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City of Davison  
Davison Township  
Davison Community Schools

**Results**  
Davison Area Citizen Survey

April 2010



College of Arts and Sciences  
Rochester, Michigan 48309-4401

## Executive Summary

### Purpose

This final report presents the findings from an omnibus public opinion survey of Davison area registered voters, conducted between February and April 2010. This was a joint venture commissioned by the City of Davison, Davison Township, and the Davison Community Schools. Although included as part of the school district sample, Richfield Township declined to participate in this project (but did facilitate access to its voter rolls).

The various sections of the survey instrument (see Appendix B) correspond to the several goals for this project:

- Section 1 asks residents to assess the general **quality of life** in the area, specific public services, and city/township government across several dimensions.
- Initiated in the wake of the recent financial crisis and ongoing recession, Section 2 seeks voter input on possible **budget reductions or service consolidations**.
- Section 3 explores various **mechanisms for communicating** with local residents.
- Section 4 asks respondents to rate the quality of the **DCS** operation and explores prospects for upcoming millage renewals.
- Similarly, renewal of the **Davison Township police millage** is the subject of Section 5.
- Section 6 seeks to elicit perspectives on future **development of the downtown corridor**.

Note that results from the "Comments?" section of the survey appear as Appendix A.

### Methodology

The instrument employed here was developed during the Fall of 2009 through joint consultation. The principals were Mr. Dale Martin (City manager, Davison), Mr. R. Clay Perkins (DCS Superintendent), and Mr. Randy Stewart (Planning/Building Administrator, Davison Township); Pat Piskulich (PARL Director) facilitated.

Given a population estimate of 33,500, a sample of 380 persons is required to achieve a 95% level of confidence and a  $\pm 5\%$  margin of error. Re nonresponse, our practice is to oversample by a factor of 2-2.5 and augment that number by 10-15% for bad addresses. We settled on a round 1000 for our total sample. We then stratified proportionately by political unit: City of Davison (19%), Davison Township (58%), Richfield Township (23%).

Mr. Martin generated the random samples for his city and for Richfield Township. Mr. Stewart did the same for Davison Township. A PARL associate created three sets of mailing labels, one for each wave of our survey, i.e., an initial mailing and two follow-ups. A new/clean questionnaire was included in each mailing.

Students in an MPA (Master of Public Administration) class at OU assumed responsibility for the project from there, coding, cleaning, and analyzing the data as surveys were returned.

Response diagnostics and respondent demographics follow this introduction.

## Key Findings

1. 95% of residents are very/satisfied with the Davison area as a place to live. They rate public services as good or excellent in large numbers as well; the schools are a particular point of pride. Roads, on the other hand, are the source of greatest dissatisfaction.
2. If cuts must be made, respondents recommend that budget reductions occur in the areas of parks, trails, & recreation, community & economic development, and building inspection & code enforcement. Strong majorities are in favor of studying consolidation for all areas except schools and police protection.
3. 43% of respondents say they favor renewing the school millages set to expire in the next two years. That 38% report themselves to be uncertain means that DCS has some work to do with the voters.
4. Support is stronger for renewing the Davison Township millage which expires in August. The figures there are 59% in favor, 14% opposed, and 27% uncertain.
5. The City of Davison is clearly the hub of local commerce. However, residents say they do travel elsewhere for retail shopping and music & entertainment. A majority (54%) of our respondents would like to see more retail stores downtown, and nearly three-quarters (74%) would find more restaurants appealing. They also say that flowers & landscaping, benches, and building architecture are important to the downtown setting as well.

## Acknowledgements

Class members in PA 620: Quantitative Methods in Public Administration worked diligently to get the data coded and cleaned, and their analyses – from the perspectives of City and Township, respectively – were solidly constructed and thus a pleasure to review.

Many thanks to Mr. Dale Martin (also an OU MPA alumnus!) for allowing them this opportunity.

Thanks also to Ms. Laura Schovan (and her lovely daughters) who took on the chores associated with preparing labels and mailings.

Pat Piskulich managed the process and compiled this report.

## Response Diagnostics

### Response by Political Unit, as a % of All Responses

	% of Total Received	% of Total Mailed	Response Rate by Unit
City of Davison	22%	19%	44%
Davison Twp	54%	58%	35%
Richfield Twp	25%	23%	41%
<i>Total n</i>	363	1,000	
<i>Undeliverable or refused:</i>	63	937	

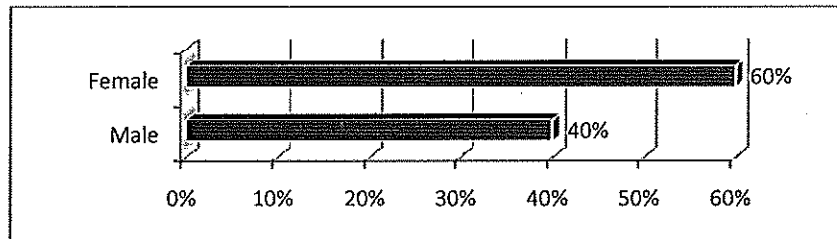
**Overall Response Rate: 39%**

### Respondents Correctly Identifying Their Place of Residence, by Political Unit

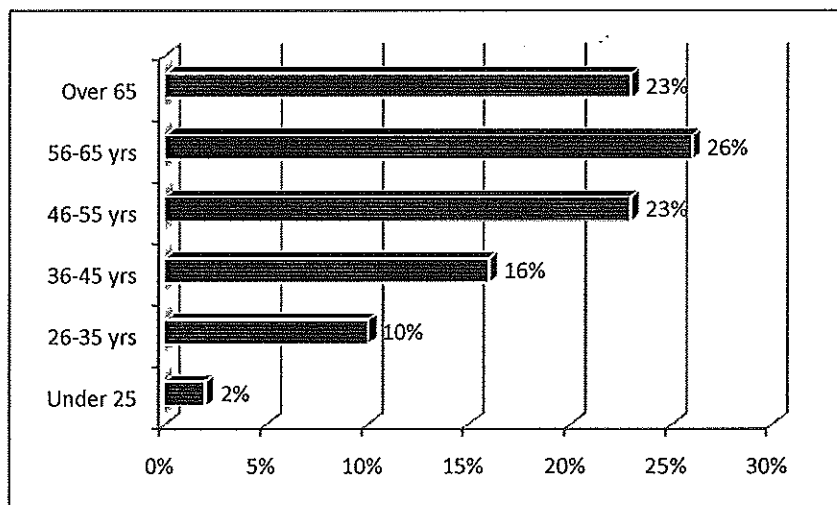
City of Davison	95%
Davison Twp	93%
Richfield Twp	97%

## Demographics

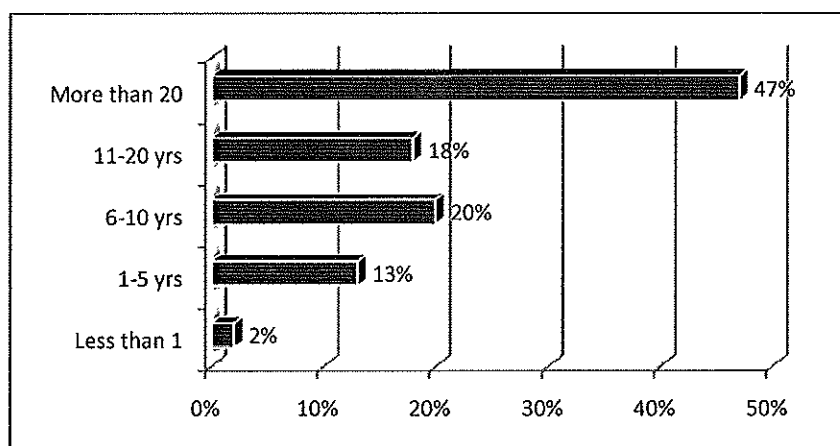
**Sex** (n=349)



**Age** (n=346)



**Years of Residence** (n=348)

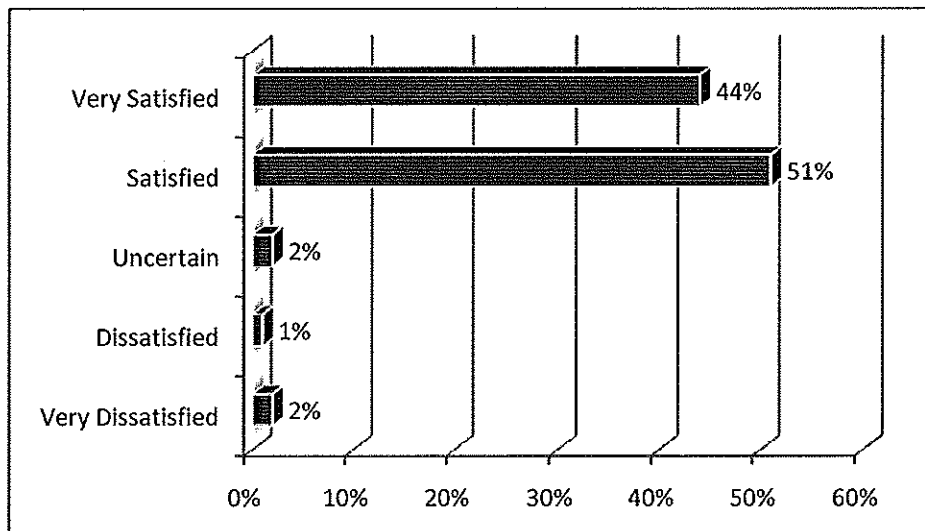


*Note: Throughout this report, percentages may not total 100% due to rounding. Not all tables contain the same number of cases (n) because some respondents do not answer every question.*

## Section 1: General Satisfaction

- Satisfaction with the general quality of life is quite high: a combined 95% of respondents report themselves to be satisfied or very satisfied with the Davison-Richfield area as a place to live.
- Schools are a major source of pride: 54% call them excellent. At the other end of the scale, roads are rated as poor by 21% of those surveyed, and another 35% rate them as no better than adequate.
- There is substantial uncertainty about the Senior Center and the *Your Ride* program, even among persons at or approaching retirement age.
- Nearly ½ (48%) rate city or township government as open and accessible, and pluralities of comparable magnitude believe them to be effective and forward-looking. That only about 20% of residents place themselves on the negative ends of the Question 5 scales is notable in this continuing era of anti-government cynicism. However, our subjects exhibit substantial uncertainty here as well. For example, 49% of City residents don't know whether their government is wasteful or thrifty. 47% say the same in Davison Township, and likewise on the out-of-touch/in-touch continuum. One interpretation is that there is space for local officials to engage and educate residents appropriately.

