Town of Orange
Plan of Conservation and Development Update
Public Survey Results

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Town of Orange
Plan and Zoning Commission

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Introduction

As part of the public engagement process for the 2025 Town of Orange Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) update, a public survey was conducted to gather community input on key issues and opportunities explored in the Plan. This feedback is critical to shape a POCD update that reflects the town's shared values and aspirations.

The survey was open from January 6th to February 17th, 2025, available online on the Town of Orange website and promoted through social media and local news outlets, such as the Milford-Orange Times, Orange Live, Orange Town News. Results from the survey will help guide the planning team in identifying priorities, shaping recommendations, and drafting the Plan's vision statement.

A total of 228 people responded to the survey. All responses remain confidential, with results presented in raw summary format. The survey included 16 multiple-choice, rating, or ranking questions, along with three demographic questions.

Overview of Key Findings

The planning team sought to gather input from a diverse range of stakeholders. Among the respondents, approximately 76% are Orange residents, 5% work in Orange, 18% are both residents and work in Orange, and 1% are neither.

Regarding age distribution, the largest groups of respondents were aged 40-49 (~26%) and 50-59 (~21%). The next most represented age groups were 60-69 (~18%) and 70-79 (~15%). Additionally, around 11% of respondents were aged 30-39, approximately 5% were 80 and older, and about 4% of respondents were aged 20-29.

Respondents generally had long-term ties to Orange, with over half (~53%) having lived in the town for more than 20 years. The remaining respondents were fairly evenly distributed among those who had lived in town for 2-5, 6-10, 11-15, and 16-20 years. Only 5% had lived in Orange for less than 2 years.

The following pages include all raw data from survey responses. Below is a summary of key takeaways.

Strengths:
- Top strengths: schools, quality of life (cleanliness, safety, access to nature, sense of community, etc.), location, and parks and open space.

Weaknesses:
- Biggest concerns: affordable cost of living, taxes, and public services (trash pickup, snow plowing, etc.).

Future Residency:
- Approximately 61% of respondents plan to stay in Orange for 10 years, 11% do not, and 22% are unsure.

Town Priorities for the Next 5 Years:
- High priority: preserving residential neighborhoods.

- Moderate priorities: expanding senior housing options (age-restricted) and adopting zoning code revisions to allow homeowners to make changes to their property more easily.
- Low priority: expanding housing options at a mix of price points.

Housing Types:
- Most respondents believe that Orange has the right amount and mix of housing types.
- Many respondents also see a need for more senior housing and affordable or workforce housing.

Concerns with Potential New Development:
- Top concerns: school capacity, infrastructure limitations (water, sewer), and parking/traffic.

Open Space:
- Approximately 47% of respondents view converting private open space into dedicated open space owned by the Town or Land Trust as a high priority. Around 31% see it as a moderate priority.

Healthier Environment and Greener Community:
- Strong support for preserving and expanding open space, improving the pedestrian and bike environment, and protecting drinking water.
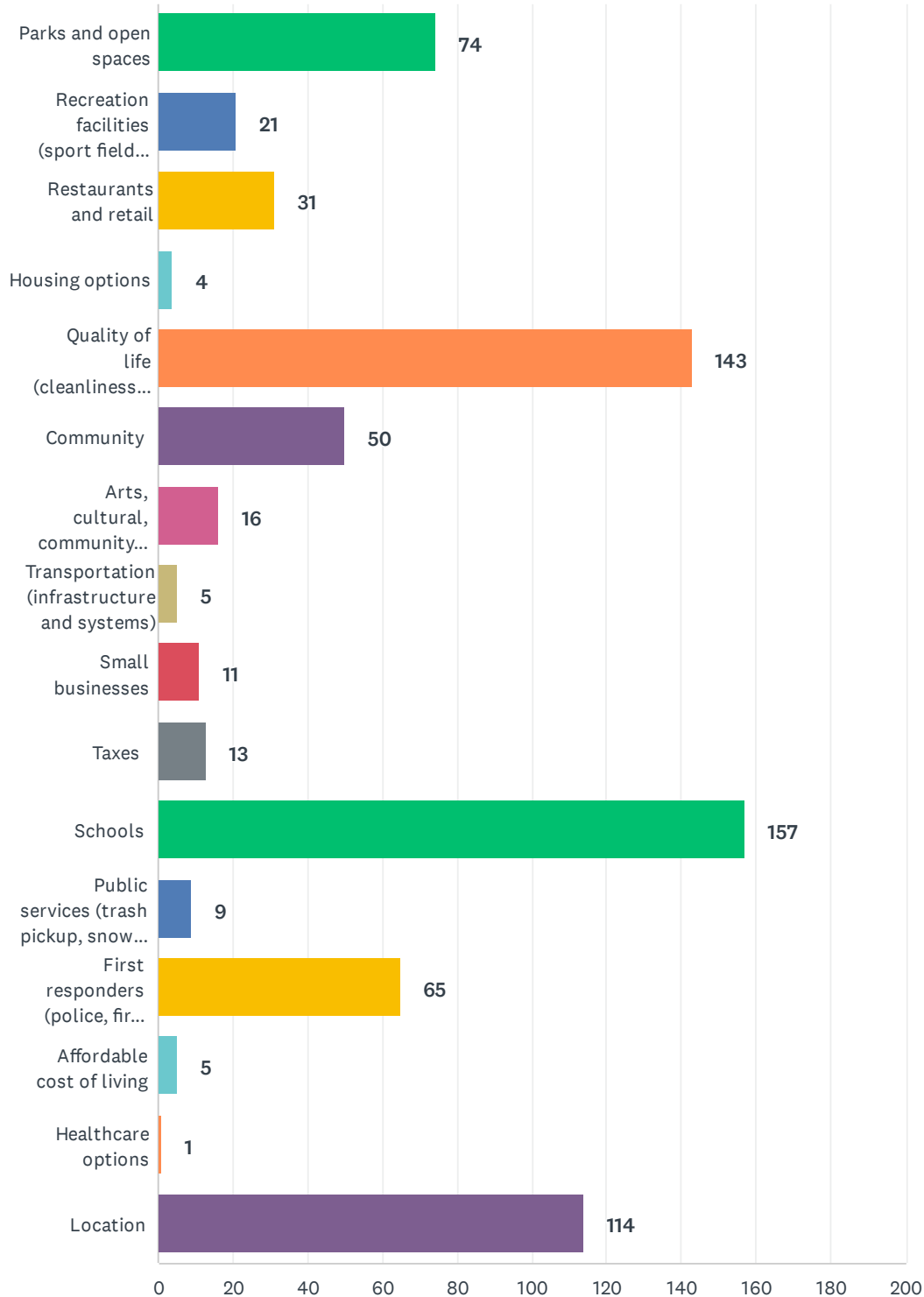
Economic Development:
- Most popular strategy: supporting local entrepreneurship, especially small businesses.
- Most desired new businesses: cafes, bakeries, coffee shops, restaurants, and bars.

