

TRACKING RESIDENTIAL SATISFACTION ON LONG ISLAND

Report Prepared by
Stony Brook University
Center for Survey Research

2012

LONG ISLAND
INDEX



INTRODUCTION

Since 2002, the Rauch Foundation, a Long Island-based family foundation focused on children and families, the environment, and leadership, has commissioned a series of public opinion surveys to assess the attitudes of Long Island's residents on the important issues facing them. As part of the Foundation's *Long Island Index* project, these surveys are intended to provide an awareness of the concerns and opinions of Long Island residents.

The current survey was conducted by the Stony Brook University Center for Survey Research during the fall of 2011. Telephone interviews were conducted with a randomly selected sample of 810 Long Island residents. Further information on the methodology, as well as the questionnaire and responses, is available in the Appendix to the report.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The current Long Island Index poll tracks residents' concerns about local life: the high cost of local housing and taxes, the desire to move from Long Island to less expensive areas of the country, concerns about young people leaving, affordable housing, local public schools, local downtowns, transportation, commute time, and overall life satisfaction. The current poll was conducted three years into the recession of 2008 which was associated with a downturn in housing values and increased unemployment. Perhaps not surprisingly, given national economic trends, there is ample evidence of economic differences in satisfaction with life on Long Island. These differences are documented throughout this report and summarized below. Other broad trends in opinion are also noted throughout this report.

Concerns about the High Cost of Local Living, Especially Housing

There is a pervasive sense that things are not going well on Long Island. A greater number of local residents think things in their county are heading in the wrong than right direction. Local residents remain primarily concerned about high local taxes which dwarf concerns about the economy as the most important local problem. Roughly 1 in 2 says they are likely to leave Long Island in the next five years. And residents say they are getting middling value in terms of what they are paying for local schools. Residents are concerned about a lack of affordable housing, worry that young people or a family member will leave for areas with a lower cost of living, and most residents have at least some difficulty paying their monthly rent or mortgage.

Growing Support for Non-Traditional Housing Options

Long Islanders express growing support for alternatives to the traditional family home. A majority (52%) support a change in zoning laws that would increase height limits downtown and allow apartments above stores, representing an increase in support from 2010 when 44% supported such change. There is also majority support (61%) for changes to zoning laws that would make it easier to install legal rental apartments in a single family home. Not surprisingly, both policies are especially popular among non-home owners.

Economic Inequality

In general, Long Islanders express considerable life satisfaction, but a basic sense of happiness varies by household income. Roughly two-thirds of residents in households with incomes less than \$35,000 are pretty or very happy compared to 90% in households with an income of \$100,000 or more, and happiness increases at each intermediate level of household income.

Difficulty in making monthly rent or mortgage payments is at an all-time high in the current poll, and this difficulty was greatest for both low and middle income households earning \$100,000 or less annually. Members of low income households were somewhat more concerned than those in higher income households about family members leaving the area because of high housing costs, although this concern is apparent at all income levels. The desire to move is highest among those in lower income households.

In terms of local housing policy, members of lower income households were more supportive than those in more affluent households of a change to local zoning laws that would make it easier to install rental apartments in single-family homes. Most residents who live in households earning less than \$35,000, say it is important to live within walking distance of public transportation compared to a minority of residents in households with an income of \$100,000 or more.

Educational Equality and Value

Overall, Long Islanders are split on the question of whether local public schools provide an equal education to all students. Roughly half believe the schools are at least somewhat equal and half believe they are at least somewhat unequal across school districts. Young people, better educated, and black residents are more likely to see the schools as unequal. One remedy for inequality—the creation of magnet schools—is broadly popular among Long Islanders. Roughly 7 in 10 support their creation. Overall, local residents rate Long Island public schools as of middling value in terms of school quality and cost. Roughly 4 in 10 rate school value as good (38%), roughly 2 in 10 rate it as excellent (18%), but a sizeable minority rate school value as fair or poor (39%).

Losing the Young

There are also signs that young people and non-home owners are struggling to a greater degree than others to live affordably on Long Island. Non-home owners rate a lack of affordable housing as a more serious problem than do home owners. Over two-thirds of young residents, aged 18 to 34, say they are somewhat or very likely to leave Long Island in the next 5 years. A greater number of renters than homeowners think it is likely that they will leave Long Island in the next five years. Almost 6 in 10 young people spend 2 hours or more driving each day, a higher percentage than in other age groups. There is also greater support among young people for a change to zoning laws that would make it easier to install legal rental apartments in a single family home; this policy change is also more popular among non-home owners than home owners.

Long Commutes and the Importance of Public Transportation

It may be no surprise to anyone to discover that Long Island residents spend a good part of their day in a car. 43% reported spending two hours or more on an average weekday getting to work, driving children to school or after-school activities, running errands, or attending social events. Driving time was highest among the young, Suffolk County residents, parents with a school-age child, Blacks, and Latinos.

When asked, roughly a half of all Long Island residents rate living within walking distance of a train or bus stop as somewhat or very important. Living in close proximity to public transportation is particularly important to young people, Black residents, and members of low-income households.

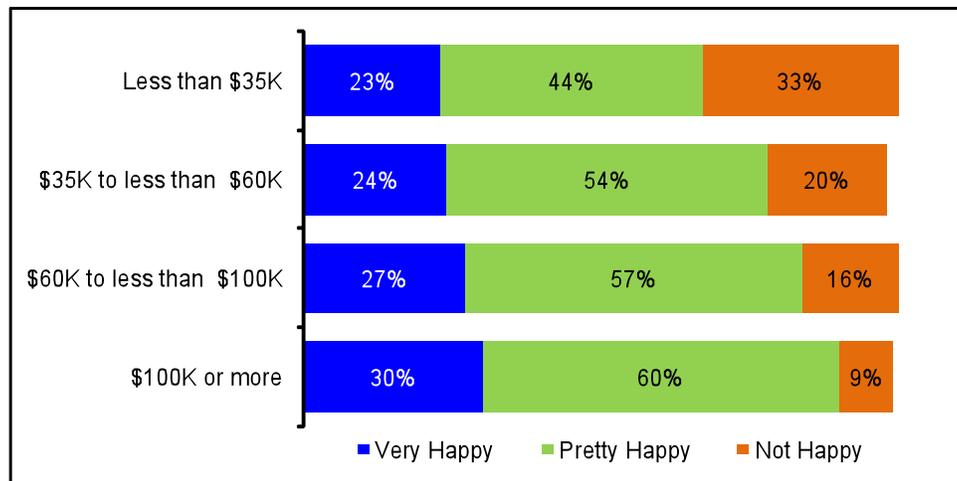
RESIDENTIAL SATISFACTION

The current Long Island Index poll continues to track Long Island residents’ concerns about residential life: the high cost of local housing and taxes, the desire to move from Long Island to less expensive areas of the country, concerns about young people leaving, affordable housing, local public schools, and local downtowns. The poll also includes a new set of questions concerning transportation -- the amount of time Long Islanders spend in the car, their use of local public transportation, and the desire to live close to train stations and bus stops – and a new question on Long Islanders’ overall life satisfaction.

Life Satisfaction

In general, Long Islanders express considerable life satisfaction. 83% say they are very or pretty happy with the way things are going in their life in general. A majority of residents (54%) are pretty happy and fewer are very happy (29%). Happiness increases with household income. 67% of residents in households with incomes less than \$35,000 are pretty or very happy compared to 90% in households with an income of \$100,000 or more, and happiness increases at each intermediate level of household income. Reported overall happiness was highest among those aged 18 to 34 and lowest among those aged 35 to 49.

