

SELECT BOARD MEETING

Monday, December 15, 2025

Select Board Meeting Room, 1625 Massachusetts Avenue, Lexington, MA 02420 - Hybrid Participation*
6:30 PM

AGENDA

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approve: 2026 Common Victualler License Renewals
 - Avenue Deli - 1806 Massachusetts Avenue
 - Daikanyama Japanese Cuisine - 43 Waltham Street
 - Galaray House - 1720 Massachusetts Avenue
 - Ixtapa Cantina - 177 Massachusetts Avenue
 - Knights of Columbus Members Association Inc - 177 Bedford Street
 - Lexington Elks Club #2204 - 959 Waltham Street
 - Lexington House of Pizza - 399 Lowell Street
 - Mike & Patty's Breakfast & Sandwiches - 317 Woburn Street
 - Nick's Restaurant of Lexington Inc. - 197 Massachusetts Avenue
 - Peet's Coffee & Tea - 1749 Massachusetts Avenue
 - Spirit of India - 321 Marrett Road
2. Approve: 2026 Automatic Amusement Devise License Renewals
 - Lexington- Lodge #2204 (Golden Tee Golf) - 959 Waltham Street
 - Lexington- Lodge #2204 (Jukebox) - 959 Waltham Street
3. Approve: 2026 Class II License Renewal
 - Lexington Auto Sales - 542 Massachusetts Avenue
4. Approve: 2026 Liquor License Renewal
 - Package Store
 - Nick's Wine and Spirits - 1666 Massachusetts Avenue, Unit H
5. Approve: Town Manager Committee Appointment
 - Conservation Commission Associate Member - Thomas Olivier
6. Approve: Water & Sewer Commitments
7. Approve: Select Board and Town Manager Goals for FY2026-27
8. Approve Application: Liquor License Change of Manager Amendment - Beijing Cuisine

ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION

- | | |
|--|--------|
| 1. Civic Academy Graduation | 6:45pm |
| 2. Presentations: Proposed 2026 Annual Town Meeting Articles | 7:00pm |

- Commission on Disabilities - Universal Design Resolution
 - Vision for Lexington Funding for RFP for Town - Wide Survey
3. Discussion: Town Manager Performance Evaluation 7:20pm
 4. Discussion: Generate List of Decision Points for Non-Residential Development Surcharge for Affordable Housing 7:40pm
 5. Vote: Article 97 Filing for High School Project 7:55pm
 6. Approve: Reversal of Liquor License and Adjust Liquor License Renewal – Whiskey and Wine, 55 Bedford Street 8:00pm

ADJOURN

1. Anticipated Adjournment 8:05pm

Meeting Packet: <https://lexington.novusagenda.com/agendapublic/>

*Members of the public can attend the meeting from their computer or tablet by clicking on the following link at the time of the meeting: <https://lexingtonma.zoom.us/j/82013535294?pwd=mGvKYC9PHOT8ByUHHa0a18jNRhRXpf.1>

Phone +1 646 876 9923

Meeting ID: 820 1353 5294

Passcode: 848540

An Act Relative to Extending Certain State of Emergency Accommodations:
<https://www.mass.gov/the-open-meeting-law>

The next meeting of the Select Board will be held on Monday, January 5, 2026 at 6:30pm via hybrid participation.

*Hearing Assistance Devices Available on Request
All agenda time and the order of items are approximate and
subject to change.*

LexMedia
Recorded by LexMedia

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

LEXINGTON SELECT BOARD MEETING

AGENDA ITEM TITLE:

Approve: 2026 Common Victualler License Renewals

PRESENTER:

Jill Hai, Select Board Chair

ITEM NUMBER:

C.1

SUMMARY:

Category: Decision-Making

The Select Board is being asked to approve the 2026 Annual Common Victualler License renewals. The Select Board Office is in receipt of all of the required documentation and departmental reviews with sign-offs for the renewals of the following businesses holding a Common Victualler License:

- Avenue Deli - 1806 Massachusetts Avenue
- Daikanyama Japanese Cuisine - 43 Waltham Street
- Galaray House - 1720 Massachusetts Avenue
- Ixtapa Cantina - 177 Massachusetts Avenue
- Knights of Columbus Members Association Inc - 177 Bedford Street
- Lexington Elks Club #2204 - 959 Waltham Street
- Lexington House of Pizza - 399 Lowell Street
- Mike & Patty's Breakfast & Sandwiches - 317 Woburn Street
- Nick's Restaurant of Lexington Inc. - 197 Massachusetts Avenue
- Peet's Coffee & Tea - 1749 Massachusetts Avenue
- Spirit of India - 321 Marrett Road

SUGGESTED MOTION:

To approve the 2026 Annual Common Victualler License Renewals for the following businesses:

- Avenue Deli - 1806 Massachusetts Avenue
- Daikanyama Japanese Cuisine - 43 Waltham Street
- Galaray House - 1720 Massachusetts Avenue
- Ixtapa Cantina - 177 Massachusetts Avenue
- Knights of Columbus Members Association Inc - 177 Bedford Street
- Lexington Elks Club #2204 - 959 Waltham Street
- Lexington House of Pizza - 399 Lowell Street

- Mike & Patty's Breakfast & Sandwiches - 317 Woburn Street
- Nick's Restaurant of Lexington Inc. - 197 Massachusetts Avenue
- Peet's Coffee & Tea - 1749 Massachusetts Avenue
- Spirit of India - 321 Marrett Road

FOLLOW-UP:

Select Board Office.

DATE AND APPROXIMATE TIME ON AGENDA:

12/15/2025

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

LEXINGTON SELECT BOARD MEETING

AGENDA ITEM TITLE:

Approve: 2026 Automatic Amusement Device License Renewals

PRESENTER:

Jill Hai, Select Board Chair

ITEM NUMBER:

C.2

SUMMARY:

Category: Decision-Making

The Select Board is being asked to approve the 2026 Annual Automatic Amusement Device License renewals. The Select Board Office is in receipt of all of the required documentation for the renewals of the following business holding (2) Automatic Amusement Device Licenses:

- Lexington- Lodge #2204 (Golden Tee Golf) - 959 Waltham Street
- Lexington- Lodge #2204 (Jukebox) - 959 Waltham Street

SUGGESTED MOTION:

To approve the 2026 Annual Automatic Amusement Device License Renewals for the following business:

Automatic Amusement Devices

- Lexington- Lodge #2204 (Golden Tee Golf) - 959 Waltham Street
- Lexington- Lodge #2204 (Jukebox) - 959 Waltham Street

Move to approve the consent.

FOLLOW-UP:

Select Board Office.

DATE AND APPROXIMATE TIME ON AGENDA:

12/15/2025

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

LEXINGTON SELECT BOARD MEETING

AGENDA ITEM TITLE:

Approve: 2026 Class II License Renewal

PRESENTER:

Jill Hai, Select Board Chair

ITEM NUMBER:

C.3

SUMMARY:

Category: Decision-Making

The Select Board is being asked to approve this 2026 Annual Class II License renewal. The Select Board Office is in receipt of all of the required documentation and departmental reviews with sign-offs for the renewal of the following business holding a Class II License:

- Lexington Auto Sales - 542 Massachusetts Avenue

SUGGESTED MOTION:

To approve the 2026 Annual Class II License Renewal for the following business:

- Lexington Auto Sales - 542 Massachusetts Avenue

Move to approve the consent.

FOLLOW-UP:

Select Board Office.

DATE AND APPROXIMATE TIME ON AGENDA:

12/15/2025

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

LEXINGTON SELECT BOARD MEETING

AGENDA ITEM TITLE:

Approve: 2026 Liquor License Renewal

PRESENTER:

Jill Hai, Select Board Chair

ITEM NUMBER:

C.4

SUMMARY:

Category: Decision-Making

The Select Board is being asked to approve a 2026 Annual Liquor License renewal. The Select Board Office is in receipt of all of the required documentation for the renewal of the following business:

Package Store

- Nick's Wine and Spirits - 1666 Massachusetts Avenue, Unit H

SUGGESTED MOTION:

to approve 2026 Liquor License Renewal for the following:

Package Store

- Nick's Wine and Spirits - 1666 Massachusetts Avenue, Unit H

FOLLOW-UP:

Select Board Office

DATE AND APPROXIMATE TIME ON AGENDA:

12/15/2025

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

LEXINGTON SELECT BOARD MEETING

AGENDA ITEM TITLE:

Approve: Town Manager Committee Appointment

PRESENTER:

Jill Hai, Select Board Chair

ITEM NUMBER:

C.5

SUMMARY:

Category: Correction to Conservation Commission Appointment

This item seeks the Select Board's approval to correct the appointment status of Thomas Olivier from Full Member to Associate Member of the Conservation Commission. The Board originally voted an appointment at its meeting on December 8, 2025, but the member designation was entered in error. The corrected appointment remains effective immediately to Conservation Commission Associate Member with the term expiring March 31, 2028.

SUGGESTED MOTION:

To confirm the Town Manager's appointment of Thomas Olivier as an Associate Member to the Conservation Commission with a term set to expire March 31, 2028.

Move to approve the consent agenda

FOLLOW-UP:

Town Manager's Office.

DATE AND APPROXIMATE TIME ON AGENDA:

12/15/2025

ATTACHMENTS:

Description

Type

Application Form

Profile

Attendance to a regularly scheduled meeting of the board or committee of interest is strongly encouraged when considering applying for membership. All committee meetings are open to the public and are posted at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting in our www.lexingtonma.gov/calendar.

If you are appointed to the board or committee for which you have applied, information from this application will be used to contact you regarding your appointment from the appointing authority as well as the Town Clerk’s Office. Please do not offer information on this application you would prefer we not use.

Applications will be kept on file and considered as vacancies occur for up to six months unless otherwise noted.

If you have any questions or need more information regarding the completion of the application, please contact either the Select Board Office at 781-698-4580 or the Town Manager’s Office at 781-698-4540.

Thomas

First Name

T

Middle Initial

Olivier

Last Name

Nickname

Tom

Preferred Title (i.e. Mr., Ms., Mx., Dr., Rev)

Mr.

Email Address

Alternate Email Address (Optional)

Home Address

Suite or Apt

Lexington

City

MA

State

02420

Postal Code

Length of Residence in Lexington (Note: ZBA requirement is a minimum of 8 years)

28 years

What Precinct do you live in?

☒ Precinct 1

Mobile:

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

Retired

Employer

Job Title

Work Address

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Conservation Commission: Submitted

Interests & Experiences

Please tell us about yourself and why you want to serve.

Special Training and/or Qualifications

Over 30 years as environmental attorney at US Environmental Protection Agency, enforcing environmental statutes and regulations. Four years as law firm associate in land use, real estate, and town counsel practice.

Upload a Resume

Why are you interested in serving on a board or commission?

Lexington's open space and wetlands are invaluable resources that need management and protection. I think the Conservation Commission's work is essential, and I would like to be of assistance now that I am retired from EPA.

How did you hear about the board or commission for which you are applying?

As part of my work as an attorney, I am aware of the role and functions of town conservation commissions, and have represented clients before conservation commissions and other town bodies.

Have you recently attended any meetings of the board or committee for which you are applying?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Have you confirmed your availability to attend the board or committee's meetings? (i.e. can attend at the time the committee regularly meets)

☒ Yes ☐ No

Do you currently serve on another board or committee?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, please list date of most recent Conflict of Interest Law Training.

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

LEXINGTON SELECT BOARD MEETING

AGENDA ITEM TITLE:

Approve: Water & Sewer Commitments

PRESENTER:

Jill Hai, Select Board Chair

ITEM NUMBER:

C.6

SUMMARY:

Category: Decision-making

September 2025 Water/Sewer Finals	\$	24,604.64
October 2025 Water/Sewer Finals	\$	131,460.49
September 2025 Cycle 9 Billing	\$	427,377.63
Water/Sewer Commitment Sect 1	\$	3,744,381.27
Water/Sewer Commitment Sect 2	\$	3,898,598.94
Water/Sewer Commitment Sect 3	\$	6,775,553.00

SUGGESTED MOTION:

Move to approve the consent

FOLLOW-UP:

Treasurer / Collector

DATE AND APPROXIMATE TIME ON AGENDA:

12/15/2025

ATTACHMENTS:

Description	Type
 SB Meeting WS items	Cover Memo



Department of Public Works
Town of Lexington
Water and Sewer Enterprise Funds
FISCAL YEAR 2026

FINALS
SEPTEMBER 2025

GRAND TOTALS

WATER \$	17,086.37	\$17,086.37
SEWER \$	7,518.27	\$7,518.27
TOTAL:	<u>\$24,604.64</u>	<u>\$24,604.64</u>

To the Collector of Revenue for the Town of Lexington:

You are hereby authorized and required to levy and collect of the persons named in the list of water/sewer charges herewith committed to you and each one of his/her respective portion herein set down of the sum total of such list. Said sum being:

Twenty four thousand six hundred four 64/100

And pay the same into the treasury of the Town of Lexington
and to exercise the powers conferred by law in regard thereto.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

12-4-25

SELECT BOARD

12/22/25

Treasurer/Collector, Director of Public Works, Water/Sewer Billing



Department of Public Works
Town of Lexington
Water and Sewer Enterprise Funds
FISCAL YEAR 2026

FINALS
OCTOBER 2025

GRAND TOTALS

WATER \$	45,047.33	\$45,047.33
SEWER \$	86,413.16	\$86,413.16
TOTAL:	<u>\$131,460.49</u>	<u>\$131,460.49</u>

To the Collector of Revenue for the Town of Lexington:

You are hereby authorized and required to levy and collect of the persons named in the list of water/sewer charges herewith committed to you and each one of his/her respective portion herein set down of the sum total of such list. Said sum being:

One hundred thirty one thousand four hundred sixty 49/100

And pay the same into the treasury of the Town of Lexington
and to exercise the powers conferred by law in regard thereto.


12-4-25
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

SELECT BOARD

12/22/25

Treasurer/Collector, Director of Public Works, Water/Sewer Billing



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS TOWN OF LEXINGTON

WATER AND SEWER ENTERPRISE FUNDS

CYCLE 9 BILLING

Sep-25

CYCLE 9	GRAND TOTAL
WATER: \$	420,687.12
BEDFORD FEE: \$	6,690.51
TOTAL: \$	427,377.63

To the Collector of Revenue for the Town of Lexington:

You are hereby authorized and required to levy and collect of the persons named in the list of water/sewer charged herewith committed to you and each one of his/her respective portion herein set down to the sum total of such list. Said sum being:

Four hundred twenty seven three hundred seventy seven 63/100

And pay the same into the treasury of the Town of Lexington and to exercise the powers conferred by law in regard thereto.

12-4-25

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

Treasurer/Collector; Director of Public Works, Water/Sewer Billing

SELECT BOARD

12/22/25



Department of Public Works
Town of Lexington
Water and Sewer Enterprise Funds
FISCAL YEAR 2026

COMMITMENT FA0126

SECTION 1

GRAND TOTALS

WATER	\$1,907,557.26	\$1,907,557.26
SEWER	\$1,836,824.01	\$1,836,824.01
TOTAL:	<u>\$3,744,381.27</u>	<u>\$3,744,381.27</u>

To the Collector of Revenue for the Town of Lexington:

You are hereby authorized and required to levy and collect of the persons named in the list of water/sewer charges herewith committed to you and each one of his/her respective portion herein set down of the sum total of such list. Said sum being:

Three million seven hundred forty four thousand three hundred eighty one 27/100

And pay the same into the treasury of the Town of Lexington
and to exercise the powers conferred by law in regard thereto.

 12-4-25
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

SELECT BOARD

12/22/25

Treasurer/Collector, Director of Public Works, Water/Sewer Billing



Department of Public Works
Town of Lexington
Water and Sewer Enterprise Funds
FISCAL YEAR 2026

COMMITMENT FA0226

SECTION 2

GRAND TOTALS

WATER	\$2,330,888.72	\$2,330,888.72
SEWER	\$1,567,710.22	\$1,567,710.22
TOTAL:	<u>\$3,898,598.94</u>	<u>\$3,898,598.94</u>

To the Collector of Revenue for the Town of Lexington:

You are hereby authorized and required to levy and collect of the persons named in the list of water/sewer charges herewith committed to you and each one of his/her respective portion herein set down of the sum total of such list. Said sum being:

Three million eight hundred ninety eight thousand five hundred ninety eight 94/100

And pay the same into the treasury of the Town of Lexington
and to exercise the powers conferred by law in regard thereto.

 12-4-25

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

SELECT BOARD

12/23/25

Treasurer/Collector, Director of Public Works, Water/Sewer Billing



Department of Public Works
Town of Lexington
Water and Sewer Enterprise Funds
FISCAL YEAR 2026

COMMITMENT FA0326

SECTION 3

GRAND TOTALS


WATER	\$2,985,302.12	\$2,985,302.12
SEWER	\$3,790,250.88	\$3,790,250.88
TOTAL:	<u>\$6,775,553.00</u>	<u>\$6,775,553.00</u>

To the Collector of Revenue for the Town of Lexington:

You are hereby authorized and required to levy and collect of the persons named in the list of water/sewer charges herewith committed to you and each one of his/her respective portion herein set down of the sum total of such list. Said sum being:

Six million seven hundred seventy five thousand five hundred fifty three 00/100

And pay the same into the treasury of the Town of Lexington and to exercise the powers conferred by law in regard thereto.

 12-4-25

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

SELECT BOARD

12/22/25

Treasurer/Collector, Director of Public Works, Water/Sewer Billing

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

LEXINGTON SELECT BOARD MEETING

AGENDA ITEM TITLE:

Approve: Select Board and Town Manager Goals for FY2026-27

PRESENTER:

Jill Hai, Select Board Chair

ITEM NUMBER:

C.7

SUMMARY:

Category: Decision-Making

Confirm FY2024-FY2025 Select Board Goals

At its November 17, 2025 meeting, the Select Board reviewed the collected Select Board's FY26-FY27 Goals. Board Attached is the resulting Goals document incorporating suggested edits

At this meeting, the Board is being asked to confirm the updated goals for publishing to the Select Board webpage.

SUGGESTED MOTION:

To confirm the Select Board FY2026 - FY2027 Goals and publish to the Select Board webpage.

Move to approve the consent.

FOLLOW-UP:

Select Board Office

DATE AND APPROXIMATE TIME ON AGENDA:

12/15/2025

ATTACHMENTS:

Description

Type

FY2026-27 Select Board Goals and Goal Statements

1. Complete the Lexington High School Project (Joe)

- 1.1 Proactively drive actions to meet planned timelines with MSBA and legislature.
- 1.2 Identify opportunities to lower the cost and impact on residential taxes
- 1.3 Engage residents to explain and address tax implications

2. Clean, Healthy, Resilient Lexington (Mark)

- 2.1 Incorporate Capital Projects Solar Canopy Integration Policy into business practices
- 2.2 Continue decarbonizing municipal buildings and electrifying municipal vehicles according to the High-Performance Building Policy and Fleet Electrification Policy
- 2.3 Reduce waste generation while increasing composting and recycling according to the Zero Waste Plan

3. Economic and Community Vibrancy (Vineeta)

- 3.1 Propose options for next steps for revitalizing the center
- 3.2 Integrate the external equity officer position into the fabric of the community
- 3.3 Propose strategies for enhancing economic opportunities in all business districts

4. Fiscal Stability (Doug)

- 4.1 Avoid operational overrides
- 4.2 Identify options for revenue diversification and commercial tax base growth
- 4.3 Convene conversations on long-term financial challenges and policy guidance.

5. Livable Community (Jill)

- 5.1 Evaluate a true 10% affordable housing goal
- 5.2 Advance the Bicycle and Pedestrian access plan and Traffic Safety Group recommendations as a means of increasing safety and multi-modal and public transportation
- 5.3 Propose strategies to enhance a sense of community and connection, taking into consideration health, safety, and systemic barriers.

Note: Goals and goal areas are presented in no particular order, and the list does not reflect any prioritization.

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

LEXINGTON SELECT BOARD MEETING

AGENDA ITEM TITLE:

Approve Application: Liquor License Change of Manager Amendment - Beijing Cuisine

PRESENTER:

Jill Hai, Select Board Chair

ITEM NUMBER:

C.8

SUMMARY:

Category: Decision-Making

G1 Gourmet Group Inc d/b/a Beijing Cuisine has submitted all the necessary paperwork needed to request a change of manager to be Xiaofeng Cheng on their All Alcohol Common Victualler Liquor License.

The proposed manager, Xiaofeng Cheng, has submitted a current Alcohol Awareness Training Certificate and the required CORI check has been completed.

SUGGESTED MOTION:

Move to approve the application from G1 Gourmet Group Inc d/b/a Beijing Cuisine for a Change of Manager and, once approved by the ABCC, issue an updated All Alcohol Common Victualler Liquor License to G1 Gourmet Group Inc d/b/a Beijing Cuisine for a Change of Manager, with Xiaofeng Cheng named as Manager.

FOLLOW-UP:

Select Board Office

DATE AND APPROXIMATE TIME ON AGENDA:

12/15/2025

ATTACHMENTS:

Description	Type
 Application - Beijing Change of Manager	Backup Material



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission
95 Fourth Street, Suite 3, Chelsea, MA 02150-2358
www.mass.gov/abcc

AMENDMENT-Change of Manager

☐ Change of License Manager

1. BUSINESS ENTITY INFORMATION

Entity Name	Municipality	ABCC License Number
GLGOURMET GROUP INC	LEXINGTON	00014-RS-0612

2. APPLICATION CONTACT

The application contact is the person who should be contacted with any questions regarding this application.

Name	Title	Email	Phone
XIAOFENG CHENG	OWNER	feng697901720@yahoo.com	9782730009

3A. MANAGER INFORMATION

The individual that has been appointed to manage and control of the licensed business and premises.

Proposed Manager Name	XIAOFENG CHENG	Date of Birth		SSN	
Residential Address	4 MASS AVE, WOBURN, MA 01801				
Email	feng697901720@yahoo.com		Phone	9782730009	
Please indicate how many hours per week you intend to be on the licensed premises	40	Last-Approved License Manager		PO PAI	

3B. CITIZENSHIP/BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Are you a U.S. Citizen/Qualified Alien under the Immigration and Nationality Act?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, attach one of the following documents: US Passport, Voter's Certificate, Birth Certificate, Naturalization Papers, Green Card or Employment Authorization Document.

☐ Yes ☒ No

Have you ever been convicted of a state, federal, or military crime?

If yes, fill out the table below and attach an affidavit providing the details of any and all convictions. Attach additional pages, if necessary, utilizing the format below.

Date	Municipality	Charge	Disposition

3C. EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

Please provide your employment history. Attach additional pages, if necessary, utilizing the format below.

Start Date	End Date	Position	Employer	Supervisor Name
1998	2012	TELLER MANAGER	CITIZENS BANK	SUSAN MUKAI

3D. PRIOR DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Have you held a beneficial or financial interest in, or been the manager of, a license to sell alcoholic beverages that was subject to disciplinary action? ☐ Yes ☒ No If yes, please fill out the table. Attach additional pages, if necessary,utilizing the format below.

Date of Action	Name of License	State	City	Reason for suspension, revocation or cancellation

I hereby swear under the pains and penalties of perjury that the information I have provided in this application is true and accurate:

Manager's Signature  Date 12/1/2025

APPLICANT'S STATEMENT

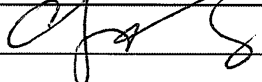
I, XIAOFENG CHENG the: ☐ sole proprietor; ☐ partner; ☒ corporate principal; ☐ LLC/LLP manager
Authorized Signatory
of GL GOURMET GROUP INC
Name of the Entity/Corporation

hereby submit this application (hereinafter the "Application"), to the local licensing authority (the "LLA") and the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission (the "ABCC" and together with the LLA collectively the "Licensing Authorities") for approval.

I do hereby declare under the pains and penalties of perjury that I have personal knowledge of the information submitted in the Application, and as such affirm that all statements and representations therein are true to the best of my knowledge and belief. I further submit the following to be true and accurate:

- (1) I understand that each representation in this Application is material to the Licensing Authorities' decision on the Application and that the Licensing Authorities will rely on each and every answer in the Application and accompanying documents in reaching its decision;
- (2) I state that the location and description of the proposed licensed premises are in compliance with state and local laws and regulations;
- (3) I understand that while the Application is pending, I must notify the Licensing Authorities of any change in the information submitted therein. I understand that failure to give such notice to the Licensing Authorities may result in disapproval of the Application;
- (4) I understand that upon approval of the Application, I must notify the Licensing Authorities of any change in the ownership as approved by the Licensing Authorities. I understand that failure to give such notice to the Licensing Authorities may result in sanctions including revocation of any license for which this Application is submitted;
- (5) I understand that the licensee will be bound by the statements and representations made in the Application, including, but not limited to the identity of persons with an ownership or financial interest in the license;
- (6) I understand that all statements and representations made become conditions of the license;
- (7) I understand that any physical alterations to or changes to the size of the area used for the sale, delivery, storage, or consumption of alcoholic beverages, must be reported to the Licensing Authorities and may require the prior approval of the Licensing Authorities;
- (8) I understand that the licensee's failure to operate the licensed premises in accordance with the statements and representations made in the Application may result in sanctions, including the revocation of any license for which the Application was submitted; and
- (9) I understand that any false statement or misrepresentation will constitute cause for disapproval of the Application or sanctions including revocation of any license for which this Application is submitted.
- (10) I confirm that the applicant corporation and each individual listed in the ownership section of the application is in good standing with the Massachusetts Department of Revenue and has complied with all laws of the Commonwealth relating to taxes, reporting of employees and contractors, and withholding and remitting of child support.

Signature:



Date:

12/1/2025

Title:

OWNER & OWNER

ENTITY VOTE

The Board of Directors or LLC Managers of GL GOURMET GROUP INC
Entity Name
duly voted to apply to the Licensing Authority of LEXINGTON and the
City/Town
Commonwealth of Massachusetts Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission on 11/25/2025
Date of Meeting

For the following transactions (Check all that apply):

☒ Change of Manager

☐ Other

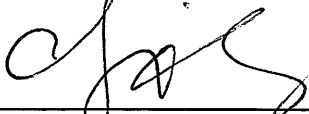
"VOTED: To authorize XIAOFENG CHENG
Name of Person

to sign the application submitted and to execute on the Entity's behalf, any necessary papers and do all things required to have the application granted."

"VOTED: To appoint XIAOFENG CHENG
Name of Liquor License Manager

as its manager of record, and hereby grant him or her with full authority and control of the premises described in the license and authority and control of the conduct of all business therein as the licensee itself could in any way have and exercise if it were a natural person residing in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts."

A true copy attest,



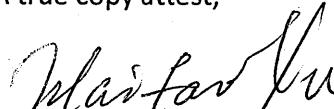
Corporate Officer /LLC Manager Signature

XIAOFENG CHENG

(Print Name)

For Corporations ONLY

A true copy attest,



Corporation Clerk's Signature

HAITAO YU

(Print Name)

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

LEXINGTON SELECT BOARD MEETING

AGENDA ITEM TITLE:

Civic Academy Graduation

PRESENTER:

Abe Fofanah, Management Fellow

ITEM NUMBER:

I.1

SUMMARY:

Category: Informing

Abe Fofanah, Management Fellow will review Lexington Civic Academy, now in its 16th session. At Lexington Civic Academy, residents met for 12 weeks to learn about local government, specifically, the role each department plays in serving the public. The goal of the program is citizen engagement and the program is designed to connect residents with the Select Board and Town staff, as well as encouraging participation on Town committees/boards and as Town Meeting Members.

SUGGESTED MOTION:

FOLLOW-UP:

DATE AND APPROXIMATE TIME ON AGENDA:

12/15/2025

6:45pm

ATTACHMENTS:

Description	Type
□ Civic Academy December 2025 Participant List	Backup Material

Civic Academy December 2025 Participant List

1. Kseniya Ausiaikova
2. Jim Baldwin
3. Sinan Bruce
4. Sophia De Freitas
5. Sandra Galejs
6. Anagha Kelkar
7. Meghana Khanolkar
8. Dya Levitt
9. Rositza Rachev
10. Kala Ramachandra
11. Stephanie Repaci
12. Eileen Schneider
13. Seth Werfel
14. Catherine Yan

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

LEXINGTON SELECT BOARD MEETING

AGENDA ITEM TITLE:

Presentations: Proposed 2026 Annual Town Meeting Articles

PRESENTER:

Kelly Axtell, Deputy Town Manager

ITEM NUMBER:

I.2

SUMMARY:

Category: Informing

Victoria Buckley and Sue Cusack- Commission on Disabilities will present their Universal Design resolution for the Board's consideration for inclusion on the 2026 Annual Town Meeting warrant.

Sara del Nido Budish, Tom Lin, and Min Zho- Vision for Lexington will present their Town-wide survey article for the Board's Consideration for inclusion on the 2026 Annual Town Meeting warrant.

SUGGESTED MOTION:

n/a

FOLLOW-UP:

DATE AND APPROXIMATE TIME ON AGENDA:

12/15/2025

7:00pm

ATTACHMENTS:

Description	Type
☐ Universal Design ATM	Backup Material
☐ Town -wide survey. Vision for Lexington article	Backup Material
☐ Vision for Lexington slidedeck	Backup Material

Universal Design Resolution as prepared for the 2026 Annual Town Meeting by the Commission on Disabilities

The Universal Design Resolution serves as a reaffirmation of our public commitment to inclusivity, as well as to the ongoing improvement of accessibility and usability in housing for all community members. It aims to broaden the community's understanding of what accessibility truly means. Practical examples of universal design features include no-step entries, wide doorways and hallways, accessible first-floor bathrooms, and structural elements such as wall studs positioned for easy future installation of grab bars, or stacked closets designed to accommodate a future elevator. These features not only support residents in aging in place but also ensure that homes can easily adapt to the needs of individuals with physical challenges. (Drafted August 14th)

Vision for Lexington requests Select Board place the following on the 2026 Annual Town Meeting Warrant

APPROPRIATE FOR TOWN-WIDE SURVEY

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money for the purpose of conducting a Town-wide survey and related expenses and determine whether the money shall be provided by the tax levy, by transfer from available funds, or by any combination of these methods; or act in any other manner in relation thereto.

FUNDS REQUESTED: \$75,000

DESCRIPTION: This article will allow the Vision for Lexington committee to conduct a survey as part of a longitudinal study to assess community perspectives and progress toward meeting stated preferences of community members and to inform planning and decision-making by the three elected boards.

Lexington Town-Wide Survey: 2027

Introduction & kick-off

**Vision for Lexington
Committee**

**Select Board Meeting -
Dec. 15, 2025**



Survey goal: To identify and better understand areas of interest and concern to Lexington residents, and to help inform decision-making in the town.

Guiding principles:

Consistency:

Carrying questions forward to assess trends & changes

Relevance:

Meeting the moment and capturing current perspectives & ideas

Connection:

Engaging all members of the community & providing a space to be heard

Vision for Lexington Committee Objectives

Long-term Future

Engage the Lexington community to think about Lexington's long-term future

Opportunities and Challenges

Identify and assess opportunities and challenges that may shape Lexington's future

Recommendations

Make recommendations to the Select Board and, as appropriate, the School Committee and Planning Board

Measure, track, and report

Measure, track, and report progress on topics studied

Results from 2012, 2017, 2022

2012	2017	2022
Public Education:	Public Education:	Public Education:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ overcrowding ✓ student stress ✓ system geared to 'geniuses'/self-motivated students/'successes' ✓ focus on test scores rather than on 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ overcrowding ✓ student-teacher ratios ✓ student stress ✓ too much competition ✓ funding ✓ increased costs due to increase in student population 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ overcrowding ✓ student stress ✓ mental health issues ✓ need for a new high school ✓ decline in quality of education

2012	2017	2022
Environment:	Environment:	Environment:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ disregard for environmental protection laws ✓ destruction of environment due to loss of trees ✓ too much concern for/emphasis on the environment ✓ environmental 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ preservation of open spaces ✓ trees ✓ pollution due to overdevelopment and traffic ✓ energy grid ✓ Hanscom expansion ✓ degraded environment by 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ focus on issues of climate change (some said more is needed, others said less is needed) ✓ preservation of open space ✓ trash pickup ✓ trees

2012	2017	2022
Housing:	Housing:	Housing:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ loss of affordable housing ✓ housing changes → changing character of neighborhoods ✓ too many tear-downs ✓ "McMansions" ✓ large houses on too small plots ✓ housing too expensive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ tear downs ✓ mansionization ✓ overdevelopment/crowding ✓ multi-dwelling units ✓ builders being only concerned about making money, behaving without proper or adequate control, resulting in negative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ lack of diversity in housing stock ✓ affordability of housing ✓ too many large houses (mansionization) ✓ too many tear-downs ✓ zoning inconsistencies
Town Center:	Town Center:	Town Center:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ not enough shopping diversity ✓ should appeal to visitors/tourists as well as to residents ✓ vacancy rate ✓ make it appealing ✓ too many banks and RE offices ✓ too much traffic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ banks and RE offices ✓ loss of vitality ✓ loss of variety in types of stores/services/local businesses ✓ attraction for tourists and locals ✓ appearance of Center ✓ brick sidewalks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ banks and RE offices ✓ lack of vibrancy ✓ lack of diversity in stores/small businesses ✓ no place to shop ✓ not a place to hang out/no gathering places

Survey Responses help guide funding decisions and prioritization

Most Important Issues			
	2012	2017	2022
Economic Development	Having a vibrant downtown (77.0%)	Having a vibrant downtown (65.3%)	Having a vibrant downtown (59.3%)
Public Education	Having high quality schools	Meeting academic and social needs of all students (37.4%)	Meeting academic and social needs of all students (49.8%)
Climate, Environmental Health and Sustainability	Protecting open spaces from development	Protecting privately owned open spaces from development	Ensuring access to safe drinking water
Physical Character	Enhancing the physical environment of the Town Center	Preserving the physical character of residential neighborhoods	Preserving Town-owned open space
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion	Welcoming diverse groups of people (40.6%)	Welcoming diverse groups of people (41.2%)	Welcoming diverse groups of people (30.2%)
Town Government	Officials acting with integrity (29.6%)	Town officials and staff acting with integrity (26.2%)	Town officials and staff acting with integrity (30.9%)
Town Services	Ensuring public safety (50.6%)	Ensuring public safety (44.4%)	Ensuring public safety (42.5%)

Projected timeline

Winter -
spring 2026

- Initial review of content
- Engage with groups in town to inform modifications
- Refine project plan

Spring -
summer
2026

- Finalize RFP
- Circulate and engage contractor to administer the survey

Fall 2026

- Finalize survey questions
- Test survey
- Identify distribution & publicity strategies

Spring
2027

- Marketing & publicity rollout
- Launch survey

Budget request: \$75,000

- Contractor to administer the survey
- Publicity & marketing
- Qualitative engagement to inform content & supplement results

2022 budget request: \$50,000



Final Report on Town-Wide Survey 2022

Submitted by:
Marian A.O. Cohen, Ph.D.
Ruth Remington, Ph.D., R.N.
Directors, Center for Social Research
Framingham State University
August 2022

Approved by:
Vision for Lexington Committee
Lexington, Massachusetts

Final Report on Town-Wide Survey 2022

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background

On behalf of the Vision for Lexington Committee of Lexington, Massachusetts, and with the support of members of the three elected Boards (Select, School, Planning), a Town-wide study was undertaken to identify and better understand areas of interest and concern to residents. The current study was a replication (with some modifications) of Town-wide surveys conducted in 2012 and 2017.

A goal of Vision for Lexington is to repeat such studies every five (5) years in order to assess community perspectives and progress toward meeting stated preferences of community members and to inform planning and decision-making by the three elected Boards. From its inception, the Vision for Lexington Committee (formerly the 20/20 Committee) has sought input from residents for the planning process. The Committee has used workshops, working groups, precinct meetings, focus groups, and surveys to gather information that has then been used by members of the elected Boards to guide their decision-making. The study reported here is in that vein and it is expected that results will be used to inform decision-making going forward.

Survey Task Force

A Task Force composed of representatives of the three elected Boards (Select Board, School Committee, and Planning Board), representatives of the Vision for Lexington Committee, and some community members was formed to review the contents of the 2017 Town-wide questionnaire. Considerations were given to questions that were no longer relevant (for example, questions about communication were deemed to have been addressed by the addition of a Public Information Officer between 2017 and 2022); that needed rewording to make them more pertinent to current situations; and that needed addition to address issues that have arisen or taken greater prominence since the 2017 survey.

Center for Social Research

The Center for Social Research was engaged to conduct the study. The Directors of the Center have extensive experience conducting research and one of the Directors has been the Principal Investigator on several studies in Lexington (on both the municipal and school sides), including both the 2012 and 2017 Town-wide surveys previously conducted on behalf of the Town.

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The Structure of the Questionnaire

The questionnaire was divided into four parts: Part I asked respondents to indicate how important specific issues are to them in preserving or improving Lexington; to evaluate the performance of the Town with respect to each of the issues; and to identify the single most important issue within broad topic areas. Part II asked respondents to reflect on their experiences living in Lexington. Subsections of Part II focused on taxes and community participation. Part III asked respondents to indicate their priorities with respect to use of resources in an era of tight budgets and increasing demands on those budgets. Part IV collected demographic data on respondents. All findings are presented in aggregated form so as to preserve anonymity and confidentiality of responses.

The Structure of the Report

The report presents results in both narrative and graphic forms. For graphic presentations, consult Appendix D for a list of tables and charts.

Findings of the 2022 Questionnaire (Univariate)

Part I:

Questions asked respondents to identify the importance of specific items about the Town, how they rate performance of the Town with respect to each of those items, and what they deem most important within each of seven (7) broad categories.

- ✓ The most important issue identified by respondents within the broad category of *Economic Development* was having a vibrant downtown. The majority of respondents (57.6%), however, rated performance with respect to this issue as ‘fair’ or ‘poor’.
- ✓ The most important issues identified by respondents within the broad category of *Public Education* were meeting academic, social and emotional needs of all students; attracting and retaining high quality teachers; and delivering public education cost effectively. For the first issue, performance ratings were equally distributed between positive and negative. For the second issue, ratings of performance were mixed, with slightly more respondents giving positive ratings than negative ratings. For the third issue, respondents gave considerably more negative than positive ratings (60.6% vs. 21.8%).
- ✓ The most important issues identified by respondents within the broad category of *Climate, Environmental Health and Sustainability* were ensuring access to safe drinking water and meeting Town and state

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goals of net zero emissions in the next 15-30 years. The vast majority of respondents rated performance on the first issue as ‘excellent’ or ‘very good’. Performance ratings on the second issue were mixed.