Transportation:
- Approximately 63% of respondents support the creation of sidewalks on both sides of Route 1.
- Around 68% of respondents feel uncomfortable walking and think that sidewalks are inadequate.
- Around 55% of respondents stated they experience traffic/congestion regularly, 53% encounter speeding, and 43% reported issues of bicycling safety.

Q1 What are the Town's greatest strengths? Please select your top three (3) choices.

Answered: 227   Skipped: 1

Category	Value
Parks and open spaces	74
Recreation facilities (sport field...	21
Restaurants and retail	31
Housing options	4
Quality of life (cleanliness...	143
Community	50
Arts, cultural, community...	16
Transportation (infrastructure and systems)	5
Small businesses	11
Taxes	13
Schools	157
Public services (trash pickup, snow...	9
First responders (police, fir...	65
Affordable cost of living	5
Healthcare options	1
Location	114

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Parks and open spaces (1)	32.60%	74
Recreation facilities (sport fields, indoor facilities, etc.) (2)	9.25%	21
Restaurants and retail (3)	13.66%	31
Housing options (4)	1.76%	4
Quality of life (cleanliness, safety, access to nature, sense of community, etc.) (5)	63.00%	143
Community (6)	22.03%	50
Arts, cultural, community events, organizations	7.05%	16
Transportation (infrastructure and systems) (8)	2.20%	5
Small businesses (9)	4.85%	11
Taxes (10)	5.73%	13
Schools (11)	69.16%	157
Public services (trash pickup, snow plowing, etc.) (12)	3.96%	9
First responders (police, fire, EMS, etc.) (13)	28.63%	65
Affordable cost of living (14)	2.20%	5
Healthcare options (15)	0.44%	1
Location (16)	50.22%	114
Total Respondents: 227		

BASIC STATISTICS				
Minimum 1.00	Maximum 16.00	Median 10.00	Mean 8.64	Standard Deviation 4.89

Q2 What are the Town's greatest weaknesses (i.e. the things that hold the Town back)? Please select your top three (3) choices.
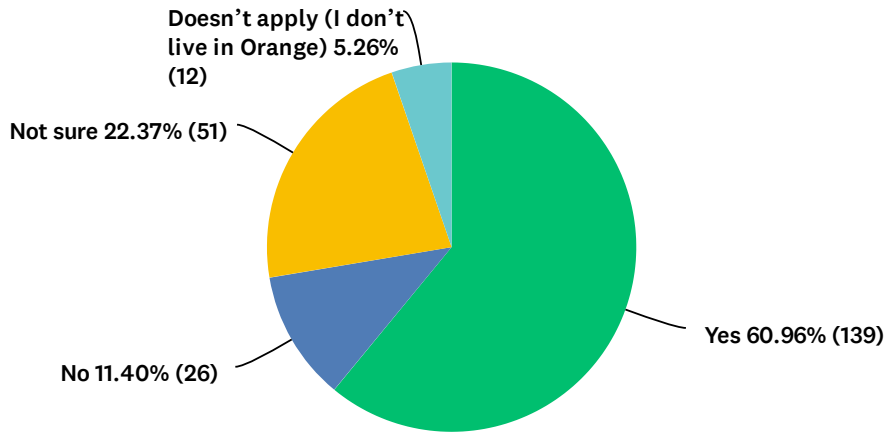
Answered: 218   Skipped: 10

Category	Value
Affordable cost of living	92
Taxes	86
Public services (trash pickup, snow...	82
Restaurants and retail	63
Housing options	57
Recreation facilities (sport field...	52
Transportation (infrastructure and systems)	52
Arts, cultural, and community...	36
Small businesses	27
Parks and open spaces	21
Healthcare options	14
Community	11
Quality of life (cleanliness...	8
First responders (police, fir...	6
Schools	5
Location	3

Town of Orange Plan of Conservation and Development

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Affordable cost of living (14)	42.20%	92
Taxes (10)	39.45%	86
Public services (trash pickup, snow plowing, etc.) (12)	37.61%	82
Restaurants and retail (3)	28.90%	63
Housing options (4)	26.15%	57
Recreation facilities (sport fields, indoor facilities, etc.) (2)	23.85%	52
Transportation (infrastructure and systems) (8)	23.85%	52
Arts, cultural, and community events and organizations (7)	16.51%	36
Small businesses (9)	12.39%	27
Parks and open spaces (1)	9.63%	21
Healthcare options (15)	6.42%	14
Community (6)	5.05%	11
Quality of life (cleanliness, safety, access to nature/beaches, sense of community, etc.) (5)	3.67%	8
First responders (police, fire, EMS, etc.) (13)	2.75%	6
Schools (11)	2.29%	5
Location (16)	1.38%	3
Total Respondents: 218		

BASIC STATISTICS				
Minimum 1.00	Maximum 16.00	Median 9.00	Mean 8.26	Standard Deviation 4.34

Q3 If you are a resident of Orange, do you see yourself living in Orange 10 years from now?
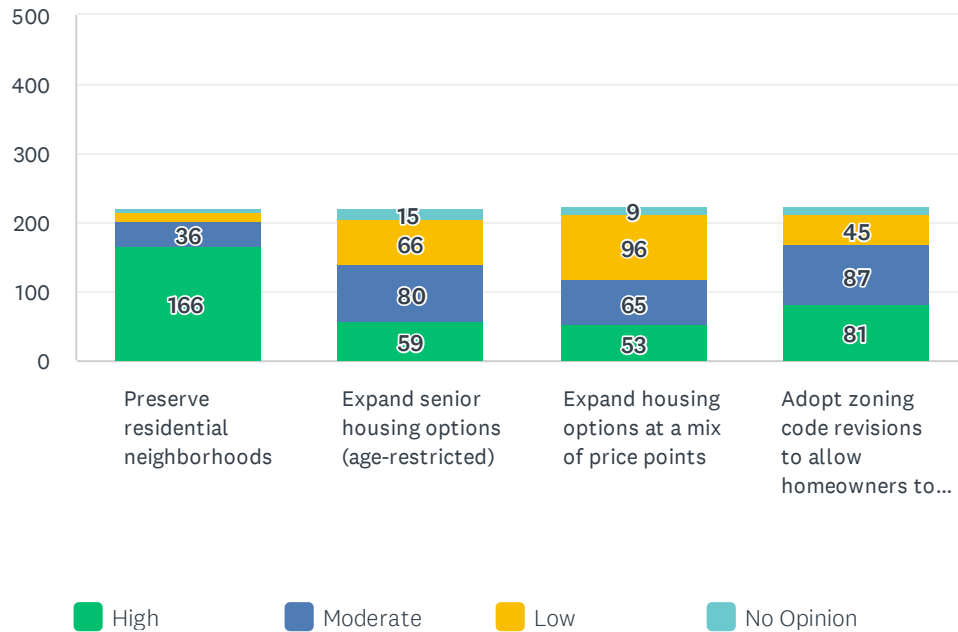
Answered: 228   Skipped: 0