Figure 1: When you think about how things are going in your life in general --would you say that you are very happy, pretty happy, not too happy or not happy at all? (Q21)

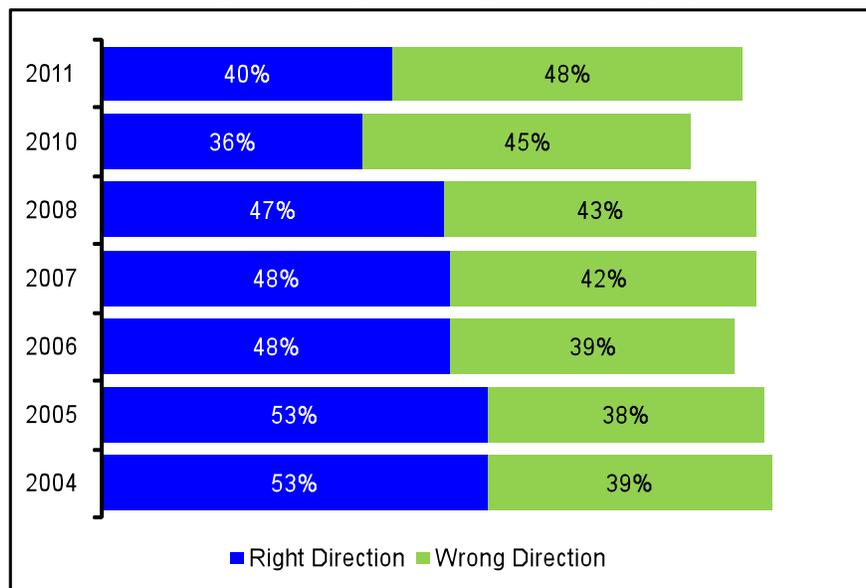


Direction of the County

A greater number of Long Islanders think things in their county are headed in the wrong than in the right direction. Since 2004, the number of Long Islanders who think things are heading in the wrong direction has grown steadily from 39% in 2004 to 48% in 2011. Residents of Nassau County are more negative than those in Suffolk with 50% of Nassau residents saying things are headed in the wrong direction compared to 45% in Suffolk.

Young people remain more positive than all other age groups with 39% of those aged 18 to 34 saying that things are headed in the wrong direction and 51% saying they are headed in the right direction. Homeowners are more likely than non-homeowners to say that things in their county are headed in the wrong direction (54% vs. 31%). Long-term residents are also more likely to see things heading in the wrong direction; 55% of those who have lived on Long Island their entire lives and 50% of those who have lived here for 10 years or more say things are headed in the wrong direction compared to 24% of those who have lived on Long Island for 10 years or less.

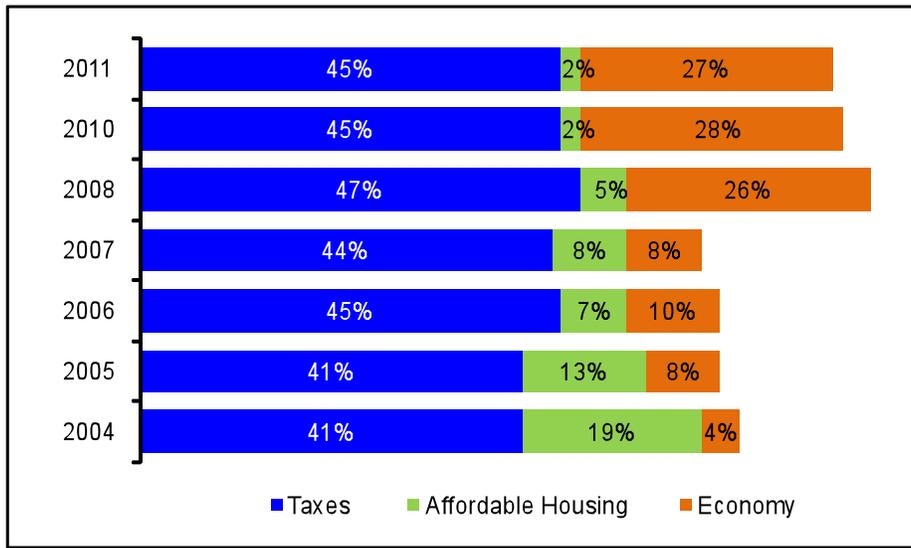
Figure 2: Right/Wrong Direction (Q1)



Continued Concern about High Taxes

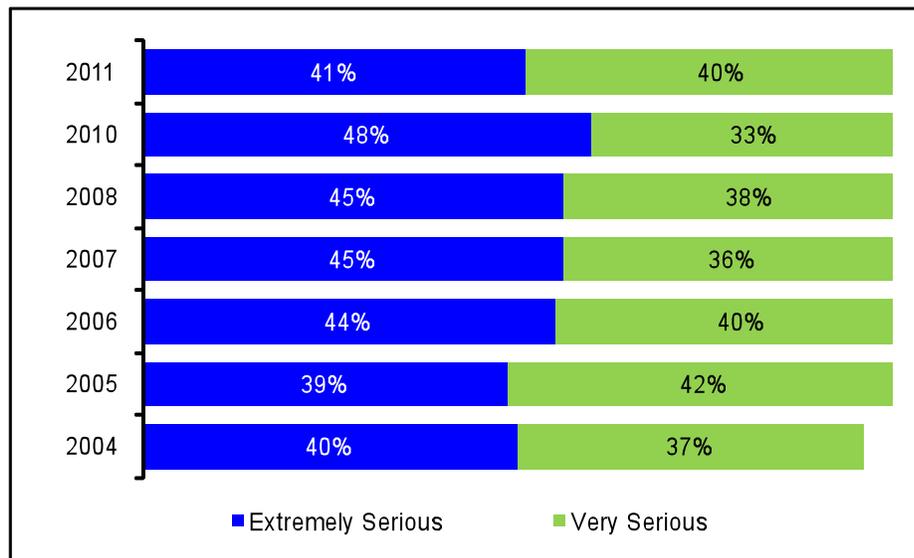
Local taxes are the most common problem mentioned by Long Islanders in every poll conducted over the last eight years (since 2003); this remains the case in 2011. 45% of Long Islanders say high taxes when asked about the most important problem facing their county. To put this into perspective, this is almost double the number of Long Islanders who mention broad economic factors such as unemployment, foreclosures, or finances as the most important local problem (27%). In general, residents of Nassau County are somewhat more likely than residents of Suffolk County to mention taxes as the most important local problem (53% vs. 38%), and homeowners are more likely to do so than renters (53% vs. 23%). There is also a political aspect to concerns over taxes; self-described conservatives are more likely to mention the issue (52%) than either political liberals or moderates (38%).

Figure 3: Most Important Local Problem (Q2)



Roughly 8 in 10 (81%) residents rate high property taxes as a very or extremely serious problem, and these numbers have changed little over time. 77% of Long Island residents rated higher property taxes as a very or extremely serious problem in 2004 and 81% do so in the current poll. Moreover, there are relatively few differences among those who perceived property taxes as a serious problem. The middle-aged, those aged 35 to 49 (46%) and 50 to 64 (50%), are somewhat more likely to view taxes as an extremely serious problem than those aged 18 to 34 (26%) or 65 and up (34%). Homeowners are more likely than non-homeowners to rate taxes as an extremely serious problem (45% vs. 29%). But in general, taxes are seen as a serious problem by Long Islanders regardless of their background.

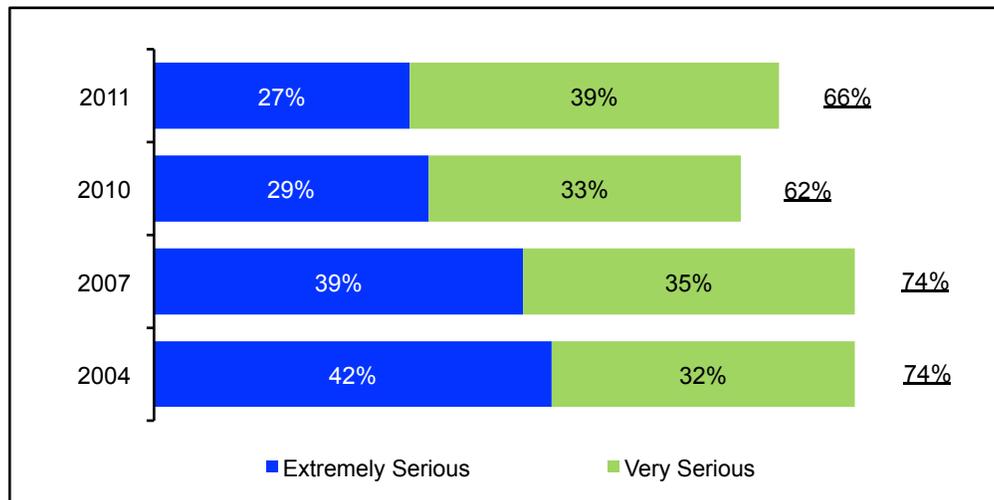
Figure 4: In your view, how serious a problem are high property taxes in your county? (Q3)