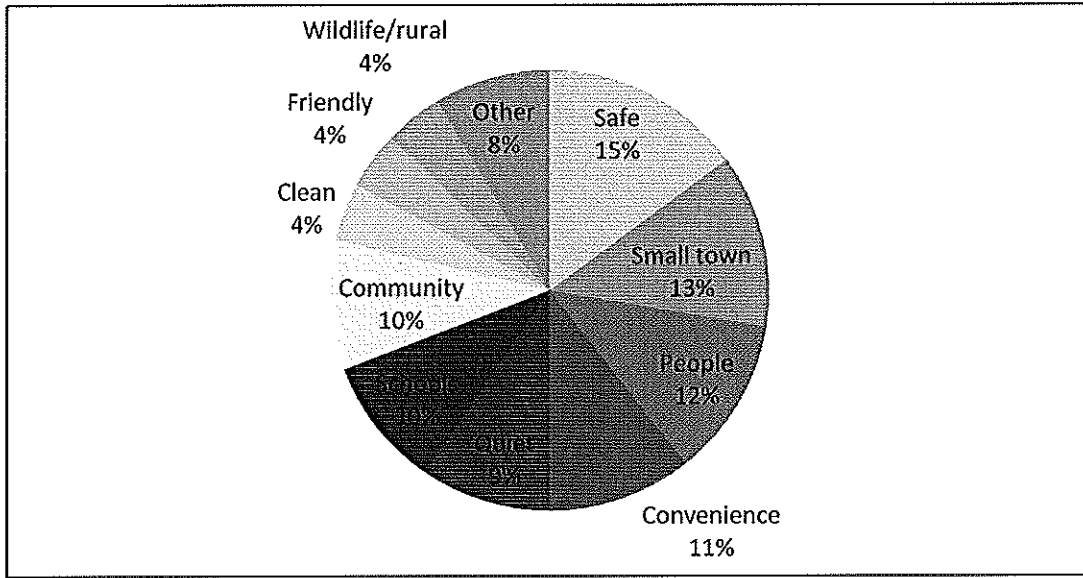
**2. Overall, how would you rate the Davison-Richfield area as a place to live? (n=340)**



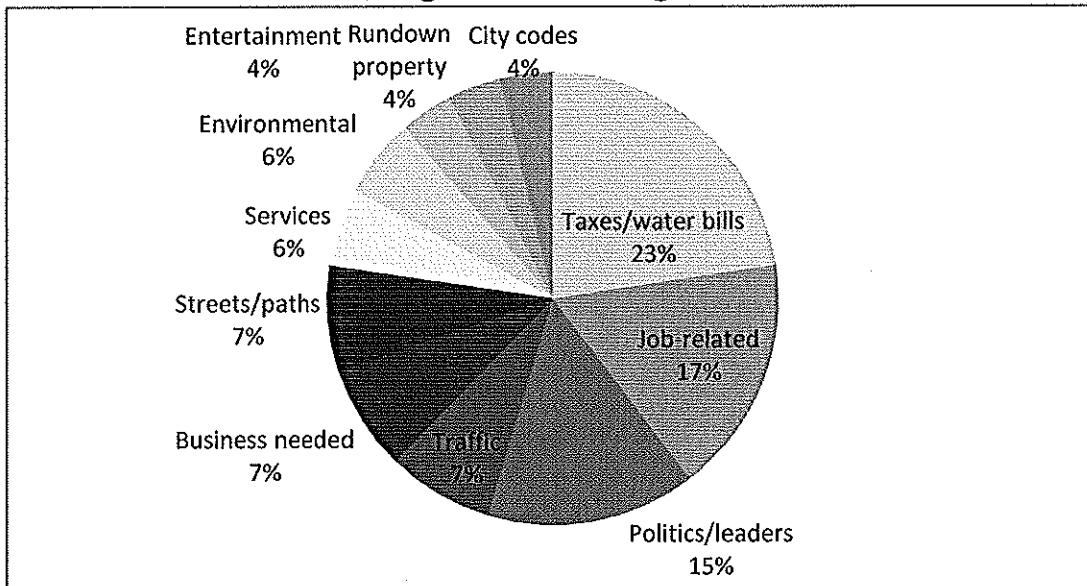
	City of Davison	Davison Twp	Richfield Twp
Very Satisfied	42%	45%	44%
Satisfied	51%	49%	52%
Uncertain	4%	2%	1%
Dissatisfied	3%	1%	-
Very Dissatisfied	-	3%	2%
<i>n</i>	78	178	84

### 3. Best/Worst: City of Davison

Best Things About Living in this Area



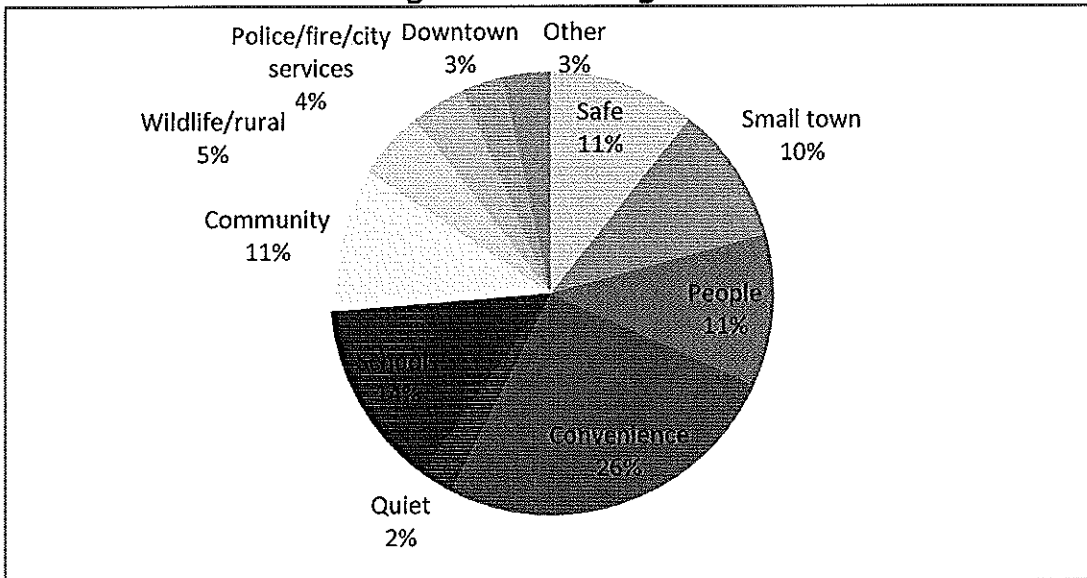
Worst Things About Living in this Area



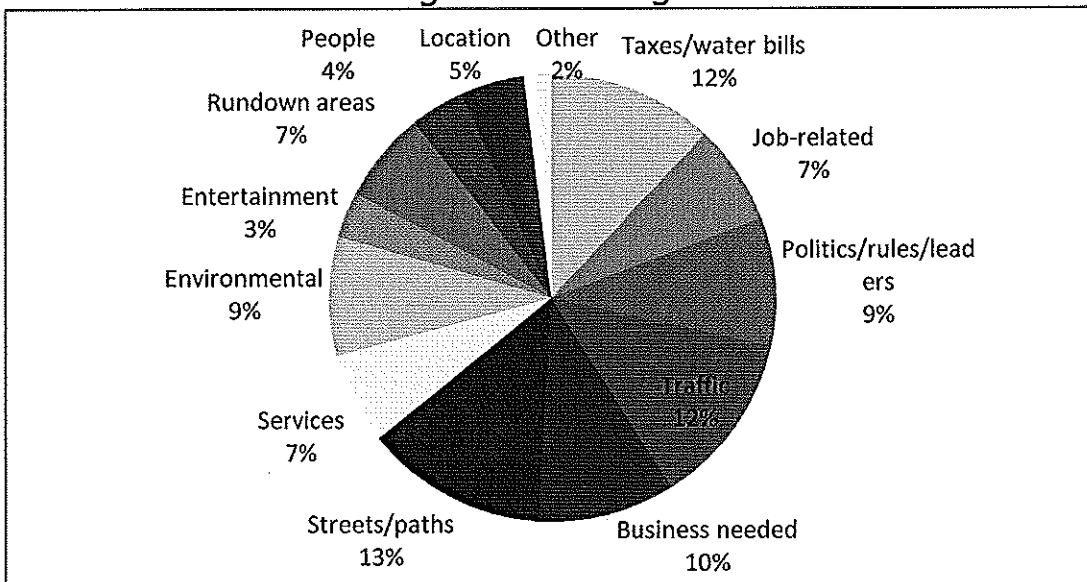


### 3. Best/Worst: Davison Township

Best Things About Living in this Area



Worst Things About Living in this Area



### 4. How would you rate each of the following public services?

All Respondents						City of Davison						
	n	Poor	Adequate	Good	Excellent	Uncertain	n	Poor	Adequate	Good	Excellent	Uncertain
Schools	345	1%	6%	30%	54%	8%	77	-	4%	27%	61%	8%
Police protection	344	1%	10%	42%	45%	3%	81	-	7%	42%	48%	3%
Parks, trails, recreation	350	1%	9%	43%	41%	6%	81	1%	9%	41%	44%	5%
Fire protection	344	2%	7%	39%	40%	12%	81	1%	6%	33%	53%	6%
Library	349	1%	9%	46%	30%	14%	81	1%	11%	38%	38%	11%
Senior Center	342	-	3%	25%	25%	47%	80	-	1%	32%	24%	43%
MTA <i>Your Ride</i>	334	4%	7%	23%	11%	55%	75	3%	5%	31%	16%	45%
City/twp gov't, in general	338	7%	22%	54%	9%	8%	78	9%	26%	51%	6%	8%
Roads	345	2.1%	35%	39%	5%	-	80	11%	39%	42%	8%	-

Davison Township						
	n	Poor	Adequate	Good	Excellent	Uncertain
Schools	183	1%	8%	31%	51%	9%
Police protection	177	1%	11%	43%	42%	3%
Parks, trails, recreation	183	2%	9%	43%	39%	7%
Fire protection	179	2%	8%	39%	34%	18%
Library	183	2%	11%	47%	25%	16%
Senior Center	178	1%	4%	23%	24%	48%
MTA <i>Your Ride</i>	176	3%	7%	21%	10%	59%
City/twp gov't, in general	177	7%	22%	53%	8%	10%
Roads	181	23%	35%	37%	5%	-

### Roads Breakout

	Sex		Age						Yrs of Residence				
	Male	Female	Under 25	26-35	36-45	46-55	56-65	Over 65	< 1 year	1-5	6-10	11-20	> 20 yrs
Excellent	3%	7%	12%	12%	4%	5%	6%	3%	43%	9%	5%	3%	4%
Good	41%	38%	12%	41%	53%	36%	33%	42%	29%	49%	51%	46%	30%
Adequate	32%	37%	63%	32%	28%	30%	43%	35%	29%	22%	32%	28%	43%
Poor	24%	18%	13%	15%	15%	30%	19%	21%	-	20%	12%	23%	24%
<i>n</i>	136	205	8	34	53	78	89	77	7	45	65	61	162

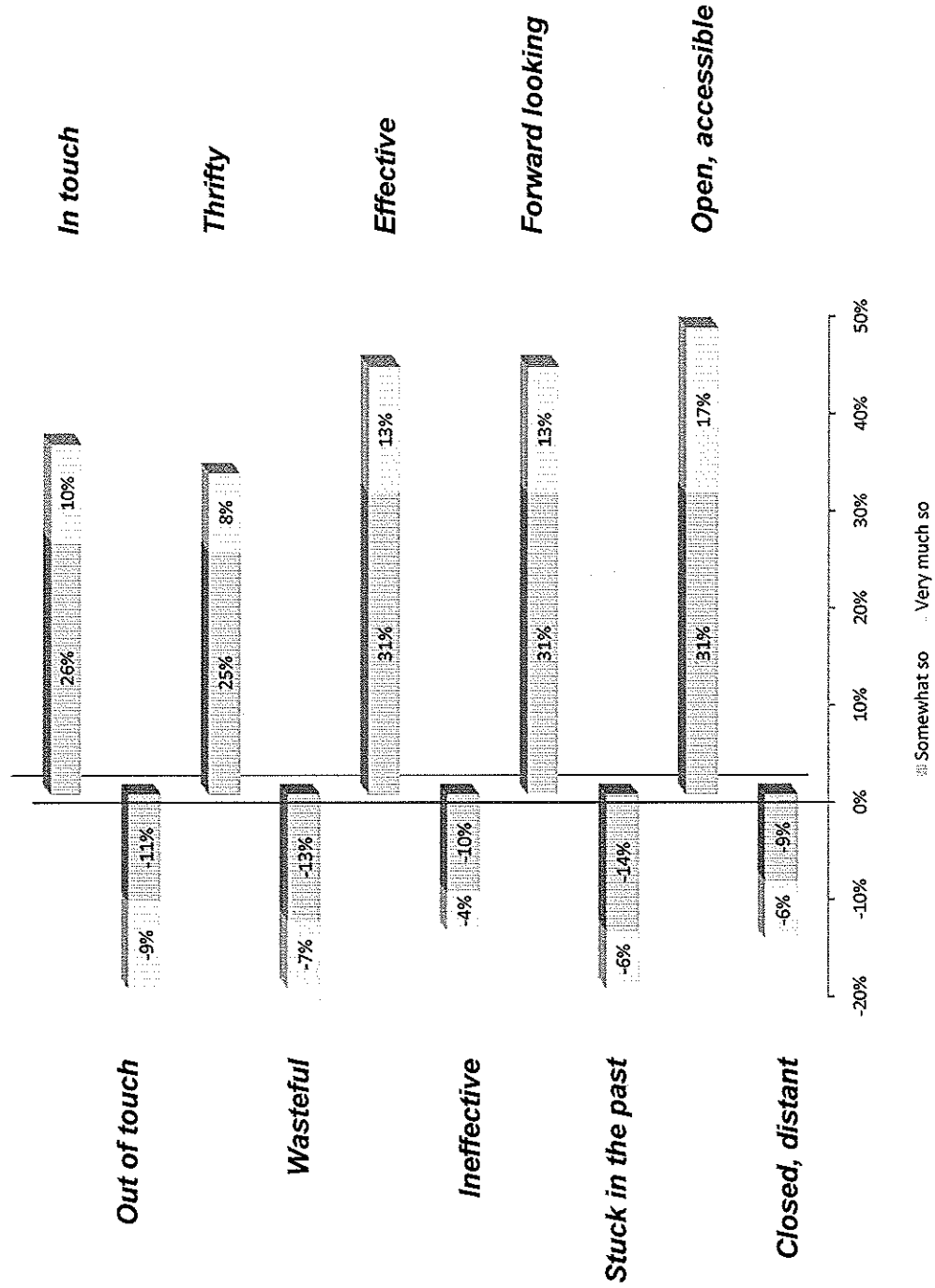
### Senior Center Breakout

	Age/Job Status	
	56-65	Over 65 Retired
Excellent	31%	37%
Good	25%	37%
Adequate	4%	3%
Poor	1%	-
Uncertain	39%	24%
<i>n</i>	88	76

