

# Survey Results

## 2018 Weston Town Survey

January 7, 2019



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The results for the **Town of Weston's 2018 Planning Survey** gave clear direction for the future of the town. A total of 2,675 residents were surveyed, and the resulting margin of error was between 1.4% and 1.7%. The online survey methodology included wide publicity via postcards, road signs and social media. Respondents were able to access the survey on their desktop and mobile devices, or at town government buildings.

**Weston** is perceived as a very desirable **place to live**, with 84% of residents satisfied overall with the town. Weston receives high marks for its **schools, fire, police** and **EMS** departments, the town's most important services. 2 out of 3 residents felt they had made the right decision in moving to Weston. Respondents overwhelmingly cite the **school system** as key to their decision to move to Weston, followed by the **overall quality of life, safety** and **two-acre zoning**. That said, there is a belief among a minority of residents (30%) that the **quality of life** in the area is declining, and their concerns – centered around high taxes and cost of living, declining home values, poor local road quality and lack of amenities – should be taken into account in the 10-year planning process.

Residents are generally open to the idea of **sharing services** with neighboring towns, with more than half of residents supporting a shared senior center, shared animal control, shared public safety dispatch and shared recreation programs. Strong support for a shared **senior center** (62%) is likely the result of low usage (16%), even among those residents who are aware and eligible (93%). That said, satisfaction among those who use the senior center is high.

When asked about Weston's **land use priorities** over the next ten years, residents' highest priorities centered around optimizing Town Center – both retaining current and attracting new businesses. **Town Center** is an area of opportunity generally – 70% of residents feel it needs more amenities, and in open-ended comments residents frequently mention making Town Center more attractive and walkable.

Making Weston **more bicycle and pedestrian friendly** is also a high priority for land use (second only to Town Center) and was a recurring theme in the survey generally. 71% of residents feel we have too few sidewalks (the #1 underserved amenity), and over half feel we have too few biking trails (#4). And when asked specifically about Weston's transportation infrastructure, **sidewalks** and **bike lanes** were the top needs. There is also some desire for a **teen center** – mentioned both as an underserved amenity (#3) and in the open-ended comments on needed improvements.

The majority of residents agree that Weston maintains the right amount of single-family homes. Half feel that we have too little **senior housing**; however, when asked where they see themselves living 10 years from now, only 2% of residents mentioned senior housing. Which begs the question – if we build it, will they stay?

Half of respondents have no **plans to leave** Weston while the rest are making short- and long-term plans to move. ~1 in 5 plan to leave within the next 5 years; respondents cite an **empty nest** and the **high cost of living** as reasons for moving.

## METHODOLOGY

The Town of Weston’s 2018 Survey was conducted from November 15 through December 15 of 2018. The survey was publicized widely (through postcards, road signs, social media, etc.) and was conducted online through the Town of Weston website. The survey was also available at the town library, the senior center, and other government buildings. 2,087 respondents completed the survey in full; an additional 588 respondents partially completed the survey. This resulted in a margin of error between 1.4% and 1.7%. Potential respondents were screened with regards to being over the age of 18.

The survey instrument consisted of 46 core questions. Respondents were asked to rate town services, town amenities, land use priorities and Weston as a place to live. There were open-ended questions examining Weston’s greatest assets and challenges, and an opportunity to provide general feedback on the town. The survey incorporated eleven demographic questions.

## DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SAMPLE

Figure 1. Sample: Age Distribution

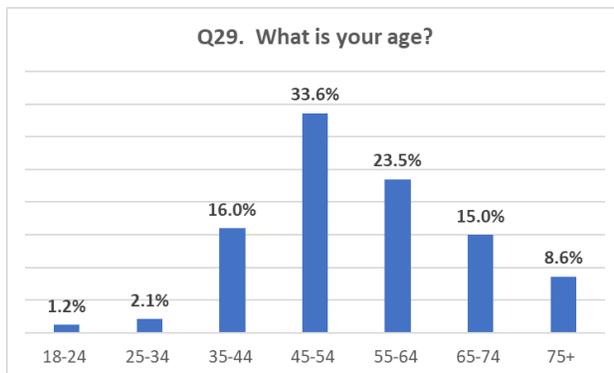


Figure 2. Sample: Years Lived in Weston

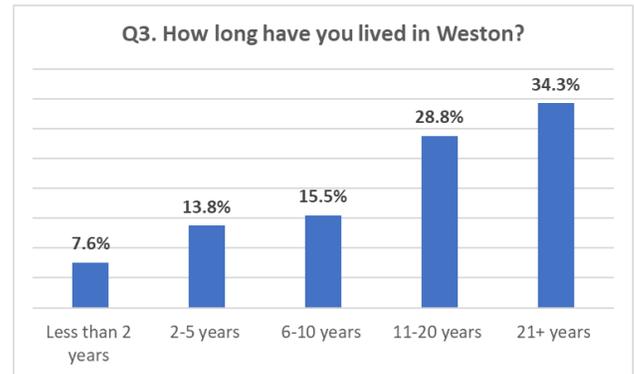
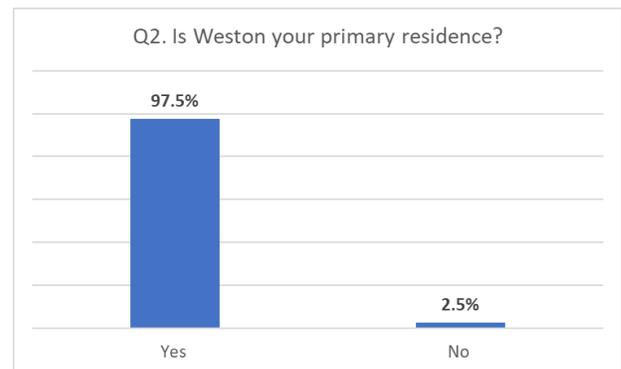
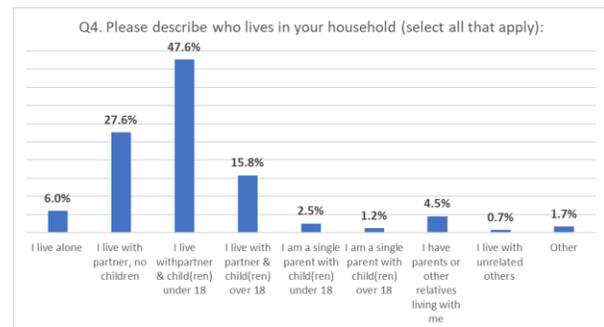


