

Marion, IA

The National Community Survey

Report of Results
2021

Report by:



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About The NCS™

The National Community Survey™ (The NCS™) report is about the “livability” of Marion. A livable community is a place that is not simply habitable, but that is desirable. It is not only where people do live, but where they want to live. The survey was developed by the experts from National Research Center at Polco.

Great communities are partnerships of the government, private sector, community-based organizations and residents, all geographically connected. The NCS captures residents’ opinions considering ten central facets of a community:

- Economy
- Mobility
- Community Design
- Utilities
- Safety
- Natural Environment
- Parks and Recreation
- Health and Wellness
- Education, Arts, and Culture
- Inclusivity and Engagement

The report provides the opinions of a representative sample of 543 residents of the City of Marion collected from December 23rd, 2021 to February 10th, 2022. The margin of error around any reported percentage is 4% for all respondents and the response rate for the 2021 survey was 21%. Survey results were weighted so that the demographic profile of respondents was representative of the demographic profile of adults in Marion.

How the results are reported

For the most part, the percentages presented in the following tabs represent the “percent positive.” Most commonly, the percent positive is the combination of the top two most positive response options (i.e., excellent/good, very safe/somewhat safe, etc.). On many of the questions in the survey respondents may answer “don’t know.” The proportion of respondents giving this reply is shown in the full set of responses included in the tab “Complete data.” However, these responses have been removed from the analyses presented in most of the tabs. In other words, the tables and graphs display the responses from respondents who had an opinion about a specific item.

Comparisons to benchmarks

NRC’s database of comparative resident opinion is comprised of resident perspectives gathered in surveys from over 600 communities whose residents evaluated the same kinds of topics on The National Community Survey. The comparison evaluations are from the most recent survey completed in each community in the last five years. NRC adds the latest results quickly upon survey completion, keeping the benchmark data fresh and relevant. The communities in the database represent a wide geographic and population range. In each tab, Marion’s results are noted as being “higher” than the benchmark, “lower” than the benchmark, or “similar” to the benchmark, meaning that the average rating given by Marion residents is statistically similar to or different (greater or lesser) than the benchmark. Being rated as “higher” or “lower” than the benchmark means that Marion’s average rating for a particular item was more than 10 points different than the benchmark. If a rating was “much higher” or “much lower,” then Marion’s average rating was more than 20 points different when compared to the benchmark.

The survey was administered during the COVID-19 pandemic, a time of challenge for many local governments. While we provide comparisons to national benchmarks, it is important to note that much of the benchmark data was collected prior to the pandemic. This may impact how your City’s 2021 ratings compare to other communities’ ratings from the past five years.



Trends over time

Trend data for Marion represent important comparison data and should be examined for improvements or declines*. Deviations from stable trends over time represent opportunities for understanding how local policies, programs, or public information may have affected residents' opinions. Changes between survey years have been noted with an arrow and the percent difference. If the difference is greater than six percentage points between the 2019 and 2021 surveys, the change is statistically significant.

* In 2020, The NCS survey was updated to include new and refreshed items. Consequently, some of the trends may be impacted due to wording modifications that could have potentially altered the meaning of the item for the respondent.

Methods

Selecting survey recipients

All households within the City of Marion were eligible to participate in the survey. A list of all households within the zip codes serving Marion was purchased from Go-Dog Direct based on updated listings from the United States Postal Service. Since some of the zip codes that serve the City of Marion households may also serve addresses that lie outside of the community, the exact geographic location of each housing unit was compared to community boundaries using the most current municipal boundary file. Addresses located outside of the City of Marion boundaries were removed from the list of potential households to survey. Each address identified as being within city boundaries was further identified as being within one of the four Council Districts. From that list, addresses were randomly selected as survey recipients, with multi-family housing units (defined as those with a unit number) sampled at a rate of 5:3 compared to single family housing units.

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

Conducting the survey

The 2,700 randomly selected households received mailings beginning on December 23rd, 2021 and the survey remained open for 7 weeks. For 1,200 households, the first mailing was a postcard inviting the household to participate in the survey. The next mailing contained a cover letter with instructions, the survey questionnaire, and a postage-paid return envelope. The final mailing contained a reminder letter, another survey, and a postage-paid return envelope. For the remaining 1,500 households, the first mailing was a postcard inviting the household to participate, followed one week later by a reminder postcard. All mailings included a web link to give residents the opportunity to respond to the survey online. All follow-up mailings asked those who had not completed the survey to do so and those who had already done so to refrain from completing the survey again.

About 5% of the 2,700 mailed invitations or surveys were returned because the household address was vacant or the postal service was unable to deliver the survey as addressed. Of the remaining 2,576 households that received the invitations to participate, 543 completed the survey, providing an overall response rate of 21%. The response rate was calculated using AAPOR’s response rate #2* for mailed surveys of unnamed persons.

It is customary to describe the precision of estimates made from surveys by a “level of confidence” and accompanying “confidence interval” (or margin of error). A traditional level of confidence, and the one used here, is 95%. The 95% confidence interval can be any size and quantifies the sampling error or imprecision of the survey results because some residents’ opinions are relied on to estimate all residents’ opinions. The margin of error for the City of Marion survey is no greater than plus or minus four percentage points around any given percent reported for all respondents (543 completed surveys).

In addition to the randomly selected “probability sample” of households, a link to an online open participation survey was publicized by the City of Marion. The open participation survey was identical to the probability sample survey with two small updates; it included a map at the beginning asking where the respondent lives and a question about where they heard about the survey. The open participation survey was open to all city residents and became available on January 27th, 2022. The survey remained open for two weeks. The data presented in the following tabs exclude the open participation survey data, but a tab at the end provides the complete frequency of responses to questions by the open participation respondents.

Analyzing the data

Responses from mailed surveys were entered into an electronic dataset using a “key and verify” method, where all responses are entered twice and compared to each other. Any discrepancies were resolved in comparison to the original survey form. Range checks as well as other forms of quality control were also performed. Responses from surveys completed on Polco were downloaded and merged with the mailed survey responses.

The demographics of the survey respondents were compared to those found in the 2010 Census and 2019 American Community Survey estimates for adults in the City of Marion. The primary objective of weighting survey data is to make the survey respondents reflective of the larger population of the community. The characteristics used for weighting were age, sex, race, Hispanic origin, housing type, housing tenure, and area. No adjustments were made for design effects. Weights were calculated using an iterative, multiplicative raking model known as the ANES Weighting Algorithm.* The results of the weighting scheme for the probability sample are presented in the following table.

NRC aligns demographic labels with those used by the U.S. Census for reporting purposes, when possible. Some categories (e.g., age, race/Hispanic origin, housing type, and length of residency) are combined into smaller subgroups.

		Unweighted	Weighted	Target*
Age	18-34	10%	27%	27%
	35-54	27%	35%	35%
	55+	63%	38%	38%
Area	Council District 1	21%	23%	23%
	Council District 2	34%	25%	25%
	Council District 3	16%	24%	24%
	Council District 4	29%	28%	28%
Hispanic origin	No, not Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino	99%	99%	98%
	Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino	1%	1%	2%
Housing tenure	Own	89%	78%	78%
	Rent	11%	22%	22%
Housing type	Attached	23%	36%	36%
	Detached	77%	64%	64%
Race & Hispanic origin	Not white alone	10%	7%	7%
	White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	90%	93%	93%
Sex	Female	55%	53%	53%
	Male	45%	47%	47%
Sex/age	Female 18-34	5%	15%	15%
	Female 35-54	14%	17%	17%
	Female 55+	36%	20%	20%
	Male 18-34	5%	12%	12%
	Male 35-54	14%	18%	18%
	Male 55+	26%	17%	17%

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

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

Contact

The City of Marion funded this research. Please contact Amber Bisinger of the City of Marion at abisinger@cityofmarion.org if you have any questions about the survey.

Survey Validity

See the Polco Knowledge Base article on survey validity at <https://info.polco.us/knowledge/statistical-vali>

* See AAPOR’s Standard Definitions for more information at

<https://www.aapor.org/Publications-Media/AAPOR-Journals/Standard-Definitions.aspx>

* Pasek, J. (2010). ANES Weighting Algorithm. Retrieved from

<https://web.stanford.edu/group/iriss/cgi-bin/anesrake/resources/RakingDescription.pdf>

* Targets come from the 2010 Census and 2019 American Community Survey

Highlights

Residents continue to experience a high quality of life and a strong sense of safety in Marion.

All items relating to the quality of life in Marion received universally high marks and were similar to the previous iteration of the NCS. About 9 in 10 survey participants gave an excellent or good rating to Marion as a place to live, the overall quality of life in the city, and Marion as a place to raise children. A similar proportion of residents also reported that they would recommend living in Marion to someone who asks and also planned to remain in Marion for the next five years. Marion as a place to raise children was rated higher than the national average, while all others were on par with comparison communities.

Overall feelings of safety, along with safety-related services, contribute to the high quality of life experienced in Marion. Virtually all residents reported feeling very or somewhat safe in both their neighborhoods (96%) and Marion's downtown/commercial area (94%) during the day. A similar proportion reported feeling safe from violent crime (90%), and slightly fewer felt safe from property crime (83%). Safety services in Marion also received high ratings. About 9 in 10 residents had favorable views toward fire services, police/sheriff services, and ambulance/EMS services, while 8 in 10 gave positive ratings to crime prevention as well as fire prevention and education.

Utility infrastructure is a priority for residents.

When asked about which aspects of the community the City should focus on in the next two years, nearly 9 in 10 residents identified the overall utility infrastructure as an area of priority. About two-thirds of residents gave positive ratings to the quality of the utility infrastructure in Marion (64% excellent or good), which was on par with the national average.

Most of the survey items pertaining to the City's utilities received positive marks and remained stable over time. About three-quarters of residents gave excellent or good ratings to the quality of garbage collection, sewer services, stormwater management, power (electric and/or gas) utility, and utility billing. Stormwater management saw significant improvement from the previous iteration of The NCS, and each of these items were similar to the national benchmarks. The two lowest-performing items in this category were access to affordable high-speed internet (53%) and drinking water (47%), the latter of which was lower than both national and peer comparisons.

Marion's economy is a focus for residents, and some aspects have shown improvement since 2019.

Residents also identified Marion's economic health as an area of priority, with 87% deeming it essential or very important for the City to focus on in the next two years. About three-quarters gave positive marks to the overall economic health of the city and Marion as a place to work, which were both similar to the national and custom benchmarks and to prior survey results. About half of residents approved of the variety of business and service establishments, employment opportunities, and the cost of living. Marion's economy experienced significant improvements in some areas between 2019 and 2021, including an 18% increase in the overall quality of business and service establishments (from 59% to 77% excellent or good). Improvements were also observed in residents' evaluations of the vibrancy of Marion's downtown/commercial area (44% in 2019 to 55% in 2021), shopping opportunities (36% to 45%), and economic development (62% to 73%). In addition, ratings for the city's economic development were higher than in comparison communities across the nation.

Mobility presents areas of opportunity for the City.

Overall, items relating to mobility in Marion tended to be similar to both the national and peer community comparisons. The highest-rated item in this facet was the ease of travel by car (74% excellent or good), followed by the ease of walking (67%), and traffic flow on major streets (64%). About half of residents had positive feelings toward the ease of travel by bicycle, as well as the ease of public parking. All of these were similar to both sets of benchmarks except ease of public parking, which was lower than the custom peer community comparisons. Some survey items in this facet of livability experienced slight fluctuations since the prior results; residents offered more favorable reviews this year for both the ease of travel by car and traffic flow on major streets, while decreases were observed in ratings for the ease of travel by public transportation, public parking, and walking.

Mobility-related services received mixed results from residents. About three-quarters of residents gave positive marks to traffic enforcement, while about 6 in 10 did the same for traffic signal timing, street cleaning, street lighting, snow removal, and sidewalk maintenance. While still on par with the national benchmarks, fewer than half of residents approved of street repair (41%) and bus or transit services (41%). Additionally, when residents were asked to indicate their level of support for or opposition to a property tax or fee increase to fund various improvements in Marion, residents were most supportive of funding street/infrastructure improvements, with 89% of respondents stating they would strongly or somewhat support the measure. About 65% of respondents also supported funding improvements to public transportation in the city.

Health and wellness services continue to be an asset for Marion.

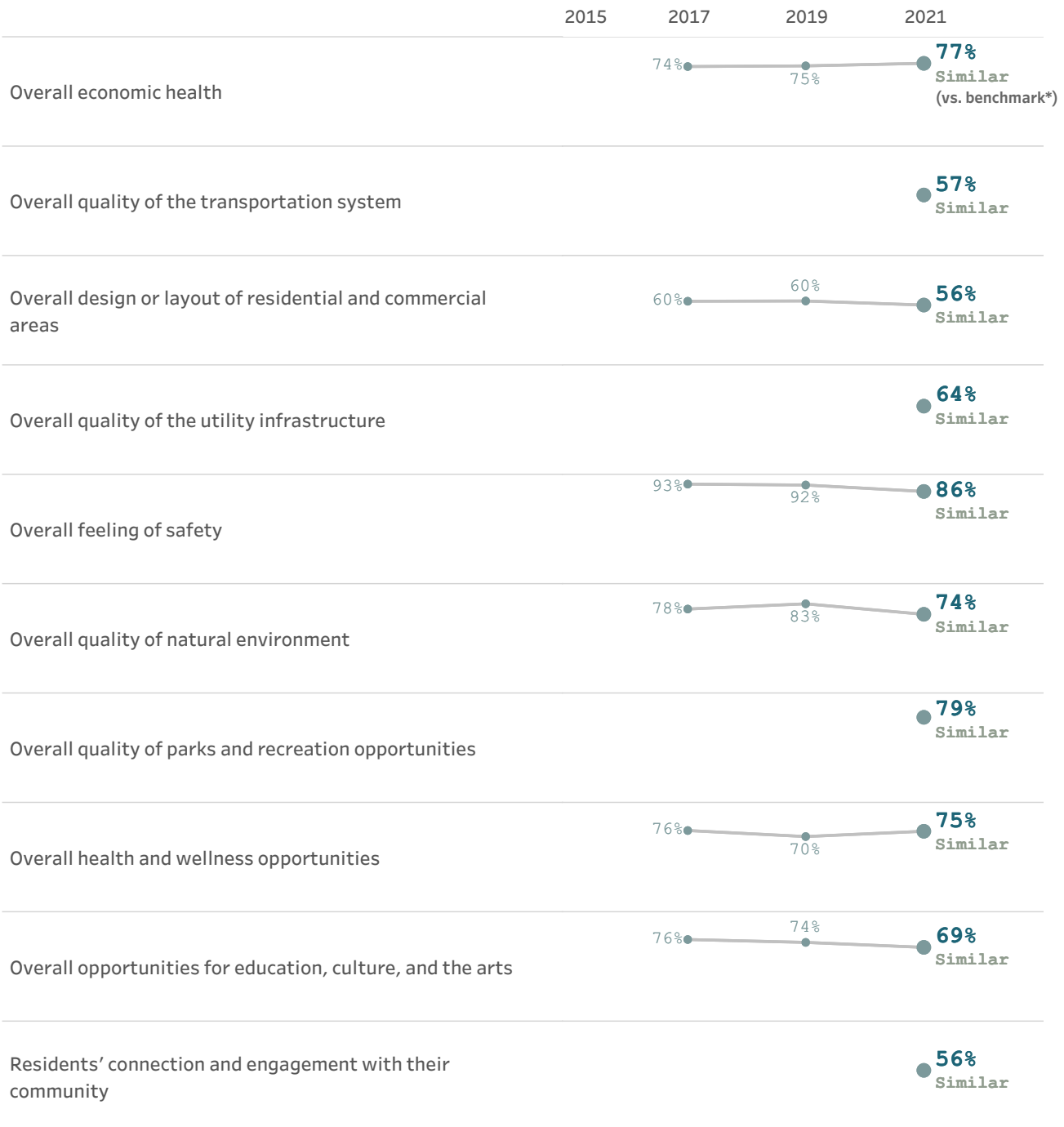
As in previous years, survey items related to health and wellness continue to garner high marks from the residents of Marion. This is worth highlighting, in particular, because of the strong ratings despite the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on residents' health in general and the additional strain upon many healthcare systems and services throughout the country, as well as on public opinion toward healthcare. The highest-performing item in this facet was health services, with 83% of residents rating this item as excellent or good. About three-quarters also had positive views toward the city's overall health and wellness opportunities, availability of affordable quality health care, and preventable health services. The availability of affordable quality healthcare was rated higher than the national benchmark and remained stable from prior survey results. In addition, residents' evaluations of the quality of Marion's health services, the availability of affordable quality food, and preventative health care all experienced significant improvement since 2019.

Facets of livability

Resident perceptions of quality and importance for each of the facets of community livability provide an overview of community strengths and challenges that are useful for planning, budgeting and performance evaluation.

The charts below show the proportion of residents who rated the community facets positively for quality and the priority (importance) placed on each. Also displayed is whether local ratings were lower, similar, or higher than communities across the country (the national benchmark).

Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Marion as a whole.
(% excellent or good)



Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the Marion community to focus on each of the following in the coming two years.
 (% essential or very important)



* Comparison to the national benchmark is shown. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.

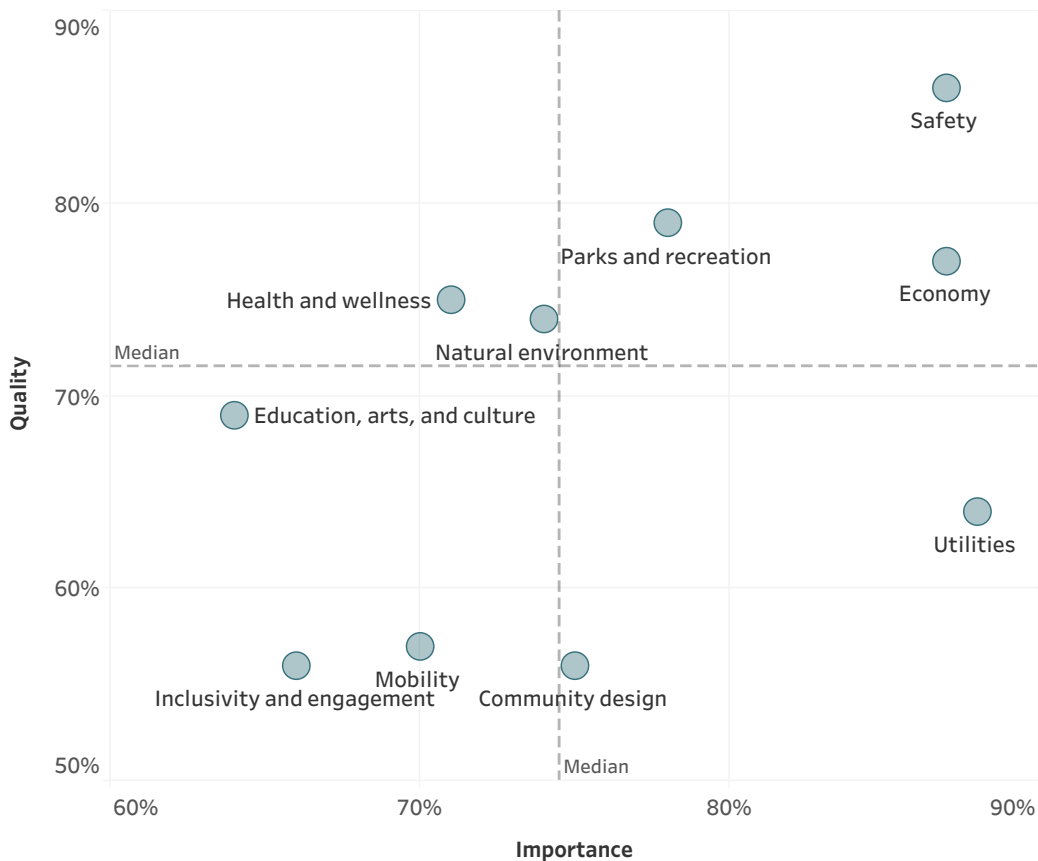
Balancing performance and importance

Every jurisdiction must balance limited resources while meeting resident needs and striving to optimize community livability. To this end, it is helpful to know what aspects of the community are most important to residents and which they perceive as being of higher or lower quality. It is especially helpful to know when a facet of livability is considered of high importance but rated as lower quality, as this should be a top priority to address.

To help guide City staff and officials with decisions on future resource allocation, resident ratings of the importance of services were compared to their ratings of the quality of these services. To identify the services perceived by residents to have relatively lower quality at the same time as relatively higher importance, all services were ranked from highest perceived quality to lowest perceived quality and from highest perceived importance to lowest perceived importance. Some services were in the top half of both lists (higher quality and higher importance); some were in the top half of one list but the bottom half of the other (higher quality and lower importance or lower quality and higher importance); and some services were in the bottom half of both lists.

Services receiving quality ratings of excellent or good by 71% or more of respondents were considered of “higher quality” and those with ratings lower than 71% were considered to be of “lower quality.” Services were classified as “more important” if they were rated as essential or very important by 74% or more of respondents. Services were rated as “less important” if they received a rating of less than 74%. This classification uses the median ratings for quality and importance to divide the services in half.

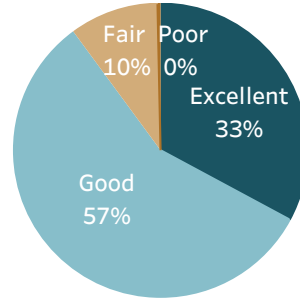
The quadrants in the figure below show which community facets were given higher or lower importance ratings (right-left) and which had higher or lower quality ratings (up-down). Facets of livability falling closer to a diagonal line from the lower left to the upper right are those where performance ratings are more commensurate with resident priorities. Facets scoring closest to the lower right hand corner of the matrix (higher in importance and lower in quality) are those that may warrant further investigation to see if changes to their delivery are necessary to improve their performance. This is the key part of this chart on which to focus. Facets falling in the top left hand corner of the chart (lower in importance but higher in quality) are areas where performance may outscore resident priorities, and may be a consideration for lower resource allocation.



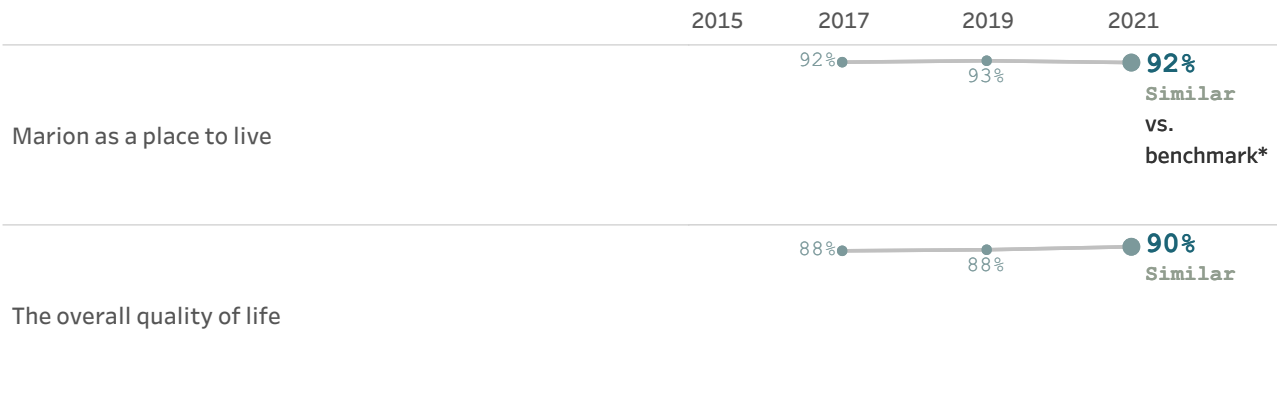
Quality of life

Measuring community livability starts with assessing the quality of life of those who live there, and ensuring that the community is attractive, accessible, and welcoming to all.