### MTA Your Ride Breakout

	Age/Job Status	
	56-65	Over 65 Retired
Excellent	15%	11%
Good	18%	25%
Adequate	8%	4%
Poor	1%	6%
Uncertain	58%	54%
<i>n</i>		111

5. How would you rate your city or township government on each of the following dimensions? (n=328)



**5. How would you rate your city or township government on each of the following dimensions?**

<b>City of Davison</b>						
	Very Much so	Somewhat So	Uncertain	Somewhat So	Very Much So	
<b>Closed, distant</b>	9%	13%	38%	27%	13%	<b>In touch</b>
<b>Stuck in the past</b>	5%	21%	29%	36%	9%	<b>Forward looking</b>
<b>Ineffective</b>	5%	16%	47%	20%	12%	<b>Effective</b>
<b>Wasteful</b>	8%	8%	49%	25%	10%	<b>Thrifty</b>
<b>Out of touch with my needs</b>	11%	17%	40%	22%	10%	<b>In touch with my needs</b>

(n=75)

<b>Davison Township</b>						
	Very Much so	Somewhat So	Uncertain	Somewhat So	Very Much So	
<b>Closed, distant</b>	4%	8%	42%	30%	16%	<b>In touch</b>
<b>Stuck in the past</b>	6%	9%	38%	32%	15%	<b>Forward looking</b>
<b>Ineffective</b>	3%	9%	41%	33%	13%	<b>Effective</b>
<b>Wasteful</b>	6%	17%	47%	21%	9%	<b>Thrifty</b>
<b>Out of touch with my needs</b>	7%	11%	47%	25%	10%	<b>In touch with my needs</b>

(n=169)

## Section 2: More on Public Services

- A core purpose for this project is to gauge citizens' priorities in the face of retrenchment. 60% of voters are willing to reduce budget devoted to parks, trails, & recreation, and similar proportions say the same about community & economic development and building inspection & code enforcement. In contrast, 92% say that fire protection should be left alone; 84% say the same for police, and 81% for schools.
- Respondents are open to nearly all consolidation scenarios. Two-thirds say consolidation should be studied for city and township government in general. That pattern reverses for schools, however, and fewer than half (47%) are willing to have local officials study it for police protection.
- One-quarter of those responding indicate that some member of their household participated in a DCER activity during 2009. But satisfaction is very high among those who did: the combined very/satisfied rate is 91%.

## 6. Which of the following services, if any, are you willing to reduce or eliminate?

### All Respondents

	n	Leave alone	Reduce budget	Eliminate service
Parks, trails, recreation	337	31%	60%	9%
Community & economic development	340	28%	58%	14%
Building inspection & code enforcement	340	34%	58%	9%
Library	337	48%	48%	4%
Senior Center	335	54%	41%	5%
Roads/public works	331	70%	30%	-
Schools	333	81%	18%	1%
Police protection	342	84%	15%	1%
Fire protection	343	92%	8%	-

### City of Davison

	n	Leave alone	Reduce budget	Eliminate service
Parks, trails, recreation	78	31%	65%	4%
Community & economic development	78	31%	58%	11%
Building inspection & code enforcement	79	42%	48%	10%
Library	76	63%	34%	3%
Senior Center	78	51%	47%	1%
Roads/public works	76	66%	34%	-
Schools	76	83%	16%	1%
Police protection	79	87%	11%	-
Fire protection	79	96%	4%	-

### Davison Township

	n	Leave alone	Reduce budget	Eliminate service
Parks, trails, recreation	174	33%	58%	9%
Community & economic development	180	28%	57%	15%
Building inspection & code enforcement	178	31%	59%	10%
Library	177	43%	54%	3%
Senior Center	173	54%	39%	6%
Roads/public works	172	74%	26%	-
Schools	175	78%	21%	1%
Police protection	179	83%	17%	1%
Fire protection	180	92%	8%	-

## 7. Are there services on the following list that you believe should, or should not, be studied for consolidation?

### All Respondents

	<i>n</i>	Should be studied	Should NOT be studied	Uncertain
City/township government, in general	339	67%	14%	19%
Community & economic development	336	67%	13%	20%
Building inspection & code enforcement	335	65%	17%	18%
Roads/public works	333	61%	22%	17%
Parks, trails, recreation	334	60%	21%	19%
Police protection	334	47%	37%	16%
Schools	336	34%	50%	16%

### Davison Township

	<i>n</i>	Should be studied	Should NOT be studied	Uncertain
City/township government, in general	177	68%	16%	16%
Community & economic development	177	68%	15%	16%
Building inspection & code enforcement	176	65%	16%	19%
Roads/public works	177	60%	24%	16%
Parks, trails, recreation	177	59%	23%	18%
Police protection	175	51%	34%	15%
Schools	176	32%	52%	15%

### City of Davison

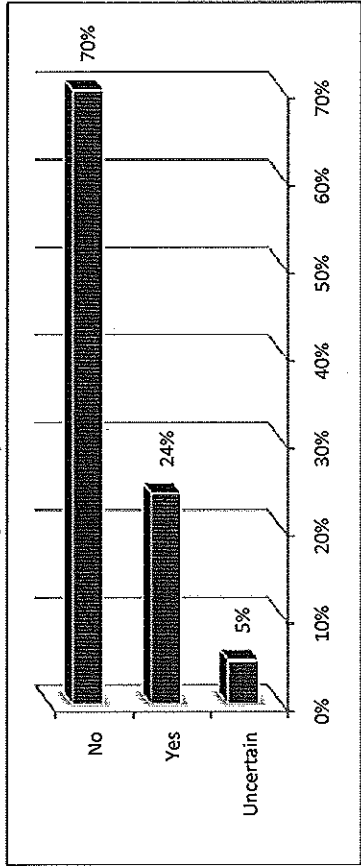
	<i>n</i>	Should be studied	Should NOT be studied	Uncertain
City/township government, in general	78	65%	12%	23%
Roads/public works	73	64%	16%	19%
Community & economic development	75	61%	8%	31%
Building inspection & code enforcement	75	59%	16%	25%
Parks, trails, recreation	75	59%	16%	25%
Police protection	76	41%	38%	21%
Schools	77	36%	46%	18%

### Richfield Township

	<i>n</i>	Should be studied	Should NOT be studied	Uncertain
Community & economic development	84	69%	12%	19%
Building inspection & code enforcement	84	68%	20%	12%
City/township government, in general	84	67%	14%	19%
Parks, trails, recreation	82	62%	22%	16%
Roads/public works	83	60%	22%	18%
Police protection	83	45%	43%	12%
Schools	83	37%	48%	15%



**8. Did you or any member of your household participate in a DCER activity during the past year (2009)?** (n=349)



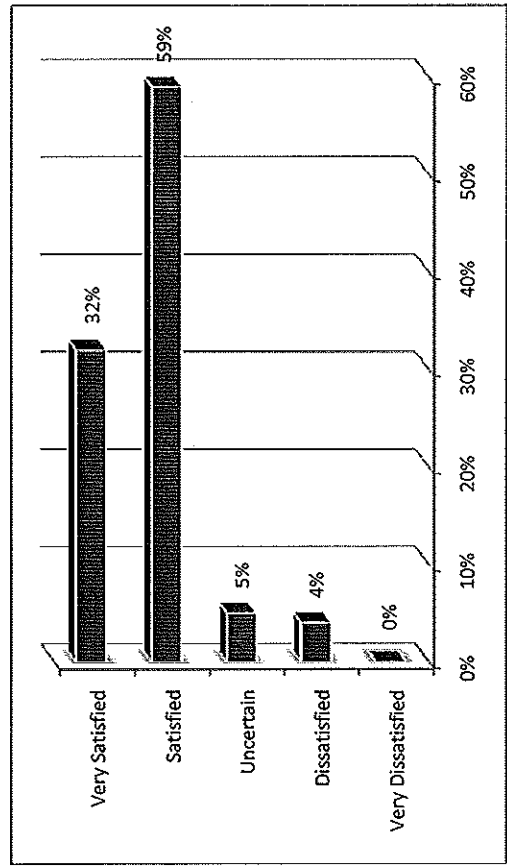
**Participation Rates**

City	36%	80
Davison Twp	21%	183
Richfield Twp	21%	86

**Participant demographics**

Female	69%	n
<b>Age</b>		
Under 25	1%	
26-35	12%	
36-45	24%	
46-55	23%	
56-65	23%	
Over 65	18%	
<b>Residence</b>		
< 1 year	1%	
1-5 years	10%	
6-10 years	25%	
11-20 years	14%	
> 20 years	50%	

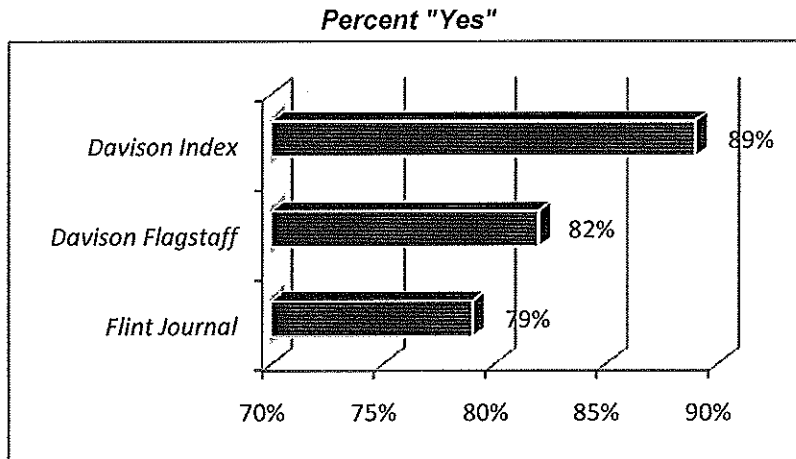
**If Yes, how would you rate that program?** (n=84)



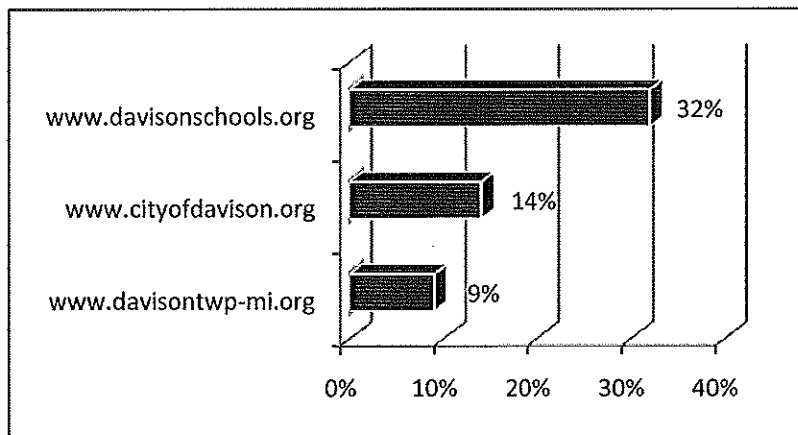
## **Section 3: Communications**

- Respondents read the area's three newspapers in large numbers.
- They are much less likely to access public affairs via the web, e.g., only 9% have visited Davison Township's home page in the past three months.
- 69% recall having received a DCS newsletter and 55% say they watched DTV during the past year.