Figure 3. Primary Residence



Figures 4, 5 & 6. Household Composition



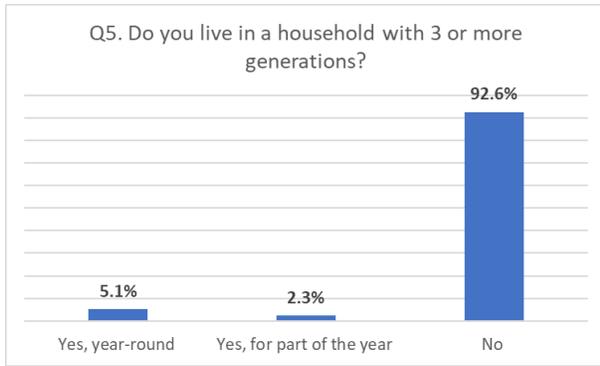


Figure 9. Sample: Gender

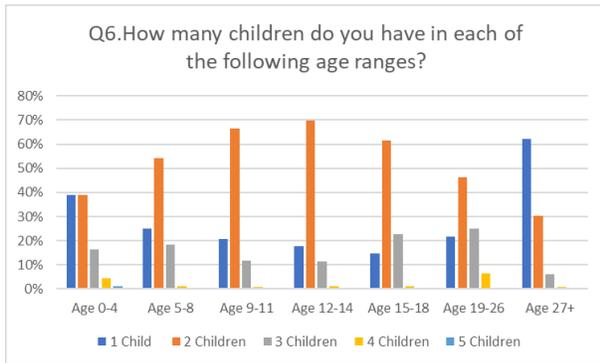
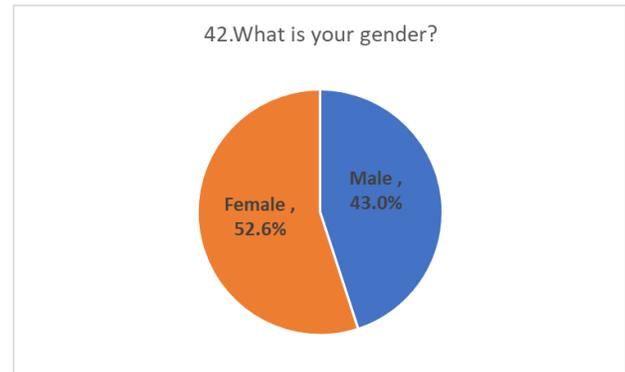
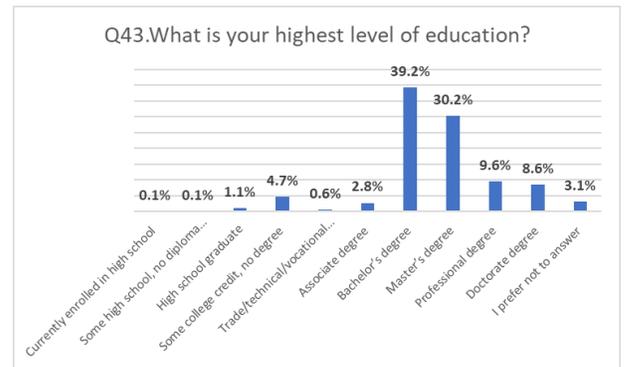