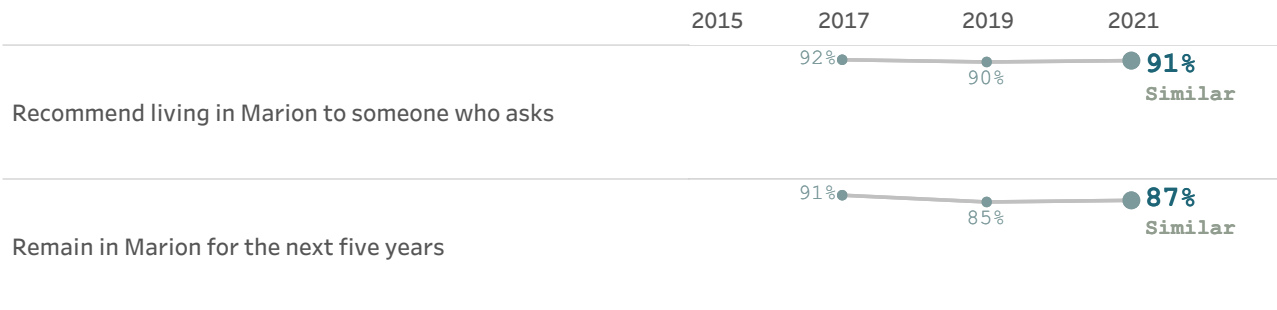
The overall quality of life in Marion, 2021



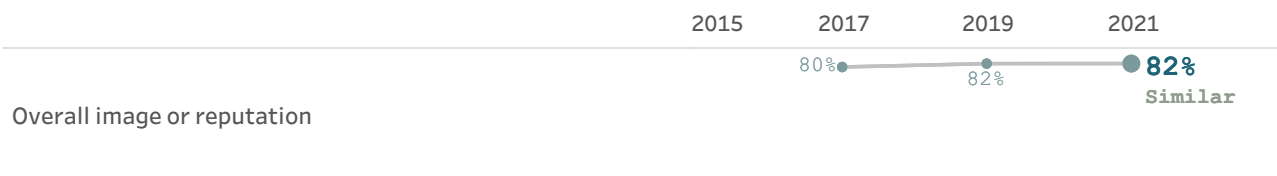
Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in Marion. (% excellent or good)



Please indicate how likely or unlikely you are to do each of the following. (% very or somewhat likely)



Please rate each of the following in the Marion community. (% excellent or good)

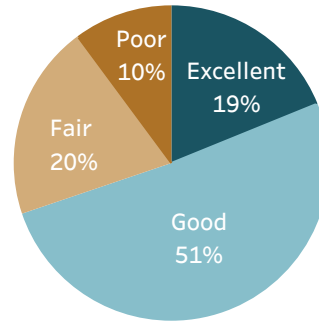


* Comparison to the national benchmark is shown. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.

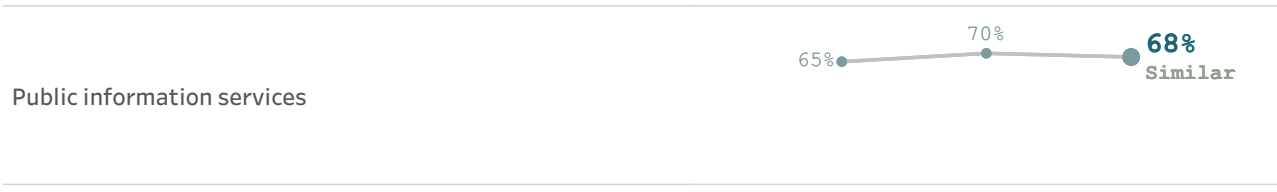
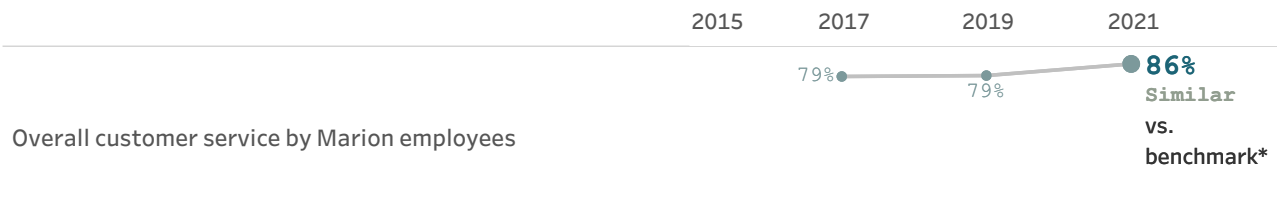
Governance

Strong local governments produce results that meet the needs of residents while making the best use of available resources, and are responsive to the present and future needs of the community as a whole.

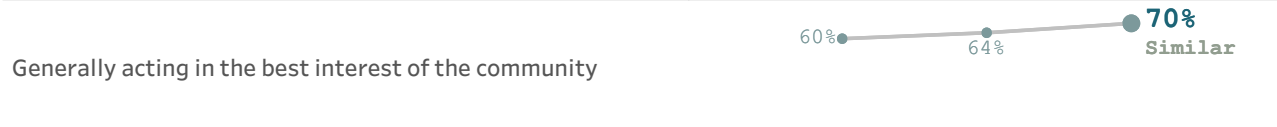
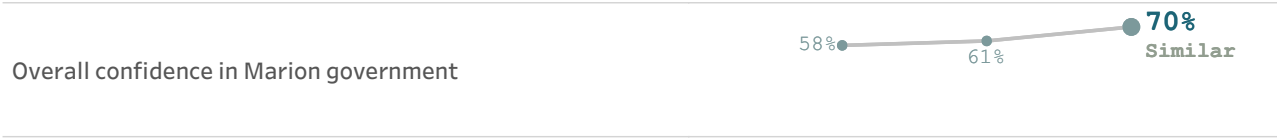
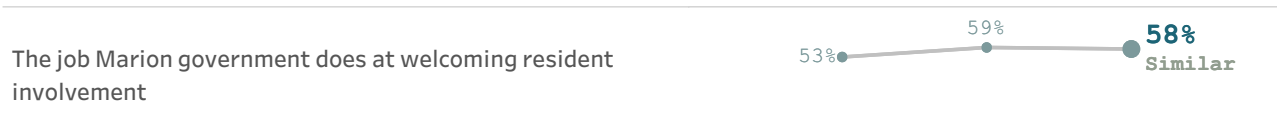
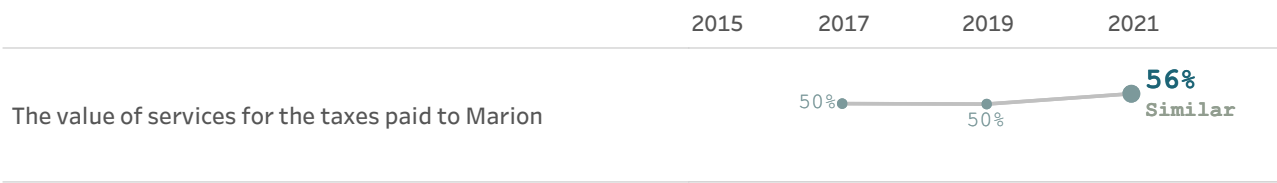
Overall confidence in Marion government, 2021



Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Marion.
(% excellent or good)



Please rate the following categories of Marion government performance.
(% excellent or good)



Being open and transparent to the public **67%**
Similar

Informing residents about issues facing the community **64%**
Similar

Treating all residents fairly **70%**
Similar

62% 70%

Treating residents with respect **75%**
Similar

**Overall, how would you rate the quality of the services provided by each of the following?
(% excellent or good)**

The City of Marion **76%**
Similar

2015 2017 2019 2021

83% 79%

The Federal Government **38%**
Similar

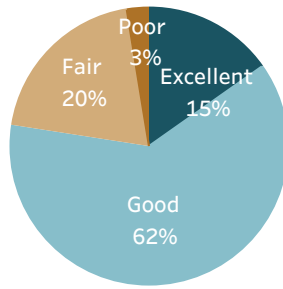
39% 39%

* Comparison to the national benchmark is shown. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.

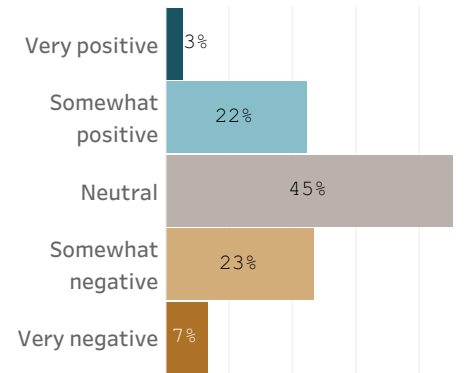
Economy

Local governments work together with private and nonprofit businesses, and with the community at large, to foster sustainable growth, create jobs, and promote a thriving local economy.

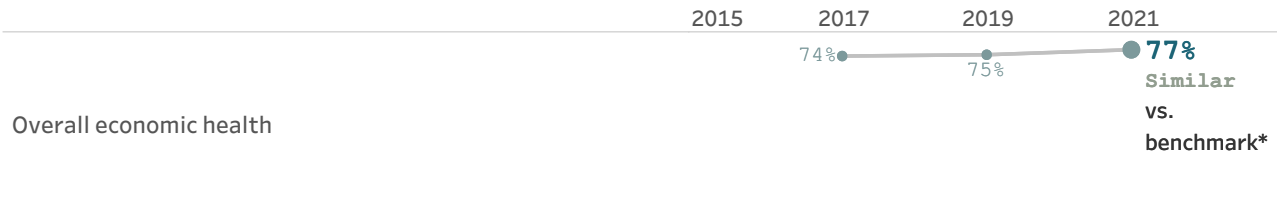
Overall economic health of Marion, 2021



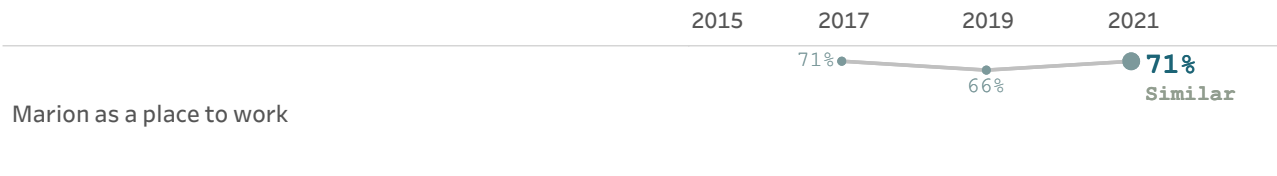
What impact, if any, do you think the economy will have on your family income in the next 6 months? Do you think the impact will be:



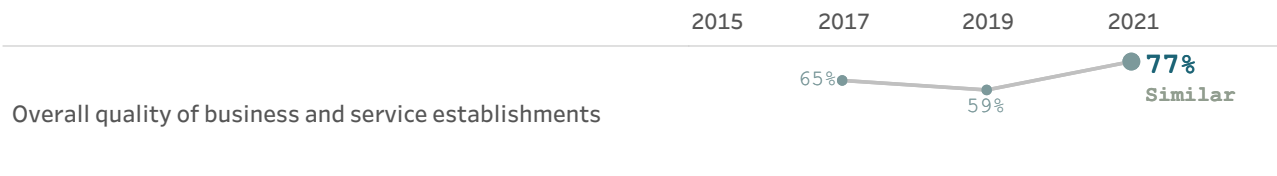
Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Marion as a whole. (% excellent or good)



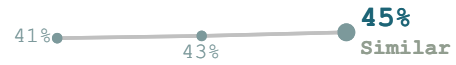
Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in Marion. (% excellent or good)



Please rate each of the following in the Marion community. (% excellent or good)



Employment opportunities



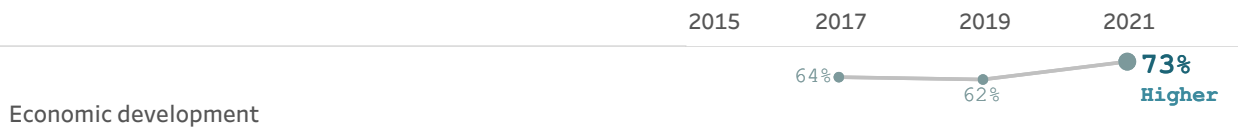
Shopping opportunities



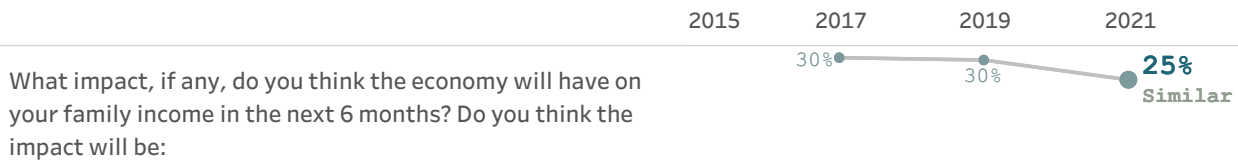
Cost of living



Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Marion.
(% excellent or good)



What impact, if any, do you think the economy will have on your family income in the next 6 months? Do you think the impact will be:
(% very or somewhat positive)

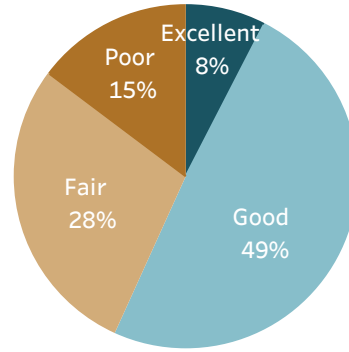


* Comparison to the national benchmark is shown. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.

Mobility

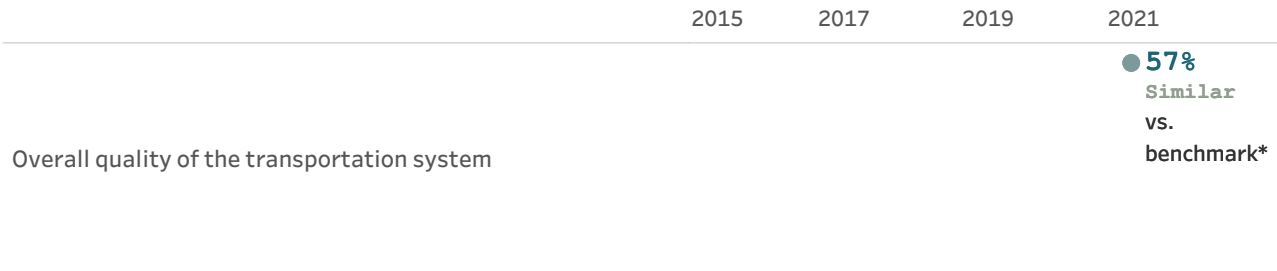
The ease with which residents can move about their communities, whether for commuting, leisure, or recreation, plays a major role in the quality of life for all who live, work, and play in the community.

Overall quality of the transportation system in Marion, 2021



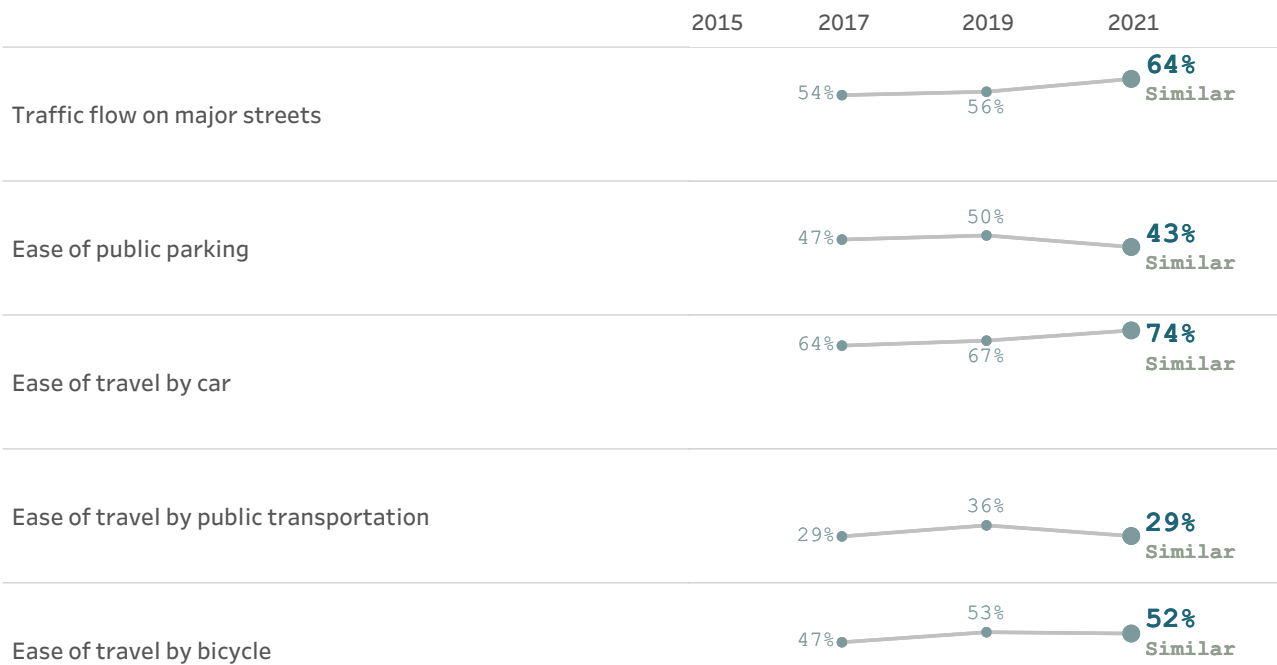
Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Marion as a whole.

(% excellent or good)



Please also rate each of the following in the Marion community.

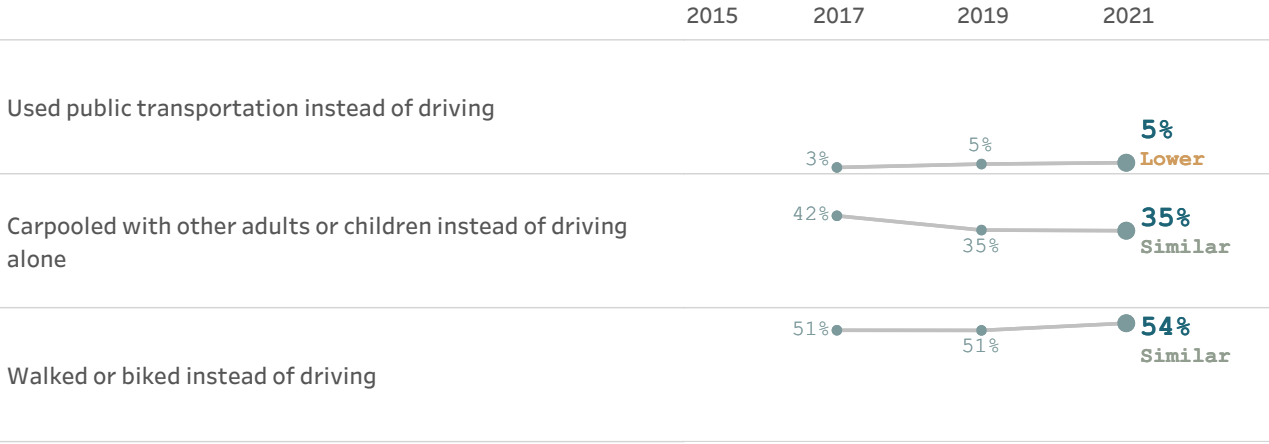
(% excellent or good)





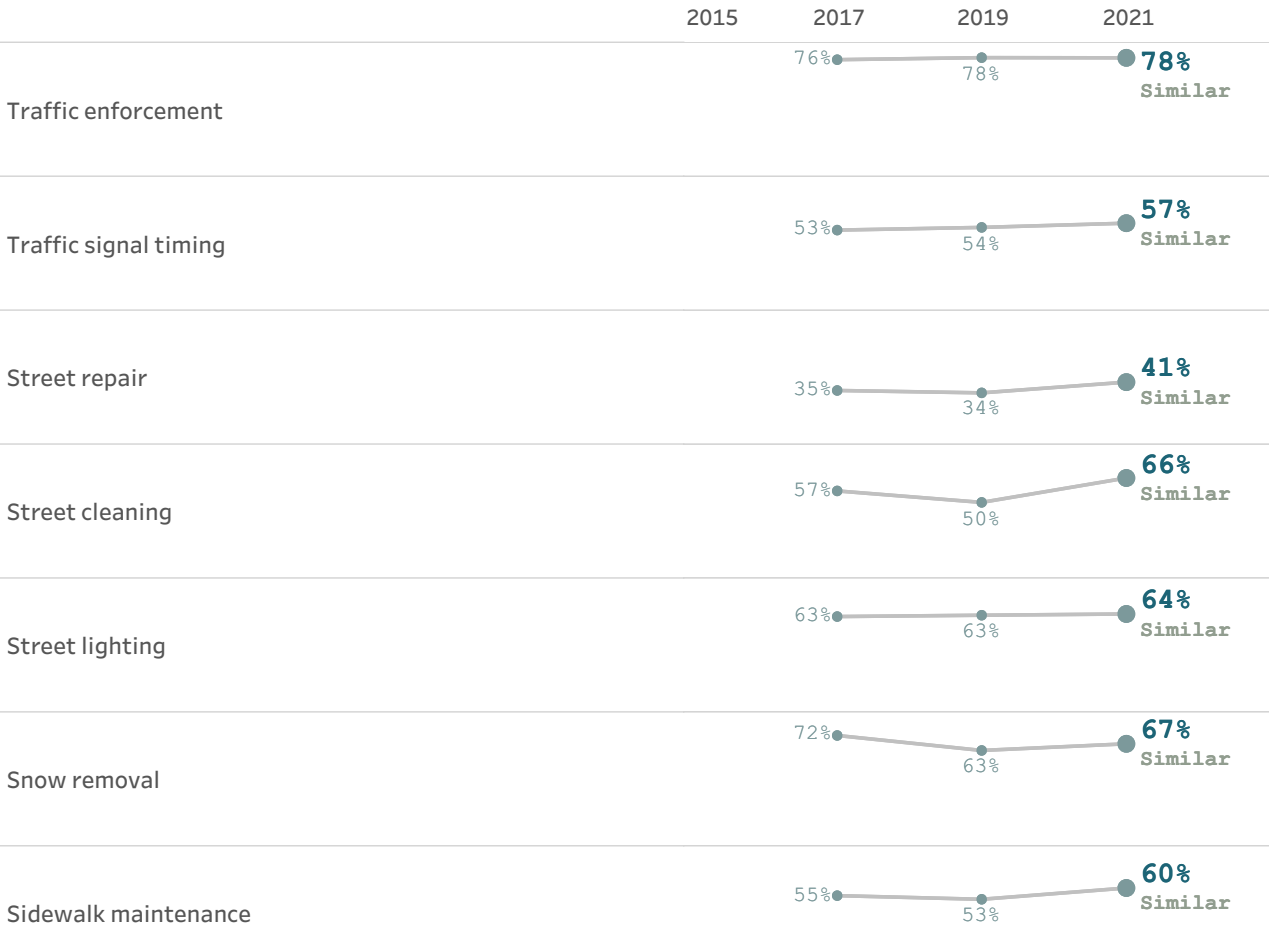
Please indicate whether or not you have done each of the following in the last 12 months.

(% yes)



Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Marion.

(% excellent or good)



Bus or transit services

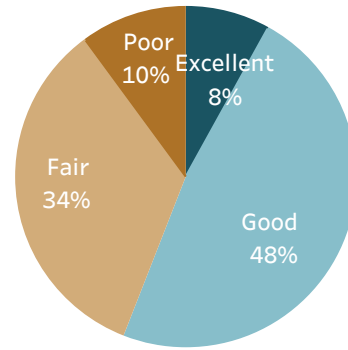


* Comparison to the national benchmark is shown. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.

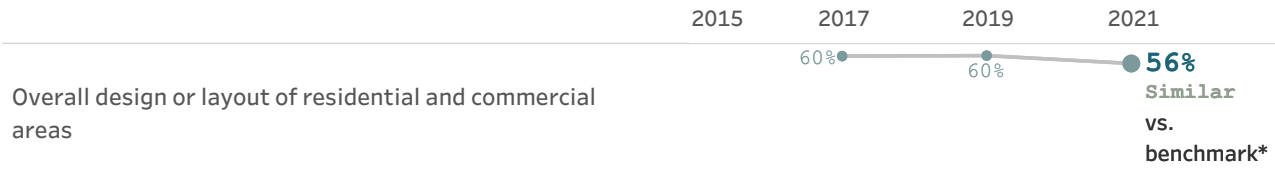
Overall design or layout of Marion's residential and commercial areas, 2021

Community design

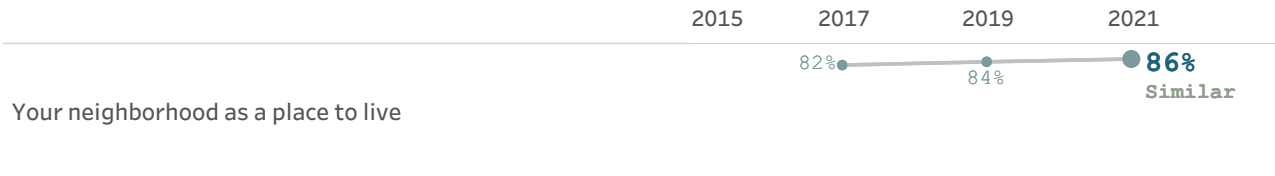
A well-designed community enhances the quality of life for its residents by encouraging smart land use and zoning, ensuring that affordable housing is accessible to all, and providing access to parks and other green spaces.