- ✓ The most important issues identified by respondents within the broad category of *Physical Character* were preserving Town’s owned open space; preserving the physical character of residential neighborhoods; and enhancing the physical environment of the Town Center. The vast majority of respondents rated performance on the first issue as ‘excellent’ or ‘very good’. Performance ratings on the second item were more negative than positive and ratings on the third item were mixed.
- ✓ The most important issues identified by respondents within the broad category of *Diversity, Equity and Inclusion* were welcoming diverse groups of people and ensuring housing is available for a diverse population. Slightly more than half of respondents rated performance on the first issue as ‘excellent’ or ‘very good’. More than half of respondents rated performance on the second issue as ‘fair’ or ‘poor’.
- ✓ The most important issue identified by respondents within the broad category of *Town Government* was Town officials and staff acting with integrity. More than half of respondents rated performance for this issue as ‘excellent’ or ‘very good’.
- ✓ The most important issue identified by respondents within the broad category of *Town Services* was ensuring public safety. Assessments of performance for this issue were extremely high, with just over 80% of respondents rating performance as ‘excellent’ or ‘very good’.
- When asked if there are issues, other than those identified in the questionnaire, about which respondents thought it important to consider when preserving or improving Lexington, several were identified. (Some of the responses to this open-ended question identified issues that had already been raised. However, it was clear from the nature of the responses that respondents felt strongly about the issues and wanted to comment further on them.) Categories of responses included: cultural changes; development; environmental concerns; history of the Town; housing issues; infrastructure; leadership; schools; taxes; the Town Center; traffic; and zoning.

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Part II:

Questions asked respondents to reflect on their experiences living in Lexington.

- Overall, satisfaction with Lexington as a place to live is high. The majority of respondents rated the level of satisfaction 1, 2, or 3 (on a 10-point scale ranging from 1=very satisfied to 10=very dissatisfied) and more than half said the quality of life hasn't changed in the last five years. However, 24% of respondents said the quality of life is worse. Reasons cited for life being worse included: changes in the community climate; introduction of DEI; environmental concerns; housing; infrastructure problems; issues associated with schools; taxes and affordability; the Town Center; Town government; and zoning.
- When asked what actions should be taken by the Town to make all residents feel welcome, most respondents said "the Town is already doing enough" or "nothing more needs to be done" or expressed the belief that this is not the responsibility of the Town. Some respondents said there was already too much emphasis on DEI. There were, however, some suggestions offered for actions to be taken.
- For the most part, when respondents had interactions with various Town entities, they said they were treated well. Just a few respondents were able to identify some aspect of their identity that might have affected their treatment.
- With respect to taxes, while approximately 60% of respondents said their taxes were too high for the level of services received, almost 2/3 of respondents said they did not believe their taxes made it hard for them to meet their other financial obligations and maintain their standard of living. Concern was expressed about the level of taxes faced by seniors. Respondents said that those taxes should be amended to enable seniors to remain in Lexington.
- There was considerable *participation in the various activities and opportunities* offered to residents by the Town, as well as participation in various *community activities*. Respondents identified a wide variety of means they use to stay connected to the community. Those mechanisms included Town resources; community groups/events; neighborhood resources; cultural or religious resources; and school/education resources.

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Part III:

This section asked about the relative importance of competing issues, prioritizing resources and making trade-offs.

- Respondents would prefer to increase property taxes to meet budgetary needs of schools and/or municipal services than to reduce services and programs in schools or in Town.
- If resources are insufficient to maintain current levels of service, respondents would prefer to reduce municipal services rather than to reduce school services and programs or to reduce services in both schools and Town.
- To reduce reliance on residential property taxes, respondents would prefer to increase commercial density (and the tax base) than to keep zoning as is.
- More respondents would prefer making roadways safer for pedestrians and cyclists (and include traffic calming measures) than would prioritize roadways for vehicular flow.
- When given choices among developing affordable housing, creating recreation fields and preserving available open space, most respondents preferred preserving the open space in any remaining lands available for development.
- Respondents would prefer to regulate residential land use to ensure diversity of housing options than to limit regulation of residential use and allow the market to determine the housing mix.
- More respondents thought it more important to preserve the natural environment than to preserve rights of property owners.
- When asked to rank order each of the broad categories identified in Part I, respondents assigned the highest ranking to ensuring quality public education and the lowest to promoting diversity, equity and inclusion.

Part IV:

Questions in this section focused on background information on respondents. The data were used to assess the representativeness of the sample relative to the population.

- Using data from the U.S. Census Bureau about residents in Lexington, it was determined that the sample of respondents largely corresponded to the demographic profile reported by the U.S. Census.

Final Report on Town-Wide Survey 2022

- Other findings in this Part addressed questions pertaining to:
 - ✓ length of residence in Lexington of respondents
 - ✓ reasons for moving to Lexington
 - ✓ reasons for moving out of Lexington
 - ✓ number of people in household
 - ✓ assessed value of residence
 - ✓ precincts in which respondents reside
 - ✓ voting behavior
 - ✓ how respondents learned about the survey

Findings (Comparisons of Ratings of Importance and Performance)

Statistically significant relationships were found in most cases when comparing ratings of importance and ratings of performance.

In a few instances there was close correspondence between importance and performance. However, in most cases, ratings of importance of issues were higher than were ratings of performance.

Focus Groups

In addition to the Town-wide questionnaire, data were collected through six focus groups. Participants in these groups were self-selected. Broad issues discussed in the focus groups included: Town Center, education, diversity, infrastructure, housing, and taxes.

Comparison with Findings of 2012 and 2017 and 2022 Surveys

Most important issues:

Results of the 2022 survey were largely similar to those of the 2012 and 2017 surveys, within the broad categories of Economic Development; Public Education; Climate, Environmental Health and Sustainability (formerly Environment); Physical Character; Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (formerly labeled Population Diversity); Town Government; and Town Services.

However, some differences were noted in a few broad categories. In the category of *Public Education*, the key issue in 2012 was having high quality schools. In 2017 and 2022, the key issue was meeting academic and social needs of all students. In the category of *Climate, Environmental Health and Sustainability* (formerly labeled Environment), in 2012 the key issue was protecting open spaces from development, whereas in 2017, it was protecting privately owned open spaces from development and in 2022, it was ensuring access to safe drinking water. In the category of *Physical Character*, priorities shifted from a primary focus on enhancing the

Final Report on Town-Wide Survey 2022

environment of the Town Center in 2012 to preserving the physical character of residential neighborhoods in 2017. In 2022, the primary focus was on preserving Town owned open space.

Comparison of Importance and Performance for 2012, 2017, and 2022:

Side-by-side charts compare consistencies and changes (patterns) over time in relationships between ratings of importance of issues and ratings of performance with respect to those issues.

- For the issues within the broad category of Economic Development, the general patterns for attracting additional business development to expand the commercial tax base and for having a vibrant downtown that attracts residents and visitors are notably similar with respect to importance and performance. However, for capitalizing on the Town's history to attract tourists the patterns are dissimilar.
- For issues within the broad category of Public Education, ratings of importance were similar. However, overall, performance ratings in 2022 were more negative than they were in either 2012 or 2017.
- For issues within the broad category of Climate, Environmental Health and Sustainability, patterns are similar for each of the issues across all three data points, however, the importance of maintaining farmlands and access to locally grown foods has increased.
- For issues within the broad category of Physical Character, patterns are remarkably similar in 2012 and 2017 and 2022. There is, however, a difference with respect to protecting open spaces due to refinement of questions in each survey.
- For issues within the broad category of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, performance ratings for ensuring housing for a diverse population were lower in 2017 and 2022 than they were in 2012. Otherwise, patterns are similar.
- For issues within the broad category of Town Government, patterns, overall, show little to no difference from 2012 to 2017 to 2022. However, importance of living within constraints of Proposition 2 1/2 is greater in 2017 and 2022 than it was in 2012 and the difference between importance and performance is greater in 2017 and 2022 than it was in 2012.

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- For issues within the broad category of Town Services, patterns for maintaining roads and sidewalks appear similar in 2012 and 2022, but are reversed in 2017. Performance in 2017 was higher than was importance. By 2022, performance was lower than was importance. Patterns are otherwise consistent from 2012 and 2017 and 2022, except for the pattern pertaining to services for seniors. In 2012 the relationship between importance and performance showed that importance was greater than performance, but that measure was taken before the advent of the Lexington Community Center, which provides better services for seniors.

Satisfaction level:

Respondents remain largely satisfied with living in Lexington. Eighty percent said they expect to still be living in the Town in the near future. That is consistent with results from earlier surveys in which a majority of respondents said they expect to remain in Lexington. Half say the quality of life is ‘the same’ as it was five years ago. The majority of respondents say they are satisfied with Lexington as a place to live.

Concerns about changes:

When asked about potential changes that might occur in Lexington that would be of concern to them, respondents largely expressed the same concerns in 2012, 2017 and 2022. Broad areas of concern included: public education, housing, environment, Town Center, traffic, taxes, financial issues, government, and diversity.

Use of Town amenities and civic participation:

Respondents were asked about participation, by themselves and by family members, in community activities. Participation rates remain high, although there is a slight reduction from 2012 and 2017 figures.

Rates of civic participation, however, have decreased since 2012 and 2017.

Demographic profile:

The number of responses to the questionnaire was higher in 2022 than in 2017 or in 2012. There was a higher percentage of responses from males than in previous years. However, the percentage of responses from Asians/South Asians in 2022 is higher than in 2012 but lower than in 2017. Average age of respondents and average household income increased in 2022. The number of people who have lived in Lexington for at least 20 years has increased in each survey, with the number for 2022 being considerably higher than in 2012. The educational achievement of respondents remained high in 2022, with approximately 90% having a college, Master’s, professional or Ph.D. degree.

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Conclusions

Overall, in 2022, there is not substantial change from 2012 or 2017 in responses to the objective questions in the questionnaire. Responses to open-ended questions, however, revealed more negativity and frustration with life in Lexington than was expressed in 2012 or 2017. There have been some shifts in identification of priorities and values (e.g., a location for seniors and senior programming and concerns about communication of information to residents have taken a place of less importance, while concerns about the Town Center, infrastructure and housing have become more important). Respondents continue to be generally satisfied about life in Lexington and concerned about a 'sense of community'. There were considerable comments about the feared, and actual, loss of a sense of community in 2022.

As the Vision for Lexington Committee has rightly identified, it is important to continue to 'take the pulse' of the community. While most values and concerns may not have changed dramatically since 2012 or 2017, there have been some shifts in priorities. A key difference in 2022 is the number of respondents who spoke to the loss of 'community' – feared and real. Such information is valuable as the Town moves forward with planning for now and for the future.

Acknowledgements:

The Vision for Lexington Committee thanks the many members of the Lexington community who helped make this a successful survey. This includes those members of the community who completed the questionnaire and participated in the focus groups. The Committee also notes the support of the Community Endowment of Lexington, a grant from which funded mailing of postcards to households in Lexington alerting residents about the survey.

In particular, the Committee cites notable contributions by the following. Those listed below served on the Task Force that reviewed previous versions of the questionnaire and created the current version (noted by the superscript 1); assisted in translating the English version of the questionnaire into Chinese or Korean (noted by the superscript 2); helped with distribution of hard copies of the questionnaire (noted by the superscript 3); or assisted as facilitator or note-taker for the focus groups (noted by superscript 4). Special note should be made of the contributions by Mark Manasas, who chaired the Task Force.

Final Report on Town-Wide Survey 2022

Kelly Choi ²	Kwiyoung Choi ²
Marian Cohen ¹	Margaret Coppe ⁴
Christine Dean ³	Andrew Dixon ^{1,4}
Sean Dugan ¹	Peter Enrich ¹
Cathie Ghorbani ³	Boksoon Jo ²
Michelle Kelleher ³	Euna Kim ² Sunny Kim ²
Kathleen Labrecque ¹	Eunju Lee ²
Hakyung Lee ²	Kathleen Lenihan ^{1,4}
Mark Manasas ^{1,4}	Samita Mandelia ⁴
Shannon Murtagh ⁴	Amy Newmark ³
Francesca Park ²	Meesook Park ²
Sunyoung Park ²	Robert Peters ¹
Joe Pato ¹	Ruth Remington ¹
Bokyung Shin ²	Susie Lee Snell ²
Koren Stembridge ³	Weidong Wang ^{1,2,4}
Alan Wrigley ¹	Ruixi Yuan ²
John Zhao ²	Sherry Zhu ²

Final Report on Town-Wide Survey 2022

INTRODUCTION

On behalf of the 20/20 Vision Committee (now called the Vision for Lexington Committee¹) of Lexington, Massachusetts, and with the support of members of the three elected Boards (Select, School, Planning), a Town-wide study was undertaken to understand areas of interest and concern to residents. The current study was a replication (with some modifications) of a Town-wide survey conducted in 2012 and again in 2017. A goal of the Vision for Lexington Committee is to repeat such studies every five (5) years in order to assess community perspectives and progress toward meeting stated preferences of community members, and to inform planning and decision-making by the three elected Boards.

This report provides background information on 20/20 and Vision for Lexington and results of previous attempts to determine community sentiments, in addition to describing the current study and discussing findings from that study.

Background

The 20/20 Vision Committee of Lexington, Massachusetts was established in 1998 to develop a foundation for a community-based strategic goal-setting process that responds to the community's vision. In pursuit of this objective, the Committee is charged to:

- “Engage the Lexington community to think about Lexington’s long-term future.
- Identify and assess opportunities and challenges that may shape Lexington’s future.
- Make recommendations to the Board of Selectmen and, as appropriate, the School Committee and Planning Board.
- Measure, track and report progress on topics studied.”²

Actions undertaken by the 20/20 Committee since its inception have addressed each of these and the current survey is in keeping with these charges. Specific questions in the questionnaire speak to opportunities and challenges as seen by residents and to visions for the future. Findings of the survey will be reported to all three elected Boards. Further, to monitor progress, current results are compared with results from the 2012 and 2017 surveys.

¹ Note that the 20/20 Committee and the Vision for Lexington Committee are one and the same. While the name of the committee has changed, the charge and purpose of the committee remain. When activities were undertaken before the name change, the committee will be referred to as 20/20. For activities undertaken since the name change, the committee will be referred to as Vision for Lexington.

² 2020 Vision Committee charge, as adopted by the Board of Selectmen on April 4, 2001 and most recently revised in 2014.

Final Report on Town-Wide Survey 2022

While there have been several activities³ created by the 20/20 Committee since its inauguration to study various issues before the Town, this report focuses on those activities related to surveys of residents.

From its beginning, the 20/20 Committee has sought input from residents for the planning process. In June of 1999, four (4) workshops were conducted to explore issues of concern to residents. As a follow-up, in October 1999, a forum was held to get feedback on specific topics. As a result, working groups were created to engage in strategic planning with regard to six (6) topics⁴. The working groups identified specific themes and goals⁵. These themes and goals still inform data collection today and are featured in the current Town-wide survey. (Please see Appendix A, Town-wide Survey 2022.) In 2003, the 20/20 Committee issued a report detailing progress toward reaching the goals. In addition, the Committee solicited feedback from residents through precinct meetings. In 2003, the Committee reported on progress toward identified goals. These included areas in which actions were taken and completed in addressing a goal; actions that represented significant progress toward a goal; and actions underway in support of a goal.⁶ In 2010-2011, in an effort to confirm or revise the originally established goals and to identify (new) issues, the Committee held a series of focus groups to engage residents in thinking about Lexington now and in the future. (These focus groups were co-sponsored by a variety of other groups in Town.⁷) Results of the focus group discussions identified both what residents like about Lexington and what they would like to see changed, and what they think goals for the Town should be in the next 10-15 years.

As a result of this data gathering, and the reporting of findings to the relevant elected Boards in Town, changes have been made in the focus of efforts by the Boards, in relationships between residents and Town staff, and in Town functioning.

³ Among the activities of the Committee are creations of: Forging Constructive Community Discourse Task Force (2004-2005), Budget Task Force (2004-2005), Economic Development Task Force (2006-2008), Demographic Change Task Force (2008-2010), Citizens' Academy (2009), Subcommittee on Demographic Change (2012-2013), Town-wide survey (2012-2013), Subcommittee on Asian Communities (2015-2017), Social Diversity Task Force (2016-2017), Town-wide Survey (2016-2017), Enhancing Communication in Lexington (2018-2020). In addition, the Committee sponsored a public process in 2010 to create and implement a shared vision of the community for the year 2020.

⁴ Fostering a sense of community; educational excellence; managing growth: development and open space; ensuring productive connections between citizens and Town government; transportation; managing fiscal stability.

⁵ Promote and strengthen community character; foster educational excellence; sustain and enhance physical character and the larger environment; reinforce connections between residents, civic organizations and Town government; establish open and accessible processes for Town-wide decision-making, planning and conflict resolution.

⁶https://www.lexingtonma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/4567/2020_vision_progress_report_4-page

⁷<https://www.lexingtonma.gov/1400>

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Not surprisingly, themes and issues of importance and concern have largely remained unchanged since the initial data gathering. It is important to regularly assess citizen views, however, to determine the stability and/or change in values, interests, and perspectives. The 20/20 (Vision for Lexington) Committee has clearly engaged in such processes since its foundation. The report of the 2022 Town-wide survey is in keeping with this practice and represents the latest effort to assess and respond to community interests.

Since 2017, concerns about the environment and climate change have become more paramount – for the Town and for our world. As a consequence, several questions related to these issues were added to the 2022 survey. Also, since 2017, diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) have become more prominent as society-wide concerns. Given that the population composition in Lexington has become more diverse since 2017, and that issues related to DEI have been manifested in policies and interactions within Town, questions about DEI were added to the 2022 survey.

Center for Social Research

The Vision for Lexington Committee engaged the Center for Social Research to conduct the survey in 2022. The original Director of the Center has extensive experience conducting studies such as this one and has served as the Principal Investigator on several previous studies for the Town – on both the municipal and the school sides. As well, the Director of the Center was the Principal Investigator in the 2012 and 2017 Town-wide surveys and was therefore well acquainted with the purpose, goal, format, and substance of the questionnaires.

Work performed by the Center for Social Research (now with its two Directors) was divided into three phases for the project. In Phase I, the Center Directors, working with members of the Task Force, produced a data collection instrument. This questionnaire was pre-tested with members of the Vision for Lexington Committee, members of the three Boards, and selected Town staff members. Comments from respondents were discussed with members of the Task Force and a few items in the questionnaire were amended or added. The questionnaire was then prepared by the Center Directors for distribution to residents in both an electronic version and a hard copy version. In addition, working with members of Asian ethnic communities (a now significant percentage of the Town's population), the Center Directors participated in arranging for the translation of the questionnaire into Chinese and into Korean for residents who speak those languages.⁸

⁸ While this effort was worthwhile in that it provided greater access to the questionnaire for all residents, the number of residents who responded using the Chinese and Korean versions of the questionnaire was small. However, some respondents used the Chinese and Korean versions as translation aids.

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Phase II of the project included dissemination of the questionnaire to residents and placement of hard copies and foreign language copies of the questionnaire in Town Hall, Cary Library and the Lexington Community Center. Hard copies were periodically collected from these locations and data were entered into a software package for analysis. Electronic responses were downloaded into the software package.

Phase III of the project involved analysis of the data, including describing findings and identifying results of significance to Town policy makers. Demographic findings were compared with U.S. Census data to determine representativeness of the sample of respondents. Phase III also included writing a final report and creating a file containing quantitative data from the survey for the Town.

In addition to the work described above, the Directors prepared documents and, in cooperation with members of the Vision for Lexington Committee, trained facilitators and note-takers to conduct several focus groups. Participants for the focus groups had been solicited through the questionnaire and through a subsequent message to those who had participated in the survey. Six groups (consisting of a total of 51 participants) were conducted by members of the Vision for Lexington Committee and the qualitative findings from those groups were incorporated into the dataset along with the quantitative and qualitative findings from the questionnaire.

For this report, the Directors also included a comparison of 2012 and 2017 results with those of the current survey. The purpose was to determine what, if any, changes had occurred and what consistencies existed during the five-year periods between surveys.

FINDINGS

Univariate

Findings are presented consistent with the sections of the questionnaire:

Part I reports resident responses regarding the importance of different aspects of the Town; the performance of the Town with respect to these aspects; and the most important aspect cited by residents within each of the seven broad categories.

(Broad categories include: Economic Development; Public Education; Climate, Environmental Health and Sustainability; Physical Character; Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; Town Government; Town Services.)

Part II reports on resident experiences living in Lexington, including assessments of life in Town and perceptions of stability or change, ‘diversity, equity and inclusion’, taxes’ and community participation.

Part III reports on resident preferences with respect to prioritization of resources and trade-offs in an era of tight budgets and increasing demands on those budgets.

Part IV reports on the demographic characteristics of respondents.

Part I – Importance and Performance

Within each of the broad categories below, respondents were asked to rate the importance of items within that category and then to identify how well the Town is performing with regard to that item. Finally, respondents were asked to rank the individual items with respect to the most important item to them within the broad category.

Data are presented in percentages in the charts for each broad category. Results are described in the text below the charts.

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Economic Development

	Extremely or very important (%)	Town doing excellent or very good job (%)	Town doing fair to poor job (%)
1. Having a vibrant downtown that attracts residents and visitors	89.2	16.0	57.6
2. Capitalizing on the Town's history to attract a large number of tourists	67.2	46.2	17.9
3. Providing supportive framework for economic development for <i>large</i> businesses	31.1	21.4	41.0
4. Providing supportive framework for economic development for <i>small</i> businesses	87.5	6.7	72.3
5. Attracting additional business development to expand the commercial tax base	58.0	10.5	61.8
6. Attracting socially conscious retail and service businesses	56.9	10.2	64.0

Cells in blue represent overall responses between 50% and 100%

Cells in yellow represent overall responses between 0 and 49.9%

1. Having a vibrant downtown that attracts residents and visitors

Most of the respondents said this item was either 'extremely' or 'very' important and a small number of respondents said the Town is doing an 'excellent' or 'very good' job with this item. The majority of respondents said the job being done is 'fair' or 'poor'.

2. Capitalizing on the Town's history to attract a large number of tourists

More respondents said this item was either 'extremely' or 'very' important. Nearly half of respondents said the Town is doing an 'excellent' or 'very good' job with this item. Fewer respondents said the job being done is 'fair' or 'poor'.

3. Providing supportive framework for economic development for *large* businesses

Nearly one-third of respondents said this item was either 'extremely' or 'very' important. This is the only item in this category that less than half of the respondents said was 'extremely' or 'very' important. Less than one-quarter of respondents said the Town is doing an 'excellent' or 'very good' job with this item. More of the respondents said the job being done is 'fair' or 'poor'.⁹

⁹ It should be noted that for four of the issues in this broad category (items 3,4,5, and 6), a small number of respondents ($\leq 0.2\%$) were unable to assess performance.

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4. Providing supportive framework for economic development for *small* businesses
A large majority of respondents said this item was either 'extremely' or 'very' important, yet few respondents said the Town is doing an 'excellent' or 'very good' job with this item. The majority of respondents said the job being done is 'fair' or 'poor'.
5. Attracting additional business development to expand the commercial tax base
Slightly more than half of the respondents said this item was either 'extremely' or 'very' important, however few of the respondents said the Town is doing an 'excellent' or 'very good' job with this item. The majority of respondents said the job being done is 'fair' or 'poor'.
6. Attracting socially conscious retail and service businesses
Slightly more than half of the respondents said this item was either 'extremely' or 'very' important, however few respondents said the Town is doing an 'excellent' or 'very good' job with this item. The majority of respondents said the job being done is 'fair' or 'poor'

Most important item (items ranked relative to one another)

- 59.3% of respondents said *having a vibrant downtown* was the most important item within this category.
- 13.3% said providing a supportive framework for economic development of small businesses was most important.
- 12.2% said attracting additional business development to expand the commercial tax base was most important.
- Other issues received substantially lower ratings of importance.

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Public Education

	Extremely or very important (%)	Town doing excellent or very good job (%)	Town doing fair to poor job (%)
1. Meeting academic, social and emotional needs of all students	91.4	45.0	48.3
2. Attracting and retaining high quality teachers	95.8	55.7	41.5
3. Assuring educationally appropriate student-teacher ratios	88.2	44.8	50.5
4. Providing state-of-the-art facilities for teaching and learning	70.7	30.9	57.1
5. Delivering public education cost-effectively	78.0	21.8	60.6
6. Providing adequate funding for education	89.2	52.8	45.5
7. Ensuring Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion within the school system	72.2	44.4	49.6

Cells in blue represent overall responses between 50% and 100%

Cells in yellow represent overall responses between 0 and 49.9%

1. Meeting academic, social and emotional needs of all students

Most of the respondents said this item was either ‘extremely’ or ‘very’ important. However, respondents were nearly equally divided as to whether the Town is doing an ‘excellent’ or ‘very good’ job and that the job being done is ‘fair’ or ‘poor’.¹⁰

2. Attracting and retaining high quality teachers

Nearly all of the respondents said this item was either ‘extremely’ or ‘very’ important. More than half of respondents said the Town is doing an ‘excellent’ or ‘very good’ job with this item, but just over 40% of respondents said the job being done is ‘fair’ or ‘poor’.

3. Ensuring educationally appropriate student-teacher ratios

Most of the respondents said this item was either ‘extremely’ or ‘very’ important. Less than half of respondents said the Town is doing an ‘excellent’ or ‘very good’ job with this item, while half of the respondents said the job being done is ‘fair’ or ‘poor’.

¹⁰ It should be noted that for all seven of the issues in this broad category, a small number of respondents (between 2.7% and 11.9%) were unable to assess performance.

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4. Providing state of the art facilities for teaching and learning

Just under three-quarters of the respondents said this item was either 'extremely' or 'very' important. About one-third of the respondents said the Town is doing an 'excellent' or 'very good' job with this item. More than half of the respondents said the job being done is 'fair' or 'poor'.

5. Delivering public education cost effectively

Slightly more than three-quarters of the respondents said this item was either 'extremely' or 'very' important. Less than one-quarter of the respondents said the Town is doing an 'excellent' or 'very good' job with this item. More than half of the respondents said the job being done is 'fair' or 'poor'.

6. Providing adequate funding for education

Most of the respondents said this item was either 'extremely' or 'very' important. Half of the respondents said the Town is doing an 'excellent' or 'very good' job with this item. Slightly less than half of the respondents said the job being done is 'fair' or 'poor'.

6. Ensuring Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion within the school system

Most of the respondents said this item was either 'extremely' or 'very' important. Slightly more respondents said the job being done is 'fair' or 'poor' than said the job being done is 'excellent' or 'very good'.

Most important item (items ranked relative to one another)

- Almost half (49.8%) of respondents said *meeting academic, social and emotional needs of all students* was the most important item within this broad category.
- 20.6% said attracting and retaining high quality teachers was most important.
- 12.8% said delivering public education cost effectively was most important.
- Other issues received substantially lower ratings of importance.

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Climate, Environmental Health and Sustainability

	Extremely or very important (%)	Town doing excellent or very good job (%)	Town doing fair to poor job (%)
1. Meeting Town and state goals of net zero emissions in the next 15-30 years	67.8	35.5	22.6
2. Reducing the use of toxic materials	81.3	28.8	27.0
3. Reducing Greenhouse Gas production from transportation	70.4	20.6	40.4
4. Stopping the expansion of fossil fuel use	65.4	23.7	39.0
5. Maintaining farmlands and access to locally grown foods	73.1	29.3	29.3
6. Reducing waste streams, including diverting food waste to composting	71.6	25.3	35.1
7. Providing public health and safety services in response to rising temperatures and extreme weather	59.9	27.2	29.3
8. Ensuring access to safe drinking water	95.5	65.7	5.7
9. Providing education to citizens about sustainability	58.0	27.7	32.2

Cells in blue represent overall responses between 50% and 100%

Cells in yellow represent overall responses between 0 and 49.9%

1. Meeting Town and state goals of net zero emissions in the next 15-30 years

Many of the respondents said this item was either 'extremely' or 'very' important. About one-third of the respondents said the Town is doing an 'excellent' or 'very good' job with this item, and less than one-quarter of respondents said the job being done is 'fair' or 'poor'.¹¹

2. Reducing the use of toxic materials

A large majority of the respondents said this item was either 'extremely' or 'very' important. About one-quarter of the respondents said the Town is doing an 'excellent' or 'very good' job with this item, and a similar number of respondents said the job being done is 'fair' or 'poor'.

¹¹ It should be noted that for seven of the issues (items 1-7) in this broad category, a small number of respondents ($\leq 0.3\%$) were unable to assess performance.

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3. Reducing Greenhouse Gas production from transportation
Nearly three-quarters of the respondents said this item was either 'extremely' or 'very' important. Less than one quarter of the respondents said the Town is doing an 'excellent' or 'very good' job with this item. Twice as many respondents said the job being done is 'fair' or 'poor'.
4. Stopping expansion of fossil fuel use
A majority of the respondents said this item was either 'extremely' or 'very' important. Less than one-quarter of the respondents said the Town is doing an 'excellent' or 'very good' job with this item. Over one-third of respondents said the job being done is 'fair' or 'poor'.
5. Maintaining farmlands and access to locally grown foods
Three-fourths of the respondents said this item was either 'extremely' or 'very' important. Slightly more than one-quarter of the respondents said the Town is doing an 'excellent' or 'very good' job with this item. The same percentage of respondents said the job being done is 'fair' or 'poor'.
6. Reducing waste streams, including diverting food waste to composting
Nearly three-quarters of the respondents said this item was either 'extremely' or 'very' important. One-quarter of respondents said the Town is doing an 'excellent' or 'very good' job with this item. More than one-third of respondents said the job being done is 'fair' or 'poor'.
7. Providing public health and safety services in response to rising temperatures and extreme weather
More than half of the respondents said this item was either 'extremely' or 'very' important. Slightly more than one-quarter of the respondents said the Town is doing an 'excellent' or 'very good' job with this item, and a similar percentage of respondents said the job being done is 'fair' or 'poor'.
8. Ensuring access to safe drinking water
Nearly all of the respondents said this item was either 'extremely' or 'very' important. A majority of the respondents said the Town is doing an 'excellent' or 'very good' job with this item. Very few of the respondents said the job being done is 'fair' or 'poor'.
9. Providing education to citizens about sustainability
More than half of the respondents said this item was either 'extremely' or 'very' important. One-quarter of the respondents said the Town is doing an 'excellent' or 'very good' job with this item, while approximately one-third of respondents said the job being done is 'fair' or 'poor'.

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Most important item (items ranked relative to one another)

- Approximately one-third (32.7%) of respondents said *ensuring access to safe drinking water* was the most important item within this broad category.
- 25.9% said meeting Town and state goals of net zero emissions in the next 15-30 years was most important.
- 15.5% said maintaining farmlands and access to locally grown foods was most important.
- Other issues received substantially lower ratings of importance.

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Physical Character

	Extremely or very important (%)	Town doing excellent or very good job (%)	Town doing fair to poor job (%)
1. Preserving the Town's historic areas and structures	82.1	69.3	6.4
2. Preserving Town owned open space	92.2	65.8	8.8
3. Making Town's public historic areas and structures accessible to all	73.1	58.9	7.1
4. Preserving the physical character of residential neighborhoods	64.2	28.2	38.7
5. Enhancing the physical environment of the Town Center	74.5	30.6	33.0
6. Managing the flow of traffic through Town	70.5	17.5	47.6
7. Ensuring adequate, convenient parking in the business districts	65.0	34.2	26.3

Cells in blue represent overall responses between 50% and 100%

Cells in yellow represent overall responses between 0 and 49.9%

1. Preserving the Town's historic areas and structures
A large majority of the respondents said this item was either 'extremely' or 'very' important. Most of respondents said the Town is doing an 'excellent' or 'very good' job with this item. Very few of the respondents said the job being done is 'fair' or 'poor'.
2. Preserving Town owned open space
Most of the respondents said this item was either 'extremely' or 'very' important. A majority of respondents said the Town is doing an 'excellent' or 'very good' job with this item. Only a few of the respondents said the job being done is 'fair' or 'poor'.
3. Making Town's public historic areas and structures accessible to all
A majority of the respondents said this item was either 'extremely' or 'very' important. More than half of these respondents said the Town is doing an 'excellent' or 'very good' job with this item. Very few of the respondents said the job being done is 'fair' or 'poor'.¹²

¹² It should be noted that for item 3 in this broad category, a small number of respondents ($\leq 0.1\%$) were unable to assess performance.

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4. Preserving the physical character of residential neighborhoods
A majority of the respondents said this item was either 'extremely' or 'very' important. Only a little more than one-quarter of the respondents said the Town is doing an 'excellent' or 'very good' job with this item. More of the respondents said the job being done is 'fair' or 'poor'.
5. Enhancing the physical environment of the Town Center
Three-fourths of the respondents said this item was either 'extremely' or 'very' important. Similar numbers of respondents said the Town is doing an 'excellent' or 'very good' job and a 'fair' or 'poor' job with this item.
6. Managing the flow of traffic through Town
Nearly three-quarters of the respondents said this item was either 'extremely' or 'very' important. Few respondents said the Town is doing an 'excellent' or 'very good' job with this item. More than twice as many of respondents said the job being done is 'fair' or 'poor'.
7. Ensuring adequate, convenient parking in the business districts
A majority of the respondents said this item was either 'extremely' or 'very' important. More of respondents said the Town is doing an 'excellent' or 'very good' job with this item than did those who identified the job being done is 'fair' or 'poor'.

Most important item (items ranked relative to one another)

- Just over one-quarter (28.1%) of respondents said *preserving Town owned open space* was the most important item within this broad category.
- 20.2% said preserving the physical character of residential neighborhoods was most important.
- 18.4% said enhancing the physical environment of the Town was most important.
- 15.9% said preserving the Town's historic areas and structures was most important.
- 10.3% said managing the flow of traffic through Town was most important.
- Other issues received substantially lower ratings of importance.

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Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

	Extremely or very important (%)	Town doing excellent or very good job (%)	Town doing fair to poor job (%)
1. Welcoming diverse groups of people	76.4	54.9	15.4
2. Ensuring housing is available for a diverse population	61.2	20.9	57.5
3. Offering gathering places for diverse ages and interests	66.7	32.7	26.9
4. Providing books and other materials for a diverse population in the library	65.5	62.7	7.7
5. Providing translated materials and translation services	49.5	49.8	12.5
6. Creating awareness of the Town's diversity	51.8	34.8	28.3
7. Diversifying the Town and school staff	55.5	27.9	38.4

Cells in blue represent overall responses between 50% and 100%

Cells in yellow represent overall responses between 0 and 49.9%

1. Welcoming diverse groups of people

Three-fourths of the respondents said this item was either 'extremely' or 'very' important. A majority of the respondents said the Town is doing an 'excellent' or 'very good' job with this item. Fewer of the respondents said the job being done is 'fair' or 'poor'.

2. Ensuring housing is available for a diverse population

A majority of respondents said this item was either 'extremely' or 'very' important. Less than one-quarter of the respondents said the Town is doing an 'excellent' or 'very good' job with this item. More than half of the respondents said the job being done is 'fair' or 'poor'.¹³

3. Offering gathering places for diverse ages and interests

A majority of respondents said this item was either 'extremely' or 'very' important. Just under one-third of the respondents said the Town is doing an 'excellent' or 'very good' job with this item. Fewer of the respondents said the job being done is 'fair' or 'poor'.

¹³ It should be noted that for five of the seven items (items 2,3,5,6 and 7) in this broad category, a small number of respondents ($\leq 0.2\%$) were unable to assess performance.

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4. Providing books and other materials for a diverse population in the library
A majority of respondents said this item was either 'extremely' or 'very' important. Just over 60% of the respondents said the Town is doing an 'excellent' or 'very good' job with this item. A small percentage of respondents said the job being done is 'fair' or 'poor'.
5. Providing translated materials and translation services
This was the only item in this category that less than half of the respondents rated as either 'extremely' or 'very' important. Half of the respondents said the Town is doing an 'excellent' or 'very good' job with this item. Few respondents said the job being done is 'fair' or 'poor'.
6. Creating awareness of the Town's diversity
Half of the respondents said this item was either 'extremely' or 'very' important. One-third of the respondents said the Town is doing an 'excellent' or 'very good' job with this item. Fewer respondents said the job being done is 'fair' or 'poor'.
7. Diversifying the Town and school staff
Half of the respondents said this item was either 'extremely' or 'very' important. One-quarter of respondents said the Town is doing an 'excellent' or 'very good' job with this item. More of the respondents said the job being done is 'fair' or 'poor'.

Most important item (items ranked relative to one another)

- Just under one-third (30.2%) of respondents said *welcoming diverse groups of people* was the most important item within this broad category.
- 28.8% said ensuring housing is available for a diverse population was most important.
- 16.3% said offering gathering places for diverse ages and interests was most important.
- Other issues received substantially lower ratings of importance.

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Town Government

	Extremely or very important (%)	Town doing excellent or very good job (%)	Town doing fair to poor job (%)
1. Town officials and staff acting with integrity	97.7	60.6	13.1
2. Balancing short-term needs with long-term issues	91.6	36.4	23.7
3. Acting in a fiscally responsible manner	93.1	35.5	29.4
4. Living within constraints of Proposition 2 ½	68.6	27.1	36.1
5. Making information on decisions and actions easy to obtain	87.9	28.9	35.0
6. Encouraging diversity in participation in Town affairs	71.0	35.2	27.0
7. Participating in regional groups to share resources, services and ideas	65.0	34.4	20.8
8. Planning for the long-term future	89.7	30.9	28.0
9. Ensuring Emergency Preparedness and Response plans are up to date	86.5	47.0	14.5

Cells in blue represent overall responses between 50% and 100%

Cells in yellow represent overall responses between 0 and 49.9%

1. Town officials and staff acting with integrity
Nearly all of the respondents said this item was either 'extremely' or 'very' important. A majority of respondents said the Town is doing an 'excellent' or 'very good' job with this item. A small number of respondents said the job being done is 'fair' or 'poor'.¹⁴
2. Balancing short-term needs with long-term issues
Most of the respondents said this item was either 'extremely' or 'very' important. A third of respondents said the Town is doing an 'excellent' or 'very good' job with this item. Fewer respondents said the job being done is 'fair' or 'poor'.

