

Long Islanders: Who are we?

A QUALITY OF LIFE SURVEY OF LONG ISLAND
AND THE NEW YORK METROPOLITAN REGION

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INTRODUCTION

Long Island is a diverse, complicated place, and nobody knows that like Long Islanders. But how much do they really know about Long Island?

Long Islanders live in many towns and communities, representing a wide diversity in terms of income, education, race, and ethnicity. Yet how much do they really know about what they have in common — or what they disagree about?

Long Island is a single geographic entity, part of a larger metropolitan area composed of several suburban regions and New York City. Yet do Long Islanders know what they share with the other regions in the New York area — or how they compare with them?

As a first step in understanding what Long Islanders think about the region and its place in the New York metro area, this survey was commissioned by the Rauch Foundation, a family foundation based in Garden City and active in Long Island affairs. The poll explores the perceptions of residents about Long Island's identity, quality of life, problems, environmental and growth issues, transportation, public services, and social capital. To permit comparisons of the findings across the metropolitan area as a whole, similar questions were asked of residents of New York City, its northern suburbs, and the New Jersey suburbs.¹

The telephone survey was conducted between December 2 and 13, 2002, with supplemental interviewing on December 18-19, 2002 and January 6-7, 2003. In Long Island, the sample consisted of 1,387 randomly chosen residents of Suffolk and Nassau as well as oversamples of 200 African-Americans and 100 Latinos from those counties. In addition, we conducted interviews with 600 randomly chosen residents of New York City, 300 in the New Jersey suburbs, and 400 in the northern suburbs. (Further details are available in the methodological appendix at the end of this report.)

The survey results show that Long Islanders have a more cohesive identity than has been realized, while remaining strongly attached to their local communities and institutions. The findings indicate that most Long Islanders enjoy a high quality of life and have good public services, but this is not the case for all. They point to a clear set of concerns that are specific to the Island, including over-development and automobile use. They also suggest that more needs to be done to get Long Islanders involved in civic affairs and to improve race relations on Long Island.

This is intended as the first of a series of surveys on issues facing Long Island within its metropolitan context that are to be conducted by the Milano School of New School University for the Rauch Foundation. Subsequent polls will explore topics relating to education and youth and economic and workforce development. The data will be shared with a consortium of universities on Long Island, to create a regional database and body of expertise.

¹ The results of the research should be read in conjunction with the Long Island Profile drafted for the Rauch Foundation by the Regional Plan Association, which contains a wealth of up-to-date historical, demographic, and economic data on Long Island.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Key findings of the survey include the following:

- » There's a here here: Long Islanders have a strong collective identity and a distinct sense of place — but few Island-wide institutions exist with which most Long Islanders identify.
- » A success story: residents say that the New York City suburbs are a success — and Long Island exemplifies this.
- » Their own ideas: Long Island residents, and suburbanites in general, have a distinct agenda and concerns, compared to those of New York City.
- » Success has a price: Long Islanders have big concerns about uncontrolled development and its cost to Long Island's quality of life.
- » Clean and green: General environmental conditions, such as sanitation and park maintenance, are significantly better on Long Island than in New York City.
- » On the road: Long Island has major traffic problems.
- » Rails or wheels? Long Islanders want better, more frequent, and more flexible public transportation to get where they want to go.
- » Local municipalities that work: Public services on Long Island are working well, Long Islanders say.
- » Able to act: Long Island has a wealth of family and social networks, not represented by active participation in civic organization, which represents untapped social capital that could be mobilized.
- » Race and class: Race relations are generally good, though tensions exist around policing and class among black Long Islanders.

There's a here here: Long Islanders have a strong collective identity and a distinct sense of place — but few Island-wide institutions exist with which most Long Islanders identify.

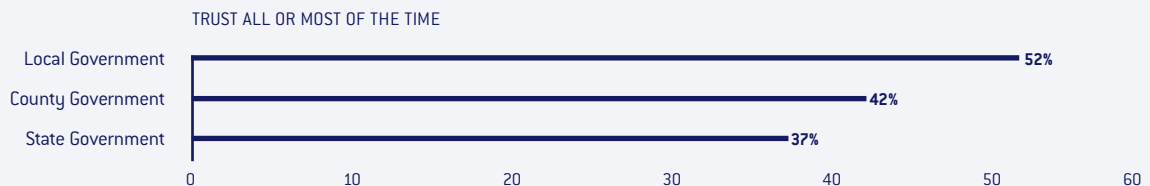
Almost all Long Islanders identify with Long Island. This will come as a surprise to those who think Long Islanders' sole identification is with their village or town. (See Table 1.) Fully 86% say they identify very or fairly strongly with Long Island. This is a higher proportion than those who identify with their community (83%) or town (80%). In fact, it is even higher than the proportion of New York City residents who identify with the City (77%). The sense of place among Long Islanders across age, race, income, and educational lines is striking: majorities in every demographic group surveyed identify with Long Island.

TABLE 1. ALL FOR LONG ISLAND (072-74)

Identify with:	VERY STRONGLY %	FAIRLY STRONGLY %	VERY OR FAIRLY STRONGLY %
Long Island	32	54	86
Your community	26	57	83
Your town	23	57	80

Despite its clear sense of identity, Long Island is highly fragmented jurisdictionally— and the institutions Long Islanders identify with most strongly are local ones. Long Island’s population of 2.75 million is divided between two counties, three cities, thirteen towns, and 95 villages. Institutional loyalties among Long Islanders become stronger the more local the institution. (See Chart 1.) Some 52% trust their local governments all or most of the time, 42% do the same for their county governments, and 37% for the state government. There is a similar pattern in assessments of government performance. Some 59% of Long Islanders say their local government pays enough attention to their community’s needs, compared to 54% for the county government and just 36% for the state.

CHART1_ LOCAL IS BEST (063, 64, 65 / N=693)



This localism also was evident in responses to a question that asked, “In order to cut costs and property taxes, would you favor or oppose a consolidation of current school districts into larger ones?” Long Islanders opposed the idea, albeit by a fairly slim margin of 49% to 42%. This opposition was fairly broadly shared across most social groups. There were a couple of surprises in the details, however: women opposed the measure while men split evenly, and conservatives were likelier to support it than liberals. Both these results suggest that the measure’s greatest appeal is among groups who tend to be more sensitive to taxes, so quantifying the tax savings which consolidation could offer may increase support for the proposal. But an equally important lesson is that in general, measures involving consolidation of government entities may have less appeal to Long Islanders than proposals for coordination and collaboration across jurisdictional lines.

ISSUES TO CONSIDER

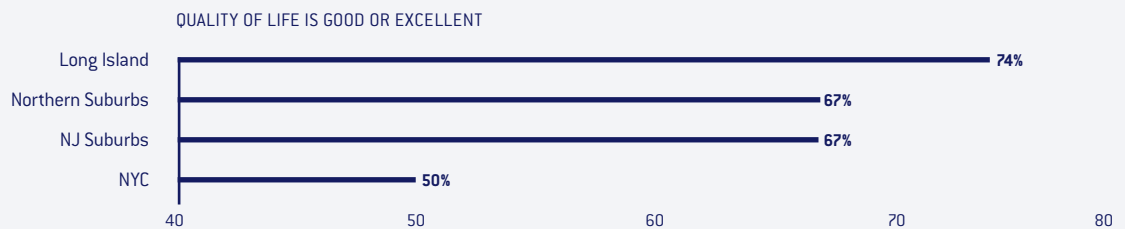
Are there ways to build co-operation to solve problems across local boundaries on Long Island?

A success story: residents say that the New York City suburbs are a success — and Long Island exemplifies this.

Of all the regions in the New York metropolitan area, the residents of Long Island are the most satisfied with the quality of life in their communities: fully 74% say it is good or excellent, while only 25% would call it fair or poor. (See Chart Two.) The other suburbs also do well on this measure, but not as well as Long Island: 67% of the residents of the Northern suburbs and of those living in the New Jersey suburbs rate their quality of life as good or excellent. On the other hand, New York City residents are divided almost

evenly on the subject, 50% calling their quality of life good or excellent and 49% terming it fair or poor. Clearly, despite all the knocks against the suburbs in the scholarly literature and popular culture, the suburbs are doing something right — and Long Island is doing it particularly well.

CHART 2. SUBURBAN SUCCESS (019 / N=1387)



There is one important exception to Long Islanders' contentment with their communities: lower-income African-Americans. The one group in the survey where a majority is dissatisfied with their community's quality of life is blacks with family incomes under \$60,000 — and by a stunning majority of 80% who rate it fair to poor against just 19% who term it good or excellent.² In fact, low-income blacks are the only Long Islanders who rate their quality of life as lower than that of their equivalents in New York City (where 34% of blacks consider their quality of life good or excellent). (For more on the reasons, see "Race and Class," p.16.)

What the suburbs are doing right is no mystery: they offer their residents a lifestyle they prefer. When Long Islanders are asked what they like about their quality of life, the schools come up most often, mentioned by 26%. Parks and green spaces (12%), personal safety (10%), a healthy environment (9%), and job opportunities (5%) follow. Good schools, open spaces, low crime, job opportunities — these are the traditional reasons for living in the suburbs. They are also the flip side of the quality-of-life complaints of New York City residents in the poll (poor schools, poverty, crime, and traffic).³ Small wonder, then, that most residents say Long Island is a good place to retire in (58%, including 77% of over-65s) and will be a good place for their kids to live in as grown-ups (74%). It is particularly striking that majorities of every racial and income group on the Island respond favorably on those two questions, with positive responses roughly 15 points higher than the corresponding figures for New York City.