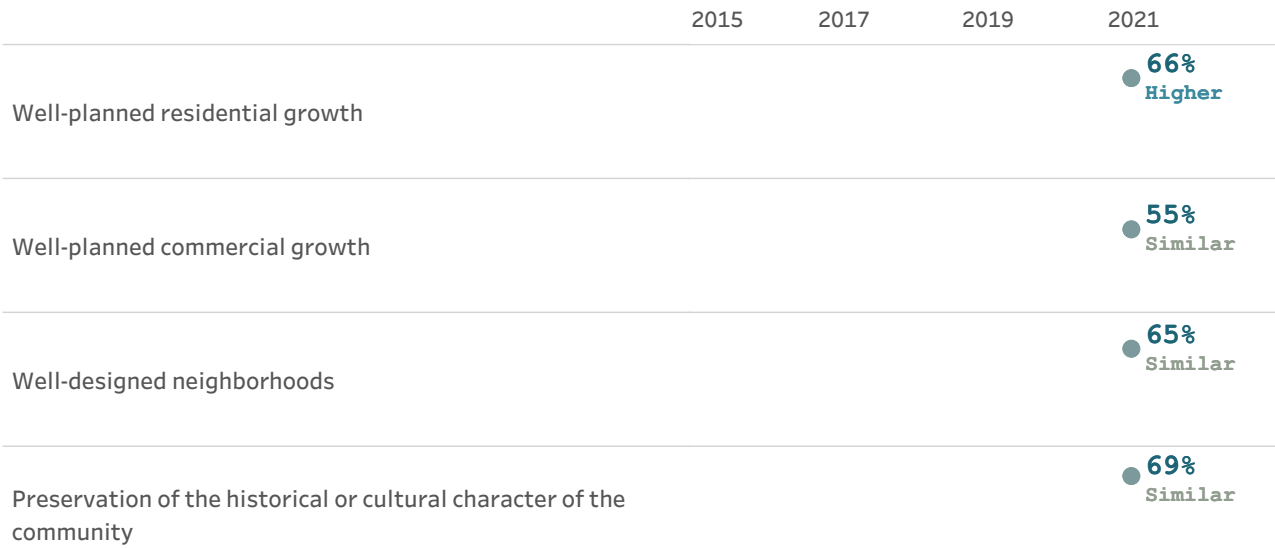
Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Marion as a whole.
(% excellent or good)

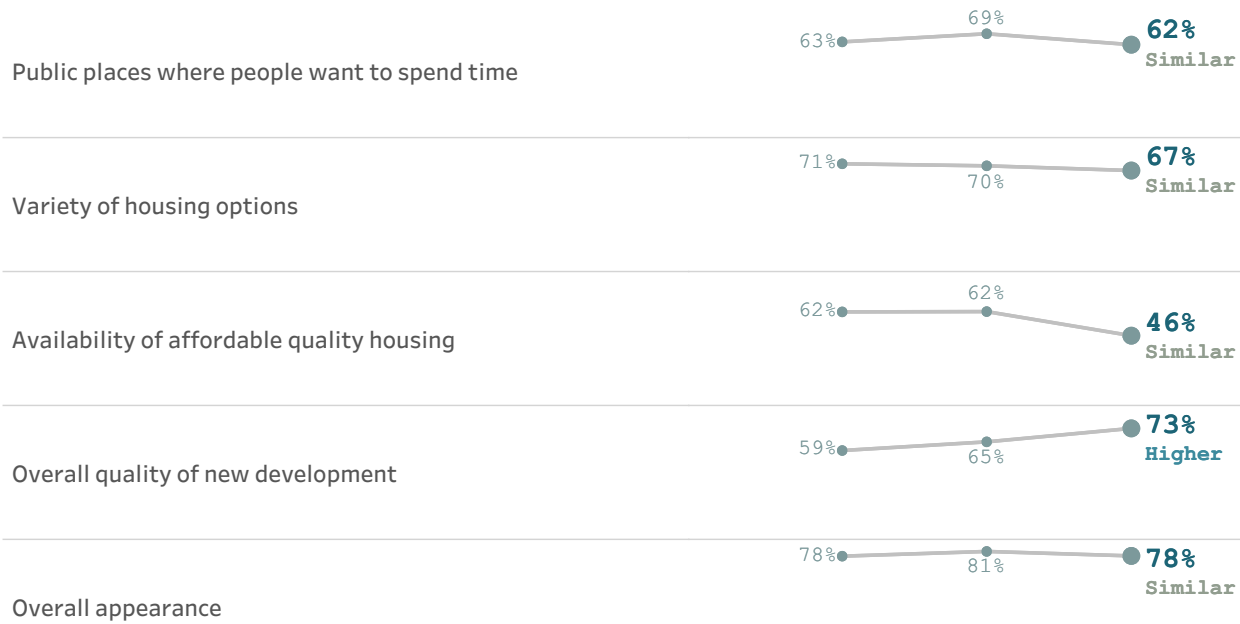


Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in Marion.
(% excellent or good)

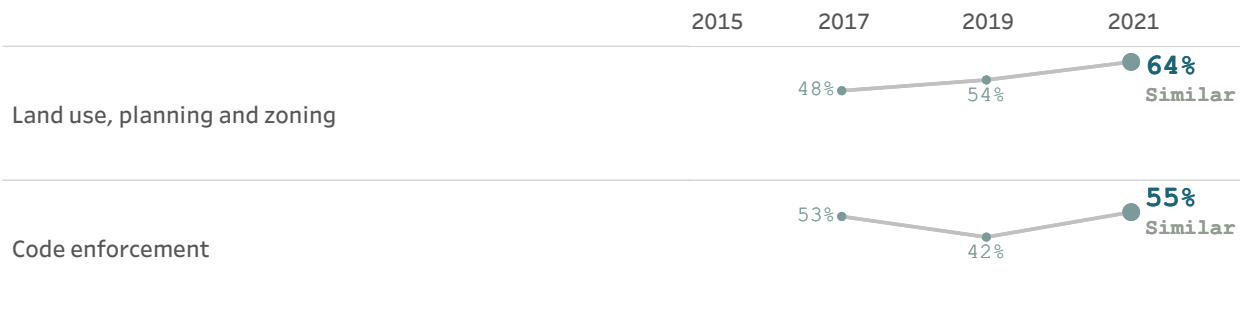


Please also rate each of the following in the Marion community.
(% excellent or good)





**Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Marion.
(% excellent or good)**

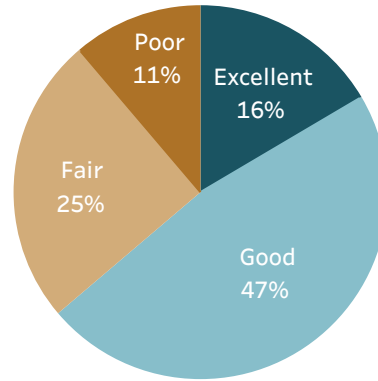


* Comparison to the national benchmark is shown. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.

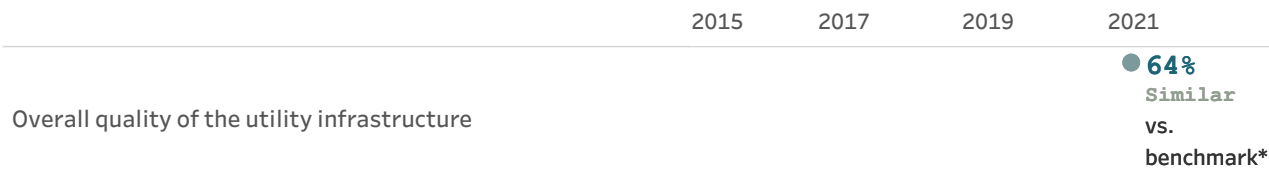
Utilities

Services such as water, gas, electricity, and internet access play a vital role in ensuring the physical and economic health and well-being of the communities they serve.

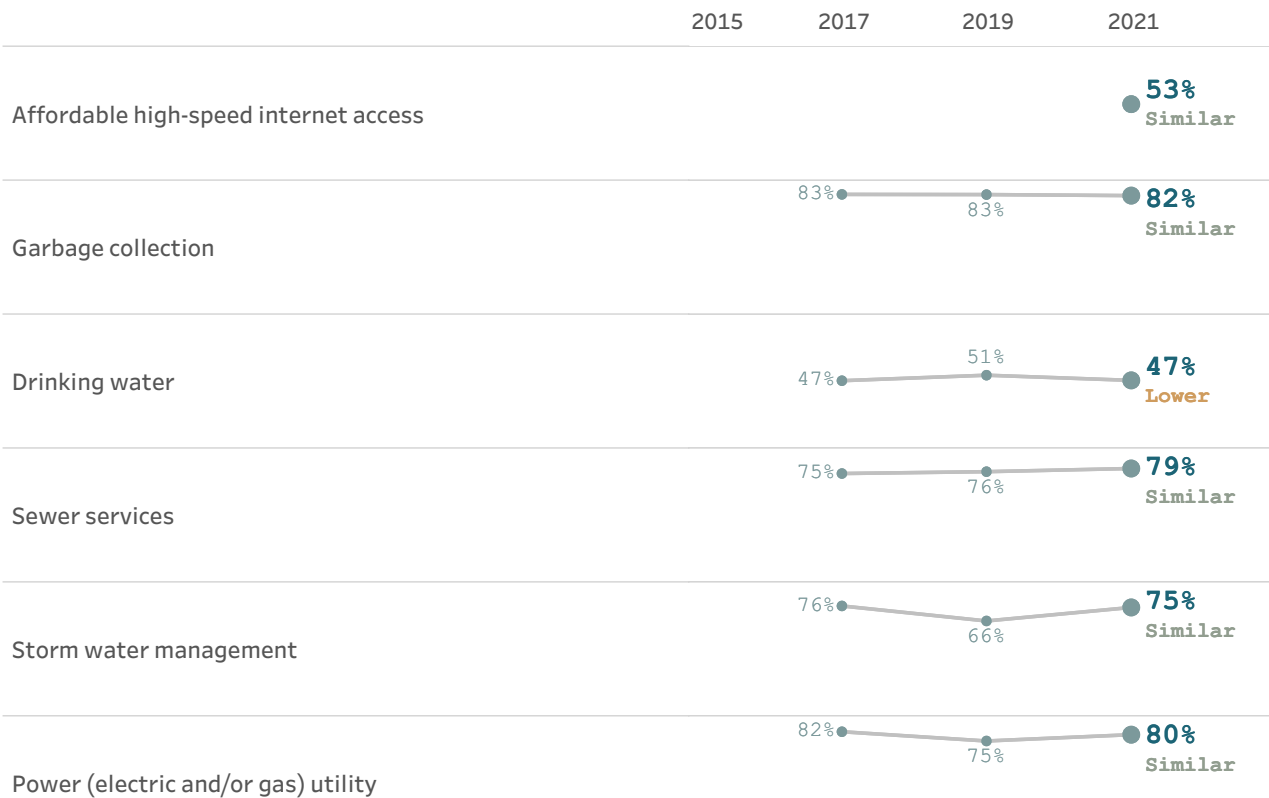
Overall quality of the utility infrastructure in Marion, 2021



Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Marion as a whole. (% excellent or good)



Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Marion. (% excellent or good)



Utility billing

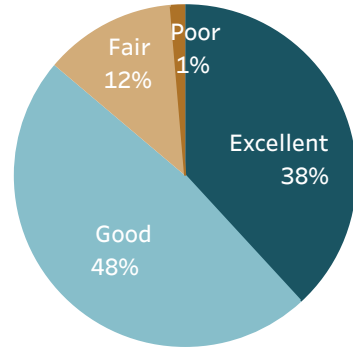


* Comparison to the national benchmark is shown. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.

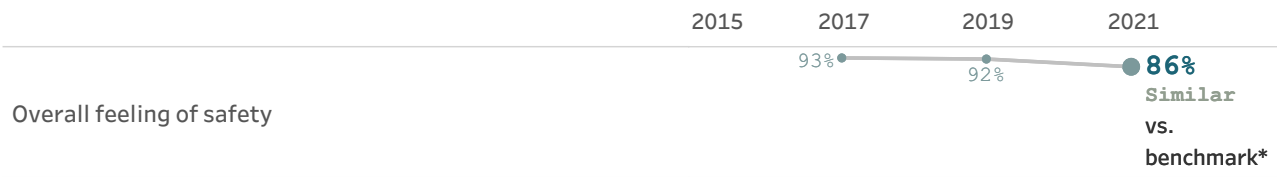
Safety

Public safety is often the most important task facing local governments. All residents should feel safe and secure in their neighborhoods and in the greater community, and providing robust safety-related services is essential to residents' quality of life.

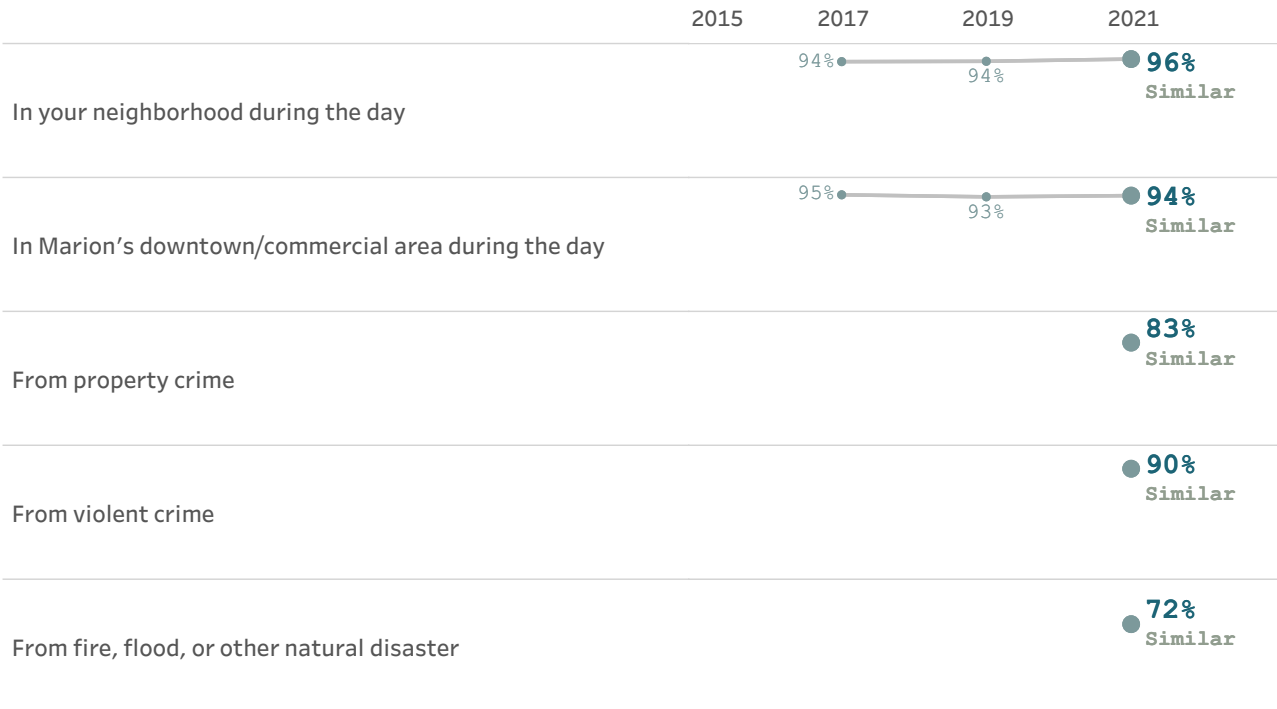
Overall feeling of safety in Marion, 2021



Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Marion as a whole. (% excellent or good)



Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel: (% very or somewhat safe)

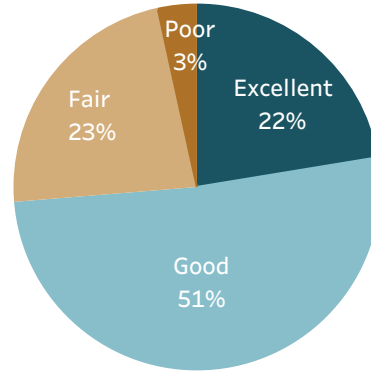


**Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Marion.
(% excellent or good)**



* Comparison to the national benchmark is shown. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.

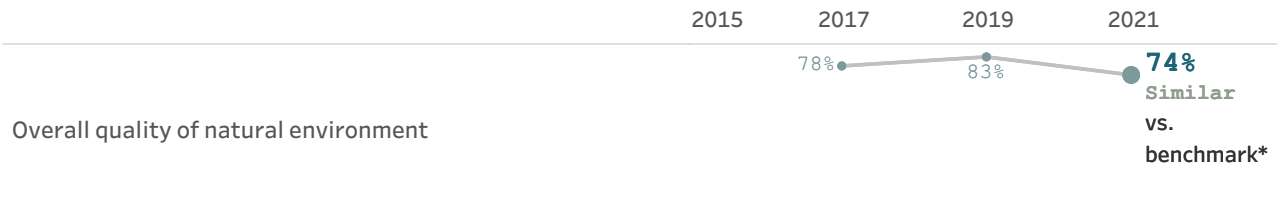
Overall quality of natural environment in Marion, 2021



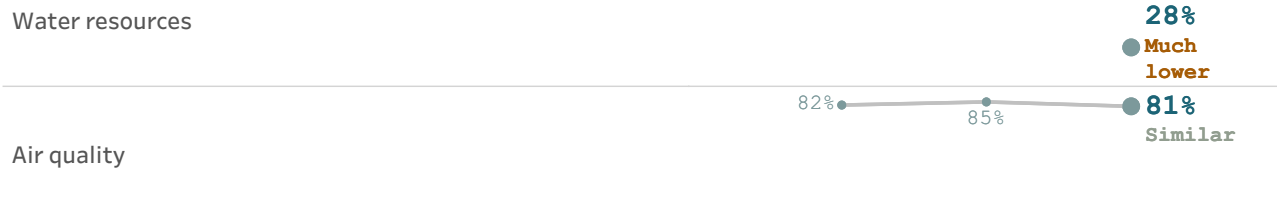
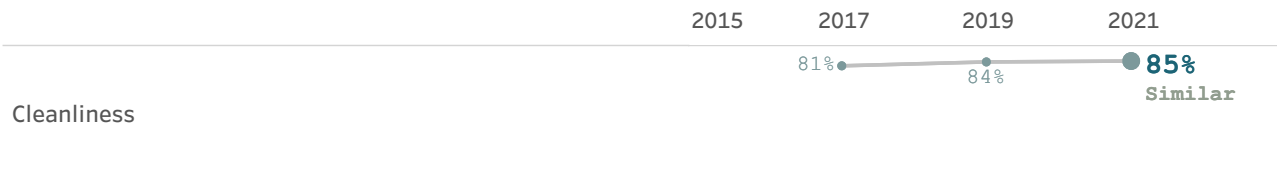
Natural environment

The natural environment plays a vital role in the health and well-being of residents. The natural spaces in which residents live and experience their communities has a direct and profound effect on quality of life.

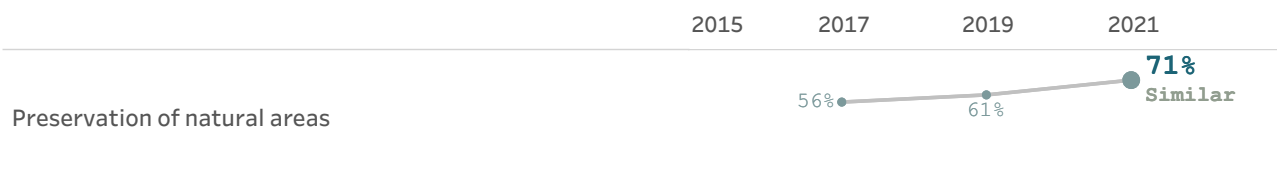
Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Marion as a whole.
(% excellent or good)

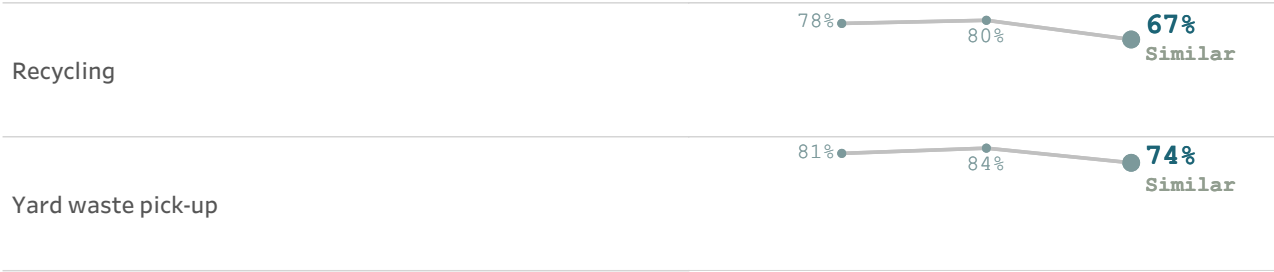


Please also rate each of the following in the Marion community.
(% excellent or good)



Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Marion.
(% excellent or good)





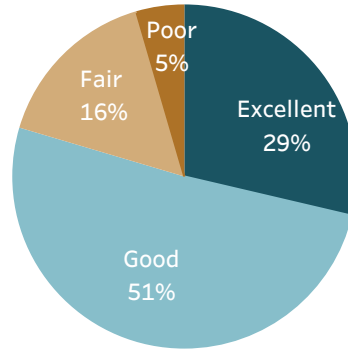
* Comparison to the national benchmark is shown. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.

Overall quality of parks and recreation opportunities, 2021

Parks and recreation

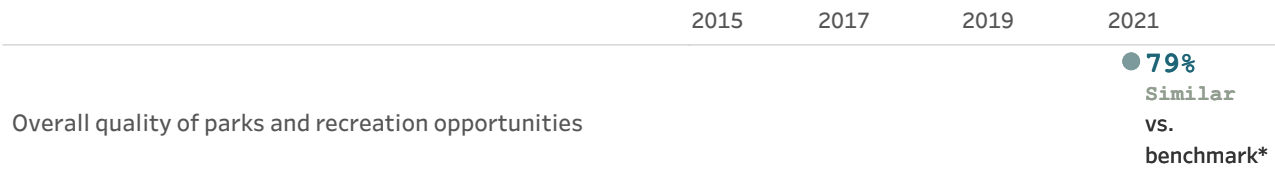
“There are no communities that pride themselves on their quality of life, promote themselves as a desirable location for businesses to relocate, or maintain that they are environmental stewards of their natural resources, without such communities having a robust, active system of parks and recreation programs for public use and enjoyment.”

- National Recreation and Park Association



Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Marion as a whole.

(% excellent or good)



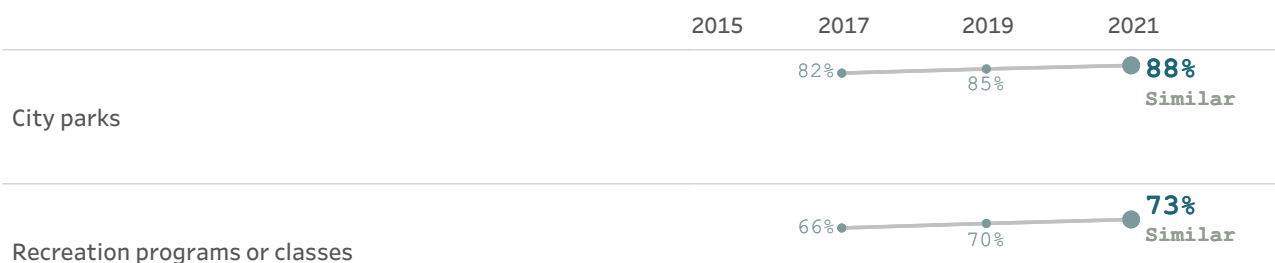
Please also rate each of the following in the Marion community.

(% excellent or good)



Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Marion.

(% excellent or good)



Recreation centers or facilities

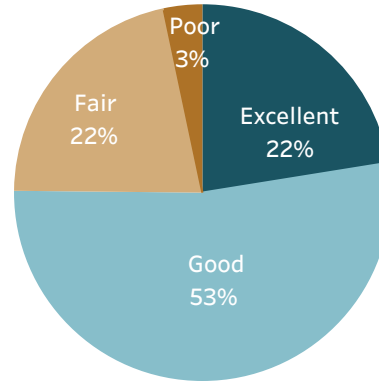


* Comparison to the national benchmark is shown. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.

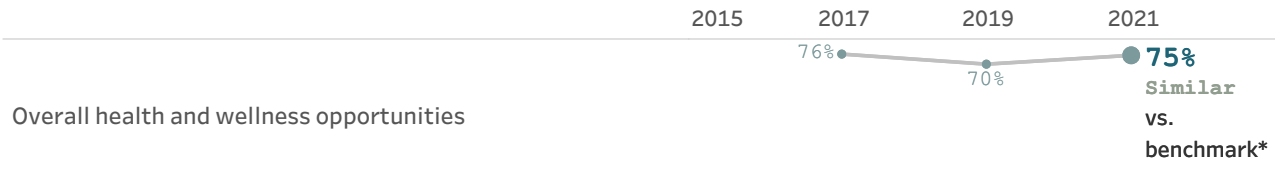
Health and wellness

The characteristics of and amenities available in the communities in which people live has a direct impact on the health and wellness of residents, and thus, on their quality of life overall.