High Housing Costs Persist

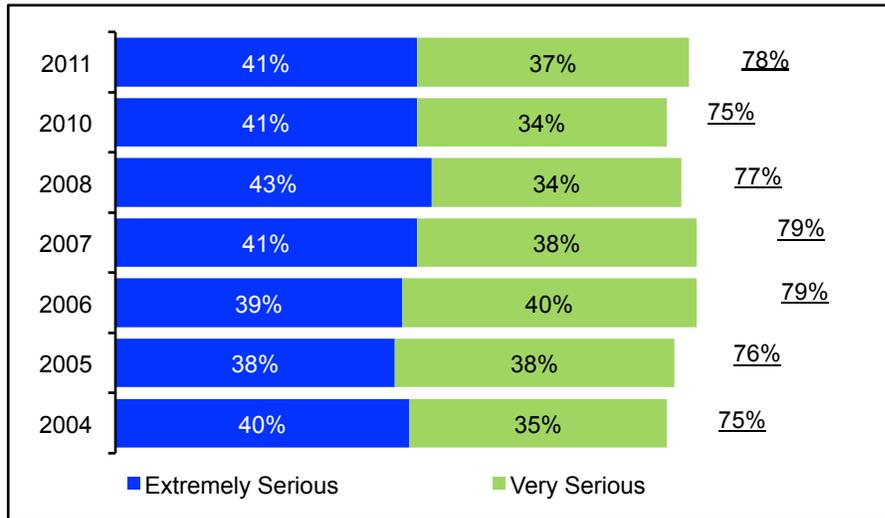
Roughly two-thirds of Long Island residents (66%) say that the lack of affordable housing is a very or extremely serious problem in their county, representing a slight decline in concern over time. Before the recession, in 2007, 74% of Long Islanders rated the lack of affordable housing as an extremely or very serious problem. The decline is linked to fewer residents who rate the lack of affordable housing as an *extremely* serious problem (from 42% in 2004 to 27% in the current poll). Renters are more likely than homeowners to view the lack of affordable housing as an extremely or very serious problem (82% vs. 60%). Blacks (86%) and Latinos (74%) are also more likely than Whites (62%) to rate the problem as extremely or very serious.

Figure 5: In your view, how serious a problem is the lack of affordable housing on Long Island? (Q4)



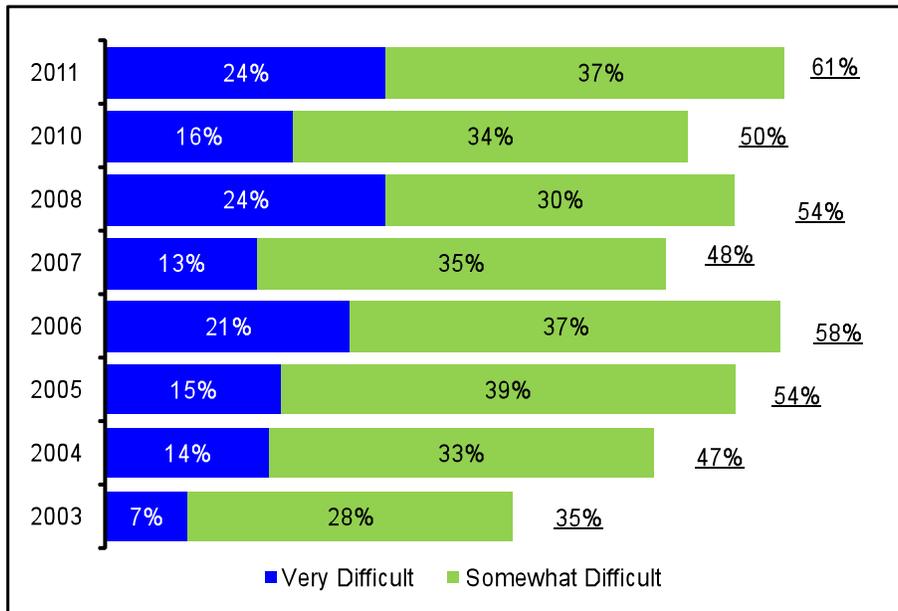
Over three in four Long Islanders view young people leaving Long Island for more affordable areas as a very or extremely serious problem. This concern is shared widely among Long Islanders of all backgrounds and has remained high throughout all previous polls (between 75% and 79%).

Figure 6: How serious is the problem of young people moving away from Long Island because of the high cost of living? (Q5)



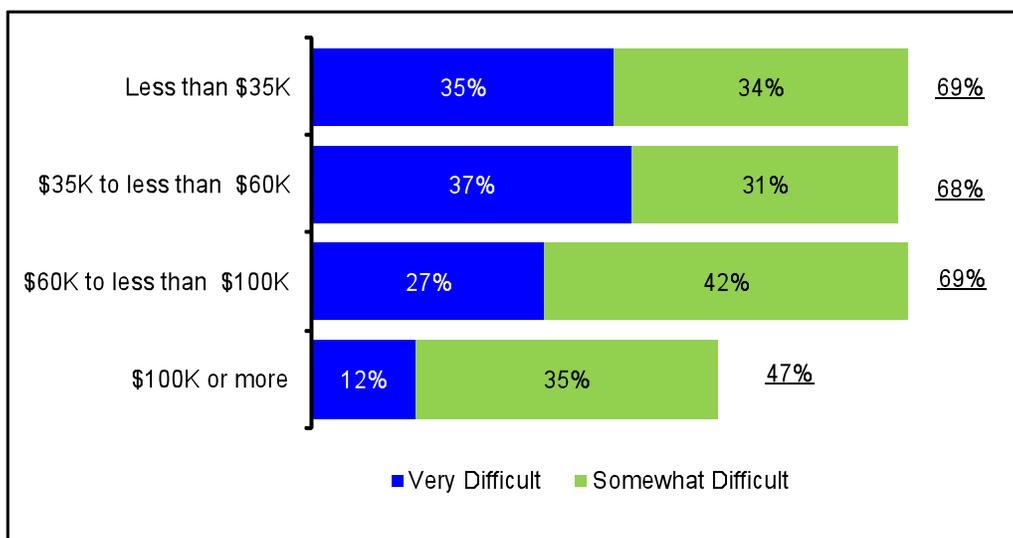
Over 6 in 10 Long Island residents have at least some difficulty paying their rent or mortgage, representing an increase over last year when 50% reported this as at least somewhat difficult. This is the greatest number of Long Island residents to report difficulty with housing costs since the question was first asked in the Long Island Index in 2003.

Figure 7: In an average month, how difficult is it for you and your family living with you to pay the rent or mortgage? (Q6)



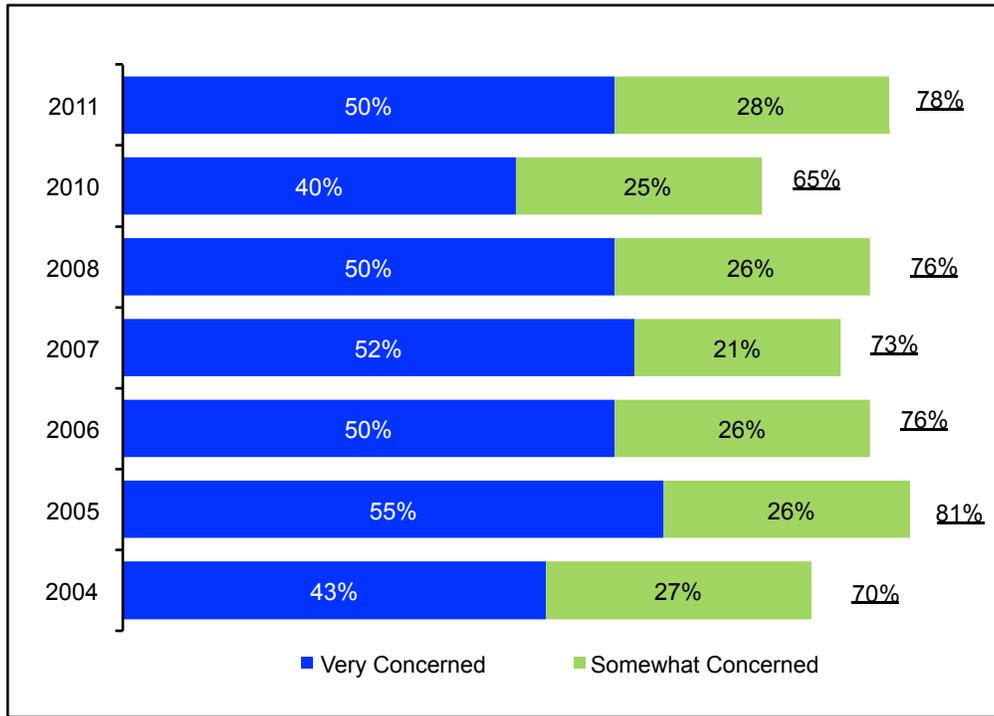
The Long Island residents who have the greatest difficulty paying for their housing costs tend to be young, less affluent, non-home owners, and black or Latino. Roughly 7 in 10 (69%) of individuals with a household income below \$35,000 reported that it was somewhat or very difficult to meet their monthly housing payments. Difficulty extends to households with those in middle-income households. 69% of those in households with incomes between \$35,000 and \$100,000 also reported difficulty in meeting their housing payments. Even among those earning over \$100,000, just under 50% said it was difficult to meet their housing costs, although many fewer in this income group said it was very difficult (12%).