² Long Island has a very high cost of living and average family income, so that an income of \$60,000 or less puts a family in the lower two-fifths of those on the Island.

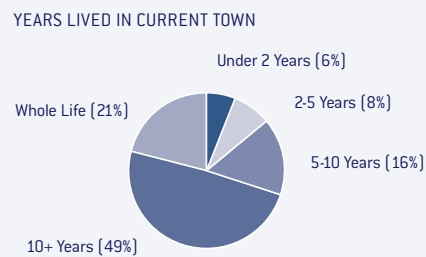
³ The complaint of low-income African-Americans on Long Island is that these urban problems have followed them. The main reasons they cite for dissatisfaction with their communities' quality of life are poverty (25%), poor schools (18%), traffic (18%) and a polluted environment (14%). In short, poor blacks' experience on Long Island is the opposite of that of most other Islanders.

TABLE 2_ WHAT'S GOOD ABOUT THE ISLAND: Reasons for rating quality of life as good or excellent mentioned by 5% or more (020)

	MENTION BY %
Schools	26
Parks	12
Safety	10
Environment	9
Jobs	5

The differences reflect the fact that Long Island is now a community in its own right, not a satellite of New York City. Most of the people who live on Long Island also work there — and most of them have lived there a long time. Some 83% of employed Long Islanders say they work in Nassau or Suffolk, while just 13% work in New York City. In fact, roughly three-quarters of Long Island’s workers work in the county where they live. The two waves of development of Long Island’s economy — the defense boom of the Cold War era and the new economy boom of the 1990s in technology, tourism, business, and health services— have left it with a diverse economy that supports an established populace. Some 69% of its residents have lived in the towns or cities where they now live for at least ten years. (See Chart Three.) Roughly 10% more moved to their current residence from elsewhere on the Island. This adds up to a fairly stable and cohesive population.⁴

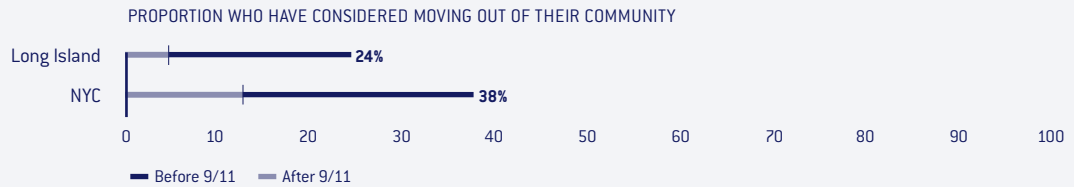
CHART 3_ BEEN HERE A WHILE (088 / N=1387)



Not only have most Long Islanders been around for a while — they are not planning to leave. (See Chart 4.) The stability of Long Island’s population is underlined by the fact that only 24% of its residents have considered moving out of their communities — even after the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. Indeed, most of those who thought of moving did so before Sept. 11 — only 5% say they have considered leaving since then. The corresponding figures for New York City’s more transient population are considerably higher (38% have considered moving, 12% after Sept. 11.)

⁴ The Island has become increasingly diverse thanks to immigration — with the Hispanic proportion of the population increasing from 6% to 10% between the 1990 and 2000 censuses. But even among Latino residents, 51% have lived in Nassau or Suffolk for at least ten years. Stability is greater among the white and black populations, with more than 70% of each having lived on the Island for ten years or more.

CHART 4_ WE'RE STICKING AROUND (03, 4 / N=LI: 1387, NYC: 600)



Their own ideas: Long Island residents, and suburbanites in general, have a distinct agenda and concerns, compared to those of New York City.

When we asked people an open-ended question about the biggest problems facing their communities, we saw that Long Islanders have a specific agenda (See Table 3.) Long Islanders are worried about jobs, traffic, and uncontrolled development, while city dwellers are more concerned about jobs and crime. The two top issues on Long Island are jobs, mentioned by 14%, and traffic, cited by 10%. Next come crime (7%), uncontrolled development (6%), housing (5%), and schools (4%). City residents, on the other hand, focus heavily on crime (21%) and jobs (20%), followed by traffic (8%), schools (5%), and uncontrolled development and housing (4% each). The concerns of the other suburbs are much closer to those of Long Island than the City.

TABLE 3_LOCAL HEADACHES: Biggest problem facing your community (all mentioned by 5% of more) (02)

	LONG ISLAND %	NORTHERN SUBURBS %	NJ SUBURBS %	NEW YORK CITY %
Jobs	14	26	16	20
Traffic	10	7	6	8
Crime	7	12	11	21
Sprawl	6	6	10	4
Housing	5	6	5	4
Schools	4	7	7	5

The differences in priorities are also evident on questions concerning which aspects of community life are most important. As might be anticipated, city dwellers are more pre-occupied with city issues, while Long Islanders focus more on needs such as community and green spaces. Some 60% of Long Islanders said a strong sense of community was very important to them, compared to 49% of New Yorkers. Likewise, 66% of Long Islanders said parks and open space were very important to them, against 55% of New Yorkers. For City residents, on the other hand, the housing crisis was even more of a major concern than on the Island: some 73% of New Yorkers considered housing for working people very important in their communities, compared to 62% of Long Islanders.

Here too, Long Islanders are typical of suburban residents in general.

Uncontrolled development is the top environmental issue for suburbanites, while for urbanites it is auto pollution. (See Table 4.) Some 32% of Long Islanders say the most serious environmental problem facing their community is uncontrolled development, compared to 25% who mention motor vehicle pollution. In contrast, 39% of New Yorkers cite cars and only 19% uncontrolled development as top concerns. Lack of open space takes third place for both, mentioned by 15% of Long Islanders and 17% of New Yorkers. Another difference is the greater concern about water quality among Long Islanders (13%) than among New Yorkers (8%).⁵ Equal proportions (8%) of each region's residents were anxious about pesticide use in their communities. The pattern in the other suburbs is much the same as on Long Island.

TABLE 4. ENVIRONMENTAL WORRIES: Most serious environmental problem facing your community (09)

	LONG ISLAND %	NORTHERN SUBURBS %	NJ SUBURBS %	NEW YORK CITY %
Uncontrolled development	32	32	36	19
Motor vehicle pollution	25	26	18	39
Open Space	15	15	13	17
Water Quality	13	10	14	8
Pesticides	8	7	10	8

ISSUES TO CONSIDER

*What are the overarching issues facing all Long Islanders?
How can Long Islanders ensure that the priorities of every race and class are heard on Long Island?*

Success has a price: Long Islanders have big concerns about uncontrolled development and its cost to Long Island's quality of life.

The vast majority of people on Long Island are concerned about uncontrolled development in their communities: some 74% say they are somewhat or very concerned about this issue. This is a true point of consensus among Long Islanders. Solid majorities in every social, racial, and economic group are worried about uncontrolled development. This reinforces the findings noted above, where residents labeled over-development the Island's worst environmental problem and spontaneously listed it as among the top problems facing their communities. The message from the public is clear and consistent. Although they are concerned about jobs and housing, Long Islanders recognize the need for smart growth policies. The time is ripe for a serious discussion of such initiatives.

⁵ However, the proportion of Long Islanders who rate their drinking water as good or excellent, 63%, is higher than the corresponding number for New York City (54%).

Long Islanders are also looking for alternatives to the building of new generators as power sources. Only 10% are in favor of building new generators, as proposed by the Long Island Power Authority. Energy conservation is a choice that receives more support: some 26% would favor it. But the most popular choice of all is clean alternative energy sources, such as solar or hydro-energy, backed by 58%.⁶ Long Islanders are clearly attached to their energy consuming life-style with air-conditioned malls and sport utility vehicles, but they are looking for greener ways to preserve it. They would prefer alternative energy and conservation, while more generators are the least popular alternative.

The case for open space preservation is less obvious to Long Islanders. Just 41% of Long Islanders say they would favor their communities buying up more open space to make it available for people, while 51% think their towns have enough open space. (Interestingly, space-crammed New Yorkers said the opposite, by 50% to 36%.) This was one of the few questions where there were noteworthy differences by county. In Nassau, residents feel there is enough open space by 53% to 37%, while in Suffolk, where the issue has received more concern, opinion splits almost evenly, 48% saying there is enough space, 45% urging the purchase of more. At present, the supporters of open space purchases tend to be fairly upscale: the principal groups in favor were upper-income whites (48% to 44%) and college-educated women (52% to 39%). If there is a case for open space purchases in terms of water quality, biodiversity, or other factors, the communities on Long Island need to be educated about it. Their support cannot simply be assumed.

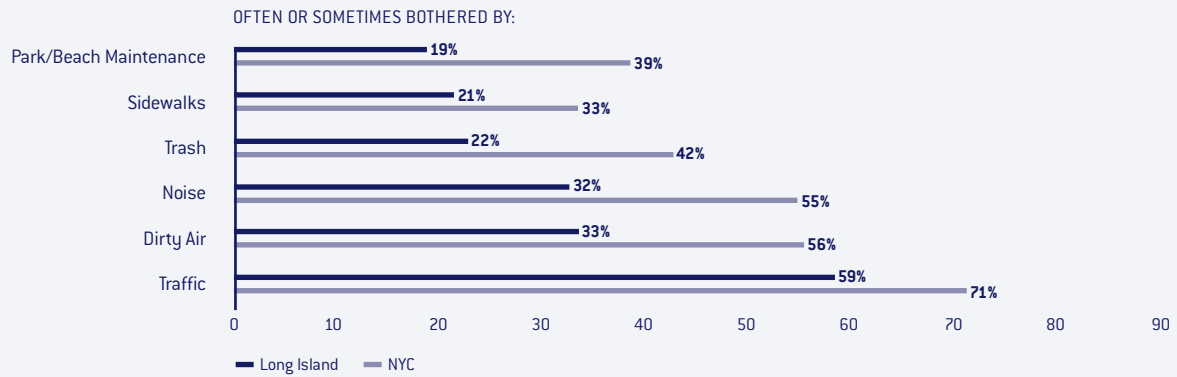
Clean and green: General environmental conditions, such as sanitation and park maintenance, are significantly better on Long Island than in New York City.

