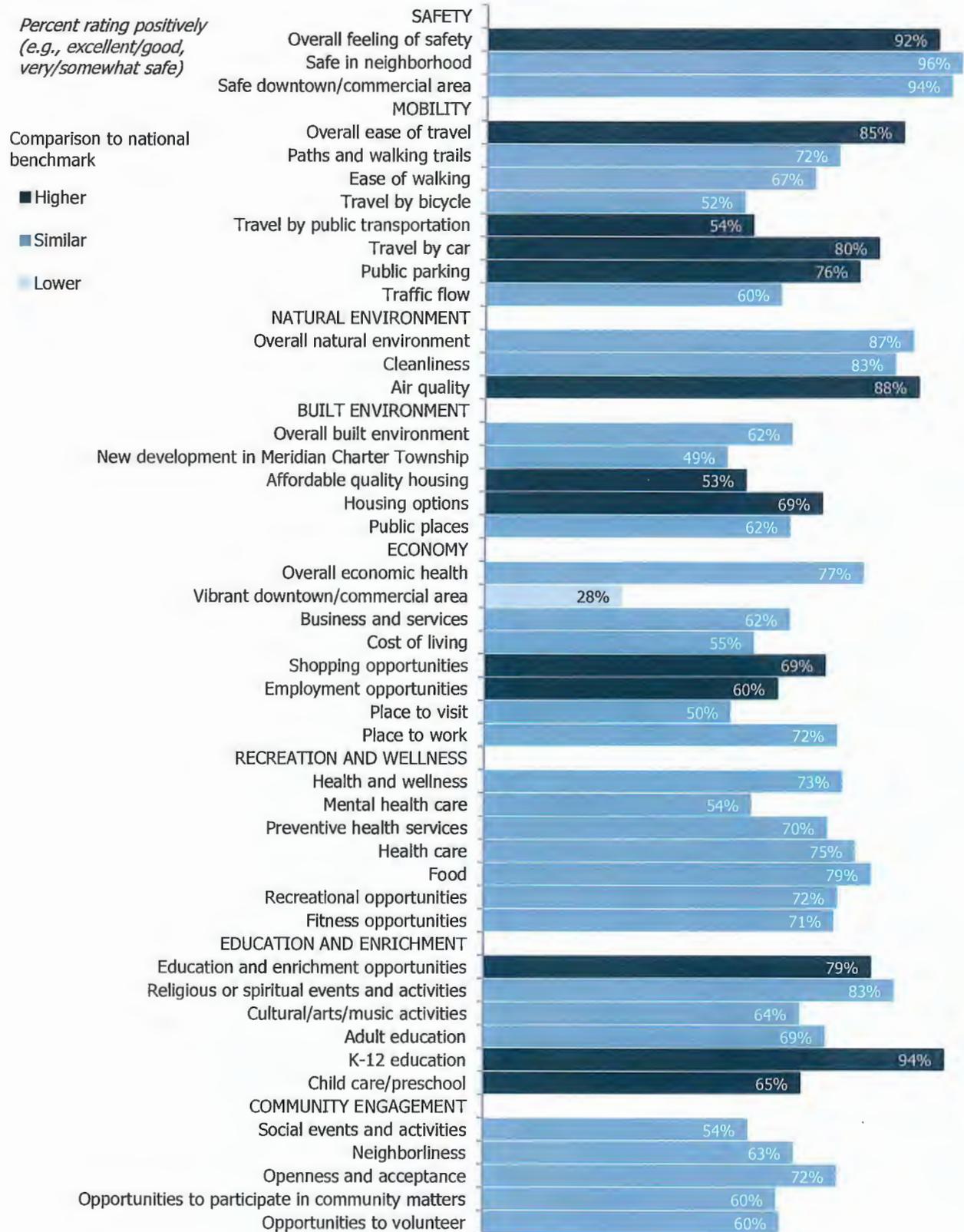
Percent rating positively (e.g., excellent/good)

Comparison to national benchmark



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Figure 1: Aspects of Community Characteristics



Governance

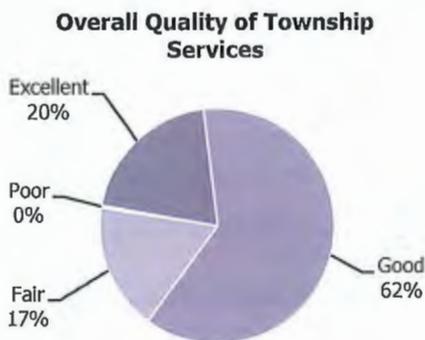
How well does the government of Meridian Charter Township meet the needs and expectations of its residents?

The overall quality of the services provided by Meridian Charter Township as well as the manner in which these services are provided is a key component of how residents rate their quality of life. Over three-quarters of respondents gave excellent or good ratings to the overall quality of Township services, while 45% gave excellent or good ratings to the Federal Government. Ratings for both levels of government were similar to the national benchmarks.

Survey respondents also rated various aspects of Meridian Charter Township’s leadership and governance. About 6 in 10 respondents or more gave positive ratings to all of these items and these ratings were similar to other communities across the nation. The overall quality of customer service provided by Meridian Charter Township employees received the highest ratings; 82% of respondents rated this aspect as excellent or good.

Respondents evaluated over 30 individual services and amenities available in Meridian Charter Township. All aspects of Built Environment, Economy, Recreation and Wellness, Education and Enrichment and Community Engagement were positive and similar to national averages.

At least 6 in 10 residents rated aspects of Safety positively, with crime prevention receiving ratings higher than the national average. Evaluations of fire prevention increased from 2015 to 2018.

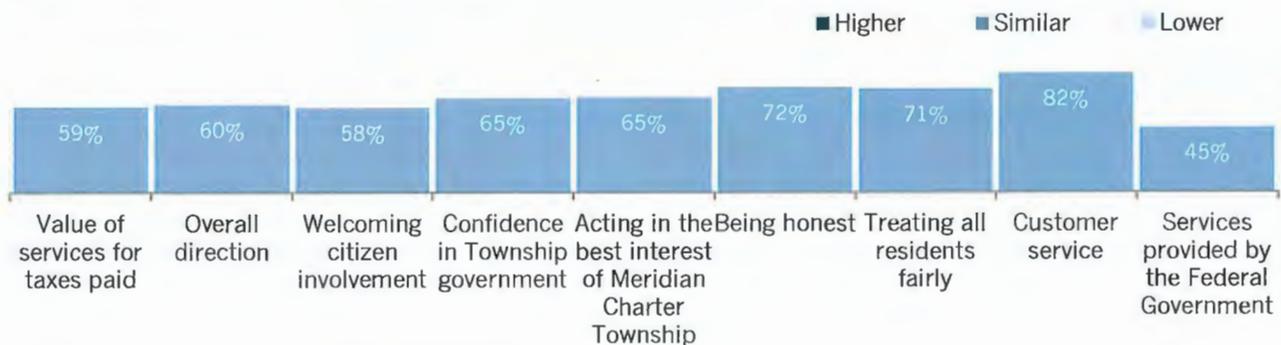


Evaluations of Mobility were mixed, with bus or transit services receiving marks higher than comparison communities, and street repair receiving marks lower than other communities.

Ratings for Natural Environment were also a mix, with natural areas preservation and open space ratings being strong and higher than national benchmarks, while the rating for yard waste pick-up was lower than the national benchmark.

Percent rating positively (e.g., excellent/good)