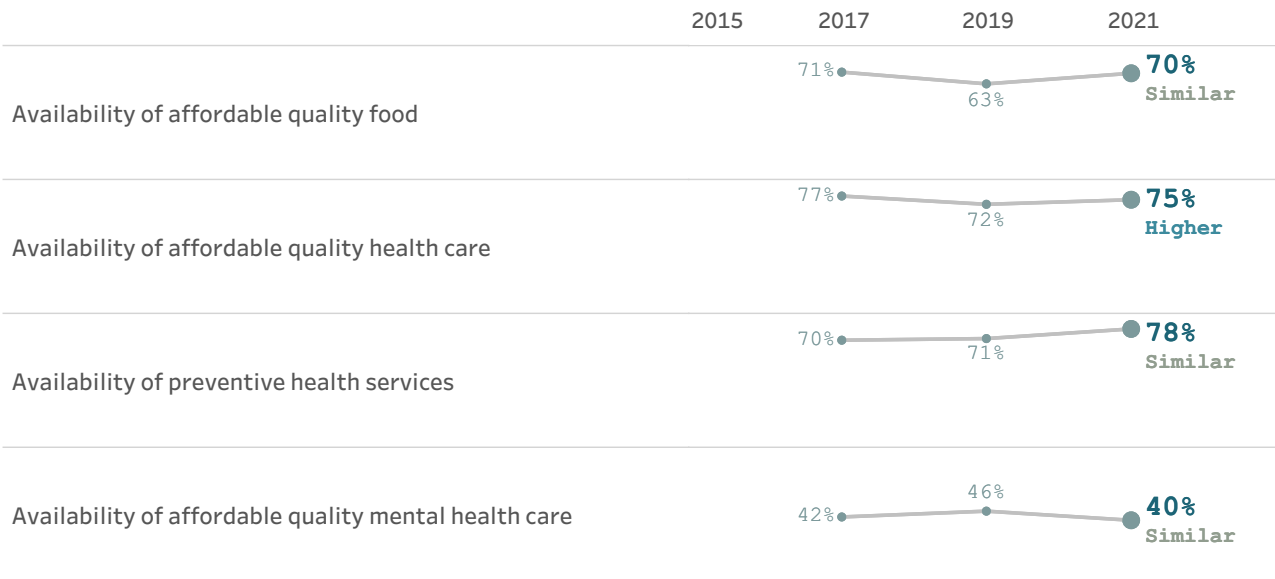
Overall health and wellness opportunities in Marion, 2021



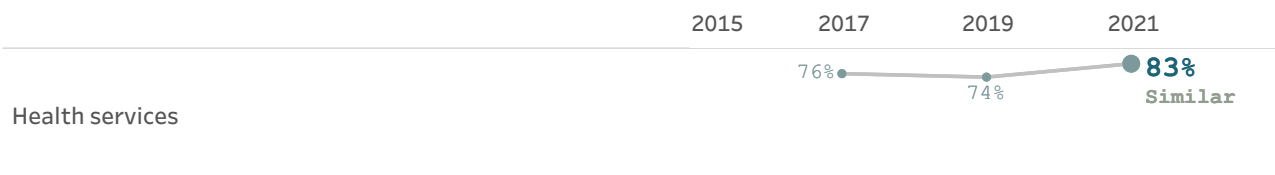
Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Marion as a whole.
(% excellent or good)



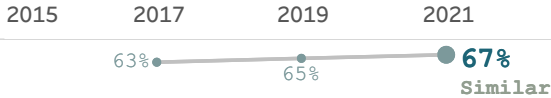
Please also rate each of the following in the Marion community.
(% excellent or good)



Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Marion.
(% excellent or good)



Please rate your overall health.
(% excellent or very good)



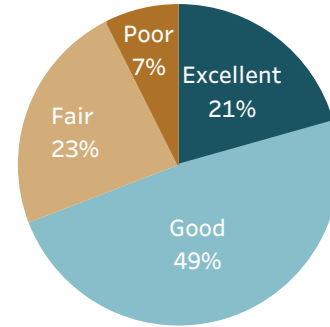
Please rate your overall health.

* Comparison to the national benchmark is shown. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.

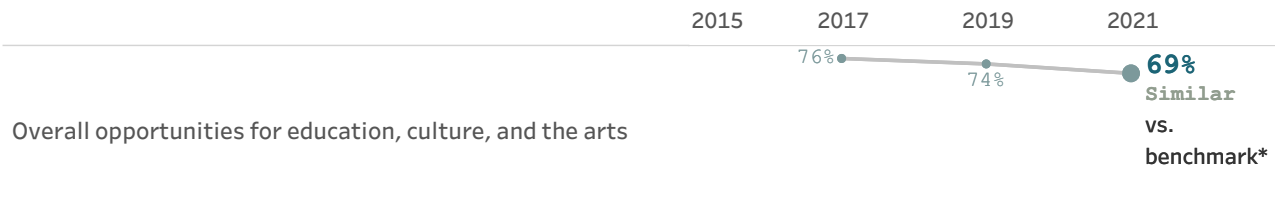
Education, arts, and culture

Participation in the arts, in educational opportunities, and in cultural activities is linked to increased civic engagement, greater social tolerance, and enhanced enjoyment of the local community.

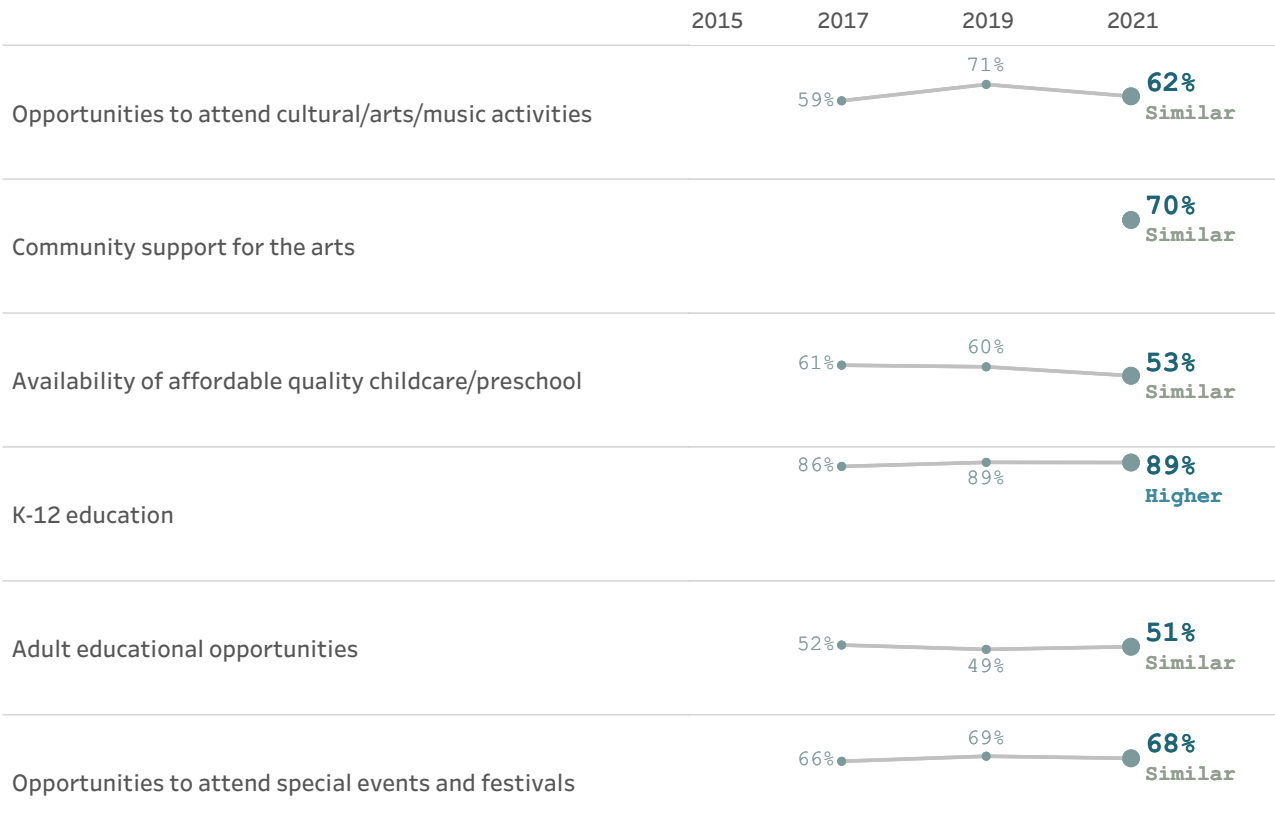
Overall opportunities for education, culture and the arts, 2021



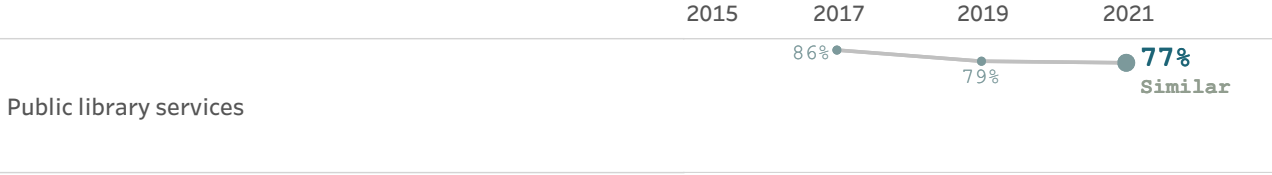
Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Marion as a whole.
(% excellent or good)



Please also rate each of the following in the Marion community.
(% excellent or good)



Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Marion.
(% excellent or good)

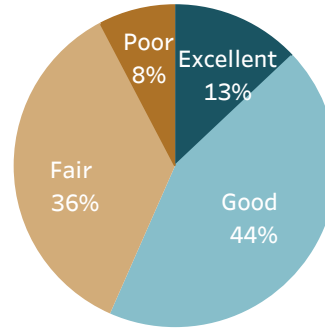


* Comparison to the national benchmark is shown. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.

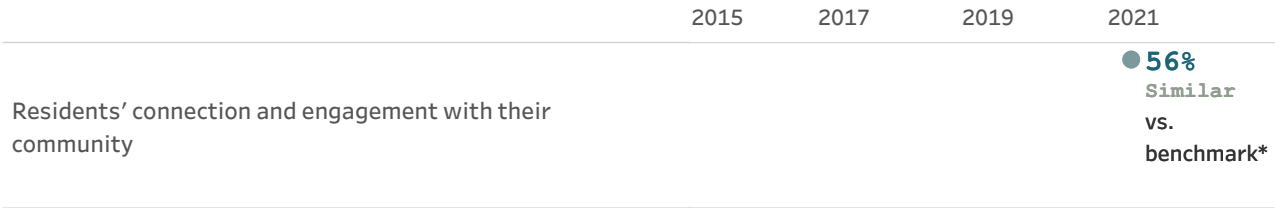
Residents' connection and engagement with their community, 2021

Inclusivity and engagement

Inclusivity refers to a cultural and environmental feeling of belonging; residents who feel invited to participate within their communities feel more included, involved, and engaged than those who do not.



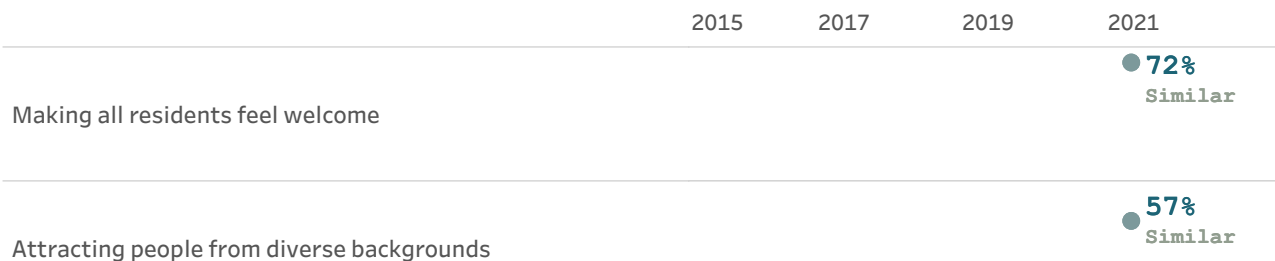
Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Marion as a whole. (% excellent or good)



Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in Marion. (% excellent or good)



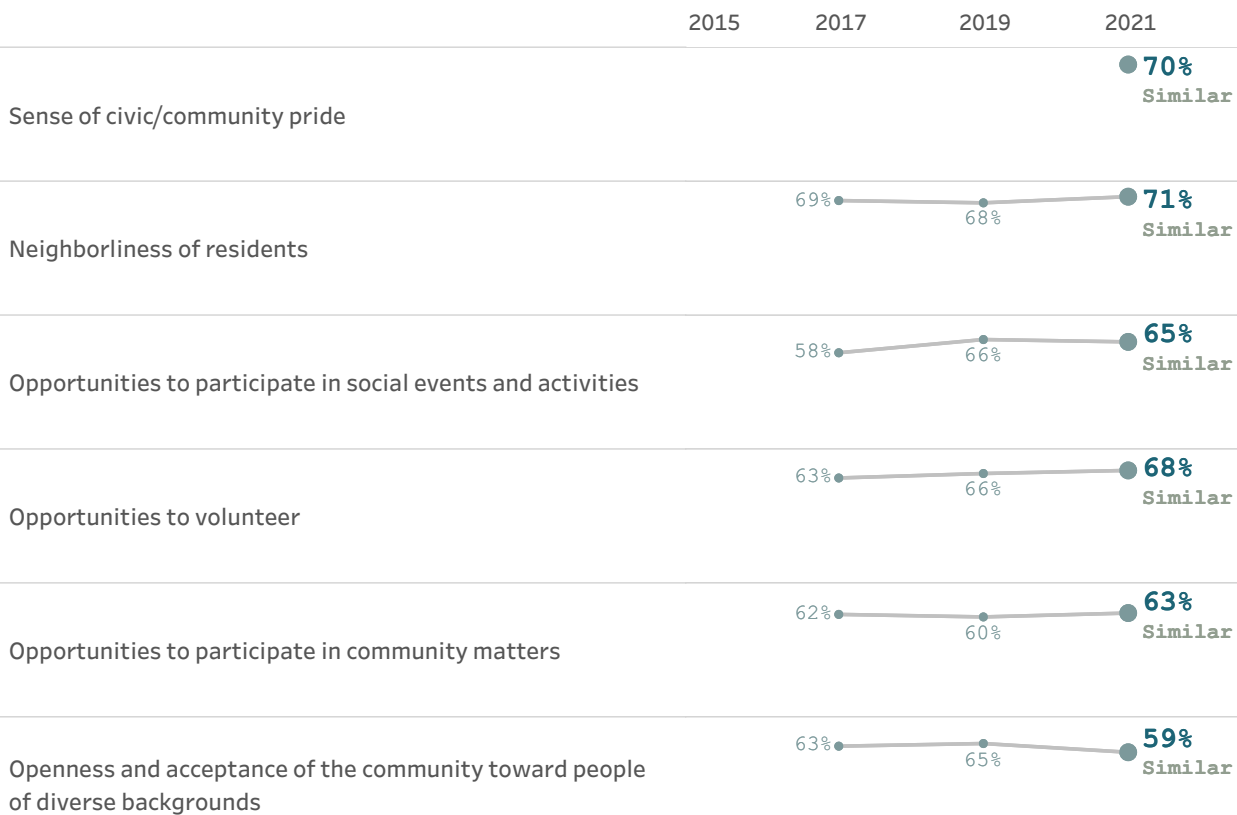
Please rate the job you feel the Marion community does at each of the following. (% excellent or good)



Valuing/respecting residents from diverse backgrounds **66%**
Similar

Taking care of vulnerable residents **57%**
Similar

Please also rate each of the following in the Marion community.
(% excellent or good)



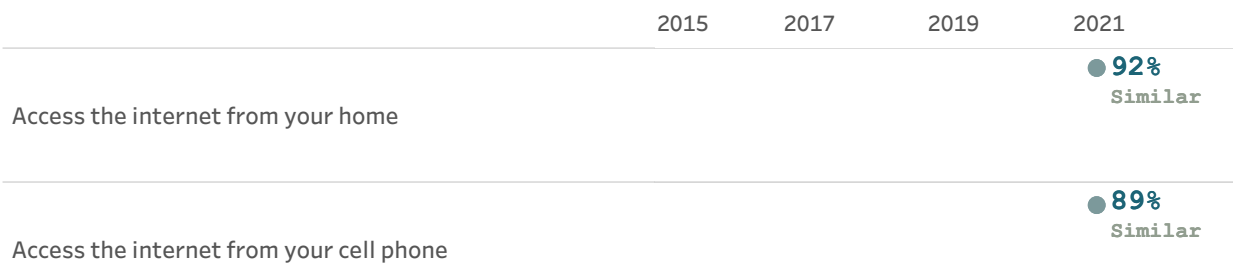
* Comparison to the national benchmark is shown. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.

Residents' participation levels

Please indicate whether or not you have done each of the following in the last 12 months.
(% yes)



In general, how many times do you:
(% a few times a week or more)

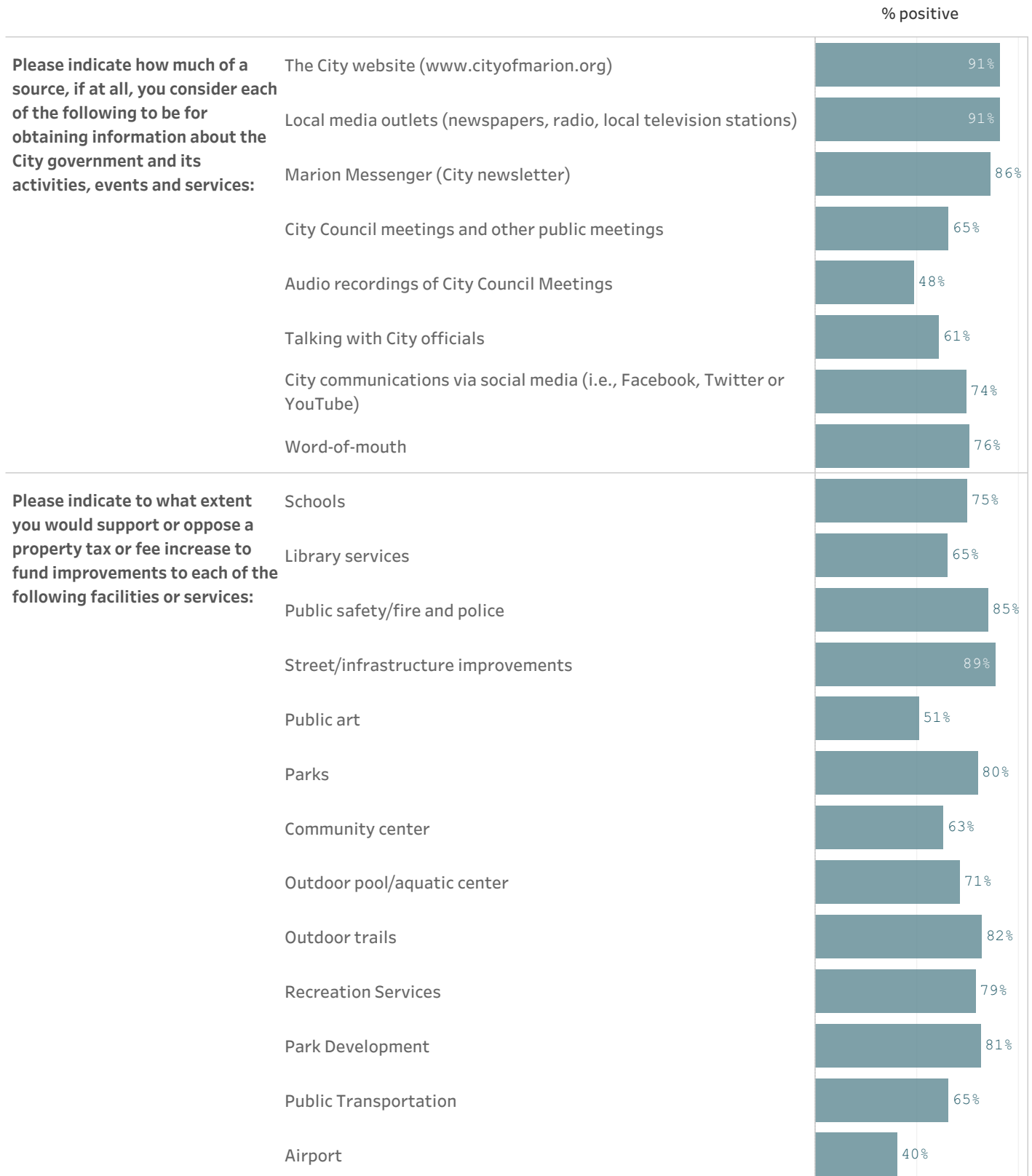


Visit social media sites	● 79% Similar
Use or check email	● 95% Similar
Share your opinions online	● 25% Similar
Shop online	● 54% Similar

* Comparison to the national benchmark is shown. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.

Custom questions

Below are the results of each custom question on the survey. The percentage of positive responses (Major/minor source or Strongly/somewhat support) is shown.



National benchmark tables

This table contains the comparisons of Marion’s results to those from other communities. The first column shows the comparison of Marion’s rating to the benchmark. Marion’s results are noted as being “higher”, “lower” or “similar” to the benchmark, meaning that the average rating given by Marion residents is statistically similar to or different than the benchmark. The second column is Marion’s “percent positive.” Most commonly, the percent positive is the combination of the top two most positive response options (i.e., excellent/good). The third column is the rank assigned to Marion’s rating among communities where a similar question was asked. The fourth column is the number of communities that asked a similar question. The fifth column shows the percentile for Marion’s result -- that is what percent of surveyed communities had a lower rating than Marion.

			% positive	Rank	Number of communities	Percentile
Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in Marion.	Marion as a place to live	Similar	92%	138	389	64
	Your neighborhood as a place to live	Similar	86%	117	322	63
	Marion as a place to raise children	Higher	92%	80	391	79
	Marion as a place to work	Similar	71%	135	374	64
	Marion as a place to visit	Similar	53%	228	316	28
	Marion as a place to retire	Similar	72%	143	376	62
	The overall quality of life	Similar	90%	142	432	67
	Sense of community	Similar	65%	127	324	61
Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Marion as a whole.	Overall economic health	Similar	77%	111	296	62
	Overall quality of the transportation system	Similar	57%	73	132	45
	Overall design or layout of residential and commercial areas	Similar	56%	204	290	30
	Overall quality of the utility infrastructure	Similar	64%	86	129	34
	Overall feeling of safety	Similar	86%	141	372	62
	Overall quality of natural environment	Similar	74%	205	301	32
	Overall quality of parks and recreation opportunities	Similar	79%	85	135	37
	Overall health and wellness opportunities	Similar	75%	139	291	52
	Overall opportunities for education, culture, and the arts	Similar	69%	133	294	55
	Residents’ connection and engagement with their community	Similar	56%	71	130	46
Please indicate how likely or unlikely you are to do each of the following.	Recommend living in Marion to someone who asks	Similar	91%	110	307	64
	Remain in Marion for the next five years	Similar	87%	103	300	66
Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel:	In your neighborhood during the day	Similar	96%	129	356	63
	In Marion’s downtown/commercial area during the day	Similar	94%	106	331	68

Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel:	From property crime	Similar	83%	37	140	74
	From violent crime	Similar	90%	49	140	65
	From fire, flood, or other natural disaster	Similar	72%	100	128	22
Please rate the job you feel the Marion community does at each of the following.	Making all residents feel welcome	Similar	72%	64	135	53
	Attracting people from diverse backgrounds	Similar	57%	82	133	39
	Valuing/respecting residents from diverse backgrounds	Similar	66%	76	133	43
	Taking care of vulnerable residents	Similar	57%	79	130	40
Please rate each of the following in the Marion community.	Overall quality of business and service establishments	Similar	77%	87	299	71
	Variety of business and service establishments	Similar	56%	84	130	36
	Vibrancy of downtown/commercial area	Similar	55%	135	280	52
	Employment opportunities	Similar	45%	134	328	59
	Shopping opportunities	Similar	45%	216	314	31
	Cost of living	Similar	50%	117	293	60
	Overall image or reputation	Similar	82%	130	369	65
Please also rate each of the following in the Marion community.	Traffic flow on major streets	Similar	64%	93	345	73
	Ease of public parking	Similar	43%	207	270	23
	Ease of travel by car	Similar	74%	131	324	59
	Ease of travel by public transportation	Similar	29%	203	275	26
	Ease of travel by bicycle	Similar	52%	171	326	47
	Ease of walking	Similar	67%	164	326	50
	Well-planned residential growth	Higher	66%	29	132	78
	Well-planned commercial growth	Similar	55%	43	132	68
	Well-designed neighborhoods	Similar	65%	55	130	58
	Preservation of the historical or cultural character of the communi..	Similar	69%	50	128	61
	Public places where people want to spend time	Similar	62%	174	286	39
	Variety of housing options	Similar	67%	77	302	74
	Availability of affordable quality housing	Similar	46%	89	327	73
	Overall quality of new development	Higher	73%	39	320	88
	Overall appearance	Similar	78%	171	358	52
	Cleanliness	Similar	85%	141	328	57
	Water resources	Much lower	28%	110	118	7

Please also rate each of the following in the Marion community.	Air quality	Similar	81%	138	282	51
	Availability of paths and walking trails	Similar	72%	145	330	56
	Fitness opportunities	Similar	74%	147	282	48
	Recreational opportunities	Similar	67%	192	313	38
	Availability of affordable quality food	Similar	70%	118	277	57
	Availability of affordable quality health care	Higher	75%	56	290	81
	Availability of preventive health services	Similar	78%	56	273	79
	Availability of affordable quality mental health care	Similar	40%	175	273	36
	Opportunities to attend cultural/arts/music activities	Similar	62%	129	310	58
	Community support for the arts	Similar	70%	45	129	65
	Availability of affordable quality childcare/preschool	Similar	53%	119	288	59
	K-12 education	Higher	89%	56	294	81
	Adult educational opportunities	Similar	51%	196	279	30
	Sense of civic/community pride	Similar	70%	48	129	63
	Neighborliness of residents	Similar	71%	75	286	74
	Opportunities to participate in social events and activities	Similar	65%	136	293	53
	Opportunities to attend special events and festivals	Similar	68%	155	300	48
Opportunities to volunteer	Similar	68%	162	290	44	
Opportunities to participate in community matters	Similar	63%	159	294	46	
Openness and acceptance of the community toward people of diverse...	Similar	59%	185	318	42	
Please indicate whether or not you have done each of the following in the last 12 months.	Contacted the City of Marion for help or information	Similar	38%	282	347	18
	Contacted Marion elected officials to express your opinion	Similar	10%	278	288	3
	Attended a local public meeting	Lower	9%	285	287	1
	Watched a local public meeting	Lower	13%	244	266	8
	Volunteered your time to some group/activity	Lower	22%	254	292	13
	Campaigned or advocated for a local issue, cause, or candidate	Similar	13%	244	276	11
	Voted in your most recent local election	Similar	69%	112	131	15
	Used public transportation instead of driving	Lower	5%	227	257	12
	Carpooled with other adults or children instead of driving alone	Similar	35%	227	282	19
	Walked or biked instead of driving	Similar	54%	175	285	38
Please rate the quality of each of the following	Public information services	Similar	68%	169	312	45

Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Marion.