¹⁴ It should be noted that for eight of the nine items (items 1,2,4,5,6,7,8 and 9) in this broad category, a small number of respondents (between 0.1% and 0.3%) were unable to assess performance.

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3. Acting in a fiscally responsible manner
Most of the respondents said this item was either 'extremely' or 'very' important. One third of respondents said the Town is doing an 'excellent' or 'very good' job with this item. Fewer respondents said the job being done is 'fair' or 'poor'.
4. Living within constraints of Proposition 2 ½
A majority of respondents said this item was either 'extremely' or 'very' important. One-quarter of respondents said the Town is doing an 'excellent' or 'very good' job with this item. More of the respondents said the job being done is 'fair' or 'poor'.
5. Making information on decisions and actions easy to obtain
A large majority of respondents said this item was either 'extremely' or 'very' important. Over one-quarter of the respondents said the Town is doing an 'excellent' or 'very good' job with this item. Slightly more than one-third of the respondents said the job being done is 'fair' or 'poor'.
6. Encouraging diversity in participation in Town affairs
A majority of respondents said this item was either 'extremely' or 'very' important. Approximately one-third of respondents said the Town is doing an 'excellent' or 'very good' job with this item. Fewer respondents said the job being done is 'fair' or 'poor'.
7. Participating in regional groups to share resources, services and ideas
A majority of respondents said this item was either 'extremely' or 'very' important. One-third of respondents said the Town is doing an 'excellent' or 'very good' job with this item. Fewer respondents said the job being done is 'fair' or 'poor'.
8. Planning for the long-term future
Most respondents said this item was either 'extremely' or 'very' important. Nearly one-third of respondents said the Town is doing an 'excellent' or 'very good' job with this item. A similar percentage of respondents said the job being done is 'fair' or 'poor'.
9. Ensuring Emergency Preparedness and Response plans are up to date
Most of the respondents said this item was either 'extremely' or 'very' important. Nearly half of respondents said the Town is doing an 'excellent' or 'very good' job with this item. Fewer respondents said the job being done is 'fair' or 'poor'.

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Most important item (items ranked relative to one another)

- Almost one-third (30.9%) of respondents said *Town officials and staff acting with integrity* was the most important item within this broad category.
- 16.8% said balancing short-term needs with long-term issues was most important.
- 16.5% said acting in a fiscally responsible manner was most important.
- 12.3% said living within constraints of Proposition 2 ½ was most important.
- Other issues received substantially lower ratings of importance.

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Town Services

	Extremely or very important (%)	Town doing excellent or very good job (%)	Town doing fair to poor job (%)
1. Ensuring public safety	93.9	82.3	2.4
2. Maintaining roads and sidewalks	95.8	52.5	17.8
3. Offering sports fields and facilities for diverse activities, including recreation	73.1	70.0	6.2
4. Providing comprehensive library services	79.8	83.5	2.1
5. Providing quality services and facilities for senior citizens	75.4	70.2	5.7
6. Providing quality services and facilities outside of schools, for children and teens	78.5	45.8	18.1
7. Delivering Town services in a responsive and friendly manner	87.1	57.7	9.9
8. Delivering Town services cost-effectively	84.3	36.9	24.2
9. Allocating adequate money for Town services	86.5	51.2	12.0
10. Providing opportunities for life-long learning	51.2	55.8	10.0

Cells in blue represent overall responses between 50% and 100%

Cells in yellow represent overall responses between 0 and 49.9%

1. Ensuring public safety
Almost all of the respondents said this item was either 'extremely' or 'very' important. Most of the respondents said the Town is doing an 'excellent' or 'very good' job with this item. Very few of respondents said the job being done is 'fair' or 'poor'.
2. Maintaining roads and sidewalks
Nearly all of the respondents said this item was either 'extremely' or 'very' important. Half of the respondents said the Town is doing an 'excellent' or 'very good' job with this item. A smaller percentage of respondents said the job being done is 'fair' or 'poor'.

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3. Offering sports fields and facilities for diverse activities, including recreation
Nearly three-quarters of the respondents said this item was either 'extremely' or 'very' important. Nearly three-quarters said the Town is doing an 'excellent' or 'very good' job with this item. Very few of the respondents said the job being done is 'fair' or 'poor'.
4. Providing comprehensive library services
More than three-quarters of the respondents said this item was either 'extremely' or 'very' important. Most of the respondents said the Town is doing an 'excellent' or 'very good' job with this item. Very few of the respondents said the job being done is 'fair' or 'poor'.
5. Providing quality services and facilities for senior citizens
Three-fourths of the respondents said this item was either 'extremely' or 'very' important. A large majority of respondents said the Town is doing an 'excellent' or 'very good' job with this item. Few respondents said the job being done is 'fair' or 'poor'.
6. Providing quality services and facilities, outside of schools, for children and teens
Three-fourths of the respondents said this item was either 'extremely' or 'very' important. Just under one-half of the respondents said the Town is doing an 'excellent' or 'very good' job with this item. That is more than twice as many respondents who said the Town is doing a 'fair' or 'poor' job.¹⁵
7. Delivering Town services in a responsive and friendly manner
A large majority of respondents said this item was either 'extremely' or 'very' important. Six times more respondents said the Town is doing an 'excellent' or 'very good' job with this item than did those who said the job being done is 'fair' or 'poor'.
8. Delivering Town services cost-effectively
Most respondents said this item was either 'extremely' or 'very' important. About one-third of the respondents said the Town is doing an 'excellent' or 'very good' job with this item. Fewer respondents said the job being done is 'fair' or 'poor'.

¹⁵ It should be noted that for two of the 10 items (items 6 and 8) in this broad category, a small number of respondents (0.1%) were unable to assess performance.

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9. Allocating adequate money for Town services

Most respondents said this item was either 'extremely' or 'very' important. Half of the respondents said the Town is doing an 'excellent' or 'very good' job with this item. Few respondents said the job being done is 'fair' or 'poor'.

10. Providing opportunities for life-long learning

Half of the respondents said this item was either 'extremely' or 'very' important. Slightly more than half of respondents said the Town is doing an 'excellent' or 'very good' job with this item. Few respondents said the job being done is 'fair' or 'poor'.

Most important item (items ranked relative to one another)

- Over 40% (42.5%) of respondents said *ensuring public safety* was the most important item within this broad category.
- 16.1% said maintaining roads and sidewalks was most important.
- 10.3% said delivering Town services cost effectively was most important.
- 9.7% said providing quality services and facilities, outside of school, for children and teens was most important.
- Other issues received substantially lower ratings of importance.

Additional Comments in Part I

There was one additional question in this section of the questionnaire. It was an open-ended question. Such questions generally elicit fewer responses than do multiple-choice questions. However, responses indicate concerns that go beyond what fixed-alternative questions ask and are important to consider as they represent issues about which respondents feel strongly. In this case, 56% (n=1345) of the total sample of respondents chose to comment further, yielding 1588 responses. When asked about issues respondents said it important to consider when preserving or improving Lexington (other than those already in the questionnaire) respondents identified the following.

- ✓ *Culture*: 103 respondents spoke to this issue: 35% of those said there was too much 'wokeness', 39% were concerned about a culture or character change in Town as a result of too much 'catering' to diversity issues, and the remainder were concerned about emphasis on DEI at the expense of essential Town services.
- ✓ *Developer/development*: 69 respondents raised the issue: 94% of those saying that development is 'out of control' and/or that developers are not

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adequately reined in or supervised by the Town. The remaining 6% addressed development issues in East Lexington.

- ✓ *Environment:* 141 respondents addressed this issue: 43% wanted greater focus on climate change, while another 11% wanted less focus on climate change; 22% were concerned about trees; 17% wanted to be sure open spaces are protected. The remaining comments addressed dog parks and trash pickup.
- ✓ *Housing:* 219 respondents commented on this issue: 43% were concerned about the lack of diversity in housing stock and/or lack of affordable housing; 41% objected to too many ‘mansions’ and 16% mentioned ‘tear-downs’.
- ✓ *Infrastructure:* 131 respondents mentioned this issue: 67% noted that roads (including private roads) and sidewalks are in very poor repair and were concerned about road maintenance and 17% commented on the poor conditions of playing fields, the Old Res, and swimming pools. The remaining comments addressed inadequate maintenance of buildings, signage, dog parks, and bike lanes/walking trails.
- ✓ *Leadership:* 106 respondents commented on leadership: 48% said there was a lack of leadership or poor leadership especially in connection with specific departments or on boards or committees; 26% mentioned lack of transparency or inability to access information; and 26% expressed concerns about law enforcement.
- ✓ *Schools:* 120 respondents cited this issue: 37% said a new high school is needed; 26% expressed concern about a decline in educational quality; 16% mentioned problems with leadership. The remainder cited too much “wokeness”; overcrowding; services being underfunded; and stress/pressure on students leading to mental health problems.
- ✓ *Taxes:* 127 respondents raised this issue: 43% said that taxes are too high; 37% said that the Town is fiscally irresponsible; 17% wanted a reduction in taxes for seniors; 3% called for a better balance between residential and commercial tax bases.
- ✓ *Town Center:* 247 respondents commented on the Town Center: 47% said there was a lack of diversity in stores or small businesses; 36% noted a lack of vibrancy in the Center; 18% said there is no place to hang out and/or no place to shop in the Center.
- ✓ *Traffic:* 106 respondents mentioned traffic issues: 26% said there is too much noise; 23% expressed concerns about public transportation; 19%

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mentioned parking; 32% cited road safety, including dangers posed by bikers on main roads, and lights and street lighting.

- ✓ *Zoning*: 109 respondents addressed zoning: 48% said zoning is too lax; 35% said they are concerned with zoning related to house sizes or housing regulations; and 18% focused on development of land and/or development at Hartwell Avenue.
- ✓ *Miscellaneous*: 110 respondents addressed a mix of other issues: 33% mentioned senior services being underfunded; 30% noted that children and teens needing more services or 'things to do'; 19% identified a need for greater focus on health, specifically mental health, needs; 18% wanted more 'gathering places' and support for the arts and more emphasis on the history of the Town.

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Conclusions for Part I

The chart below summarizes findings regarding overall importance of broad issues and their relative performance ratings by respondents.

	Extremely or very important (%)	Town doing excellent or very good job (%)	Town doing fair to poor job (%)
Economic Development	65.0	18.5	52.4
Public Education	83.6	43.4	50.4
Climate, Environmental Health and Sustainability	71.4	31.7	29.0
Physical Character	74.5	43.5	21.1
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion	61.1	40.5	26.7
Town Government	83.5	37.3	24.2
Town Services	80.6	60.6	10.8

Cells in blue represent overall responses between 50% and 100%

Cells in yellow represent overall responses between 0 and 49.9%

The narrative below identifies the most important issues within each broad category and ratings of performance for those issues. Qualitative comments made by respondents are included to illustrate the performance ratings.

For a few of the issues within specific broad categories there were a small number of respondents who said they did not know enough about the issue to evaluate performance. It is important to note that those numbers are significantly lower than what was reported in 2017. That is likely related to the work of the Public Information Officer, Sean Dugan, who was hired subsequent to the report of the 2017 Town-wide survey which identified respondents' concerns with inadequate communication of information from the Town to residents.

Economic Development

The most important issue within this broad category identified by respondents was having a vibrant downtown. However, more than half of those who rated the Town's performance on this issue rated it as 'fair' to 'poor'. Additionally, supporting this quantitative finding, qualitative comments throughout the survey referred to problems associated with the downtown area ('The Center'). Remarks included: lack of diversity in stores or small businesses, leading to a sense that "there is no place to shop" in the Center; an abundance of banks and real estate agencies (to the detriment of available space for a variety of other businesses); lack of vibrancy in the

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Center; no place to ‘hang out’ in the Center due to the closure of several businesses (e.g., Panera, Starbucks).

It is worth noting that there were very few respondents ($\leq 0.2\%$) who said they did not feel well enough informed to comment on the Town’s performance (specifically, providing supportive framework for economic development of both large and small businesses, attracting additional business development to expand the commercial tax base, attracting socially conscious retail and service businesses).

Most respondents said they were well enough informed to comment on the performance with regard to the issues, but given the importance of economic development (and its relationship to taxes, an issue of concern to many respondents), information about the above-mentioned issues should be regularly provided to residents.

Public Education

When asked to identify the most important issue within this broad category, respondents cited meeting academic, social and emotional needs of all students, attracting and retaining high quality teachers, and delivering public education cost effectively. Respondents gave mixed ratings to performance with respect to meeting academic, social and emotional needs of all students. Performance ratings on attracting and retaining high quality teachers were also mixed. A quarter of respondents rated performance with respect to delivering public education cost effectively as ‘excellent’ or ‘very good’, while ratings of ‘fair’ or ‘poor’ were given by two-thirds of respondents.

Assessments were also split on issues of ensuring educationally appropriate student-teacher ratios, providing state of the art facilities for teaching and learning, providing adequate funding for education, and ensuring diversity, equity and inclusion within the school system.

Overall, performance ratings were not positive. Some reasons for the poor performance ratings could be found in qualitative comments provided by respondents. These comments included references to infrastructure problems (the need for a new high school, overcrowding in schools generally); underfunding of services; stress/pressure being placed on students with resultant mental health problems; leadership problems; perception of too much emphasis on ‘wokeness’; and an overall concern about a decline in educational quality. While not specifically a school-related issue, respondents said that children and teens need more services or ‘more to do’.

There were a number of respondents who said they did not have adequate information with which to evaluate performance on the issues within this

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broad category. That argues that Lexington Public Schools and School Committee might engage in greater communication of information about the school system and its operation to all residents, not just to parents/guardians¹⁶.

Climate, Environmental Health and Sustainability

The most important issue within this broad category was ensuring access to safe drinking water. Almost one-third of respondents said this was the most important issue. Additionally, almost all respondents rated this as ‘extremely’ or ‘very’ important. Approximately two-thirds of respondents assessed performance as ‘excellent’ or ‘very good’.

For the other issues in this broad category, performance was rated poorly. While meeting Town and state goals of net zero emissions in the next 15-30 years received more positive ratings than negative ratings, performance was not viewed as adequate relative to the perceived importance of the issue. Reducing the use of toxic materials also received mixed reviews. Performance with respect to the following issues received more negative than positive ratings: reducing Greenhouse Gas production from transportation; stopping expansion of fossil fuel use; reducing waste streams, including diverting food waste to composting; providing public health and safety services in response to rising temperatures and extreme weather; and providing education to citizens about sustainability. Maintaining farmlands and access to locally grown foods received mixed ratings on performance.

Qualitative comments focused on concerns about preserving open space and trees; trash pickup; a desire for dog parks; and mixed reviews of whether more focus should be placed on issues of climate change.

It should be noted that there were several issues for which a small number of respondents ($\leq 0.3\%$) were unable to provide assessments due to lack of knowledge about the issue. The issues about which all respondents were able to offer assessments were ensuring access to safe drinking water and providing education to citizens about sustainability.

Physical Character

The issue receiving the highest percentage for importance was preserving Town owned open space. Performance assessment on this issue was positive. Preserving the Town’s historic areas and structures was also rated positively, as was making Town’s public historic areas and structures accessible to all.

¹⁶ The need to provide information to residents, beyond parents and/or guardians, was noted in the report, “Enhancing Communication in Lexington”. See

<https://www.lexingtonma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/2549/ECIL-Report-PDF?bidId=>

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Other issues received more negative than positive assessments: preserving the physical character of residential neighborhoods; enhancing the physical environment of the Town Center; and managing the flow of traffic through Town. Performance ratings for ensuring adequate, convenient parking in the business districts were slightly more positive than negative.

Qualitative comments relevant to this broad category addressed concerns about too much noise; lack of adequate public transportation; complaints about parking and about road safety due to dangers posed by bikers on main roads; and perceptions that street lighting is inadequate. Additionally, respondents noted that there should be greater attention paid to and emphasis on the history of Lexington and they expressed dismay about the condition of the Town Center. One repeatedly seen comment referred to the loss of gathering places when several businesses in the Center closed.

Unlike in other broad categories where there were often several issues on which respondents did not feel qualified to provide assessments, there was only one issue here: making Town's public historic areas and structures accessible to all. Only 0.1% of respondents said they could not evaluate performance.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

The most important issue here was welcoming diverse groups of people. More than three-quarters of respondents said this issue was 'extremely' or 'very' important. More than half of respondents assessed performance on this issue as 'excellent' or 'very good'.

The second most highly rated issue was ensuring housing is available for a diverse population, but less than a quarter said performance was 'excellent' or 'very good'. Offering gathering places for diverse ages and interests was the third most highly rated issue, but only a third of respondents said performance is 'excellent' or 'very good'.

There were a considerable number of qualitative comments that addressed issues within this broad category. Respondents expressed related concerns

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about housing: that there is a lack of diversity in housing stock, a lack of affordable housing, too many ‘tear downs’, and too many “mansions”.

Additionally, respondents spoke about factors associated with diversity, equity and inclusion. They expressed concern about there being too much ‘wokeness’ generally, and in particular in connection with a perceived loss of attention to essential services due to concerns about ‘wokeness’. There was apprehension that the character or culture of the Town would change as a result of too much ‘catering’ to diversity issues. At the same time, respondents said there is not enough concern with ALL forms of discrimination.

The issues about which respondents ($\leq 0.2\%$) reported being unable to assess current performance were providing translated materials and translation services and diversifying Town and school staff.

Town Government

The three most important issues within this broad category were: Town officials and staff acting with integrity; balancing short-term needs with long-term issues; and acting in a fiscally responsible manner, with the large majority of respondents rating these as ‘extremely’ or ‘very’ important. For the first issue and the third issue, assessments were more positive than they were negative. However, performance ratings for balancing short-term needs with long-term issues were more negative than they positive. While ensuring Emergency Preparedness and Response plans are up to date was not ranked as one of the most important issues to respondents, it did receive positive ratings for performance.

There were two issues that received more negative than positive assessments for performance. These were: living within constraints of Proposition 2 ½ and making information on decisions and actions easy to obtain. Performance ratings for planning for the long-term future were split. Encouraging diversity in participation in Town affairs and participating in regional groups to share resources, services, and ideas received somewhat more positive than negative performance ratings.

Qualitative comments focused on several issues relevant to this broad category: leadership, taxes, and zoning and development.

Some respondents said there was a lack of leadership or poor leadership among Town officials, and a number noted problems in connection with specific departments. Some expressed concerns about law enforcement.

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Others took issue with the leadership on boards or committees. There was a general annoyance with perceived lack of transparency or inability to access information from boards or committees.

Quite a number of respondents commented on taxes. The primary complaint was that taxes are too high. Some respondents suggested that there should be a reduction in taxes for seniors, in particular (especially in light of the observation by some that senior services are underfunded). Some accused the Town of being fiscally irresponsible, and others noted there should be a better balance between the residential and commercial tax bases.

There were several comments made related to zoning. Respondents expressed concerns about development of land and noted that development appears to be 'out of control'. There was a sense that developers are not adequately 'reined in' or supervised by the Town but, rather, permitted too much latitude when building. With regard to zoning, respondents said that it is too lax (or sometimes inconsistent), especially in terms of house sizes or housing regulations.

Acting in a fiscally responsible manner was the only issue for which all respondents were able to provide an assessment. For each other issue, there were at least a few respondents ($\leq 0.3\%$) who said they were not able to provide an assessment.

Town Services

The most important issue here was ensuring public safety. The vast majority of respondents rated this as 'extremely' or 'very' important and almost half of respondents selected this as the single most important issue within this broad category. Assessments of performance were also extremely high.

For the second most highly rated issue on importance, maintaining roads and sidewalks, again most or nearly all of the respondents said this was 'extremely' or 'very' important. Performance assessments were still more positive than negative, but only about half of respondents assessed performance as 'excellent' or 'very good'.

For each of the remaining issues, performance assessments were more positive than they were negative, and the vast majority of respondents said they felt qualified to make assessments.

Qualitative comments focused on infrastructure issues. While some respondents expressed pleasure with new sidewalks, others complained that,

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overall, sidewalks are in poor repair and/or do not exist in areas where residents are forced to walk in the road, endangering themselves and traffic. Roads were generally deemed to be in very poor repair. Lack of maintenance and damaging snowplowing were cited as reasons for this. Some respondents cited so-called 'private' or 'unaccepted' roads as being in such especially bad repair that they are impassable. Respondents also complained about the poor conditions of playing fields (some noting that fields in other communities are better maintained, and safer for playing), the Old Res, and swimming pools.

One additional area of concern expressed by respondents was the need to focus more on the health of residents, especially their mental health. As a recent study of mental health among residents demonstrated, there are both diagnosed conditions and un-diagnosed concerns for which residents expressed a desire for support and help-seeking assistance.¹⁷

All respondents were sufficiently informed to evaluate performance on issues except with regard to providing quality services and facilities, outside of school, for children and teens (0.1%) and delivering Town services cost effectively (0.1%).

¹⁷ <https://www.lexingtonma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/4374/Mental-Health-Assessment-Town-of-Lexington-2021-PDF>

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Summary

There are many issues of importance to respondents, and those fall both on the municipal and the school side of Town issues.

The issues of *most importance* to respondents (that is, those for which at least 85% of responses fell into the 'extremely' or 'very' important categories) are listed below, along with their ratings of performance for the issues.

- Within the broad category of *Economic Development*, issues of most importance were:
 - Having a vibrant downtown that attracts residents and visitors (89.2%)
 - Providing supportive framework for economic development for small businesses (87.5%)

Only 16.0% of respondents rated performance on the former issue as 'excellent' or 'very good'. Only 21.4% rated performance on the latter issue as 'excellent' or very good'.

- Within the broad category of *Public Education*, issues of most importance were:
 - Attracting and retaining high quality teachers (95.8%)
 - Meeting academic, social and emotional needs of all students (91.4%)
 - Providing adequate funding for education (89.2%)
 - Ensuring educationally appropriate student-teacher ratios (88.2%)

Only two issues, attracting and retaining high quality teachers and providing adequate funding for education, received a positive performance rating from over 50% of respondents. Positive performance ratings for the other two issues were below 50%.

- Within the broad category of *Climate, Environmental Health and Sustainability*, the issue of most importance was ensuring access to safe drinking water (95.5%)

A majority of respondents (65.7%) rated performance on this issue as 'excellent' or 'very good'.

- Within the broad category of *Physical Character*, the issue of most importance was preserving Town owned open space (92.2%)

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A majority of respondents (65.8%) rated performance on this issue as 'excellent' or 'very good'.

- Within the broad category of *Diversity, Equity and Inclusion*, there were no issues for which at least 85% of respondents deemed the issue to be 'extremely' or 'very' important. (When asked which of the issues in this broad category were most important, the issues with the highest rankings were welcoming diverse groups of people and ensuring housing is available for a diverse population. However, only 76.4% of respondents said welcoming diverse groups of people was 'extremely' or 'very' important, and only 61.2% said ensuring housing is available for a diverse population is 'extremely' or 'very' important.)
- Within the broad category of *Town Government*, issues of most importance were:
 - Town officials and staff acting with integrity (97.7%)
 - Acting in a fiscally responsible manner (93.1%)
 - Balancing short-term needs with long-term issues (91.6%)

For only one of the above issues were responses regarding performance notably more positive than negative: Town officials and staff acting with integrity (60.6% of respondents rated performance as 'excellent' or 'very good').

- Within the broad category of *Town Services*, issues of most importance were:
 - Maintaining roads and sidewalks (95.8%)
 - Ensuring public safety (93.9%)

Ratings of performance were especially positive for ensuring public safety (82.3% of respondents rated performance as 'excellent' or 'very good'). However, only 52.5% of respondents gave positive ratings for performance with respect to maintaining roads and sidewalks.

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Overall, respondents provided *more positive than negative assessments* within the broad categories.

For Economic Development

- Capitalizing on the Town's history to attract a large number of tourists

For Public Education

- Attracting and retaining high quality teachers

For Climate, Environmental Health and Sustainability

- Meeting Town and state goals of net zero emissions in the next 15-30 years
- Ensuring access to safe drinking water

For Physical Character

- Preserving the Town's historic areas and structures
- Preserving Town owned open space
- Making Town's public historic areas and structures accessible to all

For Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

- Welcoming diverse groups of people
- Providing books and other materials for a diverse population in the library
- Providing translated materials on the Town website and through Town departments

For Town Government

- Town officials and staff acting with integrity
- Balancing short-term needs with long-term issues
- Participating in regional groups to share resources, services and ideas
- Ensuring emergency Preparedness and Response plans are up to date

For Town Services

- Ensuring public safety
- Maintaining roads and sidewalks
- Offering sports fields and recreation facilities for diverse activities
- Providing comprehensive library services
- Providing quality services and facilities for senior citizens
- Providing quality services and facilities outside of schools, for children and teens
- Delivering Town services in a responsive and friendly manner
- Delivering Town services cost-effectively
- Allocating adequate money for Town services
- Providing opportunities for life-long learning

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Respondents gave *mixed reviews* to:

- Meeting academic, social and emotional needs of all students
- Assuring educationally appropriate student-teacher ratios
- Providing adequate funding for education
- Ensuring Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion within the school system
- Reducing the use of toxic materials
- Maintaining farmlands and access to locally grown foods
- Providing public health and safety services in response to rising temperatures and extreme weather
- Providing education to citizens about sustainability
- Enhancing the physical environment of the Town Center
- Offering gathering places for diverse ages and interests
- Creating awareness of the Town's diversity
- Balancing short-term needs with long-term issues
- Acting in a fiscally responsible manner
- Encouraging diversity in participation in Town affairs
- Making information on decisions and actions easy to obtain
- Planning for the long-term future

Respondents provided *more negative than positive assessments* of performance for the following issues within broad categories:

For *economic development*:

- the vibrancy and physical environment of Town Center
- providing supportive framework for economic development for large businesses as well as for small businesses
- attracting additional business development to expand the commercial tax base
- attracting socially conscious retail and service businesses

For *public education*:

- providing state of the art facilities for teaching and learning
- delivering public education cost effectively

For *climate, environmental health and sustainability*:

- reducing Greenhouse Gas production from transportation
- stopping expansion of fossil fuel use
- reducing waste streams, including diverting food waste to composting

For *physical character*:

- preserving the physical character of residential neighborhoods
- managing the flow of traffic through Town

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For *diversity, equity and inclusion*:

- ensuring housing is available for a diverse population
- diversifying Town and school staff

For *Town government*:

- living within constraints of Proposition 2 ½

For *Town services*: There were no issues for which performance was rated more negatively than positively or for which there were mixed reviews.

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Part II - Experiences Living in Lexington

This section of the questionnaire asked respondents to reflect on their experiences living in Lexington. Questions focused on quality of life assessments; potential changes of concern; diversity, equity and inclusion; taxes; community participation and connectedness.

Questions about Quality of Life

- Respondents were asked, taking everything into account, how satisfied they are with Lexington as a place to live. Using a scale from 1 (= extremely satisfied) to 10 (= not at all satisfied),
 - 70.2% reported being satisfied (rating of 1, 2, or 3)
 - 8.2% reported being unsatisfied (rating of 8, 9, or 10)
 - The remainder selected neutral ratings between 4 and 7
- When asked about a comparison with life in Lexington 5 years ago,
 - 50.1% of respondents indicated that they felt the quality of life is ‘the same as it was’
 - 14.0% felt the quality of life is ‘better than it was’
 - 24.0% felt it is ‘worse than it was’
 - 11.8% said they have not lived in Lexington for five years

When those respondents who said life is ‘worse’ now than it was five years ago were asked to identify *what is making the quality of life worse*, they identified:

- ✓ *Community climate*: Comments in this connection were wide-ranging. They included concerns about the general character of the Town; COVID issues; too much construction; the lack of gathering places; people imposing their values on others; political partisanship; and distress about a lack of commitment to the Town on the part of too many residents who come to Lexington for the schools and then leave as soon as a last child graduates from high school.
- ✓ *DEI issues*: Almost half of those who mentioned this issue said there was insufficient economic diversity in Town. Approximately one-third said the Town was focusing too much on DEI issues, and specifically identified ‘wokeness’. Other respondents noted that there was intolerance of differences.
- ✓ *Environment*: Comments from respondents on this issue addressed reduction of open (or green) space; loss of trees; and too many restrictions on handling of the environment/open space/private property.

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- ✓ *Housing:* Respondents identified mansionization as a problem; said ‘too big houses’ were being constructed on ‘too small lots’; and said housing is too expensive. Other comments addressed the lack of diversity in housing stock and concern that there were too many apartment complexes being built.
- ✓ *Infrastructure:* The majority of comments in this area focused on there being too much traffic and the poor condition of roads. Respondents also mentioned concerns about noise and parking.
- ✓ *Schools:* Comments in this connection made note of declining quality of education; overcrowding; and problems with the high school building and grounds. Respondents also noted that the system caters to gifted students and to students with more limited abilities at the expense of students in the middle and made negative comments about leadership.
- ✓ *Taxes and affordability:* A sizeable number of respondents cited taxes as a problem generally and noted that high taxes made ‘affordability’ of living in Lexington difficult and the ‘cost of living’ in Lexington too high.
- ✓ *Town Center:* Respondents expressed concern that there are no local shops to patronize because there are too many banks and real estate agencies and not enough variety of other types of establishments. Several called the Center ‘a mess’ and said that the Center is not vibrant.
- ✓ *Town government:* Over half of those who mentioned Town government as a problem focused on Town leadership, with several comments targeting specific Town departments, including Police and DPW. Respondents also complained about snow removal and about receiving fewer services now than they did five years ago.
- ✓ *Zoning:* There were concerns expressed primarily about residential zoning but also about business zoning. A substantial number of respondents commented on what they perceived to be a ‘lack of planning’.
- ✓ *Miscellaneous:* Almost half of those who commented on this question expressed general negativity and frustration. Many said the Town is failing to take advantage of its history and should focus more on that. Some expressed that seniors deserve better treatment than they are getting and several said bikers were a problem and safety hazard.

Respondents were asked to identify *potential changes that might occur* in Lexington that concern them. Again, the responses were wide-ranging, but a pattern of issues clearly emerged. The changes mentioned included:

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- ✓ *Diversity:* Respondents were divided on their feelings about diversity and DEI. While many said there was too little attention to DEI and ensuring a sensitivity to these issues, others said too much attention was devoted to DEI or ‘wokeness’. Respondents said the community was becoming ‘polarized’ and in danger of becoming even more so.
- ✓ *Environment:* Respondents were concerned both about climate change in general and specific environmental issues. Specific issues included: too much traffic; inadequate public transportation; too much noise; not enough bike and walking trails; inadequate infrastructure (e.g., power supplies and power reliability, conditions of roads and sidewalks); failure to properly preserve the history of neighborhoods; and not enough attention to open space and tree canopies.
- ✓ *Government:* Respondents were most concerned about rising taxes and ‘irresponsible’ spending. Others found Town government to be inadequately responsive to needs and/or complaints. Some expressed concern about zoning issues; lack of planning; and too much commercial development.
- ✓ *Health:* Respondents made mention of COVID restrictions – some saying ‘enough is enough’ at this point and others wanting the continuation of mask wearing. Some respondents expressed concern about the growing mental health crisis and how the Town might address that. Still others worried about drug use in general and/or complained about a proliferation of cannabis and cannabis-related stores in Town.
- ✓ *Housing:* Many of the issues mentioned elsewhere in the questionnaire appeared in response to this question as well. Specifically, respondents were concerned about mansionization and the lack of diversity in housing stock, as well as affordability of housing. Others cited zoning concerns and restrictions on private dwelling improvements and fears about overdevelopment and overcrowding.
- ✓ *Schools:* Again, many of the issues cited in response to other questions were cited here as well. The quality of education was seen as in decline, in part due to overcrowding and lack of planning for a new high school, as well as too much stress being placed on students. Some respondents said too little is being spent on necessary elements of education and school infrastructure, while other respondents said there is too much spending on schools.
- ✓ *Town Center:* Themes were consistent with comments made elsewhere in the questionnaire. The Center was characterized as ‘in decline’, with fewer and fewer businesses to attract residents; lacking gathering places; having too many banks and real estate agencies; and the potential for overbuilding.

Questions about Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

A section new to this year's study focused on diversity, equity and inclusion. Respondents were asked about actions the Town should take to make all residents feel welcome, how respondents have been treated by various Town entities, and whether respondents identify specific characteristics about them that might have influenced their treatment.

With respect to *what the Town should do to make all feel welcome*, responses ranged from “the Town is already doing enough” or “nothing more needs to be done” to a belief that this is not the responsibility of the Town to comments that there was already too much emphasis on DEI, while others who responded to this open-ended question identified some specific actions that could be taken. Some respondents:

- spoke directly to DEI issues (e.g., increasing diversity among Town and school staff, providing DEI training to all, increasing the amount of translated materials available)
- pointed to welcoming actions (e.g., using a Welcome Wagon for newcomers, providing a ‘welcome package’, providing information to all residents and encouraging all to participate in Town activities)
- suggested encouraging affinity groups to become more involved in welcoming activities
- said there should be more diverse housing options
- said the Town should provide places for youth to ‘hang out’
- wanted to increase awareness of the history of different groups in Town (e.g., provide Town-wide events focused on different cultures and sub-cultures)
- proposed adopting a policy of zero tolerance and acceptance of all views or perspectives

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Respondents were asked about their *treatment by specific Town entities*.

	Extremely or very well (%)	Acceptably (%)	Poorly or very poorly (%)	Not relevant (%)
Town municipal offices	61.1	19.0	2.5	12.4
Department of Public Works	58.2	19.5	4.0	18.3
Police Department	56.6	16.4	4.9	22.1
Fire Department/EMTs	55.2	8.1	0.5	36.2
Human Services	28.4	9.7	0.9	61.6
Recreation Department	55.4	15.8	1.7	27.1
Lexington Public Schools	54.1	16.4	5.5	24.0
Cary Library	84.2	7.0	0.9	7.9

Cells in blue represent overall responses between 50% and 100%

Cells in yellow represent overall responses between 0 and 49.9%

More than half of all respondents replied that all of the Town entities mentioned treated them extremely or very well. Ratings for poor or very poor treatment were low, ranging from 0.9% to 5.5% for all departments. The rating for Human Services appears low because more than half of the respondents said that the department was not relevant to them. However, the majority who received services (74.7%) reported being treated extremely or very well.

When they were asked if they would identify *specific characteristics might have influenced how they were treated*, they said they believed the following were factors:

- ✓ Their national origin (21.9%)
- ✓ Their sex/gender identity (19.4%)
- ✓ Their age group (18.8%)
- ✓ Their racial/ethnic background (18.8%)
- ✓ Their English language proficiency (16.7%)
- ✓ Their social/economic class (15.6%)
- ✓ Their disability (6.5%)
- ✓ Their sexual orientation (3.2%)
- ✓ Their religious affiliation (3.1%)

Results for this question need careful interpretation both because responses were subjective, and because they do not differentiate between whether the respondent was treated poorly, or treated well, due to his or her identity. The question did not ask if treatment was positive or negative. It should also be noted that between 12.5% and 21.9% of respondents for each identity said they were unsure or did not know if the identity influenced their treatment.

Questions about Taxes

Questions in this section focused on perceptions of taxes and knowledge of tax relief programs available.

- Relative to the *level of services they received from the Town*,
 - 60.1% of respondents said their taxes are too high
 - 39.1% said their taxes are appropriate
 - 0.9% said their taxes are too low
- Respondents were asked to indicate how strongly they agreed or disagreed with the following statement: *My property taxes make it difficult for me to meet my other financial obligations and maintain my standard of living.*
 - 13.3% strongly agreed
 - 23.1% agreed
 - 49.2% disagreed
 - 14.4% strongly disagreed

The majority of respondents did not find it difficult to meet financial obligations and maintain their standard of living because of taxes.

- Respondents were asked if they are aware of the *tax deferral/reduction programs* available in Town. Levels of awareness varied somewhat, but, overall, knowledge of the existence of these programs was relatively low. The program with which respondents were most aware was the Senior Tax Deferral Program.
- Respondents were also asked if they used any of the tax deferral/reduction programs. Use was low, ranging from a low of 0.1% for the Senior Tax Deferral Program to a high of 0.8% for the Community Preservation Act Surcharge Exemption.

Questions about Community Participation

- There was considerable *participation in the various activities and opportunities* offered to residents by the Town. The most commonly cited activity was use of community walking trails or bike trails. It might be hard to interpret this finding because of the effect of COVID restrictions on behaviors. This was followed by checking out materials from the Library, and utilizing ball fields, playgrounds, tennis courts, golf course, etc. Lowest rates of participation or use of services were seen in connection with assistance from Human Services, participation in Senior programs, or rides on Lexpress.
 - Respondents also participated in various *community activities*. Those activities cited include:
 - ✓ Town committees or Boards 16.7%
 - ✓ Cultural, civic or community organizations 41.9%
 - ✓ Lexington Public Schools volunteer 63.9%
 - ✓ Religious institution volunteer 34.3%
 - ✓ Other 32.3%
- Other activities cited include: Town Meeting, youth sports, scouting, Lexington Historical Society, Library, conservation, politics/elections.
- Respondents indicated that they *stay connected to the community* in a variety of ways. Mechanisms for staying connected fell into six broad categories:
 - ✓ Town resources:
 - 70.7% use the Town website
 - 41.3% use Town of Lexington email lists
 - 36.1% use Recreation Department programming
 - 19.3% use Town of Lexington social media
 - ✓ Community groups/events:
 - 36.3% use community-wide events
 - 34.2% use local Facebook groups
 - 26.2% use the Lexington listserv
 - 6.7% use the Lexington Newcomers Club
 - ✓ Neighborhood resources:
 - 25.2% use neighborhood groups
 - 19.0% use neighborhood listservs
 - 13.3% use neighborhood pools

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- ✓ Cultural/religious resources:
 - 24.9% use their faith community
 - 4.2% use cultural affinity groups
- ✓ School/educational resources:
 - 41.4% use Cary Library programming
 - 31.2% use PTOs
 - 8.3% use book clubs
- ✓ Other:
 - 4.7 use WeChat
 - 4.1% use WhatsApp
 - 0.7% use local media

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Part III - Priorities and Competing Issues

This section of the questionnaire asked respondents to identify which **competing issues** were most important to them. Items were presented in terms of trade-offs or prioritization of issues in light of tight budgets and increasing demands on the budgets.