Doesn't apply (I don't live in Orange) 5.26% (12)

Not sure 22.37% (51)

No 11.40% (26)

Yes 60.96% (139)

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes (1)	60.96%	139
No (2)	11.40%	26
Not sure (3)	22.37%	51
Doesn't apply (I don't live in Orange) (4)	5.26%	12
TOTAL		228

BASIC STATISTICS				
Minimum	Maximum	Median	Mean	Standard Deviation
1.00	4.00	1.00	1.72	0.98

Q4 During the next 5 years, what priority should the Town give to the following areas? [Rate: High, Moderate, Low, No Opinion]
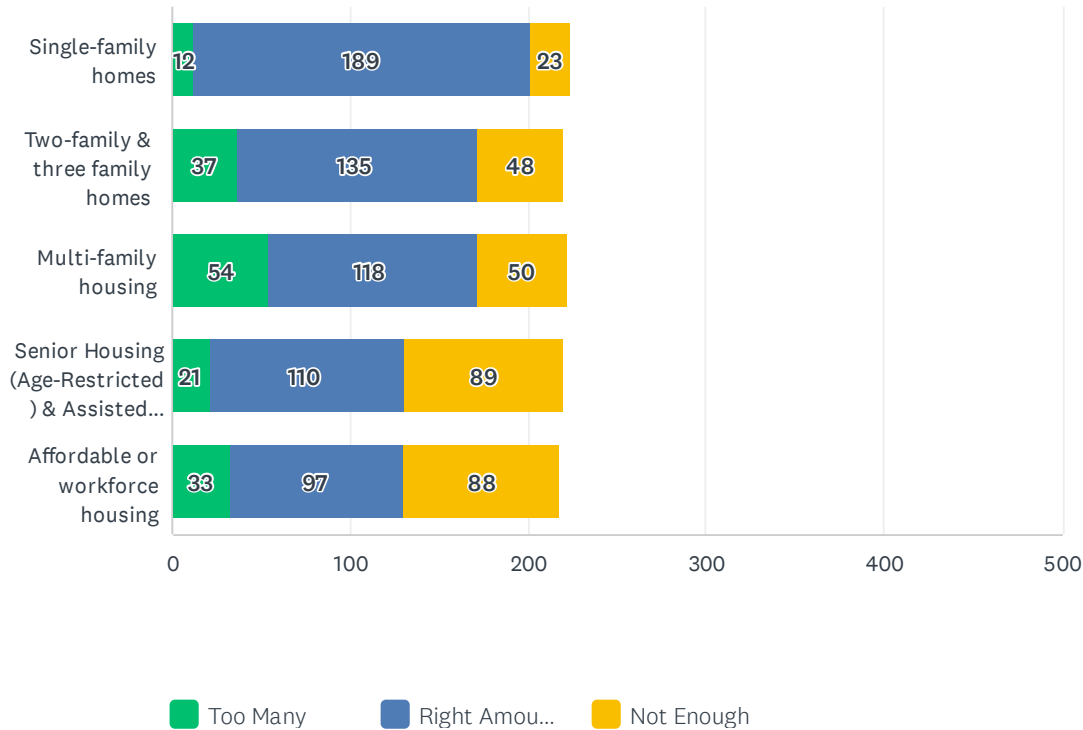
Answered: 226   Skipped: 2

	HIGH (1)	MODERATE (2)	LOW (3)	NO OPINION (4)	TOTAL
Preserve residential neighborhoods	75.45% 166	16.36% 36	6.36% 14	1.82% 4	220
Expand senior housing options (age-restricted)	26.82% 59	36.36% 80	30.00% 66	6.82% 15	220
Expand housing options at a mix of price points	23.77% 53	29.15% 65	43.05% 96	4.04% 9	223
Adopt zoning code revisions to allow homeowners to make changes to their property more easily, i.e., minor changes to sheds and garages and streamlining permitting for undersized lots	36.32% 81	39.01% 87	20.18% 45	4.48% 10	223

BASIC STATISTICS					
	MINIMUM	MAXIMUM	MEDIAN	MEAN	STANDARD DEVIATION
Preserve residential neighborhoods	1.00	4.00	1.00	1.35	0.68
Expand senior housing options (age-restricted)	1.00	4.00	2.00	2.17	0.90
Expand housing options at a mix of price points	1.00	4.00	2.00	2.27	0.87
Adopt zoning code revisions to allow homeowners to make changes to their property more easily, i.e., minor changes to sheds and garages and streamlining permitting for undersized lots	1.00	4.00	2.00	1.93	0.86

Q5 Does Orange have too many, about the right amount, or not enough of the following housing types?
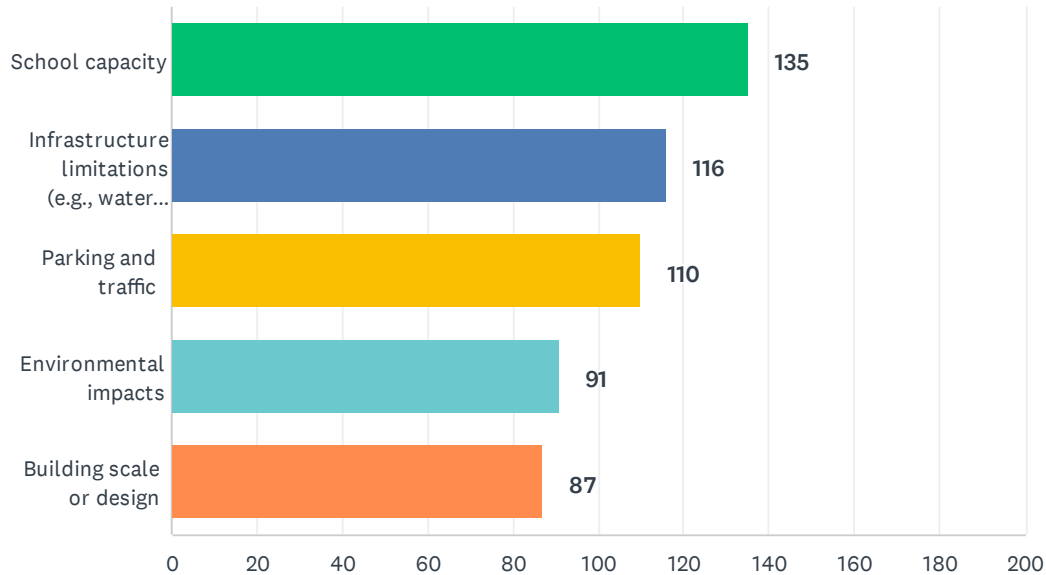
Answered: 225   Skipped: 3