**9. Have you read any of the following newspapers in the past month?** (n=336)

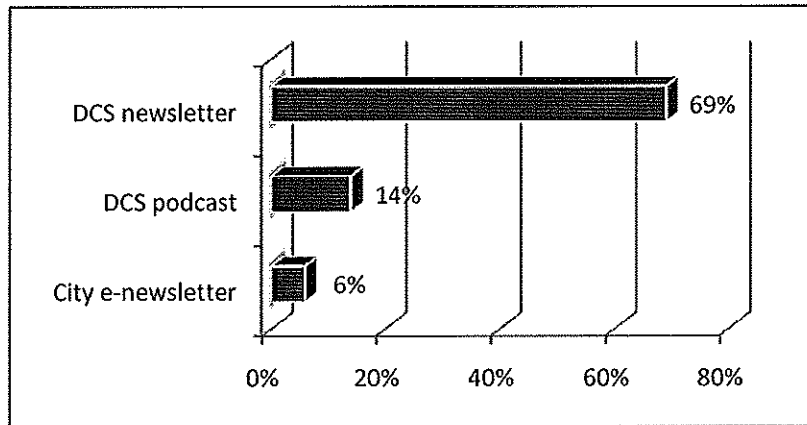


**10. Have you visited any of the following websites in the past three months?** (n=340)

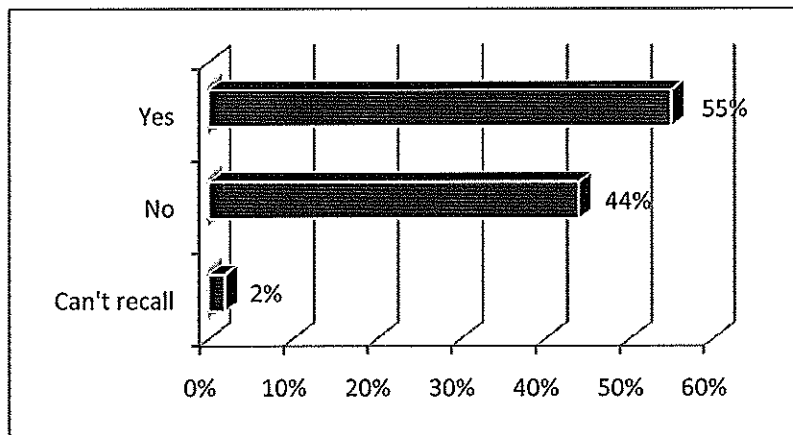


**11. Have you received any of the following during the past year?** (n=339)

*Percent "Yes"*



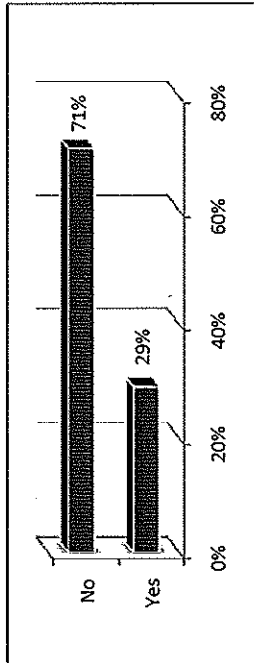
**12. Have you watched DTV at any time during the past year?** (n=350)



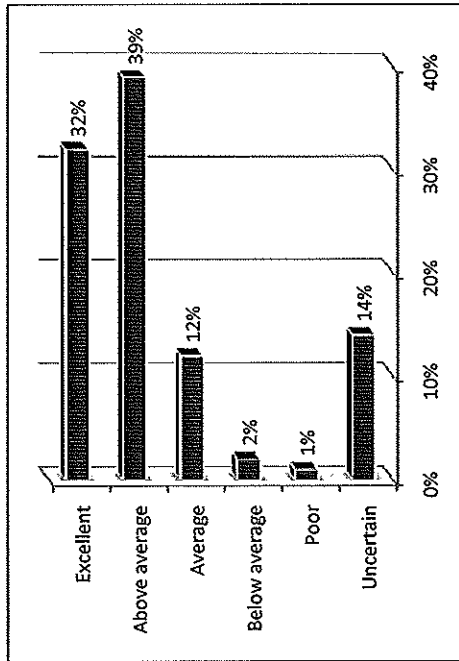
## Section 4: Davison Community Schools

- A combined 71% rate the education provided by their schools as above average (39%) or excellent (32%). That figure is 83% among those persons with a school-age child in the household. As anticipated, perception increases with exposure: 45% of those having visited a school several times in the past two years rate the system as excellent; that figure is 19% among those who never have visited.
- A strong majority (59%) rate buildings and upkeep as better than the mean.
- Even so, respondents communicate significant uncertainty about their support for the upcoming millage renewals. While twice as many are in favor (43%) as are opposed (19%), that remaining 38% will need to be the focus of the efforts surrounding these ballot questions.

**13. Do you currently have a school-age child living in your household?** (n=351)

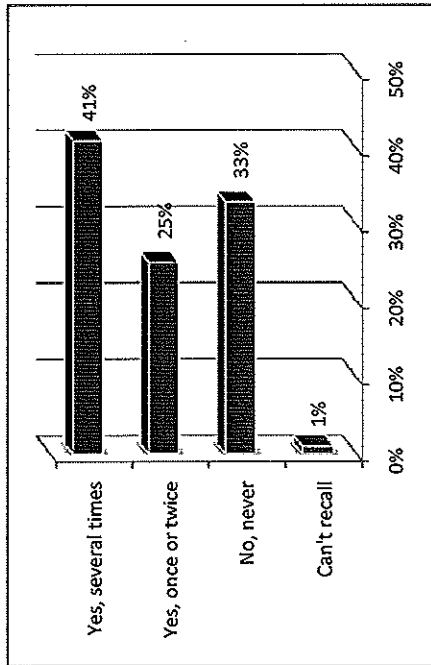


**14. How would you rate the quality of education offered by the Davison Community Schools?** (n=346)

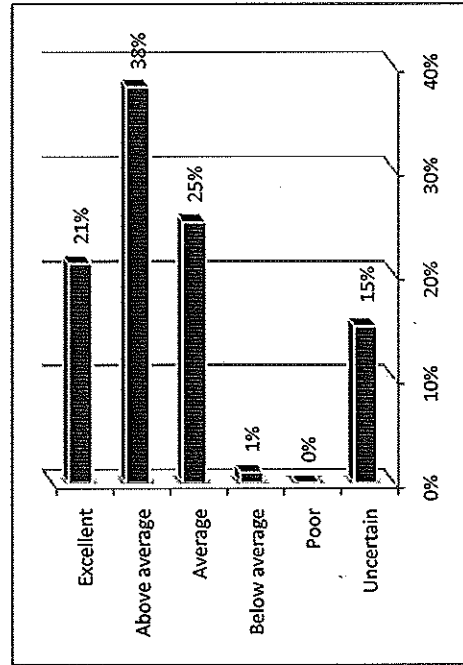


	School age child?		Has visited a DCS school in past 2 years		
	Yes	No	Several times	Once/twice	Never
Excellent	39%	29%	45%	26%	19%
Above average	44%	38%	39%	47%	33%
Average	10%	12%	8%	17%	13%
Below average	2%	2%	1%	-	4%
Poor	1%	1%	3%	-	-
Uncertain	5%	18%	4%	9%	31%
	n 101	244	143	87	111

**15. Have you had reason to visit one of the Davison Community schools during the past two years?** (n=351)

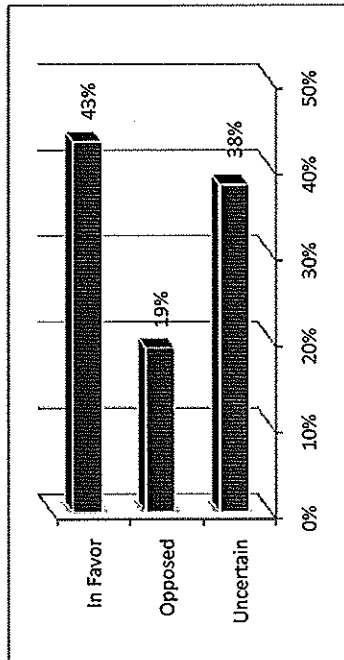


**16. How would you rate the quality of buildings and upkeep offered by Davison Community Schools?** (n=342)



	School age child?		Has visited a DCS school in past 2 years		
	Yes	No	Several times	Once/twice	Never
Excellent	30%	17%	33%	19%	6%
Above average	47%	24%	42%	50%	23%
Average	20%	27%	23%	29%	26%
Below average	-	1%	-	1%	1%
Poor	-	-	-	1%	-
Uncertain	3%	21%	2%	-	44%
<i>n</i>	101	240	141	86	110

17. If an election was held today, which...describes your position on [the] school millages? (n=348)



	School age child?		Has visited a DCS school in past 2 years		
	Yes	No	Several times	Once/twice	Never
In Favor	52%	40%	55%	44%	30%
Opposed	13%	21%	15%	15%	26%
Uncertain	35%	39%	30%	41%	44%
n	102	246	143	87	115

	Sex		Age										Yrs of Residence				
	Male	Female	Under 25	26-35	36-45	46-55	56-65	Over 65	< 1 year	1-5	6-10	11-20	>20				
In Favor	46%	42%	37%	46%	55%	44%	36%	44%	25%	47%	40%	46%	44%				
Opposed	21%	17%	13%	12%	7%	26%	28%	11%	13%	4%	15%	23%	22%				
Uncertain	32%	41%	50%	42%	38%	31%	35%	44%	62%	49%	45%	31%	33%				
n	136	208	8	33	55	78	88	79	8	45	67	61	162				

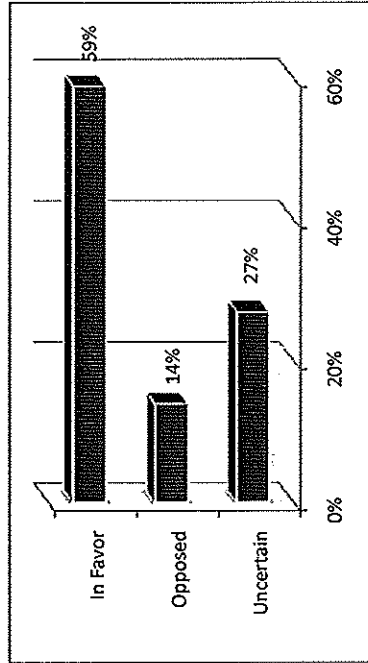
	Richfield	
	City	Davison Twp
In Favor	45%	44%
Opposed	14%	19%
Uncertain	41%	38%
n	80	184



## **Section 5: Davison Township Police Services**

- Support for this millage renewal is solid: 59% of Township voters report themselves to be in favor, and only 14% say they presently are opposed.
- Support is strongest among men, those over the age of 65, and from residents who have lived in the Township for more than a decade.

18. If an election was held today, which...describes your position on [the Davison Twp police] millage? (n=185)



Note: Davison Twp residents only

	Sex		Age										Yrs of Residence				
	Male	Female	Under 25	26-35	36-45	46-55	56-65	Over 65	< 1 year	1-5	6-10	11-20	>20				
In Favor	62%	57%	33%	53%	68%	57%	53%	67%	60%	56%	47%	69%	61%				
Opposed	20%	10%	0%	20%	4%	16%	24%	8%	0%	7%	18%	16%	15%				
Uncertain	18%	33%	67%	27%	29%	27%	24%	25%	40%	37%	34%	16%	24%				
<i>n</i>	76	106	6	15	28	44	51	36	5	27	38	32	80				

## Section 6: Amenities

- The City of Davison is clearly the hub of local commerce, retail shopping and music/entertainment excepted.
- 42% of residents make it downtown weekly and 7% make it there daily. Eating and shopping are what bring them back.
- A majority (54%) of our respondents would like to see more retail stores downtown, and nearly three-quarters (74%) would find more restaurants appealing.
- Flowers & landscaping, benches, and building architecture are considered the three additions most important to improving the local aesthetic.