Comparison to national benchmark



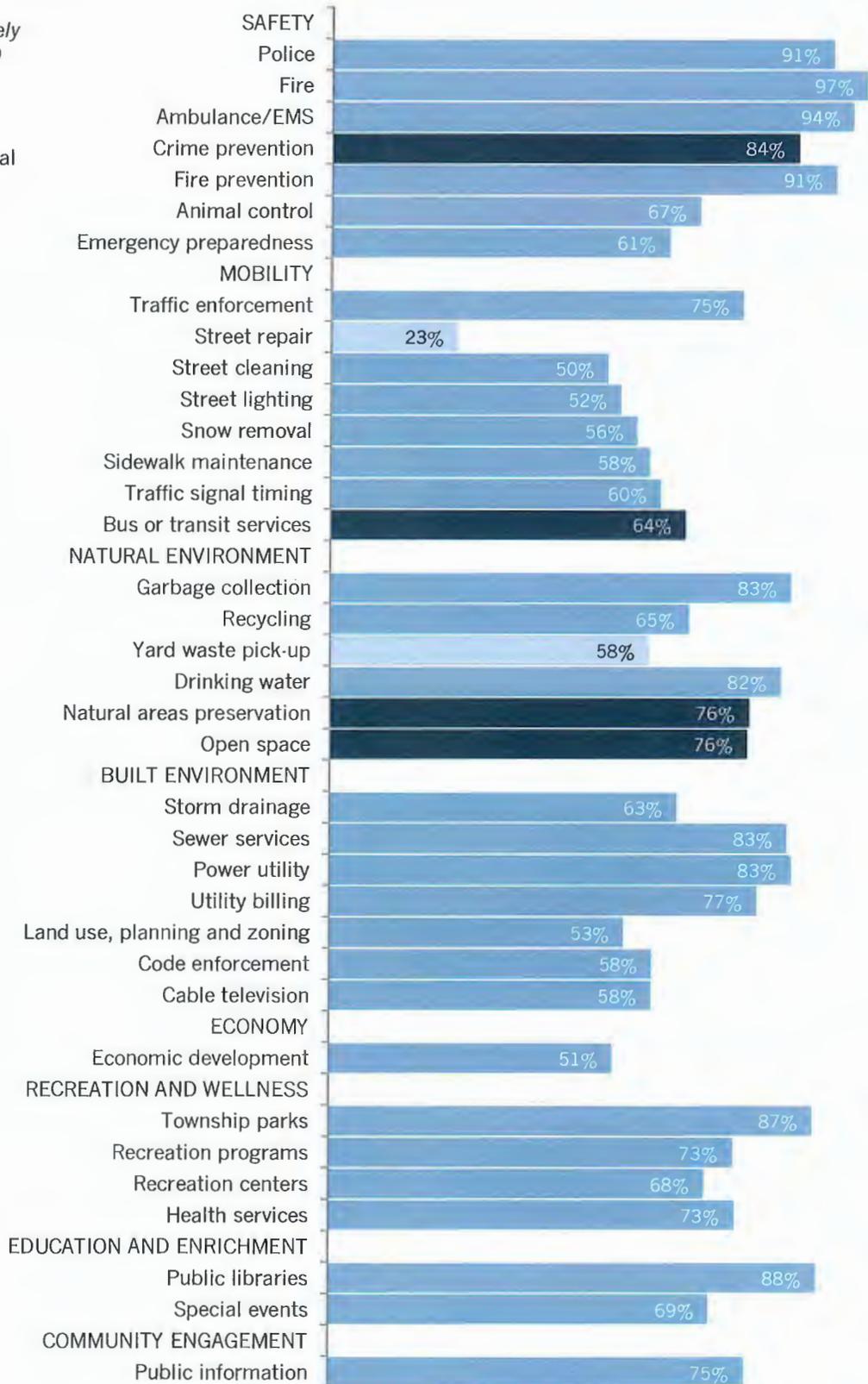
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Figure 2: Aspects of Governance

Percent rating positively
(e.g., excellent/good)

Comparison to national
benchmark

- Higher
- Similar
- Lower



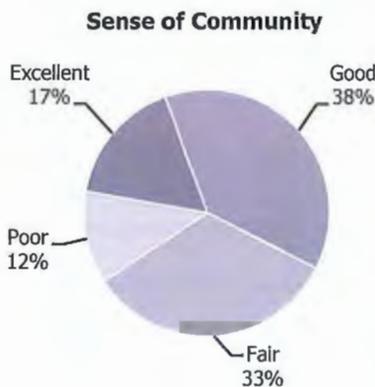
Participation

Are the residents of Meridian Charter Township connected to the community and each other?

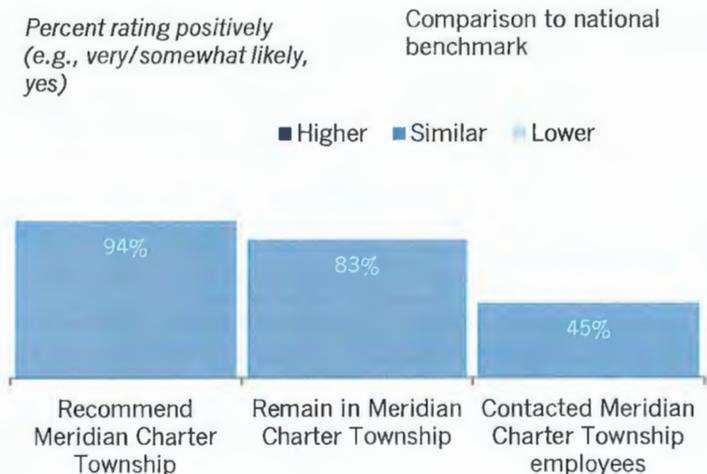
An engaged community harnesses its most valuable resource, its residents. The connections and trust among residents, government, businesses and other organizations help to create a sense of community, a shared sense of membership, belonging and history. Over half of residents rated the sense of community in the Township as excellent or good. This rating was similar to other communities in the nation. Over 9 in 10 residents recommended living in Meridian Charter Township and 8 in 10 residents planned to remain in Meridian Charter Township for the next five years. Almost half of residents had contacted Township employees in the last 12 months.

The survey included over 30 activities and behaviors for which respondents indicated how often they participated in or performed each, if at all. All aspects of Mobility, Natural Environment and Recreation and Wellness were on par with comparison communities. While at least 8 in 10 residents did not report a crime or were not a victim of a crime in the last 12 months, only one-quarter of residents had stocked supplies for an emergency, which was lower than the national average.

Virtually all residents had purchased goods or services in the Township. About one-third of residents reported that they thought the economy would have a positive impact on their income (which was similar to the benchmark) and that they worked in Meridian Charter Township (which was lower).

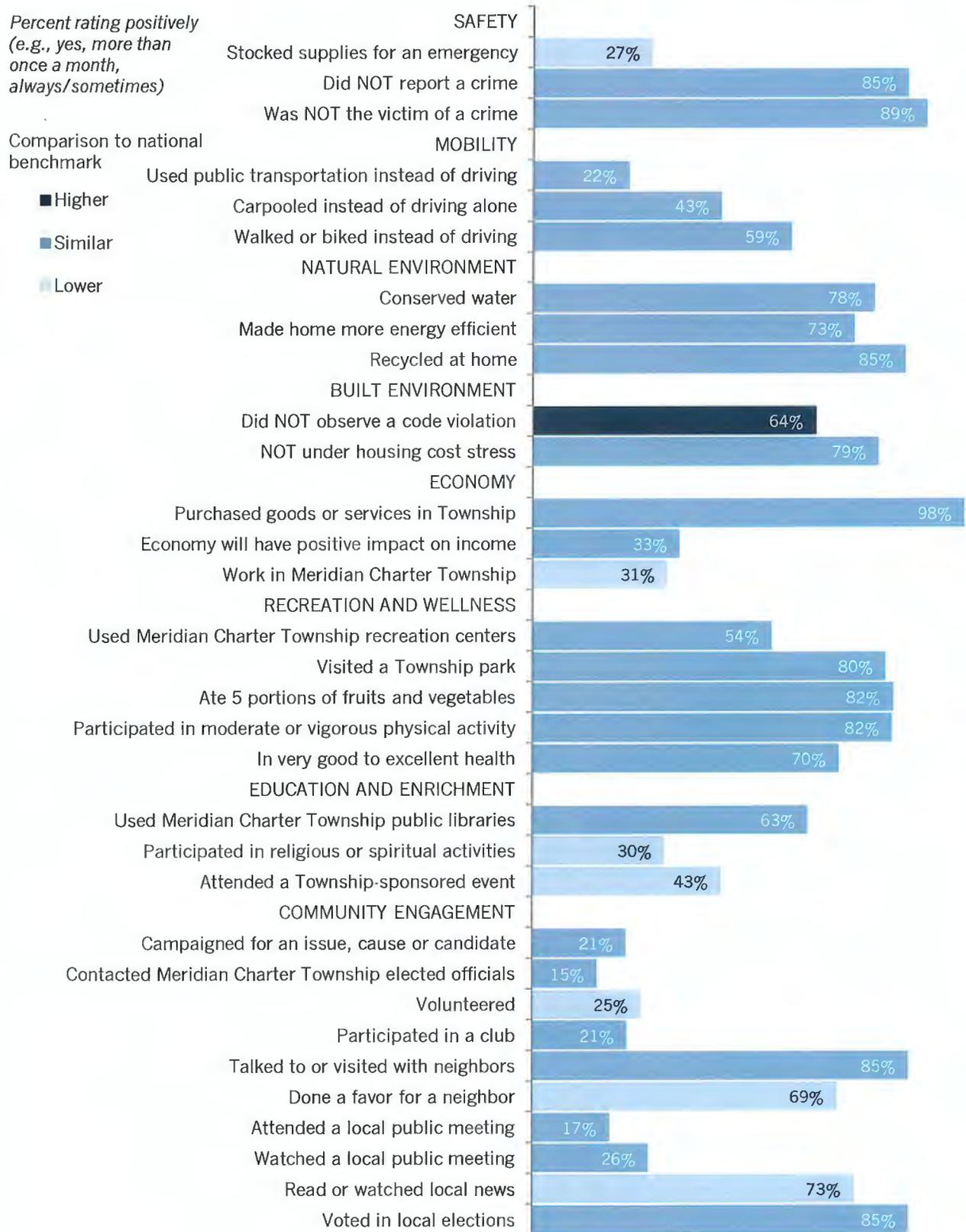


Levels of participation within Community Engagement were mixed. Over 8 in 10 residents had talked to or visited with neighbors and voted in local elections. Around 2 in 10 residents had campaigned for an issue, cause, or candidate, contacted Meridian Charter Township elected officials, participated in a club or attended or watched a local public meeting; these levels were all on par with national averages. However, reported levels of residents that had volunteered, done a favor for a neighbor or read or watched local news were lower than in comparison communities.