In terms of school services and programs,

- 61.6% of respondents said they would prefer to increase property taxes to meet budgetary needs vs.
- 38.4% of respondents who would prefer to reduce publicly-funded school services and programs.

The support for school services and programs expressed here is consistent with the expressed importance of public education issues in Part I.

In terms of municipal services (public safety, public works, recreation, etc.),

- 55.1% of respondents said they would prefer to increase property taxes to meet budgetary needs vs.
- 44.9% of respondents who would prefer to reduce publicly-funded municipal services.

This, too, is consistent with the importance placed on Town-provided services as expressed in responses to questions in Part I. It appears, however, that willingness to pay for municipal services, in the form of tax increases, is lower than it is for willingness to pay for school-related services.

In response to a specific question that compared reductions in school vs. municipal services,

- 14.2% of respondents would support a reduction in school services and programs vs.
- 44.2% of respondents who would support a reduction in municipal services.

This is consistent with the previous two findings.

- 41.7% of respondents, however, would support a reduction in both school and municipal services if resources are insufficient to maintain the Town's current level of services.

The vast majority of respondents would support reductions in municipal services or both municipal and school services. Few respondents would support a reduction in school services alone.

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When asked about the role of the commercial tax base in reducing reliance on residential property taxes,

- 76.9% of respondents said they preferred increasing commercial density (and the commercial tax base) vs.
- 20.1% of respondents who said they preferred to keep zoning the same and not allow additional commercial density.

With regard to making roadways safer for pedestrians and cyclists,

- 75.9% of respondents said they preferred making roadways safer for pedestrians and cyclists, including traffic calming measures, vs.
- 24.1% of respondents who said they would prioritize roadways for vehicular flow.

When considering what should be done with the remaining land that is still available for development,

- 27.1% of respondents preferred creating affordable housing vs.
- 11.9% who preferred creating recreation fields vs.
- 61.1% who preferred preserving available open space.

This is consistent with the importance of protecting open spaces and their environment as expressed by respondents in Part I.

With respect to how to handle existing and new homes and housing development,

- 62.5% of respondents preferred regulating residential land use to ensure diversity of housing options vs.
- 37.5% of respondents who preferred limiting regulation of residential land use and allowing the market to determine the housing mix.

This is consistent with concerns expressed in Part I about housing diversity and with qualitative comments offered by respondents to several open-ended questions in the questionnaire. Specifically, respondents mentioned:

- concerns about housing stock diversity, especially with regard to the effect of certain types of housing (e.g., apartments and condos) on schools
- offering more affordable housing options
- more options for housing for seniors
- more housing for diverse income groups
- more multi-family housing
- the need to maintain neighborhood character and integrity
- concerns about ‘tear-downs’
- negative responses to mansionization

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- concerns about dense housing developments
- too much control by developers
- concerns about high prices of housing

Finally, respondents were asked about priorities with respect to *rights of property owners and preserving the natural environment*.

- 33.7% of respondents said it is more important to preserve the rights of property owners vs.
- 66.3% said it is more important to preserve the natural environment.

A second question in Part III asked respondents to rank each of the seven (7) broad categories identified in Part I with regard to the importance of each of the categories to respondents.

<i>Percent of respondents' rankings of the most important category</i>	
Ensuring economic development	15.7%
Ensuring quality public education	36.5%
Addressing climate, environmental health and sustainability issues	14.8%
Sustaining the physical character of the Town	9.5%
Promoting diversity, equity and inclusion	4.5%
Providing responsible Town government	8.4%
Delivering Town services	10.7%

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The highest ranked category was *ensuring quality public education* (e.g., teacher/student ratios, meeting social and academic needs, providing adequate funding for education, etc.). This is consistent with findings in Part I of the questionnaire and with regard to priorities as identified in the first section of Part III.

The lowest ranked category was *promoting diversity, equity and inclusion* (e.g., in housing, educational opportunities, hiring, etc.). This would appear to be inconsistent with previously reported findings in which respondents said that, for example, ensuring diverse housing is important. However, it must be noted that respondents were not saying this category is unimportant. Rather, compared with other categories of issues, this occupied a lower priority.

Part IV - Demographic Findings

Questions in this section of the questionnaire focused on background information on the respondents. These data were collected, in part, to establish the representativeness of the sample with regard to the population of residents in Lexington. All data are presented in aggregated form, preserving anonymity and thereby removing the possibility of identifying responses from individual respondents.

Comparison of *demographic data* from the sample of respondents who completed the questionnaire with data from the U.S. Census Bureau¹⁸ confirms that the sample of respondents is representative of the Lexington population.

- The majority of respondents were Lexington residents. There were a few responses from Town/school staff members or owners/employees of a Lexington business, but in most of those cases, the respondents were also Lexington residents.
- Sex:
46.1% of respondents were male; 53.2% were female. Remaining respondents identified themselves as gender neutral, transgendered, or preferred not to respond. This variable was one important measure of the representativeness of the sample. As compared with statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau for the population of Lexington in 2020 (the most recent data available), the proportion of male and female respondents mirrors the proportion of males and females in the population (48.9% males and 51.1% females).
- Age:
According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the median age of Lexington residents is between 45 and 54. The median age of questionnaire respondents is between 50 and 59 (using categories provided in the questionnaire). Median age of respondents is slightly higher than that of the population at large. Examination of histograms of the distribution of ages among survey respondents and that of the age distribution of residents in Lexington according to the U.S. Census show that the two distributions are comparable. Thus, the age distribution of respondents is representative of the age distribution of residents eligible to complete the survey in Lexington.

¹⁸ American Community Survey 2020

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- Education:

Education Achieved	Questionnaire Respondents (%)	Lexington Population (%)
Masters, Professional or PhD degree	72.1	59.2
College Graduate	18.7	25.7
Some College	2.5	8.2
High School Graduate	0.7	5.5

Respondents to the questionnaire tend to be more highly educated than is the population in Lexington. However, the pattern of education is consistent. This is not surprising in that better educated people are more likely to complete questionnaires.¹⁹

- Race/Ethnicity:

Race/Ethnicity	Questionnaire Respondents (%)	Lexington Population (%)
White	72.3	62.0
Asian or South Asian	19.1	30.6
Hispanic/Latino/a/x	2.1	1.9
Black/African American	0.8	1.3
Other or multi-racial/ethnic	4.3	5.0

Respondents identifying as White and Asian or South Asian were the two largest ethnic groups represented in the survey. When percentages of questionnaire respondents were compared to percentages in the U.S. Census, there were more White respondents and fewer Asian/South Asian respondents to the questionnaire than there are in the general population. Responses from Hispanic/Latino/a/x and Black/African American residents and those who identify themselves as 'other' or multi-racial/ethnic were consistent with their numbers in the general population.

¹⁹ See Smith, G. 2008. "Does gender influence online survey participation? A record linkage analysis of university faculty online survey response behavior". *ERIC Document Reproduction Service No. ED 501717*; ADD:

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- Language spoken at home:

Language spoken	Questionnaire Respondents (%)	Lexington Population (%)
English	91.6	64.1
Asian/South Asian	3.6	20.6
European language	2.0	13.0
Other	2.8	2.0
Multiple languages	27.3	*

* Comparable information on Lexington residents who speak multiple languages was not available through the Census.

Most of the respondents have English as their primary language spoken at home. Approximately one quarter of the respondents speak multiple languages at home. The rest of the respondents speak Arabic, Hebrew, Russian, a form of Indian language, Korean, or Japanese. There was a discrepancy between the languages spoken at home identified in the U.S. Census and those identified by respondents. A larger percentage of those self-identifying as English-only speakers and a smaller percentage of those self-identifying as speaking other languages at home completed the survey, as compared to Census data. What is important to note is that respondents whose primary language may not be English were still able to participate in the survey because they spoke English in addition to their primary language.

- Income:

The distribution of responses within income categories is similar to the distribution of income categories within the population. According to the U.S. Census, the mean household income in 2020 was \$243,312.00. 46.6% of residents have incomes over \$200,000.00. The mean household income among respondents to the questionnaire was within the category of \$150,000.00 and \$299,999.00. 60.1% of respondents have incomes over \$200,000.00. The respondents appear to have somewhat higher incomes than do residents in the general population.

There were some discrepancies between the demographic characteristics of respondents to the questionnaire and the demographic characteristics of the Lexington population. The respondents were better educated, had higher incomes, and were more likely to speak English as a primary language in the home. There were more White respondents and fewer Asian/South Asian respondents than in the general population. Overall, the sample of respondents to the survey with respect to age and sex is representative of the population of residents eligible to participate in the survey.

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Other findings in Part IV

- Most current Lexington residents have *lived in Town* for a long time. 45.9% of respondents have lived here for more than 20 years. 38.8% have lived here between 6 and 20 years.
- When asked to identify *factors that drew respondents to live in Lexington*:
 - 7.6% said they grew up here
 - 11.0% moved here because of family
 - 6.7% moved here because of friends
 - 11.6% moved here because of the history of the Town
 - 47.4% moved here for the location
 - 61.5% moved here for the schools
 - Other reasons cited by respondents included:
 - ✓ cultural/religious comfort
 - ✓ diversity of the population
 - ✓ environmental features, including conservation land
 - ✓ housing availability (and affordability)
 - ✓ job opportunities or work
 - ✓ political environment
 - ✓ Town Center (as it was when they moved to Lexington)
- 51.3% of respondents said it is ‘highly likely’ they will *still be living in Lexington in eight (8) years*. 29.4% said it is ‘somewhat likely’, while 19.2% said it is ‘somewhat unlikely’ or ‘very unlikely’.
- Reasons given why respondents might *move from Lexington* included:
 - Changes in the community (e.g., loss of sense of community; overdevelopment; loss of open space; too much emphasis on DEI/‘wokeness’/not enough emphasis on DEI; further decline of Town Center; too many restrictions on property ownership)
 - Children not here (e.g., when children finish public schooling; when children live elsewhere; when there are no family commitments)
 - Death (e.g., loss of spouse/partner; own death)
 - Environmental considerations (e.g., new location; desire for warmer climate; safe community; crime issues)
 - Financial (e.g., retirement; affordability; taxes too high)

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- Health (e.g., health issues or disabilities requiring a move out of own home; old age; incapacitation)
 - Need to downsize (e.g., safer living environment (single floor home); elder housing (assisted living, senior living, nursing home); inability to maintain current home)
 - Schools (e.g., failure to construct new high school; too much competition among students; further decline in educational quality)
 - Work requirements/constraints
- 55.3% of respondents live in *households* with three or more people. 37.2% live in households with two people. 7.5% of respondents live alone.
 - 46.0% of respondents live in *households with children aged 18 or younger* (16.3% with one child; 22.9% with two children; 6.8% with three children)
 - 57.9% have *children under the age of 5* who will likely attend Lexington Public Schools. 42.0% of those with children under the age of 5 say their children will likely go to other schools.
 - Approximate *value of residences* ranged from less than \$500,000 to more than \$4,000,000. The mean value of residences in which respondents live was between \$851,000 and \$950,000; the median value of residences was between \$951,000 and \$1,500,000.
 - Representation of respondents by *precincts* was relatively evenly spread through the community. The lowest rate of representation was in precinct 3, at 6.3%, and the highest was in precincts 2 and 4, at 12.7% each. Most precincts had representation in the 10.4% to 12.4% range.
 - While 93.6% of respondents said they are *registered voters*, only 64.1% said they voted in the March 2021 election.²⁰ Given the discrepancy between

²⁰According to the Town Clerk's record of voter turnout in the March 2021 election (see, <https://www.lexingtonma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1799/March-1-2021---Annual-Town-Election-PDF>) only 12% of eligible voters voted. The discrepancy between actual voters and those who indicated they voted in the questionnaire is notable, but not surprising. Those who would complete a survey are also more likely to have participated in civic affairs by voting. In this sense, the sample is not representative of the larger population.

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number of registered voters and number of respondents who said they voted in March 2021, it is important to identify reasons for not voting. Reasons given by non-voters were:

<i>Reasons for not voting in March 2021 election</i>	% of responses
Not a citizen	4.6
Too busy	4.5
Missed deadlines (e.g., registration, absentee balloting, etc.)	3.7
Issues did not matter to the respondent/issues weren't important enough to the respondent	3.5
Belief that individual's vote would not have an influence	2.0
Belief the local elections really don't make an impact	0.8
Did not like choices offered	0.8
Accessibility issues (e.g., transportation, bad weather, illness)	0.7
Inconvenient polling place hours	0.5
Does not trust government/governmental entities	0.3

- There had been a concerted effort made to *encourage residents to participate* in the 2022 Town-wide survey. Many avenues of outreach were used and repeated 'reminders' were sent through those avenues. Given the current low rate of responses to questionnaires generally²¹, this outreach was important, and it yielded positive results. (The response rate to the 2022 survey was 9.6%. By comparison, response rate to the 2012 survey was 3.8% and to the 2017 survey was 5.1%.) In order to assess the most fruitful means of educating residents about the survey and encouraging their response, a question relating to how respondents learned about the survey was included. Respondents said they learned about the survey through the following avenues. (Note that respondents were able to identify more than one avenue.)

²¹ While "response representativeness is more important than response rate in survey research" (Cook, C., F. Heath, R. Thompson. 2000. "A meta-analysis of response rates in web- or Internet-based surveys". *Educational and Psychological Measurement* 60:821-836), it is important to increase response rate to help ensure representativeness. Response rates of between 5% and 30% are currently considered acceptable for electronic questionnaires.

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<i>Source of knowledge about the 2022 Town-wide Survey</i>	% of responses
A postcard sent to homes through the Vision for Lexington committee	32.7
Town eNewsletter (e.g., Link to Lexington, Town News and Alerts)	25.0
Insert included in the 2022 Census form sent by the Town	12.1
Town website	11.6
Word of mouth (e.g., friends, neighbors)	10.1
Community listserv	8.5
Town social media	5.5
Community social media (e.g., Lexington Mavens) (5.1
Local newspaper/media	5.1
PTO Newsletter/school emails/school newsletters	3.8
Community organization mailing (e.g., IAL, KOLex, CAAL, CaLex)	3.7
Code Red non-emergency telephone calls from the Town	3.7
Neighborhood association	0.3
Library/Community Center	0.2
WeChat/Apps	0.1

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Comparisons of Ratings of Importance and Ratings of Performance

The chart below (as previously presented in Conclusions for Part I) reports on the ratings of importance and performance with respect to the broad categories.

	Extremely or very important (%)	Town doing excellent or very good job (%)	Town doing fair to poor job (%)
Economic Development	65.0	18.5	52.4
Public Education	83.6	43.4	50.4
Climate, Environmental Health and Sustainability	71.4	31.7	29.0
Physical Character	74.5	43.5	21.1
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion	61.1	40.5	26.7
Town Government	83.5	37.3	24.2
Town Services	80.6	60.6	10.8

The charts below present the comparison of importance and performance with respect to specific issues within each broad category.

The **blue** lines represent the expressed importance of the item. This was measured using the following:

- 1=Extremely
- 2=Very
- 3=Somewhat
- 4=Not very
- 5=Not at all

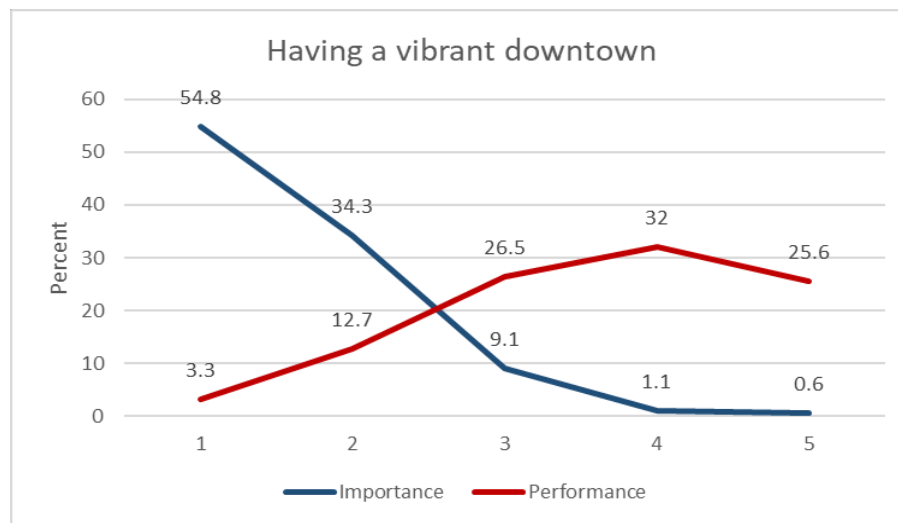
The **red** lines represent the evaluation of performance with respect to the item. This was measured using the following:

- 1=Excellent
- 2=Very good
- 3=Good
- 4=Fair
- 5=Poor

(‘Don’t know’ responses were treated as ‘missing’ data and removed from statistical calculations.)

Economic Development

Each of the findings was statistically significant. The strongest correlation between perceived importance and rating of performance was for providing supportive framework for economic development for small businesses ($G^{22} = -.278^{23}$), meaning that the more important the item was rated, the worse the performance with respect to it; the weakest correlation was for capitalizing on the Town's history to attract a large number of tourists ($G = .080$), meaning that the rating of importance came close to matching the rating of performance.



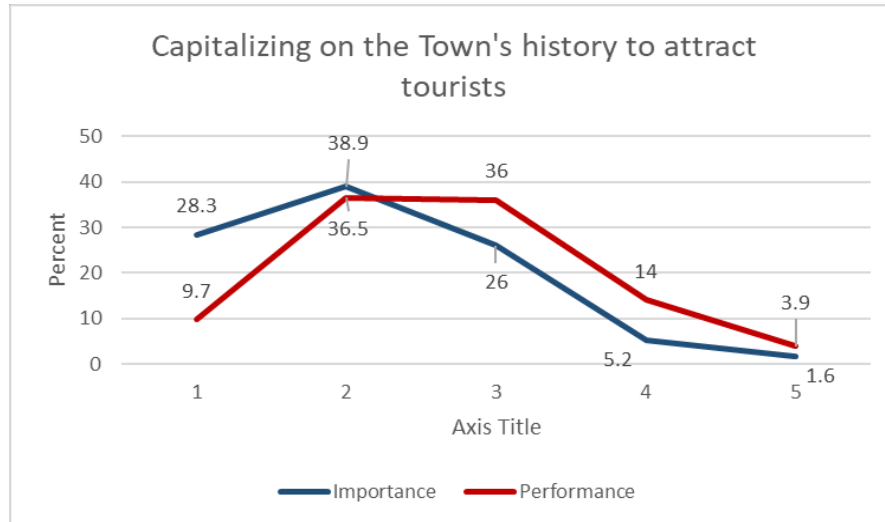
$G = -.222$; $p^{24} = .000$

²² Gamma (G) is a measure of the strength of association for variables measured at the ordinal level. The value of G ranges from 0 = no relationship between the variables to ± 1.00 = perfect correlation between the variables. The value explains how much of the variance in the dependent variable (in this case, rating of performance) is explained by the particular independent variable (in this case, rating of importance).

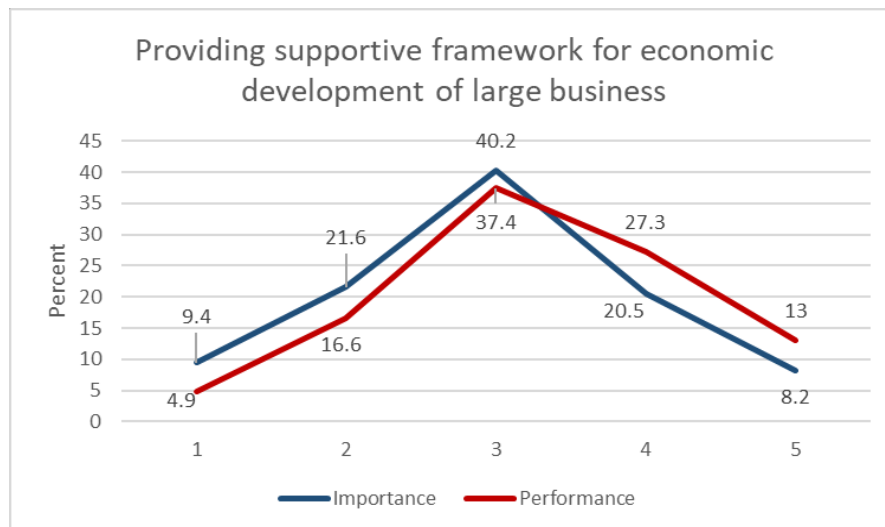
²³ A negative value means that there is an inverse relationship between the two variables. In this case, the higher the rating of importance, the lower the rating of performance. A positive value means that there is a direct relationship which would mean that the higher the rating of importance, the higher the rating of performance.

²⁴ $p \leq .05$ signifies a statistically significant relationship in this study.

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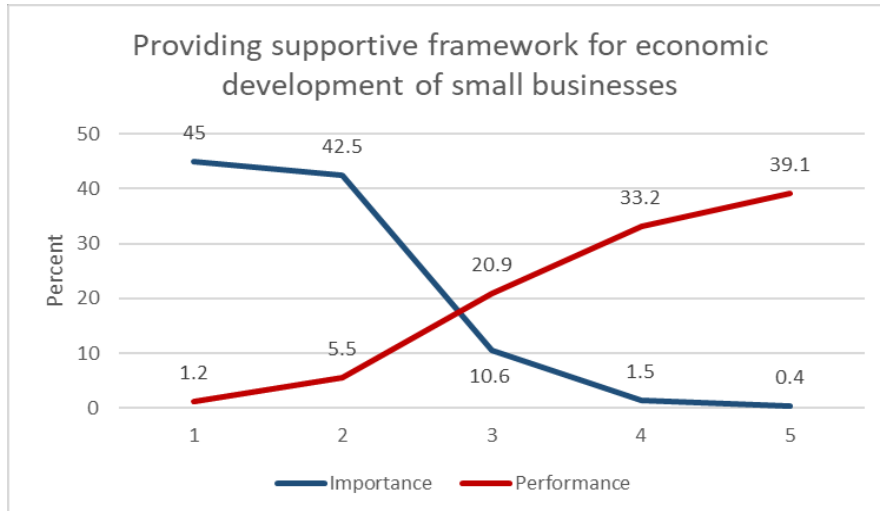


G= .080; p=.003

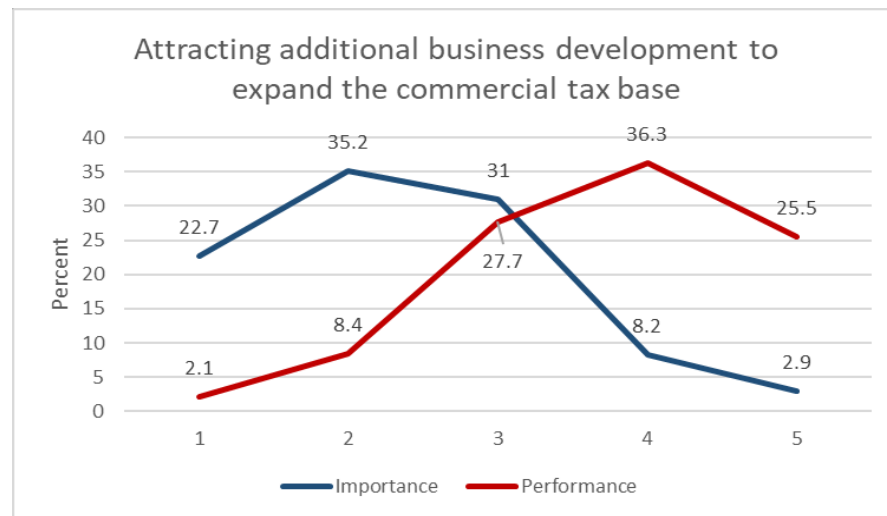


G= -.123; p=.000

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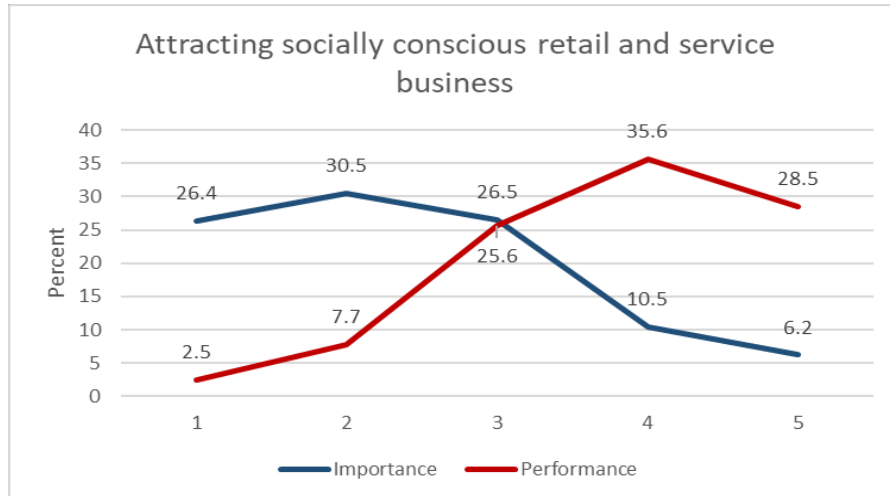


G= -.278; p=.000



G= -.238; p=.000

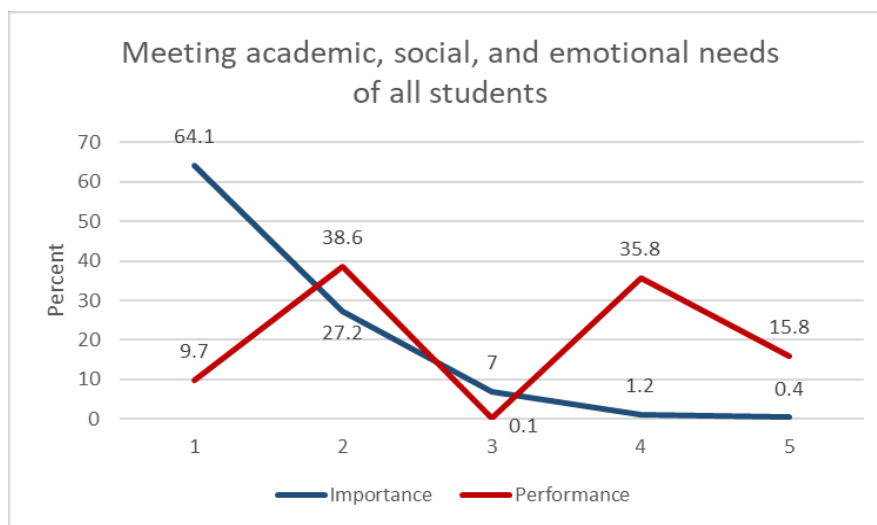
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$G = -.241$; $p = .000$

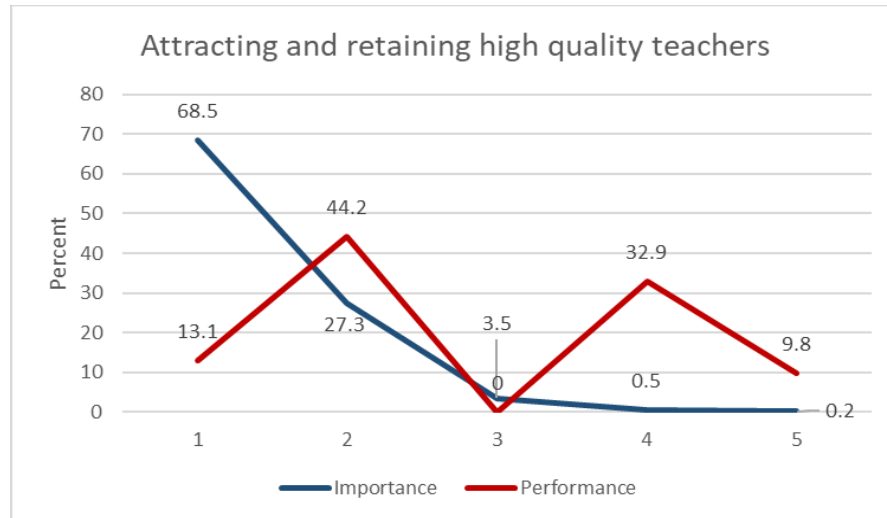
Public Education

Not all of these findings were statistically significant. The relationships between importance and performance with respect to meeting academic, social, and emotional needs of all students; ensuring educationally appropriate student-teacher ratios; delivering public education cost effectively; and providing adequate funding for education were not statistically significant. The strongest correlation among the statistically significant findings was for ensuring diversity, equity, and inclusion within the school system ($G = -.255$; $p = .000$). However, the correlation indicated an inverse relationship, meaning that the more important the item, the lower the rating of performance.

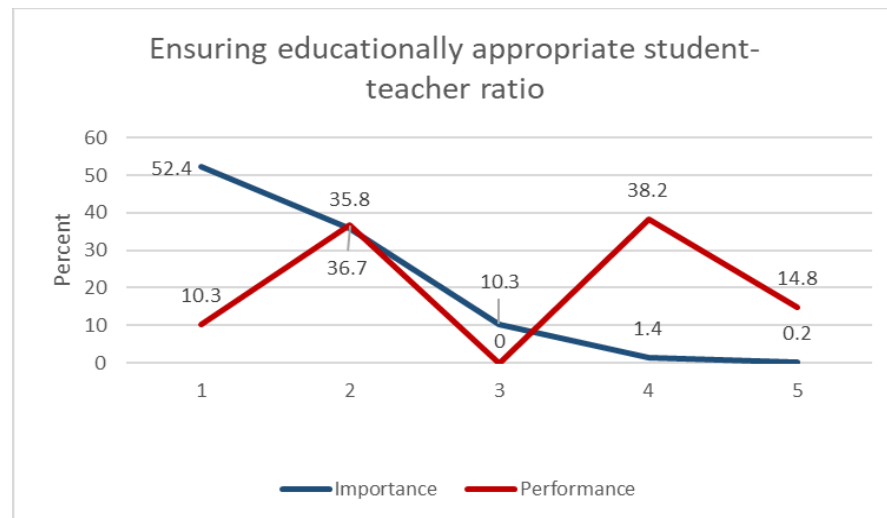


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G= .055; p=.135

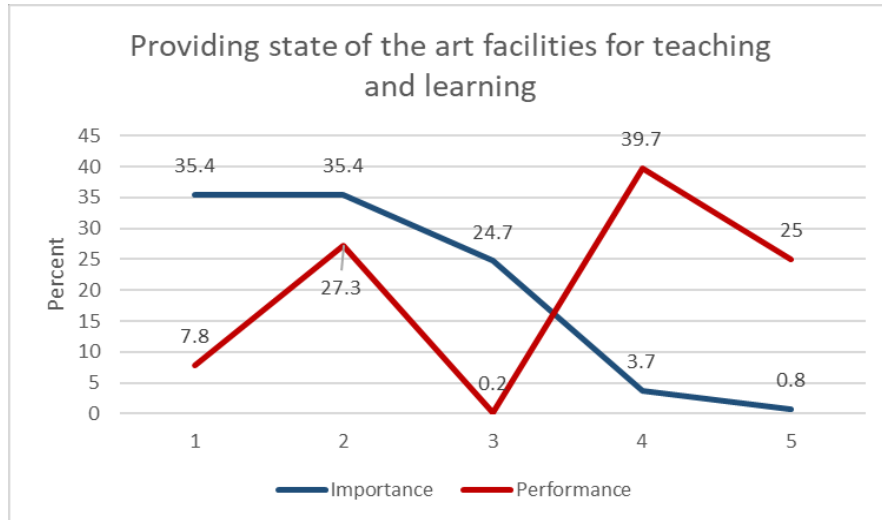


G= .157; p=.000

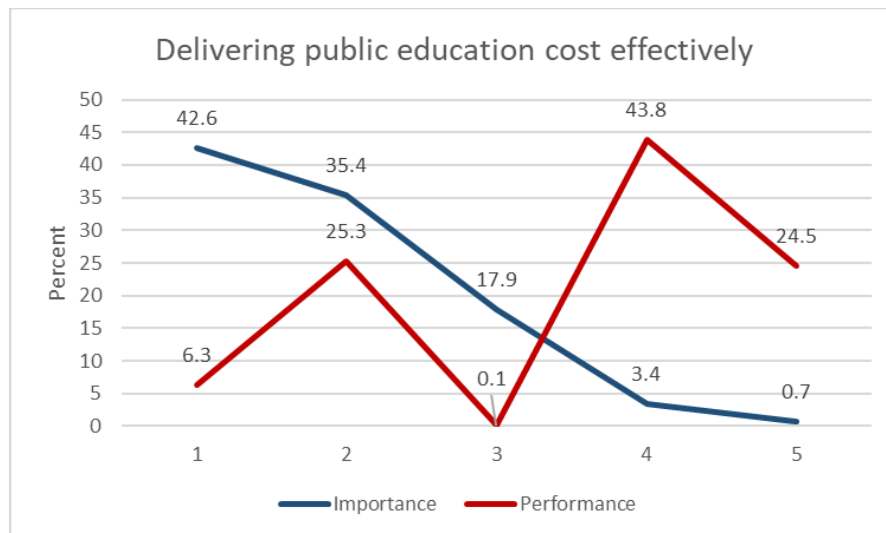


G= -.025; p=.474

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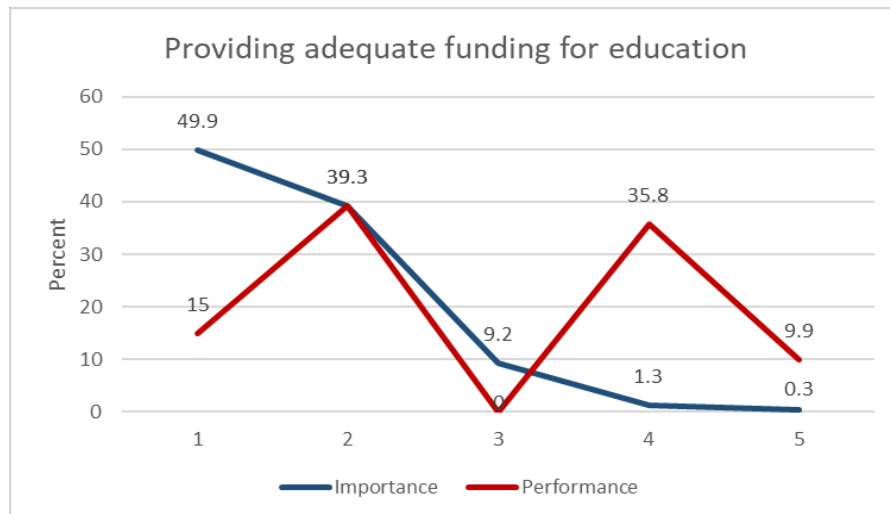


G= -.150; p=.000

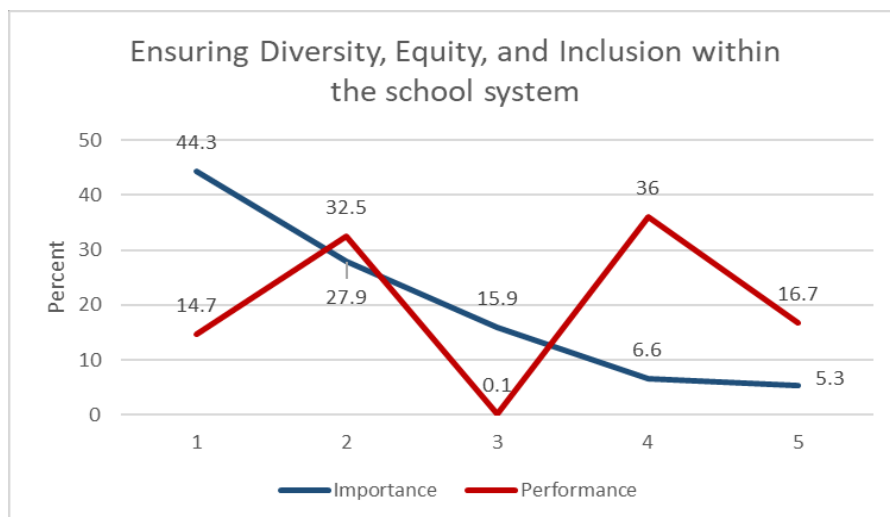


G= .037; p=.288

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G= -.015; p=.655



G= -.255; p=.000

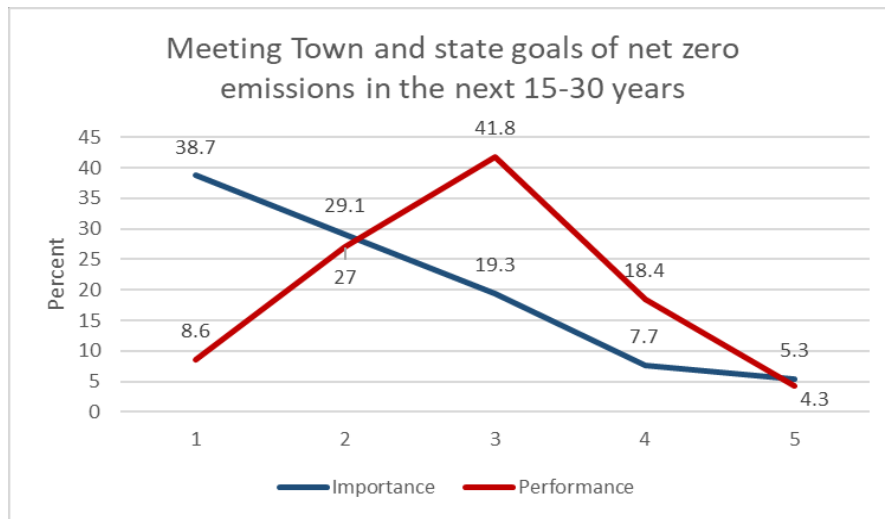
Climate, Environmental Health and Sustainability

Two of the findings in this section were not statistically significant, specifically, meeting Town and state goals of net zero emissions in the next 15-30 years and providing public health and safety services in response to rising temperatures and extreme weather. The strongest statistically significant correlation was for ensuring access to safe drinking water (G= .326). In this case, there was a positive correlation between ratings of importance and ratings of performance. For all the other statistically significant findings, the correlation between importance and

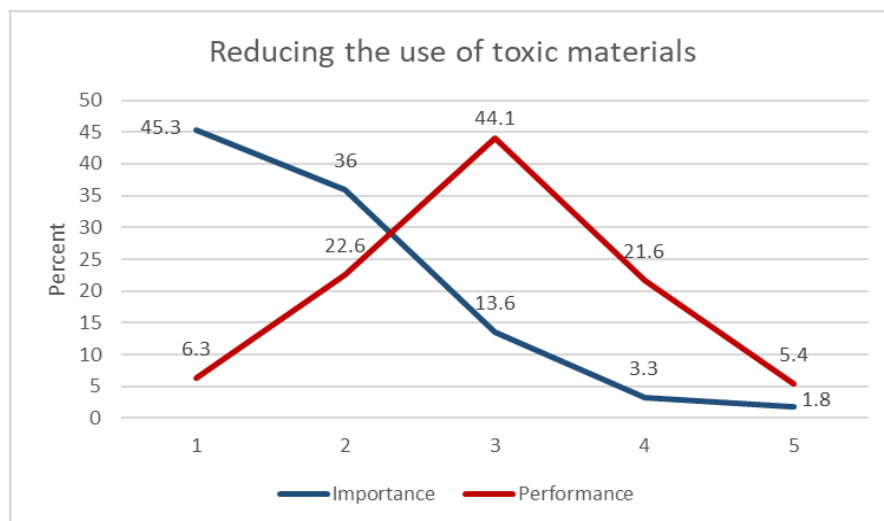
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performance was inverse. That is, the more important the item was seen to be, the poorer the performance with respect to it.