In general, the survey findings suggest that Long Islanders report many fewer environmental problems in their communities than do residents of New York City. (See Chart 5.) Around one in five Long Islanders says poorly maintained parks or beaches (19%), sidewalks in poor shape (21%), or overflowing trash baskets (22%) in their communities sometimes or often bother them. The corresponding figures for New York are roughly two in five for parks and beaches (39%) and trash (42%) and one in three for sidewalks (33%). Around one-third of Long Islanders complain of noise pollution (32%) or soot and dirty air (33%), compared to over half of New Yorkers (55% for noise, 56% for air pollution). The same patterns hold for the other suburban areas, which are cleaner and greener than the city.

But the big area of concern, as suggested by our findings on environmental priorities above, remains traffic. While it, too, is still more of a problem in New York City, where 71% complain of traffic problems, even on the Island, 59% report dangerous traffic in their neighborhoods. An inescapable issue in Long Island's quality of life — whether from an environmental or social standpoint — is the role of the auto.

⁶ These figures must be read with some caution, since the question did not note the higher costs associated with alternative energy sources.

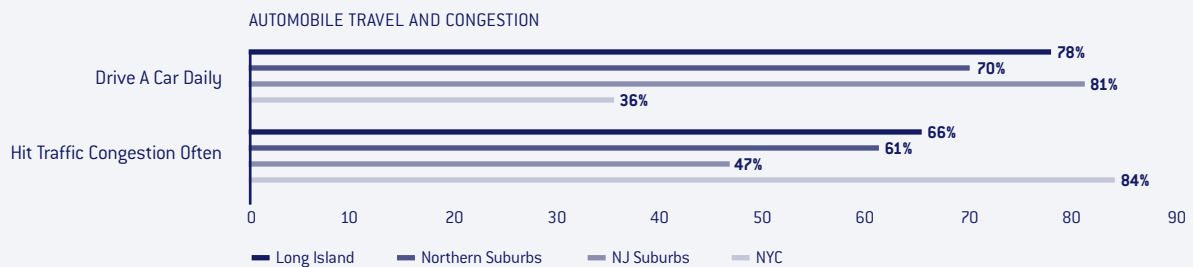
CHART 5_ ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (042-46, 48 / N=LI: 693, NYC: 300)



On the road: Long Island has major traffic problems.

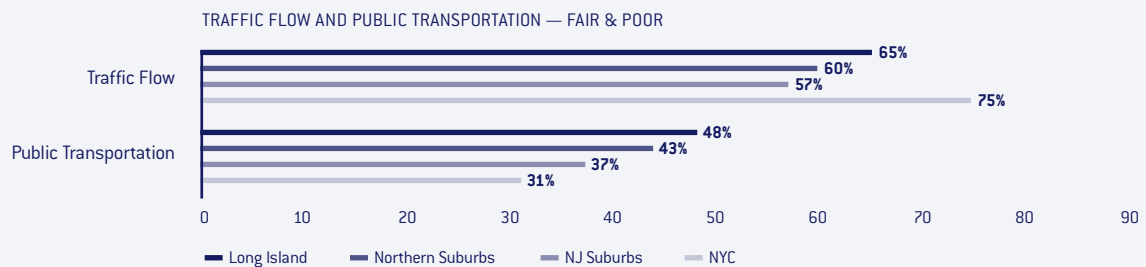
The centrality of the car in Long Island’s environmental and community issues stems from a simple cause: most Long Islanders are behind the wheel every day. (See Chart 6.) Some 78 % of Long Island residents say they drive a car at least once a day, while 45% do so three times a day or more. (The comparable figures for New York City residents are 36% and 16%.) Of Long Islanders who work or study, fully 88% get to their workplaces or schools by car. And Long Islanders’ commutes are not short: the majority (55%) of Long Island’s automobile commuters take more than half an hour to make the round trip. Almost one in four (25%) face a commute of over an hour daily. Auto dependence is a fact of life on Long Island, as in the other suburban regions. (In the Northern suburbs, 70% drive daily, of those in New Jersey, 81% do so.) It runs through every social and racial group on the Island, where development surged around the parkways and a car is a basic necessity.

CHART 6_ ON THE ROAD (049, 53 / N=1387, 787 LI, 400, 185 N SUBS, 300, 180 NJ SUBS, 600, 144 NYC)



With so many people on the road in Long Island, it is not surprising that traffic is terrible. Two-thirds of Long Island's commuter drivers (66%) say they experience traffic congestion very or fairly often going to or from work. The traffic situation on the Island is worse than in the other suburban regions of the metropolitan area: in the northern suburbs 61% of auto commuters report congestion and in the New Jersey suburbs just 47% do so. (Of course, traffic remains even worse on the crowded streets of New York City: there 84% of commuters report bad traffic very or fairly often.) Long Islanders also give the thumbs-down to traffic flow in their own communities, with 65% rating it fair or poor. (See Chart 7.) In this respect, too, Long Island appears somewhat worse-off than the other suburban regions: only 60% of northern suburbs residents and 57% of those in New Jersey report fair or poor local traffic flow.⁷

CHART 7 YOU CAN'T GET THERE FROM HERE (Q33, 36 / N = 693 LI, 200 N SUBS, 150 NJ SUBS, 300 NYC)



ISSUES TO CONSIDER

What planning or policy measures can Long Island take to reduce traffic congestion and auto dependence?

Rails or wheels? Long Islanders want better, more frequent, and more flexible public transportation to get where they want to go.

Long Island residents are unhappy with public transportation in the region as well. In fact, Long Island is the only part of the metropolitan area where public transport is rated poor or fair by a plurality (48%, while only 41% say it is excellent or good.) In contrast, the Northern suburbs are positive towards local public transport, with a plurality of 48% rating it good or excellent and 43% calling it fair or poor. Residents of the New Jersey suburbs feel the same way, by an even bigger 53% to 37% margin. Given these perceptions, it is not surprising that Long Islanders are also the least likely of the residents of any region in the metro area to use public transport to commute. Only 12% of Long Islanders commute by public transport of any type, compared to 23% in the northern suburbs, 14% in the New Jersey suburbs, and 62% of New York City residents.

⁷ Asked an open-ended question about who is responsible for traffic problems, a majority (51%) of Long Islanders say government (30% local, 21% state), over one-third (36%) say the drivers themselves, and 6% the auto or highway lobbies.

Long Islanders do not shun public transportation because they like to drive, but because it cannot get them where they want to go. The main reason Long Islanders give for not using public transport is that it does not go where they are headed, cited by 52% of commuters. The next most common reason was that service was not frequent enough, mentioned by 22%. However, there was strong interest in forms of public transport that would be available, flexible, and inexpensive. Some 36% of Long Islanders are interested in using “dollar vans” in their areas that would run short routes not now served by public transportation. Such vans have been important parts of the solution to public transport issues in many other urban areas and countries. The interest in such short-range, responsive forms of transit, combined with the limited number of Long Islanders who travel all the way to New York City for work, also raises questions about the wisdom of focusing further transportation investment on major East-West rail and express bus lines. It may be more appropriate to use transit dollars to expand networks of bus and mini-bus services running within towns or on inter-town or North-South lines across the Island.

Local municipalities that work: Public services on Long Island are working well, Long Islanders say.

Most Long Islanders are satisfied with the performance of local public services. (See Chart 8.) Around three-fourths of residents rate the major local government services in their communities favorably. Police protection is considered good or excellent by 78%, sanitation by 76%, and public schools by 75%. The high ratings for police may help explain why 66% say they are rarely or never concerned about their personal security.

CHART 8 **WELL SERVED** (034, 35, 37, 38, 39, 41 / N=693)



These overwhelming majorities run straight across racial and income divides. Every social group in the survey on Long Island, no matter what their age, education, race, ethnicity, or religion, is positive on public services. It is particularly noteworthy that police protection and the schools receive even higher proportions of good or excellent ratings from black Long Islanders (police 87%, schools 82%) than from whites (police and schools, both

78%) or Latinos (police 76%, schools 65%). Despite the inequalities in educational and other services that are important topics of discussion on the Island, African Americans on Long Island seem to have been impressed by the difference between those available there and in New York City.⁸

Substantial majorities also express favorable views regarding the conditions of local parks, roads, and waterfronts. Fully 71% say parks in their communities are good or excellent and 61% say the same about the state of streets and roads. Some 54% are positive about waterfront conditions (a number held down by the 21% who don't know about such conditions). The results for the other suburban regions are similar to those for Long Island. All the suburbs score 10 to 30 points higher on these measures than does New York City.

ISSUES TO CONSIDER

What changes are needed to make perceptions of government as favorable as those of public services on Long Island?

How can Long Island's public services be kept intact and their quality maintained in an era of continuing budget problems?

Able to act: Long Island has a wealth of family and social networks, not represented by active participation in civic organization, which constitutes untapped social capital that could be mobilized.⁹

Long Islanders are joiners. The vast majority of them — 86% — belong to some type of group or organization. (See Table 5.) The largest proportion is a member of a religious institution: 65% of Long Island residents belong to a church, synagogue, or mosque. After those come neighborhood associations, PTAs, labor unions, religious associations, and non-religious charities; around one Long Islander in ten belongs to each. Next are sports teams and youth and seniors groups, each of which includes about 5% of the Island's population. Roughly 2% belong to arts groups and ethnic organizations, while 1% is a member of an overtly political organization. Only 14% of Long Islanders belong to none of these types of groups.