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Figure 3: Aspects of Participation



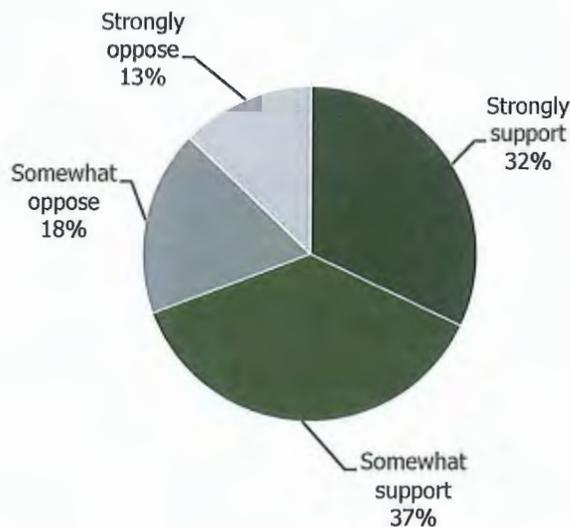
Special Topics

Meridian Charter Township included three questions of special interest on The NCS. Meridian Charter Township residents rated their support for increased millage to fix and maintain local roads, their support for actions regarding the Township's dedicated land preservation millage and Township sources of information.

Respondents indicated their support for or opposition to increased taxes to fix and maintain local roads in Meridian Charter Township. Over 6 in 10 residents said they strongly or somewhat support increased taxes, while 13% said they strongly or somewhat oppose the increase.

Figure 4: Support for Increased Millage to Fix and Maintain Local Roads

The Township currently has a local (neighborhood) road millage (tax) that generates an annual budget of \$424,000. Of the 147 miles of local roads, only 26% are rated good to excellent. Engineers have determined that the existing budget needs to be increased to \$3.5 million dollars per year in order to fix and maintain the local roads. This would require increasing the existing millage from 0.2479 to 2.00 mills per year (resulting in a cost of \$200 per year to the owner of a home valued at \$200,000). How much do you support or oppose this increased millage to fix and maintain the local roads?

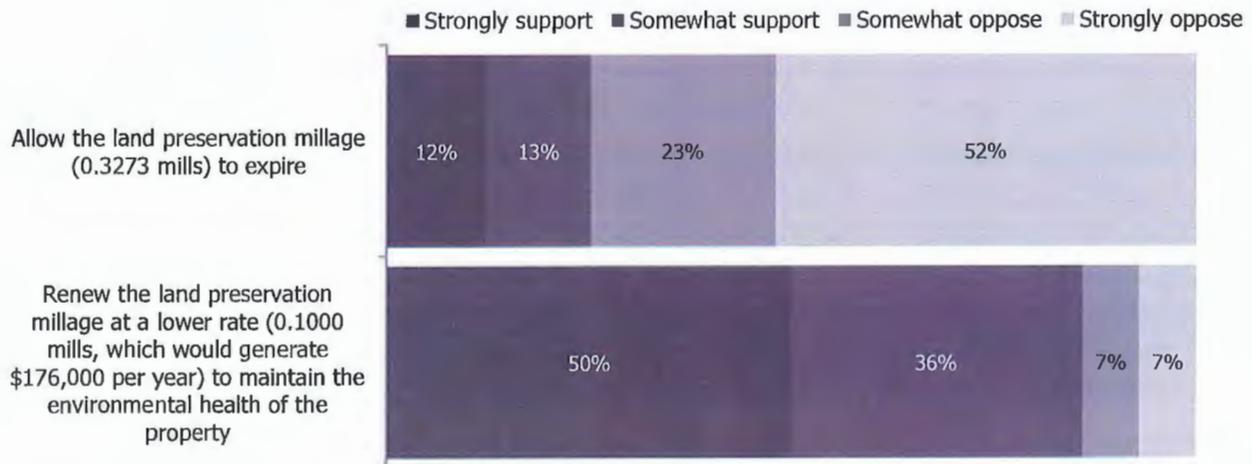


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Survey respondents also rated their support for two actions regarding the Township’s dedicated land preservation millage. One-quarter of residents support the action to allow the land preservation millage to expire; however, about one-quarter somewhat oppose this action and half strongly oppose this action. Over 8 in 10 residents support the action to renew the land preservation millage at a lower rate to maintain the environmental health of property.

Figure 5: Support for Actions Regarding Township’s Dedicated Land Preservation Millage

The Township’s dedicated land preservation millage (tax), which generates an annual budget of \$559,200 per year, is set to expire in 2019. Over the past 18 years, at a cost of over \$9.4 million, 968 acres have been acquired and preserved. The original goal of the tax was to acquire 600 acres. In addition to the land preservation properties, we currently also have over 900 acres of parks. How much do you support or oppose each of the following actions regarding the Township’s dedicated land preservation millage:

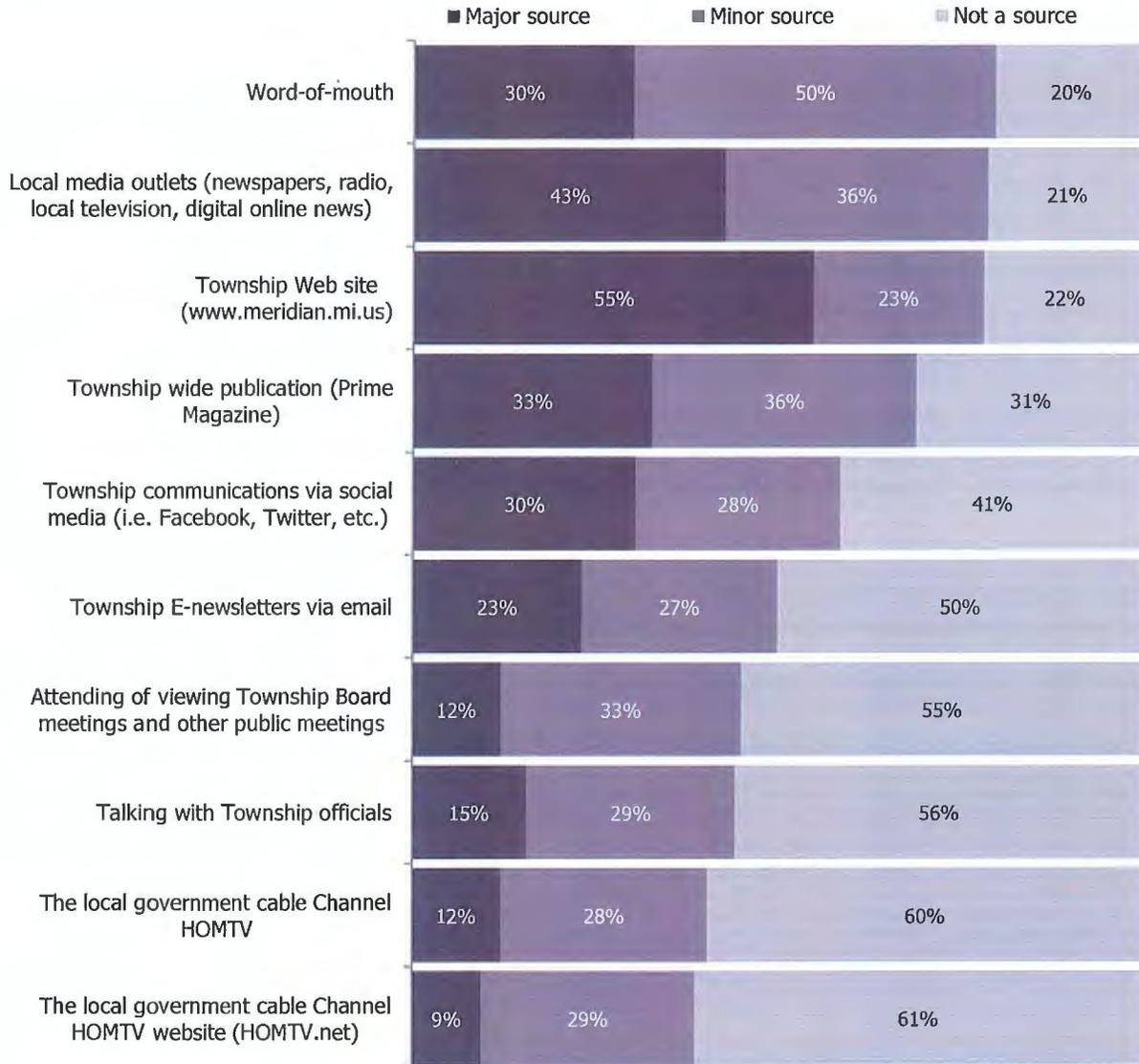


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When asked about sources used for obtaining information about Meridian Charter Township, at least 4 in 10 residents said they used each source as a major or minor source of information. Word-of-mouth, local media outlets and the Township website received the highest ratings, while the local government cable Channel HOMETV and the local government cable Channel HOMETV website received the lowest ratings.