Economic development	Higher	73%	53	303	82
Traffic enforcement	Similar	78%	66	372	82
Traffic signal timing	Similar	57%	144	292	51
Street repair	Similar	41%	237	373	36
Street cleaning	Similar	66%	174	314	44
Street lighting	Similar	64%	152	353	57
Snow removal	Similar	67%	139	275	49
Sidewalk maintenance	Similar	60%	154	318	51
Bus or transit services	Similar	41%	194	268	27
Land use, planning and zoning	Similar	64%	57	316	82
Code enforcement	Similar	55%	166	372	55
Affordable high-speed internet access	Similar	53%	56	126	56
Garbage collection	Similar	82%	194	348	44
Drinking water	Lower	47%	298	315	5
Sewer services	Similar	79%	194	316	38
Storm water management	Similar	75%	110	340	67
Power (electric and/or gas) utility	Similar	80%	104	234	55
Utility billing	Similar	73%	100	268	63
Police/Sheriff services	Similar	87%	182	424	57
Crime prevention	Similar	82%	95	371	74
Animal control	Similar	70%	163	336	51
Ambulance or emergency medical services	Similar	90%	185	333	44
Fire services	Similar	92%	204	366	44
Fire prevention and education	Similar	81%	140	304	54
Emergency preparedness	Similar	66%	187	304	38
Preservation of natural areas	Similar	71%	95	284	66
Marion open space	Similar	65%	130	274	52
Recycling	Similar	67%	263	352	25
Yard waste pick-up	Similar	74%	166	296	44
City parks	Similar	88%	144	330	56
Recreation programs or classes	Similar	73%	177	324	45

Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Marion.	Recreation centers or facilities	Similar	73%	140	297	53
	Health services	Similar	83%	64	265	76
	Public library services	Similar	77%	273	340	19
	Overall customer service by Marion employees	Similar	86%	130	387	66
Please rate the following categories of Marion government performance.	The value of services for the taxes paid to Marion	Similar	56%	192	394	51
	The overall direction that Marion is taking	Higher	73%	33	341	90
	The job Marion government does at welcoming resident involveme..	Similar	58%	98	335	70
	Overall confidence in Marion government	Similar	70%	38	296	87
	Generally acting in the best interest of the community	Similar	70%	51	299	83
	Being honest	Similar	72%	49	289	83
	Being open and transparent to the public	Similar	67%	29	132	78
	Informing residents about issues facing the community	Similar	64%	42	138	70
	Treating all residents fairly	Similar	70%	71	296	76
	Treating residents with respect	Similar	75%	49	129	62
Overall, how would you rate the quality of the services provided by each ..	The City of Marion	Similar	76%	172	390	56
	The Federal Government	Similar	38%	149	279	46
Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the Marion community to focus on each of the following in the coming two years.	Overall economic health	Similar	87%	226	273	17
	Overall quality of the transportation system	Similar	70%	73	128	43
	Overall design or layout of residential and commercial areas	Similar	75%	158	273	42
	Overall quality of the utility infrastructure	Similar	88%	45	127	65
	Overall feeling of safety	Similar	87%	179	273	34
	Overall quality of natural environment	Similar	74%	251	273	8
	Overall quality of parks and recreation opportunities	Similar	78%	104	128	19
	Overall health and wellness opportunities	Similar	71%	216	273	20
	Overall opportunities for education, culture, and the arts	Similar	64%	263	273	3
	Residents' connection and engagement with their community	Similar	66%	252	273	7
In general, how many times do you:	Access the internet from your home	Similar	92%	104	128	19
	Access the internet from your cell phone	Similar	89%	107	128	17
	Visit social media sites	Similar	79%	75	127	41
	Use or check email	Similar	95%	95	128	26
	Share your opinions online	Similar	25%	115	128	10

In general, how many times do you:	Shop online	Similar	54%	75	128	42
	Please rate your overall health.	Similar	67%	93	279	67
	What impact, if any, do you think the economy will have on your fa..	Similar	25%	204	282	28

Custom benchmark tables

This table contains the comparisons of Marion’s results to those from other communities with secondary cities (cities that were in a metro area, but not the primary city in a metro area), with a similar population (between 25,000 and 55,000) and a similar average annual household income (\$50,000 to \$75,000). The first column shows the comparison of Marion’s rating to the benchmark. Marion’s results are noted as being “higher”, “lower” or “similar” to the benchmark, meaning that the average rating given by Marion residents is statistically similar to or different than the benchmark. The second column is Marion’s “percent positive.” Most commonly, the percent positive is the combination of the top two most positive response options (i.e., excellent/good). The third column is the rank assigned to Marion’s rating among communities where a similar question was asked. The fourth column is the number of communities that asked a similar question. The fifth column shows the percentile for Marion’s result -- that is what percent of surveyed communities had a lower rating than Marion.

			% positive	Rank	Number of communities	Percentile
Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in Marion.	Marion as a place to live	Similar	92%	6	28	82
	Your neighborhood as a place to live	Similar	86%	5	25	84
	Marion as a place to raise children	Higher	92%	2	27	96
	Marion as a place to work	Similar	71%	8	27	74
	Marion as a place to visit	Similar	53%	16	22	31
	Marion as a place to retire	Similar	72%	8	27	74
	The overall quality of life	Similar	90%	4	30	89
	Sense of community	Similar	65%	6	24	79
	Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Marion as a whole.	Overall economic health	Similar	77%	4	22
Overall quality of the transportation system		Similar	57%	10	12	25
Overall design or layout of residential and commercial areas		Similar	56%	17	20	20
Overall quality of the utility infrastructure		Similar	64%	10	12	25
Overall feeling of safety		Higher	86%	4	23	86
Overall quality of natural environment		Similar	74%	13	23	47
Overall quality of parks and recreation opportunities		Similar	79%	8	13	46
Overall health and wellness opportunities		Similar	75%	9	20	60
Overall opportunities for education, culture, and the arts		Similar	69%	6	21	76

following characteristics as they relate to Marion as a whole.	Residents' connection and engagement with their community	Similar	56%	5	12	66
Please indicate how likely or unlikely you are to do each of the following.	Recommend living in Marion to someone who asks	Similar	91%	6	23	78
	Remain in Marion for the next five years	Similar	87%	5	23	82
Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel:	In your neighborhood during the day	Similar	96%	2	28	96
	In Marion's downtown/commercial area during the day	Similar	94%	4	26	88
	From property crime	Similar	83%	2	11	90
	From violent crime	Similar	90%	3	11	81
	From fire, flood, or other natural disaster	Similar	72%	12	12	8
Please rate the job you feel the Marion community does at each of the following.	Making all residents feel welcome	Similar	72%	6	14	64
	Attracting people from diverse backgrounds	Similar	57%	10	14	35
	Valuing/respecting residents from diverse backgrounds	Similar	66%	9	13	38
	Taking care of vulnerable residents	Similar	57%	7	12	50
Please rate each of the following in the Marion community.	Overall quality of business and service establishments	Similar	77%	7	22	72
	Variety of business and service establishments	Similar	56%	10	12	25
	Vibrancy of downtown/commercial area	Similar	55%	9	20	60
	Employment opportunities	Similar	45%	11	24	58
	Shopping opportunities	Similar	45%	18	24	29
	Cost of living	Similar	50%	11	21	52
	Overall image or reputation	Higher	82%	3	27	92
Please also rate each of the following in the Marion community.	Traffic flow on major streets	Similar	64%	7	25	76
	Ease of public parking	Lower	43%	20	21	9
	Ease of travel by car	Similar	74%	10	23	60
	Ease of travel by public transportation	Lower	29%	18	21	19
	Ease of travel by bicycle	Similar	52%	14	24	45

Please also rate each of the following in the Marion community.

Ease of walking	Similar	67%	11	24	58
Well-planned residential growth	Similar	66%	4	12	75
Well-planned commercial growth	Similar	55%	5	12	66
Well-designed neighborhoods	Similar	65%	4	11	72
Preservation of the historical or cultural character of the community	Similar	69%	5	12	66
Public places where people want to spend time	Similar	62%	13	20	40
Variety of housing options	Similar	67%	7	23	73
Availability of affordable quality housing	Similar	46%	9	23	65
Overall quality of new development	Similar	73%	2	24	95
Overall appearance	Similar	78%	7	26	76
Cleanliness	Similar	85%	4	25	88
Water resources	Much lower	28%	11	11	9
Air quality	Similar	81%	6	21	76
Availability of paths and walking trails	Similar	72%	12	24	54
Fitness opportunities	Similar	74%	11	20	50
Recreational opportunities	Similar	67%	13	24	50
Availability of affordable quality food	Similar	70%	12	22	50
Availability of affordable quality health care	Similar	75%	3	22	90
Availability of preventive health services	Similar	78%	5	22	81
Availability of affordable quality mental health care	Similar	40%	17	20	20
Opportunities to attend cultural/arts/music activities	Similar	62%	4	24	87
Community support for the arts	Similar	70%	2	12	91
Availability of affordable quality childcare/preschool	Similar	53%	9	23	65
K-12 education	Higher	89%	1	20	100

Please also rate each of the following in the Marion community.	Adult educational opportunities	Similar	51%	18	20	15
	Sense of civic/community pride	Similar	70%	3	12	83
	Neighborliness of residents	Similar	71%	6	20	73
	Opportunities to participate in social events and activities	Similar	65%	8	23	69
	Opportunities to attend special events and festivals	Similar	68%	9	21	61
	Opportunities to volunteer	Similar	68%	9	23	65
	Opportunities to participate in community matters	Similar	63%	12	23	52
	Openness and acceptance of the community toward people of diverse backgrounds	Similar	59%	19	25	28
Please indicate whether or not you have done each of the following in the last 12 months.	Contacted the City of Marion for help or information	Similar	38%	19	24	25
	Contacted Marion elected officials to express your opinion	Similar	10%	20	20	5
	Attended a local public meeting	Similar	9%	22	22	4
	Watched a local public meeting	Similar	13%	19	20	10
	Volunteered your time to some group/activity	Similar	22%	14	20	35
	Campaigned or advocated for a local issue, cause, or candidate	Similar	13%	14	20	35
	Voted in your most recent local election	Lower	69%	10	13	30
	Used public transportation instead of driving	Lower	5%	20	21	9
	Carpooled with other adults or children instead of driving alone	Similar	35%	15	20	30
	Walked or biked instead of driving	Similar	54%	14	20	35
Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Marion.	Public information services	Similar	68%	12	23	50
	Economic development	Similar	73%	3	21	90
	Traffic enforcement	Similar	78%	4	25	88
	Traffic signal timing	Similar	57%	11	20	50
	Street repair	Similar	41%	20	28	32
	Street cleaning	Similar	66%	15	25	44

Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Marion.

Street lighting	Similar	64%	9	27	69
Snow removal	Similar	67%	9	23	63
Sidewalk maintenance	Similar	60%	9	23	65
Bus or transit services	Lower	41%	17	21	23
Land use, planning and zoning	Similar	64%	6	27	81
Code enforcement	Similar	55%	9	29	72
Affordable high-speed internet access	Similar	53%	6	12	58
Garbage collection	Similar	82%	15	26	46
Drinking water	Lower	47%	22	23	8
Sewer services	Similar	79%	18	22	22
Storm water management	Similar	75%	9	23	65
Power (electric and/or gas) utility	Similar	80%	8	18	61
Utility billing	Similar	73%	9	21	61
Police/Sheriff services	Similar	87%	8	30	76
Crime prevention	Higher	82%	3	28	92
Animal control	Similar	70%	12	26	57
Ambulance or emergency medical services	Similar	90%	11	23	56
Fire services	Similar	92%	10	25	64
Fire prevention and education	Similar	81%	6	22	77
Emergency preparedness	Similar	66%	14	23	43
Preservation of natural areas	Similar	71%	7	20	70
Marion open space	Similar	65%	9	19	57
Recycling	Similar	67%	19	24	25
Yard waste pick-up	Similar	74%	10	22	59

Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Marion.	City parks	Similar	88%	6	25	80
	Recreation programs or classes	Similar	73%	14	24	45
	Recreation centers or facilities	Similar	73%	12	23	52
	Health services	Similar	83%	3	18	88
	Public library services	Similar	77%	17	20	20
	Overall customer service by Marion employees	Similar	86%	11	27	62
Please rate the following categories of Marion government performance.	The value of services for the taxes paid to Marion	Similar	56%	13	26	52
	The overall direction that Marion is taking	Similar	73%	3	23	91
	The job Marion government does at welcoming resident involvement	Similar	58%	9	24	66
	Overall confidence in Marion government	Similar	70%	5	20	80
	Generally acting in the best interest of the community	Similar	70%	4	21	85
	Being honest	Similar	72%	5	20	80
	Being open and transparent to the public	Similar	67%	4	12	75
	Informing residents about issues facing the community	Similar	64%	5	14	71
	Treating all residents fairly	Similar	70%	6	22	77
	Treating residents with respect	Similar	75%	4	11	72
Overall, how would you rate the quality of the services provided by each of the following?	The City of Marion	Similar	76%	9	23	65
	The Federal Government	Similar	38%	12	20	45
Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the Marion community to focus on each of the following in the coming two years.	Overall economic health	Similar	87%	15	20	30
	Overall quality of the transportation system	Similar	70%	4	12	75
	Overall design or layout of residential and commercial areas	Similar	75%	9	20	60
	Overall quality of the utility infrastructure	Similar	88%	3	12	83
	Overall feeling of safety	Similar	87%	15	20	30
	Overall quality of natural environment	Similar	74%	19	20	10
































Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the Marion community to focus on each of the following in the coming two years.	Overall quality of parks and recreation opportunities	Similar	78%	10	12	25
	Overall health and wellness opportunities	Similar	71%	19	20	10
	Overall opportunities for education, culture, and the arts	Similar	64%	20	20	5
	Residents' connection and engagement with their community	Similar	66%	19	20	10
In general, how many times do you:	Access the internet from your home	Similar	92%	7	11	45
	Access the internet from your cell phone	Similar	89%	7	11	45
	Visit social media sites	Similar	79%	7	11	45
	Use or check email	Similar	95%	7	11	45
	Share your opinions online	Similar	25%	10	11	18
	Shop online	Similar	54%	4	11	72
	Please rate your overall health.	Similar	67%	4	20	85
	What impact, if any, do you think the economy will have on your family income in the next 6 months? Do you think the impact will be:	Similar	25%	13	20	40

Complete set of frequencies
































This dashboard contains a complete set of responses to each question on the survey. By default, "Don't know" responses are excluded, but may be added to the table using the response filter to the right. When a table for a question that only permitted a single response does not total to exactly 100%, it is due to the common practice of percentages being rounded to the nearest whole number.

Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in Marion.	Question	Response	Frequency	
			Percentage	Count
Marion as a place to live	Marion as a place to live	Excellent	44%	10
		Good	48%	12
		Fair	8%	2
		Poor	0%	0
Your neighborhood as a place to live	Your neighborhood as a place to live	Excellent	47%	12
		Good	39%	10
		Fair	12%	3
		Poor	2%	1
Marion as a place to raise children	Marion as a place to raise children	Excellent	52%	13
		Good	40%	10
		Fair	7%	2
		Poor	0%	0
Marion as a place to work	Marion as a place to work	Excellent	28%	7
		Good	44%	11
		Fair	20%	5
		Poor	9%	2
Marion as a place to visit	Marion as a place to visit	Excellent	13%	3
		Good	40%	10
		Fair	36%	9
		Poor	11%	3
Marion as a place to retire	Marion as a place to retire	Excellent	28%	7
		Good	44%	11
		Fair	19%	5
		Poor	8%	2
The overall quality of life	The overall quality of life	Excellent	33%	8
		Good	57%	14
		Fair	10%	3

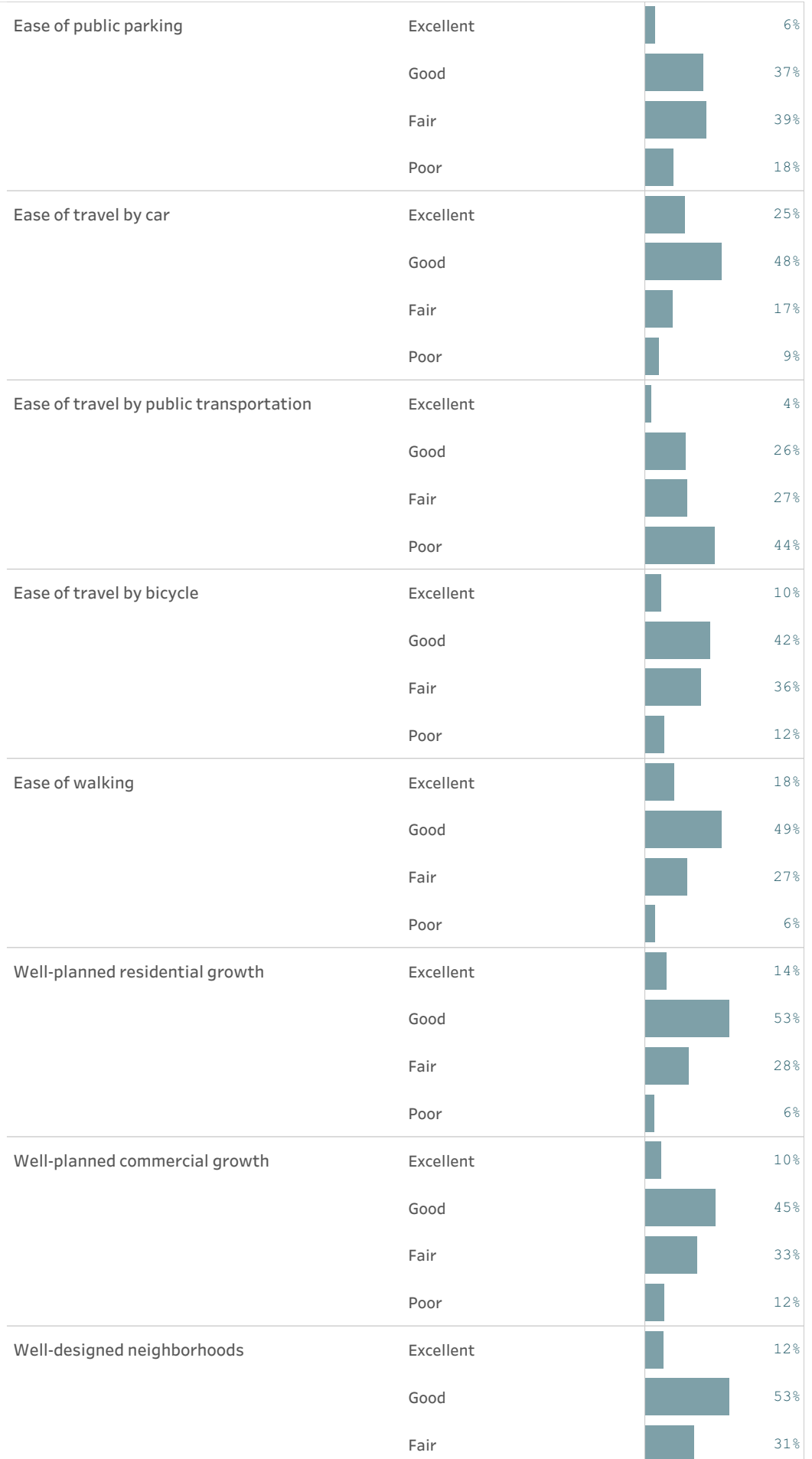
Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in Marion.	The overall quality of life	Poor		0%
	Sense of community	Excellent		23%
		Good		43%
		Fair		29%
		Poor		5%
Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Marion as a whole.	Overall economic health	Excellent		15%
		Good		62%
		Fair		20%
		Poor		3%
	Overall quality of the transportation system	Excellent		8%
		Good		49%
		Fair		28%
		Poor		15%
	Overall design or layout of residential and commercial areas	Excellent		8%
		Good		48%
		Fair		34%
		Poor		10%
	Overall quality of the utility infrastructure	Excellent		16%
Good			47%	
Fair			25%	
Poor			11%	
Overall feeling of safety	Excellent		38%	
	Good		48%	
	Fair		12%	
	Poor		1%	
Overall quality of natural environment	Excellent		22%	
	Good		51%	
	Fair		23%	
	Poor		3%	
Overall quality of parks and recreation opportunities	Excellent		29%	
	Good		51%	

Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Marion as a whole.	Overall quality of parks and recreation opportunities	Fair		16%
		Poor		5%
	Overall health and wellness opportunities	Excellent		22%
		Good		53%
		Fair		22%
		Poor		3%
	Overall opportunities for education, culture, and the arts	Excellent		21%
		Good		49%
Fair			23%	
Poor			7%	
Residents' connection and engagement with their community	Excellent		13%	
	Good		44%	
	Fair		36%	
	Poor		8%	
Please indicate how likely or unlikely you are to do each of the following.	Recommend living in Marion to someone who asks	Very likely		51%
		Somewhat likely		40%
		Somewhat unlikely		5%
		Very unlikely		4%
	Remain in Marion for the next five years	Very likely		63%
		Somewhat likely		23%
		Somewhat unlikely		8%
		Very unlikely		5%
Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel:	In your neighborhood during the day	Very safe		79%
		Somewhat safe		18%
		Neither safe nor unsafe		2%
		Somewhat unsafe		2%
	In Marion's downtown/commercial area during the day	Very safe		71%
		Somewhat safe		23%
		Neither safe nor unsafe		5%
		Somewhat unsafe		1%
From property crime	Very safe		44%	

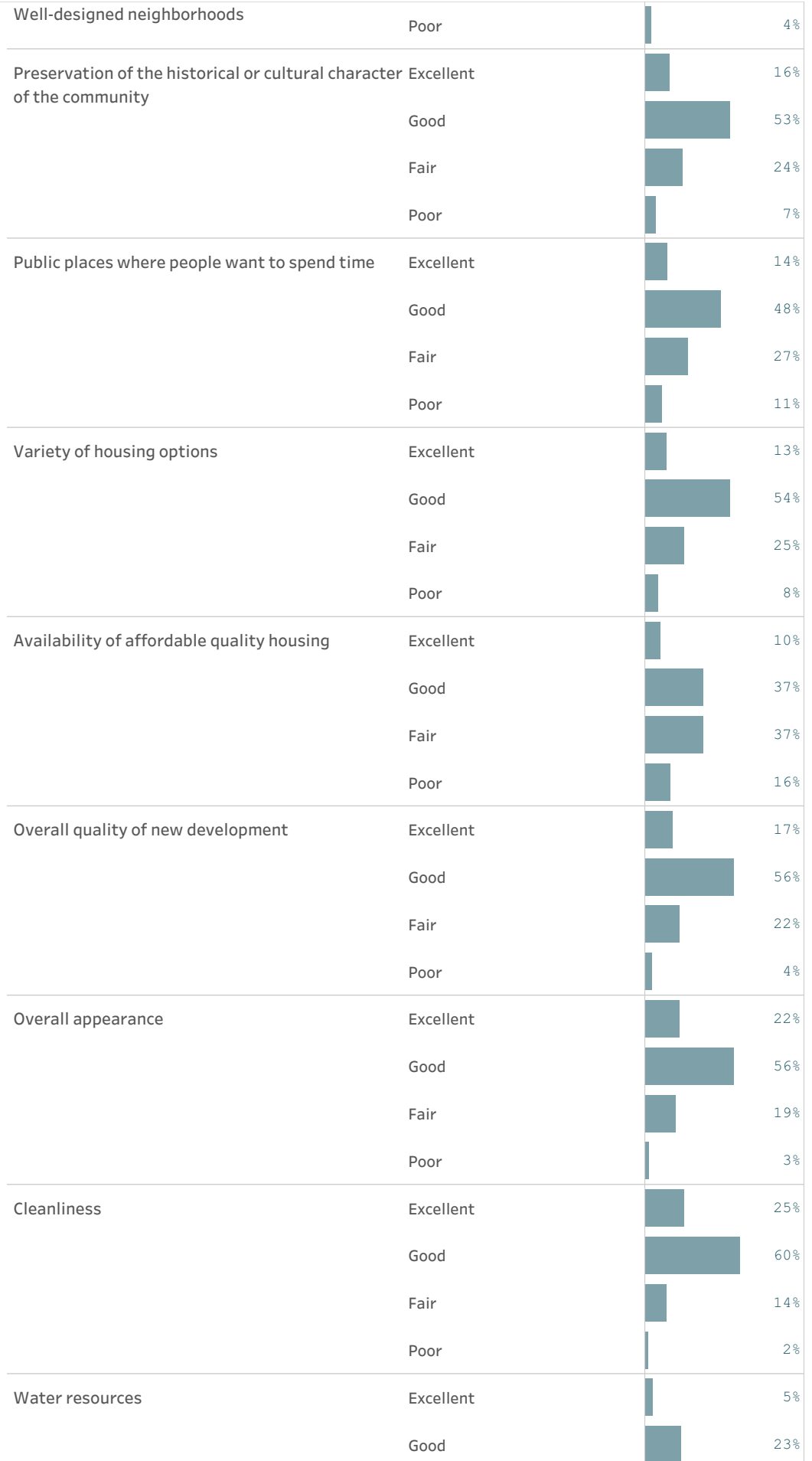
Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel:	From property crime	Somewhat safe		40%
		Neither safe nor unsafe		9%
		Somewhat unsafe		6%
		Very unsafe		1%
	From violent crime	Very safe		60%
		Somewhat safe		30%
		Neither safe nor unsafe		6%
		Somewhat unsafe		4%
		Very unsafe		1%
	From fire, flood, or other natural disaster	Very safe		34%
		Somewhat safe		38%
		Neither safe nor unsafe		20%
Somewhat unsafe			7%	
Very unsafe			1%	
Please rate the job you feel the Marion community does at each of the following.	Making all residents feel welcome	Excellent		22%
		Good		50%
		Fair		23%
		Poor		5%
	Attracting people from diverse backgrounds	Excellent		15%
		Good		42%
		Fair		30%
		Poor		13%
	Valuing/respecting residents from diverse backgrounds	Excellent		17%
		Good		49%
		Fair		26%
		Poor		9%
	Taking care of vulnerable residents	Excellent		14%
		Good		44%
		Fair		29%
		Poor		14%
Please rate each of the following in the Marion community:	Overall quality of business and service establishments	Excellent		22%

Please rate each of the following in the Marion community.	Overall quality of business and service establishments	Good		56%
		Fair		17%
		Poor		5%
	Variety of business and service establishments	Excellent		14%
		Good		43%
		Fair		34%
		Poor		10%
	Vibrancy of downtown/commercial area	Excellent		12%
		Good		43%
		Fair		32%
		Poor		13%
	Employment opportunities	Excellent		11%
Good			34%	
Fair			43%	
Poor			12%	
Shopping opportunities	Excellent		7%	
	Good		38%	
	Fair		36%	
	Poor		19%	
Cost of living	Excellent		10%	
	Good		40%	
	Fair		35%	
	Poor		16%	
Overall image or reputation	Excellent		27%	
	Good		55%	
	Fair		15%	
	Poor		3%	
Please also rate each of the following in the Marion community.	Traffic flow on major streets	Excellent		11%
		Good		52%
		Fair		25%
		Poor		11%

Please also rate each of the following in the Marion community.


