⁸ Also striking is the fact that lower-income blacks are even more positive about the schools than upper-income blacks. Despite the complaints of lower income blacks about quality of life in their communities, some 78% of blacks with family incomes under \$60,000 say local public schools are excellent, compared to 68% of blacks with incomes over \$60,000 (and just 27% of whites). The same pattern holds for police protection (see below, p.16)

⁹ "Social capital" is a term coined by Harvard political scientist Robert Putnam to refer to the interpersonal and organizational connections that facilitate social and political leadership and action. The term was first used in his book *Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy* (Princeton, Princeton University Press: 1994). He applied the concept to the United States in *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community* (New York, Simon and Schuster: 2000).

TABLE 5_ AN ISLAND OF JOINERS: Membership in organizations (069)

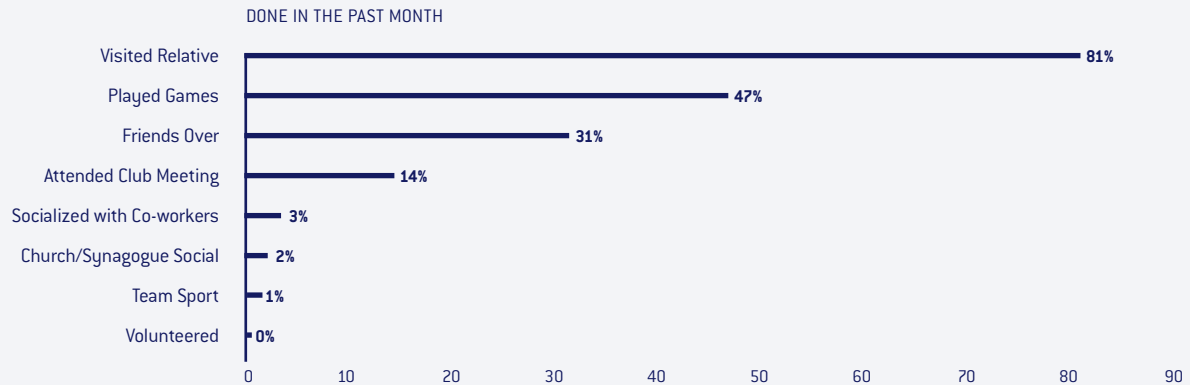
	BELONG TO %
Church, synagogue, or mosque	65
Neighborhood association	11
School parents group	10
Labor union or employee association	10
Religious association or charity	10
Non-religious charity	10
Sports team or group	6
Youth group	5
Seniors group	5
Literary, art, musical, or dance group	2
Ethnic, national, or civil rights group	2
Political group	1
None of these	14

Further evidence of the existence of considerable social capital on Long Island can be found in the high levels of community trust, interest, and identification. Some 83% of Long Islanders say they feel a lot of trust or some trust towards people in their communities, the largest proportion who do in any region in the New York metro area. Indeed, Long Island is also the only region in the metropolitan area where a majority says that generally speaking, most people can be trusted, 50% to 42%; pluralities or majorities hold the opposite view in the northern and New Jersey suburbs as well as in New York City. No fewer than 93% of Long Islanders are very or somewhat interested in what is going on in their communities, including 43% who are very interested. They also feel attached to their communities: 83% identify with their communities very or fairly strongly. Some 75% feel that local civic, community, or block associations are very or fairly effective. (The one exception to the network of trust seems to be the Island's business leaders: only 34% of Long Islanders would trust them all or most of the time. Even the politicians (local and county government) are trusted more, as noted above (p.3).

Yet if Long Islanders are joiners, they are not participants. While ties among families, friends, and neighbors are strong on the Island, organizational vitality is limited, judged by active participation. This is so despite the substantial degrees of organizational membership and social trust that exist. (See Chart 9.) When we asked about social activities Long Island residents had engaged in during the month preceding the survey, the commonest involved staying at home or going to another's. Some 81% had visited or been visited by relatives, 47% reported playing games at home, and 31% said they had friends over to visit. Only 14% had attended a club meeting of any sort, 3% had socialized with

fellow workers, 2% had gone to a church or synagogue social, and 1% had participated in a team sport. Almost no one reported working as a volunteer. Involvement in these types of social activities, other than seeing relatives or friends, was strongly related to income and education. Those with higher education and income levels were much likelier to participate in organizational activities. While these results may reflect the demands of work, family, and long distances to travel in the suburbs, they also suggest restricted participation in organizational life on Long Island, which is limited to a relative and rather privileged few.

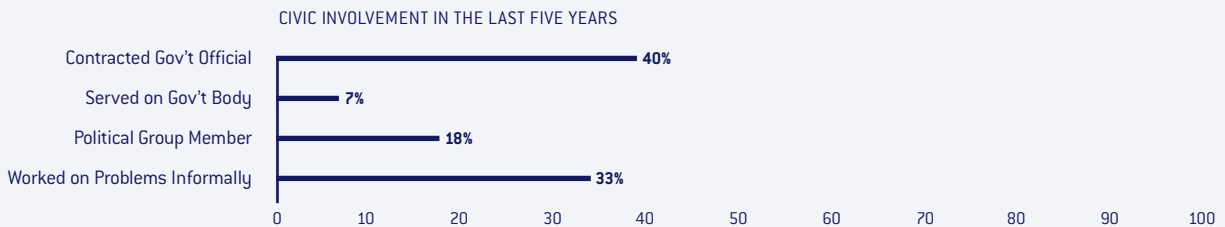
CHART 9 FAMILY AND FRIENDS FIRST (070 / N=693)



Evidence that the scope of active civic engagement is limited also emerged from survey results that point to relatively low levels of participation in civic life on Long Island, other than voting. (See Chart 10.) Only 40% of Long Islanders say they have contacted any government officials at any time in the past five years about any problem or issue, while just 7% have served on any government body over that period. During that time 18% say they have been a member of a political party or a group that took stands on political or community issues. A larger proportion — 33% — says they have gotten together with people in their community informally to deal with some community problem. But those engaged in these activities tend to be the same people: almost half the population of the Island (48%) says they have done none of these things in the past five years. Those who have done them tend to be the people who belong to several organizations and who actively participate in organizational life as well as that of their families and friends. They also belong to a rather elite group: such activity is most frequent among Long Islanders with college education and incomes over \$60,000 per year.¹⁰

¹⁰ It should be noted, however, that on all these measures participation in Long Island is nonetheless higher than in the other suburban regions or in New York City.

CHART 10_ THE ACTIVE FEW (Q75-78 / N=1387)



The survey findings also suggest that participation in civic life is connected to a sense of empowerment, a lack of cynicism, and an interest in local affairs. A minority (45%) of Long Islanders feels they could have some or a lot of influence over local government — and most of them (63%) have been involved in civic activities besides voting. In contrast, among the majority (55%) who feels they lack influence, only 44% had tried to do so. Confidence that civic organizations are effective also was linked to involvement. Among those who think they are very effective, 92% were involved in civic affairs beyond voting, while among those who do not, only 39% were. Interest in local affairs also makes a big difference. Among those who say they are very interested in what's going on in their communities, 66% were involved in at least one way besides voting; of those who are not, only 43% had taken any civic initiatives.

One of the key findings of the survey, however, is that Long Islanders could become more involved. One-third (34%) of Long Islanders say they would be willing to spend four hours a month on civil defense training in order to volunteer in case of terrorism or another emergency. We found this willingness to act similar among people of different educational levels, although it was markedly lower among people with incomes under \$20,000. In the past, civil defense has proved an effective means of mobilizing people and bringing them into civic life. Whether that or some other option is the most appropriate for the present day, the results of the poll on this and other issues suggest that there is greater scope for civic involvement in Long Island than has been realized to date.

ISSUES TO CONSIDER

Why have the high levels of trust and identity on Long Island not translated into higher levels of civic activity?

What can be done to promote civic engagement on Long Island, and in particular, to engage the half of Long Islanders who are not very involved?

Race and class: Race relations are generally good, though tensions exist around policing and class among black Long Islanders.

Most Long Islanders from all racial and ethnic backgrounds say racial and ethnic groups on the Island are getting along fairly well. (See Chart 11.) All told, 69% rate racial and ethnic relations in their communities as good or excellent. This includes 68% of whites, 74% of Latinos, and 79% of African Americans. Likewise, the proportions of each racial group who say they trust members of the other two a lot or some run from two-thirds to over four-fifths. Few think things are perfect: only 7% say race relations are excellent and under 30% say they trust members of other groups a lot. A mere 5% had visited the home of a friend of another race in the month before the survey. (Interestingly, 57% of upper-income blacks said they had done so, while corresponding figures for low-income blacks and all other racial groups are in low single digits.) Still, a very sizable majority of all races say they are managing to get along on Long Island.

CHART 11_ WE GET ALONG (040 / N=693)



Yet while the general picture looks good, there are signs of unease in the relationship between the black community and the police. Although 87% of blacks rate police protection in their communities as good or excellent, only 21% of blacks say they trust the police a lot, compared to 44% of whites and 43% of Hispanics. Trust is particularly low among low-income blacks, only 11% of whom trust police a lot. This may reflect experience of the rough side of policing in low-income black neighborhoods. Blacks with incomes under \$60,000 are the only group on Long Island in the poll to mention police brutality as one of the three chief problems of their community, with 11% citing it. On the other hand, upper-income blacks seem to feel they do not get enough protection from the police. While 41% of low-income African Americans say police protection in their communities is excellent, only 8% of upper income blacks do so. Conversely, although just 5% of lower-income blacks say they sometimes or often fear for their personal security, some 49% of upper income blacks say they do. These figures provide reasons for further investigation of police-community relations in minority neighborhoods in Long Island, as well as pointing to a need for programs to improve them.