Figure 6: Township Sources of Information

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:



Conclusions

Residents continue to enjoy a high quality of life, with safety as an important feature that makes Meridian Charter Township a livable community.

A majority of residents rated their overall quality of life as excellent or good, with 9 in 10 residents recommending living in Meridian Charter Township and 8 in 10 likely to remain in the Township for the next five years. About 9 in 10 residents positively viewed the Township as a place to live, their neighborhood as a place to live and as a place to raise children, the latter rating being exceptionally strong and higher than the national average. Safety was a top priority for residents and impacts the quality of life in Meridian Charter Township. Nine in 10 residents evaluated the overall feeling of safety in the community positively and 8 in 10 residents evaluated crime prevention positively; both of these ratings were higher than those given in other communities across the nation.

Economic health and affordability contribute to quality of life in Meridian Charter Township.

Economy was also identified as a continued priority for the community in the coming two years. Similarly to 2015, 7 in 10 residents rated the overall economic health of Meridian Charter Township positively. Ratings for employment opportunities have been on the rise since 2009 and were higher than the national average, and 7 in 10 residents considered the Township a positive place to work. Further, Meridian Charter Township residents rated affordable quality housing, variety of housing options and shopping opportunities higher than the national benchmarks.

Residents are pleased with Mobility and transportation services.

About 8 in 10 residents positively assessed the overall ease of travel, ease of travel by car and public parking in Meridian Charter Township; all of these ratings were higher than the national benchmarks. Two of these evaluations were notably strong, with overall ease of travel ranking 25th in the nation and public parking ranking 13th in the nation. Three-quarters of residents gave traffic enforcement high marks. Ratings for street repair were lower than national averages, with 23% of residents giving high marks. However, 68% of residents expressed support for increased taxes to fix and maintain local roads in Meridian Charter Township.

Marks for ease of travel by public transportation and bus or transit services were strong and outpaced comparison communities. More than 2 in 10 residents had used public transportation instead of driving in the past 12 months, a number on par with other communities in the nation.

The Natural Environment is appreciated by residents.

Most residents rated the overall natural environment, cleanliness and air quality as excellent or good, with air quality positioning higher than national averages. Additional aspects that outpaced comparison communities included natural areas and open space, which were positively evaluated by more than three-quarters of residents. Residents further showed their appreciation of the natural environment with three-quarters of residents opposing the expiration of the land preservation millage, and 86% of residents supporting the renewal of the land preservation millage at a lower rate to maintain the environmental health of the property.



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Meridian Charter Township, MI

Dashboard Summary of Findings

2018



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Summary

The National Citizen Survey™ (The NCS™) is a collaborative effort between National Research Center, Inc. (NRC) and the International City/County Management Association (ICMA). The survey and its administration are standardized to assure high quality research methods and directly comparable results across The NCS communities. The NCS captures residents' opinions within the three pillars of a community (Community Characteristics, Governance and Participation) across eight central facets of community (Safety, Mobility, Natural Environment, Built Environment, Economy, Recreation and Wellness, Education and Enrichment and Community Engagement). This report summarizes Meridian Charter Township's performance in the eight facets of community livability with the "General" rating as a summary of results from the overarching questions not shown within any of the eight facets. The "Overall" represents the community pillar in its entirety (the eight facets and general).

By summarizing resident ratings across the eight facets and three pillars of a livable community, a picture of Meridian Charter Township's community livability emerges. Below, the color of each community facet summarizes how residents rated each of the pillars that support it – Community Characteristics, Governance and Participation. When most ratings were higher than the benchmark, the color is the darkest shade; when most ratings were lower than the benchmark, the color is the lightest shade. A mix of ratings (higher and lower than the benchmark) results in a color between the extremes.

Within the pillar of Community Characteristics, ratings for the facets of Mobility and Education and Enrichment were higher than the national average. In Governance, ratings for all facets tended to be positive and similar to comparison communities. Levels of participation within Built Environment tended to be higher than the national benchmarks, while those within Education and Enrichment tended to be lower. Ratings across all other facets tended to be positive and similar to the national averages. This information can be helpful in identifying the areas that merit more attention.

Table 1: Dashboard Summary

| | Community Characteristics | | | Governance | | | Participation | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------|-------|------------|---------|-------|---------------|---------|-------|
| | Higher | Similar | Lower | Higher | Similar | Lower | Higher | Similar | Lower |
| Overall | 14 | 17 | 1 | 8 | 10 | 2 | 5 | 29 | 7 |
| General | 1 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 5 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| Safety | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Mobility | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Natural Environment | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Built Environment | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Economy | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| Recreation and Wellness | 0 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Education and Enrichment | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| Community Engagement | 0 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 0 |

| National Benchmark | |
|--------------------|---------|
| Higher | Higher |
| Similar | Similar |
| Lower | Lower |

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Figure 1: Detailed Dashboard

| | Community Characteristics | Trend | Benchmark | Percent positive | Governance | Trend | Benchmark | Percent positive | Participation | Trend | Benchmark | Percent positive |
|---------------------|--|-------|-----------|------------------|--|-------|-----------|------------------|---|-------|-----------|------------------|
| General | Overall appearance | ↓ | ↔ | 73% | Customer service | ↔ | ↔ | 82% | Recommend Meridian Charter Township | ↔ | ↔ | 94% |
| | Overall quality of life | ↔ | ↔ | 86% | Services provided by Meridian Charter Township | ↔ | ↔ | 82% | Remain in Meridian Charter Township | ↔ | ↔ | 83% |
| | Place to retire | ↔ | ↔ | 66% | Services provided by the Federal Government | ↔ | ↔ | 45% | Contacted Meridian Charter Township employees | ↔ | ↔ | 45% |
| | Place to raise children | ↔ | ↑ | 90% | | | | | | | | |
| | Place to live | ↔ | ↔ | 90% | | | | | | | | |
| | Neighborhood | ↔ | ↔ | 87% | | | | | | | | |
| | Overall image | ↓ | ↔ | 80% | | | | | | | | |
| Safety | Overall feeling of safety | ↔ | ↑ | 92% | Police | ↔ | ↔ | 91% | Was NOT the victim of a crime | ↔ | ↔ | 89% |
| | Safe in neighborhood | ↔ | ↔ | 96% | Crime prevention | ↔ | ↑ | 84% | Did NOT report a crime | ↔ | ↔ | 85% |
| | Safe downtown/commercial area | ↔ | ↔ | 94% | Fire | ↔ | ↔ | 97% | Stocked supplies for an emergency | ↔ | ↓ | 27% |
| | | | | | Fire prevention | ↑ | ↔ | 91% | | | | |
| | | | | | Ambulance/EMS | ↔ | ↔ | 94% | | | | |
| | | | | | Emergency preparedness | ↔ | ↔ | 61% | | | | |
| Mobility | Traffic flow | ↓ | ↔ | 60% | Traffic enforcement | ↔ | ↔ | 75% | Carpooled instead of driving alone | ↔ | ↔ | 43% |
| | Travel by car | ↔ | ↑ | 80% | Street repair | ↔ | ↓ | 23% | Walked or biked instead of driving | ↔ | ↔ | 59% |
| | Travel by bicycle | ↔ | ↔ | 52% | Street cleaning | ↔ | ↔ | 50% | Used public transportation instead of driving | ↔ | ↔ | 22% |
| | Ease of walking | ↔ | ↔ | 67% | Street lighting | ↔ | ↔ | 52% | | | | |
| | Travel by public transportation | ↔ | ↑ | 54% | Snow removal | ↔ | ↔ | 56% | | | | |
| | Overall ease travel | ↔ | ↑ | 85% | Sidewalk maintenance | ↔ | ↔ | 58% | | | | |
| | Public parking | ↓ | ↑ | 76% | Traffic signal timing | ↔ | ↔ | 60% | | | | |
| | Paths and walking trails | ↔ | ↔ | 72% | Bus or transit services | ↔ | ↑ | 64% | | | | |
| Natural Environment | Overall natural environment | ↔ | ↔ | 87% | Garbage collection | ↔ | ↔ | 83% | Recycled at home | ↔ | ↔ | 85% |
| | Air quality | ↔ | ↑ | 88% | Recycling | ↔ | ↔ | 65% | Conserved water | ↔ | ↔ | 78% |
| | Cleanliness | ↔ | ↔ | 83% | Yard waste pick-up | ↔ | ↓ | 58% | Made home more energy efficient | ↔ | ↔ | 73% |
| | | | | | Drinking water | ↔ | ↔ | 82% | | | | |
| | | | | | Open space | ↔ | ↑ | 76% | | | | |
| Built Environment | | | | | Natural areas preservation | ↔ | ↑ | 76% | | | | |
| | New development in Meridian Charter Township | ↔ | ↔ | 49% | Sewer services | ↔ | ↔ | 83% | NOT experiencing housing cost stress | ↔ | ↔ | 79% |
| | Affordable quality housing | ↔ | ↑ | 53% | Storm drainage | ↔ | ↔ | 63% | Did NOT observe a code violation | ↔ | ↑ | 64% |
| | Housing options | ↔ | ↑ | 69% | Power utility | ↔ | ↔ | 83% | | | | |
| | Overall built environment | ↔ | ↔ | 62% | Utility billing | ↔ | ↔ | 77% | | | | |
| | Public places | ↔ | ↔ | 62% | Land use, planning and zoning | ↔ | ↔ | 53% | | | | |
| | | | | Code enforcement | ↔ | ↔ | 58% | | | | | |
| | | | | Cable television | ↔ | ↔ | 58% | | | | | |