Please also rate each of the following in the Marion community.

































































Please also rate each of the following in the Marion community.

Water resources	Fair		35%
	Poor		37%
Air quality	Excellent		29%
	Good		53%
	Fair		17%
	Poor		1%
Availability of paths and walking trails	Excellent		26%
	Good		46%
	Fair		21%
	Poor		7%
Fitness opportunities	Excellent		22%
	Good		53%
	Fair		19%
	Poor		6%
Recreational opportunities	Excellent		16%
	Good		51%
	Fair		25%
	Poor		8%
Availability of affordable quality food	Excellent		21%
	Good		49%
	Fair		23%
	Poor		7%
Availability of affordable quality health care	Excellent		27%
	Good		47%
	Fair		21%
	Poor		5%
Availability of preventive health services	Excellent		27%
	Good		51%
	Fair		16%
	Poor		6%
Availability of affordable quality mental health	Excellent		10%
































Please also rate each of the following in the Marion community.				
Availability of affordable quality mental health care	Good		31%	
	Fair		31%	
	Poor		29%	
Opportunities to attend cultural/arts/music activities	Excellent		18%	
	Good		44%	
	Fair		29%	
	Poor		9%	
Community support for the arts	Excellent		20%	
	Good		50%	
	Fair		21%	
	Poor		9%	
Availability of affordable quality childcare/preschool	Excellent		14%	
	Good		40%	
	Fair		35%	
	Poor		12%	
K-12 education	Excellent		42%	
	Good		47%	
	Fair		10%	
	Poor		2%	
Adult educational opportunities	Excellent		10%	
	Good		42%	
	Fair		32%	
	Poor		17%	
Sense of civic/community pride	Excellent		17%	
	Good		54%	
	Fair		24%	
	Poor		5%	
Neighborliness of residents	Excellent		22%	
	Good		49%	
	Fair		23%	
	Poor		5%	

Please also rate each of the following in the Marion community.	Opportunities to participate in social events and activities	Excellent		15%
		Good		49%
		Fair		28%
		Poor		7%
	Opportunities to attend special events and festivals	Excellent		18%
		Good		50%
		Fair		24%
		Poor		8%
	Opportunities to volunteer	Excellent		18%
		Good		50%
		Fair		27%
		Poor		5%
	Opportunities to participate in community matters	Excellent		15%
		Good		48%
		Fair		29%
		Poor		8%
	Openness and acceptance of the community toward people of diverse backgrounds	Excellent		12%
		Good		47%
		Fair		30%
		Poor		11%
Please indicate whether or not you have done each of the following in the last 12 months.	Contacted the City of Marion for help or information	No		62%
		Yes		38%
	Contacted Marion elected officials to express your opinion	No		90%
		Yes		10%
	Attended a local public meeting	No		91%
		Yes		9%
	Watched a local public meeting	No		87%
		Yes		13%
	Volunteered your time to some group/activity	No		78%
		Yes		22%
	Campaigned or advocated for a local issue, cause, or candidate	No		87%
































Please indicate whether or not you have done each of the following in the last 12 months.	Campaigned or advocated for a local issue, cause, or candidate	Yes		13%
	Voted in your most recent local election	No		31%
		Yes		69%
	Used public transportation instead of driving	No		95%
		Yes		5%
	Carpooled with other adults or children instead of driving alone	No		65%
		Yes		35%
	Walked or biked instead of driving	No		46%
Yes			54%	
Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Marion.	Public information services	Excellent		14%
		Good		54%
		Fair		27%
		Poor		5%
	Economic development	Excellent		14%
		Good		60%
		Fair		23%
		Poor		4%
	Traffic enforcement	Excellent		18%
		Good		59%
		Fair		15%
		Poor		7%
	Traffic signal timing	Excellent		10%
		Good		47%
		Fair		27%
		Poor		16%
Street repair	Excellent		6%	
	Good		35%	
	Fair		38%	
	Poor		21%	
Street cleaning	Excellent		13%	
	Good		53%	
































Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Marion.			
Street cleaning	Fair		27%
	Poor		7%
Street lighting	Excellent		13%
	Good		51%
	Fair		30%
	Poor		5%
Snow removal	Excellent		20%
	Good		46%
	Fair		24%
	Poor		9%
Sidewalk maintenance	Excellent		11%
	Good		50%
	Fair		31%
	Poor		9%
Bus or transit services	Excellent		6%
	Good		35%
	Fair		26%
	Poor		33%
Land use, planning and zoning	Excellent		9%
	Good		55%
	Fair		28%
	Poor		9%
Code enforcement	Excellent		7%
	Good		48%
	Fair		30%
	Poor		15%
Affordable high-speed internet access	Excellent		15%
	Good		38%
	Fair		31%
	Poor		16%
Garbage collection	Excellent		36%

Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Marion.































Garbage collection	Good		46%
	Fair		12%
	Poor		5%
Drinking water	Excellent		11%
	Good		36%
	Fair		26%
	Poor		26%
Sewer services	Excellent		22%
	Good		57%
	Fair		18%
	Poor		3%
Storm water management	Excellent		21%
	Good		54%
	Fair		21%
	Poor		3%
Power (electric and/or gas) utility	Excellent		26%
	Good		54%
	Fair		19%
	Poor		1%
Utility billing	Excellent		23%
	Good		50%
	Fair		24%
	Poor		3%
Police/Sheriff services	Excellent		33%
	Good		53%
	Fair		10%
	Poor		4%
Crime prevention	Excellent		30%
	Good		51%
	Fair		16%
	Poor		3%

Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Marion.

Animal control	Excellent		19%
	Good		51%
	Fair		21%
	Poor		9%
Ambulance or emergency medical services	Excellent		37%
	Good		53%
	Fair		9%
	Poor		1%
Fire services	Excellent		42%
	Good		51%
	Fair		7%
	Poor		1%
Fire prevention and education	Excellent		29%
	Good		51%
	Fair		17%
	Poor		2%
Emergency preparedness	Excellent		14%
	Good		51%
	Fair		25%
	Poor		9%
Preservation of natural areas	Excellent		17%
	Good		54%
	Fair		23%
	Poor		6%
Marion open space	Excellent		13%
	Good		51%
	Fair		31%
	Poor		4%
Recycling	Excellent		22%
	Good		45%
	Fair		22%

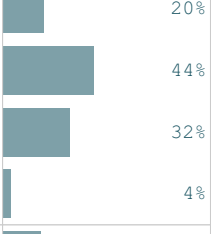
Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Marion.	Recycling	Poor		11%
	Yard waste pick-up	Excellent		27%
		Good		48%
		Fair		18%
		Poor		7%
	City parks	Excellent		30%
		Good		58%
		Fair		11%
		Poor		1%
	Recreation programs or classes	Excellent		17%
Good			55%	
Fair			22%	
Poor			6%	
Recreation centers or facilities	Excellent		20%	
	Good		52%	
	Fair		21%	
	Poor		6%	
Health services	Excellent		21%	
	Good		62%	
	Fair		14%	
	Poor		2%	
Public library services	Excellent		31%	
	Good		46%	
	Fair		18%	
	Poor		4%	
Overall customer service by Marion employees	Excellent		26%	
	Good		59%	
	Fair		12%	
	Poor		3%	
Please rate the following categories of Marion government performance.	The value of services for the taxes paid to Marion	Excellent		10%
		Good		46%

Please rate the following categories of Marion government performance.

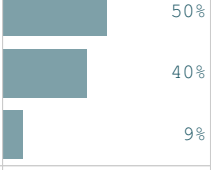

The value of services for the taxes paid to Marion	Fair		29%
	Poor		15%
The overall direction that Marion is taking	Excellent		25%
	Good		48%
	Fair		19%
	Poor		8%
The job Marion government does at welcoming resident involvement	Excellent		16%
	Good		42%
	Fair		29%
	Poor		12%
Overall confidence in Marion government	Excellent		19%
	Good		51%
	Fair		20%
	Poor		10%
Generally acting in the best interest of the community	Excellent		21%
	Good		49%
	Fair		21%
	Poor		9%
Being honest	Excellent		21%
	Good		51%
	Fair		20%
	Poor		8%
Being open and transparent to the public	Excellent		20%
	Good		47%
	Fair		21%
	Poor		12%
Informing residents about issues facing the community	Excellent		19%
	Good		45%
	Fair		22%
	Poor		14%
Treating all residents fairly	Excellent		20%

Please rate the following categories of Marion government performance.	Treating all residents fairly	Good		50%
		Fair		21%
		Poor		9%
	Treating residents with respect	Excellent		22%
		Good		53%
		Fair		16%
Poor			9%	
Overall, how would you rate the quality of the services provided by each of the following?	The City of Marion	Excellent		23%
		Good		53%
		Fair		19%
		Poor		5%
	The Federal Government	Excellent		6%
		Good		32%
		Fair		41%
		Poor		21%
Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the Marion community to focus on each of the following in the coming two years.	Overall economic health	Essential		41%
		Very important		46%
		Somewhat important		13%
		Not at all important		0%
	Overall quality of the transportation system	Essential		28%
		Very important		42%
		Somewhat important		29%
		Not at all important		1%
	Overall design or layout of residential and commercial areas	Essential		29%
		Very important		45%
		Somewhat important		24%
		Not at all important		2%
	Overall quality of the utility infrastructure	Essential		52%
		Very important		36%
		Somewhat important		12%
		Not at all important		0%

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

Overall feeling of safety	Essential		53%
	Very important		33%
	Somewhat important		11%
	Not at all important		2%
Overall quality of natural environment	Essential		26%
	Very important		49%
	Somewhat important		24%
	Not at all important		2%
Overall quality of parks and recreation opportunities	Essential		24%
	Very important		54%
	Somewhat important		21%
	Not at all important		1%
Overall health and wellness opportunities	Essential		22%
	Very important		49%
	Somewhat important		27%
	Not at all important		2%
Overall opportunities for education, culture, and the arts	Essential		20%
	Very important		44%
	Somewhat important		32%
	Not at all important		4%
Residents' connection and engagement with their community	Essential		19%
	Very important		48%
	Somewhat important		29%
	Not at all important		4%

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
































The City website (www.cityofmarion.org)	Major source		62%
	Minor source		29%
	Not a source		9%
Local media outlets (newspapers, radio, local television stations)	Major source		50%
	Minor source		40%
	Not a source		9%
Marion Messenger (City newsletter)	Major source		53%

Please indicate how much of a source, if at all, you consider each of the following to be for obtaining information about the City government and its activities, events and services:	Marion Messenger (City newsletter)	Minor source		33%
		Not a source		14%
	City Council meetings and other public meetings	Major source		20%
		Minor source		46%
		Not a source		35%
	Audio recordings of City Council Meetings	Major source		10%
		Minor source		38%
		Not a source		52%
	Talking with City officials	Major source		21%
		Minor source		40%
		Not a source		39%
	City communications via social media (i.e., Facebook, Twitter or YouTube)	Major source		35%
		Minor source		39%
		Not a source		26%
	Word-of-mouth	Major source		26%
Minor source			50%	
Not a source			24%	
Please indicate to what extent you would support or oppose a property tax or fee increase to fund improvements to each of the following facilities or services:	Schools	Strongly support		38%
		Somewhat support		37%
		Somewhat oppose		15%
		Strongly oppose		10%
	Library services	Strongly support		23%
		Somewhat support		41%
		Somewhat oppose		19%
		Strongly oppose		17%
	Public safety/fire and police	Strongly support		41%
		Somewhat support		44%
		Somewhat oppose		9%
		Strongly oppose		6%
Street/infrastructure improvements	Strongly support		39%	
	Somewhat support		50%	

Please indicate to what extent you would support or oppose a property tax or fee increase to fund improvements to each of the following facilities or services:	Facility/Service	Response	
		Response	Percentage
Street/infrastructure improvements		Somewhat oppose	6%
		Strongly oppose	5%
Public art		Strongly support	9%
		Somewhat support	42%
		Somewhat oppose	25%
		Strongly oppose	24%
Parks		Strongly support	29%
		Somewhat support	51%
		Somewhat oppose	11%
		Strongly oppose	9%
Community center		Strongly support	17%
		Somewhat support	46%
		Somewhat oppose	23%
		Strongly oppose	14%
Outdoor pool/aquatic center		Strongly support	30%
		Somewhat support	41%
		Somewhat oppose	16%
		Strongly oppose	13%
Outdoor trails		Strongly support	35%
		Somewhat support	47%
		Somewhat oppose	11%
		Strongly oppose	7%
Recreation Services		Strongly support	22%
		Somewhat support	57%
		Somewhat oppose	14%
		Strongly oppose	7%
Park Development		Strongly support	26%
		Somewhat support	55%
		Somewhat oppose	12%
		Strongly oppose	6%
Public Transportation		Strongly support	20%

Please indicate to what extent you would support or oppose a property tax or fee increase to fund improvements to each of the following facilities or services:				
Public Transportation	Somewhat support		46%	
	Somewhat oppose		21%	
	Strongly oppose		13%	
	<hr/>			
	Airport	Strongly support		8%
		Somewhat support		32%
Somewhat oppose			31%	
Strongly oppose			29%	
<hr/>				
In general, how many times do you:	Access the internet from your home	Several times a day		80%
		Once a day		5%
		A few times a week		7%
		Every few weeks		2%
		Less often or never		7%
	Access the internet from your cell phone	Several times a day		84%
		Once a day		3%
		A few times a week		3%
		Every few weeks		1%
		Less often or never		10%
	Visit social media sites	Several times a day		59%
		Once a day		12%
A few times a week			7%	
Every few weeks			3%	
Less often or never			18%	
Use or check email	Several times a day		70%	
	Once a day		18%	
	A few times a week		8%	
	Every few weeks		1%	
	Less often or never		4%	
Share your opinions online	Several times a day		6%	
	Once a day		4%	
	A few times a week		15%	
	Every few weeks		15%	

In general, how many times do you:	Share your opinions online	Less often or never		60%
	Shop online	Several times a day		11%
		Once a day		7%
		A few times a week		36%
		Every few weeks		32%
		Less often or never		14%
Please rate your overall health.	Excellent		26%	
	Very good		40%	
	Good		28%	
	Fair		3%	
	Poor		2%	
What impact, if any, do you think the economy will have on your family income in the next 6 months? Do you think the impact will be:	Very positive		3%	
	Somewhat positive		22%	
	Neutral		45%	
	Somewhat negative		23%	
	Very negative		7%	
How many years have you lived in Marion?	Less than 2 years		13%	
	2-5 years		23%	
	6-10 years		14%	
	11-20 years		19%	
	More than 20 years		31%	
Which best describes the building you live in?	One family house detached from any other houses		61%	
	Building with two or more homes (duplex, townhome, apa..		35%	
	Mobile home		2%	
	Other		2%	
Do you rent or own your home?	Rent		22%	
	Own		78%	
About how much is your monthly housing cost for the place you live (including rent, mortgage payment, property tax, property insurance and homeowners' association (HOA) fees)?	Less than \$500		10%	
	\$500 to \$999		30%	
	\$1,000 to \$1,499		27%	
	\$1,500 to \$1,999		17%	

About how much is your monthly housing cost for the place you live (including rent, mortgage payment, property tax, property insurance and homeowners' association (HOA) fees)?	\$2,000 to \$2,499		10%
	\$2,500 to \$2,999		2%
	\$3,000 to \$3,499		2%
	\$3,500 or more		2%
Do any children 17 or under live in your household?	No		66%
	Yes		34%
Are you or any other members of your household aged 65 or older?	No		69%
	Yes		31%
How much do you anticipate your household's total income before taxes will be for the current year? (Please include in your total income money from all sources for all persons living in your household.)	Less than \$25,000		8%
	\$25,000 to \$49,999		26%
	\$50,000 to \$74,999		15%
	\$75,000 to \$99,999		12%
	\$100,000 to \$149,999		20%
	\$150,000 or more		20%
Are you Spanish, Hispanic or Latino?	No, not Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino		99%
	Yes, I consider myself to be Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino		1%
What is your race? (Mark one or more races to indicate what race you consider yourself to be.)	American Indian or Alaskan Native		0%
	Asian, Asian Indian, or Pacific Islander		2%
	Black or African American		2%
	White		96%
	Other		1%
In which category is your age?	18-24 years		3%
	25-34 years		24%
	35-44 years		16%
	45-54 years		19%
	55-64 years		11%
	65-74 years		15%
	75 years or older		12%
What is your gender?	Female		53%
	Male		47%
	Identify in another way		0%

Full trends

This table contains the trends over time for the City of Marion. The combined “percent positive” responses for each survey year are presented (e.g., excellent/good or yes). If an item was not included during an administration of the survey, no percentage will be shown in the table. If the difference between the 2019 and 2021 surveys is greater than six percentage points, the change is statistically significant.

It is important to note that in 2020, The NCS survey was updated to include new and refreshed items. Consequently, some of the trends may be impacted due to wording modifications that could have potentially altered the meaning of the item for the respondent.

		2017	2019	2021
Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in Marion.	Marion as a place to live	92%	93%	92%
	Your neighborhood as a place to live	82%	84%	86%
	Marion as a place to raise children	90%	94%	92%
	Marion as a place to work	71%	66%	71%
	Marion as a place to visit	51%	52%	53%
	Marion as a place to retire	67%	69%	72%
	The overall quality of life	88%	88%	90%
	Sense of community	68%	68%	65%
Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Marion as a whole.	Overall economic health	74%	75%	77%
	Overall quality of the transportation system			57%
	Overall design or layout of residential and commercial areas	60%	60%	56%
	Overall quality of the utility infrastructure			64%
	Overall feeling of safety	93%	92%	86%
	Overall quality of natural environment	78%	83%	74%
	Overall quality of parks and recreation opportunities			79%
	Overall health and wellness opportunities	76%	70%	75%

Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Marion as a whole.	Overall opportunities for education, culture, and the arts	76% 74% 69%
	Residents' connection and engagement with their community	56%
Please indicate how likely or unlikely you are to do each of the following.	Recommend living in Marion to someone who asks	92% 90% 91%
	Remain in Marion for the next five years	91% 85% 87%
Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel:	In your neighborhood during the day	94% 94% 96%
	In Marion's downtown/commercial area during the day	95% 93% 94%
	From property crime	83%
	From violent crime	90%
	From fire, flood, or other natural disaster	72%
Please rate the job you feel the Marion community does at each of the following.	Making all residents feel welcome	72%
	Attracting people from diverse backgrounds	57%
	Valuing/respecting residents from diverse backgrounds	66%
	Taking care of vulnerable residents	57%
Please rate each of the following in the Marion community.	Overall quality of business and service establishments	65% 59% 77%
	Variety of business and service establishments	56%
	Vibrancy of downtown/commercial area	45% 44% 55%
	Employment opportunities	41% 43% 45%
	Shopping opportunities	40% 36% 45%
	Cost of living	55% 50% 50%
	Overall image or reputation	80% 82% 82%
Please also rate each of the following in the Marion community.	Traffic flow on major streets	54% 56% 64%
	Ease of public parking	47% 50% 43%
	Ease of travel by car	64% 67% 74%

Please also rate each of the following in the Marion community.