	TOO MANY (1)	RIGHT AMOUNT (2)	NOT ENOUGH (3)	TOTAL
Single-family homes	5.36% 12	84.38% 189	10.27% 23	224
Two-family & three family homes	16.82% 37	61.36% 135	21.82% 48	220
Multi-family housing	24.32% 54	53.15% 118	22.52% 50	222
Senior Housing (Age-Restricted) & Assisted living facilities	9.55% 21	50.00% 110	40.45% 89	220
Affordable or workforce housing	15.14% 33	44.50% 97	40.37% 88	218

BASIC STATISTICS					
	MINIMUM	**MAXIMUM**	**MEDIAN**	**MEAN**	**STANDARD DEVIATION**
Single-family homes	1.00	3.00	2.00	2.05	0.39
Two-family & three family homes	1.00	3.00	2.00	2.05	0.62
Multi-family housing	1.00	3.00	2.00	1.98	0.68
Senior Housing (Age-Restricted) & Assisted living facilities	1.00	3.00	2.00	2.31	0.64
Affordable or workforce housing	1.00	3.00	2.00	2.25	0.70

Q6 What, if any, are your concerns when you hear about potential new development in Orange? Please select up to three (3).
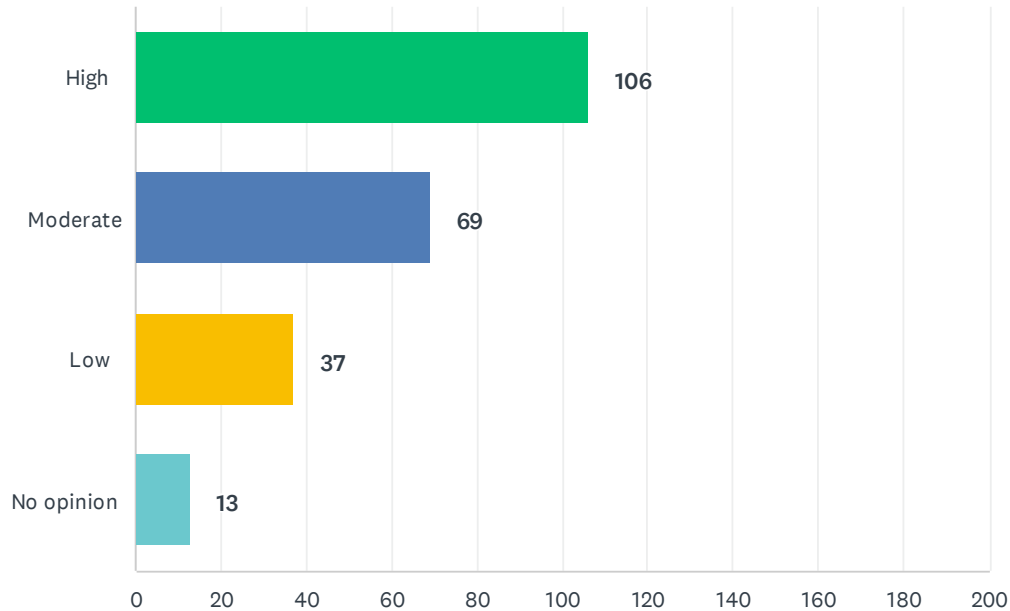
Answered: 221   Skipped: 7

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
School capacity (4)	61.09%	135
Infrastructure limitations (e.g., water, sewer) (5)	52.49%	116
Parking and traffic (3)	49.77%	110
Environmental impacts (2)	41.18%	91
Building scale or design (1)	39.37%	87
Total Respondents: 221		

BASIC STATISTICS				
Minimum 1.00	Maximum 5.00	Median 3.00	Mean 3.19	Standard Deviation 1.37

Q7 What priority should the Town give to converting private open space into dedicated open space owned by the Town or Land Trust?
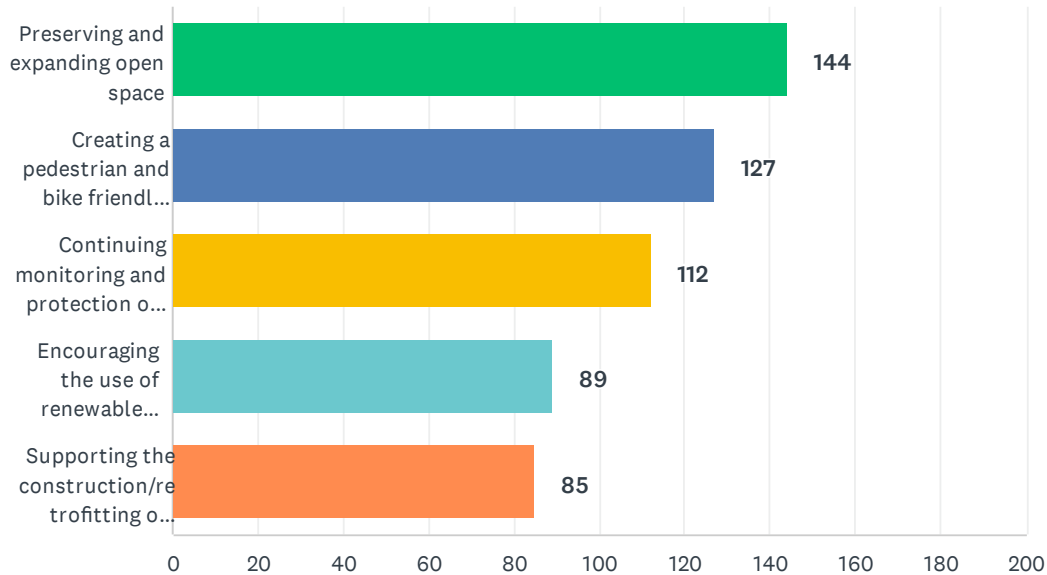
Answered: 225   Skipped: 3

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
High (1)	47.11%	106
Moderate (2)	30.67%	69
Low (3)	16.44%	37
No opinion (4)	5.78%	13
TOTAL		225