Legend

↑↑ Much higher ↑ Higher ↔ Similar ↓ Lower ↓↓ Much lower * Not available

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| | Community Characteristics | Trend | Benchmark | Percent positive | Governance | Trend | Benchmark | Percent positive | Participation | Trend | Benchmark | Percent positive |
|--------------------------|---|-------|-----------|------------------|--|-------|-----------|-----------------------------|--|-------|-----------|------------------|
| Economy | Overall economic health | ↔ | ↔ | 77% | Economic development | ↔ | ↔ | 51% | Economy will have positive impact on income | ↔ | ↔ | 33% |
| | Shopping opportunities | ↓ | ↑ | 69% | | | | | Purchased goods or services in Meridian Charter Township | ↔ | ↔ | 98% |
| | Employment opportunities | ↑ | ↑ | 60% | | | | | Work in Meridian Charter Township | ↔ | ↓ | 31% |
| | Place to visit | ↔ | ↔ | 50% | | | | | | | | |
| | Cost of living | ↔ | ↔ | 55% | | | | | | | | |
| | Vibrant downtown/commercial area | ↔ | ↓ | 28% | | | | | | | | |
| | Place to work | ↔ | ↔ | 72% | | | | | | | | |
| Recreation and Wellness | Business and services | ↓ | ↔ | 62% | | | | | | | | |
| | Fitness opportunities | ↓ | ↔ | 71% | Township parks | ↔ | ↔ | 87% | In very good to excellent health | ↔ | ↔ | 70% |
| | Recreational opportunities | ↔ | ↔ | 72% | Recreation centers | ↔ | ↔ | 68% | Used Meridian Charter Township recreation centers | ↔ | ↔ | 54% |
| | Health care | ↔ | ↔ | 75% | Recreation programs | ↔ | ↔ | 73% | Visited a Township park | ↔ | ↔ | 80% |
| | Food | ↔ | ↔ | 79% | Health services | ↔ | ↔ | 73% | Ate 5 portions of fruits and vegetables | ↔ | ↔ | 82% |
| | Mental health care | ↔ | ↔ | 54% | | | | | Participated in moderate or vigorous physical activity | ↔ | ↔ | 82% |
| | Health and wellness | ↔ | ↔ | 73% | | | | | | | | |
| Education and Enrichment | Preventive health services | ↔ | ↔ | 70% | | | | | | | | |
| | K-12 education | ↔ | ↑↑ | 94% | Public libraries | ↔ | ↔ | 88% | Used Meridian Charter Township public libraries | ↔ | ↔ | 63% |
| | Cultural/arts/music activities | ↑ | ↔ | 64% | Special events | ↑ | ↔ | 69% | Participated in religious or spiritual activities | ↔ | ↓ | 30% |
| | Child care/preschool | ↔ | ↑ | 65% | | | | | Attended a Township-sponsored event | ↔ | ↓ | 43% |
| | Religious or spiritual events and activities | ↔ | ↔ | 83% | | | | | | | | |
| | Adult education | ↔ | ↔ | 69% | | | | | | | | |
| Community Engagement | Overall education and enrichment | ↔ | ↑ | 79% | | | | | | | | |
| | Opportunities to participate in community matters | ↔ | ↔ | 60% | Public information | ↑ | ↔ | 75% | Sense of community | ↔ | ↔ | 55% |
| | Opportunities to volunteer | ↔ | ↔ | 60% | Overall direction | ↔ | ↔ | 60% | Voted in local elections | ↔ | ↔ | 85% |
| | Openness and acceptance | ↔ | ↔ | 72% | Value of services for taxes paid | ↔ | ↔ | 59% | Talked to or visited with neighbors | ↔ | ↔ | 85% |
| | Social events and activities | ↔ | ↔ | 54% | Welcoming citizen involvement | ↑ | ↔ | 58% | Attended a local public meeting | ↔ | ↔ | 17% |
| | Neighborhoodliness | ↔ | ↔ | 63% | Confidence in Township government | ↑ | ↔ | 65% | Watched a local public meeting | ↔ | ↔ | 26% |
| | | | | | Acting in the best interest of Meridian Charter Township | ↑ | ↔ | 65% | Volunteered | ↔ | ↓ | 25% |
| | | | | | Being honest | ↔ | ↔ | 72% | Participated in a club | ↔ | ↔ | 21% |
| | | | | | Treating all residents fairly | ↑ | ↔ | 71% | Campaigned for an issue, cause or candidate | ↔ | ↔ | 21% |
| | | | | | | | | | Contacted Meridian Charter Township elected officials | ↔ | ↔ | 15% |
| | | | | | | | | Read or watched local news | ↔ | ↓ | 73% | |
| | | | | | | | | Done a favor for a neighbor | ↔ | ↓ | 69% | |