Beyond the specific issue of policing, however, the poll pointed to a broader class division among African Americans on Long Island, with upper-income blacks assertively claiming that they belong there and lower-income blacks revealing a sense of disfranchisement. We have already seen how upper-income blacks are overwhelmingly satisfied with the quality of life in their communities, while poorer blacks are massively dissatisfied (see p.4 above). Similar differences are evident in their attitudes to the communities themselves and Long Island as a whole. (See Table 6.) The differences by income were noticeably larger among African-Americans than among either whites or Hispanics on Long Island.

TABLE 6_ THE BLACK CLASS DIVIDE (063, 71, 74)

	LOW INCOME BLACKS %	UPPER INCOME BLACKS %
Trust Local Government	42	81
Very Interested in Community Affairs	28	79
Influence Local Government	22	81
Strongly ID w/ Long Island	6	49

The differences are striking between lower and upper-income African Americans on Long Island regarding civic identity, which as we have seen is closely linked to participation. Only 42% of low-income blacks trust their local governments all or most of the time, compared to 81% of upper-income blacks. Just 28% of blacks with incomes under \$60,000 say they are very interested in community affairs, against 79% of those with higher incomes. Only 22% of the low-income group thinks they can influence their local government, compared to 81% of higher income blacks. And only 6% of low-income blacks identify strongly with Long Island, compared to 49% of upper income blacks. No other racial group has class divisions that are comparable in nature or extent.¹¹ Moreover, the percentages of upper-income blacks that say they trust local government, care about local affairs, can influence them, and feel strongly that they are Long Islanders are substantially higher than the corresponding figures for whites and Latinos of any income level. Upper-class blacks overwhelmingly assert that they are part of Long Island — in proportions that may suggest over-conformity — while lower class blacks seem to feel they are not.

ISSUES TO CONSIDER

What should be done to better understand and respond to concerns of blacks and other minorities about policing on Long Island?

How can the sense of exclusion of lower-income black residents of the Island be diminished?

11 Further evidence of class tension between the two groups was provided by our question about consolidation of school districts. There are fears this measure would involve mergers between high-income, low-minority school districts and low-income districts with many minority students. Lower-income blacks were the most supportive group towards the measure in the poll, favoring it by a margin of 53% to 31%, while upper income blacks opposed it by a margin of 78% to 17% — the greatest opposition of any group in the poll.

CONCLUSION

The picture of Long Island that emerges from our survey is in many ways a positive one, but one of a region with a set of serious challenges that need to be faced. Long Islanders have a collective identity of their own, but they also have a strong sense of local pride and feeling. They have a generally high quality of life that compares favorably with the rest of the metropolitan area and well-regarded public services. But they also have their own regional agenda and issues; they worry a lot more than city dwellers do about uncontrolled development and traffic. Their concerns about over-development suggest that they would be interested in smart growth policies, while the Island's serious traffic problems leave them looking for ways to get out of their cars. Long Islanders have strong families and neighborhoods, but they have not realized their potential for community involvement and civic engagement. Nor have they resolved tensions between black communities and the police or the sense of exclusion which lower-class African-Americans feel on the Island, although they have avoided the explosive tensions that grip some communities.

We hope the conclusions of this survey will be only the starting point for a wide-reaching dialogue on Long Island regarding its present and future as a region. This can begin with the dissemination of our findings among the press, public, and academics. We hope it also will provide a stimulus to thinking among regional leaders and all Long Islanders.

METHODOLOGY

This study was conducted as a telephone survey conducted on the basis of random-digit dialing around the New York metropolitan area. The poll was conducted in four regions:

- » Long Island: 1387 interviews of the general population of Nassau and Suffolk counties, along with oversamples of 200 African-Americans and 100 Latinos.
- » New York City: 600 interviews city-wide.
- » The Northern suburbs; 400 interviews in Westchester, Rockland, Orange, and Fairfield counties.
- » The New Jersey suburbs: 300 interviews across the New Jersey counties that fall within the Census Bureau's New York Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area, Bergen, Passaic, Hudson, Hunterdon, Middlesex, Somerset, Monmouth, Mercer, Warren, Ocean, Essex, Morris, Sussex, and Union.

The results for each of the four regions were tabulated separately. In the case of Long Island, for Island-wide results the over-samples were weighted down to their correct proportion of the regional population. For some questions, the sample was split in two, yielding sub-samples equal to half the total regional sample.

This yielded the following error margins for the different regions:

- » Long Island: +/-2.5% for the whole sample, +/- 3.7% for split samples.
- » New York City: +/- 4% for the whole sample, +/-5.7% for split samples.
- » Northern suburbs: +/- 4.9% for the whole sample, +/-7% for split samples.
- » New Jersey suburbs: +/-5.7% for the whole sample, +/- 8% for split samples.

Interviewing was conducted from December 2-13, 2002, with supplemental interviewing December 18-19, 2002 and January 6-7, 2003. Interviews were conducted in English or Spanish, depending upon the preference of the respondent.

The results of the survey were weighted slightly in order to make them correspond to the demographics of each region within the metropolitan area. The weighted data closely reflect the demographics of Long Island as measured by the results of the 2000 Census. (See Table 7.)

TABLE 7 SURVEY AND CENSUS RESULTS

	RAUCH SURVEY %	2000 CENSUS %
Gender		
Male	48	48
Female	52	52
Age		
18-34	28	27
35-49	33	33
50-64	22	21
65+	17	18
Race/Ethnicity		
White	78	77
Black	8	8
Hispanic	9	10
Other/Refused	4	6

NB: Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding of individual percentages

This research project was supervised by Prof. Edward Blakely, Dean of the Milano Graduate School of Urban Policy and Public Management at New School University in New York City. This report was written by Dr. Craig Charney, Senior Research Fellow at the Milano Graduate School, New School University and President of Charney Research, a New York City polling firm. Lois F. Alexander of Charney Research managed the survey, and Alan Aja of the Milano Graduate School, New School University provided research assistance. The Regional Plan Association supplied demographic and other regional data. Funding, support, and invaluable guidance was provided by the Rauch Foundation, with particular thanks due to Nancy Douzinas, Patricia Schaefer, and Linda Landsman for their assistance and confidence.

RAUCH FOUNDATION NEW YORK METRO REGIONAL SURVEY

Long Island Residents 18+ = 1387

New York City Residents 18+ = 600

New Jersey Metro Area Residents 18+ = 300

North Metro Area Suburbs (Westchester, Orange, Rockland and Fairfield Counties) 18+ = 400

Interviewing Dates: 12/2-12/13; 12/18-12/19, 2002; 1/6-7, 2003

Hello, this is (caller name), calling for Teleforce surveys. I'd like to ask you some questions about issues facing your community today. [If respondent does not appear to understand/speak english, ask: Se habla Espanol? (say HA-bla es-pan-yol?) If yes/si code 2 and pass on respondent details to spanish interviewer.] I am not selling anything, I will not ask for a donation, and all responses are confidential. Since this is a scientific survey, we need a balance of men and women. May I speak to the youngest man at home now who is 18 or over and lives in:

Nassau/Suffolk sample: Nassau or Suffolk?

New York City sample: New York City?

New Jersey sample: the New Jersey Suburbs?

Northern Suburbs: Westchester, Rockland, Orange, or Fairfield counties?

If respondent, go to Q.1, if new male respondent, repeat intro.

If no male: Okay, may I speak to the youngest woman at home now who is 18 or over and lives in... (Appropriate area)?

(Repeat introduction for new respondent and continue)

	L.I.	NORTH	NJ	NYC
I. Mood				
1. Generally speaking, do you think things in (New York City only) New York City, (Suffolk) Suffolk County, (Nassau) Nassau County, (Elsewhere) your county today are headed in the right direction or in the wrong direction?				
RESPONDENTS	1387	400	300	600
Right direction	57	51	73	50
Wrong direction	23	29	12	30
Mixed direction / both ways / going nowhere	17	15	9	16
Don't know / not sure	3	5	6	4
2. Thinking about your community, what is the biggest problem facing your community today? (Open end with pre-codes, only one response, do ot read list)				
Crime / violence / drugs	7	12	11	21
Jobs / poverty / economy	14	26	16	20
Police brutality / conduct / community relations	1	2	4	0
Parks / trees / shrubs / green spaces / open spaces	1	2	0	2
Shoreline preservation / access	1	1	0	0
Schools / education	4	7	7	5
Housing / buildings	5	6	5	4
Shopping / downtown	0	0	1	0
Traffic / roads / parking / road commute	10	7	6	8
Mass transit / busses / subways / transit commute	1	2	0	1
Sanitation/pet poop/trash/trash collection/lack toilets	0	1	1	1
Sidewalks / difficulty walking	0	0	0	1
Environment/pollution/dust/asthma	3	3	3	3
Immigrants/neighborhood changing	2	0	0	1
Gentrification/middle class arriving/chains moving in	0	1	0	0
Uncontrolled development/too many people/over-development/limiting growth	6	6	10	4
Neighborhood is neglected / only attention to downtown	0	1	0	1
Other (Specify:)	32	16	21	21
Don't know / no response	11	9	14	7
3. Have you considered moving out of your community? If yes: To where? Up to two responses allowed.				
No – Go to Q.5	72	72	80	57
Within NYC	3	10	2	10
Nassau	1	1	2	1
Suffolk	1	1	1	1
Westchester, Rockland, Orange, or Fairfield Counties	1	2	0	1
New Jersey suburbs	1	1	2	3
Outside NY Metro area	17	16	11	23
Don't know / not sure – Go to Q.5	4	3	3	5

	L.I.	NORTH	NJ	NYC
4. Was this before Sept. 11, 2001, or only since?				
RESPONDENTS	333	97	53	230
Before	66	69	57	61
Since	19	22	28	29
Both	11	6	9	9
Don't know	4	2	6	0

5. Do you think (Long Island Residents) Long Island, (New York City Residents) New York City, (Westchester, Rockland, Orange, Fairfield) your county is a good place to live in when retired?