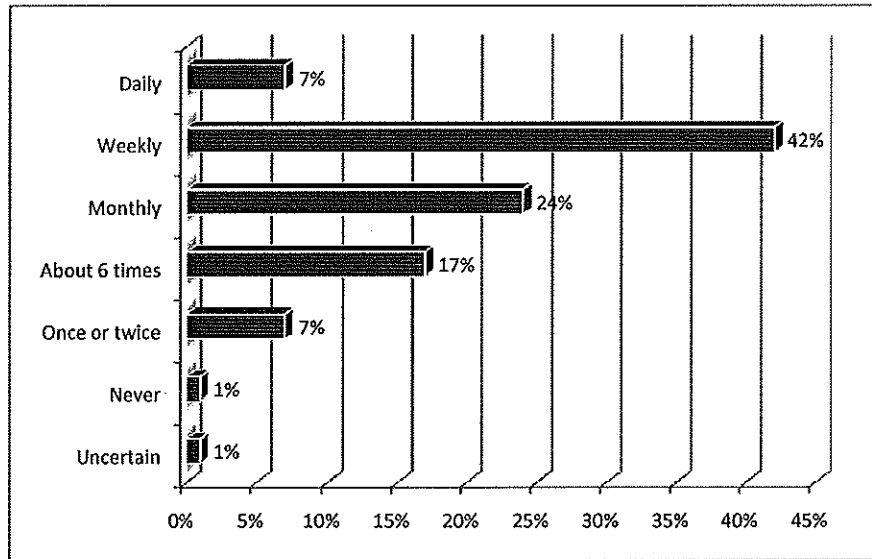
**19. Where would you say that you conduct most of your business, in each of the categories listed below?**

	All Respondents				Davison Township					
	n	Davison Twp	City of Davison	Elsewhere	Uncertain	n	Davison Twp	City of Davison	Elsewhere	Uncertain
Dining out, fast food	313	21%	64%	12%	3%	167	22%	61%	15%	2%
Dining out, other restaurants	308	21%	45%	31%	3%	164	25%	42%	31%	2%
Car-related, sales & service	326	20%	45%	32%	3%	174	24%	44%	30%	2%
Services (e.g., dry cleaning)	316	15%	44%	26%	15%	167	17%	38%	30%	15%
Shopping, grocery	321	48%	43%	1%	9%	175	62%	27%	10%	1%
Shopping, retail	317	11%	11%	78%	2%	169	11%	9%	77%	4%
Music/entertainment	325	1%	5%	72%	21%	176	1%	2%	74%	23%

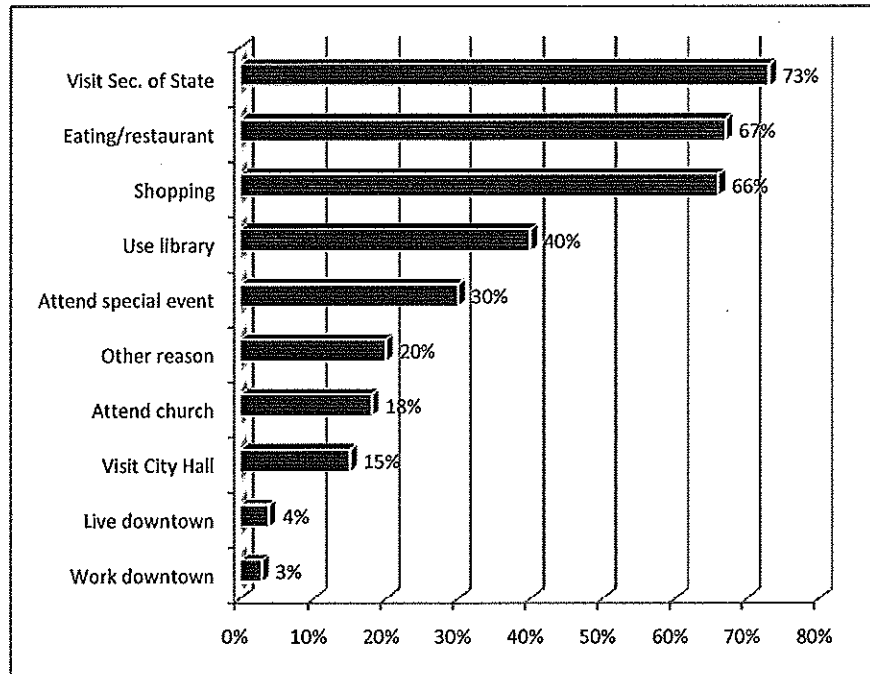
  

	City of Davison				Richfield Township					
	n	Davison Twp	City of Davison	Elsewhere	Uncertain	n	Davison Twp	City of Davison	Elsewhere	Uncertain
Dining out, fast food	67	21%	70%	4%	4%	79	19%	66%	13%	2%
Dining out, other restaurants	66	14%	53%	30%	3%	78	18%	46%	31%	5%
Car-related, sales & service	70	19%	49%	27%	6%	82	12%	44%	40%	4%
Services (e.g., dry cleaning)	69	12%	52%	17%	19%	80	13%	51%	25%	11%
Shopping, grocery	68	27%	69%	4%	-	78	33%	54%	10%	3%
Shopping, retail	68	9%	15%	76%	-	80	14%	13%	72%	1%
Music/entertainment	70	1%	13%	67%	19%	79	3%	4%	72%	22%

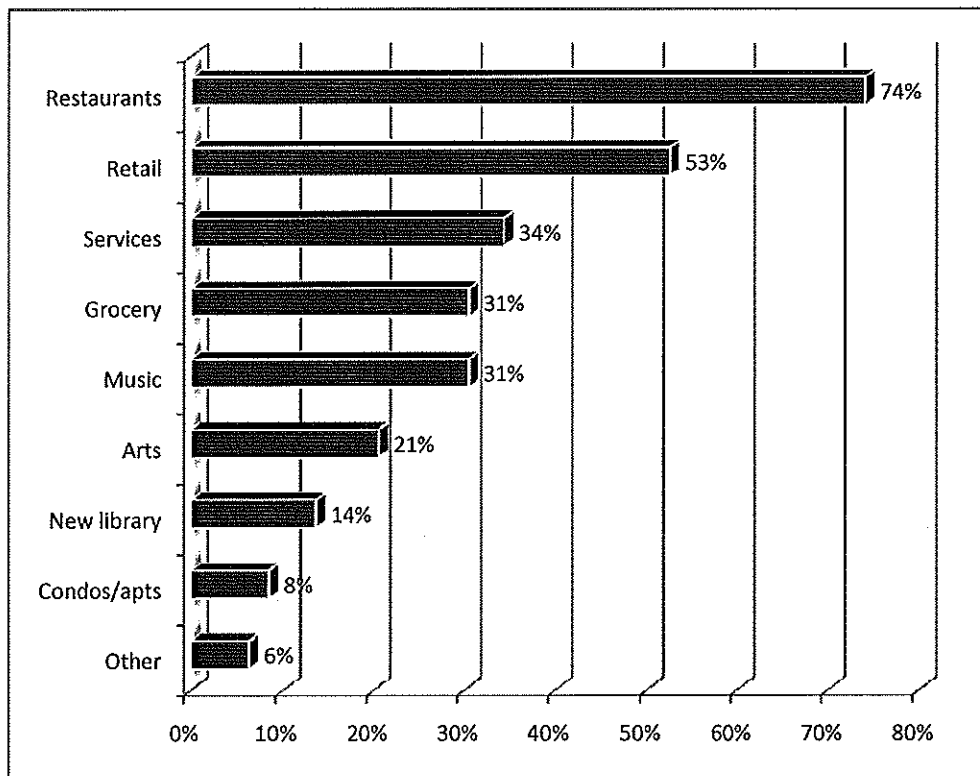
**20. During the past year, how often would you say that you visited downtown Davison, on average? (n=348)**



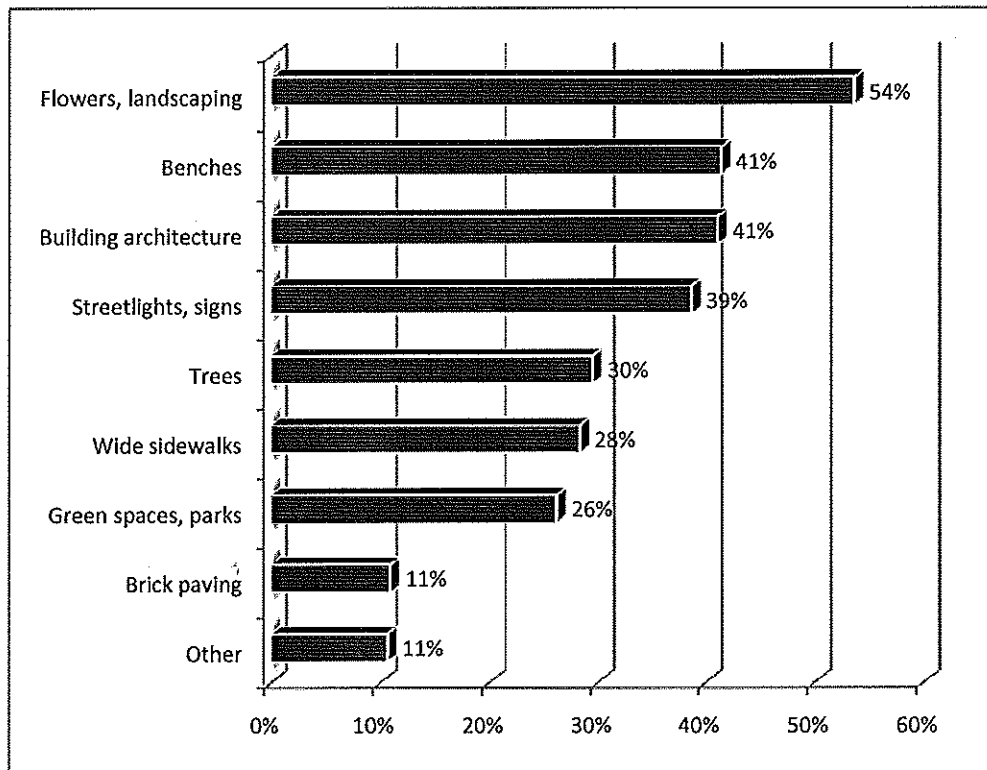
**21. For what reason(s) did you visit? (n=322)**



**22. Which...of the following would you find most appealing in Davison's downtown corridor? (n=331)**



**23. Which...of the following would you say are most important to such a setting? (n=328)**

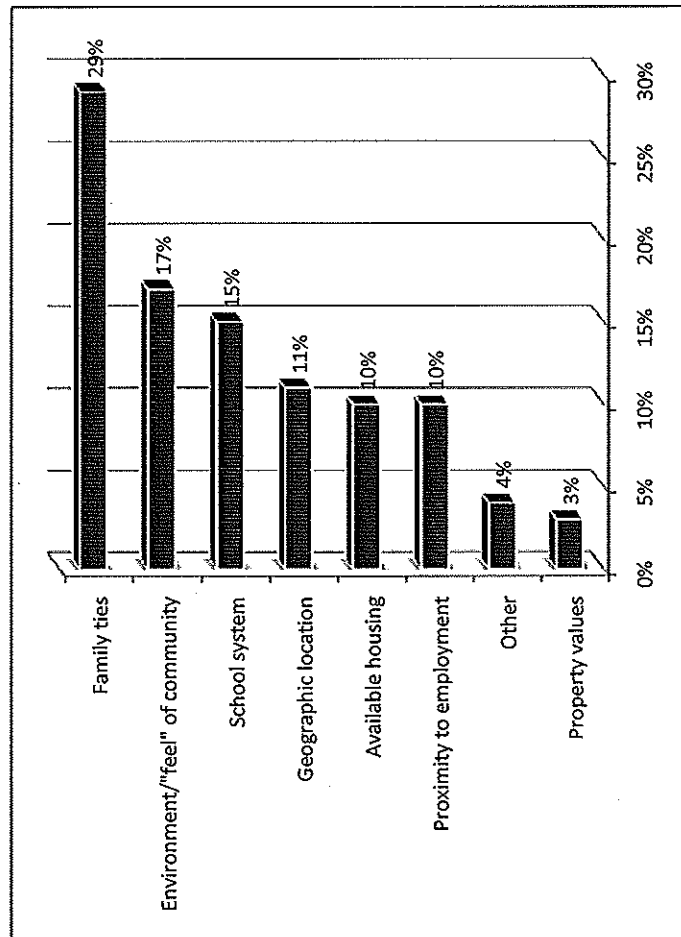


## **Section 7: Please Tell Us About Yourself**

- Family ties of some sort are reported to be the most common reason for a person to live in the area. The environment or "feel" of the community as well as the schools round out the top three.
- 45% of respondents travel outside the area to work, while 19% work locally. 36% have retired. About one-third work within 10 miles (roundtrip); another third travels more than thirty miles each day.