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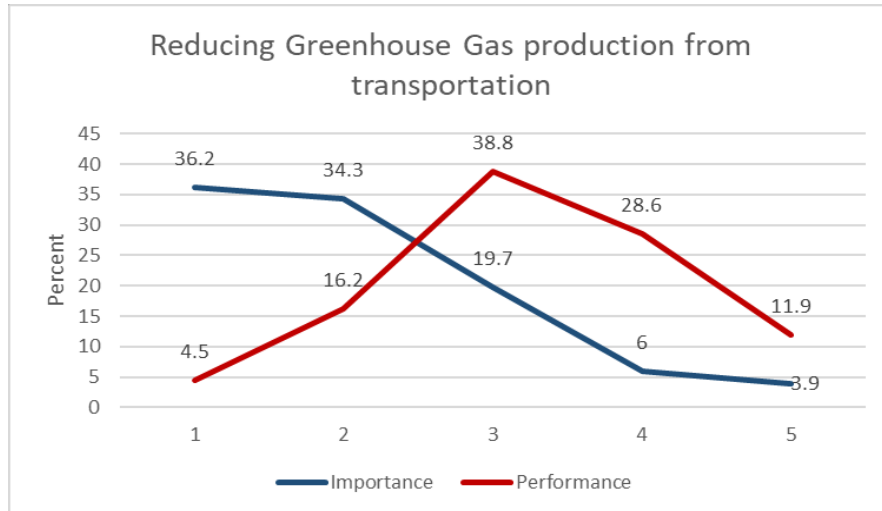


G= -.036; p=.324

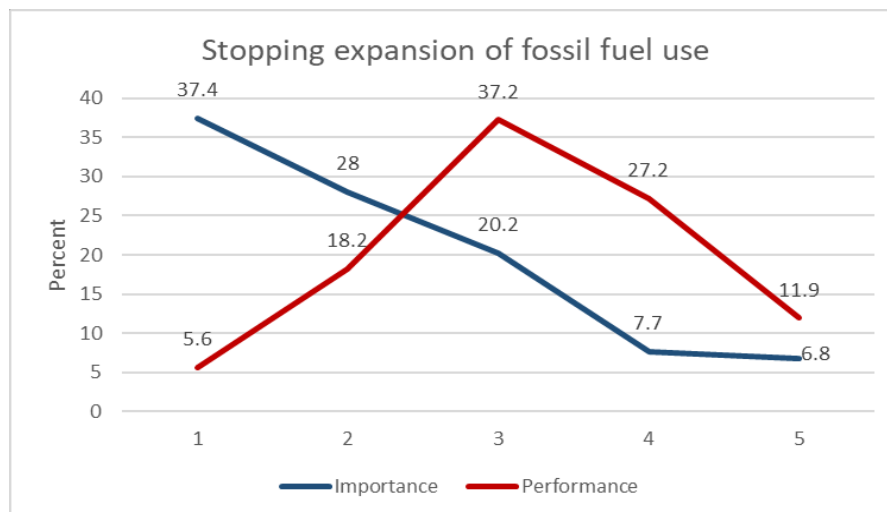


G= -.131; p=.002

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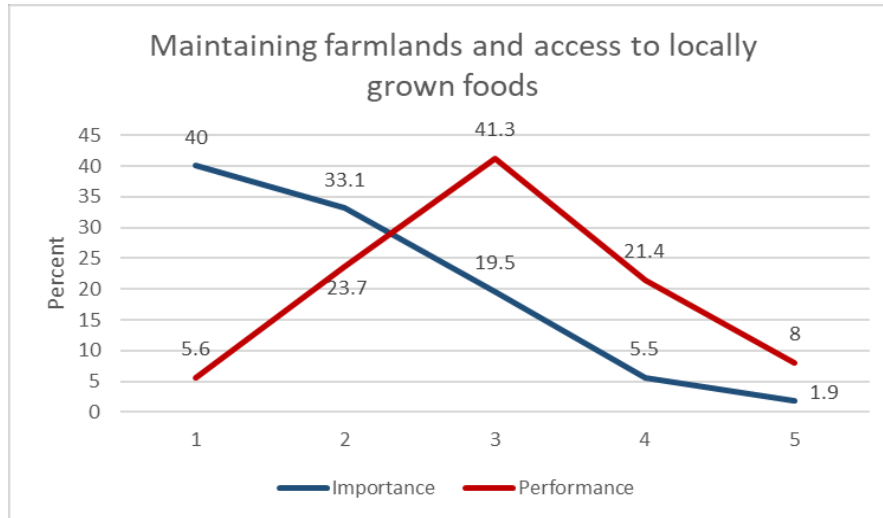


G= -.270; p=.000

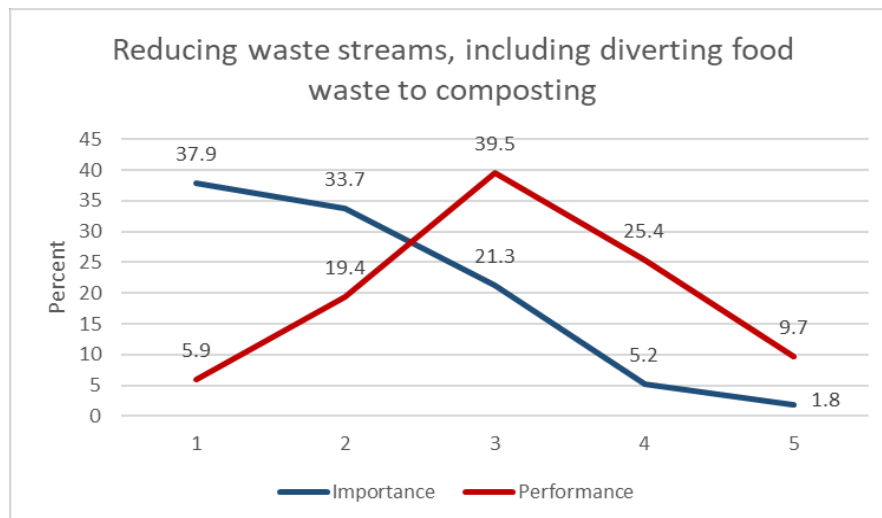


G= -.207; p=.000

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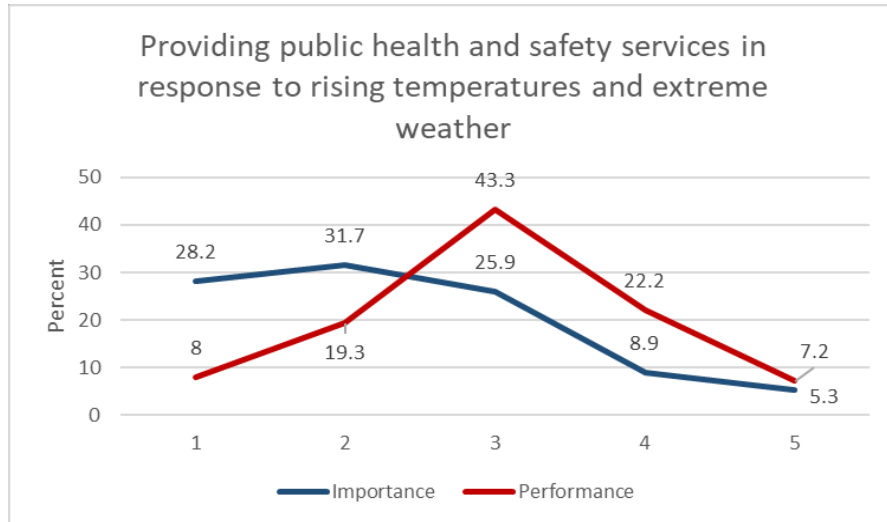


G= -.086; p=.008

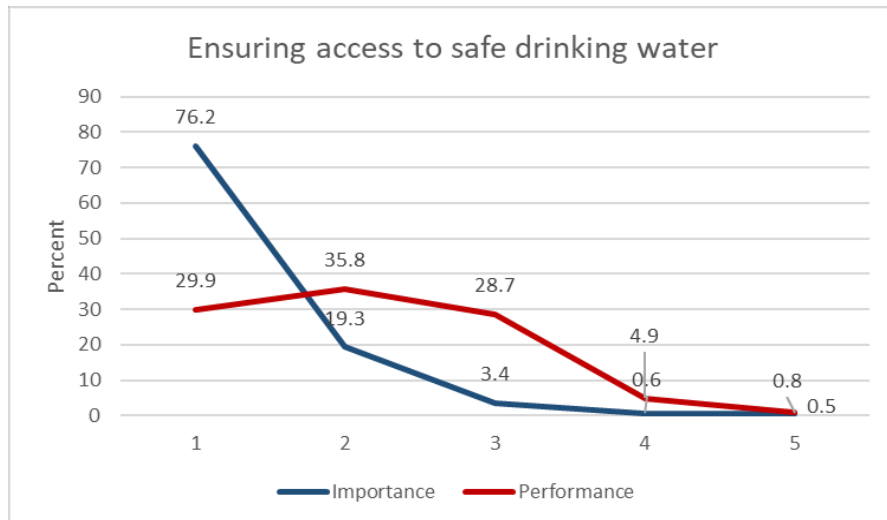


G= -.115; p=.000

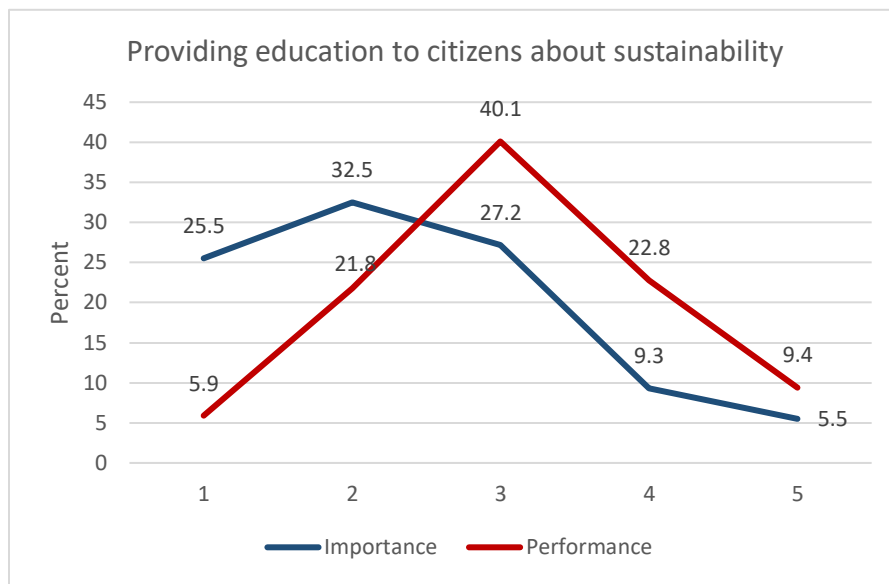
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G= -.001; p=.979



G= .326; p=.000

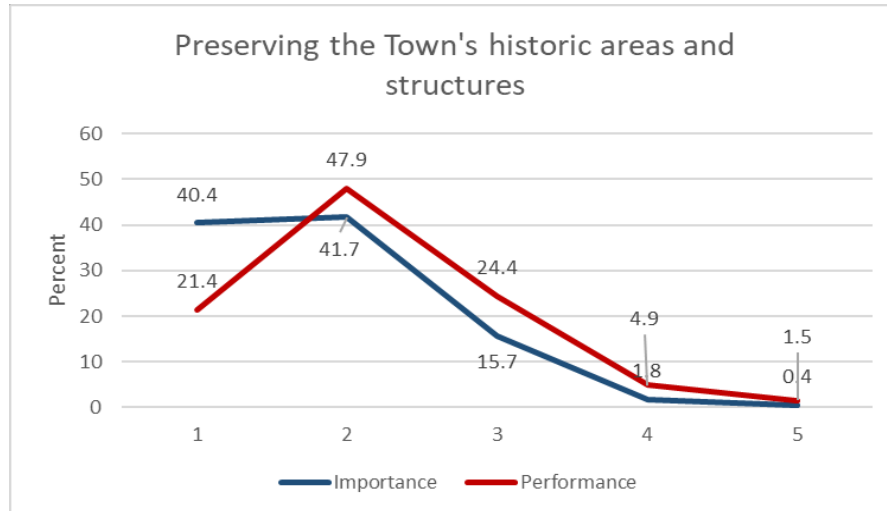


G=-.152; p=.000

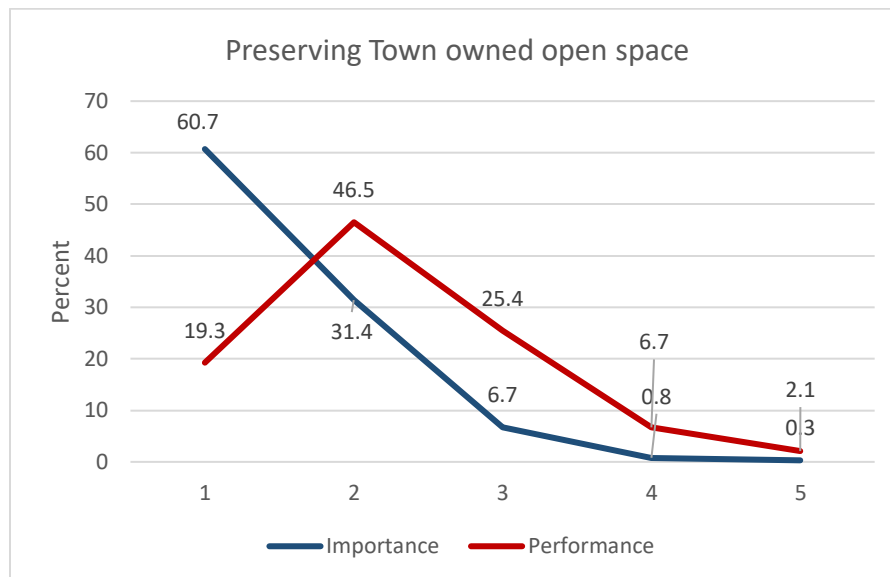
Physical Character

Each of these findings was statistically significant. The strongest correlation between perceived importance and rating of performance was for managing the flow of traffic through Town (G= -.347). This indicates a strong inverse relationship, that is, the more important the item, the lower the rating of the performance with respect to it. There were a number of inverse relationships: preserving the physical character of residential neighborhoods; enhancing the physical environment of the Town Center; managing the flow of traffic through Town; and ensuring adequate, convenient parking in the business districts. These findings argue that the more important the item was to respondents, the lower the performance rating for the item.

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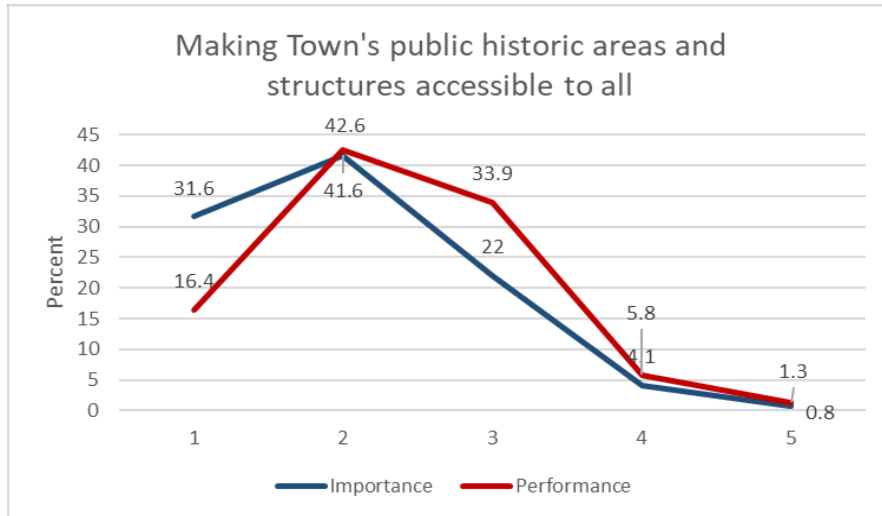


G= .105; p=.001

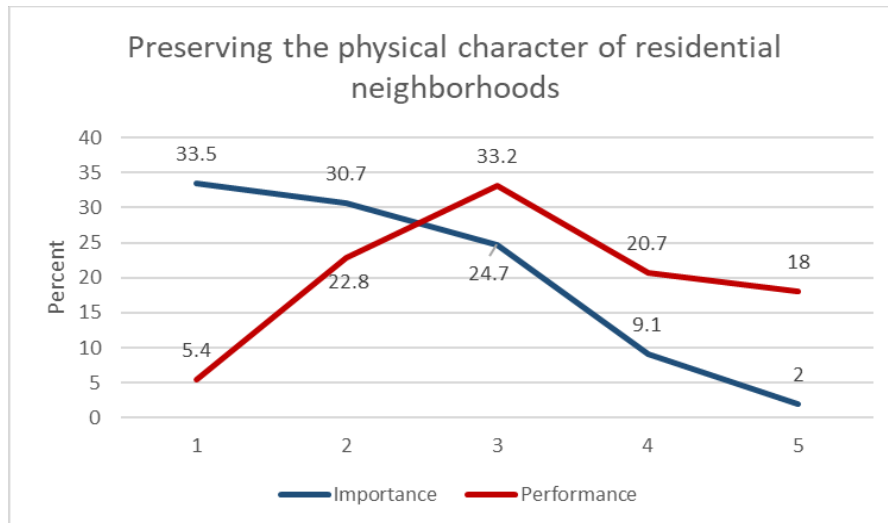


G= .093; p=.005

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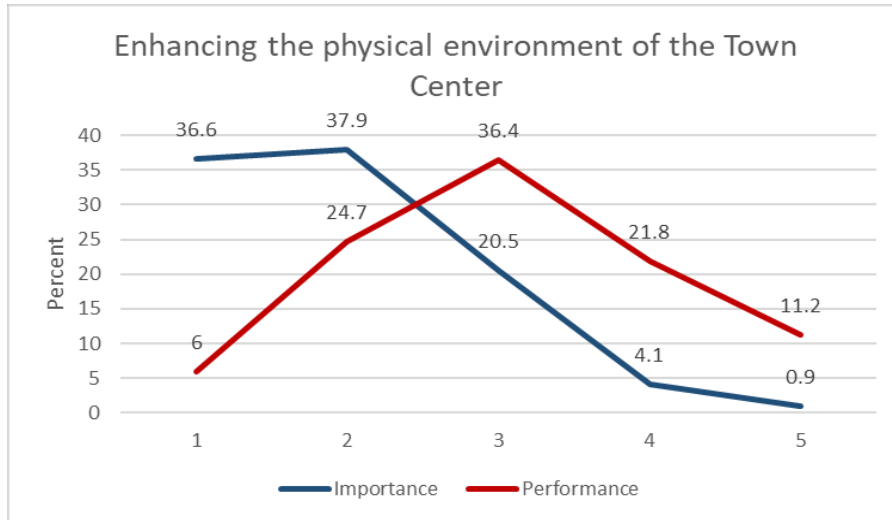


G= .115; p=.000

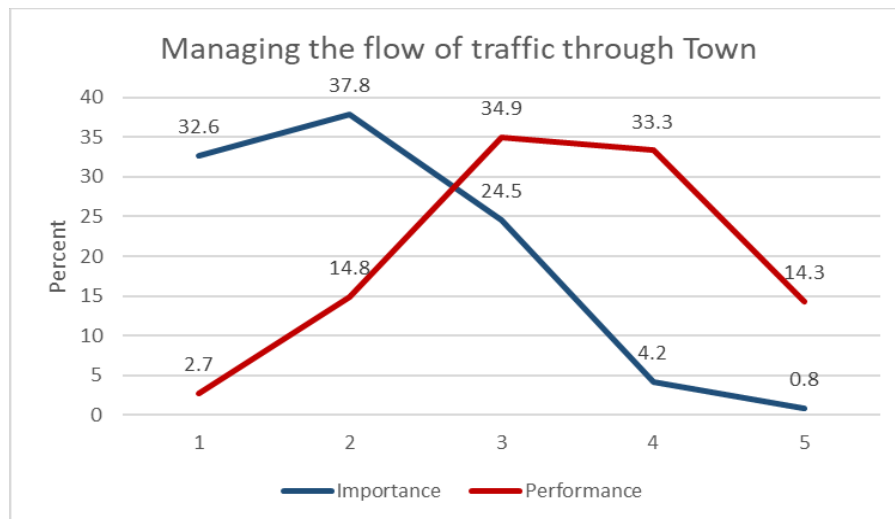


G=-.281; p=.000

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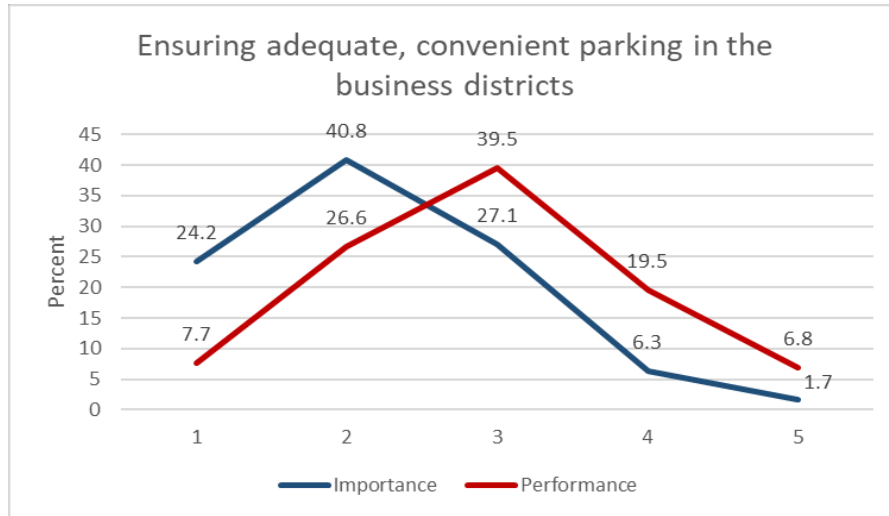


$G = -.221$; $p = .000$



$G = -.347$; $p = .000$

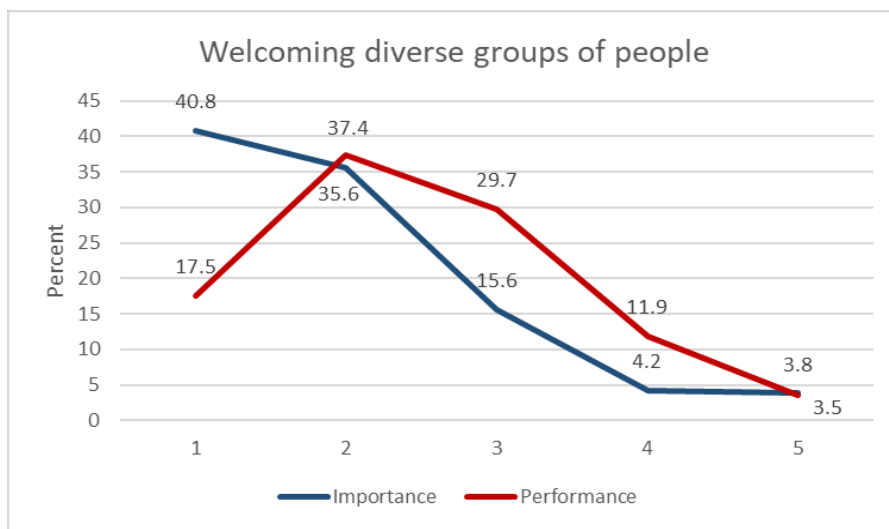
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$G = -.270$; $p = .000$

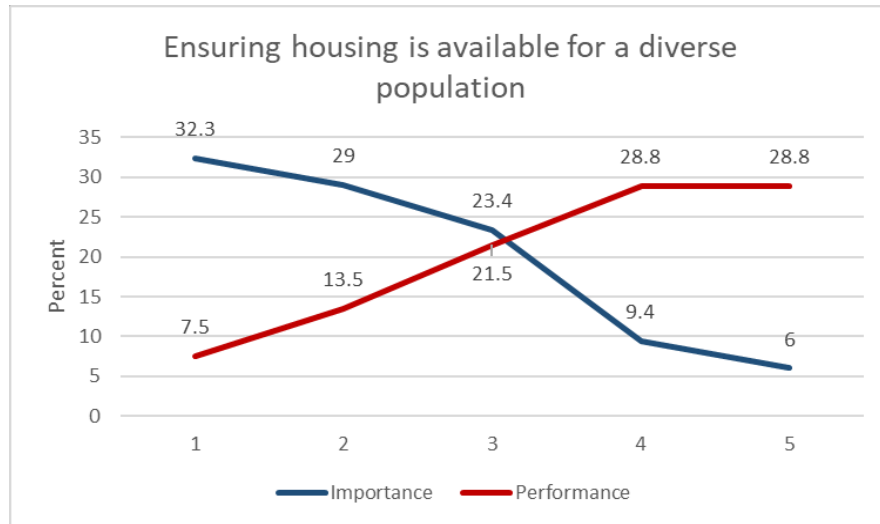
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

All but one (providing translated materials on the Town website and through Town departments) of the findings was statistically significant. One of the findings (providing books and other materials for a diverse population in the library) showed a direct relationship between importance and performance. This indicates that there is a consistency between importance of the items and the ratings of performance. Other relationships evidenced inverse relationships, where the ratings for importance were higher than the ratings for performance. The two items for which there is the greatest discrepancy between importance and performance are diversifying Town and school staff ($G = -.430$) and ensuring housing is available for a diverse population ($G = -.428$).

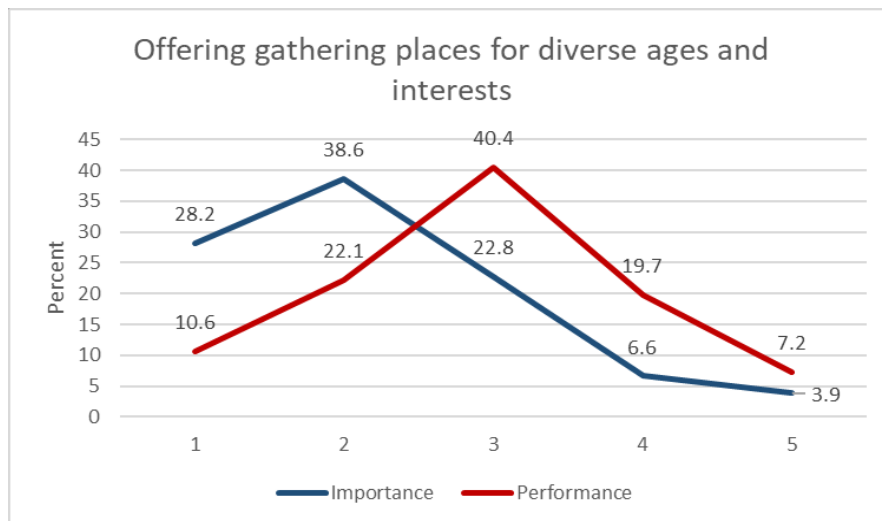


Final Report on Town-Wide Survey 2022

G= -.096; p=.001

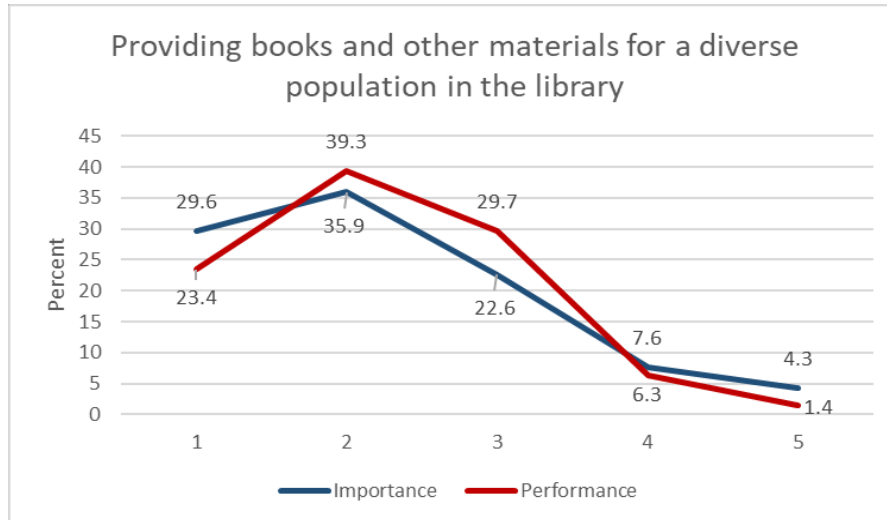


G=-.428; p=.000

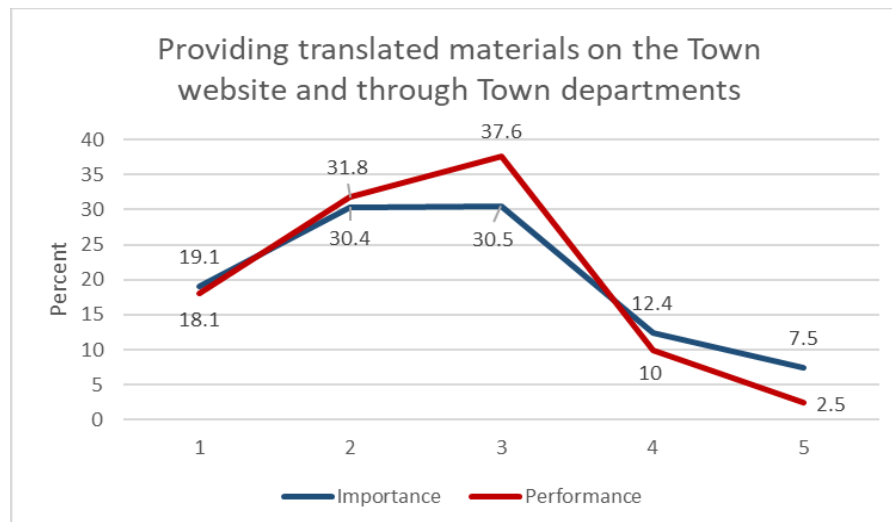


G=-.181; p=.000

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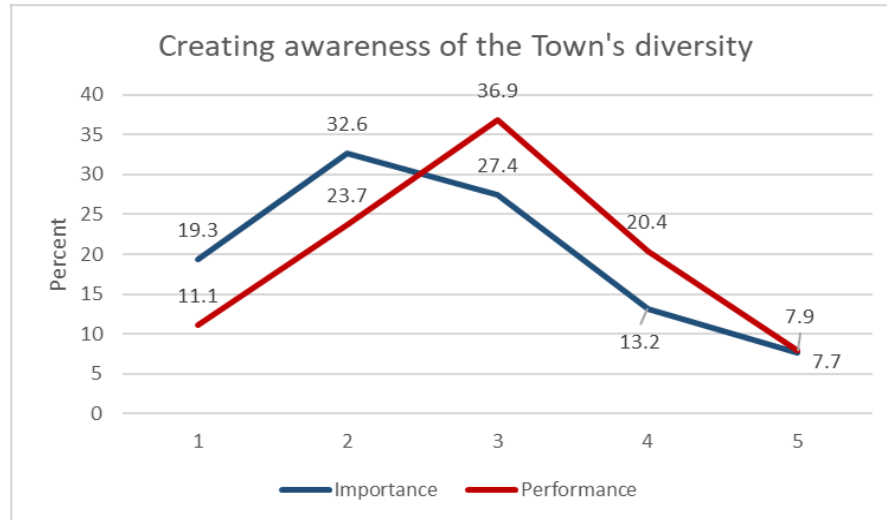


G=.108; p=.001

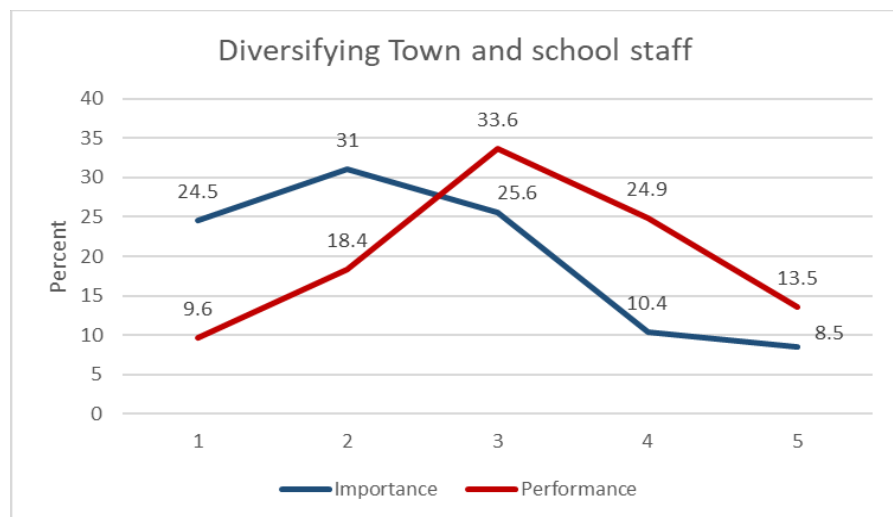


G=.001; p=.985

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G=-.156; p=.000

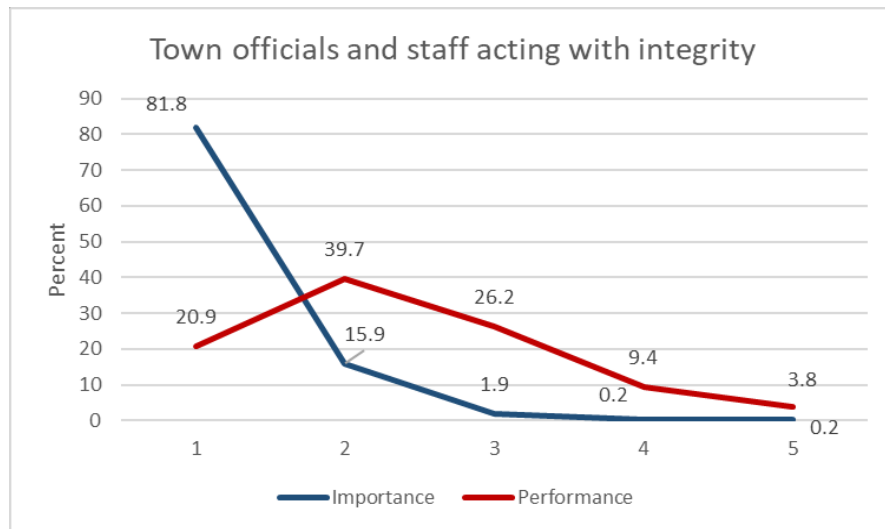


G=-.430; p=.000

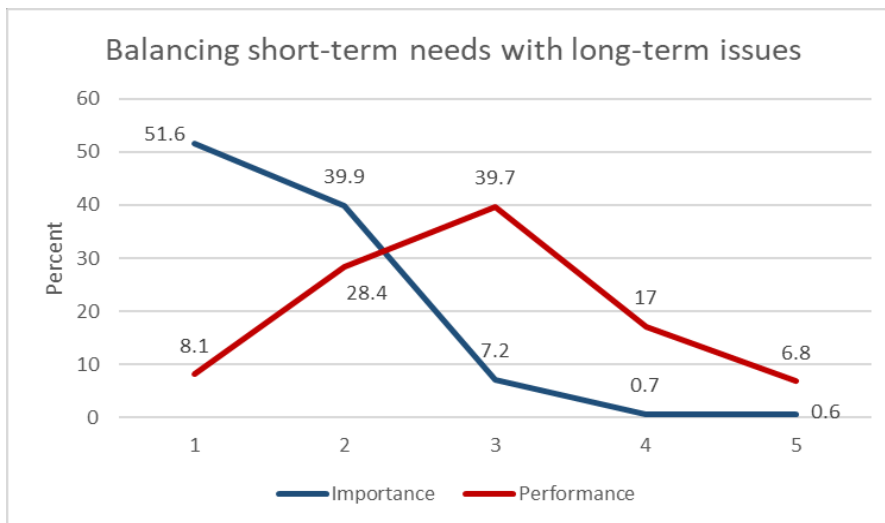
Town Government

All but two of the findings (acting in a fiscally responsible manner and planning for the long-term future) were statistically significant. The strongest correlation between perceived importance and rating of performance was for living within constraints of Proposition 2 1/2 ($G = -.371$), meaning that there was considerable discrepancy between the rating of importance of this item and the rating of performance for it. For two items (Town officials and staff acting with integrity and ensuring Emergency Preparedness and Response plans are up to date) importance and performance were positively correlated ($G = .258$).