BASIC STATISTICS

Minimum	Maximum	Median	Mean	Standard Deviation
1.00	4.00	2.00	1.81	0.91

Q8 Which of the following objectives do you believe to support a healthier environment and greener community?
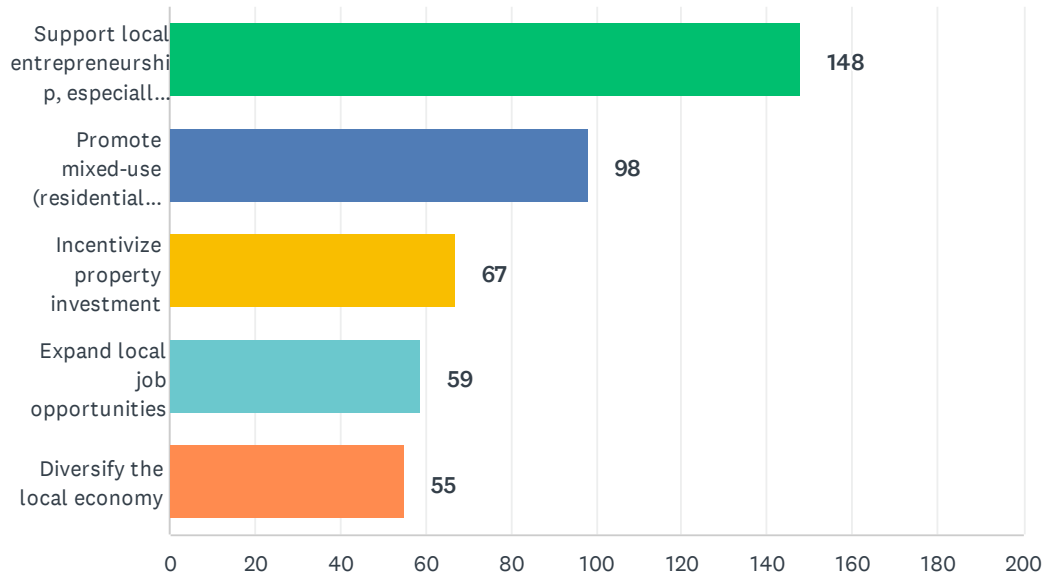
Answered: 225   Skipped: 3

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Preserving and expanding open space (3)	64.00%	144
Creating a pedestrian and bike friendly environment (1)	56.44%	127
Continuing monitoring and protection of drinking water quality (5)	49.78%	112
Encouraging the use of renewable energy (e.g., solar panels) (4)	39.56%	89
Supporting the construction/retrofitting of energy-efficient buildings ("green buildings") (2)	37.78%	85
Total Respondents: 225		

BASIC STATISTICS				
Minimum	Maximum	Median	Mean	Standard Deviation
1.00	5.00	3.00	2.95	1.42

Q9 How could we better support economic development along Route 1 and the area south of I-95?
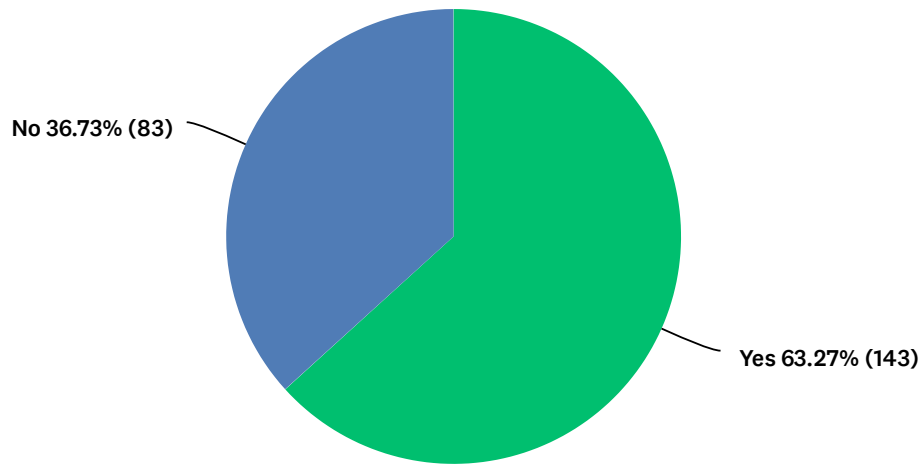
Answered: 220   Skipped: 8

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Support local entrepreneurship, especially small businesses (3)	67.27%	148
Promote mixed-use (residential & commercial) areas to support local retail and restaurants (5)	44.55%	98
Incentivize property investment (4)	30.45%	67
Expand local job opportunities (1)	26.82%	59
Diversify the local economy (2)	25.00%	55
Total Respondents: 220		

BASIC STATISTICS				
Minimum	Maximum	Median	Mean	Standard Deviation
1.00	5.00	3.00	3.21	1.31

Q10 Do you support sidewalks on both sides of Route 1?
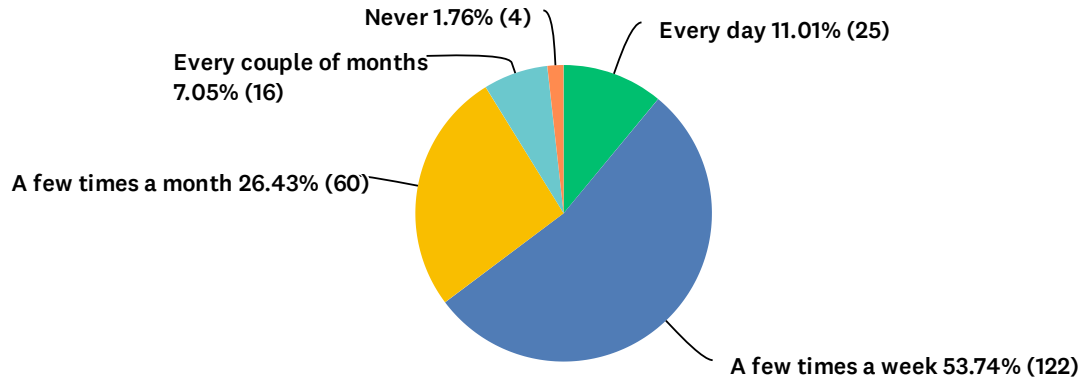
Answered: 226   Skipped: 2

No 36.73% (83)

Yes 63.27% (143)

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes (1)	63.27%	143
No (2)	36.73%	83
TOTAL		226

BASIC STATISTICS				
Minimum 1.00	Maximum 2.00	Median 1.00	Mean 1.37	Standard Deviation 0.48

Q11 Generally, how often do you shop in Orange's commercial areas?