Figure 10. Sample: Education Level



Figures 7 & 8. Rent or Own

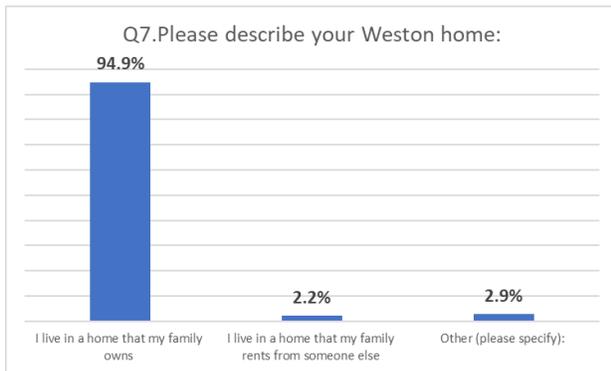
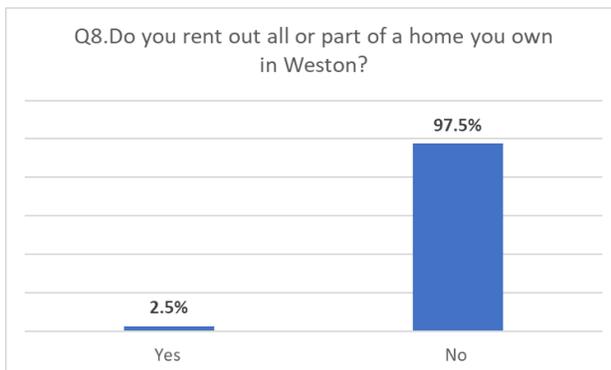
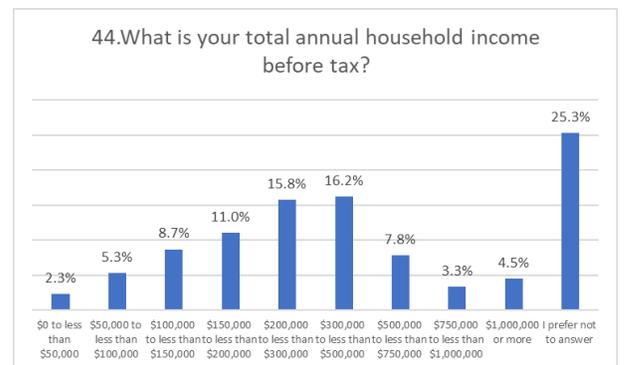


Figure 11. Sample: Income



The demographic profiles of the sample are exhibited in Figures 1-11. The age profile of the sample is illustrated in Figure 1. Approximately half of respondents were under age 55 and half were over age 55, with the largest portion in the 45-54 (33.6%) and 46-55 (23.3%) age categories. Figure 2 shows the number of years the respondents had lived in Weston. There

were large percentages for living in town for 11-20 years (28.8%) and over 20 years (34.3%).

In terms of education, a large percentage (87.6%) of the respondents graduated with a 4-year college degree, including 48.4% earning a graduate or professional degree (Figure 9).

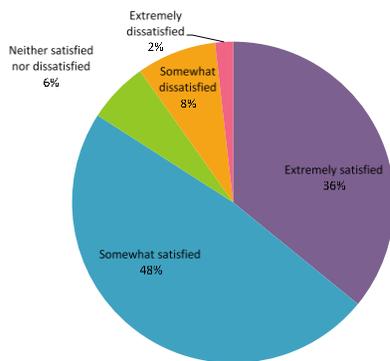
There were high levels of household income for the sample (Figure 10). This is illustrated in the large percentage of respondents in the over \$200,000 (47.6%) income categories, including 4.5% in the over \$1M income category.

In terms of gender, 43% of the sample were male and 53% were female (Figure 8, 4% preferred not to answer). The vast majority of respondents (95%) owned their own home (Figure 7).

## WESTON OVERALL AS A PLACE TO LIVE

The respondents were asked to rate their overall satisfaction with Weston as a place to live using a 5-point scale from extremely satisfied to extremely dissatisfied. Chart 22 indicates that Weston is perceived as a very desirable place to live (84.1% satisfied). More telling was the fact that less than 10% of respondents (9.8%) are on the dissatisfied side.

22. Please rate your overall level of satisfaction with Weston as a place to live:

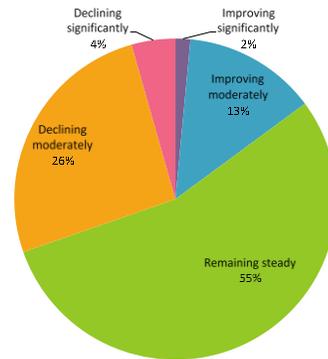


n=2,346

## QUALITY OF LIFE IN WESTON

The perception of the quality of life in Weston over the past few years was assessed with a 5-point scale. The response categories for this question were improving significantly, improving moderately, remaining steady, declining moderately, and declining significantly. Overall, a large proportion of the respondents (55%) perceived the quality of life in Weston as “remaining steady” over the past few years (Chart 24). One concern is the percentage on the “declining” side of the scale exceeded the percentage on the “improving” side by 30.4% to 14.9%.

24. Over the past few years, do you think the overall quality of life in the local area has been improving, remaining steady or declining?

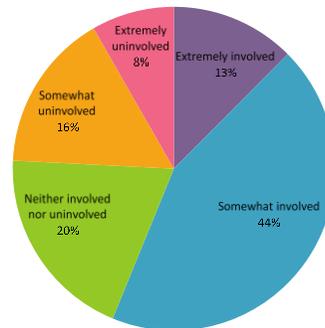


n=2,337

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Respondents were also asked about their level of involvement in the community (Chart 32). More respondents felt they were “involved” (56.2%) than not, but the numbers were fairly evenly split.

32. How would you describe your level of involvement in the Weston community?

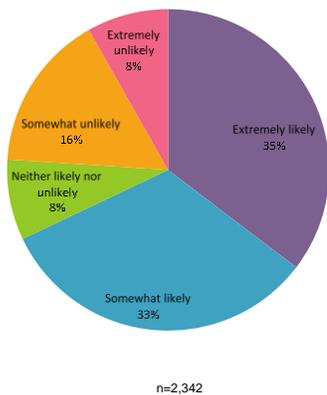


n=2,216

## LIKELIHOOD TO SELECT WESTON AS A PLACE TO LIVE

The respondents were asked if they would select Weston as a place to live if they were to make the decision over again. 2 out of 3 respondents felt they had made the right decision in moving to Weston, with 68% of the respondents answering they would be “likely” to select Weston as a place to live if they were making the decision today. 24% of residents would be “unlikely” to select Weston again (Chart 23).