Figure 8: In an average month, how difficult is it for you and your family living with you to pay the rent or mortgage? (Q6) By Income



Almost 8 in 10 Long Island residents are concerned that some family members might have to leave the area because of high housing costs. This level of concern is similar to that recorded in 2008 but is somewhat higher than in 2010. Residents with an advanced degree were slightly less concerned about family members leaving than were less well educated residents; 65% of those with an advanced degree said they were very or somewhat concerned about this compared to 78% of those with a bachelor’s degree and 80% of those with some college. A similar trend is observed across levels of household income with members of lower income households expressing greater concern than the more affluent; 72% of those in households earning more than \$100,000 were concerned about family members moving compared to 83% of those in households earning less than \$35,000.

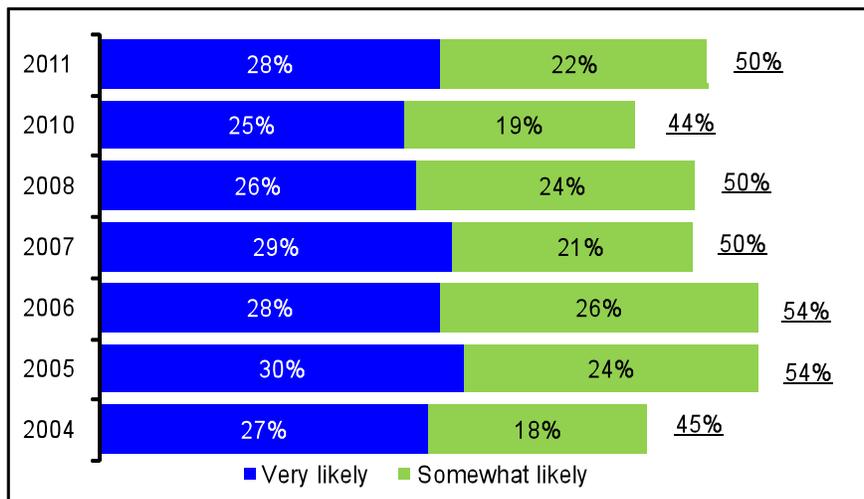
Figure 9: How concerned are you that the high cost of housing will force members of your family to move out of Nassau/Suffolk County? (Q7)



1 in 2 Long Islanders say they are likely to leave

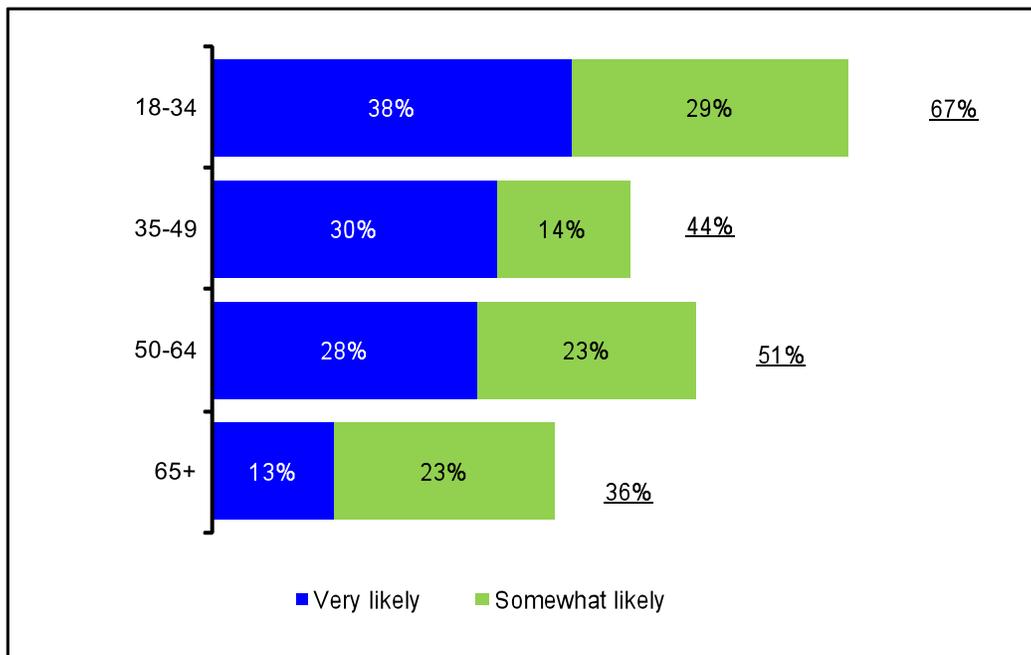
In 2005 and 2006 54% of residents said they were somewhat or very likely to leave Long Island in the next five years. This dropped to 50% in 2007 and 2008 and then dropped further to 44% in 2010. In the current poll, the number increased to 50%, returning to pre-recession levels.

Figure 10: How likely is it that you will move out of Long Island to an area with lower housing costs and property taxes in the next 5 years? (Q8)



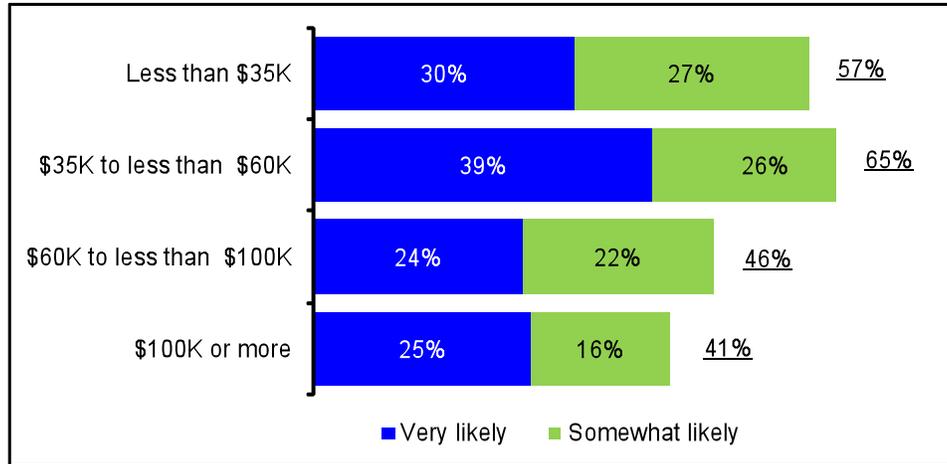
Over two-thirds of young residents, aged 18 to 34, say they are somewhat or very likely to leave Long Island in the next 5 years (67%). This is consistent with numbers observed in past years. Just over half (51%) of those in the pre-retirement age group say they are somewhat or very likely to leave, an increase over 2010 when 43% of the age group said this. The age groups who say they are most likely to leave are thus the young and those in their parents' age group. 44% of residents aged 35-49 and even fewer seniors aged 65 and older (36%) say they are likely to move away from Long Island in the next five years.

