

IOWA COUNTY SMART GROWTH PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY  
**Village of Avoca**

**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	5%
b. Appearance of homes	0%
c. Community services	4%
d. Cost of home	29%
e. Historical significance	4%
f. Low crime rate	21%
g. Natural beauty	52%
h. Near family and friends	45%
i. Near job or employment opportunities	11%
j. Property taxes	12%
k. Quality neighborhoods	9%
l. Quality schools	7%
m. Recreational opportunities	25%
n. Small town atmosphere	64%

**COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES**

3. Please rate each of the following services excellent (E), good (G), fair (F), or poor (P). Choose “not applicable” (NA) if the item does not pertain to you or you are not sure about an item. “NR” means No Response

	<b>E</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>NR</b>
a. Ambulance service	34%	45%	13%	2%	2%	5%
b. Fire protection	38%	52%	5%	0%	0%	5%
c. Garbage collection	32%	61%	0%	2%	4%	2%
d. Municipal water supply	20%	57%	9%	4%	5%	5%
e. Park and recreation facilities	21%	59%	13%	4%	0%	4%
f. Police protection	14%	52%	21%	5%	0%	7%
g. Public library	2%	9%	13%	14%	52%	11%
h. Public schools system	13%	34%	20%	5%	18%	11%
i. Recycling program	25%	52%	13%	2%	2%	7%
j. Sanitary sewer service	21%	57%	5%	0%	5%	11%
k. Snow removal	18%	52%	18%	4%	4%	5%
l. Storm water management	9%	30%	30%	11%	11%	9%
m. Street and road maintenance	14%	52%	29%	0%	0%	5%

**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).)

	<b>E</b>	<b>VI</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NI</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>NR</b>
a. Air quality	52%	30%	13%	4%	0%	2%
b. Farmland	32%	34%	30%	4%	0%	2%
c. Forested lands	30%	34%	32%	4%	0%	2%
d. Groundwater	48%	25%	21%	2%	0%	4%
e. Historic and cultural sites	13%	32%	38%	9%	2%	7%
f. Open space	21%	39%	25%	7%	2%	5%
g. Rivers and streams	46%	32%	16%	2%	0%	4%
h. Rural character	25%	36%	30%	4%	0%	5%
i. Scenic views and undeveloped hills/bluffs	32%	36%	23%	5%	0%	4%
j. Wetlands	29%	30%	34%	4%	0%	4%
k. Wildlife habitat	<b>38%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>4%</b>

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

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

<b>SA</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>SD</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>NR</b>
36%	36%	5%	0%	12%	11%

6. The following types of housing are needed:

a. Single family housing

<b>SA</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>SD</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>NR</b>
23%	46%	9%	0%	12%	9%

b. Duplexes (2 units)

<b>SA</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>SD</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>NR</b>
9%	30%	21%	4%	23%	13%

c. Apartments (3 or more)

<b>SA</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>SD</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>NR</b>
7%	20%	36%	9%	20%	9%

7. Affordable housing is needed in your local jurisdiction.

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
21%	48%	14%	0%	13%	4%

8. Elderly housing is needed in your local jurisdiction.

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
16%	46%	25%	0%	7%	5%

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

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
21%	45%	9%	2%	14%	9%

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

Option A (traditional design)	30%
Option B (cluster design)	46%
No response	23%

#### AGRICULTURE AND LAND USE

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

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

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

a. Agricultural use

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
66%	25%	0%	0%	4%	5%

b. Residential use

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
0%	30%	34%	16%	7%	12%

c. Commercial use

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
4%	5%	36%	27%	9%	20%

d. Any use

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
5%	2%	32%	34%	11%	16%

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
11%	23%	25%	23%	11%	7%

b. Nowhere in Iowa County

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
9%	11%	34%	14%	20%	12%

c. Outside a 2 mile radius of incorporated areas

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
14%	30%	18%	11%	16%	11%

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

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
14%	16%	34%	23%	5%	7%

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

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
29%	57%	7%	0%	2%	5%

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

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
32%	54%	5%	0%	5%	4%

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

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
16%	52%	20%	4%	4%	5%

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

Less than 1 acre	9%
One to 5 acres	46%
5 to 10 acres	7%
11 to 40 acres	11%
40 or more acres	0%
No limitation	18%
No response	9%

