

IOWA COUNTY SMART GROWTH PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY  
**Town of Mifflin**

**QUALITY OF LIFE**

1. What are the three most important reasons for you and your family to live in Iowa County?  
 (Because of three selections per person the totals will be greater than 100%.)

a. Agriculture	43%
b. Appearance of homes	4%
c. Community service	2%
d. Cost of home	24%
e. Historical significance	2%
f. Low crime rate	16%
g. Natural beauty	33%
h. Near family and friends	55%
i. Near job or employment opportunities	20%
j. Property taxes	10%
k. Quality neighborhood	2%
l. Quality of schools	35%
m. Recreational opportunities	6%
n. Small town atmosphere	22%

**COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES**

3. Please rate each of the following services excellent, good, fair, or poor. Choose “not applicable” (NA) if the item does not pertain to you or you are not sure about an item.

	E	G	F	P	NA	NR
a. Ambulance service	39%	39%	8%	0%	6%	8%
b. Fire protection	29%	43%	12%	4%	6%	6%
c. Garbage collection	4%	24%	14%	4%	43%	12%
d. Municipal water supply	2%	6%	2%	0%	80%	10%
e. Park and recreation facilities	16%	27%	18%	2%	27%	10%
f. Police protection	8%	47%	29%	4%	10%	6%
g. Public library	16%	27%	16%	4%	29%	8%
h. Public school system	33%	50%	6%	0%	8%	4%
i. Recycling program	16%	45%	18%	2%	10%	8%
j. Sanitary sewer service	2%	6%	2%	0%	78%	12%
k. Snow removal	16%	51%	20%	2%	6%	6%
l. Storm water management	2%	12%	12%	2%	59%	12%
m. Street and road maintenance	12%	57%	16%	6%	2%	6%

**NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES**

4. The following questions ask your opinion about the importance of natural and cultural resources in your community. How important is it to protect the following?

(Your responses are Essential (E), Very Important (VI), Important (I), Not Important (NI), Not Applicable (NA) and No response (NR).)

	E	VI	I	NI	NA	NR
a. Air quality	35%	29%	27%	0%	0%	0%
b. Farmland	41%	43%	16%	0%	0%	0%
c. Forested lands	29%	37%	35%	0%	0%	0%
d. Groundwater	51%	31%	14%	2%	0%	2%
e. Historic and cultural sites	14%	35%	33%	14%	2%	2%
f. Open space	12%	41%	39%	8%	0%	0%
g. Rivers and streams	37%	33%	31%	0%	0%	0%
h. Rural character	22%	39%	31%	6%	0%	2%
i. Scenic views and undeveloped hills/bluffs	20%	37%	26%	10%	0%	2%
j. Wetlands	18%	37%	31%	10%	2%	2%
k. Wildlife habitat	27%	31%	29%	12%	0%	2%

**HOUSING**

Housing is an important part of how a community grows. We would like your opinion about the development of housing in your community.

(Your responses are Essential (E), Very Important (VI), Important (I), Not Important (NI), Not Applicable (NA) and No response (NR).)

5. Your local jurisdiction should focus on improving existing housing quality.

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
12%	51%	12%	4%	12%	8%

6. The following types of housing are needed:

a. Single family housing

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
12%	39%	8%	6%	27%	8%

b. Duplexes (2 units)

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
0%	22%	18%	10%	35%	14%

c. Apartments (3 or more)

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
2%	12%	24%	16%	31%	14%

7. Affordable housing is needed in your local jurisdiction.

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
10%	37%	16%	4%	22%	10%

8. Elderly housing is needed in your local jurisdiction.

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
4%	43%	16%	8%	16%	12%

9. Starter (first time buyer) homes are needed in your local jurisdiction.

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
6%	41%	14%	4%	22%	12%

10. Would you prefer housing built in a traditional design (option a) or a cluster design (option b)?

Option A (traditional design)	14%
Option B (cluster design)	63%
No response	23%

**AGRICULTURE AND LAND USE**

The following questions are asking for your opinion about agriculture and land use in Iowa County.

11. Productive agricultural land should be allowed to be used for:

Your choices are: Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D), Strongly Disagree (SD), No Opinion (NO), and No Response (NR).

a. Agricultural use

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
80%	20%	0%	0%	0%	0%

b. Residential use

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
6%	24%	37%	20%	2%	10%

c. Commercial use

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
2%	12%	39%	35%	6%	6%

d. Any use

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
4%	8%	33%	37%	10%	8%

12. Large scale farms (500 or more animal units) should be allowed to expand:

a. Anywhere in Iowa County

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
2%	29%	31%	20%	6%	12%

b. Nowhere in Iowa County

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
8%	10%	41%	20%	8%	12%

c. Outside a 2 mile radius of incorporated areas

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
16%	35%	14%	4%	16%	14%

13. Landowners should be allowed to develop land any way they want.

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
18%	14%	41%	16%	4%	6%

14. The visual impacts (view of the landscape) of development are an important consideration when evaluating proposed development.