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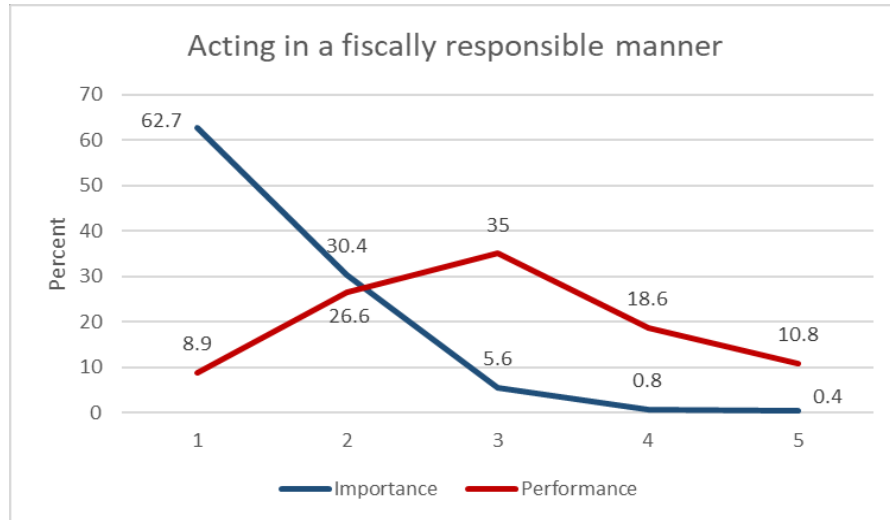


G=.258; p=.000

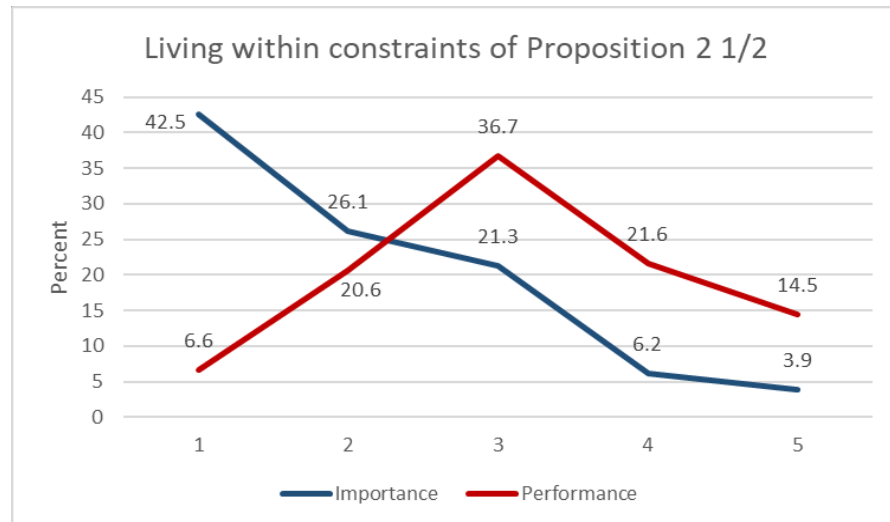


G=.166; p=.000

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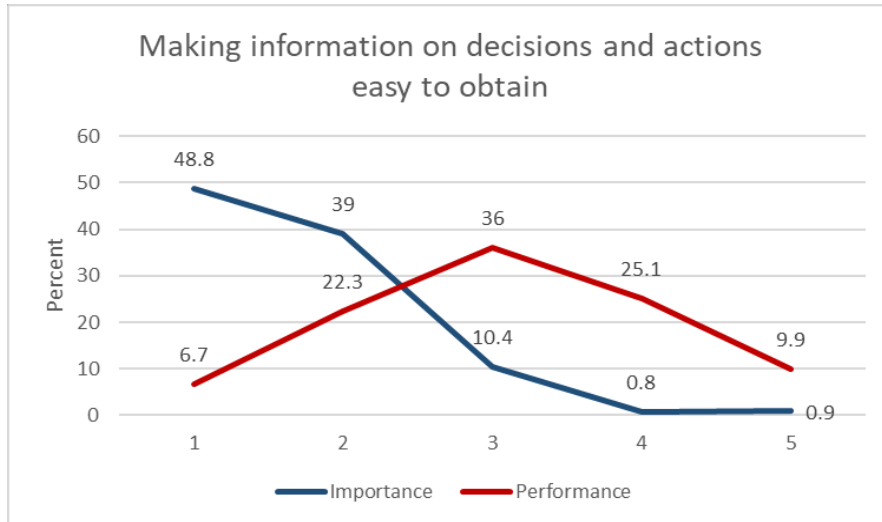


G=-.066; p=.053

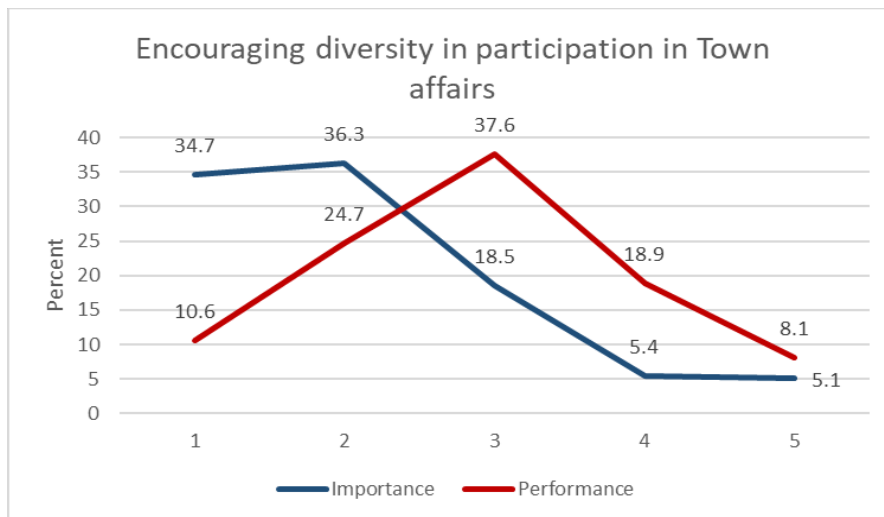


G=-.371; p=.000

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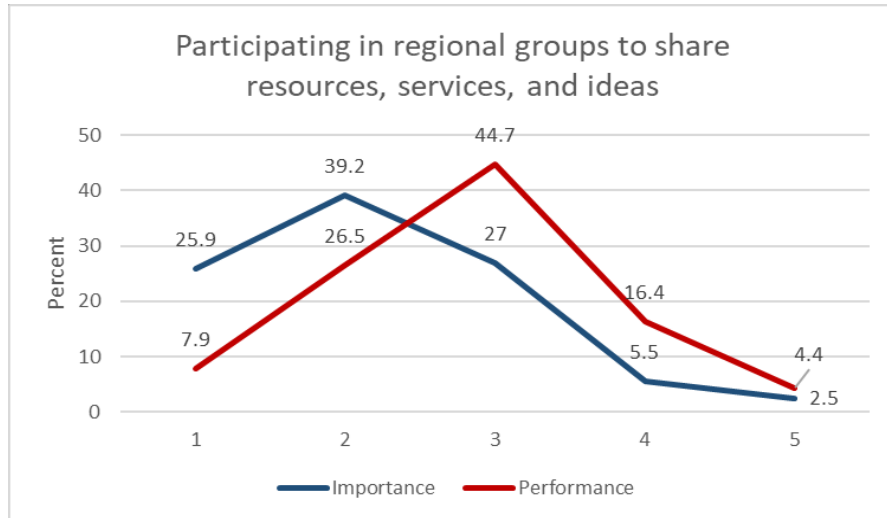


G=-.122; p=.000

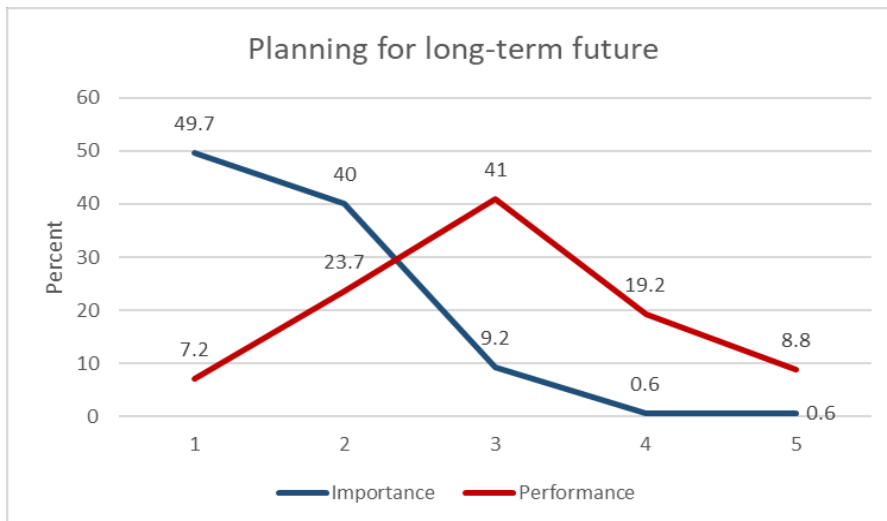


G=-.184; p=.000

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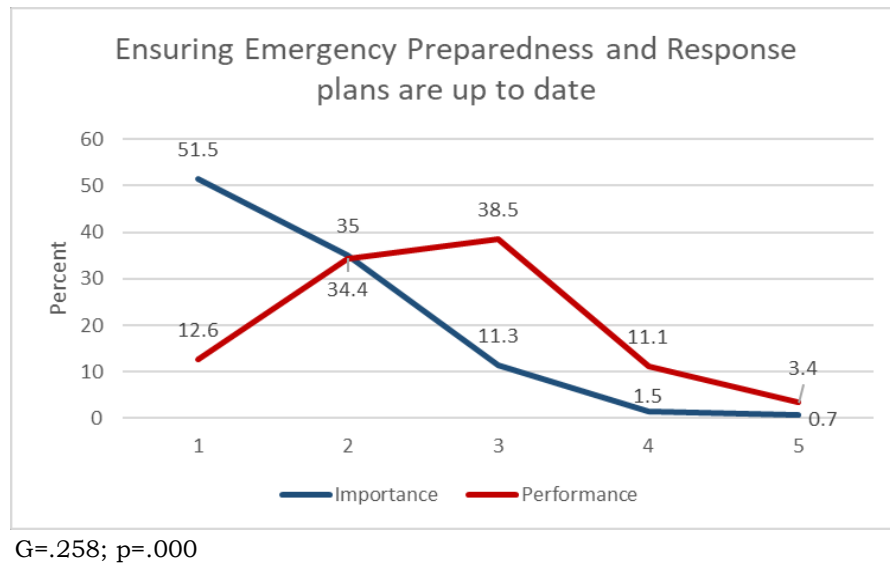


G=.111; p=.009



G=.059; p=.104

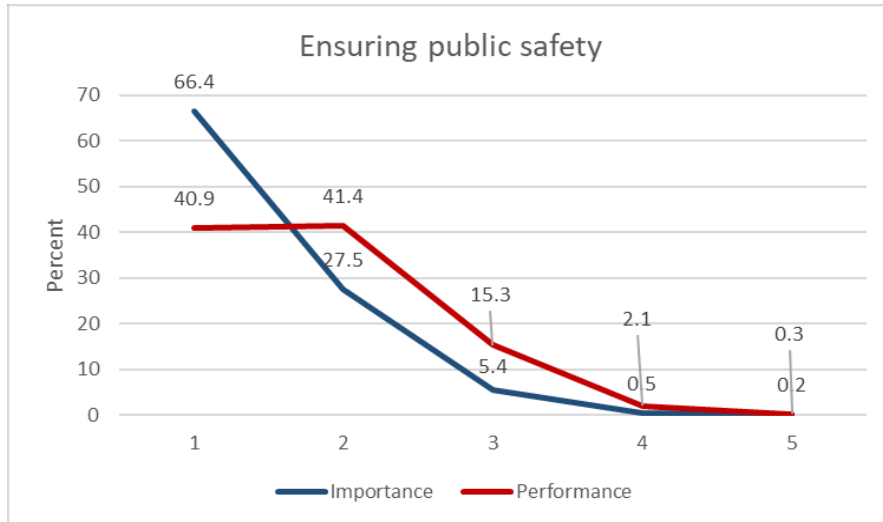
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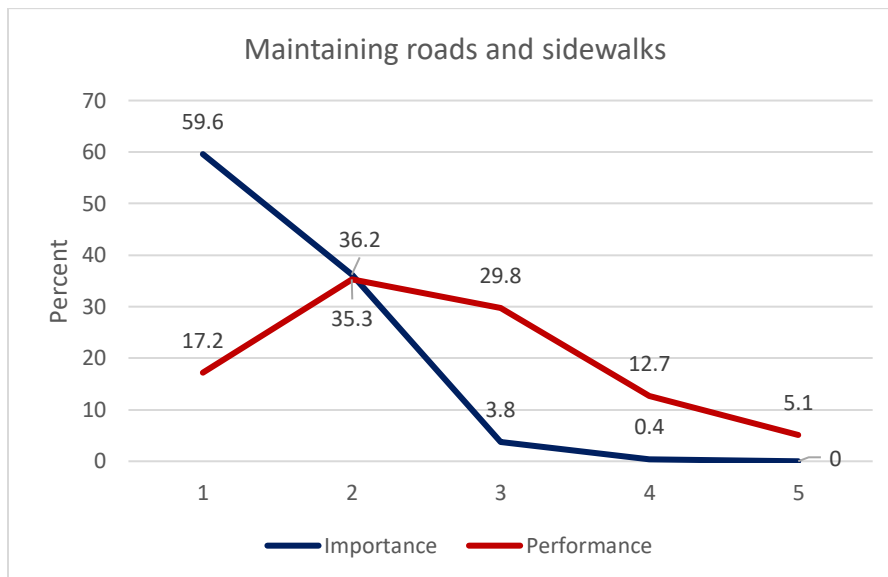
Town Services

Several of these findings were not statistically significant: maintaining roads and sidewalks; offering sports fields and recreation facilities for diverse activities; providing quality services and facilities for senior citizens; and providing opportunities for life-long learning. Two of the items, providing quality services and facilities, outside of school, for children and teens and delivering Town services cost-effectively, had inverse relationships between importance and performance. (The more the item was deemed important, the lower the rating of performance.) The strongest positive correlations were found for providing comprehensive library services ($G = .369$) and ensuring public safety ($G = .357$).

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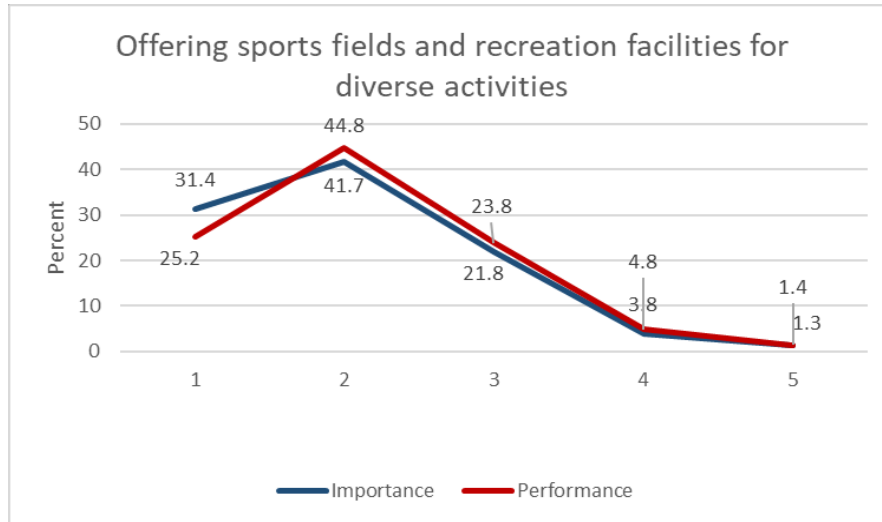


$G=.357$; $p=.000$

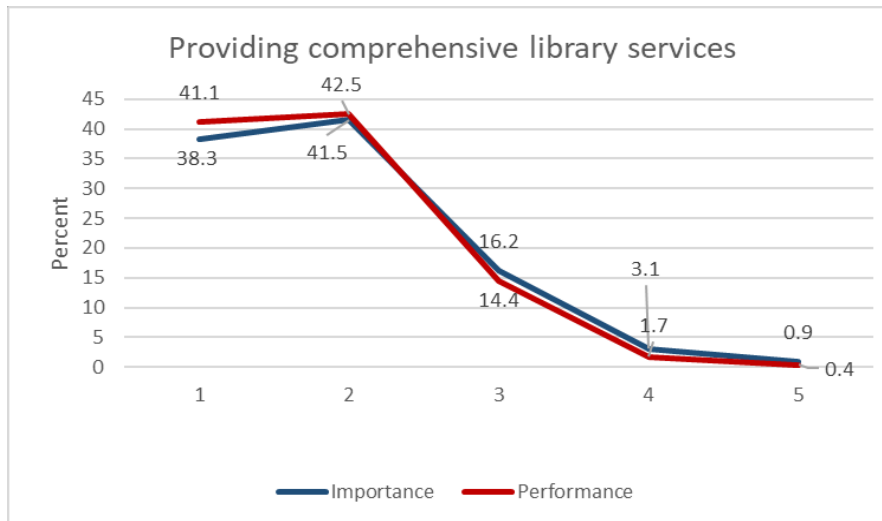


$G=-.045$; $p=.137$

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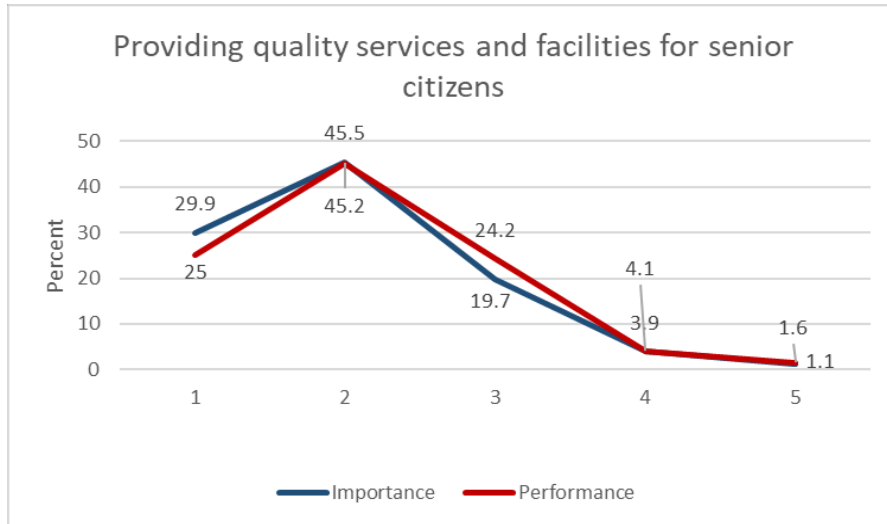


G=.037; p=.218

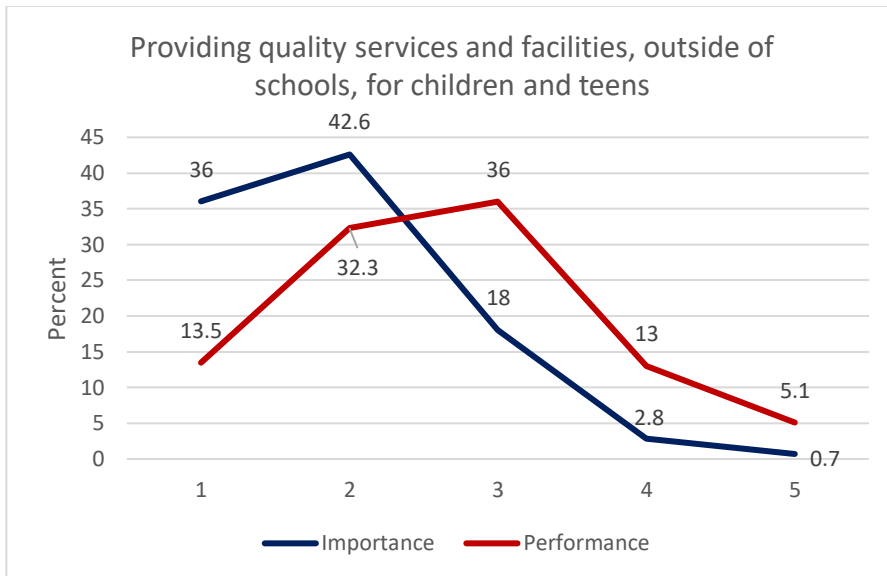


G= .369; p=.000

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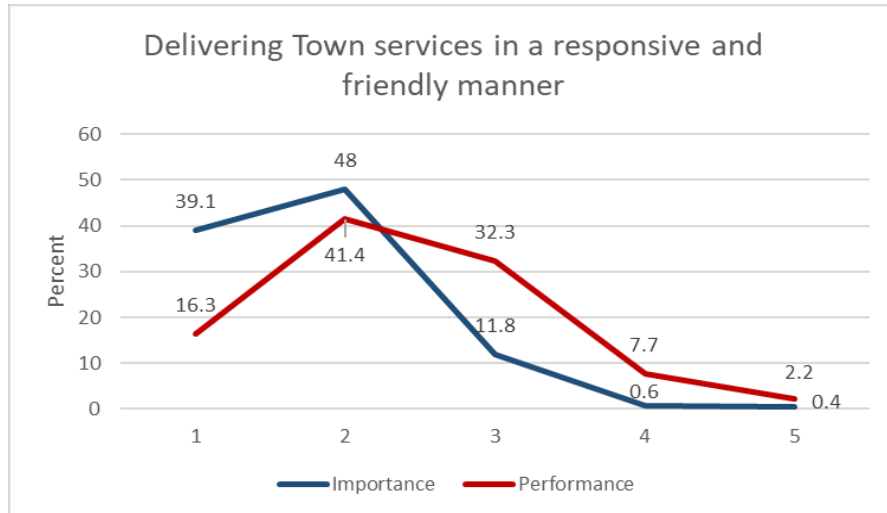


G= .063; p= .065

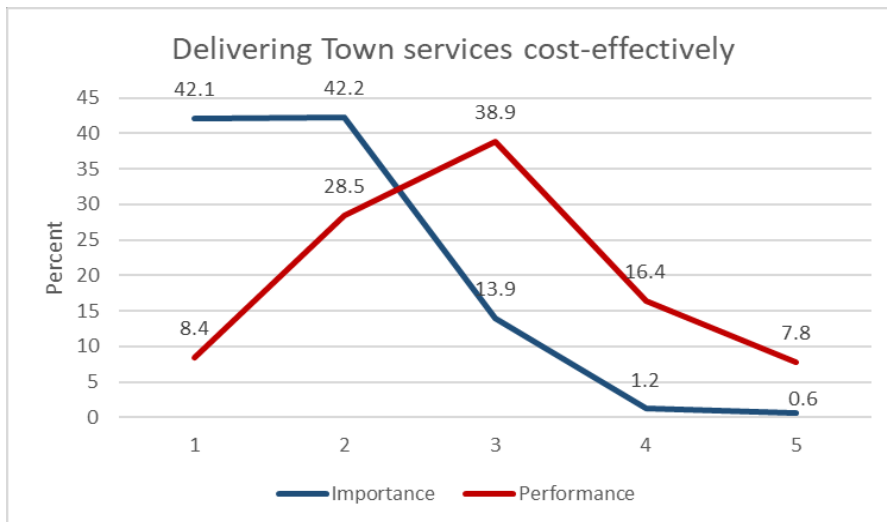


G= -.075; p=.016

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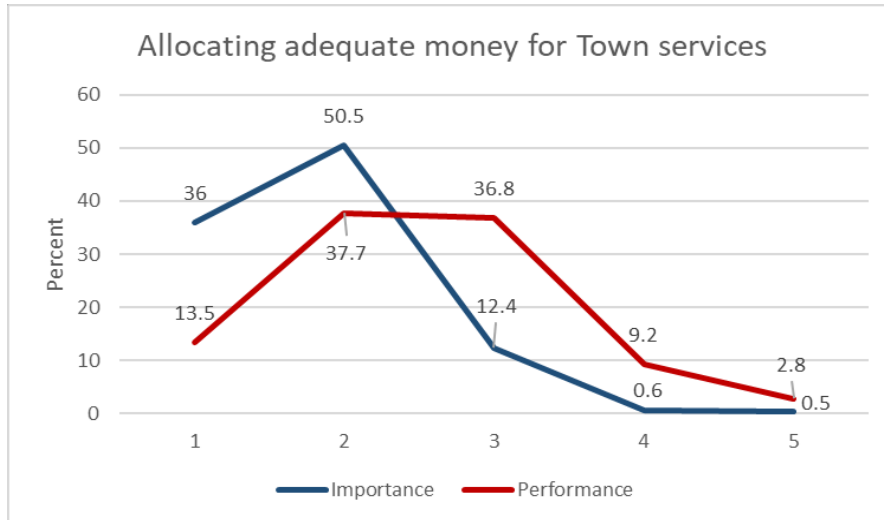


G=.166; p=.000

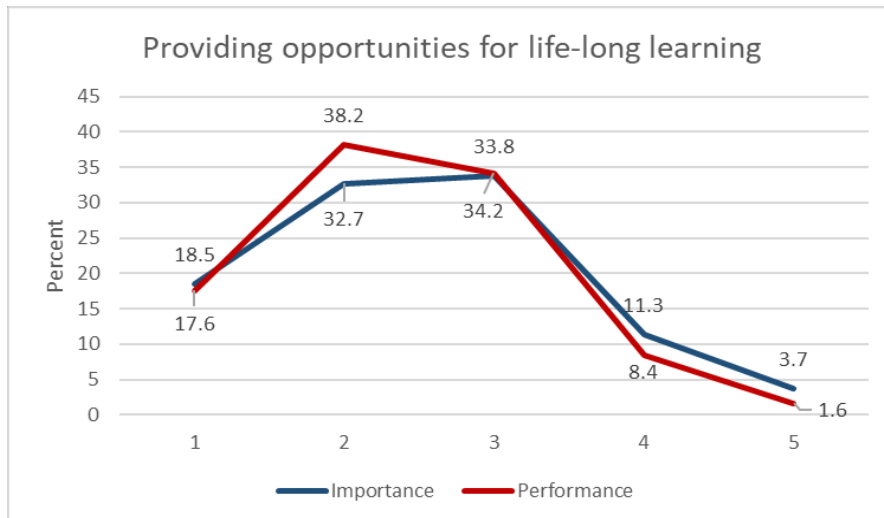


G= -.144; p=.000

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G= .154; p=.000



G= .035; p=.253

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Summary

In a number of instances, where findings were statistically significant, there was close correspondence between importance and performance:

- providing supportive framework for economic development of large business
- preserving the Town's historic areas and structures
- providing books and other materials for a diverse population in the library
- ensuring public safety
- providing comprehensive library services

In most cases, however, ratings of importance of issues were higher than were ratings of performance with respect to the issues.

Focus Groups

In addition to administering the questionnaire for Town-wide response, the Task Force opted to conduct a number of focus groups in order to delve further into selected topics identified as most central to concerns of respondents to the questionnaire. (Please see Appendix B for a list of topics for discussion with participants.)

Participants for the focus groups had been solicited through the questionnaire and through a subsequent outreach to participants post-questionnaire. Six groups (consisting of a total of 51 participants) were conducted and the qualitative results of those groups were incorporated into the dataset along with the quantitative and qualitative findings from the questionnaire.

Topics of Discussion

Each group was provided with a set of questions (and probes). The order of the questions was varied from one group to another to ensure that each question would be addressed first by at least one focus group. (There was the expectation that most groups would be able to address all questions, but also recognition that some groups might be more focused on specific questions and thus not have time to address all questions.) The questions concentrated on the following:

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- Town Center
- Public Education
- Diversity
- Infrastructure
- Housing
- Taxes

Specific questions were derived from results of the questionnaire, specifically qualitative comments provided by respondents. Most of the comments made/points raised in the focus groups echoed those made by respondents on the questionnaire.

On the *Town Center*, participants said a nice Town Center was a reason for moving here, but things have deteriorated. There are too many banks/realtors. Many said there is no reason to go to the Center; they shop elsewhere. Participants noted that other Town centers feel more vibrant, have more diversity of shops, and are more pleasant to visit. To remedy problems with the Center, participants identified the need for rent control so that businesses can move into, and stay in, Town; re-branding and marketing the Center to make it more appealing; incubating businesses; and engaging in more thinking and planning about what would attract people to the Center. Other suggestions included: holding more events in the Center; connecting the bike path from schools to the Center; making traffic flow, and pedestrian safety, and parking better; adding bookstores, clothing stores, places for people to hang out, more outdoor seating. Several participants said that the Town is not listening to them and doing things to improve the Center.

On *Public Education*, participants were generally negative in their assessments. Comments focused on visibly broken infrastructure; lack of adequate attention to mental health needs of children and identification of learning disabilities or limitations; disciplinary disparities by race/ethnicity; too much focus on socio-emotional needs and not enough on academics. Many of the negative comments were centered around the high school and students' experiences there, including that it is too big; is overcrowded; needs replacement; does not adequately pay attention to children in the middle academic ranges (the children 'get lost'); is too pressured, causing stress for students; has too much focus on extracurricular activities. Some participants were worried about the impact on the schools of Town demographics and the resultant high taxes that must be paid by those without children in the schools, and expressed concern that the Town budget allocates too much money for education – without evidence of it being a worthwhile investment. Participants also made some suggestions for improving the educational experience. These included: experimenting with new and different forms of education (e.g., Education without Walls; more technology-based courses; use of micro-schools; introducing world languages in elementary school; more intergenerational programming; more work-based learning; and using local companies/organizations for mentoring). There was also a desire for holding high school graduation in Lexington.

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On *Diversity*, there was concern expressed that there is so much focus on Pride and racial/ethnic diversity that ‘white’ students in schools ‘feel left out’. It was noted by participants in focus groups that care should be taken that we not separate cultures rather than celebrating cultures. More cross-pollination between groups is needed. There were mixed feelings with regard to diversity – some said it was important to acknowledge and address diversity, while some said it is ‘offensive’ or ‘biased’ to spend so much energy on DEI and the idea of quotas because it suggests minorities cannot make it on their own. Some participants focused on economic and/or housing and/or age diversity and said these were problems in Lexington. There was some agreement that children are ahead of their parents/grandparents on diversity issues so less time/effort should be spent on DEI issues in schools. Suggestions for addressing issues of diversity included: focusing on similarities (rather than differences); developing more affordable housing; being more creative with regard to economic diversity; making greater use of the Community Center to encourage mixing of groups; not having hiring quotas; holding more festivals to bring people together.

On *Infrastructure*, participants said they wanted more neighborhood parks for local gathering and greater accessibility to parks from bike paths. Several said there are not enough sidewalks for safe walking, especially where children walk to schools or playgrounds, or adequately visible crosswalks for safe street crossing. Participants advocated for more trees; more e-charging stations; more control of invasive species; reduced speed limits (in some areas); and greater control over developers, who were seen as sometimes being dismissive of neighborhood concerns or zoning or planning requirements. Suggestions for improvement included: adding dog parks; using more traffic calming measures; sharing more information on environmental issues with residents; creating a list of ‘green’ companies; putting electrical wires underground; and encouraging greater use of electric vehicles (EV), solar power, and public transportation.

On *Housing*, participants had many negative comments. These are comments that have been heard in previous Town-wide surveys. Participants reported that building has gotten ‘out of control’. New houses are too big for their lots; high prices restrict diverse offerings; more ‘starter’ homes are needed; mansionization has a negative effect on everyone’s taxes; tear downs destroy the culture of the Town; and zoning to allow for multi-family housing violates the desire for single family housing. Participants wanted the Town and Planning Board to work with developers to get them to be more sensitive and responsive to needs and desires of residents. Suggestions were in line with observed problems: to control tear downs; develop policies that promote housing diversity in general and affordable housing; to allow accessory dwelling units to keep seniors in Town; control obstacles that make it easier to tear down a house than to improve it; consider housing density and the potentially dangerous effect too many houses clustered too closely together could pose for emergency (e.g., fire truck) access; and consult with School

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Committee before building multi-unit and affordable housing (that could encourage families with young children to move to Lexington) and increasing the burden on the schools.

On *Taxes*, there was some discussion about the role of the Community Preservation Act. Some participants said it was a good thing because it helps fund needed improvements to Town, while others saw it as a ‘slush fund’ without adequate explanation as to how the money in the fund is spent. Although participants generally acknowledged that new buildings (e.g., Police Station, High School) are needed, they cautioned against having to build ‘the best of the best’. Consistent with comments seen in the questionnaire, some participants believe their taxes are too high. Some expressed willingness to forgo some services (e.g., trash collection, recycling) in order to reduce taxes, but others said they would be willing to pay higher taxes for things such as mental health and addiction efforts; adult/senior day care; and/or a group home/day center for those who are developmentally disabled. Some questioned whether high taxes are a function of the Town paying high salaries, and others expressed concern that a lack of planning for upcoming needs prevents proper attention to tax control. Taxes were also seen as a barrier to the entry of newcomers to Town. Participants had some suggestions for dealing with tax issues: focus more on tourism (and the revenue it can bring); use a graduated real estate tax for seniors (to encourage them to remain in Town); diversify the tax base to include more commercial development; and increase housing density to create a large residential tax base.

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Comparison of Findings from 2012 and 2017 and 2022 Surveys

As stated at the beginning of this report, from its inception, the 20/20 (now Vision for Lexington) Committee has sought input from residents for the planning process. Soliciting comments and observations from citizens has been a critical part of the planning process, and it continues to be so. The current survey (2022) is the latest effort on behalf of 20/20 (Vision for Lexington) and the three elected Boards to hear from citizens. It is a replication (with some modifications) of Town-wide surveys conducted in 2012 and 2017. A goal of Vision for Lexington is to repeat such studies every five (5) years in order to assess community perspectives and progress toward addressing stated preferences of community members. Data from the current study, coupled with the data from the 2012 and 2017 studies, provide the first three data points for comparison.

Most Important Issues

Examination of results of the 2012 and 2017 surveys in comparison to results of the 2022 survey reveals that, while some things have changed, many remain as they were in 2012 and 2017. When respondents were asked what the most important issues were in 2012 and 2017, for example, there were notable consistencies with data from 2022. Where the most important issue appeared in at least two years, percentages are provided for comparison.

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Most Important Issues			
	2012	2017	2022
Economic Development	Having a vibrant downtown (77.0%)	Having a vibrant downtown (65.3%)	Having a vibrant downtown (59.3%)
Public Education	Having high quality schools	Meeting academic and social needs of all students (37.4%)	Meeting academic and social needs of all students (49.8%)
Climate, Environmental Health and Sustainability	Protecting open spaces from development	Protecting privately owned open spaces from development	Ensuring access to safe drinking water
Physical Character	Enhancing the physical environment of the Town Center	Preserving the physical character of residential neighborhoods	Preserving Town-owned open space
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion	Welcoming diverse groups of people (40.6%)	Welcoming diverse groups of people (41.2%)	Welcoming diverse groups of people (30.2%)
Town Government	Officials acting with integrity (29.6%)	Town officials and staff acting with integrity (26.2%)	Town officials and staff acting with integrity (30.9%)
Town Services	Ensuring public safety (50.6%)	Ensuring public safety (44.4%)	Ensuring public safety (42.5%)

In the category of *Economic Development*, 77% of respondents in 2012 said that having a vibrant downtown was most important. In 2017, 65.3% of respondents identified the same issue. In 2022, that was, again, the issue respondents (59.3%) ranked as most important.

In the category of *Public Education* (labeled Educational Excellence in 2012), 59.6% of respondents in 2012 said that having high-quality schools was most important, followed by 20% who favored high-quality teachers and 10.6% who favored cost-effective public education. In 2017, 37.4% of respondents chose meeting academic, social and emotional needs of all students as their most important issue. (It must be noted that this issue was not a choice in 2012. It was one of the items added to the 2017 survey.) Respondents' second choice was ensuring high-quality public schools, at 27.9%, and their third choice was attracting and retaining high quality teachers, at 12.5%. While percentages have changed somewhat, the rank ordering of priorities essentially remained the same. In 2022, the most important issue was meeting academic, social and emotional needs of all students (49.8%), followed by

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attracting and retaining high quality teachers (20.6%). The choice of ensuring high-quality schools, which had been ranked highly in 2012 and 2017, was not included in the 2022 survey.

In the category of *Climate, Environmental Health and Sustainability* (labeled Environment in 2012 and 2017), 41.9% of respondents in 2012 favored protecting open spaces from development, followed by 17.2% who favored preserving the environment in open spaces. In 2017, 30.4% of respondents chose protecting privately owned open spaces from development, followed by 25.2% of respondents who chose preserving the environment in Town-owned open spaces. In 2022, 32.7% of respondents cited the most important issue as ensuring access to safe drinking water, followed by 25.9% of respondents who chose meeting Town and state goals of net zero emissions in the next 15-30 years. Neither of these two issues had been included in the previous two surveys.

In the category of *Physical Character*, 25.9% of respondents in 2012 favored enhancing the physical environment of the Town Center, followed by 24% who favored preserving the Town's historic areas and structures. In 2017, 27.9% of respondents chose preserving the physical character of residential neighborhoods as the most important issue. (In 2012, 21.2% of respondents identified this issue as important.) Respondents' second choice in 2017 (24.8%) was preserving the Town's historic areas and structures and the third choice (19.9%) was enhancing the physical environment of the Town Center. In this case, there had been a shift in priorities. In 2022, 28.1% of respondents chose preserving Town owned open space as most important, followed by 20.2% who chose preserving the physical character of residential neighborhoods.