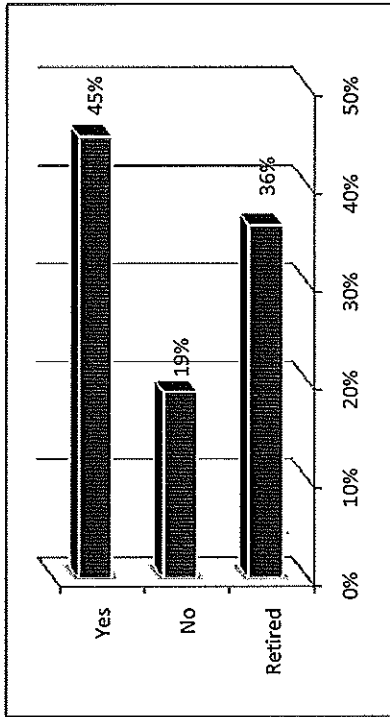


27. What would you say was the most important reason that you decided to live here? (n=314)



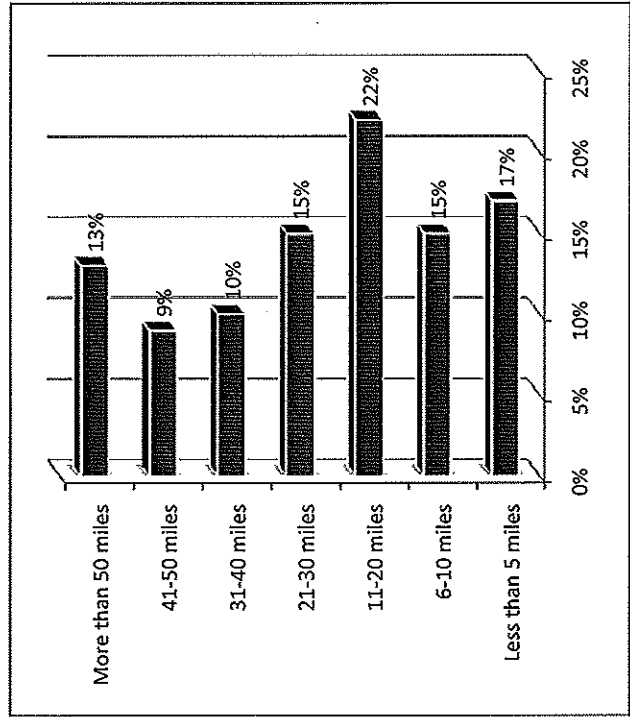
	City of Davison		Township	
	Davison	Davison	Township	Township
Family Ties	26%	26%	30%	30%
Environment/'feel'	23%	23%	17%	17%
School system	11%	11%	18%	18%
Geographic location	6%	6%	10%	10%
Available housing	14%	14%	11%	11%
Proximity to employment	16%	16%	8%	8%
Other	2%	2%	4%	4%
Property Values	2%	2%	2%	2%
	n = 62		n = 173	

28. Do you work outside the Davison community? (n=343)



	City of Davison		Davison Township		n
	Davison	Township	Davison	Township	
Yes	42%	48%			74
No	18%	19%			
Retired	40%	33%			
					183

29. Approximately how many miles to you travel to work each day, roundtrip? (n=206)



	City of Davison		Davison Township		n
	Davison	Township	Davison	Township	
More than 50 miles	12%	15%			42
41-50 miles	17%	7%			
31-40 miles	17%	6%			
21-30 miles	14%	14%			
11-20 miles	17%	23%			
6-10 miles	5%	15%			
Less than 5 miles	19%	19%			
					115

## Comments

*Note: unordered, minimal editing (clarity only);  
each bullet represents the input of one respondent*

### **From City of Davison residents:**

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- I like Davison mostly because it is still a little-Big town. Meaning a country setting with the convenience of stores, etc. A lot of parks, trees, & activity for my children.
- I'm 92. Live in Collingwood Apartments. Swim at Country Club. Play cards at Senior Center. Eat at family restaurants. Very happy with Davison.
- I enjoy the City of Davison. I am very disappointed in council members who were not re-elected in the most recent election and their treatment and continued bad behavior to the mayor & new council. I am also unhappy with the city manager and I really felt we had to improve after the last one!
- Davison is a lovely place to live, shop or just "BE" in. I especially enjoy the peace & quiet that seems to be everywhere here. To be honest, the Davison area reminds me of life in Grand Blanc during the '70s & '80s when it was first growing. (I lived there from 1970-1995) & by the time my daughters were grown I could not wait to get away from there, as there were just TOO many people moving in. I sincerely hope Davison NEVER grows like that! Thank you.
- The 3 municipalities are constantly arguing amongst each other. Very poor public works service. City and township offices give a feeling of unwelcomeness. I was upset as well at my neighbors when I was forced to pay for a new football stadium. Other revenue options were there but not explored. We pay very high taxes and receive poor service. I am looking to move to another more friendly/resident-oriented city.
- I think the city needs to significantly cut spending, needs to also cut prop. taxes to match prop. Values of current times. I went to the Bd of Review & they seemed more concerned about their revenue than the actual value of homes. We are all struggling – I've taken significant cuts at work, as have many others. I'd say to quit worrying about the "beauty" of downtown & worry about lowering taxes to get businesses in. Think more of your struggling citizens than your struggling budget. Police can be cut, as much as I normally would not support. What is up with the new Charger?? That's a disgrace & a slap in the face! I think you can raise mileage replacement & get a cheaper car – it may not be "cool" – but you would sure look better. I'm sure there's a lot more that's not visible to the public. It makes all spending questionable.
- Would really like an updated library. Would like continued support for schools. Want to live in a safe community. Thank you.
- Stop relying on government money to fund projects. It's the old carrot ploy, just out of reach. Council, work together or get out.
- All property taxes in the City of Davison need to be adjusted down – as all the values have fallen significantly & older families are struggling to keep up – while their income is on a downward spiral & with the state of the economy it will be difficult for anyone to vote to raise millage in any area.
- Do not like the push to make Davison look like other downtowns, i.e., Northville, Rochester or Frankenmuth. The original appeal was that it was small, comfy & old time. Canopies over sidewalks made it nice to walk downtown in the rain or snow. As they come down I go down there less & less. If I wanted a downtown like Rochester, etc. I would have moved there. If downtown is to grow it must grow to include M-15 as part of it & stop trying to get around it.

Put the rag canvas canopies on M-15. Be honest in government & not hide employee wages in the water bill. Leave it in general fund. If people do not want to pay for it cut it.

- Davison's elected leaders have for years tried to keep the area the "old farming community." If I look at Lapeer who's leadership has lead the city to a thriving community. They have great shopping, many restaurants, and a positive look to their sidewalk appeal. In Davison we have a great police department, a community fire authority, wonderful schools, but a dead downtown. A part of the failure to move forward can be seen in things like the 5 year battle over should the awnings come down or stay. They removed ½ of the awnings, new sidewalk, lighting. The other half is left untouched. This is typical of city council and DDA battling over who knows best. Last thing is the lack of people who are willing to serve on city council or school board.
- It's frustrating to have my property taxes climbing so much when the assessment on my home drops like a rock every year. I'm relatively certain I could not sell my home for what I still owe on it anymore. Yet my taxes keep shooting up. Perhaps I will vote down any millage renewals. I may have no choice.
- Davison is not a tourist trap, and will have a difficult time resembling attractive downtown areas of Rochester, Northville, and Frankenmuth. One reason is downtown, or getting to downtown Davison is not pedestrian friendly. Downtown does not have space to expand because M-15 is too close and is heavily traveled. The city code enforcement office needs to change. They are not consistent with how and what rules they enforce. This office also has multiple roles that conflict with today's modern living. Pertaining to vehicles, recreational and utility vehicles. How homeowners should manage yards, what buildings are acceptable and location on property. Bottom line – it is my property – I own it, I pay taxes on it. City council members are appointed officials, their salaries should be cut in half or not be paid at all. It's the only way to ensure that they will be true public servants and they stay in touch with the community.
- The rating of the governmental officials cannot improve until they are ready to listen to the people. All of the people. Not just the people who can afford changes that the city manager and some council people want. Davison has many citizens who are on a fixed income that are never taken into account. Listen to the needs and wants of the people – they know what they can afford.
- I love the feel of Davison – it has many interesting and unique spaces downtown, that you can see now that the DARK UGLY CANOPIES are down. I realize in tough times, it is hard to do anything more than what is absolutely necessary. I think there are plenty of volunteers for things if only they knew what opportunities were available. Could some projects be done by volunteers?
- Would really like to see the city manage the housing situation better & be more proactive in how they look. Also to see a huge improvement in our library to benefit everyone & to see city & township merge services (such as police, etc.).
- Need government (city council) people that know what they are doing & know government laws & regulations in general. Also people that get along & will agree on things. Ever since the new mayor was elected & now his handpicked "friends" on city council, the council is a joke. What one group wants the others are against. There seems to be constant disarray & disagreement. How can we run a government like that?

- Flint St. & M-15 intersection needs left turn signal. Having lived in Davison since 1962 & family within driving distance has kept me in town. I feel the downtown canopy over the sidewalk is very desirable – we should not have removed those that have been removed.
- Very ordinance-focused, no real focus on real & pressing needs of the area. City council is focused on passing ordinances about how many pets we can have and when we can take out our garbage while ignoring the city's financial situation. In the midst of a bad recession, they discuss drastically increasing the cost of water bills. The bickering needs to stop as well and council members need to behave in a professional manner.
- I think that to cut back in cost many of us have taken a large cut in our pay. Please keep the cost of living in Davison down so the people who like to live here can also afford to. Taxes, water!!
- I am all for the merger of the city with township.
- I have lived in Davison nearly my entire life. It saddens and frustrates me to see a city council that is so "divided" and lacking in vision for the future. In order for the community to flourish decades into the future it not only needs to retain its current residents but it also needs to appeal to new families. Why would a prospective family chose to move to Davison when cities like Fenton and Grand Blanc are equally convenient with many more amenities? Our excellent school system is no longer enough to set us apart from the others. Without future development, growth and change we are resigning ourselves to be an average community at best. What a waste of a great town.
- More attn to the appearance around town: cleaner crisper look not in the old downtown but the M-15 corridor.
- I love the Davison area & the services offered here. I believe that consolidation of services is a great way to save money & improve communication.
- I believe in consolidating city and township, but since it would raise township taxes I cannot see why they would approve such an action.
- Make this survey easier to read and understand for me. Thank you.
- Releasing the Public Works Director and nobody really in charge. City council that seems to spend more time arguing over an issue than solving the problem.
- Current elected officials are embarrassing to the community. Voting on issues they have obviously not researched lacks intelligence & integrity. It if obvious the current new council members are not informed on issues and vote self-servingly. In my many years of living in the City of Davison never have I recalled having a group of elected officials act so stupid. It is downright frightening!

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### **From Davison Township residents:**

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- Davison is a great location for retired people, that is why we live here.
- Losing the rural & old town setting – this is not Rochester of Bloomfield! Don't like direction Twp officials are taking.