Ease of travel by public transportation	29%	36%	29%
Ease of travel by bicycle	47%	53%	52%
Ease of walking	74%	75%	67%
Well-planned residential growth			66%
Well-planned commercial growth			55%
Well-designed neighborhoods			65%
Preservation of the historical or cultural character of the community			69%
Public places where people want to spend time	63%	69%	62%
Variety of housing options	71%	70%	67%
Availability of affordable quality housing	62%	62%	46%
Overall quality of new development	59%	65%	73%
Overall appearance	78%	81%	78%
Cleanliness	81%	84%	85%
Water resources			28%
Air quality	82%	85%	81%
Availability of paths and walking trails	69%	69%	72%
Fitness opportunities	67%	70%	74%
Recreational opportunities	58%	58%	67%
Availability of affordable quality food	71%	63%	70%
Availability of affordable quality health care	77%	72%	75%
Availability of preventive health services	70%	71%	78%
Availability of affordable quality mental health care	42%	46%	40%
Opportunities to attend cultural/arts/music activities	59%	71%	62%

Please also rate each of the following in the Marion community.	Community support for the arts	70%
	Availability of affordable quality childcare/preschool	61% 60% 53%
	K-12 education	86% 89% 89%
	Adult educational opportunities	52% 49% 51%
	Sense of civic/community pride	70%
	Neighborliness of residents	69% 68% 71%
	Opportunities to participate in social events and activities	58% 66% 65%
	Opportunities to attend special events and festivals	66% 69% 68%
	Opportunities to volunteer	63% 66% 68%
	Opportunities to participate in community matters	62% 60% 63%
	Openness and acceptance of the community toward people of diverse backgrounds	63% 65% 59%
	Please indicate whether or not you have done each of the following in the last 12 months.	Contacted the City of Marion for help or information
Contacted Marion elected officials to express your opinion		12% 13% 10%
Attended a local public meeting		15% 14% 9%
Watched a local public meeting		7% 13%
Volunteered your time to some group/activity		32% 27% 22%
Campaigned or advocated for a local issue, cause, or candidate		25% 18% 13%
Voted in your most recent local election		69%
Used public transportation instead of driving		3% 5% 5%
Carpooled with other adults or children instead of driving alone		42% 35% 35%
Walked or biked instead of driving		51% 51% 54%
Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Marion.	Public information services	65% 70% 68%
	Economic development	64% 62% 73%

Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Marion.		76%	78%	78%
Traffic enforcement	53%	54%	57%	
Street repair	35%	34%	41%	
Street cleaning	57%	50%	66%	
Street lighting	63%	63%	64%	
Snow removal	72%	63%	67%	
Sidewalk maintenance	55%	53%	60%	
Bus or transit services	47%	51%	41%	
Land use, planning and zoning	48%	54%	64%	
Code enforcement	53%	42%	55%	
Affordable high-speed internet access			53%	
Garbage collection	83%	83%	82%	
Drinking water	47%	51%	47%	
Sewer services	75%	76%	79%	
Storm water management	76%	66%	75%	
Power (electric and/or gas) utility	82%	75%	80%	
Utility billing	74%	70%	73%	
Police/Sheriff services	88%	85%	87%	
Crime prevention	83%	82%	82%	
Animal control	63%	67%	70%	
Ambulance or emergency medical services	94%	91%	90%	
Fire services	97%	97%	92%	
Fire prevention and education	85%	87%	81%	

Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Marion.	Emergency preparedness	68%	66%	66%
	Preservation of natural areas	56%	61%	71%
	Marion open space	57%	57%	65%
	Recycling	78%	80%	67%
	Yard waste pick-up	81%	84%	74%
	City parks	82%	85%	88%
	Recreation programs or classes	66%	70%	73%
	Recreation centers or facilities	57%	65%	73%
	Health services	76%	74%	83%
	Public library services	86%	79%	77%
	Overall customer service by Marion employees	79%	79%	86%
	Please rate the following categories of Marion government performance.	The value of services for the taxes paid to Marion	50%	50%
The overall direction that Marion is taking		60%	67%	73%
The job Marion government does at welcoming resident involvement		53%	59%	58%
Overall confidence in Marion government		58%	61%	70%
Generally acting in the best interest of the community		60%	64%	70%
Being honest		63%	64%	72%
Being open and transparent to the public				67%
Informing residents about issues facing the community				64%
Treating all residents fairly		62%	70%	70%
Treating residents with respect				75%
Overall, how would you rate the quality of the services provided by each of the following?	The City of Marion	83%	79%	76%
	The Federal Government	39%	39%	38%

Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the Marion community to focus on each of the following in the coming two years.	Overall economic health	86% 86% 87%
	Overall quality of the transportation system	70%
	Overall design or layout of residential and commercial areas	78% 74% 75%
	Overall quality of the utility infrastructure	88%
	Overall feeling of safety	88% 89% 87%
	Overall quality of natural environment	78% 75% 74%
	Overall quality of parks and recreation opportunities	78%
	Overall health and wellness opportunities	76% 71% 71%
	Overall opportunities for education, culture, and the arts	78% 73% 64%
	Residents' connection and engagement with their community	78% 78% 66%
In general, how many times do you:	Access the internet from your home	92%
	Access the internet from your cell phone	89%
	Visit social media sites	79%
	Use or check email	95%
	Share your opinions online	25%
	Shop online	54%
	Please rate your overall health.	63% 65% 67%
What impact, if any, do you think the economy will have on your family income in the next 6 months? Do you think the impact will be:	30% 30% 25%	

Methods (open participation)

As part of its participation in The National Community Survey™ (The NCST™), the City of Marion conducted a survey of 543 residents. Survey invitations were mailed to randomly selected households and data were collected from December 23rd, 2021 to February 10th, 2022. The results from this main survey effort represent the most robust estimate of your residents’ opinions.

After the above data collection period was underway, a link to an online open participation survey was publicized by the City of Marion. The open participation survey was identical to the probability sample survey with two small updates; it included a map at the beginning asking where the respondent lives and also a question about where they heard about the survey. The open participation survey was open to all city residents and became available on January 27th, 2022. The survey remained open for two weeks and there were 290 responses.





























The open participation survey data were not collected through a random sample and it is unknown who in the community was aware of the survey; therefore, a level of confidence in the representativeness of the sample cannot be estimated. However, to reduce bias where possible, these data were statistically weighted to match the demographic characteristics of the 2010 Census and 2019 American Community Survey estimates for adults in the City of Marion. The characteristics used for weighting were age, sex, race, Hispanic origin, housing type, housing tenure, and area. No adjustments were made for design effects. Weights were calculated using an iterative, multiplicative raking model known as the ANES Weighting Algorithm.* The results of the weighting scheme for the open participation survey are presented in the following table.

































* Pasek, J. (2010). ANES Weighting Algorithm. Retrieved from <https://web.stanford.edu/group/iriss/cgi-bin/anesrake/resources/RakingDescription.pdf>

		Unweighted	Weighted	Target*
Age	18-34	9%	23%	27%
	35-54	40%	38%	35%
	55+	51%	39%	38%
Area	Council District 1	17%	23%	23%
	Council District 2	31%	20%	25%
	Council District 3	22%	25%	24%
	Council District 4	30%	32%	28%
Hispanic origin	No, not Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino	99%	98%	98%
	Yes, I consider myself to be Spanish, Hispana..	1%	2%	2%
Housing tenure	Own	97%	86%	78%
	Rent	3%	14%	22%
Housing type	Attached	14%	36%	36%
	Detached	86%	64%	64%
Race & Hispanic origin	Not white alone	11%	7%	7%
	White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	89%	93%	93%
Sex	Female	57%	52%	53%
	Male	43%	48%	47%
Sex/age	Female 18-34	8%	14%	15%
	Female 35-54	24%	17%	17%
	Female 55+	25%	21%	20%
	Male 18-34	2%	9%	12%
	Male 35-54	17%	21%	18%
	Male 55+	24%	19%	17%

Open participation survey results

































This dashboard contains a complete set of responses to each question on the open participation survey. By default, "don't know" responses are excluded, but may be added to the table using the response filter to the right. When a table for a question that only permitted a single response does not total to exactly 100%, it is due to the common practice of percentages being rounded to the nearest whole number.

	In which Council District of Marion do you live? (Refer to map above.)	Council District 1 (Purple)		23%
		Council District 2 (Green)		20%
		Council District 3 (Blue)		25%
		Council District 4 (Orange)		32%
Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in Marion.	Marion as a place to live	Excellent		47%
		Good		43%
		Fair		7%
		Poor		2%
	Your neighborhood as a place to live	Excellent		45%
		Good		39%
		Fair		13%
		Poor		2%
	Marion as a place to raise children	Excellent		47%
		Good		40%
		Fair		10%
		Poor		1%
	Marion as a place to work	Excellent		26%
		Good		37%
		Fair		22%
		Poor		14%
	Marion as a place to visit	Excellent		11%
		Good		42%
		Fair		34%
		Poor		13%
	Marion as a place to retire	Excellent		23%
		Good		42%
		Fair		16%
		Poor		18%

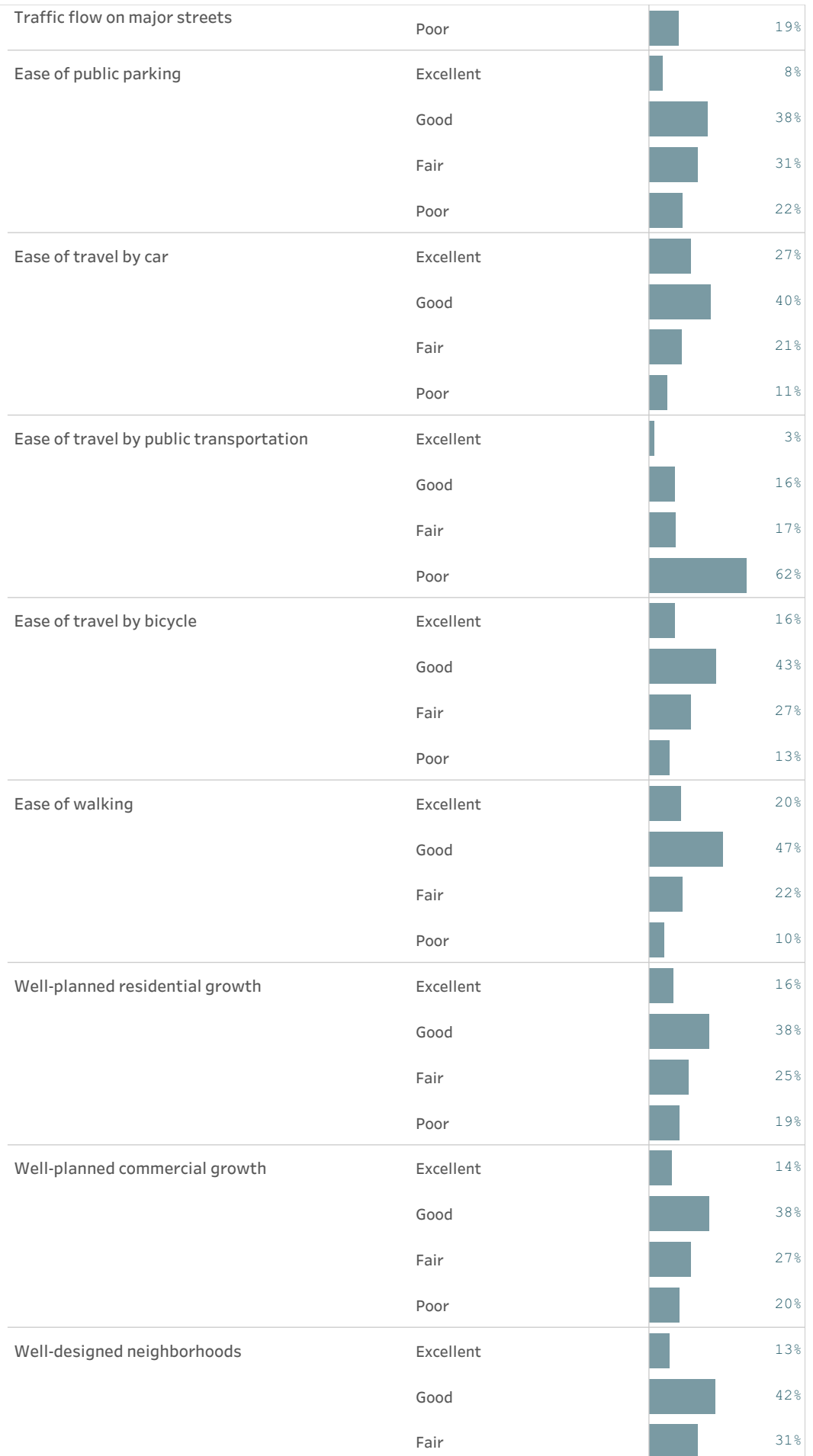
Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in Marion.	The overall quality of life	Excellent		29%
		Good		55%
		Fair		13%
		Poor		2%
	Sense of community	Excellent		19%
		Good		51%
		Fair		21%
		Poor		8%
Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Marion as a whole.	Overall economic health	Excellent		19%
		Good		53%
		Fair		20%
		Poor		7%
	Overall quality of the transportation system	Excellent		9%
		Good		38%
		Fair		36%
		Poor		16%
	Overall design or layout of residential and commercial areas	Excellent		8%
		Good		49%
		Fair		28%
		Poor		13%
Overall quality of the utility infrastructure	Excellent		10%	
	Good		44%	
	Fair		22%	
	Poor		22%	
Overall feeling of safety	Excellent		43%	
	Good		39%	
	Fair		12%	
	Poor		4%	
Overall quality of natural environment	Excellent		17%	
	Good		57%	
	Fair		22%	
	Poor		3%	

Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Marion as a whole.	Overall quality of parks and recreation opportunities	Excellent		29%
		Good		48%
		Fair		19%
		Poor		4%
	Overall health and wellness opportunities	Excellent		20%
		Good		44%
		Fair		30%
		Poor		5%
	Overall opportunities for education, culture, and the arts	Excellent		15%
		Good		46%
		Fair		34%
		Poor		4%
	Residents' connection and engagement with their community	Excellent		10%
		Good		49%
		Fair		33%
		Poor		7%
Please indicate how likely or unlikely you are to do each of the following.	Recommend living in Marion to someone who asks	Very likely		51%
		Somewhat likely		33%
		Somewhat unlikely		7%
		Very unlikely		7%
	Remain in Marion for the next five years	Very likely		62%
		Somewhat likely		22%
		Somewhat unlikely		7%
		Very unlikely		7%
Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel:	In your neighborhood during the day	Very safe		75%
		Somewhat safe		12%
		Neither safe nor unsafe		7%
		Somewhat unsafe		2%
		Very unsafe		2%
	In Marion's downtown/commercial area during the day	Very safe		67%
		Somewhat safe		23%
		Neither safe nor unsafe		8%

































Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel:	In Marion's downtown/commercial area during the day	Somewhat unsafe		1%
		Very unsafe		1%
	From property crime	Very safe		37%
		Somewhat safe		40%
		Neither safe nor unsafe		15%
		Somewhat unsafe		7%
		Very unsafe		0%
	From violent crime	Very safe		58%
		Somewhat safe		25%
		Neither safe nor unsafe		11%
		Somewhat unsafe		4%
		Very unsafe		1%
	From fire, flood, or other natural disaster	Very safe		37%
Somewhat safe			37%	
Neither safe nor unsafe			20%	
Somewhat unsafe			4%	
Very unsafe			1%	
Please rate the job you feel the Marion community does at each of the following.	Making all residents feel welcome	Excellent		21%
		Good		43%
		Fair		25%
		Poor		9%
	Attracting people from diverse backgrounds	Excellent		13%
		Good		39%
		Fair		35%
		Poor		11%
	Valuing/respecting residents from diverse backgrounds	Excellent		24%
		Good		37%
		Fair		27%
		Poor		12%
	Taking care of vulnerable residents	Excellent		16%
		Good		37%
		Fair		22%

community does at each of the following.	Taking care of vulnerable residents	Poor		25%
Please rate each of the following in the Marion community.	Overall quality of business and service establishments	Excellent		17%
		Good		55%
		Fair		21%
		Poor		7%
	Variety of business and service establishments	Excellent		10%
		Good		41%
		Fair		37%
		Poor		11%
	Vibrancy of downtown/commercial area	Excellent		13%
		Good		43%
		Fair		30%
		Poor		13%
Employment opportunities	Excellent		10%	
	Good		32%	
	Fair		37%	
	Poor		20%	
Shopping opportunities	Excellent		5%	
	Good		28%	
	Fair		39%	
	Poor		26%	
Cost of living	Excellent		9%	
	Good		34%	
	Fair		38%	
	Poor		17%	
Overall image or reputation	Excellent		27%	
	Good		51%	
	Fair		16%	
	Poor		5%	
Please also rate each of the following in the Marion community.	Traffic flow on major streets	Excellent		18%
		Good		43%
		Fair		20%

































Please also rate each of the following in the Marion community.



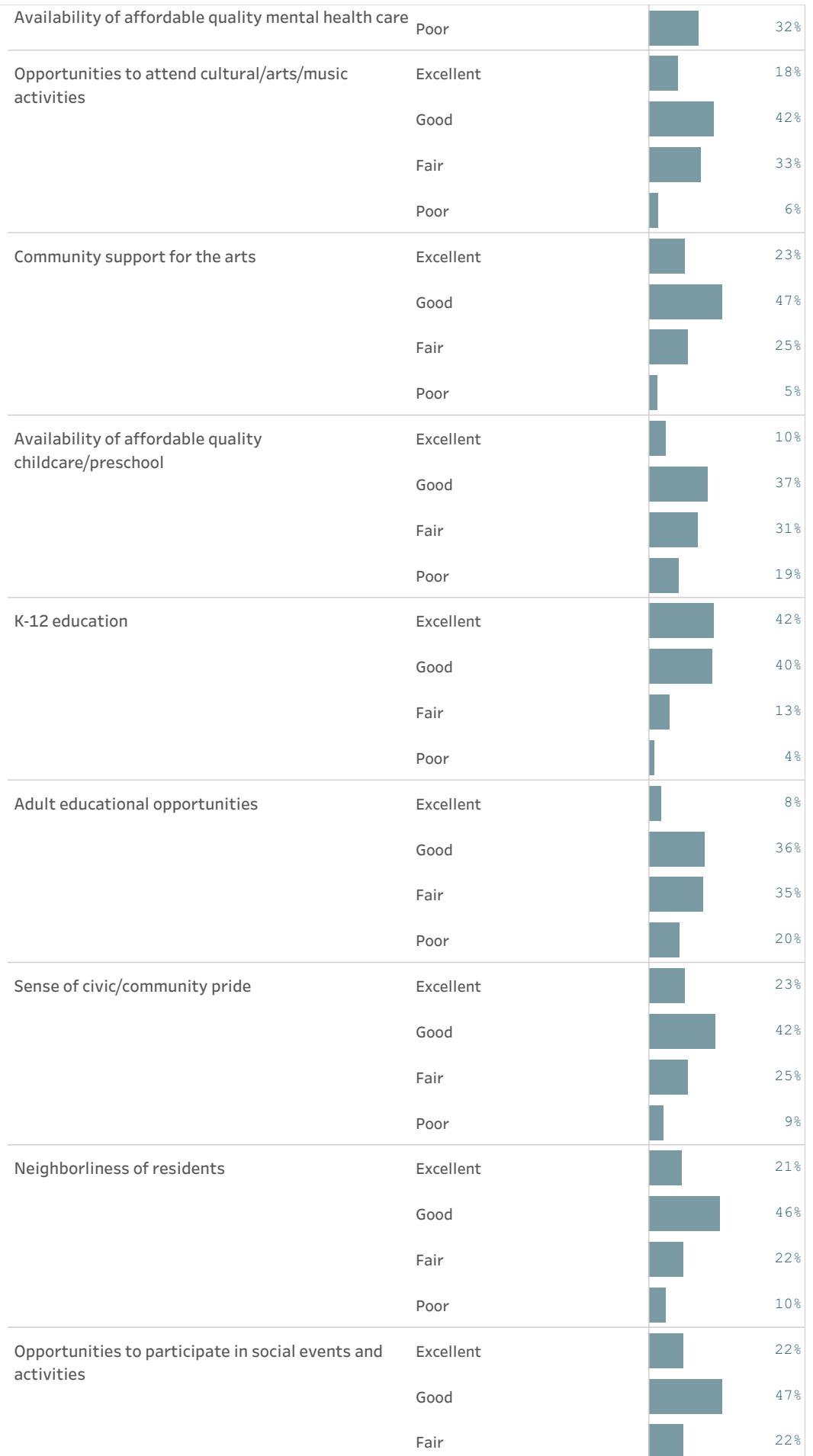
Please also rate each of the following in the Marion community.

































Well-designed neighborhoods	Poor		13%
	Excellent		18%
Preservation of the historical or cultural character of the community	Good		45%
	Fair		26%
	Poor		10%
	Excellent		20%
Public places where people want to spend time	Good		43%
	Fair		23%
	Poor		14%
	Excellent		14%
Variety of housing options	Good		41%
	Fair		31%
	Poor		13%
	Availability of affordable quality housing	Excellent	
Good			29%
Fair			35%
Poor			23%
Overall quality of new development	Excellent		21%
	Good		37%
	Fair		30%
	Poor		11%
Overall appearance	Excellent		21%
	Good		51%
	Fair		20%
	Poor		7%
Cleanliness	Excellent		33%
	Good		41%
	Fair		21%
	Poor		3%
Water resources	Excellent		3%
	Good		21%
	Fair		37%

































Please also rate each of the following in the Marion community.

Water resources	Poor		38%
Air quality	Excellent		28%
	Good		48%
	Fair		20%
	Poor		2%
Availability of paths and walking trails	Excellent		31%
	Good		46%
	Fair		19%
	Poor		4%
Fitness opportunities	Excellent		29%
	Good		43%
	Fair		23%
	Poor		5%
Recreational opportunities	Excellent		17%
	Good		40%
	Fair		36%
	Poor		7%
Availability of affordable quality food	Excellent		18%
	Good		46%
	Fair		31%
	Poor		4%
Availability of affordable quality health care	Excellent		25%
	Good		48%
	Fair		21%
	Poor		5%
Availability of preventive health services	Excellent		25%
	Good		45%
	Fair		24%
	Poor		5%
Availability of affordable quality mental health care	Excellent		10%
	Good		22%
	Fair		34%

Please also rate each of the following in the Marion community.



































Please also rate each of the following in the Marion community.	Opportunities to participate in social events and activities	Poor		8%
	Opportunities to attend special events and festivals	Excellent		23%
		Good		45%
		Fair		24%
		Poor		7%
	Opportunities to volunteer	Excellent		21%
		Good		40%
		Fair		32%
		Poor		5%
	Opportunities to participate in community matters	Excellent		20%
		Good		36%
		Fair		29%
		Poor		14%
	Openness and acceptance of the community toward people of diverse backgrounds	Excellent		22%
		Good		26%
		Fair		39%
Poor			12%	
Please indicate whether or not you have done each of the following in the last 12 months.	Contacted the City of Marion for help or information	No		47%
		Yes		52%
	Contacted Marion elected officials to express your opinion	No		81%
		Yes		18%
	Attended a local public meeting	No		77%
		Yes		22%
	Watched a local public meeting	No		77%
		Yes		22%
	Volunteered your time to some group/activity	No		68%
		Yes		31%
	Campaigned or advocated for a local issue, cause, or candidate	No		74%
		Yes		25%
	Voted in your most recent local election	No		19%
		Yes		80%
	Used public transportation instead of driving	No		90%

Please indicate whether or not you have done each of the following in the last 12 months.	Used public transportation instead of driving	Yes		8%
	Carpooled with other adults or children instead of driving alone	No		55%
		Yes		44%
	Walked or biked instead of driving	No		43%
		Yes		55%
Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Marion.	Public information services	Excellent		16%
		Good		54%
		Fair		17%
		Poor		12%
	Economic development	Excellent		19%
		Good		50%
		Fair		21%
		Poor		9%
	Traffic enforcement	Excellent		25%
		Good		49%
		Fair		14%
		Poor		10%
	Traffic signal timing	Excellent		13%
		Good		45%
		Fair		18%
		Poor		22%
Street repair	Excellent		6%	
	Good		28%	
	Fair		34%	
	Poor		31%	
Street cleaning	Excellent		8%	
	Good		49%	
	Fair		26%	
	Poor		15%	
Street lighting	Excellent		8%	
	Good		49%	
	Fair		32%	

Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Marion.			
Street lighting	Poor		10%
	Excellent		30%
Snow removal	Good		42%
	Fair		20%
	Poor		7%
	Excellent		9%
Sidewalk maintenance	Good		51%
	Fair		30%
	Poor		8%
	Excellent		8%
Bus or transit services	Good		19%
	Fair		19%
	Poor		52%
	Excellent		15%
Land use, planning and zoning	Good		38%
	Fair		32%
	Poor		13%
	Excellent		6%
Code enforcement	Good		34%
	Fair		39%
	Poor		19%
	Excellent		20%
Affordable high-speed internet access	Good		37%
	Fair		24%
	Poor		18%
	Excellent		41%
Garbage collection	Good		40%
	Fair		8%
	Poor		9%
	Excellent		15%
Drinking water	Good		33%
	Fair		21%
	Excellent		15%

































Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Marion.

































Drinking water	Poor		29%
Sewer services	Excellent		23%
	Good		50%
	Fair		14%
	Poor		11%
Storm water management	Excellent		20%
	Good		49%
	Fair		21%
	Poor		8%
Power (electric and/or gas) utility	Excellent		25%
	Good		56%
	Fair		14%
	Poor		4%
Utility billing	Excellent		24%
	Good		47%
	Fair		23%
	Poor		5%
Police/Sheriff services	Excellent		39%
	Good		44%
	Fair		10%
	Poor		6%
Crime prevention	Excellent		27%
	Good		49%
	Fair		16%
	Poor		6%
Animal control	Excellent		16%
	Good		48%
	Fair		23%
	Poor		11%
Ambulance or emergency medical services	Excellent		42%
	Good		46%
	Fair		10%

Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Marion.