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
27%	55%	14%	2%	2%	0%

15. It is important to require driveways that will meet standards for providing emergency services.

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
37%	49%	4%	6%	0%	4%

16. There should be a minimum lot size on residential development in rural areas.

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
20%	45%	20%	4%	10%	0%

17. In your opinion what should be the minimum lot size for rural residential development?

Less than 1 acre	10%
One to 5 acres	43%
6 to 10 acres	12%
11 to 40 acres	10%
40 or more acres	10%
No limitation	8%
No response	6%

**TRANSPORTATION**

Your choices are: Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D), Strongly Disagree (SD), No Opinion (NO), and No Response (NR).

18. The overall road network (roads, streets, and highways) in Iowa County meets the needs of its citizens.

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
10%	82%	2%	0%	2%	4%

19. The condition of local roads and streets in your community is adequate for intended uses.

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
10%	69%	12%	0%	4%	4%

20. Biking and walking are important modes of transportation in your community.

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
2%	27%	41%	10%	16%	4%

21. There should be more biking and walking lanes along public roadways.

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
4%	33%	37%	10%	12%	4%

22. Rate the following in your local jurisdiction.

Your choices are Excellent (E) Good (G), Fair (F), Poor (P), Not Applicable (NA), and No Response (NR).

	E	G	F	P	NA	NR
a. Roads	10%	69%	16%	2%	0%	3%
b. Sidewalks	0%	4%	10%	2%	78%	6%
c. Bike trails	0%	8%	8%	6%	69%	8%
d. Airports	2%	27%	2%	2%	61%	6%
e. Bus service	0%	0%	2%	10%	82%	6%
f. Shared ride van services	0%	0%	2%	10%	82%	6%
g. Railroads	0%	0%	0%	12%	82%	6%

**COMMUNICATION**

23. Check the two most effective ways your local jurisdiction could provide smart growth information to its landowners and residents. (Because more than one response was asked for the totals will be more than 100%.)

a. Direct Mailings	78%
b. Newspaper articles	39%
c. Radio	20%
d. Newsletters	45%
e. Public Meetings	14%
f. Internet	6%

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

The following questions are asking about how you view economic development in your local community.

24. Commercial or industrial buildings and activities involving truck traffic and manufacturing should be located:

(Your choices are: Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D), Strongly Disagree (SD), No Opinion (NO), and No Response (NR).)

a. In an existing city or village

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
18%	41%	16%	2%	14%	8%

b. Near a city or village

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
16%	57%	8%	2%	12%	4%

c. Anywhere in Iowa County

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
2%	10%	37%	33%	10%	8%

25. Iowa County should work to coordinate efforts to actively recruit new businesses and industry.

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
24%	55%	2%	6%	10%	2%

26. All Iowa communities should provide at least some land with infrastructure (water, sewer, access, etc.) for industrial and commercial uses either owned publicly or privately.

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
12%	39%	27%	6%	14%	2%

27. Development at the edge of cities and villages should be required to have municipal water and sewer services.

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
18%	49%	8%	2%	20%	2%

28. Iowa County jurisdictions should pursue the following energy alternatives as a form of economic development.

	SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
a. Ethanol plants	16%	37%	16%	0%	22%	8%
b. Solar energy	22%	45%	10%	2%	12%	8%
c. Wind energy	37%	45%	6%	2%	4%	6%

29. Rate the importance of the following.

Your choices are Essential (E), Very Important (VI), Important (I), Not Important (NI), No Opinion, (NO), and No Response (NR).

	E	VI	I	NI	NO	NR
a. Agricultural related businesses	57%	31%	10%	0%	0%	2%
b. Commercial and retail development	12%	35%	45%	2%	2%	4%
c. Downtown development -- main street	14%	24%	35%	10%	10%	6%
d. Home based businesses	6%	22%	45%	10%	10%	6%
e. Industrial and manufacturing development	14%	24%	49%	6%	2%	4%
f. Tourism and recreation	16%	43%	33%	0%	4%	4%

## DEMOGRAPHICS

Please tell us some things about you:

<b>1. Gender</b>	
Male	57%
Female	39%
No response	4%

<b>2. Age</b>	
18 to 24	0%
25 to 34	4%
35 to 44	12%
45 to 54	35%
55 to 64	24%
65 and older	24%
No response	2%

<b>3. Employment status</b>	
Employed Full Time	39%
Employed Part Time	10%
Unemployed	2%
Self Employed	27%
Retired	22%
Other Response	0%
No response	0%

<b>4. Place of residence</b>	
Own	94%
Rent	0%
Other	0%
No response	6%

<b>5. Number of adults (over 18) in household</b>	
None	0%
One	22%
Two	51%
Three	22%
Four	0%
Five or more	0%
No response	4%

<b>6. Number of children (under 18) in household</b>	
None	61%
One	12%
Two	16%
Three	2%
Four	2%
Five or more	0%
No response	6%

<b>7. Income range</b>	
Less than \$15,000	12%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	2%
\$25,000 to \$49,999	31%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	16%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	10%
\$100,000 or more	10%
No response	18%

<b>8. How long have you lived in Iowa County?</b>	
Less than 1 year	0%
1 to 4 years	2%
5 to 9 years	8%
10 to 24 years	12%
25 years or more	73%
No response	4%

<b>9. How many acres of land do you own in Iowa County?</b>	
Less than 1 acre	6%
1 to 10 acres	22%
11 to 100 acres	18%
100 acres or more	47%
No response	6%

**END OF SUMMARY**