- The Township and City should become 1. The community should not try to be something it will never be. Mid-Michigan population is not going to grow much in the near future. Proposed boulevard is not needed. Money could be used on road repairs.
- I believe that it is time to consolidate the three communities. This allows the Davison community to grow as one, instead of competing against each other. Units of government will be reduced along with fire & police departments. Hopefully taxes could be lowered, making it more attractive for others to relocate to our community, including new business.
- Overall I am satisfied with life in Davison. The areas that really need improvement are: road conditions (potholes and general disrepair), snowplowing (more affluent subdivisions get cleared before lower income areas). Government for both City and Township are overstaffed in many areas and overpaid (both in pay and benefits packages) and the school board needs to become more in touch with the community. The school board and upper administration are overpaid both in salary and benefits. Cuts need to be made there before they start cutting teacher pay and supplies. Also frivolous things like million dollar stadiums that are poorly constructed & barely used need to be cut out as long as the economy is down.
- I'm very happy to live in Davison. Good job.
- Our community seems to be divided between the older people that want everything to stay the same and younger people that want to advance to the future which is creating a hard time to get anything done. Such as the canopy removal that only partially got completed. This happens often which I feel creates an inefficient government and a waste of taxpayers' money.
- We need more restaurants and shopping. A mall would be nice.
- I really don't know the (City of) Davison. I think that downtown is beautiful & some of the stores are essential to draw people in. The addition to Salvation Army was great! With the economy & the fact that a lot of people living in Davison or Twp. Are living paycheck to paycheck – unfortunately save less! The grocery (Kroger - 1), Ace Hardware, Library, Sec. of State, etc. – (VG's - 2) – are essential! I wish that the Library had more self-help books, especially faith-based! God bless.
- The town or township needs a rec center like Lapeer's, pool, exercise, etc. – something to do, there is little to do here besides eat – too fat! [drawing/self-portrait provided].
- This county is a microcosm of the State of Michigan as a whole. I moved up to this area, from the Detroit area, where I was born and raised, for many reasons. To escape crime, the hustle & bustle, and to live in the country, to name a few. Raising taxes has been proven thousands of times to hurt the economy and the state in general. Developing every available spot of land for apartments, condos, and malls degrades the quality of the land and feelings toward the city that it was built in. It is not an accident many millions of people live in the country or are trying to.
- Too many police for a small town. Stop buying new police cars all the time.
- The road conditions in my subdivision are terrible, such as snowplowing and road repair.
- Davison is very nice. Please don't raise taxes. ☺

- Overall Davison is a great place to live. The current state of everyone's financial status has put a strain on all budgets. Local governments & taxing agencies need to be far more conservative in cuts and spending. Local property values need to reflect taxes and budgets cut to save for the future. As a close knit community, services need not be eliminated but done by local volunteers who are proud of the area and willing to step up to help in these difficult times.
- I know that we need police – BUT – 29 officers are NOT needed in this SMALL city & township.
- Keep the town safe; it is the best thing that we can do!!
- I like the idea of looking into the merger of city & township.
- (1) Would like to see free music in the park. (2) Something for young people to do – we used to have teen club once a week where we could dance, play ball, or just get together & talk.
- The reason I checked to reduce the budget in schools is that I believe this can be accomplished without reducing education or services. I have looked at other school systems that have gone to a 4-day week and they have saved hundreds of thousands of dollars.
- Would like more restaurants, delis, maybe a Cracker Barrel.
- We need to do something about our corrupt government from the top down and stop letting money buy our votes through big business and big money to keep them on top and the people down. I think we need a revolution! Screw the lobbyist. And the police should start going after real criminals instead of small crime with easy arrests and fines for big money in our society. We need a new government. Ours sucks. Starting to make our country suck. Our government & our constitution are for the people of this country not the corporation or big business. I cannot believe our government has sided with banks, big business, and big money and let the people suffer. I want a new government.
- Davison needs a place for teenagers to hang out, maybe dancing and juice, or pool tables. Skateboarders and in-line skaters make walking through downtown dangerous, especially near the Secretary of State building. Have police patrol town more often and do something to the few who ruin things for many. Davison seems to focus on the very young and the very old; there is a whole group of people between 15-55 yrs who are being overlooked. This is the money earning group, they need more than just a car show and a walk in the park.
- Davison has nothing for children to be involved in. There are no activities to promote involvement.
- Making the area more bicycle-friendly – better crossings/lanes for bikes would be good. We enjoy the walking trail at the park – would like to see expansion & connection to other streets to make it more accessible on foot. The area isn't very visually appealing overall. There are a few nice spots, but it's clear that aesthetics have never been a priority. I do think downtown is looking better. The M-15 corridor needs an upgrade – perhaps more green space, newer signs, lampposts, etc.
- We are very happy with Davison Twp, & the Davison area. We moved from the Flushing area to retire here. Autopay from Davison Twp for water bill. We have no negative on living



except this. This would help very much. We have lived in the Twp since 2001, and consider this our "adopted" area to enjoy our retirement years, except winter months.

- I think that there should be a study on the procedures/rules for the schools. Mostly on discipline & parking areas, etc. The rules of all citizens of Davison. Teachers & staff alike. Procedures & rules, etc. are doing more harm than good for our high school and alternative ed. students.
- City or Twp are run by certain families and friends, that if you are not in this group you are an outsider. Football is overbudgeted, money is filtered into certain businesses that are owned by the "family." Growth is shot down unless owned by the families. Meijer is small and was limited by City/Twp.
- Totally dissatisfied with Twp police. Response time unacceptable – especially with alarm systems. Wouldn't vote for any extras.
- Frankly, I think the biggest obstacle to downtown development is the route of M-15. In Vassar and Millington, M-15 is downtown. Davison's downtown is a block off the highway. The most visible sign of downtown is basically an alley – the rear entrances of Ace Hardware, Karate, etc....If you want people to visit downtown, they have to see it, or be drawn to it. There's currently no draw from State Road.
- I have lived here for 62 years & have been happy. I am raising my great grandson & he is content here also.
- Davison. Excellent schools, people, parks, great restaurants, etc.
- We lived on the Genesee/Lapeer County line for 23 years and most of that time we shopped in Davison. At the time our son was in Davison High School for 4 years even though we were technically in Lapeer County. So when we sold our house 1½ years ago the only obvious place to go was Davison.
- Do not raise taxes!
- Me and my family would greatly appreciate our road being paved.
- We love Davison!
- Would like to have more walking trails. And connect Abernathy Park Trail to Davison Twp. Trail. Would like to see blvd on Flint Street (median).
- Would not support a merger with the city. They have too many political issue, internal bickering within the city council, and personal animosities toward one another and the township. Traffic congestion continues to be a concern; controlled growth with single-family homes rather than more apartment complex units that bring traffic & crime to the area.
- I believe the students of Davison need more activities or places to go, i.e., theater – skate park – public pool – ice rink. If they do not have a driver's license, they need to be driven to movies or whatever. We have a beautiful park, the activities however are geared to pre-teen and younger.
- Taxes are too high and the reason we will soon be relocating outside of Davison. There is no reason our taxes should be so excessive. Twp. officials are greedy.

- We need to keep our priority of needs: school, police, fire department. Don't need bike trails or sidewalks at this time, when we need jobs and not to tax us more. We live on a fixed income & with our son losing his job he had to move home. So we have extra expense. Money doesn't go that far when you have just [?] bill, consumers, phone, grocery – dr. bills – Rx's, insurance, car/home.
- I love the city and township of Davison, especially the small-town spirit.
- We are proud to be members of the Davison community. It has come a long way since we moved here. If they put a movie theatre & a sporting goods store here...all of our needs would be right here.
- (1) Why would politicians even consider eliminating one lane of Davison Road @ M-15 and plant flowers @ taxpayers' cost? Are you people out of your mind? (2) If you consolidate Davison Township Police with Davison City Police, why would taxpayers in Davison Township pay more cost? (3) In today's economy, we need less political offices and reduce their hours worked and/or pay. (4) We all need to look at cost reductions in all programs @ the national, state, and local levels!!
- I enjoy having the bank, grocery & downtown so close. The neighborhood has been great to walk in. The choice came to move and I could have moved west toward Durand or east to Davison – I believe I've made the right choice. Sincerely, R.S.
- I love my town. I love the activities and the concern that they have toward family activities.
- I am thankful to have Larson's Ace downtown – they are so helpful when I have a question. Also appreciate the Sec. of State office so close (walk). I use the Black Creek Trail 3-5 times/week – it's great! I do wish there were bike paths in this area – I would enjoy riding them (safer than the roads).
- The people of Davison are friendly & warm. The school system is excellent and responds to the needs of its students. There are some outstanding teachers. The city has many activities for kids so that they can get a hometown feeling – parades, musical programs, lots of sports, etc. They are developing a very nice park system. Downtown is looking better. I didn't mind the porches over the sidewalks but I must admit they look much better without them. (Of course they were designed to look like shops sitting in the cheaper part of Chicago under the EL. They could have had a better design). The police in the past were known for their brutality toward youth. I don't know if this is true now, but they should be taught to behave professionally towards all citizens. On my minor calls they have responded well. We have been very happy in Davison. One son lives here now, and the other two would like to return.
- I like the canopies. We love the walking trails. It's been a great place to raise a family, great educational system, friendly people. We plan to retire here.
- The police need to crack down on people who run yellow lights, roll thru stop signs, don't dim headlights & ticket people who are not handicapped that park in handicap spots!
- It's ridiculous that government monies are wasted on giving people cars to drive during not just work hours but for personal use too. I would like to see my tax dollars go for police/fire and schools. If the City & Township combined, we could eliminate several duplicated jobs,

so my tax dollars could work for education, police and fire. Other states don't have cities and townships. If you live in, say, Alexandria, VA it doesn't matter if you live right in the downtown area or the city – it's all considered the same: one mayor, etc. Makes more sense to mirror thriving cities than to waste my money on thoughts and studies with no action.

- Where does one particular township official get off telling the people of Davison how many pets they can have! If he gets his way I am leaving Davison! Who does he think he is????!!!
- Nice clean place to live, water bills too high. Would like a streetlight on corner of our street, Newcastle Dr. when dark out, cannot see the street, the light there was put in wrong place.
- Have flea markets and concerts with local talent.
- Some questions do not apply to responders present. Our last family member, a grandchild, graduated from the school system in 1999, so we have no firsthand knowledge of current school conditions.
- Instead of cutting police, firefighters, or teachers make officials take a wage cut. No Raises for officials!
- Traffic speed should be reduced to 35 on Davison Rd from current speed of 50. 1) Improve "quality of life" by reducing noise. 2) Save fuel. 3) Making use of the new sidewalks more desirable as the slower traffic speed will allow the walker to feel safe. 4) Probably reduce the number of semi-tractors who, in my opinion, use Davison Rd rather than M-15, to connect with I-69 because M-15 is too congested. Officials will better serve the community by spending their time and energy on topics the residents are interested in and stop planning to further over-develop and commercialize the township.
- Wonderful community. Great cooperation between DT, DC and DCS.
- 1. We need bike/walking paths to get around without driving. It will help people stay in shape, plus save them money and save the environment. 2. Too many police per resident. They are too busy pulling people over for minor things like turn signals out. We do need them, but I feel we have too many. Need to cut back. 3. Very happy with Township garbage & waste collections. 4. Assessments TOO HIGH STILL. Wish houses would sell for their assessments. It is so sad what is happening to our real estate values. 5. Love Township water & sewer even though it costs more than before. Wish it was in more areas of Davison City & Township. Would possibly move to another house. 6. I realize cuts will have to be made, but everyone is having to make cuts. Hopefully things will even out for all of us. Good luck to all of you and God bless you.
- What Davison/Davison Township needs is one more trailer park!
- I live in the township and we Never get our street plowed (once this year). Recycling needs to be picked up weekly.
- More frequent police patrolling at Windsor Place would be appreciated. I enjoy living here for the most part but there are a lot of inconsiderate residents here. I realize it is management's job to handle this sort of thing. But frequent police presence lets good people feel safe and bad people feel watched.
- I love living in Davison. We are outgrowing our tiny little condo, with a five-year-old! We really need to find a home with our own backyard! I don't know if we can stay in Davison,

but I'm hoping so. The people are friendly here & it seems like a safe place to live. I've never really had any need to deal w/police or ambulance, city/twp officials – but I think Davison is just an all-around great place to live. Thank you, [signed]

- Very good place to live.
- I like living in Davison, you are in the country but close to all your needs. Very pleasant community. The downfall was the school system; I had heard good things when I moved here, but my experience has not at all lived up to it.

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### **From Richfield Township residents:**

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- A thought – if you were born here you fit in, if not don't move here. Don't plan on making friends here. We have moved around a lot. This isn't one of our favorite places. Glad to see the city has plenty of police officers; that makes it a safer place. All in all the price of city rent here is way too high; out next move will be to the City of Burton.
- Davison is a great community to live in. The churches are numerous and congregations are friendly. We attend Davison Free Methodist where Pastor Brad Burton is a great influence and leader. We've been impressed by the schools and staff. The Davison community has a small town atmosphere with friendly people, great restaurants and banks, credit unions and grocery stores.
- Some of my answers are not fair because I have spent the last three months in Florida. We are snowbirds and spend almost six months in FL. I have had five children, 2 stepchildren and 2 grandchildren go through the Davison school system and consider it an excellent school system.
- I liked the small-town atmosphere of Davison and wouldn't like to see it become a typical city suburb with big-box stores and chain restaurants. I was dismayed when Meijer's built the Irish Rd. store. I think Davison should revive its old-timey feel while moving forward. More should be done to make downtown "charming" and a draw for shoppers. I can think of several "themes." It's too bad some of the historical buildings are now gone – the movie theater, the train station, etc., but the old "small-town America" look could be revived. It's wonderful that Davison still has many community activities, celebrations, parades, etc. downtown. Love "Art in the Park." The park is a huge asset too. The library does a great job & should be supported fully. The local businesses are great, esp. in supporting the schools and community enterprises. Everything that can be done, should be done, to keep them here. Oh, and I really enjoy the Farmers Market each summer – it's wonderful.
- Keep the community safe, keep hometown "feel," bring industry to our area.
- I grew up in Richfield Twp. I moved back to Davison so my children would grow up in the same prospering environment that I did. I love the area and am proud to be from Davison.
- All 3 police departments need to be combined. Also, reduce pension cost by lowering multiplier of 2.5 to 1.5 to match other government jobs, i.e., teachers.
- I opened a business this last August in Davison Twp and am very happy by the response and helpfulness of the Davison Twp office staff, incl. inspectors. Our electric bill is supposed to be raised soon according to the *Davison Flagstaff*, so I don't know for sure if I would vote for renewal of the schools millage.