In the category of *Diversity, Equity and Inclusion* (labeled Diversity in 2012 and Population Diversity in 2017), 40.6% of respondents in 2012 said that welcoming diverse groups of people was most important. In 2017, 41.2% chose this same issue. One change that did occur between 2012 and 2017 is with regard to the second issue chosen as most important. In 2012, offering a gathering place for diverse ages and interests was chosen by 29.2% of respondents. In 2017, the choice was ensuring housing is available for a diverse population (25.0%). The change may well be due, at least in part, to the lack of a community-wide gathering place in 2012, but the existence of a Community Center in 2017. In 2022, 30.2% of respondents chose welcoming diverse groups of people as most important, followed by 28.8% of respondents who chose ensuring housing is available for a diverse population. Being welcoming and ensuring housing remain key concerns.

In the category of *Town Government*, 29.6% of respondents in 2012 said that officials acting with integrity was most important, followed by 20.1% who favored officials acting in a fiscally responsible manner and 20% who favored balancing short-term needs with long-term issues. In 2017, 26.2% of respondents said that

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Town officials and staff acting with integrity was most important, followed by 23.3% who favored balancing short-term needs with long-term issues. Acting in a fiscally responsible manner was in the third slot, with 17.5% of respondents selecting this as most important. In 2022, Town officials and staff acting with integrity remained the most important issue (30.9% of respondents chose this issue), followed by 16.8% who chose balancing short-term needs with long-term issues and 16.5% who chose acting in a fiscally responsible manner. The three most important issues remain the same in the all three surveys.

In the category of *Town Services*, 50.6% of respondents in 2012 chose ensuring public safety as the most important issue. This issue was, by far, the most important identified. In 2017, this issue was again the top choice, with 44.4% of respondents saying this was most important. The second most favored issue in 2012 was delivering Town services cost-effectively (12.8%) and the third most favored was maintaining roads and sidewalks (12.1%). In 2017, the order of these two choices was reversed, with maintaining roads and sidewalks identified by 14.6% of respondents and delivering Town services cost-effectively by 12.9%. In 2022, ensuring public safety was again identified as the most important issue (42.5%). This was followed by maintaining roads and sidewalks (16.1%). The third issue cited as most important was delivering Town services cost-effectively (10.3%). In all three surveys, the most important issues in this broad category were the same.

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Importance and Performance Comparisons

The following charts report on the relationship between how respondents rated the importance of specific issues and how they rated the Town's performance with the issues. Side-by-side charts for 2012 and 2017 and 2022 allow for a comparison of consistencies and changes over time. Interpretation of these charts should focus on the comparison of patterns of responses, noting the percentages for each data point. (Due to the fact that some issues were not included in all three surveys, charts for issues without parallel are not included in the charts below.) All data points are presented as percentages.

Summary and Comparison Charts

In some of the comparison charts, patterns illustrating the relationship between importance and performance are consistent across all three surveys. In some cases, there are differences among the three surveys.

Economic Development: The general patterns for attracting additional business development to expand the commercial tax base and for having a vibrant downtown that attracts residents and visitors are notably similar. However, for capitalizing on the Town's history to attract tourists in 2022, the patterns differ from 2012 and 2017 with regard to both importance and performance.

Public Education: Importance ratings remain similar across all three survey years. However, overall performance ratings in 2022 were more negative than they were in either 2012 or 2017.

Climate, Environmental Health and Sustainability: Patterns are similar for each of these issues across all three data points, however, the importance of maintaining farmlands and access to locally grown foods increased in 2022.

Physical Character: Patterns are, again, remarkably similar in 2012 and 2017 and 2022. There is, however, a difference with respect to protecting open spaces due to refinement of questions in each survey.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: Performance ratings for ensuring housing for a diverse population were lower in 2017 and 2022 than they were in 2012. Otherwise, patterns are similar.

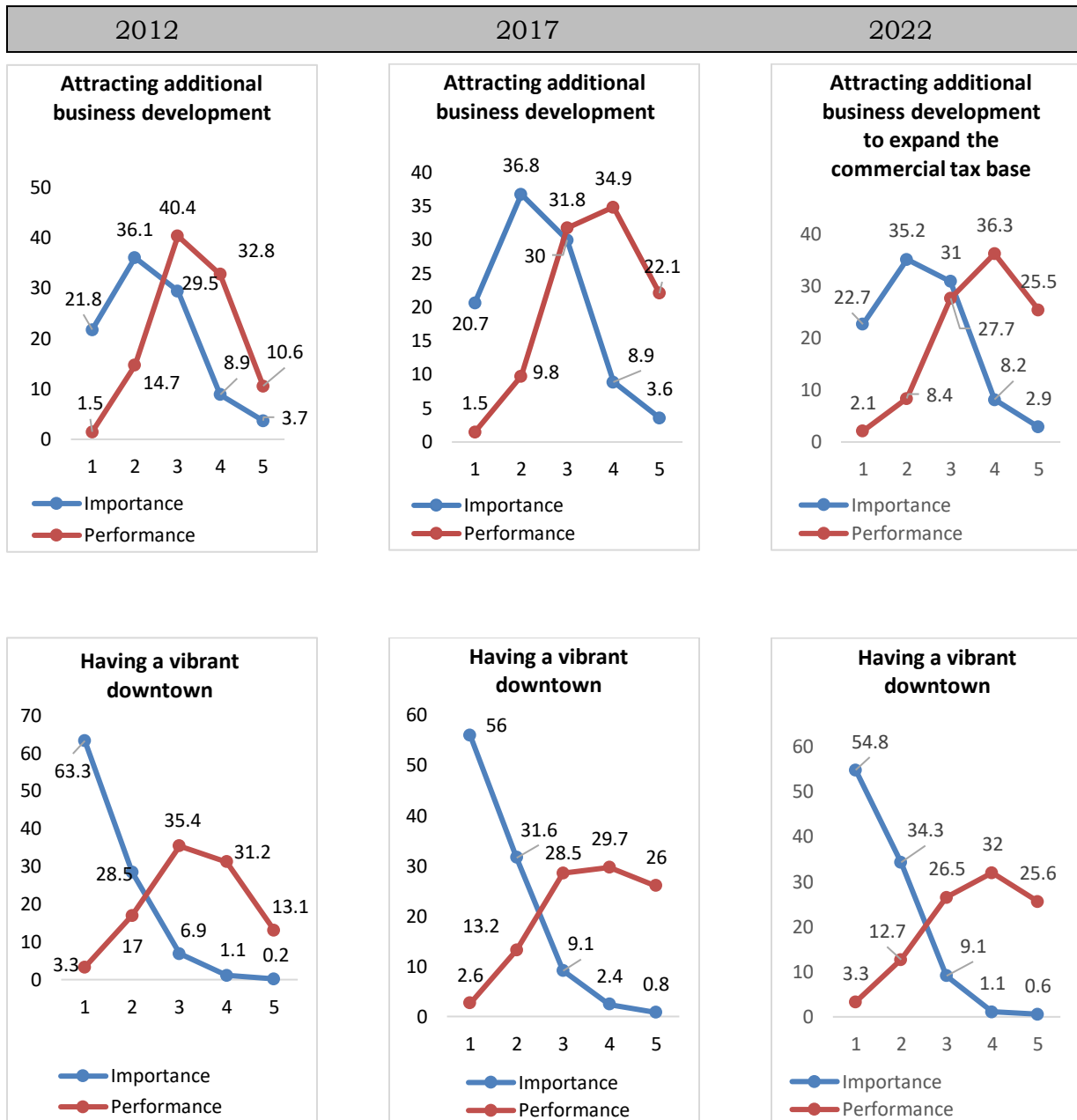
Town Government: Patterns, overall, show little to no difference from 2012 to 2017 to 2022. However, importance of living within constraints of Proposition 2 1/2 is greater in 2017 and 2022 than it was in 2012 and the difference between importance and performance is greater in 2017 and 2022 than it was in 2012.

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Town Services: Patterns for maintaining roads and sidewalks appear similar in 2012 and 2022, but are reversed in 2017. Performance in 2017 was higher than was importance. By 2022, performance was lower than was importance. Patterns are otherwise consistent from 2012 and 2017 and 2022, except for the pattern pertaining to services for seniors. In 2012 the relationship between importance and performance showed that importance was greater than performance, but that measure was taken before the advent of the Lexington Community Center, which provides better services for seniors.

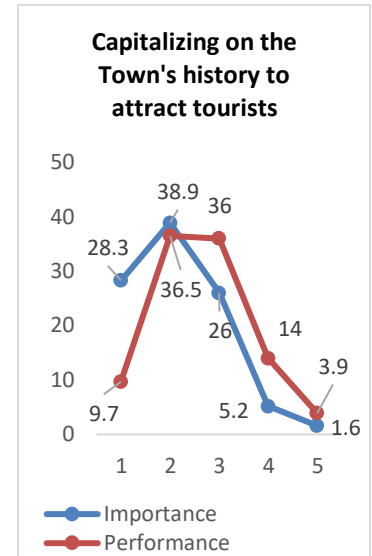
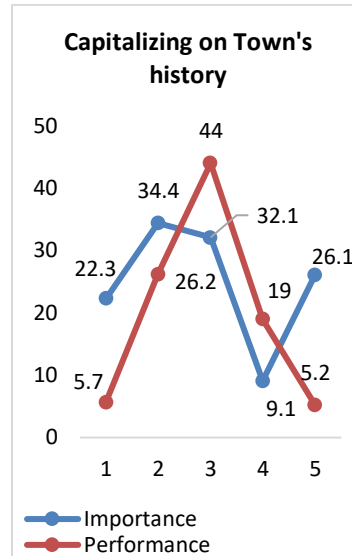
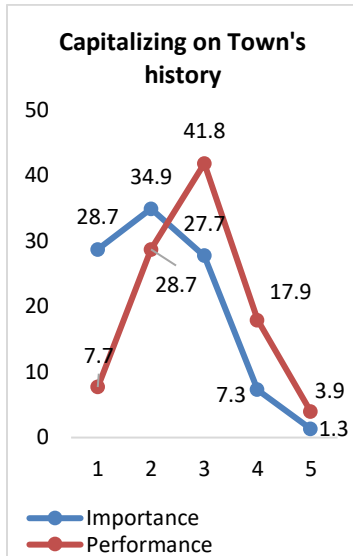
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Economic Development²⁵



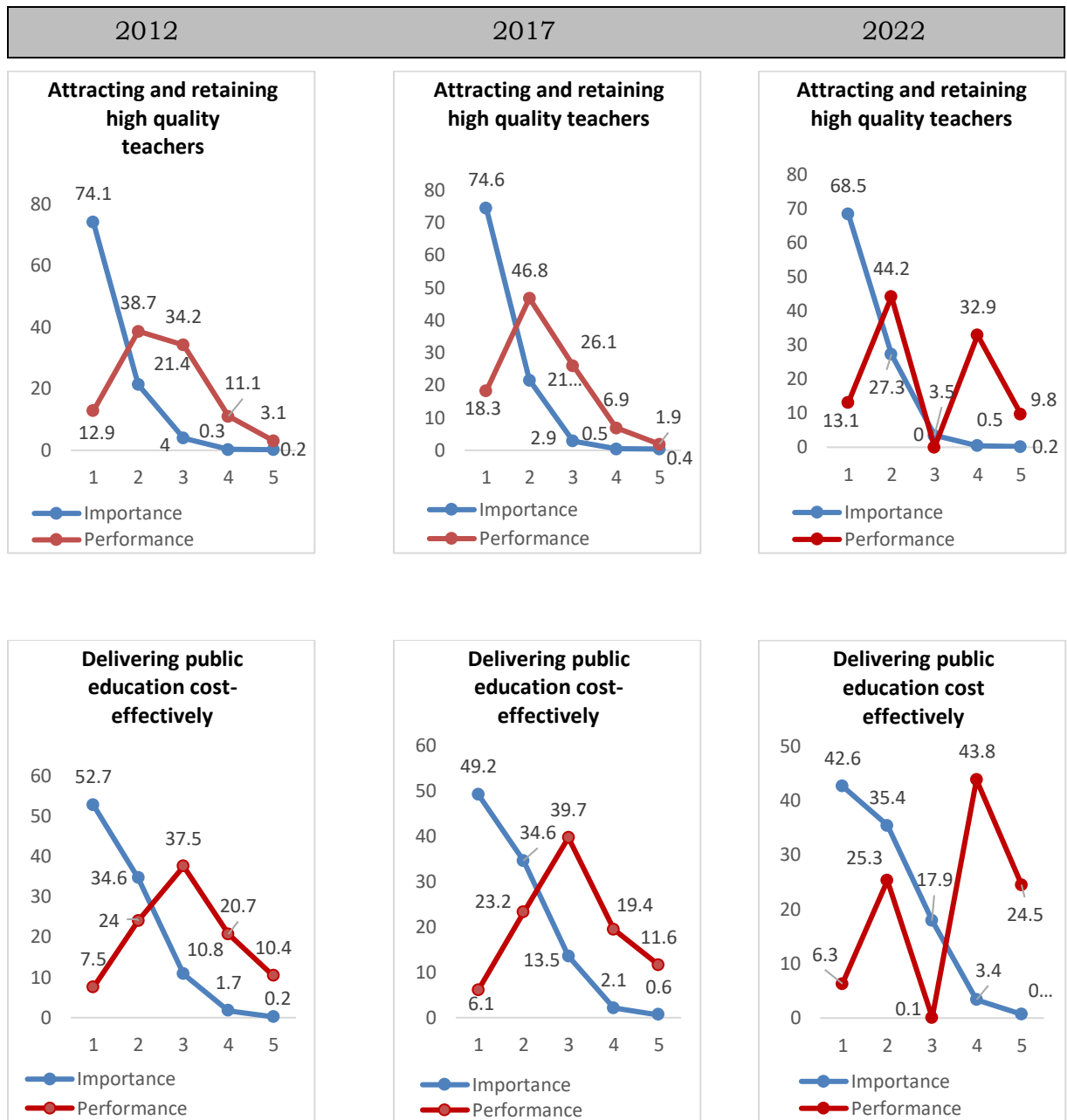
²⁵For Importance: 1=Extremely; 2=Very; 3=Somewhat; 4=Not very; 5= Not at all
For Performance: 1=Excellent; 2=Very good; 3=Good; 4=Fair; 5= Poor

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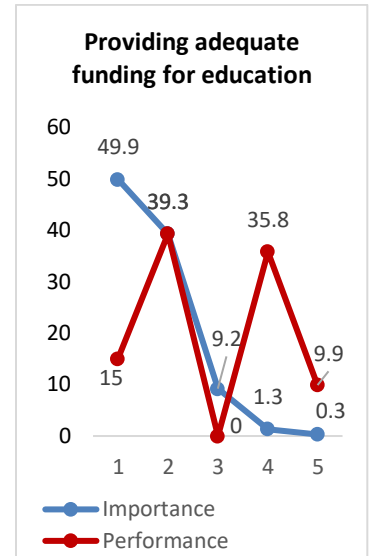
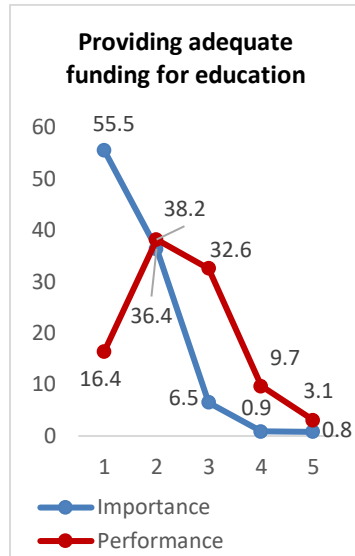
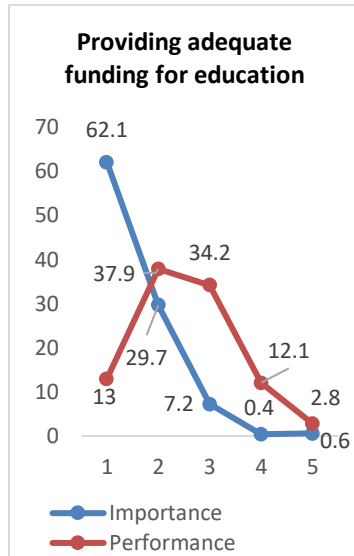


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Public Education

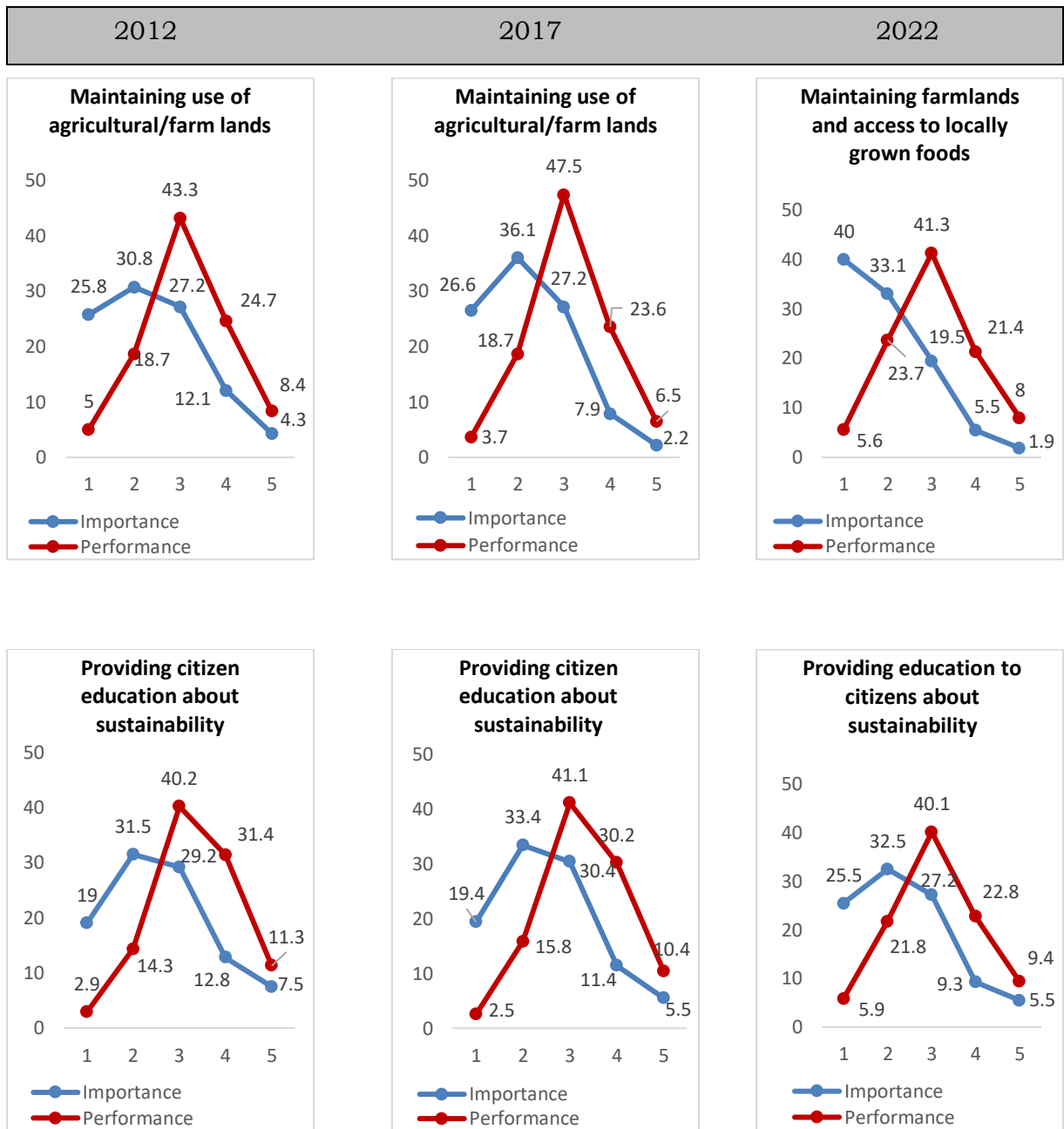


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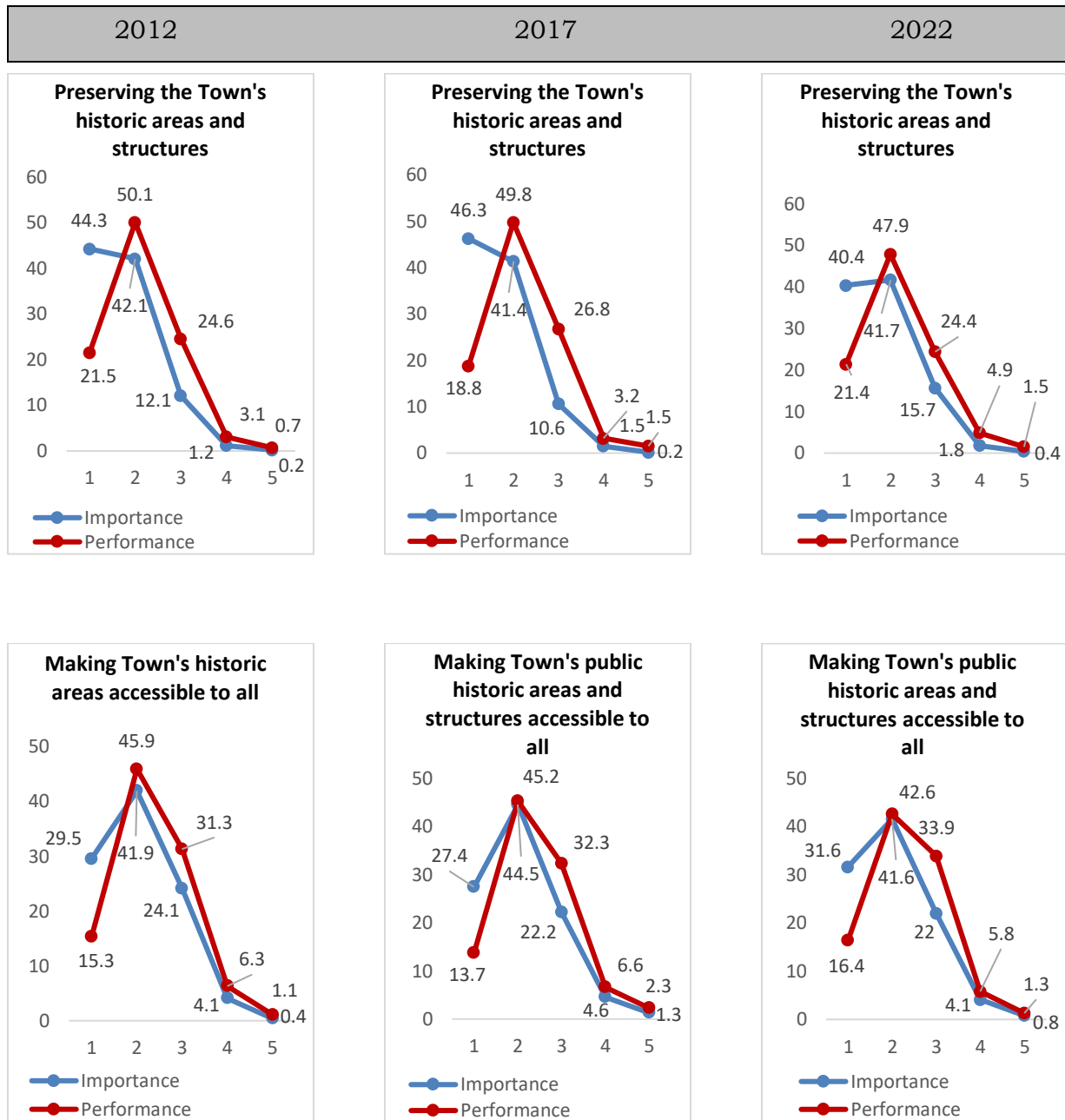
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Climate, Environmental Health and Sustainability

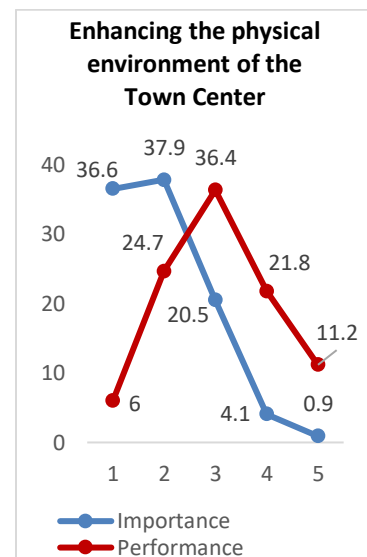
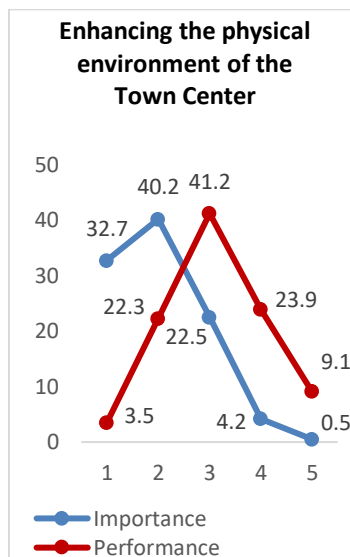
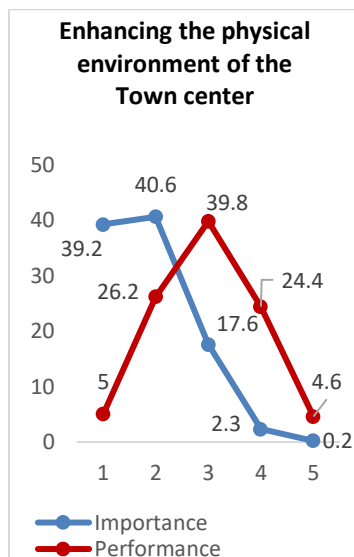
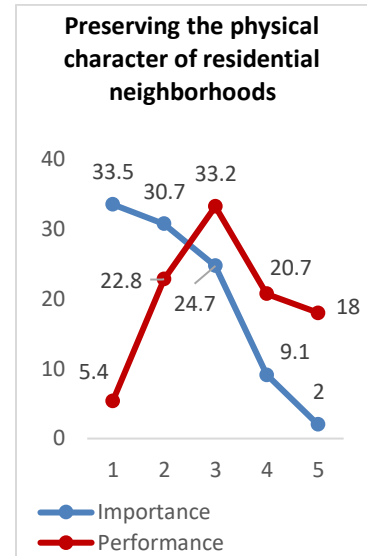
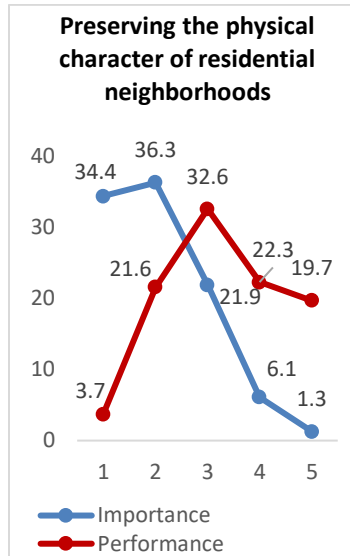
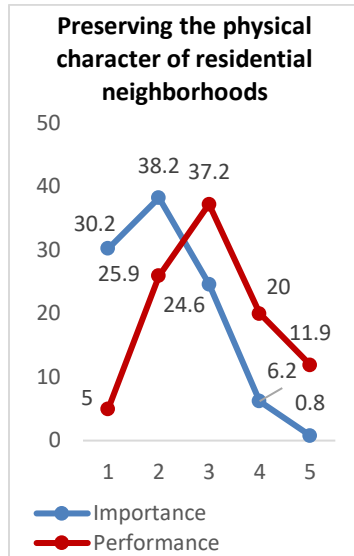


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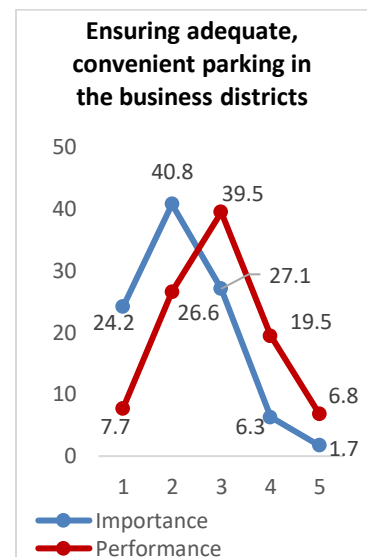
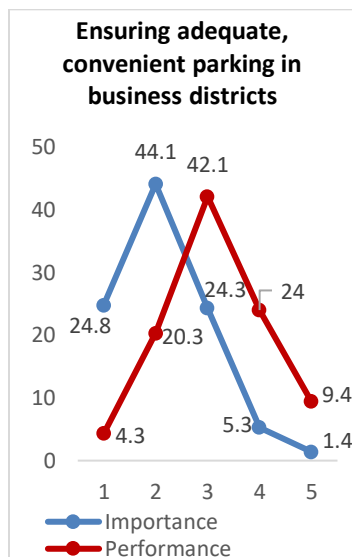
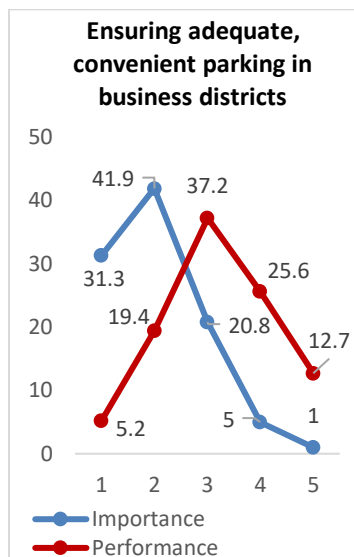
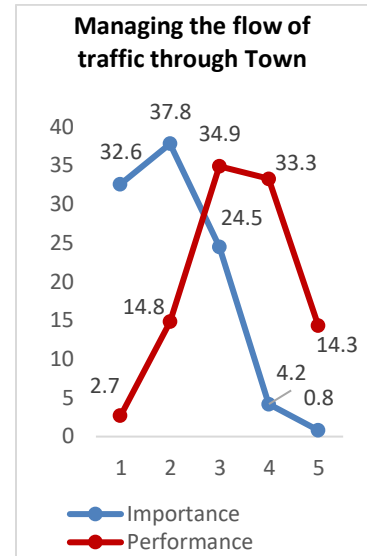
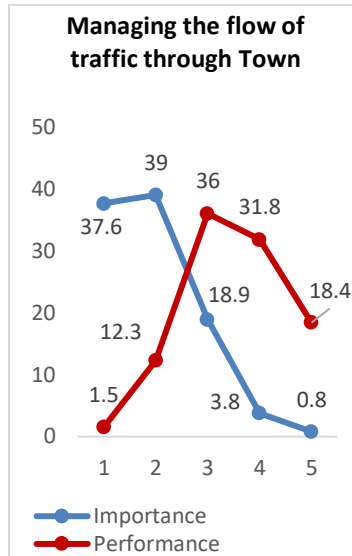
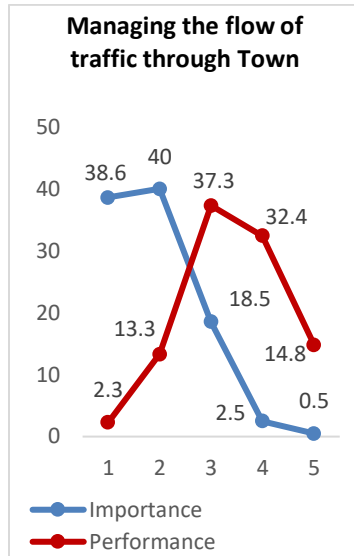
Physical Character



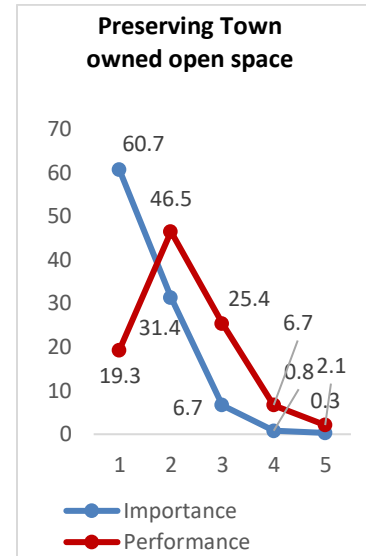
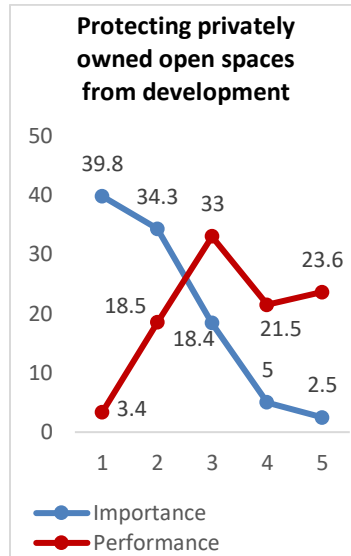
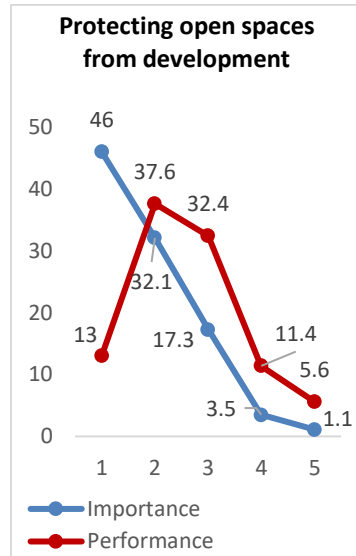
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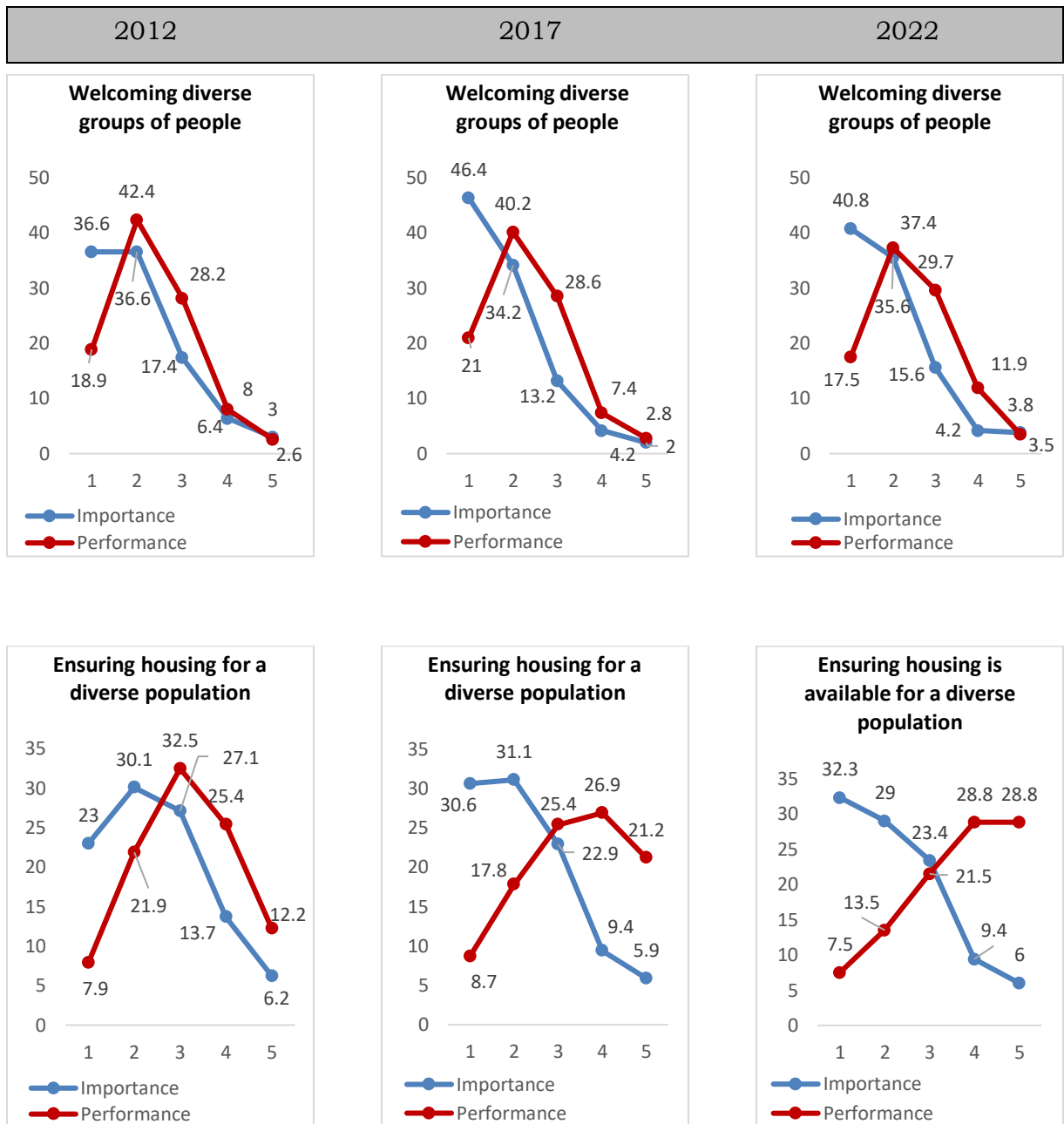