23. Thinking back to when you initially made the decision to move to Weston, how likely would you be to select Weston as a place to live again?



## REASONS FOR MOVING TO WESTON

When asked the top three reasons they originally moved to Weston, respondents overwhelmingly cited the school system (75.3%) (Table 21). In the second tier were overall quality of life (37%), safety (35.5%), two-acre zoning (32.8%) and open space and natural resources (26.9%). Very few respondents mentioned town parks and recreational opportunities (1.2%), economic opportunities (0.8%), or downtown Weston (0.6%). 6.7% of respondents gave other reasons (not listed) for moving to Weston – these often included mentions of nearby family and more value for the money when compared to Westport.

21. Please select the top three reasons you chose to live in Weston:	Percent
School system	75.3%
Overall quality of life	37.0%
Safe environment	35.5%
2-acre zoning	32.8%
Open space and natural resources	26.9%
Privacy	19.5%
Location/commute	17.6%
Sense of community	9.7%
Affordability of housing	7.3%
Other (please specify):	6.7%
Culture and community character	6.2%
Lack of commercial businesses	4.8%
Born in Weston	3.1%
Town parks and recreational opportunities	1.2%
Economic opportunities	0.8%
Downtown Weston	0.6%

We see slight differences between new residents to town (less than 2 years, 2-5 years in Weston) and established residents. (Table 21a). The school system was more important to newer residents’ decisions to move to Weston (80.2%, 85.8%) than it was to long-established residents (62.7%; 21+ years in Weston). Similarly, open space & natural resources and a sense of community over-index for newer residents, while privacy over-indexes for long-established residents. Safety was more of a factor in the decision to move to Weston for medium-term residents (2-20 years in Weston) than for either our newest (less than 2 years) or longest-established (20+ years) residents.

Table 21a	3. How long have you lived in Weston?				
21. Please select the top three reasons you chose to live in Weston:	Less than 2 years (n=172)	2-5 years (n=332)	6-10 years (n=354)	11-20 years (n=687)	21+ years (n=815)
School system	30.2%	35.8%	31.1%	29.8%	32.7%
Overall quality of life	32.0%	32.5%	34.2%	38.0%	40.4%
Safe environment	29.1%	39.8%	38.7%	37.7%	31.9%
2-acre zoning	30.2%	31.6%	31.4%	33.2%	34.2%
Open space and natural resources	36.6%	25.0%	25.1%	22.1%	30.3%
Privacy	15.7%	18.4%	18.6%	18.6%	22.0%
Location/commute	18.6%	17.5%	15.8%	17.2%	18.5%
Sense of community	11.6%	12.0%	11.6%	10.8%	6.6%
Affordability of housing	10.5%	8.7%	7.1%	6.0%	7.2%
Other (please specify):	6.4%	4.2%	5.4%	6.3%	8.7%
Culture and community character	6.4%	6.3%	5.9%	6.6%	5.9%
Lack of commercial businesses	4.1%	3.9%	3.4%	4.4%	6.4%
Born in Weston	1.2%	1.2%	0.8%	2.0%	6.1%
Town parks and recreational opportunities	3.5%	0.6%	3.4%	0.6%	0.6%
Economic opportunities	0.6%	0.9%	0.3%	0.7%	1.0%
Downtown Weston	1.7%	0.0%	0.8%	0.7%	0.5%

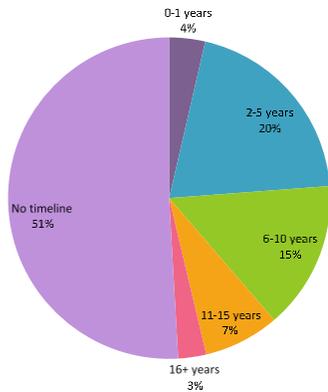
Those who responded that they had a timeline for moving were then asked their reason for planning to leaving Weston. (Table 11). Primary reasons mentioned were an empty nest (59.1%) and the cost of living in Weston (55.0%). 16.5% of respondents cited “other” (not listed) reasons for planning to move – high taxes and lack of town amenities were mentioned most often.

11. Why are you planning to move out of Weston? (please select all that apply):	Percent
Empty nest (children grown and no longer living at home)	59.1%
Cost of living in Weston	55.0%
I'm planning to leave Connecticut altogether	28.9%
Lifestyle opportunities	27.8%
Other (please specify):	16.5%
Lack of diversity of housing options in Weston	13.6%
Lack of adequate transportation options in Weston	9.6%
Commute (move closer to job)	8.0%
Move closer to family	5.1%
New job or job relocation	2.7%

## PLANS TO LEAVE WESTON

Respondents were asked about their timeline for moving out of Weston. (Chart 10). Few are planning to leave in the next year (3.6%). However, ~1 in 5 respondents (20.2%) is planning to move out over the short term (2-5 years). That said, half of respondents (50.9%) have no plans to leave Weston (no timeline).