Figure 11: How likely is it that you will move out of Long Island to an area with lower housing costs and property taxes in the next 5 years?(Q8) By Age



Fewer homeowners than renters think it is likely that they will leave Long Island in the next five years (46% vs. 62%), a trend observed in previous polls. The number of homeowners who said they would leave Long Island peaked at 48% in 2005 and 2006 and then dropped to 40% in 2010. But it has increased in this year's poll to return to pre-recession levels. Black (59%) and Latino (63%) residents are also more likely than White residents (48%) to say they will leave Long Island in the next five years, a trend observed in prior polls. Less affluent residents are also more likely to say they will move than others. The desire to move is highest among those in lower income households; 65% of those in households earning between \$35,000 and \$60,000, and 57% of those in households with an income of \$35,000 or less say they are likely to leave.

Figure 12: How likely is it that you will move out of Long Island to an area with lower housing costs and property taxes in the next 5 years? (Q8) By Income

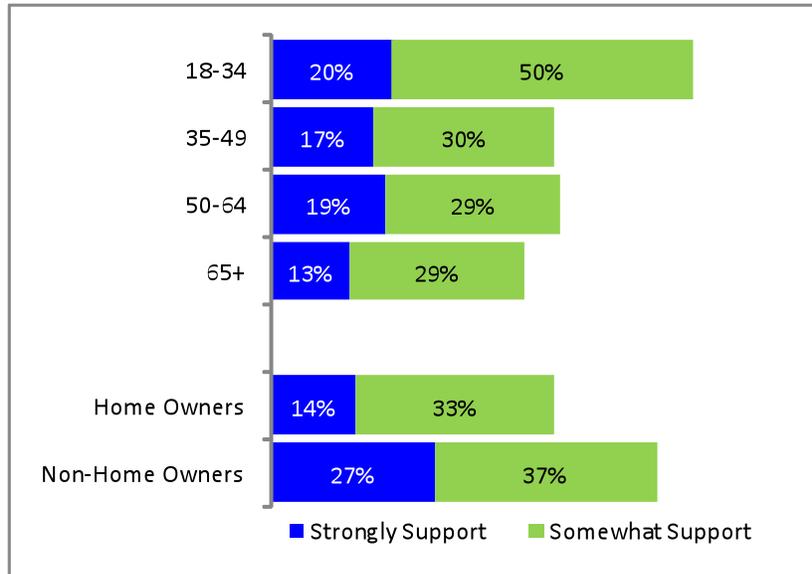


LOCAL DOWNTOWNS AND HOUSING

Growing support for increased housing downtown

There is considerable support in the poll for increasing height limits in local Long Island downtowns: a majority (52%) of Long Islanders support this compared to 43% who oppose. This represents an increase in support from 2010 when 44% were supportive and 48% opposed, and 2007 when 49% supported and 46% opposed. Young people, aged 18 to 34, are far more supportive of changing zoning laws to allow apartments in the local downtowns; 70% of those aged 18 to 24 supported this compared to 42% of those aged 65 or older. Support also increased with education; 46% of those with a high school education supported a change in zoning laws compared to 58% of those with an advanced degree. Non-homeowners are more supportive than homeowners (64% vs.47%), and Blacks (58%) are more supportive than Whites (50%).

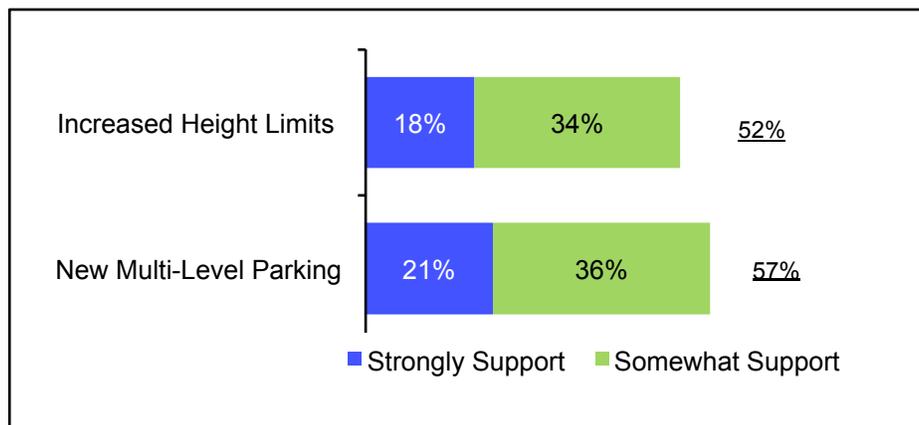
Figure 13: To what extent do you support or oppose a change in zoning laws that would increase height limits in some downtown areas in Nassau/Suffolk county from two to four stories to allow apartments above shops? (Q9)



Support for multi-story parking garages downtown

A majority of Long Islanders support new multi-level parking garages in local downtowns in their county: 57% support this compared to 40% who are opposed. There was broad support across different groups of people on Long Island for building new parking garages. Support was slightly higher among the highest and lowest income groups, and among those with an advanced degree. Politically speaking, liberals and moderates (approximately 65% each) more strongly supported this initiative than conservatives (51%). But overall a diverse majority of Long Islanders support building new multi-story garages.

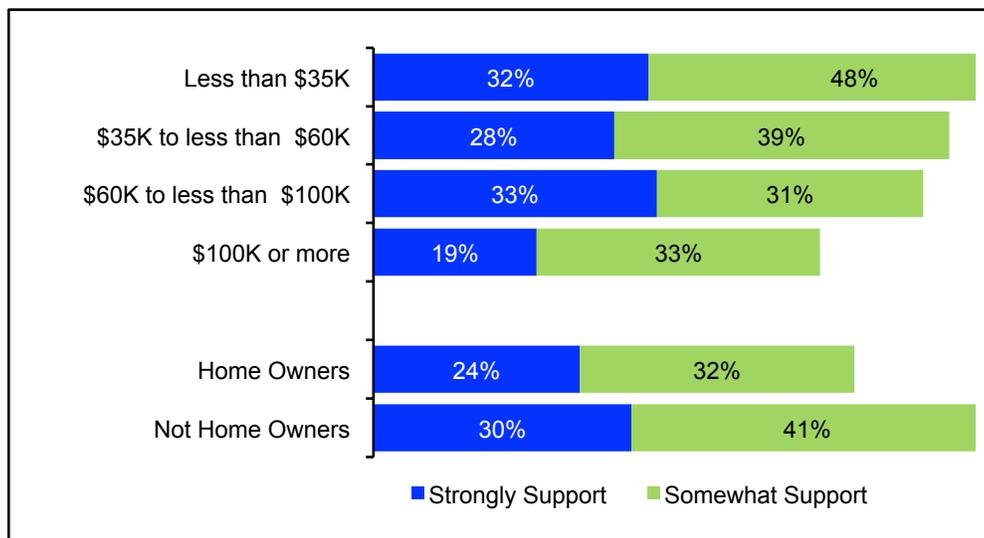
Figure 14: Long Island support for increased height downtown and multi-level parking garages (Q9, Q10)



Support for increased number of rental apartments in homes on Long Island

There is considerable support on Long Island for changes to zoning laws that would make it easier to install legal rental apartments in a single family home; 61% of Long Islanders support this. Support is much stronger among members of households with an income below \$35,000 than in households earning \$100,000 or more (80% vs. 52%). There is also stronger support among residents of Suffolk than Nassau County (64% vs. 57%), Long Islanders aged between 18 and 34 (68%), and non-home owners than home owners (71% vs. 56%). 69% of those with a high school degree supported changing local zoning laws for increasing single-family rental apartments, greater than in all other educational groups. Support decreased as educational level increased, those with an advanced degree showed the least support (47%).