Answered: 227   Skipped: 1

Never 1.76% (4)
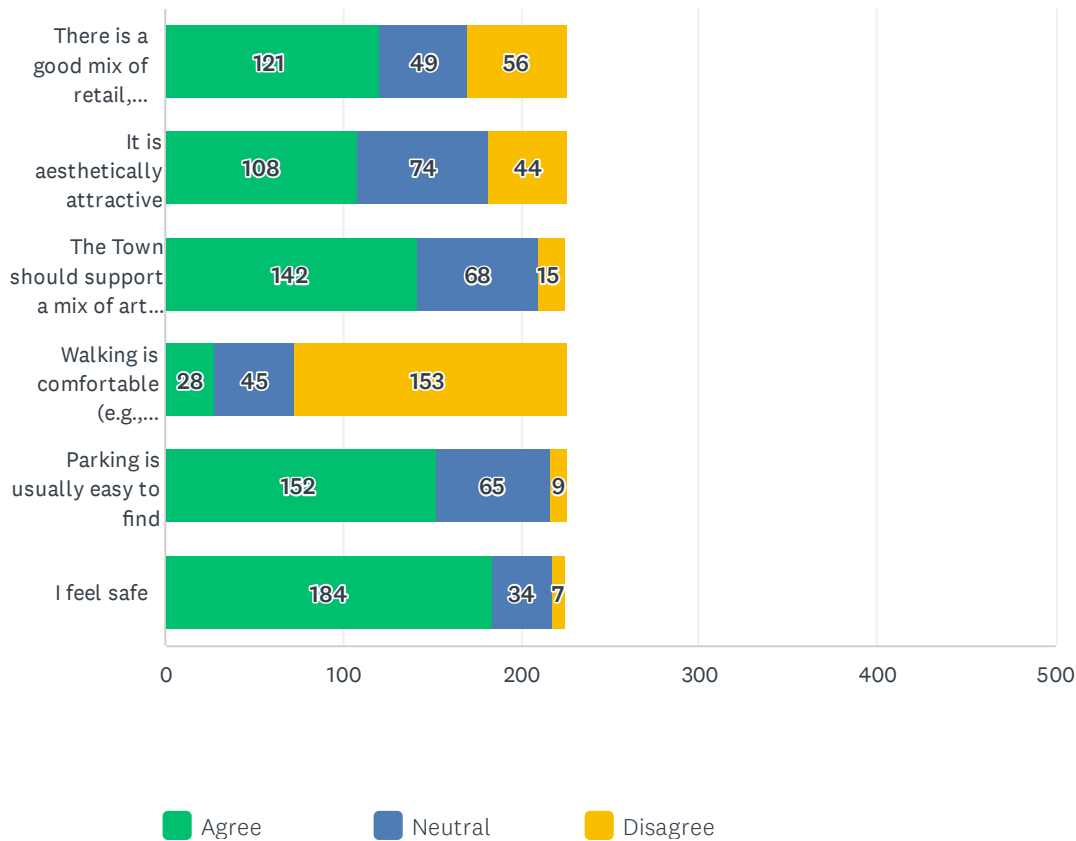
Every couple of months
7.05% (16)

Every day 11.01% (25)

A few times a month 26.43% (60)

A few times a week 53.74% (122)

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Every day (1)	11.01%	25
A few times a week (2)	53.74%	122
A few times a month (3)	26.43%	60
Every couple of months (4)	7.05%	16
Never (5)	1.76%	4
TOTAL		227

BASIC STATISTICS				
Minimum	Maximum	Median	Mean	Standard Deviation
1.00	5.00	2.00	2.35	0.83

Q12 Do you agree with the following statements about Orange?
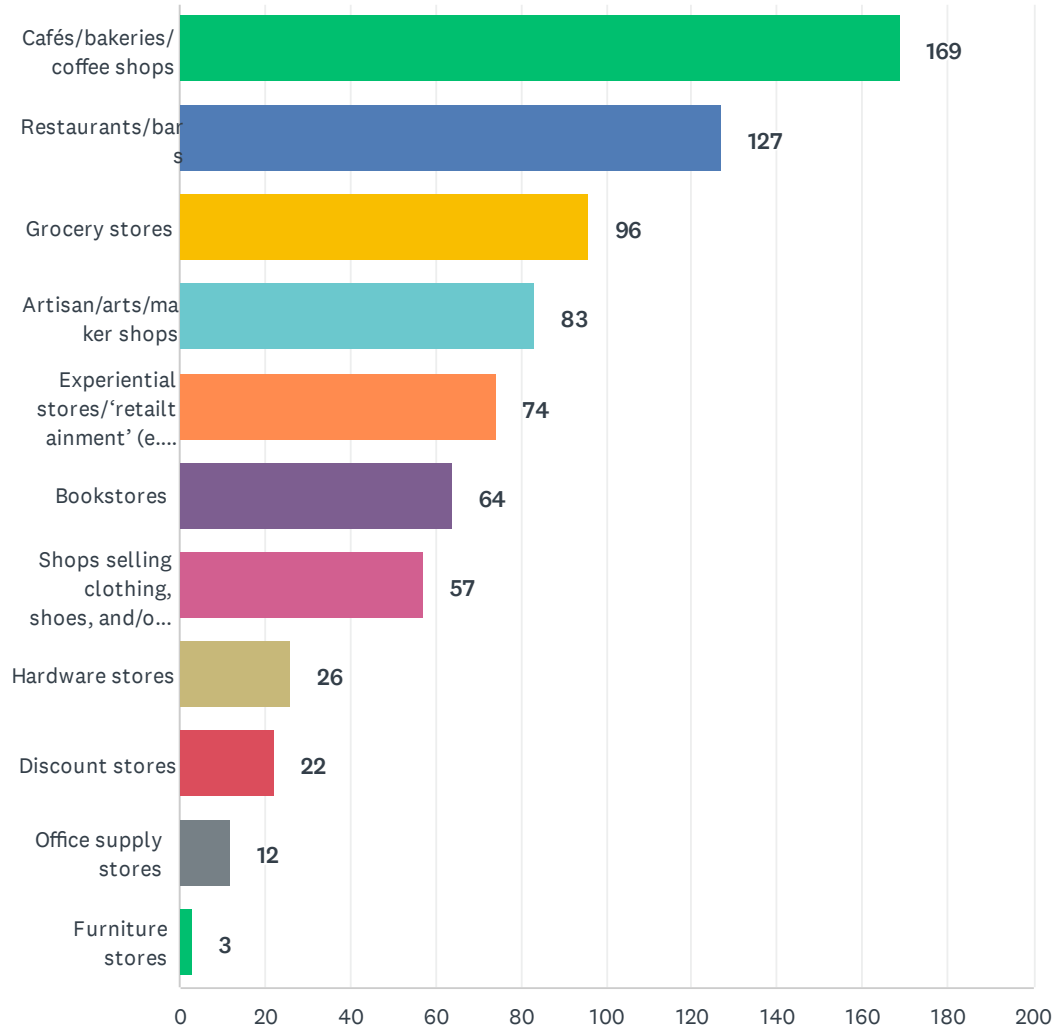
Answered: 227   Skipped: 1