Yes	58	64	64	43
No	38	33	32	48
Don't Know	4	3	4	9

6. Do you think (Long Island Residents:) Long Island, (New York City Residents:) New York City, (New Jersey Residents:) the New Jersey suburbs, (Westchester, Rockland, Orange, Fairfield) your county will be a good place for its children to live in when they grow up?

Yes	74	69	72	57
No	20	21	18	34
Don't know	6	10	10	9

II. Topical Issues

7. How prepared do you think the (NYC) City authorities, (Others) County or local authorities are to cope with a terrorist strike if one happens in your community? Very prepared, fairly prepared, not well prepared, or not prepared at all?

Very prepared	9	11	15	11
Fairly prepared	41	37	39	44
Not well prepared	24	27	17	24
Not prepared at all	14	15	12	13
Don't know	13	10	18	7

8. Would you personally be willing to spend four hours a month on civil defense training, so that you could be a volunteer in case of terrorism or another emergency?

Yes	34	38	32	41
No	55	52	59	49
Don't know	12	10	9	10

	L.I.	NORTH	NJ	NYC
III. Environment				
9. Which of the following is the most serious environmental problem facing (All but NYC) your community, (NYC Residents only) your community (Read List, rotate start point)				
Uncontrolled development	32	32	36	19
Motor vehicle pollution	25	26	18	39
lack of open space	15	15	13	17
pesticide use	8	7	10	8
water quality	13	10	14	8
Don't know	8	10	9	9
10. And which is the next most serious?				
Uncontrolled development	16	17	8	15
Motor vehicle pollution	22	19	24	21
lack of open space	20	14	15	22
pesticide use	12	14	15	10
water quality	14	12	11	10
Don't know	17	24	26	21
9/10. Top two most serious environmental problems combined				
Uncontrolled development	47	48	45	34
Motor vehicle pollution	47	45	43	59
lack of open space	34	28	28	39
pesticide use	20	20	21	17
water quality	27	21	25	18
Don't know	10	15	18	13
11. Given the choice, which of the following options would you prefer regarding energy use?				
Conserving energy	26	33	24	22
Building new generators	10	11	16	10
Introducing use of new energy sources such as solar or hydro-energy	58	54	58	62
Don't know	6	2	1	6
12. How would you rate the quality of drinking water where you live: excellent, good, fair, or poor?				
Excellent	16	14	17	9
Good	47	50	44	47
Fair	24	26	20	31
Poor	10	10	18	13
Don't know / not sure	2	0	0	0

	L.I.	NORTH	NJ	NYC
13. How concerned are you about uncontrolled development in your community: very concerned, somewhat concerned, not very concerned, or not concerned at all?				
Very concerned	28	29	31	24
Somewhat concerned	46	43	30	41
Not very concerned	17	18	21	21
Not concerned at all	9	9	17	12
Don't know	1	0	2	1
14. Does your community have enough open space, or would you favor buying more to make it available to people?				
Has enough	51	44	45	36
Purchase more	41	42	44	50
Don't know	8	14	10	13
15. Nassau/Suffolk only: In order to cut costs and property taxes, would you favor or oppose a consolidation of current school districts into larger ones?				
Strongly or somewhat?				
Strongly favor	20			
Somewhat favor	22			
Somewhat oppose	19			
Strongly oppose it	30			
Don't know	10			
16. Does the (NYC) City, (Elsewhere) local government pay enough attention to the needs of your community?				
Yes, it pays enough attention	59	55	64	46
No, it does not pay enough attention	34	38	30	46
Don't know / not sure	7	7	6	8
17. Does the (NYC) borough, (Elsewhere) county government pay enough attention to the needs of your community?				
Yes, it pays enough attention	54	42	51	43
No, it does not pay enough attention	41	46	35	49
Don't know / not sure	6	12	15	8
18. Does the state government pay enough attention to the needs of your community?				
Yes, it pays enough attention	36	35	47	31
No, it does not pay enough attention	53	56	42	59
Don't know / not sure	10	8	10	10

	L.I.	NORTH	NJ	NYC
19. Now, if you think about the quality of life in your community, is it excellent, good, fair, or poor?				
Excellent	18	20	17	8
Good	56	47	50	42
Fair	22	27	26	41
Poor	3	6	7	8
Don't know / not sure	0	1	0	1

20. Why is that? (Open end with pre-coded answers, two responses allowed, do not read codes out)

Excellent / Good

Crime / violence / drugs	10	10	14	10
Jobs / poverty	5	11	7	8
Police brutality / conduct / community relations	2	3	2	1
Parks / trees / shrubs / green spaces	12	11	14	7
Schools / education	26	18	23	17
Housing / buildings	10	7	10	7
Traffic / roads / parking	4	3	2	3
Public transportation / busses / subways	2	3	0	12
Sanitation / pet poop / trash / trash collection / toilets	3	3	3	1
Environment / pollution / dust / asthma	9	2	4	4
Immigrants / neighborhood changing	2	2	0	2
Gentrification / middle class arriving	2	5	6	4
Uncontrolled development / over-development	3	1	2	1
Downtown / shopping	4	4	2	4
Neighborhood is neglected / only attention to downtown	0	0	1	1
Other (Specify:)	25	39	20	25
Don't know / no response	12	8	18	14

Fair/Poor

Crime / violence / drugs	10	14	25	31
Jobs / poverty	16	32	24	21
Police brutality / conduct / community relations	1	0	1	3
Parks / trees / shrubs / green spaces	4	7	0	2
Schools / education	9	8	3	9
Housing / buildings	8	13	21	7
Traffic / roads / parking	16	12	14	10
Public transportation / busses / subways	1	4	2	2
Sanitation / pet poop / trash / trash collection / toilets	3	0	2	5
Environment / pollution / dust / asthma	4	10	11	6
Immigrants / neighborhood changing	6	3	12	3
Gentrification / middle class arriving	0	3	0	1
Uncontrolled development / over-development	10	7	2	4
Downtown / shopping	0	0	0	1
Neighborhood is neglected / only attention to downtown	3	1	2	2
Other (Specify:)	27	28	8	15
Don't know / no response	9	3	5	8
Split sample 1A / Ask of half Respondents	693	200	150	300

How important is it for you personally to have each of the following in your community?

21. A local grocery store

Very important	59	67	71	62
Fairly important	32	27	21	32
Not very important	6	3	3	6
Not at all important	2	3	4	0
Don't know	0	0	0	0

22. Housing for working people

Very important	62	75	80	73
Fairly important	30	17	20	25
Not very important	5	3	0	1
Not at all important	1	3	0	0
Don't know	1	1	0	2

23. A walkable, bikeable community

Very important	49	59	85	48
Fairly important	41	31	10	37
Not very important	8	6	4	11
Not at all important	1	4	1	4
Don't know	0	0	0	1

24. A strong sense of community. Is it...

Very important	60	66	70	49
Fairly important	36	25	26	38
Not very important	4	7	4	8
Not at all important	0	2	0	4
Don't know	0	0	0	1

25. Park and open space. Is it...

Very important	66	64	67	55
Fairly important	29	30	26	37
Not very important	4	4	7	8
Not at all important	0	1	0	1
Don't know	0	1	0	0

	L.I.	NORTH	NJ	NYC
26. Racial diversity. Is it...				
Very important	42	52	50	41
Fairly important	41	37	33	44
Not very important	13	6	14	9
Not at all important	3	3	3	3
Don't know	1	2	1	3
Split sample 1B / Ask of other half Respondents	693	200	150	300
Please tell me if you have each of the following in your community?				
27. A local grocery store.				
Yes	94	85	93	98
No	6	15	7	2
Don't know	0	0	0	0
28. Housing for working people				
Yes	67	70	69	72
No	25	22	21	24
Don't know	8	8	10	4
29. A walkable, bikeable community.				
Yes	84	82	83	78
No	15	17	17	21
Don't know	1	1	0	1
30. A strong sense of community				
Yes	80	68	81	62
No	16	22	14	28
Don't know	4	10	5	9
31. Park and open space.				
Yes	84	79	86	66
No	15	21	14	32
Don't know	0	0	0	2
32. Racial diversity.				
Yes	72	70	78	67
No	27	29	19	31
Don't know	1	1	2	2
Split sample 2A: Ask of half Respondents	693	200	150	300

Now please rate the following things in your community.

