



Survey: More residents approve of Dayton's direction

Release date: Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2019

Contact: Hilary Ross Browning, Management Analyst II, Dept. of Procurement, Management and Budget; 937-333-375; hilary.browning@daytonohio.gov

The 2019 Dayton Survey presents a picture of improvement in overall resident satisfaction and confidence in Dayton's direction.

The annual survey measures residents' opinions of City services, programs and performance, as well as neighborhood life and other matters. It also identifies areas of improvement and issues that remain challenging for residents.

Measures of resident satisfaction register four-year highs:

- Fifty percent of residents in 2019 feel that "things in Dayton are heading in the right direction," up from 47% in 2018 and 2016, and equaling the 50% mark set in 2017. By contrast, slightly over one-quarter (28%) of residents believe things are heading in the wrong direction.
- A 51% majority are satisfied with Dayton as a place to live, up from 48% in 2018. Of these, 12% feeling "very satisfied" and 39% "satisfied." About half as many (26%) said they are dissatisfied with Dayton as a place to live. The remainder said they were "neutral" or not sure.
- Nearly six in ten (58%) now say they are likely to remain living in Dayton for the next five years, up from 54% in 2018. Only 17% said they are unlikely to remain in Dayton.

The 2019 survey also found significant improvements in public safety:

- A solid majority (56%) of residents now say they feel safe being out alone in their neighborhood at night. This number has risen steadily from 48% in 2016, to 51% in 2017, to 53% in 2018, to 56% in the current survey.
- A 51% majority in 2019 say they feel safe downtown at night, a number that never topped 48% in prior years.
- More than four out of five residents (82%) feel safe in downtown Dayton during the day, also a four-year high.
- The likelihood of seeing drug transactions or activities that appear to be drug dealing on at least a weekly basis has fallen from 37% in 2016 to 30% in 2019.
- Satisfaction with police services stands at 56% in 2019, up from 54% in the prior year.
- Nearly three-quarters of residents (72%) find police to be generally respectful in their dealings with people, an increase of five percentage points in the past year.

In terms of City services and amenities, there is a positive relationship between services that are most important to residents and those where residents express the greatest satisfaction with the City's performance.

- Fire/EMS and Police services are the two most important services or amenities for

residents, and both earn satisfaction ratings above 50%, with Fire registering 70% satisfaction and Police registering 56% satisfaction.

- Water/Wastewater services are also in a top tier of importance and earn a positive satisfaction rating.

Dayton continues to face a number of important challenges:

- Dissatisfaction with the condition of streets and pavement remains high, rising significantly in the past year. Nearly two-thirds of residents (65%) said they are dissatisfied with the condition of streets, an increase of five percentage points in the past year.
- Confidence in the purity and cleanliness of Dayton's tap water has declined, with 21% saying they are "very confident" and 32% saying they are "somewhat confident," for a total of 53%, a four-year low.
- Satisfaction with Dayton Public Schools remains an issue, with 35% of DPS families saying they are satisfied and 36% dissatisfied.

The survey was conducted from May 12 through July 30, 2019, by OpinionWorks, LLC. More than 10,000 survey packets were mailed to randomly selected Dayton households, with 1,590 responses. Another 400 residents completed a public online survey.

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