10. Are you planning to move out of Weston in the next:



n=2,422

## TOWN SERVICES

The performance of various Weston town services was assessed with a set of two questions – satisfaction with each service (Table 25) and the importance of each service (Table 26). In terms of satisfaction, top performing town services included the Fire Department (82.6% satisfied), EMS (78.7%), Weston Public Schools (78.5%), and Police Services (79.6% satisfied). The lowest performing town service is Local Road Quality, at 25% dissatisfied.

26. Please rate the following services from extremely important to not at all important to you:	Extremely important	Very important	Moderately important	Slightly important	Not at all important
Weston Public Schools	72.4%	12.5%	7.1%	2.4%	5.5%
Fire Department	72.0%	21.2%	5.8%	0.7%	0.1%
Emergency Medical Services (EMS)	70.2%	21.9%	6.0%	1.3%	0.5%
Police Services	65.9%	23.6%	8.2%	1.4%	0.9%
Local Road Quality	41.3%	45.1%	12.1%	1.4%	0.1%
Weston Public Library	32.9%	31.6%	24.0%	7.9%	3.7%
Youth Services	23.8%	27.6%	24.2%	9.6%	14.7%
Town Recreation Programs	19.5%	32.0%	27.2%	11.4%	9.9%
Transfer Station	19.0%	28.8%	31.4%	11.5%	9.4%
Animal Control	17.5%	31.3%	33.7%	12.1%	5.5%
Park and Field Maintenance	16.4%	34.6%	32.1%	10.3%	6.6%
Social Services	13.6%	25.3%	33.5%	14.2%	13.4%
Lachat Town Farm	13.6%	20.2%	29.1%	17.0%	20.1%

The services that are most important to respondents track closely with the areas where they are most satisfied: Weston Public Schools (84.9% extremely or very important); Fire Department (93.2%); EMS (92.1%); and Police Services (89.5%). One area where we see a disconnect is in Local Road Quality, which is very or extremely important to 86.4% of respondents, but where satisfaction lags at 61.8% satisfied. Town Recreation Programs and Youth Services are two additional areas where importance slightly outpaces satisfaction.

25. Please rate your level of satisfaction with the following services available to Weston residents:	Extremely satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Extremely dissatisfied
Fire Department	66.0%	16.6%	16.6%	0.5%	0.2%
Emergency Medical Services (EMS)	62.9%	15.8%	19.9%	0.9%	0.5%
Weston Public Schools	54.0%	24.5%	15.0%	4.9%	1.6%
Police Services	54.3%	25.3%	15.9%	3.4%	1.1%
Weston Public Library	41.8%	32.1%	18.7%	5.6%	1.7%
Lachat Town Farm	36.7%	18.6%	41.8%	1.7%	1.1%
Transfer Station	32.1%	26.4%	36.9%	3.5%	1.1%
Park and Field Maintenance	26.5%	30.3%	36.7%	5.2%	1.3%
Animal Control	29.1%	25.6%	36.3%	5.3%	3.7%
Local Road Quality	19.1%	42.7%	13.3%	19.2%	5.8%
Town Recreation Programs	18.5%	30.7%	39.6%	8.9%	2.2%
Youth Services	16.6%	22.4%	52.3%	6.7%	2.0%
Social Services	11.6%	14.6%	69.2%	3.3%	1.2%

## SHARED TOWN SERVICES

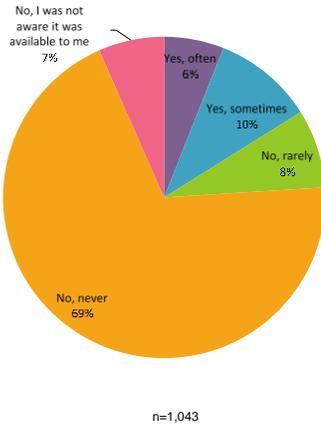
We asked respondents to give us their thoughts on sharing services with neighboring towns, where the cost of each service would be shared proportionally (Table 27). Support for this idea was generally strong. There was strongest support for a shared senior center (62.4% support) and shared animal control (60.4% support). Opposition was strongest to a shared police force (43.0% oppose).

27. How do you feel about Weston sharing the following services:	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Neither support nor oppose	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose
Shared Senior Center	35.7%	26.7%	23.9%	8.3%	5.3%
Shared Animal Control	33.1%	27.3%	24.2%	8.4%	7.0%
Shared Public Safety Dispatch Center	31.2%	24.6%	19.1%	12.8%	12.3%
Shared Recreation Programs	30.5%	28.8%	23.3%	11.0%	6.4%
Shared Library	26.9%	22.1%	18.5%	16.2%	16.3%
Shared Transfer Station	25.8%	22.5%	27.7%	13.1%	10.9%
Shared Police Force	22.2%	21.1%	13.7%	18.7%	24.3%
Shared Town Hall Services	21.7%	21.3%	21.6%	19.4%	15.9%

## SENIOR CENTER

Questions about use and satisfaction with the services available to seniors in town was asked of respondents age 55+. While use of the senior center is low at 16.1%, awareness is high at 93.4%. (Chart 30)

30. Do you use the Weston Senior Center?



Among respondents who use the senior center satisfaction is high for both the programs (68.4%) and the facility (63.2%) (Table 31).

31. How satisfied are you with the following:	Extremely satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied
Senior Center Programs	36.4%	32.0%	25.6%	4.4%	1.6%
Senior Center Facility	29.6%	33.6%	26.0%	8.8%	2.0%

n=250

## WESTON AMENITIES

When asked whether Weston has too many, the right amount, or too few of certain amenities, most agreed that the town has the right amount of hiking trails (78.1% neither too many nor too few) and sports fields (76.8%) (Table 28). Areas where respondents feel that Weston lacks are: sidewalks (70.9% too few); public transportation (61.6%); a teen center (53.8%); and biking trails (52.7%).