33. Traffic flow. Is it...

Excellent	4	4	9	2
Good	30	36	34	23
Fair	44	31	39	46
Poor	21	29	18	29
Don't know	0	0	0	0

34. Police Protection. Is it...

Excellent	21	19	21	8
Good	57	51	58	49
Fair	18	22	17	34
Poor	4	6	4	9
Don't know	1	2	0	0

35. Sanitation. Is it....

Excellent	14	19	15	12
Good	62	54	54	44
Fair	19	18	25	33
Poor	3	8	6	11
Don't know	2	1	0	0

36. Public transportation. Is it...

Excellent	6	11	18	23
Good	35	37	37	46
Fair	31	29	26	24
Poor	17	14	11	7
Don't know	10	9	8	1

37. The parks. Are they...

Excellent	15	12	25	8
Good	56	49	55	52
Fair	21	32	13	31
Poor	5	5	8	9
Don't know	4	2	0	0

38. Streets and roads. Are they...

Excellent	6	7	10	2
Good	55	47	65	50
Fair	31	36	16	37
Poor	6	8	8	9
Don't know	2	2	0	1

	L.I.	NORTH	NJ	NYC
39. Waterfront conditions. Are they...				
Excellent	8	3	14	4
Good	46	46	40	40
Fair	21	27	17	24
Poor	4	11	5	7
Don't know	21	13	22	24

40. Racial and ethnic relations. Are they...

Excellent	7	5	9	6
Good	62	57	51	47
Fair	23	31	27	34
Poor	6	5	9	10
Don't know	2	3	3	3

41. The public schools Are they...

Excellent	29	14	17	4
Good	46	48	48	37
Fair	15	21	20	35
Poor	4	9	7	12
Don't know	5	8	7	13
Split sample 2B / Ask of other half Respondents	693	200	150	300

Now please tell me how often you personally are bothered by each of the following problems in your community.

42. Dangerous traffic. Does this bother you...

Often	25	27	23	30
Sometimes	34	29	30	41
Rarely	27	24	30	17
Never	13	20	17	12
Don't know	0	0	0	0

43. Overflowing trash baskets. Does this bother you...

Often	6	7	13	15
Sometimes	16	19	11	27
Rarely	34	28	33	33
Never	44	45	44	25
Don't know	0	0	0	0

44. Soot, exhaust, or dirty air. Does this bother you...

Often	11	12	19	25
Sometimes	24	24	24	41
Rarely	31	29	24	19
Never	34	34	33	16
Don't know	0	1	0	0

	L.I.	NORTH	NJ	NYC
45. Sidewalks in bad shape. Does this bother you...				
Often	6	7	11	6
Sometimes	15	23	23	27
Rarely	33	24	21	41
Never	45	46	45	26
Don't know	1	1	0	0
46. Noise pollution. Does this bother you...				
Often	7	11	19	21
Sometimes	25	26	30	34
Rarely	32	32	17	30
Never	36	29	35	15
Don't know	1	1	0	0
47. Personal security. Does this bother you...				
Often	6	9	15	17
Sometimes	28	33	31	44
Rarely	32	23	23	23
Never	34	35	31	16
Don't know	1	0	0	0
48. Poorly maintained parks or beaches. Does they bother you...				
Often	6	8	7	6
Sometimes	13	15	15	23
Rarely	33	24	26	37
Never	47	51	47	31
Don't know	2	2	5	3

IV. Transportation

49. How often do you drive a car?				
More than twice a day	45	37	48	16
Twice a day	21	20	19	14
Once a day	12	13	14	6
Five or six days a week	7	4	4	5
Three or four days a week	5	3	3	7
Once or twice a week	3	5	1	10
Less than once a week	0	1	2	5
Less than once a month	0	2	0	6
Never	5	16	9	32
Don't know	0	0	0	0

	L.I.	NORTH	NJ	NYC
50. Are you yourself, currently working full time, working part-time, a stay-at-home parent, retired, a student, or unemployed?:				
Working full time – Continue	50	51	54	52
Working part time – Continue	11	10	7	7
A stay-at-home parent – Go to Q.56	9	8	9	8
Retired – Go to Q.56	20	21	21	18
Student – Continue	4	3	5	6
Unemployed – Go to Q.56	5	8	3	9
Full time at home – Go to Q.56	0	0	0	0
Part time at home – Go to Q.56	0	0	0	0
Don't know/refused – Go to Q.56	1	0	0	0

51. If working or student: How do you commute to (As appropriate:) work / school? (Multiple responses allowed, code all mentioned)

Respondents	895	254	198	391
Walking	3	8	1	12
Bus	5	12	9	24
Subway	1	2	1	26
Train	6	9	4	12
Car	88	72	88	36
Dollar van	0	1	0	0
Other (Specify:)	2	4	0	2
Don't know / no response	0	1	0	1

52. On average, how long does it take you, round trip?

Under 15 mins	18	18	14	4
15-29 mins	25	27	29	18
30-59 mins	32	27	43	37
1 hr – 1 hr 29 mins	12	11	9	22
1 hr 30 mins – 1 hr 59 mins	6	9	3	7
2-3 hrs	4	3	2	7
Over 3 hrs	1	0	0	1
Don't know	3	5	1	6

If respondent doesn't commute by car go to Q.56

53. If commute by car: How often do you experience traffic congestion on the trip?

Respondents	787	185	180	144
Very often	30	33	19	39
Fairly often	36	28	28	45
Not very often	22	26	31	10
Not often at all	10	13	22	6
Don't know	2	0	0	0

	L.I.	NORTH	NJ	NYC
54. Whom do you consider responsible for traffic problems? Open end with pre-codes, do not read list, code all mentioned				
Local government	24	23	21	30
State government	20	30	19	21
Auto lobby	2	1	2	3
Highway lobby	5	6	3	3
Drivers	36	24	35	36
MTA	1	2	0	1
Other (Specify:)	3	3	5	0
Don't know	17	17	23	15

55. Which best explains why you don't use public transportation:

lack of parking	3	7	4	4
lack of accessible/convenient child care	6	8	6	8
service is not frequent enough	22	17	16	19
public transportation doesn't go where I'm going	52	51	53	45
Don't know/not sure	17	16	22	25

56. If there were "dollar vans" in your area that ran short routes not served by public transport, would you be interested or not interested in using them to commute, shop, or go out?

Respondents	1387	400	300	600
Interested	36	41	36	50
Not interested	55	49	60	41
Don't know	8	9	4	9

V. Social Capital

Now let's move to another subject.

57. Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted or that you can't be too careful in dealing with people?

Most people can be trusted	50	42	32	30
You can't be too careful	42	43	58	59
It depends	8	14	10	10
Don't know	1	2	0	0
Split sample 3A Ask of half Respondents	693	200	150	300

How about...

58. People in your community: Would you say you can trust them...

A lot	31	25	29	15
Some	52	48	37	61
A little	11	15	19	17
Not at all	2	3	8	3
Depends on individual	3	8	8	4
Don't know	1	1	1	1

	L.I.	NORTH	NJ	NYC
59. The police in your local community. Would you say you can trust them...				
A lot	43	32	42	26
Some	41	49	37	48
A little	12	11	8	19
Not at all	2	3	5	4
Depends on individual	2	3	7	3
Don't know	1	2	0	0
60. White people. Would you say you can trust them...				
A lot	21	16	18	8
Some	51	51	45	51
A little	11	11	13	28
Not at all	2	3	1	2
Depends on individual	9	17	21	9
Don't know	5	2	2	1
61. ...and African-American or black people. Would you say you can trust them...				
A lot	18	11	15	7
Some	50	53	42	54
A little	15	12	18	26
Not at all	2	2	1	2
Depends on individual	10	20	21	9
Don't know	6	2	3	1
62. How about Hispanics or Latinos? Would you say you can trust them...				
A lot	15	11	17	8
Some	50	55	40	54
A little	14	11	18	26
Not at all	3	3	1	2
Depends on individual	11	18	21	9
Don't know	7	2	3	1
Split sample 3B. Ask of half Respondents	693	200	150	300
63. How much of the time do you think you can trust (NYC) City government, (Elsewhere:) your local government to do what is right – just about always, most of the time, or only some of the time?				
Just about always	6	4	7	1
Most of the time	46	38	44	34
Some of the time	43	54	48	52
Don't know	5	4	1	13

	L.I.	NORTH	NJ	NYC
64. How much of the time do you think you can trust (NYC) your borough government, (Elsewhere:) your county government to do what is right – just about always, most of the time, or only some of the time?				
Just about always	5	3	3	1
Most of the time	37	35	53	33
Some of the time	52	48	43	54
Don't know	6	14	1	11
65. How much of the time do you think you can trust (NYC) your state government, (Elsewhere:) your state government to do what is right – just about always, most of the time, or only some of the time?				
Just about always	4	3	2	1
Most of the time	33	30	50	20
Some of the time	58	55	46	63
Don't know	6	12	3	15
66. How much of the time do you think you can trust (NYC) New York City's business leaders, (Elsewhere) (Read town where they're from) business leaders to do what is right – just about always, most of the time, or only some of the time?				
Just about always	4	7	2	1
Most of the time	30	27	43	24
Some of the time	54	53	45	59
Don't know	13	13	10	17
67. How much of the time do you think you can trust (NYC) New York City's religious leaders, (Elsewhere) (Read town where they're from) religious leaders to do what is right – just about always, most of the time, or only some of the time?				
Just about always	9	9	16	5
Most of the time	53	44	58	44
Some of the time	31	38	24	41
Don't know	8	8	2	9
Ask of all				
68. How much influence do you think someone like you can have over local government decisions? A lot, some, very little or none at all?				
A lot	5	10	9	4
Some	40	40	42	32
Very little	39	34	33	47
None at all	14	12	12	15
Don't know	2	5	5	2
Split sample 4A Ask of half Respondents	693	200	150	300