	AGREE (1)	NEUTRAL (2)	DISAGREE (3)	TOTAL
There is a good mix of retail, restaurants, services, and other amenities	53.54% 121	21.68% 49	24.78% 56	226
It is aesthetically attractive	47.79% 108	32.74% 74	19.47% 44	226
The Town should support a mix of arts and cultural attractions	63.11% 142	30.22% 68	6.67% 15	225
Walking is comfortable (e.g., sidewalks are adequate)	12.39% 28	19.91% 45	67.70% 153	226
Parking is usually easy to find	67.26% 152	28.76% 65	3.98% 9	226
I feel safe	81.78% 184	15.11% 34	3.11% 7	225

BASIC STATISTICS					
	MINIMUM	**MAXIMUM**	**MEDIAN**	**MEAN**	**STANDARD DEVIATION**
There is a good mix of retail, restaurants, services, and other amenities	1.00	3.00	1.00	1.71	0.84
It is aesthetically attractive	1.00	3.00	2.00	1.72	0.77
The Town should support a mix of arts and cultural attractions	1.00	3.00	1.00	1.44	0.62
Walking is comfortable (e.g., sidewalks are adequate)	1.00	3.00	3.00	2.55	0.70
Parking is usually easy to find	1.00	3.00	1.00	1.37	0.56
I feel safe	1.00	3.00	1.00	1.21	0.48

Q13 What types of retail businesses would you like to see more of in Orange? Please select up to four (4) choices.
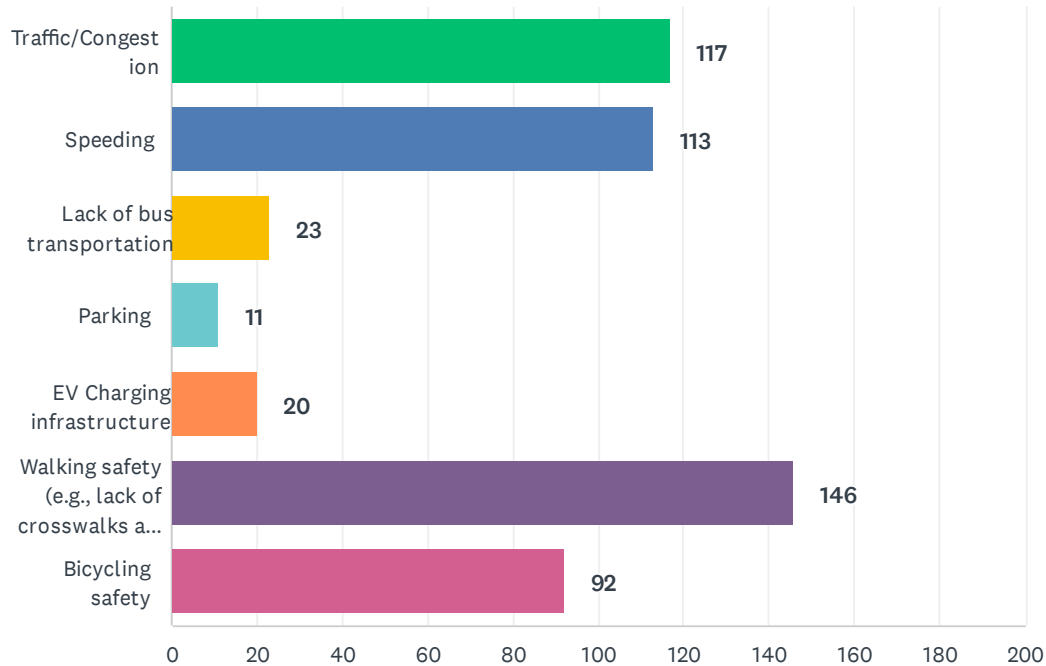
Answered: 224   Skipped: 4

Category	Count
Cafés/bakeries/coffee shops	169
Restaurants/bars	127
Grocery stores	96
Artisan/arts/maker shops	83
Experiential stores/'retailtainment' (e....	74
Bookstores	64
Shops selling clothing, shoes, and/o...	57
Hardware stores	26
Discount stores	22
Office supply stores	12
Furniture stores	3

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Cafés/bakeries/coffee shops (2)	75.45%	169
Restaurants/bars (3)	56.70%	127
Grocery stores (1)	42.86%	96
Artisan/arts/maker shops (5)	37.05%	83
Experiential stores/'retailtainment' (e.g., pottery studio, paint & sip) (6)	33.04%	74
Bookstores (10)	28.57%	64
Shops selling clothing, shoes, and/or accessories (4)	25.45%	57
Hardware stores (8)	11.61%	26
Discount stores (11)	9.82%	22
Office supply stores (7)	5.36%	12
Furniture stores (9)	1.34%	3
Total Respondents: 224		

BASIC STATISTICS				
Minimum 1.00	Maximum 11.00	Median 3.00	Mean 4.23	Standard Deviation 2.86

Q14 What, if any, are the transportation problems you regularly encounter in Orange? Please select up to three (3) choices.
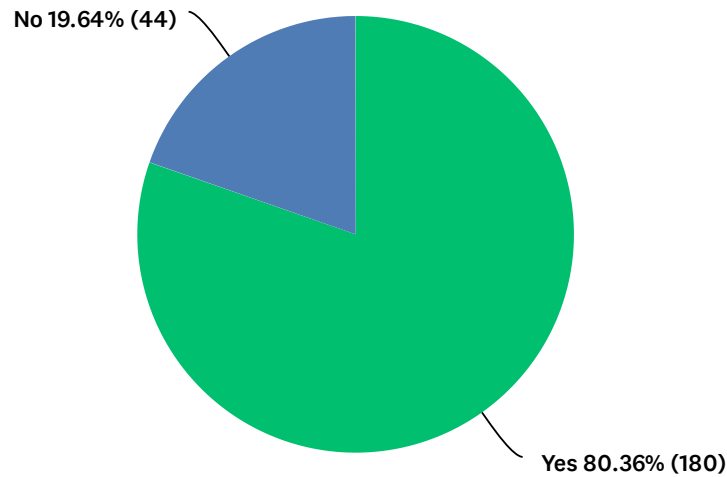
Answered: 214   Skipped: 14

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Traffic/Congestion (1)	54.67%	117
Speeding (2)	52.80%	113
Lack of bus transportation (3)	10.75%	23
Parking (4)	5.14%	11
EV Charging infrastructure (5)	9.35%	20
Walking safety (e.g., lack of crosswalks and sidewalks, accessibility) (6)	68.22%	146
Bicycling safety (7)	42.99%	92
Total Respondents: 214		

BASIC STATISTICS				
Minimum	Maximum	Median	Mean	Standard Deviation
1.00	7.00	4.00	3.98	2.38

