

Survey Finds Oak Parkers Very Satisfied with Community and Municipal Services

When it comes to sense of community and acceptance of people of diverse backgrounds, Oak Parkers rate their Village very high — higher, in fact, than did the residents of all towns polled nationally by the National Research Center (NRC), a leading research firm known for its comprehensive studies of citizen perceptions and views.

These key quality-of-life views expressed by Oak Park residents are among the many findings contained in the 100-plus-page report of a formal citizen telephone survey conducted by NRC for the Village.

Surveys were completed by 800 randomly selected Oak Park residents contacted via telephone in July and August for results that have a 3.5 percent margin of error. Participants answered some 40 questions on items such as quality of community life, public safety, government services, Village employees, traffic, parking and diversity. The survey also sought to measure use of public information sources, determine where most residents get their information about issues and gauge satisfaction with economic development in the Village.

NRC conducted a similar survey for the Village in 2000. The 2004 survey compares results from the two surveys. The complete text of the latest survey can be viewed at www.oak-park.us. For more information on the survey, call 708.358.5778 or email village@oak-park.us.

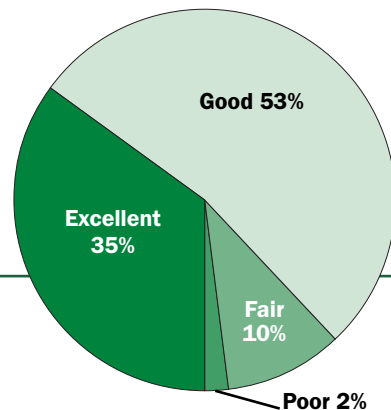
About the Respondents

- 35 percent lived in Oak Park for five or fewer years
- 48 percent ages 35 to 54
- 59 percent reported 2004 household incomes of \$50,000 or more
- 52 percent female, 48 percent male
- 93 percent reported a high school diploma or higher