**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
5%	75%	11%	0%	2%	7%

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

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
7%	73%	9%	2%	2%	7%

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

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
13%	54%	20%	0%	7%	7%

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

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
20%	46%	16%	4%	7%	7%

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	4%	68%	20%	0%	0%	9%
b. Sidewalks	2%	45%	36%	4%	7%	7%
c. Bike trails	0%	16%	13%	20%	36%	16%
d. Airports	2%	5%	4%	7%	70%	13%
e. Bus service	0%	4%	2%	11%	71%	13%
f. Shared ride van services	2%	23%	18%	11%	34%	13%
g. Railroads	2%	25%	29%	13%	23%	9%

**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, the totals will be more than 100%.)

a. Direct mailings	61%
b. Newspaper articles	25%
c. Radio	21%
d. Newsletters	36%
e. Public meetings	30%
f. Internet	11%

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

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

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

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

a. In an existing city or village

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
7%	39%	21%	7%	11%	14%

b. Near a city or village

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
11%	59%	7%	0%	14%	9%

c. Anywhere in Iowa County

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
5%	13%	34%	14%	14%	20%

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

SA	A	D	SD	NO	NR
36%	45%	2%	4%	7%	7%

26. All Iowa County 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
21%	38%	11%	5%	12%	13%

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
21%	43%	14%	2%	13%	7%

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	14%	25%	18%	2%	29%	13%
b. Solar energy	27%	39%	5%	0%	20%	9%
c. Wind energy	27%	45%	2%	0%	16%	11%

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).

	<b>E</b>	<b>VI</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NI</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>NR</b>
a. Agricultural related businesses	36%	29%	20%	2%	7%	7%
b. Commercial and retail development	9%	36%	32%	4%	11%	9%
c. Downtown development – main street	21%	14%	39%	5%	9%	11%
d. Home based businesses	5%	23%	29%	21%	13%	9%
e. Industrial and manufacturing development	14%	29%	34%	7%	7%	9%
f. Tourism and recreation	30%	29%	21%	5%	7%	7%

**DEMOGRAPHICS**

Please tell us some things about you:

<b>1. Gender</b>	
Male	48%
Female	43%
No response	9%
<b>2. Age</b>	
18 to 24	0%
25 to 34	4%
35 to 44	14%
45 to 54	20%
55 to 64	25%
65 and older	36%
No response	2%

<b>3. Employment status</b>	
a. Employed full time	50%
b. Employed part time	4%
c. Unemployed	0%
d. Self-employed	0%
e. Retired	43%
f. Other	4%
g. No response	0%

<b>4. Place of residence</b>	
a. Own	96%
b. Rent	2%
c. Other	0%
d. No response	2%

<b>5. Number of adults (over 18) in household</b>	
a. None	7%
b. One	27%
c. Two	55%
d. Three	7%
e. Four	0%
f. Five or more	4%
g. No response	0%

<b>6. Number of children (under 18) in household</b>	
a. None	80%
b. One	7%
c. Two	2%
d. Three	2%
e. Four	2%
f. Five or more	0%
g. No response	7%

<b>7. Income range</b>	
a. Less than \$15,000	20%
b. \$15,000 to \$24,999	21%
c. \$25,000 to \$49,999	23%
d. \$50,000 to \$74,999	21%
e. \$75,000 to \$99,999	7%
f. \$100,000 or more	4%
g. No response	4%

<b>8. How long have you lived in Iowa County?</b>	
a. Less than 1 year	0%
b. 1 to 4 years	11%
c. 5 to 9 years	9%
d. 10 to 24 years	25%
e. 25 years or more	54%
f. No response	2%

<b>9. How many acres of land do you own in Iowa County?</b>	
a. Less than 1 acre	70%
b. 1 to 10 acres	21%
c. 11 to 100 acres	2%
d. 100 acres or more	0%
e. No response	7%

**END OF SUMMARY**