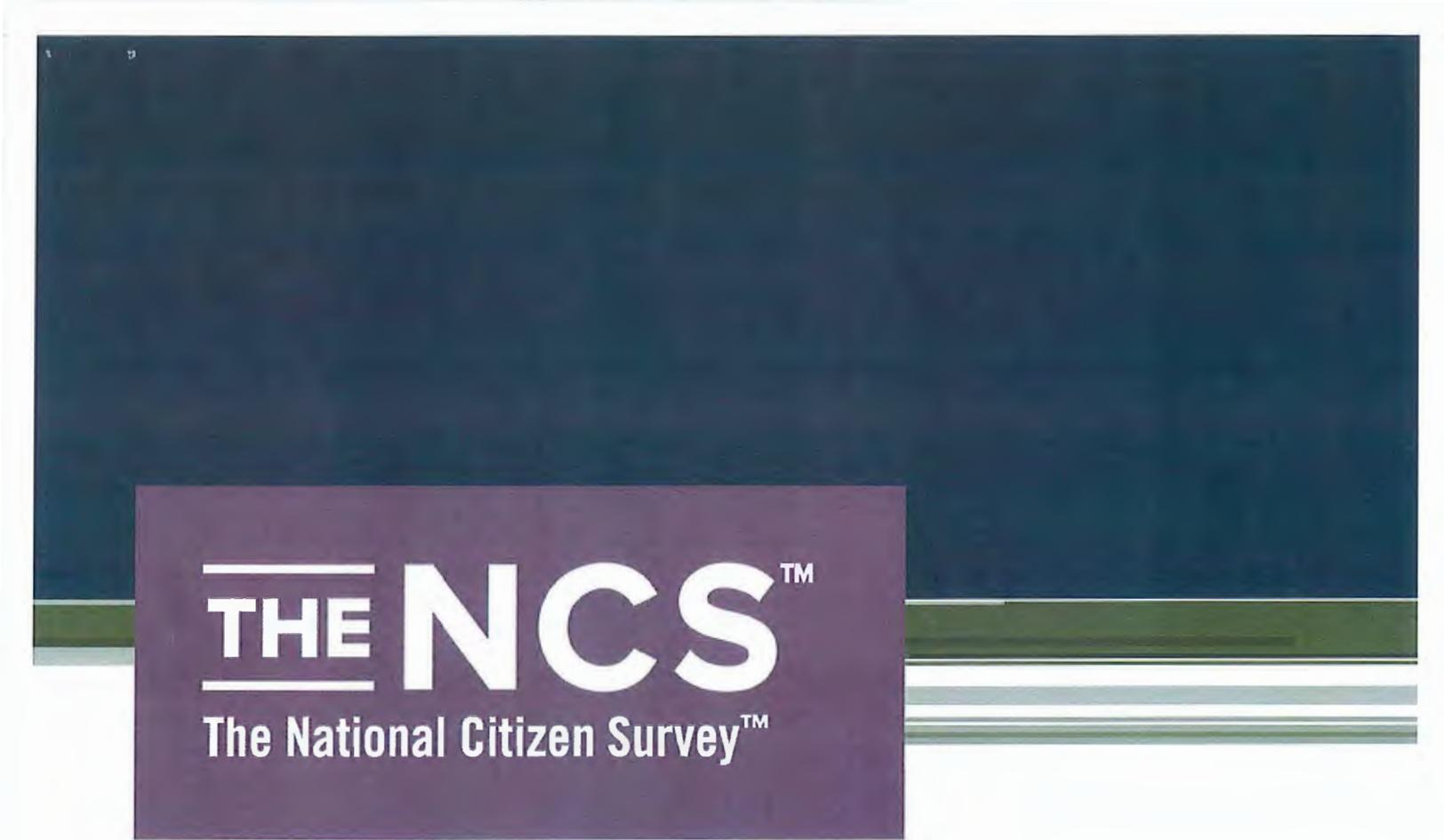
Legend

↑↑ Much higher ↑ Higher ↔ Similar ↓ Lower ↓↓ Much lower * Not available

The National Citizen Survey™

Legend

↑↑ Much higher ↑ Higher ↔ Similar ↓ Lower ↓↓ Much lower * Not available



THE NCSTM
The National Citizen SurveyTM

Meridian Charter Township, MI

Trends over Time

2018



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Summary

The National Citizen Survey™ (The NCS™) is a collaborative effort between National Research Center, Inc. (NRC) and the International City/County Management Association (ICMA). The survey and its administration are standardized to assure high quality research methods and directly comparable results across The NCS communities. The NCS captures residents' opinions within the three pillars of a community (Community Characteristics, Governance and Participation) across eight central facets of community (Safety, Mobility, Natural Environment, Built Environment, Economy, Recreation and Wellness, Education and Enrichment and Community Engagement). This report discusses trends over time, comparing the 2018 ratings for Meridian Charter Township to its previous survey results in 2003, 2006, 2009, 2012 and 2015. Additional reports and technical appendices are available under separate cover.

Trend data for Meridian Charter Township represent important comparison data and should be examined for improvements or declines. Deviations from stable trends over time, especially, represent opportunities for understanding how local policies, programs or public information may have affected residents' opinions.

Meaningful differences between survey years have been noted within the following tables as being "higher" or "lower" if the differences are greater than eight percentage points between the 2015 and 2018 surveys, otherwise the comparisons between 2015 and 2018 are noted as being "similar." Additionally, benchmark comparisons for all survey years are presented for reference. Changes in the benchmark comparison over time can be impacted by various trends, including varying survey cycles for the individual communities that comprise the benchmarks, regional and national economic or other events, as well as emerging survey methodologies.

Overall, ratings in Meridian Charter Township for 2018 generally remained stable. Of the 134 items for which comparisons were available, 118 items were rated similarly in 2015 and 2018, seven items showed a decrease in ratings and nine showed an increase in ratings. Notable trends over time included the following:

Within the pillar of Community Characteristics, ratings for employment opportunities and cultural/arts/music activities increased from 2015 to 2018. There were seven aspects that decreased from 2015 to 2018, including traffic flow on major streets, public parking, shopping opportunities, overall quality of business and service establishments, fitness opportunities, overall appearance and the overall image of Meridian Charter Township.

In Governance, there were seven aspects that increased from 2015 to 2018. The highest numbers of improved ratings were concentrated in the facet of Community Engagement. Among some of the ratings that increased in this facet were public information, welcoming citizen involvement, confidence in Township government, acting in the best interest of Meridian Charter Township and treating all residents fairly. Ratings for fire prevention and Township-sponsored special events also received more positive ratings in 2018.

From 2015 to 2018, levels of participation for all items remained stable in Meridian Charter Township.

The National Citizen Survey™

Table 1: Community Characteristics General

| | Percent rating positively (e.g., excellent/good) | | | | | | 2018 rating compared to 2015 | Comparison to benchmark | | | | | |
|-------------------------|--|------|------|------|------|------|------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------|---------|
| | 2003 | 2006 | 2009 | 2012 | 2015 | 2018 | | 2003 | 2006 | 2009 | 2012 | 2015 | 2018 |
| Overall quality of life | 89% | 90% | 88% | 87% | 87% | 86% | Similar | Similar | Higher | Much higher | Higher | Similar | Similar |
| Overall image | NA | NA | 76% | 79% | 91% | 80% | Lower | NA | NA | Much higher | Higher | Higher | Similar |
| Place to live | 91% | 92% | 90% | 93% | 93% | 90% | Similar | Higher | Higher | Higher | Higher | Similar | Similar |
| Neighborhood | 88% | 87% | 88% | 84% | 89% | 87% | Similar | Higher | Higher | Much higher | Similar | Similar | Similar |
| Place to raise children | 89% | 94% | 90% | 91% | 93% | 90% | Similar | Much higher | Much higher | Much higher | Much higher | Higher | Higher |
| Place to retire | 56% | 58% | 58% | 65% | 66% | 66% | Similar | Similar | Similar | Similar | Similar | Similar | Similar |
| Overall appearance | 80% | 75% | 72% | 76% | 82% | 73% | Lower | Higher | Higher | Higher | Similar | Similar | Similar |

Table 2: Community Characteristics by Facet

| | Percent rating positively (e.g., excellent/good, very/somewhat safe) | | | | | | 2018 rating compared to 2015 | Comparison to benchmark | | | | | | |
|---------------------|--|------|------|------|------|------|------------------------------|-------------------------|---------|---------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------|
| | 2003 | 2006 | 2009 | 2012 | 2015 | 2018 | | 2003 | 2006 | 2009 | 2012 | 2015 | 2018 | |
| Safety | Overall feeling of safety | NA | NA | NA | NA | 92% | 92% | Similar | NA | NA | NA | NA | Similar | Higher |
| | Safe in neighborhood | 97% | 97% | 99% | 95% | 98% | 96% | Similar | Higher | Higher | Much higher | Higher | Similar | Similar |
| | Safe downtown/commercial area | 94% | 93% | 96% | 94% | 96% | 94% | Similar | Higher | Higher | Much higher | Higher | Similar | Similar |
| | Overall ease of travel | NA | NA | NA | NA | 88% | 85% | Similar | NA | NA | NA | NA | Higher | Higher |
| | Paths and walking trails | NA | NA | 63% | 69% | 78% | 72% | Similar | NA | NA | Higher | Higher | Similar | Similar |
| | Ease of walking | NA | 63% | 65% | 68% | 70% | 67% | Similar | NA | Similar | Higher | Similar | Similar | Similar |
| | Travel by bicycle | 54% | 53% | 53% | 59% | 54% | 52% | Similar | Similar | Similar | Higher | Higher | Similar | Similar |
| | Travel by public transportation | NA | NA | NA | NA | 57% | 54% | Similar | NA | NA | NA | NA | Similar | Higher |
| Mobility | Travel by car | 64% | 65% | 64% | 74% | 81% | 80% | Similar | Higher | Higher | Higher | Much higher | Higher | Higher |
| | Public parking | NA | NA | NA | NA | 86% | 76% | Lower | NA | NA | NA | NA | Much higher | Higher |
| | Traffic flow | 50% | 54% | 55% | 61% | 70% | 60% | Lower | NA | NA | Much higher | Much higher | Higher | Similar |
| Natural Environment | Overall natural environment | NA | NA | 72% | 77% | 88% | 87% | Similar | NA | NA | Similar | Similar | Higher | Similar |
| | Cleanliness | NA | NA | 78% | 80% | 87% | 83% | Similar | NA | NA | Higher | Higher | Higher | Similar |
| | Air quality | NA | NA | NA | NA | 91% | 88% | Similar | NA | NA | NA | NA | Higher | Higher |
| Built Environment | Overall built environment | NA | NA | NA | NA | 67% | 62% | Similar | NA | NA | NA | NA | Similar | Similar |
| | New development in Meridian Charter Township | NA | NA | 53% | 56% | 47% | 49% | Similar | NA | NA | Similar | Similar | Similar | Similar |
| | Affordable quality housing | 40% | 42% | 50% | 61% | 56% | 53% | Similar | Similar | Similar | Much higher | Much higher | Higher | Higher |
| Housing options | NA | NA | 63% | 70% | 75% | 69% | Similar | NA | NA | Higher | Much higher | Higher | Higher | |