Figure 15: To what extent do you support or oppose changing local zoning rules in Nassau/Suffolk County to make it easier to install a rental apartment in a single-family home? (Q11)



LOCAL SERVICES

Public Schools

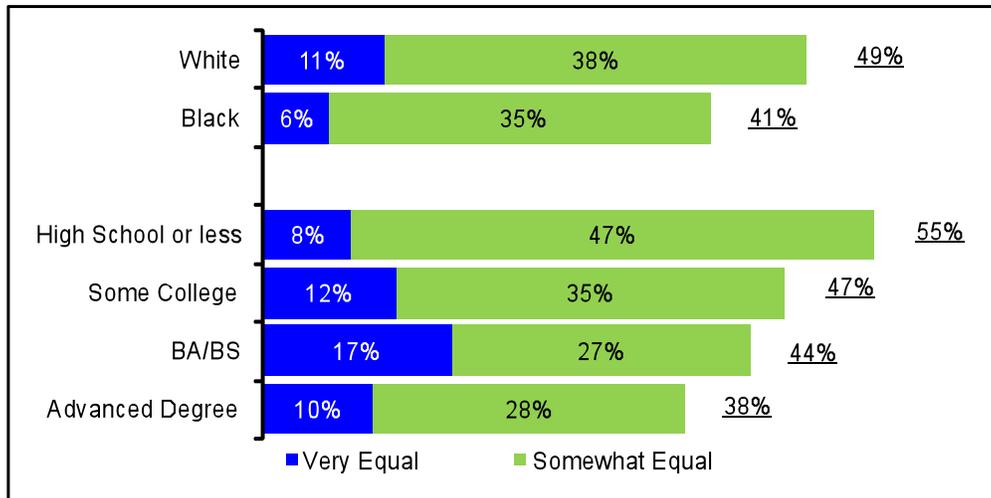
Local residents rate Long Island public schools as of middling value. When asked to rate school quality in relation to the amount residents pay for schools via local property taxes, 56% of residents said school value was excellent or good and 39% said it was fair or poor. Moreover, many more residents rated the value of schools as good (38%) than excellent (18%). In general there were few differences among residents of different backgrounds in the perceived value of local schools.

Table 1: Public School Value, Equality, and Support for Magnet Schools

Quality of education in return for local property taxes (Q12)	
Excellent	18%
Good	38%
Fair	24%
Poor	15%
Quality of education for students in public schools across schools and school districts (Q13)	
Very Equal	11%
Somewhat Equal	36%
Somewhat Unequal	27%
Very Unequal	19%
Support creation of magnet schools from different districts on LI (Q14)	
Strongly Favor	33%
Somewhat Favor	36%
Somewhat Oppose	10%
Strongly Oppose	12%

Overall, Long Islanders are split on the question of local educational equality. Roughly the same percent see some inequality across school districts as see school districts as equal (approximately 47% in both instances). To some extent such differing perceptions are political in nature: 42% of conservatives see school quality as unequal compared to 51% of liberals. Perceived educational equality also varies with age, education and race. Long Islanders aged 18 to 34 see public schools as more unequal (47%) than do older residents aged 65 and older (37%). Long Island residents with a college or advanced degree are more likely to rate schools as unequal (54% and 56% respectively) than residents with a high school diploma (36%) or some college (48%). Blacks are also more likely than Whites to see school districts as unequal (59% of Blacks compared to 46% of Whites). Those living on Long Island for less than 10 years see greater inequality in public schools (58%) than those who have lived there for more than 10 years (46%) or all their lives (43%). More women (50%) than men (42%) rate the quality of public education on Long Island as unequal.

Figure 16: How would you describe the equality of education across schools and school districts for students attending public schools on Long Island (Q13)

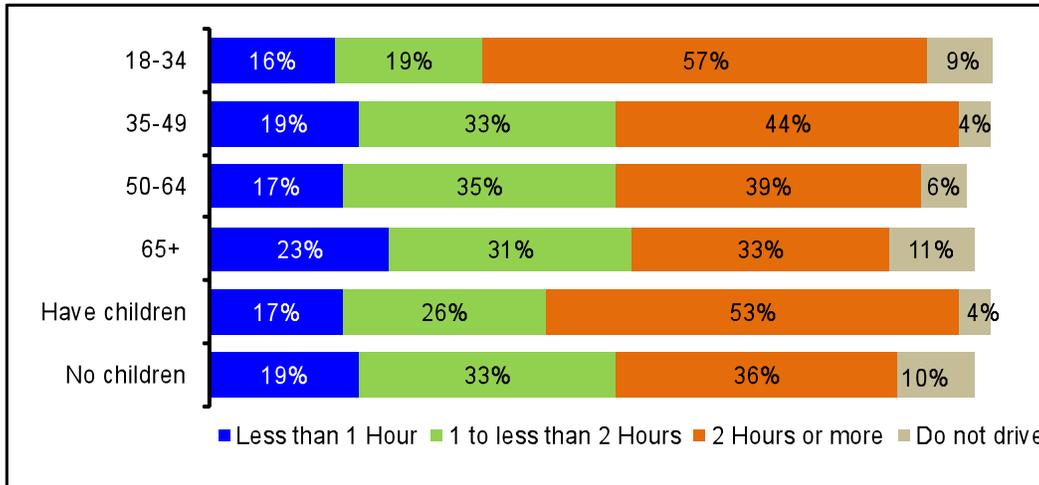


Long Islanders strongly support the creation of magnet schools: 69% of residents are in favor and 22% opposed. This support is widespread; it is slightly stronger among those without school age children, Blacks than Whites, and non-homeowners than homeowners.

Transportation

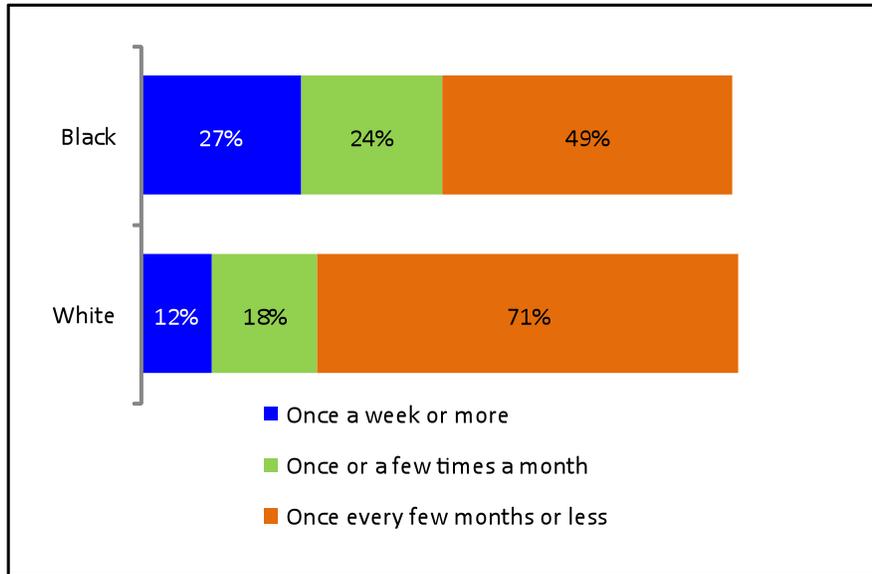
It may be no surprise to anyone to discover that Long Island residents spend a good part of their day in a car. 43% reported spending two hours or more on an average weekday getting to work, driving children to school or after-school activities, running errands, or attending social events. Driving time was somewhat greater in Suffolk than Nassau County with 46% of Suffolk residents spending two hours or more a day in a car compared to 40% of Nassau residents. Daily driving time was highest among the young. Fully 57% of those aged 18 to 34 spent 2 hours or more driving each day compared to 33% of those aged 65 and older. 53% of parents with at least one school-age child spend more than two hours a day driving compared to 36% of residents without a school-age child. A majority of Blacks (55%) and Latinos (53%) spend at least two hours in the car each day.

Figure 17: How much time you spend on an average weekday in your car, including time spent getting to work, driving children to school or after-school activities, running errands, and getting to other social and leisure activities? (Q15)



The large number of residents who spend time each day in a car means that relatively few use public transportation regularly. In the last twelve months, 16% of Long Island residents had used public transportation on at least a weekly basis, another 17% had used it at least once a month, roughly a quarter (26%) had used it at least once, leaving 41% who had never used it. Use of public transportation varied among Long Island residents. Roughly two-thirds (66%) of residents aged 65 or older never use it whereas this is true of only 24% of those aged 18 to 34. 45% of women compared to 35% of men never use public transportation. Regular public transportation use was more common among Blacks than Whites, and among Latinos. There were modest income differences in the use of public transportation with a greater number of those in the wealthiest households using transportation more often on an occasional basis, most likely to get in and out of New York City. 47% of those in households earning \$100,000 or more a year used public transportation less often than weekly but at least once a year compared to 28% of those in households earning less than \$35,000.