Quality of Life

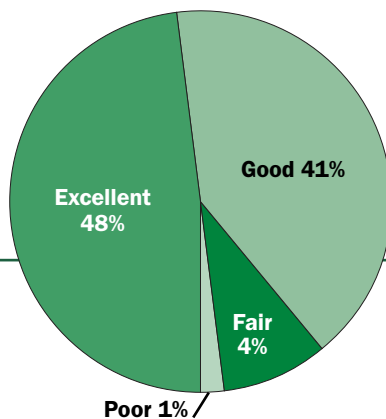
Sense of Community

Ranked 1st nationally



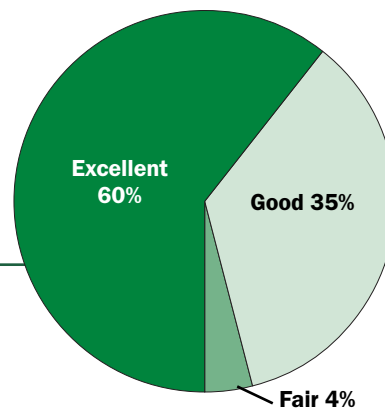
Acceptance of Diverse Backgrounds

Ranked 1st nationally



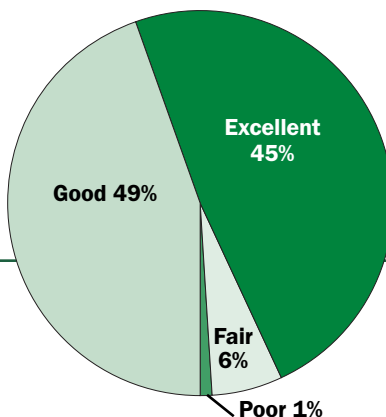
Oak Park as a Place to Raise Children

Ranked 2nd nationally

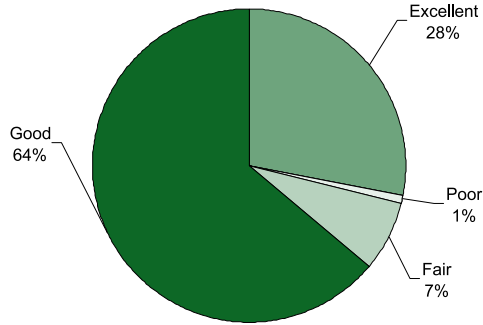


Overall Quality of Life

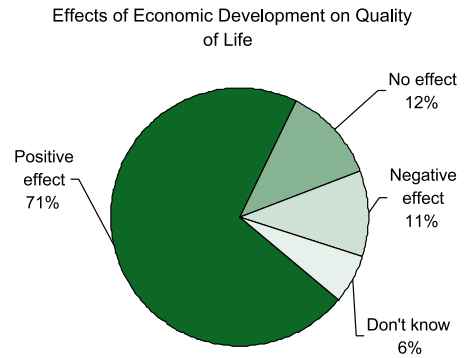
Ranked 6th nationally



Quality of Village Services

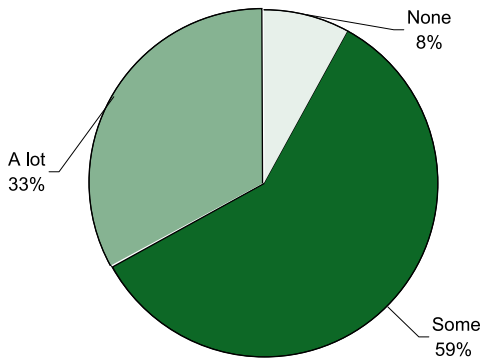


Economic Development



Perception of County Tax System

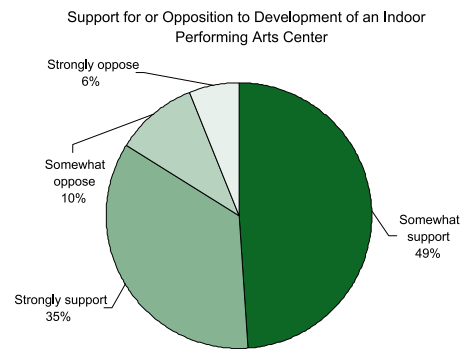
When an existing homeowner's property taxes are reassessed in Cook County, how much, if any, additional tax revenue is generated for the Village of Oak Park?



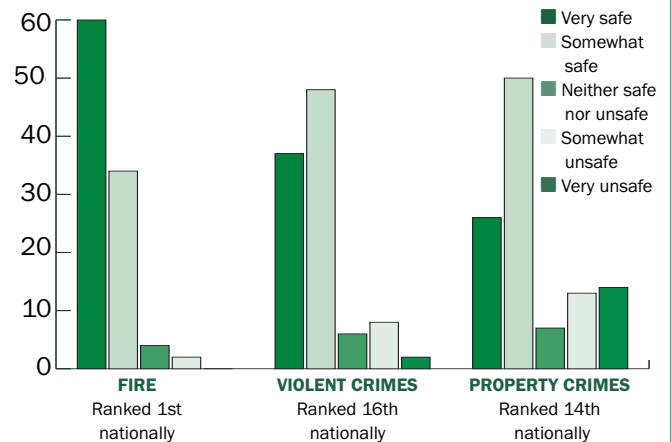
Property tax system creates confusion

A question about the impact of a property reassessment on dollars funding municipal services showed that very few residents understand how the Cook County system works. When asked how much if any additional revenue generated when a reassessment increases property values goes to the Village, 92 percent of respondents said the Village got at least some additional revenue. Only 8 percent of the respondents understood that reassessments have no effect on the amount of revenue to the Village. The Village annually levies a specific dollar amount that is not affected by changes in property values. The most recent reassessment that significantly increased the property tax bills of most Oak Park homeowners actually reflected a shift of the tax burden from commercial to residential properties, but did not generate additional dollars for the Village. The Village receives less than 13 cents of each Oak Park property tax dollar collected, a share that has remained relatively unchanged for several years.

Indoor Performing Arts Center



Perceptions of Safety



Potential Problems