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| | Percent rating positively (e.g., excellent/good, very/somewhat safe) | | | | | | 2018 rating compared to 2015 | Comparison to benchmark | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--|------|------|------|------|------|------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 2003 | 2006 | 2009 | 2012 | 2015 | 2018 | | 2003 | 2006 | 2009 | 2012 | 2015 | 2018 | |
| | Public places | NA | NA | NA | NA | 68% | 62% | Similar | NA | NA | NA | NA | Similar | Similar |
| | Overall economic health | NA | NA | NA | NA | 73% | 77% | Similar | NA | NA | NA | NA | Similar | Similar |
| | Vibrant downtown/commercial area | NA | NA | NA | NA | 30% | 28% | Similar | NA | NA | NA | NA | Lower | Lower |
| | Business and services | NA | NA | 69% | 69% | 71% | 62% | Lower | NA | NA | Much higher | Higher | Similar | Similar |
| | Cost of living | NA | NA | NA | NA | 55% | 55% | Similar | NA | NA | NA | NA | Similar | Similar |
| | Shopping opportunities | 83% | 81% | 71% | 69% | 79% | 69% | Lower | Much higher | Much higher | Much higher | Much higher | Higher | Higher |
| | Employment opportunities | NA | NA | 22% | 40% | 51% | 60% | Higher | NA | NA | Lower | Higher | Higher | Higher |
| | Place to visit | NA | NA | NA | NA | 58% | 50% | Similar | NA | NA | NA | NA | Similar | Similar |
| Economy | Place to work | NA | 70% | 66% | 67% | 76% | 72% | Similar | NA | Much higher | Much higher | Much higher | Higher | Similar |
| | Health and wellness | NA | NA | NA | NA | 78% | 73% | Similar | NA | NA | NA | NA | Similar | Similar |
| | Mental health care | NA | NA | NA | NA | 58% | 54% | Similar | NA | NA | NA | NA | Higher | Similar |
| | Preventive health services | NA | NA | NA | NA | 76% | 70% | Similar | NA | NA | NA | NA | Similar | Similar |
| | Health care | NA | NA | NA | NA | 75% | 75% | Similar | NA | NA | NA | NA | Higher | Similar |
| | Food | NA | NA | NA | NA | 81% | 79% | Similar | NA | NA | NA | NA | Higher | Similar |
| Recreation and Wellness | Recreational opportunities | 64% | 66% | 65% | 70% | 68% | 72% | Similar | Similar | Higher | Similar | Higher | Similar | Similar |
| | Fitness opportunities | NA | NA | NA | NA | 80% | 71% | Lower | NA | NA | NA | NA | Similar | Similar |
| | Education and enrichment opportunities | NA | NA | NA | NA | 82% | 79% | Similar | NA | NA | NA | NA | Higher | Higher |
| | Religious or spiritual events and activities | NA | NA | NA | 76% | 76% | 83% | Similar | NA | NA | NA | Similar | Similar | Similar |
| | Cultural/arts/music activities | NA | 54% | 50% | 56% | 55% | 64% | Higher | NA | Similar | Similar | Similar | Similar | Similar |
| | Adult education | NA | NA | NA | NA | 72% | 69% | Similar | NA | NA | NA | NA | Similar | Similar |
| Education and Enrichment | K-12 education | NA | NA | NA | NA | 95% | 94% | Similar | NA | NA | NA | NA | Much higher | Much higher |
| | Child care/preschool | NA | NA | NA | NA | 71% | 65% | Similar | NA | NA | NA | NA | Higher | Higher |
| | Social events and activities | NA | NA | 61% | 61% | 52% | 54% | Similar | NA | NA | Similar | Similar | Similar | Similar |
| | Neighborliness | NA | NA | NA | NA | 69% | 63% | Similar | NA | NA | NA | NA | Similar | Similar |
| | Openness and acceptance | 69% | 68% | 73% | 76% | 70% | 72% | Similar | Higher | Higher | Much higher | Much higher | Similar | Similar |
| Community Engagement | Opportunities to participate in community matters | NA | NA | 59% | 66% | 59% | 60% | Similar | NA | NA | Similar | Similar | Similar | Similar |
| | Opportunities to volunteer | NA | NA | 63% | 73% | 64% | 60% | Similar | NA | NA | Lower | Similar | Similar | Similar |

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Table 3: Governance General

| | Percent rating positively (e.g., excellent/good) | | | | | | 2018 rating compared to 2015 | Comparison to benchmark | | | | | |
|--|--|------|------|------|------|------|------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------|---------|
| | 2003 | 2006 | 2009 | 2012 | 2015 | 2018 | | 2003 | 2006 | 2009 | 2012 | 2015 | 2018 |
| Services provided by Meridian Charter Township | 81% | 77% | 73% | 74% | 85% | 82% | Similar | Similar | Similar | Similar | Similar | Similar | Similar |
| Customer service | 83% | 84% | 82% | 80% | 83% | 82% | Similar | Higher | Much higher | Much higher | Much higher | Similar | Similar |
| Value of services for taxes paid | NA | 57% | 47% | 57% | 54% | 59% | Similar | NA | Similar | Lower | Similar | Similar | Similar |
| Overall direction | 47% | 48% | 48% | 57% | 59% | 60% | Similar | Similar | Similar | Lower | Similar | Similar | Similar |
| Welcoming citizen involvement | 57% | 56% | 47% | 49% | 48% | 58% | Higher | Similar | Similar | Much lower | Similar | Similar | Similar |
| Confidence in Township government | NA | NA | NA | NA | 50% | 65% | Higher | NA | NA | NA | NA | Similar | Similar |
| Acting in the best interest of Meridian Charter Township | NA | NA | NA | NA | 55% | 65% | Higher | NA | NA | NA | NA | Similar | Similar |
| Being honest | NA | NA | NA | NA | 66% | 72% | Similar | NA | NA | NA | NA | Similar | Similar |
| Treating all residents fairly | NA | NA | NA | NA | 61% | 71% | Higher | NA | NA | NA | NA | Similar | Similar |
| Services provided by the Federal Government | 49% | 30% | 39% | 45% | 42% | 45% | Similar | Similar | Lower | Similar | Higher | Similar | Similar |

Table 4: Governance by Facet

| | Percent rating positively (e.g., excellent/good) | | | | | | 2018 rating compared to 2015 | Comparison to benchmark | | | | | | |
|---------------------|--|------|------|------|------|------|------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|---------|---------|
| | 2003 | 2006 | 2009 | 2012 | 2015 | 2018 | | 2003 | 2006 | 2009 | 2012 | 2015 | 2018 | |
| Police | 89% | 87% | 91% | 84% | 90% | 91% | Similar | Higher | Much higher | Much higher | Higher | Similar | Similar | |
| Fire | 96% | 96% | 96% | 90% | 97% | 97% | Similar | Similar | Higher | Higher | Similar | Similar | Similar | |
| Ambulance/EMS | 96% | 94% | 97% | 94% | 96% | 94% | Similar | Similar | Much higher | Much higher | Higher | Similar | Similar | |
| Crime prevention | 83% | 85% | 82% | 81% | 82% | 84% | Similar | Much higher | Much higher | Much higher | Much higher | Similar | Higher | |
| Fire prevention | 86% | 82% | 87% | 82% | 83% | 91% | Higher | Similar | Higher | Much higher | Higher | Similar | Similar | |
| Animal control | NA | NA | NA | NA | 65% | 67% | Similar | NA | NA | NA | NA | Similar | Similar | |
| Safety | Emergency preparedness | NA | NA | 64% | 59% | 62% | 61% | Similar | NA | NA | Similar | Similar | Similar | Similar |
| Traffic enforcement | 75% | 66% | 77% | 72% | 74% | 75% | Similar | Higher | Higher | Much higher | Higher | Similar | Similar | |
| Street repair | 32% | 32% | 9% | 26% | 30% | 23% | Similar | Much lower | Lower | Much lower | Much lower | Lower | Lower | |
| Mobility | Street cleaning | 49% | 47% | 32% | 49% | 53% | 50% | Similar | Lower | Lower | Much lower | Much lower | Similar | Similar |