- The Davison, Davison Twp, and Richfield area is a great place to live. I moved to the area in 1973 & lived, first in Davison Township, then City of Davison, and now Richfield Township, a combination of 37 years. In the earlier years I drove to work on I-69, which made the trip fast & convenient. I always do shopping locally. We have a great variety of stores within our area. In recent years I have taken part in the activities at the Davison Senior Center, I believe in Davison Twp. Others come to take part in classes or groups, sports or reading, but mainly it's the residents of the D-DT-RT area who enjoy socializing and learning there the most and who appreciate it so much. The Davison Senior Center is a vital and important part of our area.
- Community services, e.g., police, fire, gov't should be consolidated if there will be no loss of efficiency and there is a cost savings. Government should be the minimum necessary to provided needed services, and maintain the community. We should partner with surrounding communities wherever possible.
- Davison Twp public offices are full of attitudes of power, and they will tell you it. I pointed out a problem w/the Township wasting a lot of money being overcharged on outside contractor work only to be blown-off and advised to back off. Township supervisor didn't have the time to take my calls. Don't complain about police services either; they seem to hold a grudge.
- I am 70 years old – Other than going to church I don't utilize any of the services your questions are about.
- We needed to come home to Davison to be near my family to help take care of me and my son. At least be nearby for emergencies and help. It has the most [memories?] for me. I like the schools for my new young son, and grandson.
- One thing I have a very strong opinion on is that our schools are not what everyone says they are. I also have to say the changes to the buildings downtown, for example the awnings, were not necessary. That money could be used for the much needed improvement to our school system. Oh, and the football field should have never been built; that money could have been put to something much more useful. This is a concerned parent and citizen in the City of Davison, and I hope this is actually looked at.
- Left turn arrow needed at M-21 & M-15. I loved raising my family in this community.
- I feel sorry for Jimmy's Café and White Panda. I enjoy them but cannot find parking (not even handicap) when judo place has classes. I am glad they are doing good but want to park close to the restaurants. #7 consolidation should be studied, or at least look into. This does not mean we must consolidate, or should consolidate.
- We need a dog park. I no longer feel save at Richfield Park like I did when I was a kid. I'm afraid to go there to walk my dog by myself. Very tired of being taxed. I like recycling.
- The roads really need help!
- 1. Put in map of area discussed. For the shopping Qs: is there even a full grocery store in the City of Davison? I thought Davison-Flint Rd. was the boundary which makes VGs and Kroger north of the city and in Richfield. 2. For the police millage – does not renewing it mean no police or only reduced? Could less costly person take reports of stolen merchandise or other non-direct?

- I like it here, moved here in 1972. Raised family and have no desire to leave because it changes little. I don't like change, especially rapid change.
- Richfield Rd has no natural gas on a short distance between State Rd and Oak. About 5 or 6 houses have it east of State Rd. The rest of the people to Oak Rd don't have it; gas starts at Oak and goes east. The cost of propane is very expensive & costly.
- I would like to see results of survey, what the information was gathered for, who requested the survey and what if any action plan is developed.

## **Instrument**



## Davison Area Citizen Survey

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Winter 2010

Dear Madam or Sir:

**We need your input!** The City of Davison, Davison Township, and Davison Community Schools have partnered with Oakland University to implement this opinion survey of Davison area residents.

Your name has been randomly selected from the pool of registered voters locally. Your views, along with those of your neighbors, will be used to improve existing services and programs and to establish priorities for the future.

Completing this questionnaire should take no more than 10-15 minutes. Please return it to us in the prepaid envelope provided. **Participation is voluntary and all of your answers are confidential.** The ID number below is used solely to remove your name from our mailing list once we receive your response.

An electronic copy of the results will be made available on the web. Questions? Please feel free to contact us.

**Thanks for your help!**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J.P. Piskulich".

J.P. Piskulich, Director  
Public Affairs Research Laboratory (PARL)  
Oakland University  
Rochester, MI 48309  
*ppiskuli@oakland.edu, 248.370.2454*

ID: \_\_\_\_\_



## Section 1: General Satisfaction

1. I live in:  the City of Davison     Davison Township     Richfield Township

2. Overall, how would you rate the Davison-Richfield area as a place to live?

Very Satisfied     Satisfied     Uncertain     Dissatisfied     Very Dissatisfied

3. What would you say are the **best** and **worst** things about living in this area?

*Please specify:*

**Best:**

**Worst:**

4. How would you rate each of the following public services?

	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Adequate</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Uncertain</i>
Police protection	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fire protection	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Roads	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Schools	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parks, trails, recreational opportunities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Library	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Senior Center	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
MTA <i>Your Ride</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
City/township government, in general	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

5. How would you rate your city or township government on each of the following dimensions? *(Please ✓ the bubble on each line closest to your view.)*

	<i>Very Much So</i>	<i>Somewhat So</i>	<i>Uncertain</i>	<i>Somewhat So</i>	<i>Very Much So</i>	
• Closed, distant	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Open, accessible
• Stuck in the past	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Forward looking
• Ineffective	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Effective
• Wasteful	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Thrifty
• Out of touch with my needs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	In touch with my needs

## Section 2: More on Public Services

*Difficult economic times require all of us to tighten our belts. City and township officials must establish priorities as they decide what services to cut and by how much.*

- 6. Suppose that cuts must be imposed in order to balance the budget. Which of the following services, if any, are you willing to reduce or eliminate?**  
*(Please ✓ one bubble in each row)*

	<i>Leave alone</i>	<i>Reduce budget</i>	<i>Eliminate service</i>
Police protection	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fire protection	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Roads/public works	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Schools	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parks, trails, recreation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Library	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Senior Center	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Building inspection & code enforcement	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Community & economic development	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

*Consolidating services across governments is another way to cut costs. Fire protection, the Davison Area Senior Center, and the Davison Community Enrichment & Recreation (DCER) program are examples of inter-local cooperation between the City of Davison, Davison Township, and the Davison Community Schools.*

- 7. Are there services on the following list that you believe should, or should not, be studied for consolidation?**

	<i>Should be studied</i>	<i>Should not be studied</i>	<i>Uncertain</i>
Police protection	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Roads/public works	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Schools	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parks, trails, recreation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Building inspection & code enforcement	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Community & economic development	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
City/township government, in general	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

8. Did you or any member of your household participate in a Davison Community & Enrichment activity during the past year (2009)?

- Yes     No     Uncertain

 ***If Yes, how would you rate that program?***

- Very Satisfied     Satisfied     Uncertain     Dissatisfied     Very Dissatisfied

### ***Section 3: Communications***

9. Have you read any of the following newspapers in the past month?

- *Davison Flagstaff*                       Yes     No     Can't recall
- *Davison Index*                         Yes     No     Can't recall
- *Flint Journal*                          Yes     No     Can't recall

10. Have you visited any of the following websites in the past three months?

- *www.cityofdavison.org*               Yes     No     Can't recall
- *www.davisonwp-mi.org*               Yes     No     Can't recall
- *www.davisonschools.org*             Yes     No     Can't recall

***Did you know? The City of Davison is now on Facebook. Come visit us!***

11. Have you received any of the following during the past year?

- *A podcast from the Davison Community Schools*               Yes     No     Can't recall
- *A paper newsletter from the Davison Community Schools*               Yes     No     Can't recall
- *An electronic newsletter from the City of Davison*               Yes     No     Can't recall

***Did you know? DTV is the student-operated television station of the Davison Community Schools. It is broadcast on Charter Cable as a Public Educational Channel with agreements between Charter and the district, city of Davison, Davison Township, and Richfield Township. Formerly channel 19, it moved to channel 99 in December.***

12. Have you watched DTV at any time during the past year?

- Yes     No     Can't recall

## Section 4: Davison Community Schools

13. Do you currently have a school-age child living in your household (*i.e.*, Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade)?

- Yes       No

14. How would you rate the quality of education offered by Davison Community Schools?

- Excellent     Above Average     Average     Below Average     Poor     Uncertain

15. Have you had reason to visit one of the Davison Community schools during the past two years?

- Yes, several times       Yes, once or twice       No, never       Can't recall

16. How would you rate the quality of the buildings and upkeep offered by Davison Community Schools?

- Excellent     Above Average     Average     Below Average     Poor     Uncertain

*Did you know? Two millages funding Davison Community Schools will expire in the next two years.*

17. If an election was held today, which of the following statements best describes your position on these school millages? (*Please ✓ one*)

- I would vote in favor of renewing these millages.  
 I would vote against renewing these millages.  
 I am uncertain as to how I would vote on these millage renewals.

## Section 5: Davison Township Police Services

*Did you know? A millage funding Township police services will expire in August.*

18. If an election was held today, which of the following statements best describes your position on this millage? (*Please ✓ one*)

- I would vote in favor of renewing this millage.  
 I would vote against renewing this millage.  
 I am uncertain as to how I would vote on this millage renewal.

## Section 6: Amenities

**19. Where would you say that you conduct most of your business, in each of the categories listed below?**

	<i>Davison Township</i>	<i>City of Davison</i>	<i>Elsewhere</i>	<i>Uncertain</i>
Shopping, grocery	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Shopping, retail	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Services (e.g., dry cleaning)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Car-related, sales & service	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dining out, fast food	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dining out, other restaurants	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Music/entertainment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

*Downtown areas are continuously in a state of development and redevelopment. The following questions ask about your vision for the City of Davison.*

**20. During the past year, how often would you say that you visited downtown Davison, on average?** *(Please ✓ one)*

- Daily   
  Weekly   
  Monthly   
  About 6 times   
  Once or twice   
  Never   
  Uncertain

**21. For what reason(s) did you visit downtown Davison?** *(Please ✓ all that apply)*

- live downtown                     
  use library                             
  visit Secretary of State  
 work downtown                     
  attend church                             
  other: \_\_\_\_\_  
 shopping                             
  attend a special event  
 eating/restaurant                     
  visit City Hall

**22. Which three of the following would you find most appealing in Davison's downtown corridor?** *(Please ✓ only 3)*

- condominiums/apartments                     
  services (e.g., banking)  
 restaurants/dining                             
  arts (e.g., theatre, galleries)  
 music/entertainment                             
  new library  
 retail/shopping                             
  other: \_\_\_\_\_  
 grocery/food

*Please consider for a moment your vision of an attractive downtown, or maybe others with which you are familiar, like Rochester, Northville, or Frankenmuth.*

**23. Which three of the following would you say are most important to such a setting?** *(Please ✓ only 3)*

- benches
- brick paving
- building architecture
- distinctive streetlights, signs
- green spaces/parks
- trees
- wide sidewalks
- flowers/landscaping
- other: \_\_\_\_\_

## ***Section 7: Please Tell Us About Yourself***

**24. Please indicate your sex:**     Male                       Female

**25. Please indicate your age:**

- Under 25                       46-55
- 26-35                          56-65
- 36-45                          Over 65

**26. How long have you lived in the Davison area?**

- Less than 1 year
- 1-5 years
- 6-10 years
- 11-20 years
- More than 20 years

**27. What would you say was the most important reason that you decided to live here?** *(Please ✓ one)*

- available housing
- family ties
- environment/"feel" of the community
- geographic location
- school system
- place of/proximity to employment
- property values
- other: \_\_\_\_\_

**28. Do you work outside the Davison area?**

- Yes
- No
- Retired

**29. Approximately how many miles do you travel to work each day, round-trip?**

- Less than 5 miles
- 6-10 miles
- 11-20 miles
- 21-30 miles
- 31-40 miles
- 41-50 miles
- More than 50 miles

**Comments?** *Please use the space below to share any additional thoughts with us.*

***Your survey is complete. Thanks!***