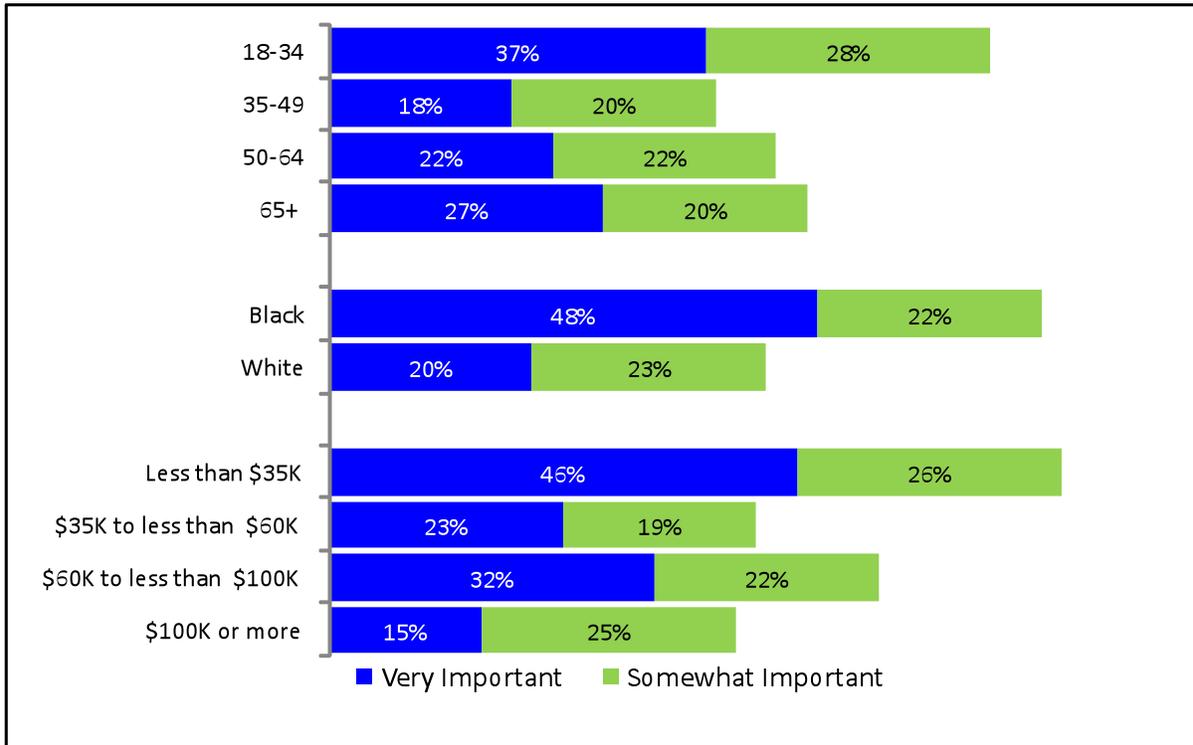
Figure 18: Over the last 12 months, roughly how often, if ever, have you used public transportation such as the Long Island Railroad, Long Island Bus system or Suffolk County Transit? (Q16)



When asked how important it was to live within walking distance of a train or bus stop, 48% of residents said it was somewhat or very important compared to 53% who said it was not very or not at all important. Moreover, 25% rate this as very important. These numbers mask considerable diversity among residents. The largest difference is observed by income level. Among those in households earning less than \$35,000, 72% say it is important to live within walking distance of public transportation; in contrast, it is important to 40% of those in households with an income of \$100,000 or more.

Living within walking distance of public transportation is far more important to Nassau County than Suffolk County residents (58% in Nassau vs. 37% in Suffolk). Almost two-thirds of young people (18-34) say it is important to them. It is more important for those without a child under the age of 18 than parents with a child of that age (52% vs. 41%). It is also far more important for Black than White residents (70% vs. 43%). 62% of residents who have lived on Long Island for less than 10 years rate this as important. Finally, 51% of liberals but 42% of conservatives say it is important to live within walking distance of public transportation.

Figure 19: In thinking about a place to live, how important is it to you to live within walking distance of a train station or bus stop? (Q17) By Age, Race, Income



Interest in Politics

Long Islanders express stronger interest in national than local or state politics. Just over a quarter of local residents are very interested in local politics. This increases to a third of residents who are very interested in state politics, and fully half who are very interested in national politics. Overall, most residents express at least some interest in politics at all three levels. There are modest differences among Long Islanders in their level of political interest. Older residents are more interested than the young in local politics and those who have lived on Long Island for at least 10 years are more interested in local politics than more recent residents. Better educated residents express greater interest in all levels of politics than the less well educated.

Table 2: Interest in Politics

	Local Politics (Q18)	New York State Politics (Q19)	National Politics (Q20)
<u>Interested</u>	<u>70%</u>	<u>80%</u>	<u>85%</u>
Very interested	28%	33%	50%
Somewhat interested	42%	47%	35%
<u>Not Interested</u>	<u>30%</u>	<u>20%</u>	<u>15%</u>
Not very interested	18%	11%	7%
Not at all interested	12%	9%	8%

METHODOLOGY

The Stony Brook University Center for Survey Research conducted this survey by telephone between October 3 and November 7, 2011. A list-assisted method of random-digit-dialing (RDD) was used to obtain phone numbers in the sample. Within selected households, individuals 18 years and over were selected at random for participation. Up to 6 contact attempts at various times of the day and week were made at each household phone number. In order to assure a representative sample, all households and individuals who were initially unwilling to participate in the survey were contacted again, and an attempt was made to persuade them to participate.

The study was conducted in Nassau and Suffolk County on Long Island. A total of 810 interviews were completed, with 401 completed interviews with residents of Nassau County and 409 completed interviews with residents of Suffolk County

The data is weighted to match population characteristics of Nassau and Suffolk counties on gender, age, educational attainment, and race/ethnicity, based on the 2010 U.S. Census county-level data. Weighting was done using an iterative raking process developed to estimate joint weights for any number of demographic variables for which population percentages are known only individually, not jointly. In the current sample, minority groups, males, people with a lower level of education, and younger respondents were underrepresented.

Frequency Questionnaire By County

INTRODUCTION

Hello, my name is _____ and I am calling from the State University of New York at Stony Brook. We are conducting a study regarding several quality of life issues here on Long Island.

Your telephone number was randomly dialed by a computer. To make sure we obtain an accurate cross-section of local residents, we need to speak to the person in your household who is 18 years of age or older, and had the most recent birthday. Is that you?

AFTER THE SELECTION OF THE ELIGIBLE RESPONDENT:

This survey only takes about 8 minutes to complete. We will skip over any questions you don't want to answer, and all answers will be kept confidential. You do not have to participate in this study if you do not want to. For your information, the study is funded by the Rauch Foundation. With your permission, let's begin.

Question Q01

Generally speaking, do you think things in [Nassau/Suffolk] today are headed in the right direction or in the wrong direction?

RESPONDENTS	Long Island
	810
	%
Right direction	40
Wrong direction	48
Don't know	12
Refused	-

[Note: Due to rounding, the numbers may not add up to 100%]

Question Q02_R

Overall, what do you think is the MOST important problem facing residents of [Nassau/Suffolk] county today?

[Open-ended question, with recoded responses]

	810
	%
Taxes/Property Taxes	45
Economy/Foreclosures/Finances/Jobs/Poverty	8
Lack of adequate and Affordable housing	2
Cost of Living	6
Environmental Issues	1
Traffic/Transportation	2
Crime/Drugs	4
Education	2
Jobs/Unemployment	13
Overcrowding/Overdevelopment	1
Government/Corruption/Services	9
Immigration	1
Other	2
Don't know/Refused	5

Question Q03

In your view, how serious a problem are high property taxes in [Nassau/Suffolk] County?

	810
	%
Extremely serious	41
Very serious	40
Somewhat serious	15
Not very serious	2
Not at all serious	1
Don't know	1
Refused	-

Question Q04

In your view, how serious a problem is the lack of affordable housing in [Nassau/Suffolk] County?

	810
	%
Extremely serious	27
Very serious	39
Somewhat serious	23
Not very serious	7
Not at all serious	2
Don't know	3
Refused	-

Question Q05

[In your view], how serious is the problem of young people moving away from [Nassau/Suffolk] County because of the high cost of living?