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| | Percent rating positively (e.g., excellent/good) | | | | | | 2018 rating compared to 2015 | Comparison to benchmark | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--|------|------|------|------|------|------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------|---------|
| | 2003 | 2006 | 2009 | 2012 | 2015 | 2018 | | 2003 | 2006 | 2009 | 2012 | 2015 | 2018 |
| | Street lighting | NA | 51% | 52% | 55% | 52% | Similar | NA | Similar | Lower | Lower | Similar | Similar |
| | Snow removal | 58% | 56% | 49% | 49% | 56% | Similar | Lower | Lower | Much lower | Much lower | Similar | Similar |
| | Sidewalk maintenance | 59% | 56% | 54% | 55% | 57% | Similar | Similar | Similar | Similar | Similar | Similar | Similar |
| | Traffic signal timing | 57% | 58% | NA | 54% | 55% | Similar | Similar | Higher | NA | Similar | Similar | Similar |
| | Bus or transit services | NA | 64% | 69% | 61% | 67% | Similar | NA | Similar | Much higher | Higher | Similar | Higher |
| | Garbage collection | NA | NA | NA | NA | 89% | Similar | NA | NA | NA | NA | Similar | Similar |
| | Recycling | 53% | NA | 67% | 67% | 62% | Similar | Much lower | NA | Lower | Lower | Lower | Similar |
| | Yard waste pick-up | NA | NA | NA | NA | 51% | Similar | NA | NA | NA | NA | Lower | Lower |
| | Drinking water | 81% | 74% | 85% | 86% | 87% | Similar | Higher | Higher | Much higher | Much higher | Higher | Similar |
| Natural Environment | Natural areas preservation | NA | NA | 67% | 71% | 71% | Similar | NA | NA | Much higher | Much higher | Similar | Higher |
| | Open space | NA | NA | NA | NA | 68% | Similar | NA | NA | NA | NA | Similar | Higher |
| | Storm drainage | 71% | 63% | 59% | 71% | 61% | Similar | Higher | Similar | Similar | Higher | Similar | Similar |
| | Sewer services | 87% | 79% | 85% | 85% | 84% | Similar | Much higher | Higher | Much higher | Much higher | Similar | Similar |
| | Power utility | NA | NA | NA | NA | 78% | Similar | NA | NA | NA | NA | Similar | Similar |
| | Utility billing | NA | NA | NA | NA | 74% | Similar | NA | NA | NA | NA | Similar | Similar |
| | Land use, planning and zoning | 35% | 42% | 47% | 51% | 52% | Similar | Much lower | Similar | Higher | Similar | Similar | Similar |
| | Code enforcement | 64% | 63% | 59% | 51% | 55% | Similar | Higher | Much higher | Much higher | Similar | Similar | Similar |
| Built Environment | Cable television | 52% | 44% | 58% | 58% | 60% | Similar | Similar | Similar | Higher | Similar | Similar | Similar |
| Economy | Economic development | 52% | 43% | 34% | 41% | 53% | Similar | Similar | Similar | Lower | Similar | Similar | Similar |
| | Township parks | 87% | 88% | 89% | 90% | 89% | Similar | Higher | Much higher | Much higher | Higher | Similar | Similar |
| | Recreation programs | 79% | 85% | 83% | 79% | 75% | Similar | Similar | Higher | Much higher | Higher | Similar | Similar |
| Recreation and Wellness | Recreation centers | NA | NA | NA | 74% | 71% | Similar | NA | NA | NA | Similar | Similar | Similar |
| | Health services | NA | NA | NA | NA | 76% | Similar | NA | NA | NA | NA | Similar | Similar |
| Education and Enrichment | Special events | NA | NA | NA | NA | 60% | Higher | NA | NA | NA | NA | Similar | Similar |
| | Public libraries | 77% | 81% | 84% | 86% | 88% | Similar | Lower | Higher | Similar | Similar | Similar | Similar |
| Community Engagement | Public information | NA | NA | NA | 68% | 63% | Higher | NA | NA | NA | Similar | Similar | Similar |

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Table 5: Participation General

| | Percent rating positively (e.g., always/sometimes, more than once a month, yes) | | | | | | 2018 rating compared to 2015 | Comparison to benchmark | | | | | |
|---|---|------|------|------|------|------|------------------------------|-------------------------|---------|------------|---------|---------|---------|
| | 2003 | 2006 | 2009 | 2012 | 2015 | 2018 | | 2003 | 2006 | 2009 | 2012 | 2015 | 2018 |
| Sense of community | 58% | 59% | 62% | 66% | 60% | 55% | Similar | Similar | Similar | Similar | Similar | Similar | Similar |
| Recommend Meridian Charter Township | NA | NA | 92% | 94% | 93% | 94% | Similar | NA | NA | Higher | Higher | Similar | Similar |
| Remain in Meridian Charter Township | NA | NA | 77% | 85% | 81% | 83% | Similar | NA | NA | Lower | Similar | Similar | Similar |
| Contacted Meridian Charter Township employees | 54% | 52% | 51% | 46% | 40% | 45% | Similar | NA | NA | Much lower | Lower | Similar | Similar |

Table 6: Participation by Facet

| | | Percent rating positively (e.g., always/sometimes, more than once a month, yes) | | | | | | 2018 rating compared to 2015 | Comparison to benchmark | | | | | |
|---------------------|--|---|------|------|------|------|------|------------------------------|-------------------------|------|-------------|-------------|---------|---------|
| | | 2003 | 2006 | 2009 | 2012 | 2015 | 2018 | | 2003 | 2006 | 2009 | 2012 | 2015 | 2018 |
| Safety | Stocked supplies for an emergency | NA | NA | NA | NA | 26% | 27% | Similar | NA | NA | NA | NA | Lower | Lower |
| | Did NOT report a crime | NA | NA | NA | NA | 89% | 85% | Similar | NA | NA | NA | NA | Higher | Similar |
| | Was NOT the victim of a crime | 88% | 92% | 92% | 93% | 96% | 89% | Similar | NA | NA | Much higher | Higher | Similar | Similar |
| Mobility | Used public transportation instead of driving | NA | NA | NA | NA | 28% | 22% | Similar | NA | NA | NA | NA | Similar | Similar |
| | Carpooled instead of driving alone | NA | NA | NA | NA | 42% | 43% | Similar | NA | NA | NA | NA | Similar | Similar |
| | Walked or biked instead of driving | NA | NA | NA | NA | 58% | 59% | Similar | NA | NA | NA | NA | Similar | Similar |
| Natural Environment | Conserved water | NA | NA | NA | NA | 73% | 78% | Similar | NA | NA | NA | NA | Similar | Similar |
| | Made home more energy efficient | NA | NA | NA | NA | 81% | 73% | Similar | NA | NA | NA | NA | Similar | Similar |
| Built Environment | Recycled at home | 73% | 64% | 79% | 77% | 79% | 85% | Similar | NA | NA | Similar | Lower | Similar | Similar |
| | Did NOT observe a code violation | NA | NA | NA | NA | 68% | 64% | Similar | NA | NA | NA | NA | Higher | Higher |
| Economy | NOT under housing cost stress | NA | NA | 72% | 73% | 81% | 79% | Similar | NA | NA | Much higher | Much higher | Higher | Similar |
| | Purchased goods or services in Meridian Charter Township | NA | NA | NA | NA | 97% | 98% | Similar | NA | NA | NA | NA | Similar | Similar |
| | Economy will have positive impact on income | 20% | 19% | 11% | 20% | 29% | 33% | Similar | NA | NA | Much lower | Similar | Similar | Similar |
| | Work in Meridian Charter Township | NA | NA | NA | NA | 25% | 31% | Similar | NA | NA | NA | NA | Lower | Lower |

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| | Percent rating positively (e.g., always/sometimes, more than once a month, yes) | | | | | | 2018 rating compared to 2015 | Comparison to benchmark | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|------|------|------|------|------|------------------------------|-------------------------|------|------|-------------|------------|---------|---------|
| | 2003 | 2006 | 2009 | 2012 | 2015 | 2018 | | 2003 | 2006 | 2009 | 2012 | 2015 | 2018 | |
| Recreation and Wellness | Used Meridian Charter Township recreation centers | 56% | 54% | NA | NA | 56% | 54% | Similar | NA | NA | NA | NA | Similar | Similar |
| | Visited a Township park | 90% | 85% | 89% | 87% | 82% | 80% | Similar | NA | NA | Higher | Similar | Similar | Similar |
| | Ate 5 portions of fruits and vegetables | NA | NA | NA | NA | 76% | 82% | Similar | NA | NA | NA | NA | Similar | Similar |
| | Participated in moderate or vigorous physical activity | NA | NA | NA | NA | 84% | 82% | Similar | NA | NA | NA | NA | Similar | Similar |
| | In very good to excellent health | NA | NA | NA | NA | 72% | 70% | Similar | NA | NA | NA | NA | Similar | Similar |
| Education and Enrichment | Used Meridian Charter Township public libraries | 62% | 71% | 68% | 69% | 68% | 63% | Similar | NA | NA | Lower | Lower | Similar | Similar |
| | Participated in religious or spiritual activities | NA | NA | NA | NA | 33% | 30% | Similar | NA | NA | NA | NA | Lower | Lower |
| | Attended a Township-sponsored event | NA | NA | NA | NA | 44% | 43% | Similar | NA | NA | NA | NA | Similar | Lower |
| | Campaigned for an issue, cause or candidate | NA | NA | NA | NA | 15% | 21% | Similar | NA | NA | NA | NA | Similar | Similar |
| | Contacted Meridian Charter Township elected officials | NA | NA | NA | NA | 11% | 15% | Similar | NA | NA | NA | NA | Similar | Similar |
| Community Engagement | Volunteered | 35% | 34% | 32% | 32% | 28% | 25% | Similar | NA | NA | Much lower | Much lower | Lower | Lower |
| | Participated in a club | NA | NA | NA | NA | 26% | 21% | Similar | NA | NA | NA | NA | Similar | Similar |
| | Talked to or visited with neighbors | NA | NA | NA | NA | 88% | 85% | Similar | NA | NA | NA | NA | Similar | Similar |
| | Done a favor for a neighbor | NA | NA | NA | NA | 73% | 69% | Similar | NA | NA | NA | NA | Similar | Lower |
| | Attended a local public meeting | 24% | 22% | 20% | 20% | 16% | 17% | Similar | NA | NA | Much lower | Lower | Similar | Similar |
| | Watched a local public meeting | 51% | 50% | 46% | 34% | 24% | 26% | Similar | NA | NA | Similar | Lower | Similar | Similar |
| | Read or watched local news | NA | NA | NA | NA | 79% | 73% | Similar | NA | NA | NA | NA | Similar | Lower |
| | Voted in local elections | 78% | 66% | 88% | 74% | 78% | 85% | Similar | NA | NA | Much higher | Similar | Similar | Similar |