28. Do you agree or disagree that Weston has too many, too few, or the right amount of:	Far too many	Slightly too many	Neither too many nor too few	Slightly too few	Far too few
Hiking Trails	1.3%	3.2%	78.1%	12.6%	4.7%
Ball fields (baseball and softball)	6.5%	10.3%	76.8%	5.6%	0.9%
Multi-purpose fields (soccer, football, lacrosse)	4.8%	7.5%	75.8%	9.4%	2.6%
After-school programs	1.2%	1.4%	72.1%	17.6%	7.8%
Before-school programs	1.3%	0.7%	72.1%	16.1%	9.9%
Open Space	4.3%	7.6%	71.0%	11.1%	6.0%
Tennis courts	1.3%	1.7%	69.0%	19.8%	8.2%
Town-provided Pre-K	2.7%	1.9%	67.1%	16.0%	12.4%
Playgrounds and playscapes	1.8%	3.5%	66.2%	20.1%	8.4%
Places to skate and skateboard	2.1%	1.4%	58.7%	17.6%	20.2%
Community Events	0.9%	1.3%	57.1%	29.4%	11.3%
Swimming areas	0.9%	1.2%	51.5%	25.9%	20.5%
Ice skating pond	1.4%	0.7%	46.8%	22.7%	28.4%
Biking Trails	1.0%	1.5%	44.8%	23.2%	29.5%
Teen Center	1.1%	0.5%	44.6%	21.6%	32.2%
Public Transportation	1.0%	0.4%	37.1%	23.5%	38.1%
Sidewalks	2.1%	1.3%	25.8%	21.0%	49.9%

n=2,223

## WESTON TOWN CENTER

The majority of respondents agree that while they make an effort to support the center's existing shops (76% agree), they wish Weston's Town Center had more amenities (70.7%). And while respondents generally feel safe in Town Center (54.7%), there is concern about crossing Weston Road (51.5% disagree it is "easy") and bicycling (52.8% disagree it is "safe") to the area.

33. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Town Center:	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
We need more amenities there	40.7%	30.0%	15.7%	6.9%	6.7%
I try to shop/eat there to support local merchants	37.8%	38.2%	13.8%	7.0%	3.2%
I feel safe walking there	32.2%	22.5%	14.7%	15.1%	15.5%
The buildings feel appropriate in size relative to the setting	25.7%	39.3%	20.9%	9.5%	4.6%
I'd like to see a village green/gazebo in the center of Weston	18.2%	20.2%	32.2%	14.9%	14.6%
Parking is easy	16.0%	36.5%	19.1%	21.2%	7.1%
I feel the bus depot should be relocated	15.9%	12.1%	57.6%	6.7%	7.6%
It is visually attractive	15.8%	34.5%	19.8%	20.7%	9.1%
I like it just the way it is	12.5%	20.0%	21.8%	28.2%	17.6%
There is a good mix of shops, restaurants and amenities	8.0%	19.5%	13.6%	32.3%	26.6%
It is thriving	7.8%	22.6%	31.2%	26.1%	12.3%
It is easy to cross the state road	6.1%	17.4%	25.0%	27.8%	23.7%
I feel safe biking there	5.8%	8.9%	32.5%	22.4%	30.4%

A follow-up question was asked regarding the types of additional amenities respondents would like to see in town center. Answers ranged from attracting specific kinds of businesses (improved hardware store; coffee shop; wine bar; nail salon) to general comments on improving the attractiveness ("quaint") and accessibility ("walkable") of the area.

## 34. Are there additional amenities you'd like to see in Town Center?

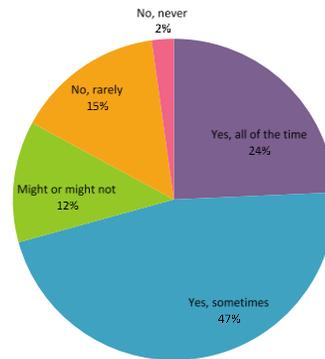


## COMMUNITY EVENTS

The majority of respondents agree that Weston provides the right amount (57.1%) of community events for its residents, although a sizeable percentage of respondents would like to see more (40.7%) (Table 40). Respondents generally find out about community events through word of mouth (63.2%) and signs around town (61.9%).

40.How do you usually find out about community events? (please check all that apply)	Percent
Word of mouth	63.2%
Signs around town	61.9%
Social Media (please specify):	41.2%
Weston Today	30.2%
Town Website	19.9%
Westport News	11.1%
Other (please specify):	16.3%
Norwalk Hour	3.2%
Community Access TV (Channel 78, 79)	3.1%
Stamford Advocate	0.7%

20.Do you feel a sense of community living in Weston?



n=2,369

## SENSE OF COMMUNITY

The respondents were asked if they felt a sense of community living in Weston. The response categories for this question were: yes, all of the time; yes, sometimes; might or might not; no, rarely, and no, never. Most residents do feel a sense of community, with 67.7% selecting “Yes.” (Chart 20). Only 2.2% of respondents “Never” feel a sense of community.