	810
	%
Extremely serious	41
Very serious	37
Somewhat serious	16
Not very serious	3
Not at all serious	2
Don't know/Refused	2

Question Q06

In an average month, how difficult is it for you and your family living with you to pay the rent or mortgage? Would you say it is...

	810
	%
Very difficult	24
Somewhat difficult	37
Not very difficult	16
Not at all difficult	20
Don't know	2
Refused	1

Question Q07

How concerned are you that the high cost of housing will force members of your family to move out of [Nassau/Suffolk] County?

	810
	%
Very concerned	50
Somewhat concerned	28
Not very concerned	11
Not at all concerned	10
Don't know	1
Refused	-

Question Q08

How likely is it that you will move out of [Nassau/Suffolk] County to an area with lower housing costs and property taxes in the next 5 years?

	810
	%
Very likely	28
Somewhat likely	22
Not very likely	24
Not at all likely	26
Don't know	1
Refused	-

Question Q09

To what extent do you support or oppose a change in zoning laws that would increase height limits in some downtown areas in [Nassau/Suffolk] County from two to four stories to allow apartments above shops?

	810
	%
Strongly support	18
Somewhat support	34
Somewhat oppose	22
Strongly oppose	21
Don't know	5
Refused	1

Question Q10

To what extent would you support or oppose building new multi-level parking facilities in local downtown areas in [Nassau/Suffolk] County?

	810
	%
Strongly support	21
Somewhat support	36
Somewhat oppose	18
Strongly oppose	22
Don't know	3
Refused	1

Question Q11

To what extent do you support or oppose changing local zoning rules in [Nassau/Suffolk] County to make it easier to install a rental apartment in a single-family home?

	810
	%
Strongly support	26
Somewhat support	35
Somewhat oppose	17
Strongly oppose	19
Don't know	3
Refused	1

Question Q12

Please think about the quality of education provided by your local schools in return for the local property taxes. Would you say that the value local residents get back from property taxes in terms of quality of education is excellent, good, fair, or poor?

	810
	%
Excellent	18
Good	38
Fair	24
Poor	15
Don't know / Refused	5

Question Q13

Would you describe the quality of education for students attending public schools on Long Island as very equal across schools and school districts, somewhat equal, somewhat unequal, or very unequal?

	810
	%
Very equal	11
Somewhat equal	36
Somewhat unequal	27
Very unequal	19
Don't know	6
Refused	-

Question Q14

To what extent do you favor or oppose the creation of magnet schools that bring together talented students from different school districts on Long Island to provide in-depth instruction in science, math, or the arts?

	810
	%
Strongly favor	33
Somewhat favor	36
Somewhat oppose	10
Strongly oppose	12
Don't know	8
Refused	1

Question Q15_R

Please give me your best guess at how many minutes or hours you spend on an average weekday (Monday through Friday) in your car, including time spent getting to work, driving children to school or after-school activities, running errands, and getting to other social and leisure activities.
[Open-ended question, with recoded responses]

	810
	%
Less than 30 minutes	6
30 minutes to less than 1 hour	12
1 hour to less than 2 hours	30
2 hours or more	43
Do not drive	7
Other	-
Don't know / Refused	2

Question Q16

Over the last 12 months, roughly how often, if ever, have you used public transportation such as the Long Island Railroad, Long Island Bus system or Suffolk County Transit?

	810
	%
Everyday	9
Several times a week	5
About once a week	2
A few times a month	10
Once a month	7
Once every few months	11
Once or twice during the year	15
Never	41
Don't know / Refused	-

Question Q17

In thinking about a place to live, how important is it to you to live within walking distance of a train station or bus stop?

	810
	%
Very important	25
Somewhat important	23
Not very important	24
Not at all important	29
Don't know / Refused	-

Question Q18

How interested are you in local politics on Long Island at the county, town, and village level?

	810
	%
Very interested	28
Somewhat interested	42
Not very interested	18
Not at all interested	12
Don't know	1
Refused	-

Question Q19

How interested are you in New York state politics?

	810
	%
Very interested	33
Somewhat interested	47
Not very interested	11
Not at all interested	9
Don't know / Refused	-

Question Q20

How interested are you in national politics?

	810
	%
Very interested	50
Somewhat interested	35
Not very interested	7
Not at all interested	8
Don't know/Refused	-

Question Q21

When you think about how things are going in your life in general--would you say that you are very happy, pretty happy, not too happy or not happy at all?

	810
	%
Very happy	29
Pretty happy	54
Not too happy	11
Not happy at all	5
Don't know / Refused	-

Demographics

Now, I have some questions about your background. I want to assure you that all your responses are completely confidential and will only be used to report group averages.

Question Q22

Are you Hispanic or Latino/Latina?

	810
	%
Yes	13
No	86
Refused	-

Question Q23

Do you consider yourself White, Black, Asian or something else?

	810
	%
White	77
Black/African-American	11
Hispanic/Latino	6
Asian	2
Native American or Alaskan Native	-
Black and other category	3
Don't know	1
Refused	1

Question Q24

How long have you lived in Nassau/Suffolk County?

	810
	%
Under six months	-
Six months to a year	1
One year to two years	1
Between two and five years	3
Between five and ten years	9
Over 10 years	56
All my life	30
Don't know / Refused	-

Question Q25

In general, when it comes to politics, do you think of yourself as a Liberal, a Moderate, or a Conservative?

	810
	%
Liberal	40
Moderate	10
Conservative	43
Don't know	5
Refused	3

Question Q26_R

In what year were you born?

[Open-ended question, with recoded responses]

	810
	%
18 to 34	22
35 to 49	27
50 to 64	30
65 and older	19
Don't know	-
Refused	3

Question Q27

How many children under the age of 18 are currently living in your household?

	810
	%
None	58
1 or more	41
Don't know	-
Refused	1

Question Q28

Do you own the home you are currently living in, are you renting, or do you have some other arrangement, such as living in a parent's home, a child's home, or somewhere else?

	810
	%
Own	73
Rent	19
Live with parents, in-laws, other relative	7
Other	1
Refused	-

Q28A asked only of respondents who answered living with parents, in-laws or other relative in Q28

Question Q28A

Are you currently living with a relative because you...

	53
	%
Are saving up to buy a home	20
Can't afford to buy or rent right now	31
Share costs or household responsibilities with other family members	18
Another reason	28
Don't know	2

Question Q29

Do you currently live in a single family home, semi-detached home, condominium, apartment, or townhouse?

	810
	%
Single family home	87
Semi-detached house (e.g., duplex)	2
Condominium	2
Apartment	7
Townhouse	2
Other	2
Don't know / Refused	-

Question Q30

How many people 18 years and older, including yourself, are currently living in your household?

	810
	%
One	17
Two	50
Three	18
Four or more	14
Don't know	-
Refused	1

Question Q31

What is the highest grade of school, year of college or highest degree that you have received?

	810
	%
High school or less	36
Some college	26
Bachelor's degree	19
Graduate or Professional Degree	19
Don't know	1
Refused	-

Question Q32

Are you currently...

	810
	%
Employed for wages full-time	43
Employed for wages part-time	11
Self-employed	8
Out of work for more than 1 year	3
Out of work for less than 1 year	4
Homemaker	6
Full-time student	4
Retired	19
Unable to work/permanently disabled	1
Refused	-

Question Q33_R

What is/was your occupation?

[Open-ended question, with recoded responses]

	810
	%
Professional / Manager / Owner	25
Teacher / Librarian / Professor	8
Sales / Clerical / Service Worker	38
Skilled Laborer / Tradesman	8
Semi- or Unskilled Laborer	10
Other	2
None / Retired	6
Don't know / Refused	4

Question Q34

Which of the following income categories best describes the total 2010 household income of all members of your family living there before taxes. Stop me when I reach your income group. Was it...

	810
	%
Less than \$35,000	13
\$35,000 to less than \$60,000	15
\$60,000 to less than \$100,000	21
\$100,000 or more	29
Don't know / Refused	23

Question Q35

Are you married; not married but living with a partner; separated; divorced; widowed; or have you never been married?

	810
	%
Married	60
Not married, living with a partner	5
Separated	2
Divorced	6
Widowed	9
Never married	16
Don't know	-
Refused	2

GENDER

What is the respondent's gender?

	810
	%
Female	52
Male	48