Ambulance or emergency medical services	Poor		1%
Fire services	Excellent		51%
	Good		42%
	Fair		6%
	Poor		0%
Fire prevention and education	Excellent		30%
	Good		53%
	Fair		14%
	Poor		2%
Emergency preparedness	Excellent		20%
	Good		40%
	Fair		20%
	Poor		19%
Preservation of natural areas	Excellent		14%
	Good		49%
	Fair		26%
	Poor		10%
Marion open space	Excellent		15%
	Good		46%
	Fair		30%
	Poor		7%
Recycling	Excellent		23%
	Good		43%
	Fair		23%
	Poor		10%
Yard waste pick-up	Excellent		29%
	Good		47%
	Fair		15%
	Poor		8%
City parks	Excellent		34%
	Good		47%
	Fair		16%

Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Marion.			
Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Marion.	City parks	Poor	2%
	Recreation programs or classes	Excellent	24%
		Good	52%
		Fair	20%
		Poor	3%
	Recreation centers or facilities	Excellent	27%
		Good	40%
		Fair	24%
		Poor	8%
	Health services	Excellent	24%
		Good	54%
		Fair	17%
		Poor	3%
	Public library services	Excellent	29%
		Good	37%
		Fair	20%
Poor		12%	
Overall customer service by Marion employees	Excellent	39%	
	Good	38%	
	Fair	19%	
	Poor	3%	
Please rate the following categories of Marion government performance.	The value of services for the taxes paid to Marion	Excellent	12%
		Good	48%
		Fair	24%
		Poor	15%
	The overall direction that Marion is taking	Excellent	28%
		Good	38%
		Fair	17%
		Poor	16%
	The job Marion government does at welcoming resident involvement	Excellent	19%
		Good	37%
		Fair	24%

Please rate the following categories of Marion government performance.	The job Marion government does at welcoming resident involvement	Poor		19%
	Overall confidence in Marion government	Excellent		21%
		Good		41%
		Fair		17%
		Poor		19%
	Generally acting in the best interest of the community	Excellent		25%
		Good		41%
		Fair		17%
		Poor		16%
	Being honest	Excellent		25%
Good			39%	
Fair			21%	
Poor			13%	
Being open and transparent to the public	Excellent		28%	
	Good		36%	
	Fair		18%	
	Poor		17%	
Informing residents about issues facing the community	Excellent		22%	
	Good		40%	
	Fair		21%	
	Poor		15%	
Treating all residents fairly	Excellent		22%	
	Good		46%	
	Fair		16%	
	Poor		15%	
Treating residents with respect	Excellent		27%	
	Good		43%	
	Fair		19%	
	Poor		9%	
Overall, how would you rate the quality of the services provided by each of the following?	The City of Marion	Excellent		28%
		Good		46%
		Fair		19%

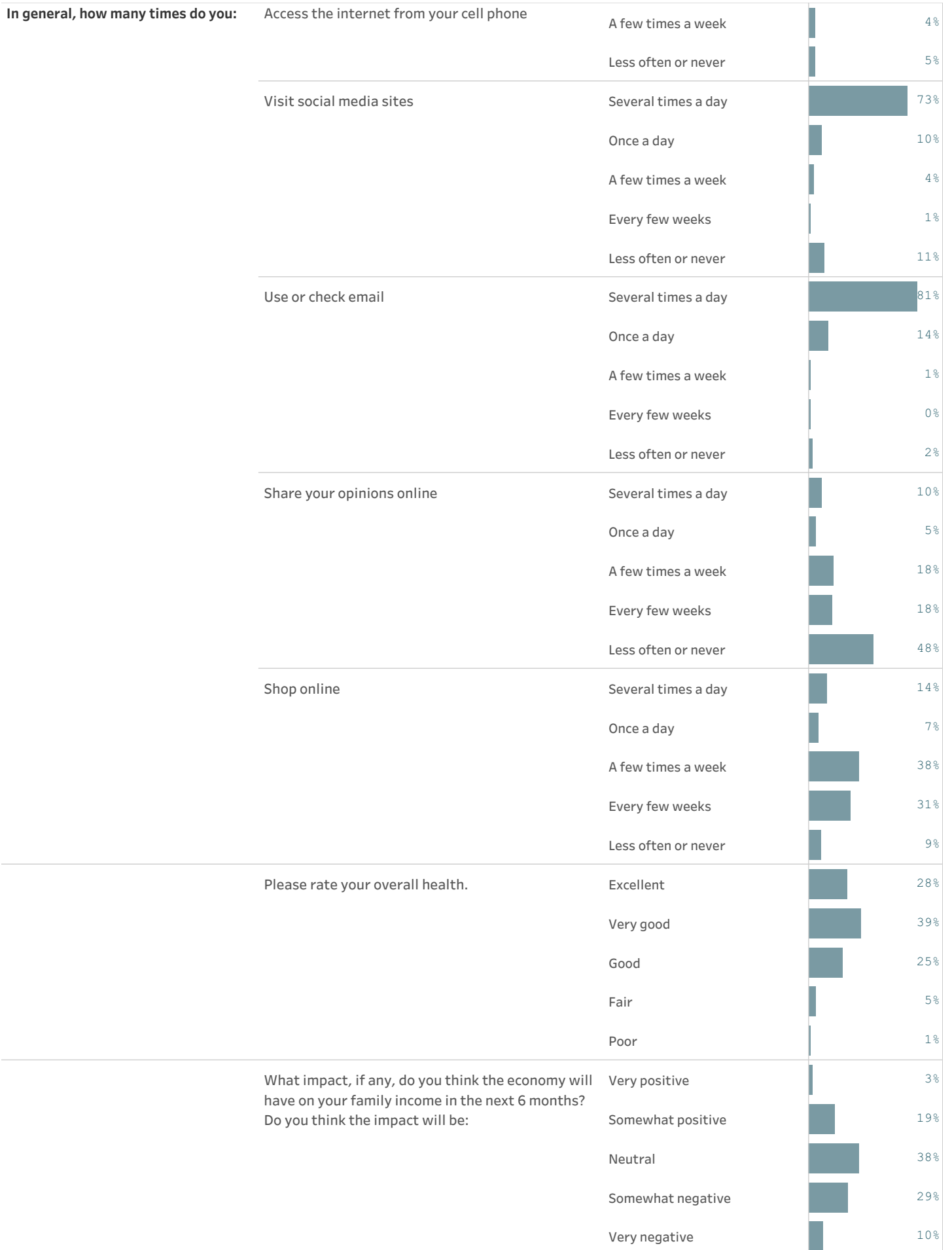
Overall, how would you rate the quality of the services provided by each of the following?	The City of Marion	Poor		5%
	The Federal Government	Excellent		5%
		Good		28%
		Fair		44%
		Poor		22%
Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the Marion community to focus on each of the following in the coming two years.	Overall economic health	Essential		52%
		Very important		37%
		Somewhat important		9%
		Not at all important		1%
	Overall quality of the transportation system	Essential		34%
		Very important		36%
		Somewhat important		27%
		Not at all important		3%
	Overall design or layout of residential and commercial areas	Essential		33%
		Very important		47%
		Somewhat important		18%
		Not at all important		1%
	Overall quality of the utility infrastructure	Essential		59%
Very important			30%	
Somewhat important			8%	
Not at all important			1%	
Overall feeling of safety	Essential		49%	
	Very important		33%	
	Somewhat important		14%	
	Not at all important		2%	
Overall quality of natural environment	Essential		35%	
	Very important		38%	
	Somewhat important		24%	
	Not at all important		2%	
Overall quality of parks and recreation opportunities	Essential		32%	
	Very important		43%	
	Somewhat important		23%	

Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the Marion community to focus on each of the following in the coming two years.	Overall quality of parks and recreation opportunities	Not at all important		1%
	Overall health and wellness opportunities	Essential		23%
		Very important		35%
		Somewhat important		37%
		Not at all important		4%
	Overall opportunities for education, culture, and the arts	Essential		26%
		Very important		41%
		Somewhat important		28%
		Not at all important		4%
	Residents' connection and engagement with their community	Essential		19%
		Very important		49%
		Somewhat important		29%
		Not at all important		1%

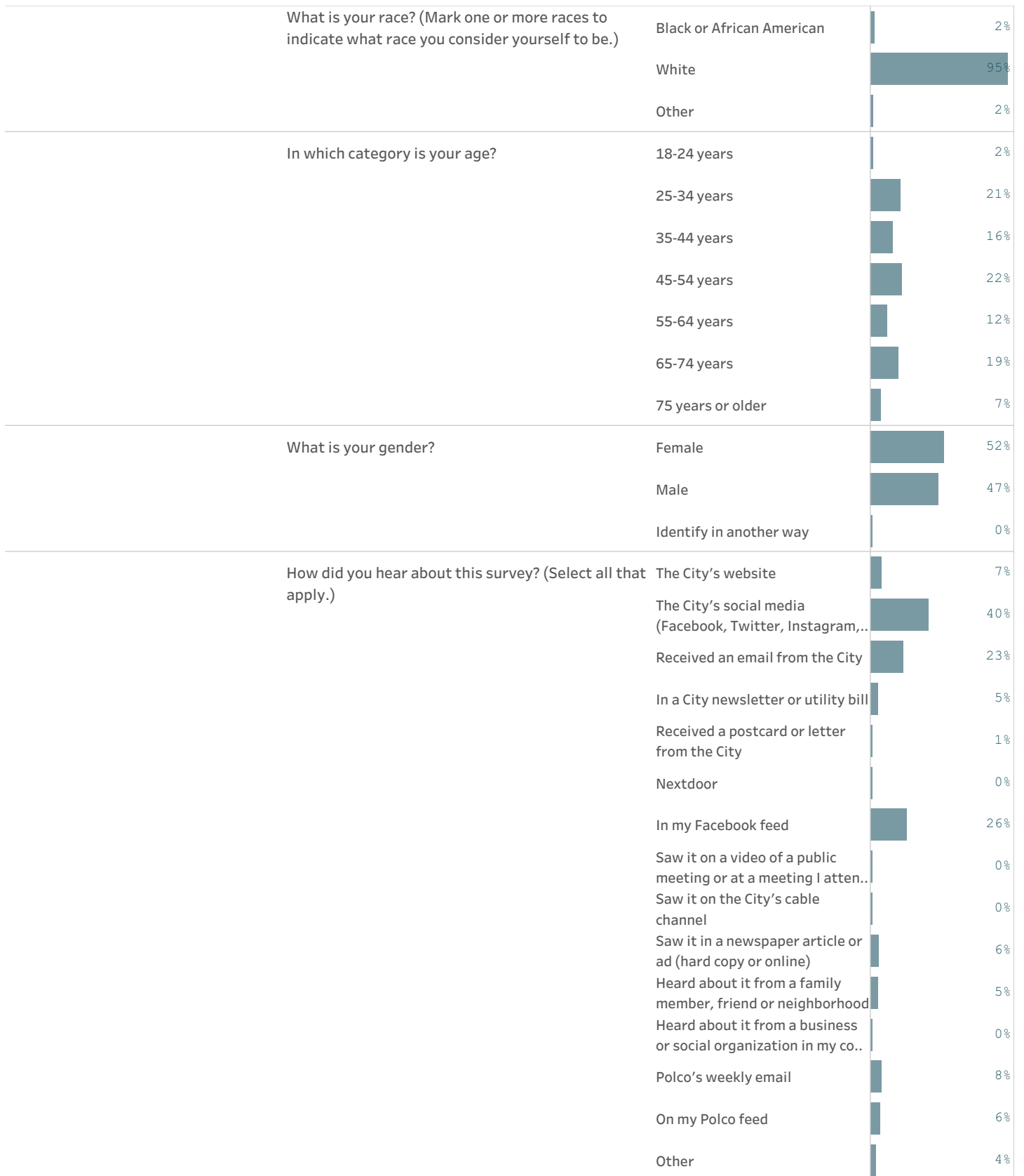
Please indicate how much of a source, if at all, you consider each of the following to be for obtaining information about the City government and its activities, events and services:	The City website (www.cityofmarion.org)	Major source		75%
		Minor source		22%
		Not a source		2%
	Local media outlets (newspapers, radio, local television stations)	Major source		40%
		Minor source		48%
		Not a source		10%
	Marion Messenger (City newsletter)	Major source		57%
		Minor source		34%
		Not a source		8%
	City Council meetings and other public meetings	Major source		31%
		Minor source		47%
		Not a source		20%
	Audio recordings of City Council Meetings	Major source		18%
		Minor source		35%
		Not a source		46%
	Talking with City officials	Major source		36%
		Minor source		40%
		Not a source		23%
	City communications via social media (i.e., Facebook, Twitter or YouTube)	Major source		54%

Please indicate how much of a source, if at all, you consider each of the following to be for obtaining information about the City government and its activities, events and services:	City communications via social media (i.e., Facebook, Twitter or YouTube)	Minor source		31%
		Not a source		14%
	Word-of-mouth	Major source		24%
		Minor source		54%
Please indicate to what extent you would support or oppose a property tax or fee increase to fund improvements to each of the following facilities or services:	Schools	Strongly support		39%
		Somewhat support		29%
		Somewhat oppose		13%
		Strongly oppose		18%
	Library services	Strongly support		23%
		Somewhat support		38%
		Somewhat oppose		13%
		Strongly oppose		24%
	Public safety/fire and police	Strongly support		48%
		Somewhat support		31%
		Somewhat oppose		9%
		Strongly oppose		11%
	Street/infrastructure improvements	Strongly support		46%
		Somewhat support		38%
		Somewhat oppose		7%
		Strongly oppose		8%
	Public art	Strongly support		10%
		Somewhat support		39%
		Somewhat oppose		24%
		Strongly oppose		25%
	Parks	Strongly support		30%
Somewhat support			48%	
Somewhat oppose			12%	
Strongly oppose			9%	
Community center	Strongly support		21%	
	Somewhat support		46%	
	Somewhat oppose		18%	

Please indicate to what extent you would support or oppose a property tax or fee increase to fund improvements to each of the following facilities or services:				
Community center		Strongly oppose		14%
		Strongly support		31%
		Somewhat support		39%
		Somewhat oppose		15%
		Strongly oppose		14%
Outdoor pool/aquatic center		Strongly support		32%
		Somewhat support		41%
		Somewhat oppose		11%
		Strongly oppose		14%
Outdoor trails		Strongly support		32%
		Somewhat support		41%
		Somewhat oppose		11%
		Strongly oppose		14%
Recreation Services		Strongly support		21%
		Somewhat support		49%
		Somewhat oppose		18%
		Strongly oppose		11%
Park Development		Strongly support		29%
		Somewhat support		43%
		Somewhat oppose		17%
		Strongly oppose		10%
Public Transportation		Strongly support		21%
		Somewhat support		38%
		Somewhat oppose		26%
		Strongly oppose		14%
Airport		Strongly support		8%
		Somewhat support		27%
		Somewhat oppose		24%
		Strongly oppose		40%
In general, how many times do you:	Access the internet from your home	Several times a day		77%
		Once a day		6%
		A few times a week		4%
		Every few weeks		2%
		Less often or never		9%
Access the internet from your cell phone		Several times a day		86%
		Once a day		4%



How many years have you lived in Marion?	Less than 2 years		8%	
	2-5 years		18%	
	6-10 years		17%	
	11-20 years		16%	
	More than 20 years		40%	
Which best describes the building you live in?	One family house detached from any other houses		62%	
	Building with two or more homes (duplex, townhome, apa..		35%	
	Mobile home		2%	
Do you rent or own your home?	Rent		14%	
	Own		85%	
About how much is your monthly housing cost for the place you live (including rent, mortgage payment, property tax, property insurance, and homeowners' association (HOA) fees)?	About how much is your monthly housing cost for the place you live (including rent, mortgage payment, property tax, property insurance and homeowners' association (HOA) fees)?	Less than \$500		11%
		\$500 to \$999		17%
		\$1,000 to \$1,499		31%
		\$1,500 to \$1,999		24%
		\$2,000 to \$2,499		9%
		\$2,500 to \$2,999		1%
		\$3,000 to \$3,499		2%
		\$3,500 or more		3%
Do any children 17 or under live in your household?	No		66%	
	Yes		33%	
Are you or any other members of your household aged 65 or older?	No		70%	
	Yes		29%	
How much do you anticipate your household's total income before taxes will be for the current year? (Please include in your total income money from all sources for all persons living in your household.)	Less than \$25,000		7%	
	\$25,000 to \$49,999		12%	
	\$50,000 to \$74,999		20%	
	\$75,000 to \$99,999		12%	
	\$100,000 to \$149,999		31%	
	\$150,000 or more		17%	
Are you Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino?	Are you Spanish, Hispanic or Latino?	No, not Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino		97%
		Yes, I consider myself to be Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino		2%
What is your race? (Mark one or more races to indicate what race you consider yourself to be.)	American Indian or Alaskan Native		0%	
	Asian, Asian Indian, or Pacific Islander		0%	



Please complete this survey if you are the adult (age 18 or older) in the household who most recently had a birthday (the year of birth does not matter). Your responses are confidential and no identifying information will be shared.

1. Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in Marion.

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

2. Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Marion as a whole.

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
Overall economic health of Marion	1	2	3	4	5
Overall quality of the transportation system (auto, bicycle, foot, bus) in Marion	1	2	3	4	5
Overall design or layout of Marion's residential and commercial areas (e.g., homes, buildings, streets, parks, etc.)	1	2	3	4	5
Overall quality of the utility infrastructure in Marion (water, sewer, storm water, electric, gas)	1	2	3	4	5
Overall feeling of safety in Marion.....	1	2	3	4	5
Overall quality of natural environment in Marion	1	2	3	4	5
Overall quality of parks and recreation opportunities.....	1	2	3	4	5
Overall health and wellness opportunities in Marion.....	1	2	3	4	5
Overall opportunities for education, culture, and the arts.....	1	2	3	4	5
Residents' connection and engagement with their community	1	2	3	4	5

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

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

4. Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel:

	<u>Very safe</u>	<u>Somewhat safe</u>	<u>Neither safe nor unsafe</u>	<u>Somewhat unsafe</u>	<u>Very unsafe</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
In your neighborhood during the day.....	1	2	3	4	5	6
In Marion's downtown/commercial area during the day	1	2	3	4	5	6
From property crime.....	1	2	3	4	5	6
From violent crime.....	1	2	3	4	5	6
From fire, flood, or other natural disaster	1	2	3	4	5	6

5. Please rate the job you feel the Marion community does at each of the following.

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
Making all residents feel welcome	1	2	3	4	5
Attracting people from diverse backgrounds.....	1	2	3	4	5
Valuing/respecting residents from diverse backgrounds.....	1	2	3	4	5
Taking care of vulnerable residents (elderly, disabled, homeless, etc.).....	1	2	3	4	5

6. Please rate each of the following in the Marion community.

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
Overall quality of business and service establishments in Marion	1	2	3	4	5
Variety of business and service establishments in Marion.....	1	2	3	4	5
Vibrancy of downtown/commercial area	1	2	3	4	5
Employment opportunities	1	2	3	4	5
Shopping opportunities	1	2	3	4	5
Cost of living in Marion.....	1	2	3	4	5
Overall image or reputation of Marion.....	1	2	3	4	5

7. Please also rate each of the following in the Marion community.

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
Traffic flow on major streets.....	1	2	3	4	5
Ease of public parking.....	1	2	3	4	5
Ease of travel by car in Marion.....	1	2	3	4	5
Ease of travel by public transportation in Marion.....	1	2	3	4	5
Ease of travel by bicycle in Marion.....	1	2	3	4	5
Ease of walking in Marion.....	1	2	3	4	5
Well-planned residential growth.....	1	2	3	4	5
Well-planned commercial growth.....	1	2	3	4	5
Well-designed neighborhoods.....	1	2	3	4	5
Preservation of the historical or cultural character of the community.....	1	2	3	4	5
Public places where people want to spend time.....	1	2	3	4	5
Variety of housing options.....	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of affordable quality housing.....	1	2	3	4	5
Overall quality of new development in Marion.....	1	2	3	4	5
Overall appearance of Marion.....	1	2	3	4	5
Cleanliness of Marion.....	1	2	3	4	5
Water resources (beaches, lakes, ponds, riverways, etc.).....	1	2	3	4	5
Air quality.....	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of paths and walking trails.....	1	2	3	4	5
Fitness opportunities (including exercise classes and paths or trails, etc.)... ..	1	2	3	4	5
Recreational opportunities.....	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of affordable quality food.....	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of affordable quality health care.....	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of preventive health services.....	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of affordable quality mental health care.....	1	2	3	4	5
Opportunities to attend cultural/arts/music activities.....	1	2	3	4	5
Community support for the arts.....	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of affordable quality childcare/preschool.....	1	2	3	4	5
K-12 education.....	1	2	3	4	5
Adult educational opportunities.....	1	2	3	4	5
Sense of civic/community pride.....	1	2	3	4	5
Neighborliness of residents in Marion.....	1	2	3	4	5
Opportunities to participate in social events and activities.....	1	2	3	4	5
Opportunities to attend special events and festivals.....	1	2	3	4	5
Opportunities to volunteer.....	1	2	3	4	5
Opportunities to participate in community matters.....	1	2	3	4	5
Openness and acceptance of the community toward people of diverse backgrounds.....	1	2	3	4	5

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

	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>
Contacted the City of Marion (in-person, phone, email, or web) for help or information.....	1	2
Contacted Marion elected officials (in-person, phone, email, or web) to express your opinion.....	1	2
Attended a local public meeting (of local elected officials like City Council or County Commissioners, advisory boards, town halls, HOA, neighborhood watch, etc.).....	1	2
Watched (online or on television) a local public meeting.....	1	2
Volunteered your time to some group/activity in Marion.....	1	2
Campaigned or advocated for a local issue, cause, or candidate.....	1	2
Voted in your most recent local election.....	1	2
Used bus, rail, subway, or other public transportation instead of driving.....	1	2
Carpooled with other adults or children instead of driving alone.....	1	2
Walked or biked instead of driving.....	1	2

9. Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Marion.

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

10. Please rate the following categories of Marion government performance.

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
The value of services for the taxes paid to Marion.....	1	2	3	4	5
The overall direction that Marion is taking.....	1	2	3	4	5
The job Marion government does at welcoming resident involvement.....	1	2	3	4	5
Overall confidence in Marion government.....	1	2	3	4	5
Generally acting in the best interest of the community.....	1	2	3	4	5
Being honest.....	1	2	3	4	5
Being open and transparent to the public.....	1	2	3	4	5
Informing residents about issues facing the community.....	1	2	3	4	5
Treating all residents fairly.....	1	2	3	4	5
Treating residents with respect.....	1	2	3	4	5

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

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
The City of Marion	1	2	3	4	5
The Federal Government.....	1	2	3	4	5

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

	<u>Essential</u>	<u>Very important</u>	<u>Somewhat important</u>	<u>Not at all important</u>
Overall economic health of Marion	1	2	3	4
Overall quality of the transportation system (auto, bicycle, foot, bus) in Marion	1	2	3	4
Overall design or layout of Marion's residential and commercial areas (e.g., homes, buildings, streets, parks, etc.)	1	2	3	4
Overall quality of the utility infrastructure in Marion (water, sewer, storm water, electric, gas).....	1	2	3	4
Overall feeling of safety in Marion.....	1	2	3	4
Overall quality of natural environment in Marion	1	2	3	4
Overall quality of parks and recreation opportunities.....	1	2	3	4
Overall health and wellness opportunities in Marion.....	1	2	3	4
Overall opportunities for education, culture, and the arts.....	1	2	3	4
Residents' connection and engagement with their community	1	2	3	4

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

	<u>Major source</u>	<u>Minor source</u>	<u>Not a source</u>
The City website (www.cityofmarion.org)	1	2	3
Local media outlets (newspapers, radio, local television stations)	1	2	3
Marion Messenger (City newsletter).....	1	2	3
City Council meetings and other public meetings	1	2	3
Audio recordings of City Council Meetings.....	1	2	3
Talking with City officials.....	1	2	3
City communications via social media (i.e., Facebook, Twitter or YouTube)	1	2	3
Word-of-mouth.....	1	2	3

14. Please indicate to what extent you would support or oppose a property tax or fee increase to fund improvements to each of the following facilities or services:

	<u>Strongly support</u>	<u>Somewhat support</u>	<u>Somewhat oppose</u>	<u>Strongly oppose</u>
Schools.....	1	2	3	4
Library services	1	2	3	4
Public safety/fire and police	1	2	3	4
Street/infrastructure improvements.....	1	2	3	4
Public art.....	1	2	3	4
Parks.....	1	2	3	4
Community center	1	2	3	4
Outdoor pool/aquatic center.....	1	2	3	4
Outdoor trails	1	2	3	4
Recreation Services.....	1	2	3	4
Park Development.....	1	2	3	4
Public Transportation.....	1	2	3	4
Airport.....	1	2	3	4

Our last questions are about you and your household.
 Again, all of your responses to this survey are confidential and no identifying information will be shared.

D1. In general, how many times do you:

	Several times a day	Once a day	A few times a week	Every few weeks	Less often or never	Don't know
Access the internet from your home using a computer, laptop, or tablet computer	1	2	3	4	5	6
Access the internet from your cell phone.....	1	2	3	4	5	6
Visit social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Nextdoor, etc.	1	2	3	4	5	6
Use or check email.....	1	2	3	4	5	6
Share your opinions online.....	1	2	3	4	5	6
Shop online.....	1	2	3	4	5	6

D2. Please rate your overall health.

- Excellent
 Very good
 Good
 Fair
 Poor

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

Do you think the impact will be:

- Very positive
 Somewhat positive
 Neutral
 Somewhat negative
 Very negative

D4. How many years have you lived in Marion?

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

D5. Which best describes the building you live in?

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

D6. Do you rent or own your home?

- Rent
 Own

D7. About how much is your monthly housing cost for the place you live (including rent, mortgage payment, property tax, property insurance, and homeowners' association (HOA) fees)?

- Less than \$500 \$2,000 to \$2,499
 \$500 to \$999 \$2,500 to \$2,999
 \$1,000 to \$1,499 \$3,000 to \$3,499
 \$1,500 to \$1,999 \$3,500 or more

D8. Do any children 17 or under live in your household?

- No Yes

D9. Are you or any other members of your household aged 65 or older?

- No Yes

D10. How much do you anticipate your household's total income before taxes will be for the current year? (Please include in your total income money from all sources for all persons living in your household.)

- Less than \$25,000 \$75,000 to \$99,999
 \$25,000 to \$49,999 \$100,000 to \$149,999
 \$50,000 to \$74,999 \$150,000 or more

D11. Are you Spanish, Hispanic or Latino?

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

D12. What is your race? (Mark one or more races to indicate what race you consider yourself to be.)

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

D13. In which category is your age?

- 18-24 years 55-64 years
 25-34 years 65-74 years
 35-44 years 75 years or older
 45-54 years

D14. What is your gender?

- Female
 Male
 Identify in another way

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