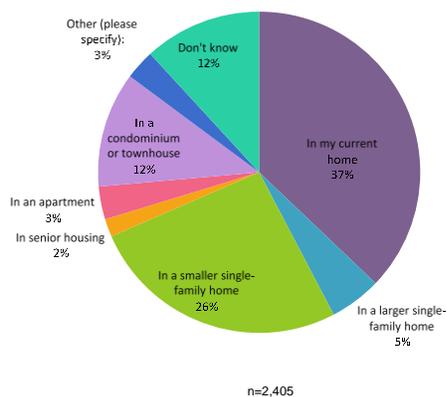
## LAND USE PRIORITIES

The survey included several questions examining what Weston's land use priorities should be over the next several years (Table 9). The majority of respondents agree Weston maintains the right amount of large, single family homes (78.1%), with about half of respondents feeling the same when it comes to small, single family homes. The greatest area of need is for senior housing (51.9% disagree).

9. Do you agree or disagree that Weston has the right amount of the following housing types:	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
Large, single-family homes	59.4%	18.7%	14.6%	5.1%	2.2%
Small, single-family homes	26.2%	26.4%	19.5%	19.2%	8.7%
Affordable housing (not age restricted)	20.1%	11.4%	26.2%	19.9%	22.4%
Affordable senior housing (age restricted)	13.3%	6.4%	28.4%	19.8%	32.1%
Senior housing of any type	12.7%	6.7%	28.6%	20.6%	31.3%

In 10 years' time, most respondents see themselves living in their current home (37.1%) or downsizing to a smaller single-family home (26.1%) (Chart 12). Very few see themselves living in senior housing (1.8%), which contrasts with respondents' belief that we have too little.

12. What type of housing do you see yourself living in 10 years from now?

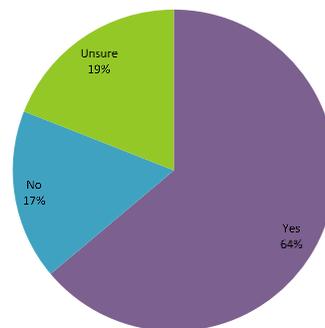


Respondents feel that the town's highest priority should be to retain existing businesses in Town Center (92.7% high/medium priority), followed by expanding businesses in Town Center (73.2%) (Table 36). There is also high desire to make Weston more bicycle and pedestrian friendly (76.3%). There is little appetite for the town to either purchase more open space (38.7%) or reduce the amount of open space already owned (36.7%).

36. What should be Weston's land use priorities over the next 10 years?	High Priority	Medium Priority	Low Priority	Not a Priority
Retain businesses in Weston Center	68.2%	24.5%	4.5%	2.7%
Expand businesses in Weston Center	46.7%	26.5%	15.4%	11.4%
Make the Town more bicycle and pedestrian friendly	45.8%	30.5%	15.1%	8.6%
Preserve historic buildings and properties	33.3%	39.7%	18.5%	8.4%
Preserve currently undeveloped land owned by the Town for open space	33.5%	31.0%	21.3%	14.2%
Provide more housing options for seniors	26.2%	34.3%	22.8%	16.7%
Provide more housing options for young professionals	22.4%	31.7%	26.1%	19.8%
Provide more housing options for families with children	19.2%	29.8%	26.7%	24.3%
Purchase more Town-owned undeveloped land for open space	15.6%	23.1%	30.2%	31.1%
Reduce Town-owned undeveloped open space	13.6%	23.1%	27.3%	35.9%

When asked, most respondents (63.8%) would support a town ordinance to reduce blight (Chart 37).

37. Would you support a Town ordinance that prohibits privately owned real estate from being in a state of disrepair and from being considerably unkempt?



## WESTON INFRASTRUCTURE

Respondents were asked to comment on Weston’s transportation infrastructure (Table 35). Top areas of need include sidewalks (66.9%) and bike lanes (64.4%). Tracking with the general feedback about Weston Center, about half of residents believe traffic is a concern in town center. However, very few respondents believe traffic is a concern in their own neighborhoods (76.4% neutral or disagree).

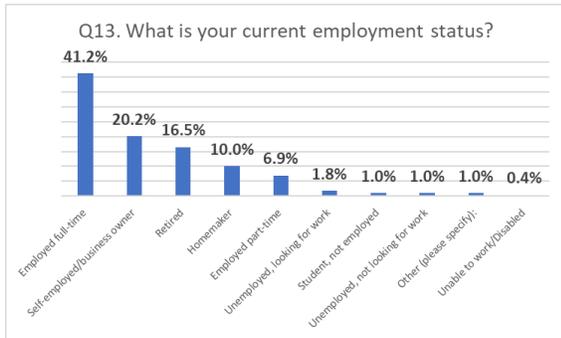
35. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Weston's transportation infrastructure:

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
Weston needs more sidewalks	41.6%	25.3%	14.0%	7.7%	11.3%
Weston needs more bike trails/bike lanes	34.7%	29.7%	21.5%	8.1%	6.1%
Traffic is a concern in the Weston Center area	16.1%	34.2%	29.7%	13.3%	6.8%
Traffic is a concern on School Road	15.8%	27.0%	39.1%	12.2%	5.9%
Traffic is a concern on Route 57 (Weston Road)	15.6%	32.5%	30.5%	13.9%	7.5%
Traffic is a concern on Route 53 (Newton Turnpike)	11.8%	23.3%	40.6%	16.5%	7.8%
Traffic is a concern in my neighborhood	10.2%	13.0%	22.4%	21.0%	33.4%

n=2,174

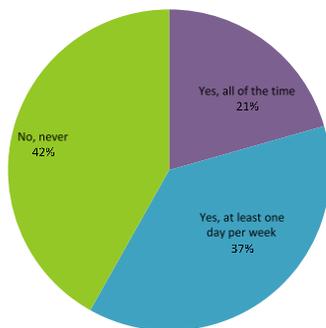
## WORKING IN WESTON

We asked respondents about the experience of working in Weston through a series of six questions. Less than half of respondents are employed full time (41.2%); 1 in 5 are self-employed (20.2%), and a similar percentage (16.5%) are retired. (Chart 13). Very few respondents are unemployed and looking for work (1.8%).