Q15 In general, do you feel that existing community services and facilities (e.g. senior services, library, outdoor recreation, etc.) offered by the Town meet the needs of you and members of your household?
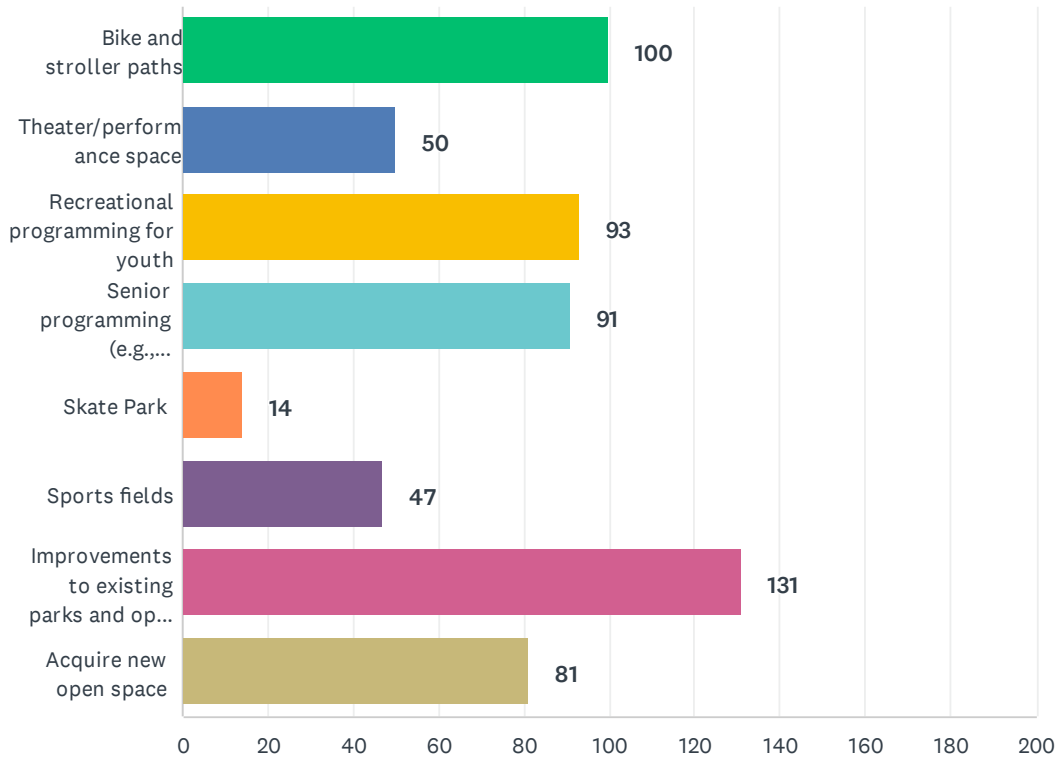
Answered: 224   Skipped: 4

No 19.64% (44)

Yes 80.36% (180)

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes (1)	80.36%	180
No (2)	19.64%	44
TOTAL		224

BASIC STATISTICS				
Minimum 1.00	Maximum 2.00	Median 1.00	Mean 1.20	Standard Deviation 0.40

Q16 Which community facilities and programming would you most support public spending for? Please select up to three (3) choices.
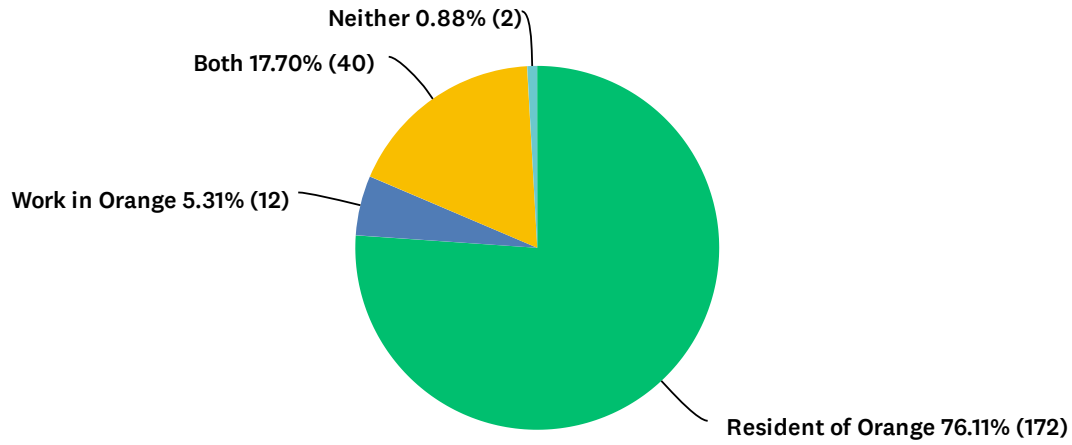
Answered: 224   Skipped: 4

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Bike and stroller paths (1)	44.64%	100
Theater/performance space (2)	22.32%	50
Recreational programming for youth (3)	41.52%	93
Senior programming (e.g., activities, tax assistance, transportation assistance) (4)	40.63%	91
Skate Park (5)	6.25%	14
Sports fields (6)	20.98%	47
Improvements to existing parks and open spaces (7)	58.48%	131
Acquire new open space (8)	36.16%	81
Total Respondents: 224		

BASIC STATISTICS				
Minimum	Maximum	Median	Mean	Standard Deviation
1.00	8.00	4.00	4.55	2.47

Q17 Do you live or work in Orange?

Answered: 226   Skipped: 2

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Resident of Orange (1)	76.11%	172
Work in Orange (2)	5.31%	12
Both (3)	17.70%	40
Neither (4)	0.88%	2
TOTAL		226

BASIC STATISTICS				
Minimum	Maximum	Median	Mean	Standard Deviation
1.00	4.00	1.00	1.43	0.81

Q18 Age

Answered: 227   Skipped: 1

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
19 and younger (1)	0.00%	0
20-29 (2)	3.96%	9
30-39 (3)	11.01%	25
40-49 (4)	25.55%	58
50-59 (5)	21.15%	48
60-69 (6)	17.62%	40
70-79 (7)	15.42%	35
80 and older (8)	5.29%	12
TOTAL		227

BASIC STATISTICS

Minimum	Maximum	Median	Mean	Standard Deviation
2.00	8.00	5.00	5.05	1.52

Q19 How long have you lived in Orange?

Answered: 218   Skipped: 10

Less than 2 years 5.05% (11)

2-5 years 11.01% (24)

6-10 years 11.01% (24)

11-15 years 9.63% (21)

16-20 years 10.09% (22)

More than 20 years 53.21% (116)

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Less than 2 years (1)	5.05%	11
2-5 years (2)	11.01%	24
6-10 years (3)	11.01%	24
11-15 years (4)	9.63%	21
16-20 years (5)	10.09%	22
More than 20 years (6)	53.21%	116
TOTAL		218

BASIC STATISTICS				
Minimum	Maximum	Median	Mean	Standard Deviation
1.00	6.00	6.00	4.68	1.66