	L.I.	NORTH	NJ	NYC
69. I'm going to read a list of organizations. As I mention each, please tell me if you yourself belong to it. (Read list, multiple responses permitted, code all mentioned).				
Church, synagogue, or mosque	65	56	49	56
Other religious association or charity	10	11	10	13
Neighborhood association	11	7	3	9
Non-religious charity group	10	9	5	6
Youth Group	5	7	3	0
Ethnic, national, or civil rights group	2	4	2	3
School parents group	10	7	10	4
Labor union / employee association	10	3	16	8
Sports team/group	6	1	0	5
Senior citizens group	5	6	8	3
Literary, art, discussion, study, musical, dancing, or singing group	2	7	3	5
Political group	1	2	1	0
None of these	14	20	17	21
Don't know / no response	4	5	8	4
Split sample 4B Ask of other half Respondents	693	200	150	300

70. I'm going to read a list of activities. As I read each, please tell me if you yourself have done it in the past month (Read list, multiple responses allowed, code all mentioned)

Played card or board games with others	47	46	45	33
Visited or been visited by relatives	81	78	90	80
Attended a club meeting	14	18	10	12
Had friends over to your home	31	27	43	45
Been in the home of a friend of a different racial or ethnic group	5	3	0	4
Socialized with co-workers outside work	3	6	1	8
Played a team sport	1	2	0	0
Participated in a discussion over the internet	1	0	0	1
Volunteered	0	1	0	0
Attended a social event of a church, synagogue, or mosque	2	4	1	2
Gave or attended a dinner party	1	3	0	3
Attended a public meeting where (Non-NYC) town, (NYC) city or school affairs were discussed	0	0	0	0
None of these	1	2	0	2
No response	3	1	2	1
Ask of all				

71. How interested are you in what's going on in your community? Very interested, somewhat interested, not very interested, or not interested at all?

Very interested	43	38	42	36
Somewhat interested	50	51	55	51
Not very interested	6	9	2	11
Not interested at all	1	3	1	1
Don't know	0	0	0	0

	L.I.	NORTH	NJ	NYC
72. How strongly do you identify with your community: very strongly, fairly strongly, not very strongly, or not strongly at all?				
Very strongly	26	25	27	19
Fairly strongly	57	53	56	54
Not very strongly	15	16	16	22
Not strongly at all	1	6	2	3
Don't know	1	0	0	1

73. How strongly do you identify with (Non-NYC) your town, (NYC) New York City – very strongly, fairly strongly, not very strongly, or not strongly at all?

Very strongly	23	24	33	27
Fairly strongly	57	55	52	50
Not very strongly	16	16	12	17
Not strongly at all	3	5	2	4
Don't know	1	0	0	1

For NYC, Northern and NJ Suburbs, Go to Q.75

74. Nassau, Suffolk only: How strongly do you identify with Long Island: very strongly, fairly strongly, not very strongly, or not strongly at all?

Very strongly	32
Fairly strongly	54
Not very strongly	9
Not strongly at all	3
Don't know	2

VI. Civic Involvement

75. In the past five years, have you contacted any government officials, in person, by phone, e-mail, or letter, about problems or issues with which you were concerned?

Yes	40	37	33	22
No	59	63	67	77
Don't know/ refused	1	0	0	0

76. In the past five years, have you served on any government body or council that deals with community problems and issues?

Yes	7	7	7	5
No	93	92	93	95
Don't know/ refused	0	0	0	0

77. In the past five years, have you been a member of a political party organization or of an organization that took stands on political or community issues?

Yes	18	18	12	10
No	81	82	88	89
Don't know/ refused	1	0	0	0

	L.I.	NORTH	NJ	NYC
78. In the past five years, have you gotten together with people in your community or worked informally with others to deal with some community issue or problem?				
Yes	33	30	27	27
No	66	69	72	73
Don't know/ refused	1	1	1	1
79. How effective do you think local civic, community, or block associations are: very effective, fairly effective, not very effective, or not effective at all?				
Very effective	15	15	13	11
Fairly effective	60	54	57	51
Not very effective	17	17	14	21
Not effective at all	2	3	4	3
Don't know	6	10	12	13

VII. Demographics

Finally, a few questions for statistical purposes only.

80. How old are you? (Record) ____

18-24	10	10	10	13
25-29	6	7	6	10
30-34	12	11	13	13
35-39	12	14	16	12
40-44	12	11	6	10
45-49	9	8	10	8
50-54	10	7	10	10
55-59	6	6	7	6
60-64	6	8	4	3
65 & over	17	17	15	15
Don't know/Refuse	1	1	2	1

81. What is the highest grade in school you completed?

Grade school	1	0	1	2
Some high school	4	11	9	12
High school graduate	37	34	51	39
Some college	12	11	5	11
College graduate	16	16	6	11
Graduate school	17	22	25	15
Technical school	11	6	3	9
Don't know / refused	1	1	0	1

82. Do you generally consider yourself liberal, moderate, or conservative?

Liberal	24	27	29	27
Moderate	43	38	34	39
Conservative	29	29	30	28
Don't know/refused	4	7	8	6

	L.I.	NORTH	NJ	NYC
83. What is your marital status – married, single, widowed, or divorced?				
Married	68	55	67	51
Single	20	28	22	34
Widowed	7	9	8	8
Divorced	4	8	3	5
Don't know / refused	1	0	0	2

84. What is your religion? (Do not read categories)

Protestant (Includes Baptist, Lutheran, Methodist, Episcopal, Presbyterian, etc)	29	32	38	32
Catholic	51	36	39	35
Other Christian (Mormon, Congregationalist, Unitarian, etc)	4	5	5	4
Jewish	5	12	2	8
Muslim / Islam	0	1	0	4
Hindu	1	1	1	0
Buddhist	0	1	0	1
Other (Specify:)	0	0	0	0
None/Atheist	4	8	5	10
Don't know/refused	0	0	0	0

85. If respondent works (Answered 1 or 2 to Q. 50): Where do you work?

RESPONDENTS	846	242	184	357
Nassau	42	1	0	3
Suffolk	41	4	4	3
New York City	13	16	14	89
New Jersey Suburbs	0	0	57	1
Northern Suburbs (Westchester, Rockland, Orange, Fairfield)	1	68	6	1
Other (Specify:)	2	2	8	0
Don't know / refused	2	8	12	3

86. What is your race?

87. (If not Hispanic) Do you consider yourself Hispanic or Latino?

White	78	72	67	39
Black/African-American/Caribbean-American	8	10	12	23
Hispanic/Latino	9	12	14	25
Asian	1	1	4	6
Native American	0	1	1	1
Other (Specify:)	0	2	0	1
Don't know/ refused	3	1	3	6

	L.I.	NORTH	NJ	NYC
88. How long have you lived in the town or city where you currently reside?				
Under 6 months	1	2	3	1
6 months – 1 year	2	3	2	1
1 year – 2 years	3	4	6	2
Over 2 years, under 5 years	8	13	5	11
5 to 10 years	16	16	15	16
Over 10 years	48	40	45	38
All my life – Go to Q.90	21	21	23	29
Don't know / refused to say – Go to Q.90	1	1	1	1
89. Where did you move there from?				
RESPONDENTS	1087	313	229	424
Nassau	21	5	1	2
Suffolk	15	3	4	2
New York City	28	31	14	40
New Jersey suburbs	5	3	33	6
Westchester, Rockland, Orange, Fairfield counties	7	21	6	3
Outside NYC metro area but in US	19	25	27	23
Outside the US	3	11	14	22
Don't know / refused to say	2	1	1	2
90. Where were you born?				
US (includes Puerto Rico, US possessions) Go to Q. 92	92	81	84	77
Elsewhere	7	19	15	23
Don't know / refused	0	0	0	0
91. If birthplace not US: Are you a US citizen?				
RESPONDENTS	108	76	47	140
Yes	71	67	53	57
No	25	32	45	41
Don't know/refused	0	0	0	0
If non-citizen respondent: Go to Q.96				
92. If US citizen: Are you registered to vote? If yes: As a Republican, Democrat, or Independent?				
RESPONDENTS	1355	375	278	539
Yes, Republican – Continue	42	31	24	17
Yes, Democrat – Continue	32	41	46	47
Yes, Independent – Continue	15	18	19	15
Yes, Other- (Specify:) Continue	1	0	0	2
No – Go to Q.96	7	8	9	14
Don't know – Go to Q.96	3	2	3	5

	L.I.	NORTH	NJ	NYC	
93. Did you vote in the 2000 Presidential election?					
RESPONDENTS	1228	338	246	435	
Voted	93	88	85	84	
Did not vote	7	12	15	15	
Don't know	0	0	0	1	
94. Did you vote in the 2002 Congressional election?					
Voted	82	80	82	72	
Did not vote	17	20	18	27	
Don't know	1	0	0	1	
Nassau and Suffolk only, Continue. All others go to Q.-96					
95. Nassau and Suffolk only: Did you vote in the 2001 County Legislature election?					
RESPONDENTS	1228				
Voted	74				
Did not vote	24				
Don't know	3				
96. For statistical purposes only, we need to know your total household income for 2001. Will you please tell me which of the following categories best represents your total family income? (Read categories aloud.)					
Less than \$20,000	6	15	6	10	
\$20,000-\$34,999	12	20	12	26	
\$35,000-59,999	29	19	28	23	
\$60,000-99,999	24	18	23	13	
\$100,000 plus	10	9	11	8	
Don't know / refused	18	19	20	21	
Ask of all					
VIII. Post Codes	97. Interview Language				
	English	98	98	99	99
	Spanish	2	2	1	1
	98. Gender				
	Male	48	47	47	46
	Female	52	53	53	54
	99. Area of residence				
	Nassau	48	0	0	0
	Suffolk	52	0	0	0
	New York City	0	0	0	100
	Westchester, Rockland, Orange, Fairfield	0	100	0	0
	New Jersey Suburbs	0	0	100	0