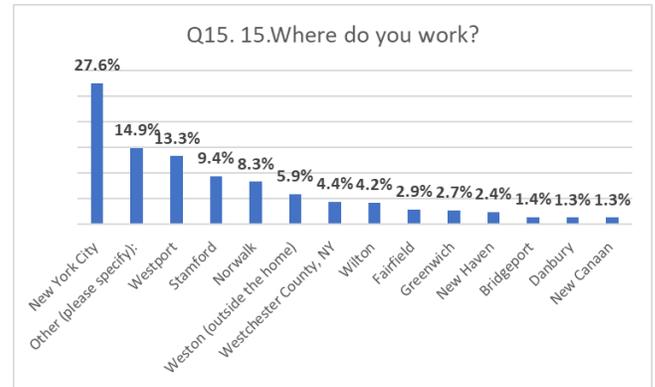


Of the working respondents, ~1 in 5 work from home full time (20.6%) (Chart 14). 2 in 5 are full time commuters (41.9%), and the remainder split their time between home and the office (37.6%). (Chart 14)

14. Do you currently work from home?

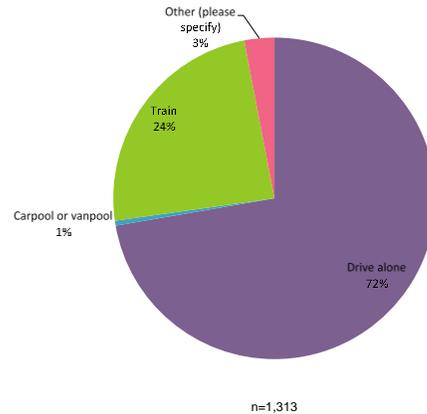


The largest percentage of respondents who work outside the home commute to New York City (27.6%), followed by "other" (14.9%, largely includes respondents who travel between multiple cities) and Westport (13.3%) (Chart 15). All other cities support less than 10% of Weston commuters.



The majority of respondents (72.2%) commute to work by car, with an additional 24.2% using the train (Chart 16). Very few (less than 1%) carpool or vanpool.

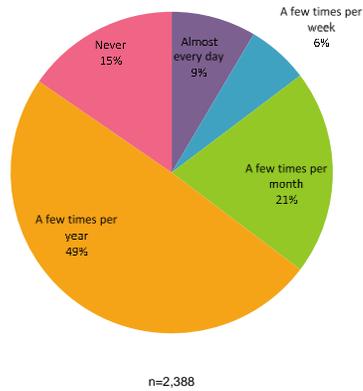
16. What is your primary mode of travel to work?



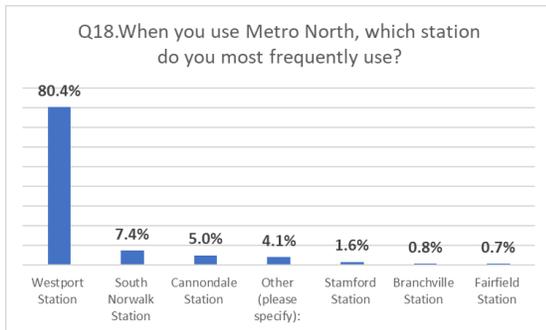
## METRO NORTH

Less than 10% of respondents ride Metro North almost every day, outpacing those who “never” ride the train (15.4%) (Chart 17). Half of respondents (49.3%) ride Metro North a few times a year.

17.How often do you use Metro North?



Westport is by far the most frequently used Metro North station (80.4%) (Chart 18).



## ASSETS AND CHALLENGES

Two open-ended questions asked respondents what they feel are the Town of Weston's greatest assets and challenges. (Charts 38 & 39).

The responses show that respondents overwhelmingly feel the schools are Weston's greatest asset, with 2-acre zoning in second place.

In terms of challenges, high taxes ranked number one, with declining home values second.

### 38. In your opinion, what are Weston's three greatest assets?



### 39. In your opinion, what are the three greatest challenges facing Weston over the next 10 years?



## FINANCIAL CONCERNS

Finances and taxes do appear to be top of mind for many respondents (Table 19). Only 25.0% of respondents believe the taxes in Weston are fair and reasonable, with 74.5% agreeing that the taxes make it difficult to afford living in Weston. Cost of living generally is a concern, with over half of respondents (55.3%) agreeing that finances are a constant concern.

19. How much do you agree or disagree that:

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
The taxes in Weston make it difficult to afford living here	40.2%	34.3%	13.8%	7.6%	4.0%
Finances are a constant concern for my household	23.5%	29.2%	23.1%	13.2%	11.0%
The taxes in Weston are fair and reasonable	4.1%	21.9%	15.7%	28.8%	29.5%

n=2,375