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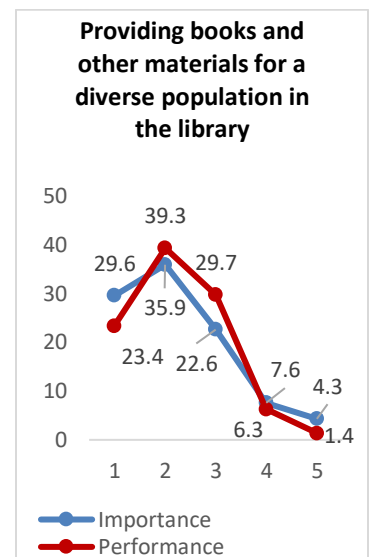
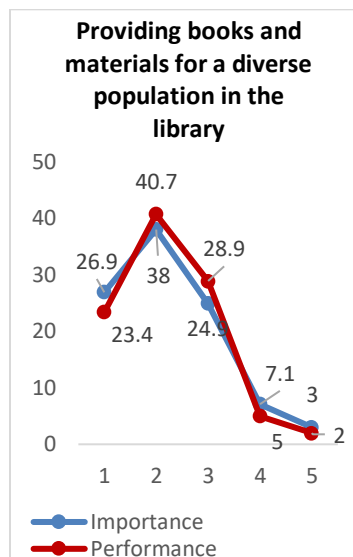
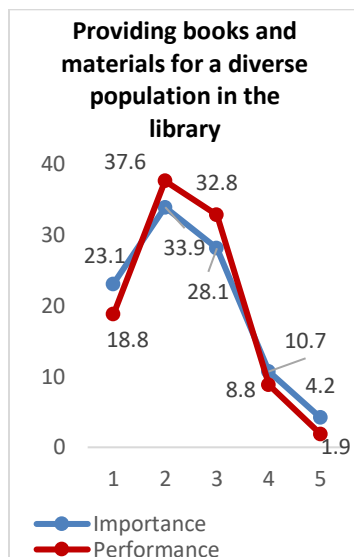
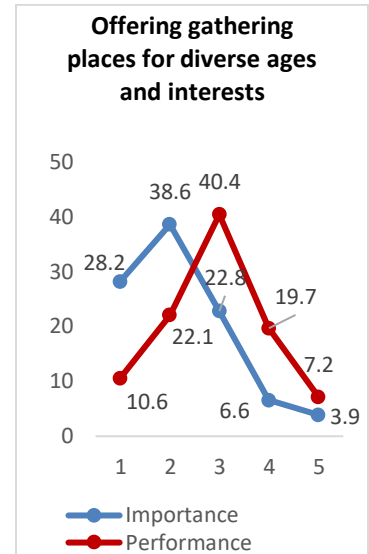
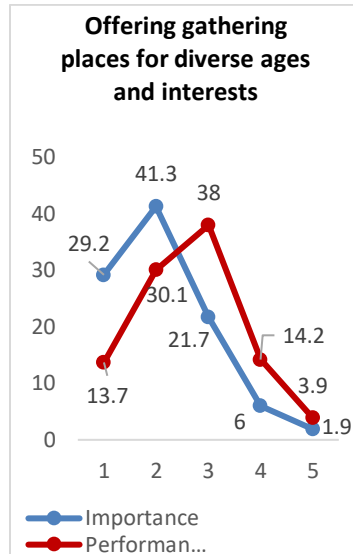
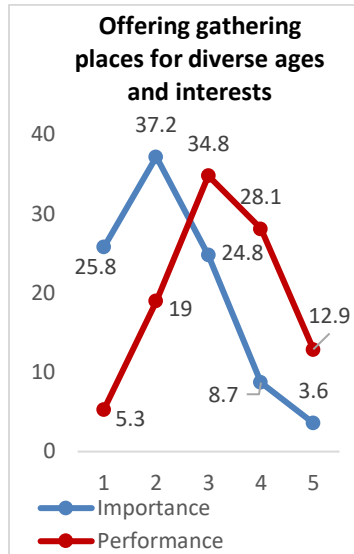


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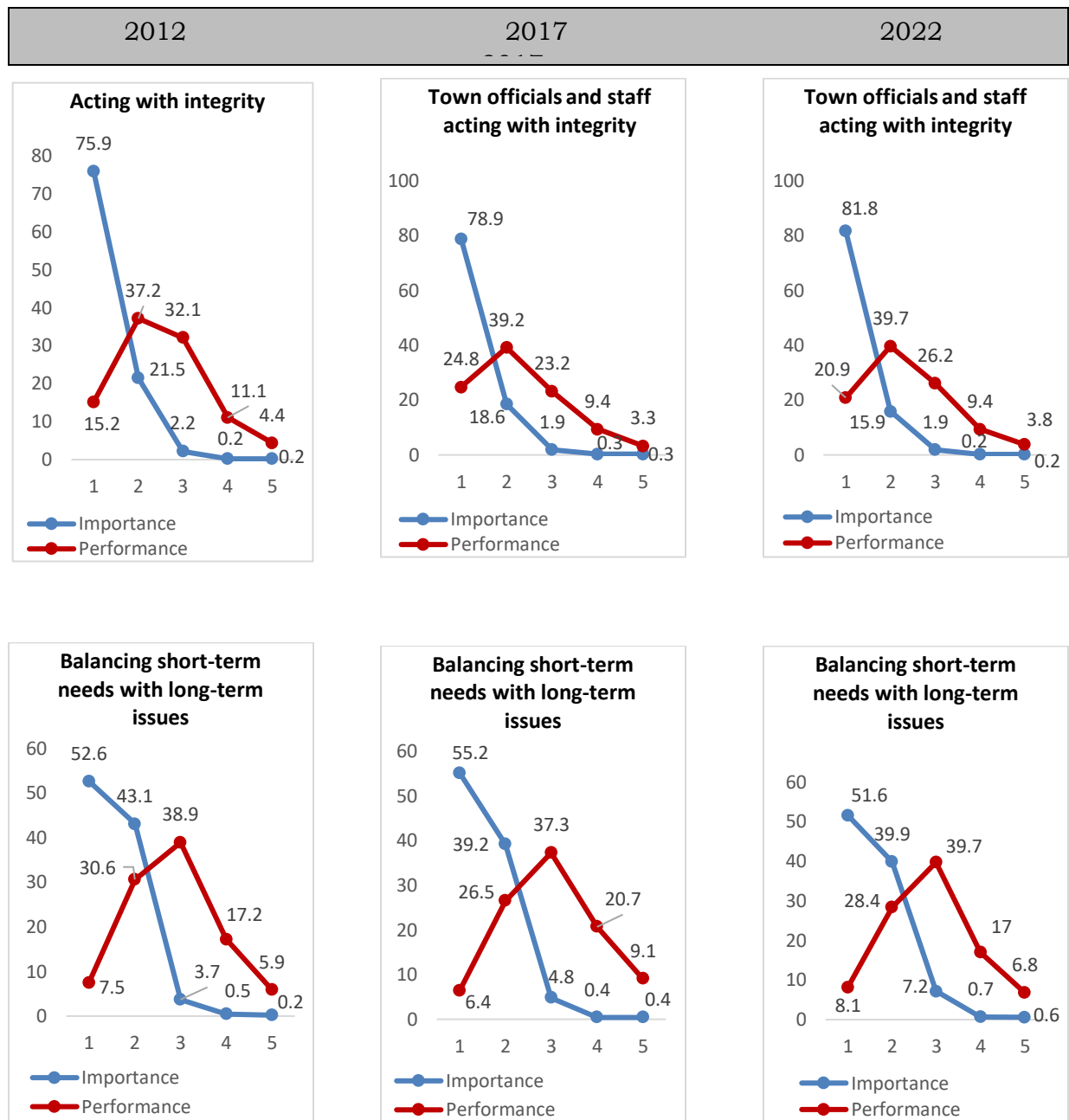


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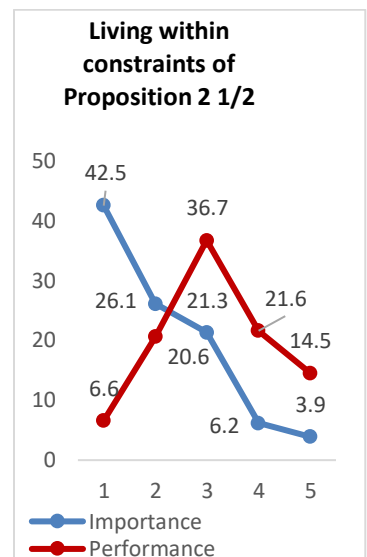
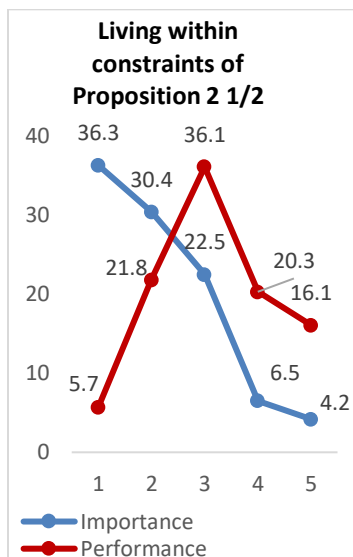
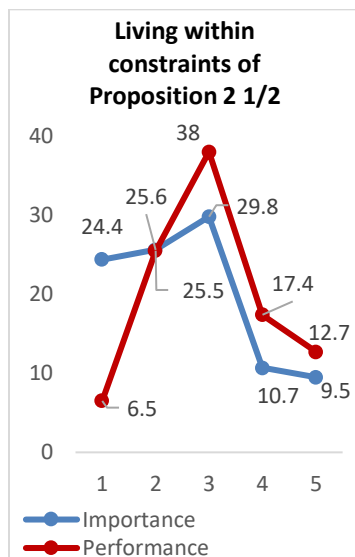
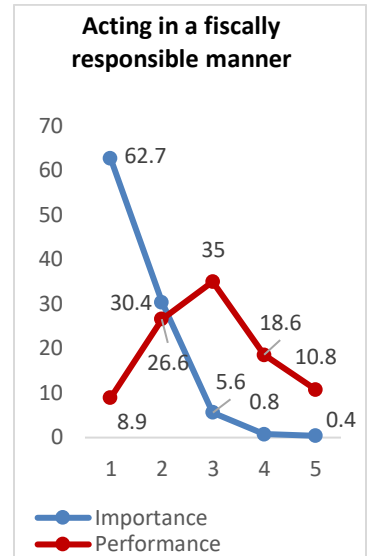
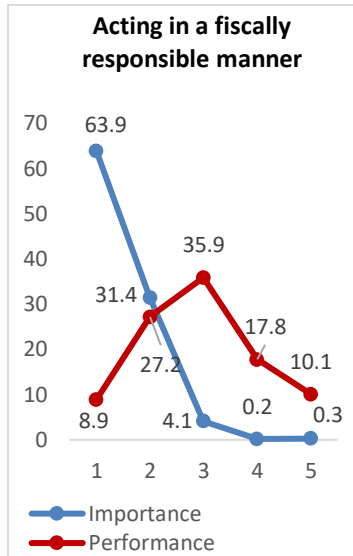
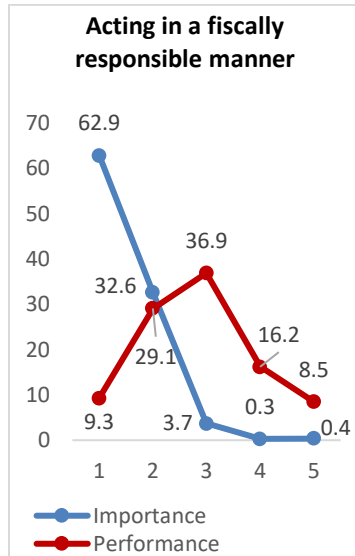


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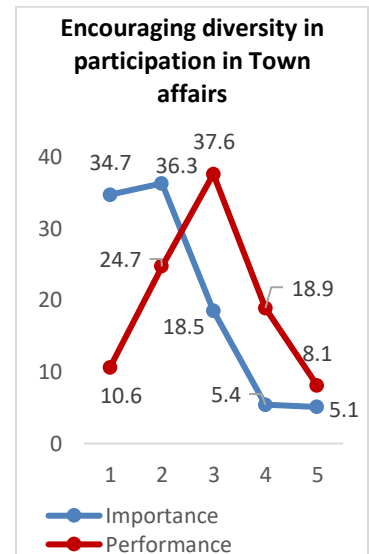
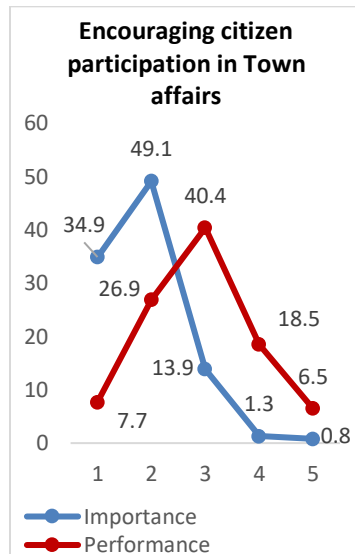
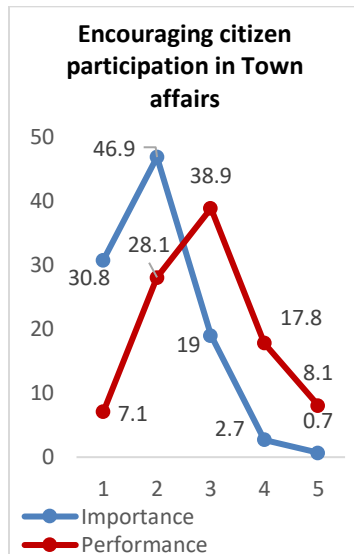
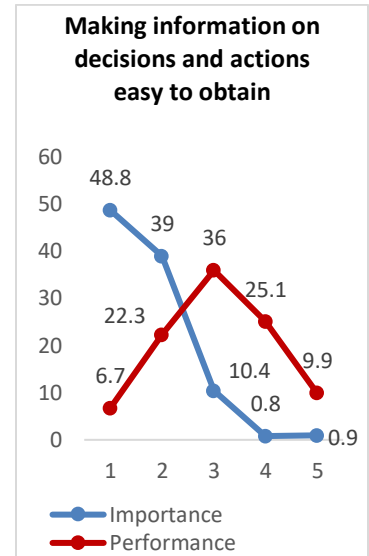
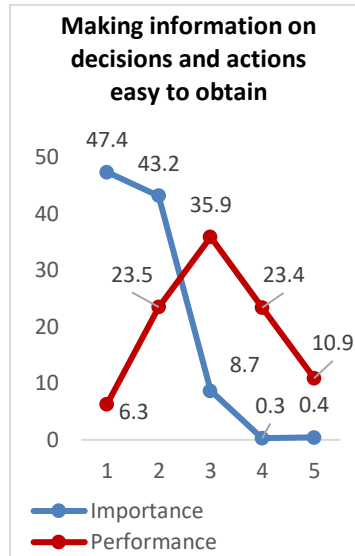
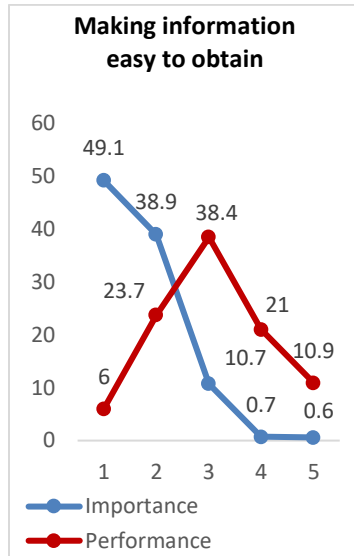
Town Government



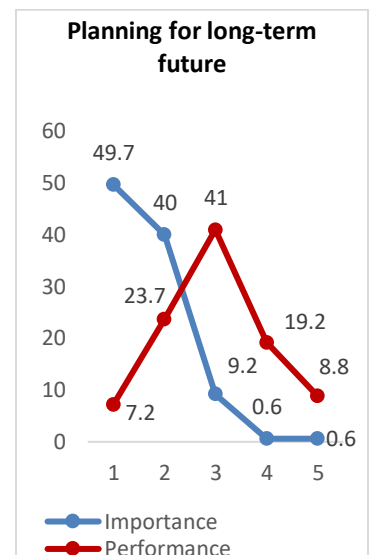
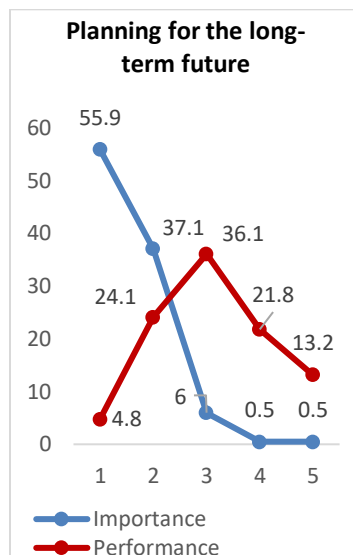
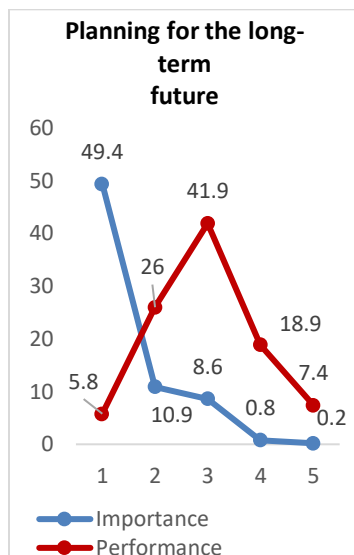
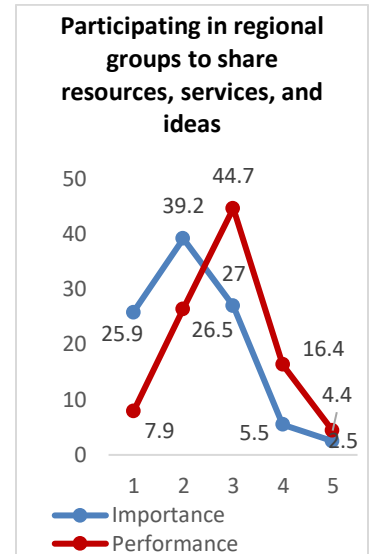
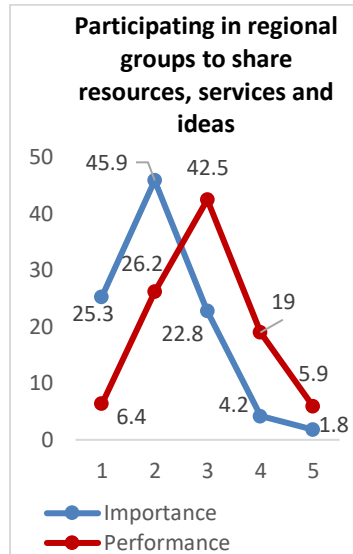
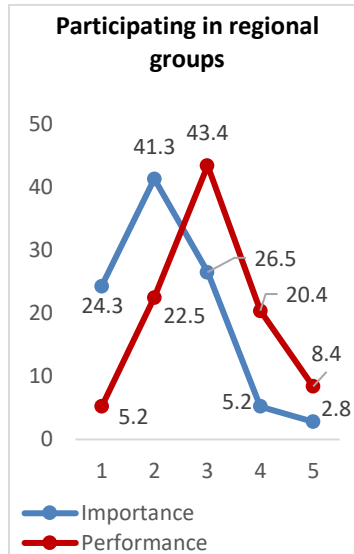
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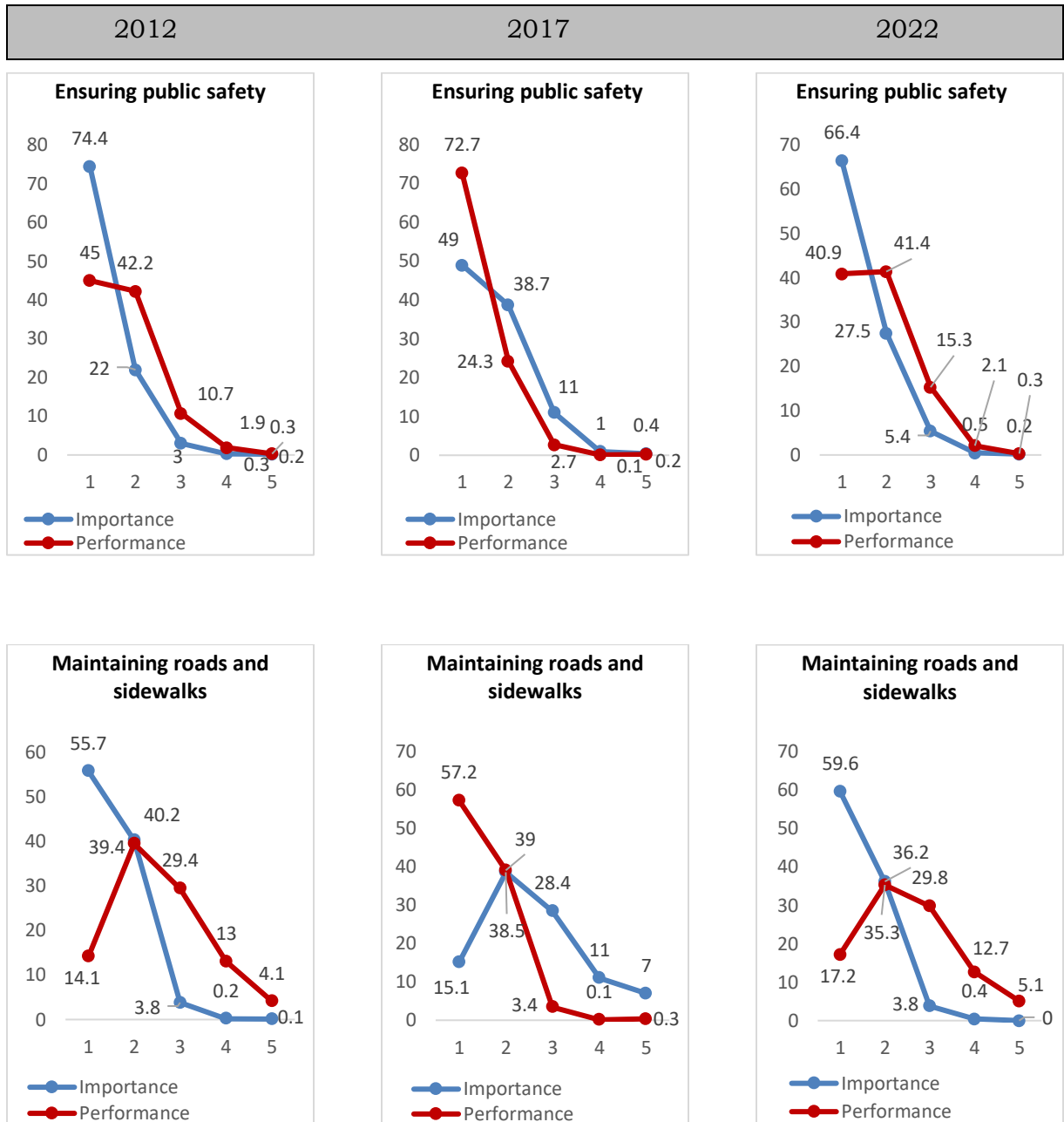


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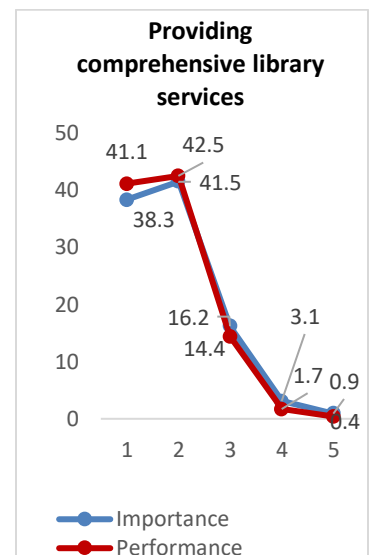
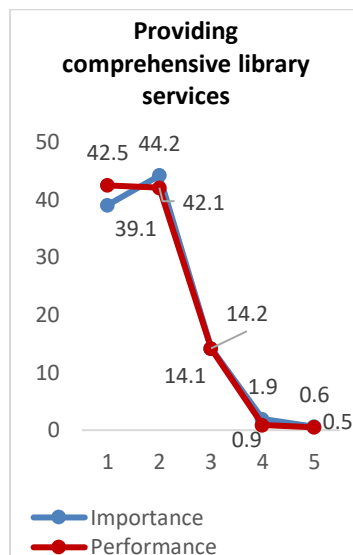
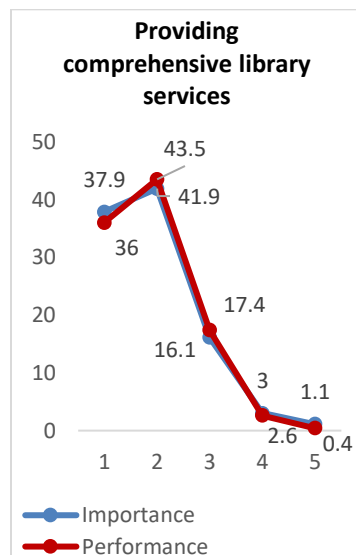
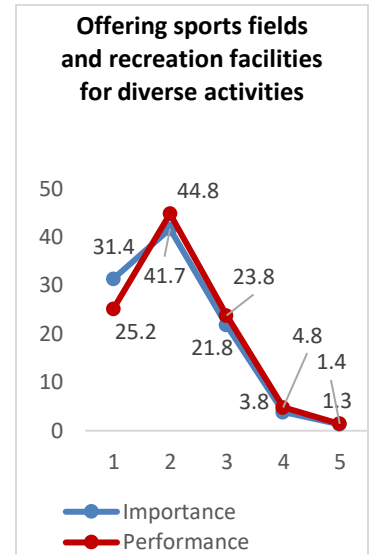
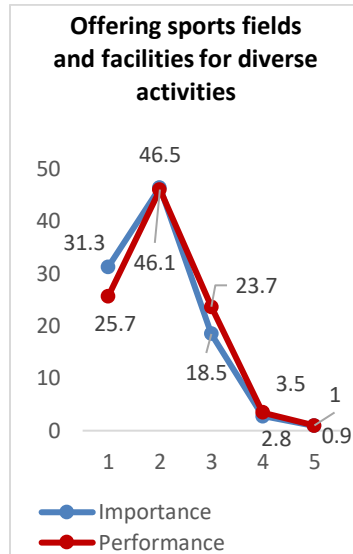
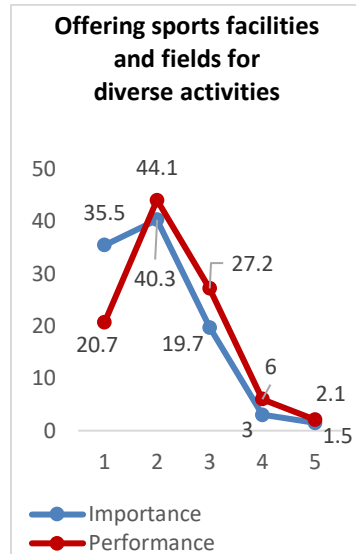


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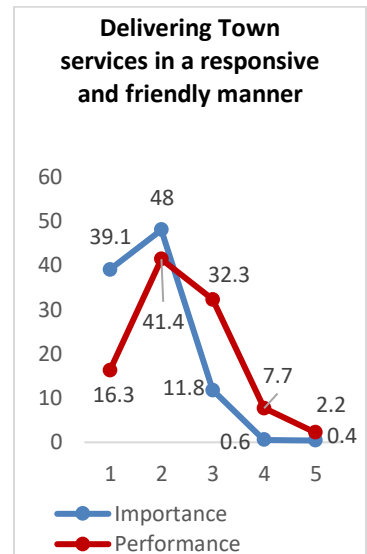
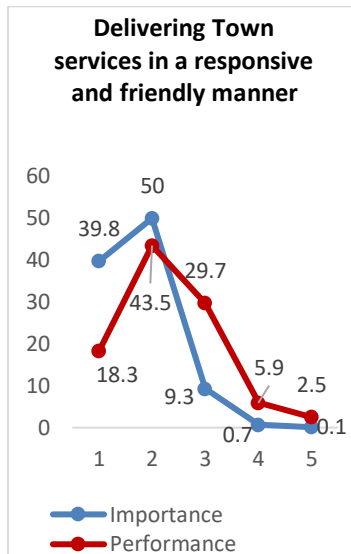
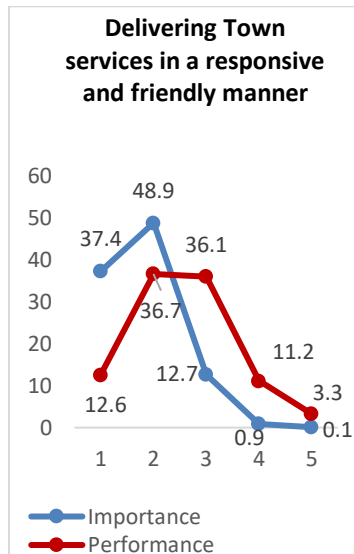
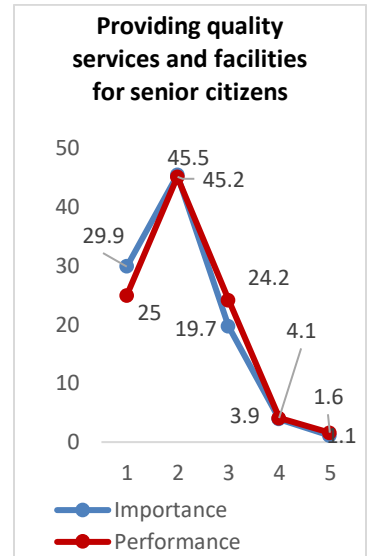
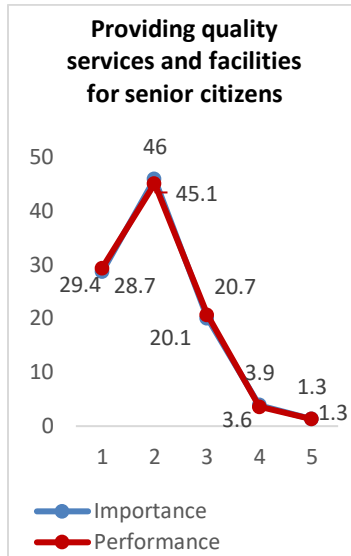
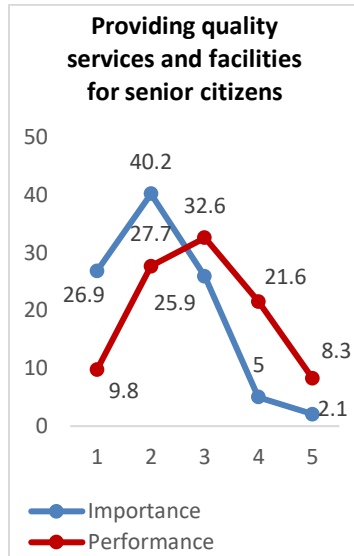
Town Services



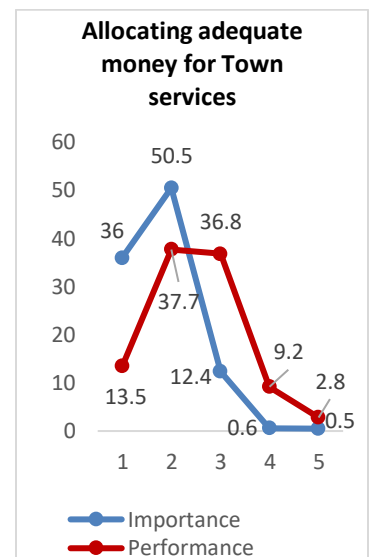
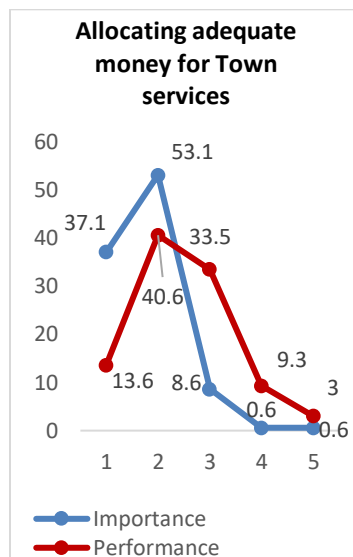
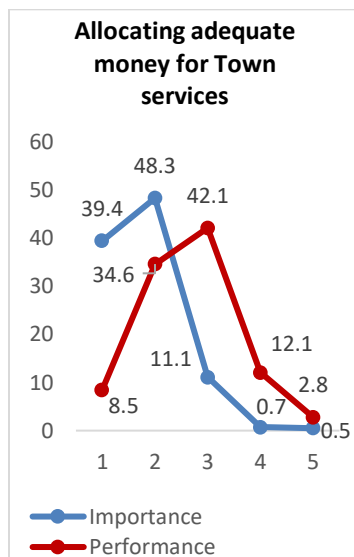
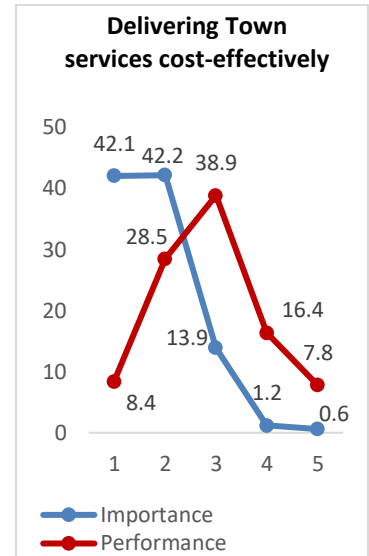
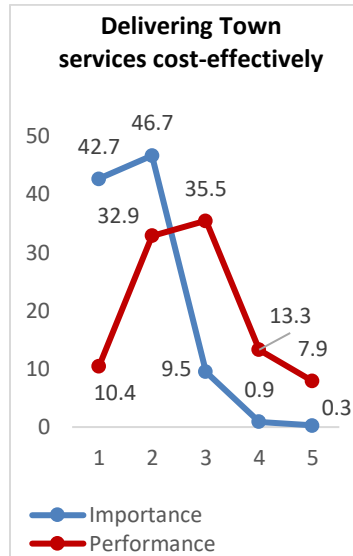
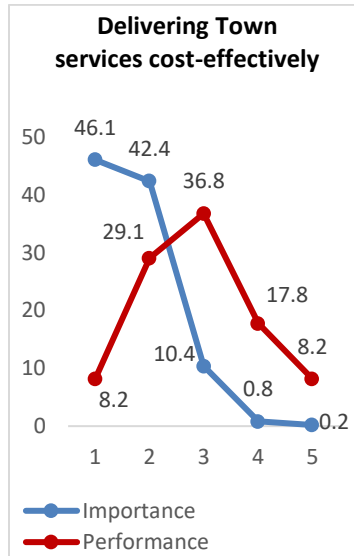
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Satisfaction Level

When asked whether they expected to still be living in Lexington in 5 years (2012 study), almost 58% of respondents said they would be ‘very likely’ to remain. When asked whether they expected to still be living in Lexington in 8 years (2017 study), 59.8% said it would be ‘very likely’. In 2022, 51.3% of respondents said they would be ‘highly likely’ to still be living in Lexington in 8 years.

When respondents were asked, in 2017, to compare the quality of life in Lexington now with that of 5 years ago, 18.2% said it is ‘better’; 53% said it is ‘the same’; 28.8% said it is ‘worse’. In 2022, 14.0% of respondents said the quality of life today, compared with life five years ago, was ‘better’; 50.1% said it was ‘the same’; and 24.0% said it was ‘worse’. (11.8% of respondents said they don’t know or they haven’t been in Lexington long enough to make the comparison.) This question was not asked in the 2012 questionnaire.

The majority of respondents in 2012 and 2017 and 2022 said they are satisfied with Lexington as a place to live. On a 10-point scale measuring satisfaction ranging from ‘not at all satisfied’ to ‘extremely satisfied’, the majority of respondents in 2012 (66.5%), in 2017 (66.6%), and in 2022 (70.2%) said they were very satisfied with Lexington as a place to live.

Concerns about Changes in Lexington

Respondents were asked in 2012, 2017 and 2022 about potential changes that might occur in Lexington that would be of concern to them. Many areas of concern expressed by respondents in 2012 re-appear on lists of concerns expressed in 2017 and in 2022.

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2012	2017	2022
Public Education:	Public Education:	Public Education:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ overcrowding ✓ student stress ✓ system geared to 'geniuses'/self-motivated students/'successes' ✓ focus on test scores rather than on meeting needs of all students ✓ decline in quality of schools/educational excellence ✓ too much diversity and too many special needs children in schools lead to decline in quality ✓ loss of quality teachers ✓ tensions with superintendent ✓ budgetary shortfalls ✓ increasing costs due to increase in student population ✓ people moving in for the schools and then leaving when children graduate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ overcrowding ✓ student-teacher ratios ✓ student stress ✓ too much competition ✓ funding ✓ increased costs due to increase in student population ✓ meeting needs of all students, especially those who are 'average' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ overcrowding ✓ student stress ✓ mental health issues ✓ need for a new high school ✓ decline in quality of education ✓ leadership ✓ too much 'wokeness'

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2012	2017	2022
Housing:	Housing:	Housing:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ loss of affordable housing ✓ housing changes → changing character of neighborhoods ✓ too many tear-downs ✓ “McMansions” ✓ large houses on too small plots ✓ housing too expensive ✓ developments built on previously open spaces/farm land ✓ need for housing diversity ✓ too much building → reduction in space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ tear downs ✓ mansionization ✓ overdevelopment/ crowding ✓ multi-dwelling units ✓ builders being only concerned about making money, behaving without proper or adequate control, resulting in negative impacts on neighborhoods and the community at large ✓ loss of small, moderately priced houses in favor of large, expensive ones ✓ loss of socio-economic diversity ✓ too large houses on too small lots ✓ focus on single family detached homes, not apartments (Lexington is not the place for so-called ‘affordable housing’ efforts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ lack of diversity in housing stock ✓ affordability of housing ✓ too many large houses (mansionization) ✓ too many tear-downs ✓ zoning inconsistencies ✓ zoning favoring developers and development

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2012	2017	2022
Environment:	Environment:	Environment:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ disregard for environmental protection laws ✓ destruction of environment due to loss of trees ✓ too much concern for/emphasis on the environment ✓ environmental degradation ✓ environmental noise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ preservation of open spaces ✓ trees ✓ pollution due to overdevelopment and traffic ✓ energy grid ✓ Hanscom expansion ✓ degraded environment by unbridled residential development ✓ power grid ✓ ineffective noise restrictions (especially near Hanscom) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ focus on issues of climate change (some said more is needed, others said less is needed) ✓ preservation of open space ✓ trash pickup ✓ trees
Town Center:	Town Center:	Town Center:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ not enough shopping diversity ✓ should appeal to visitors/tourists as well as to residents ✓ vacancy rate ✓ make it appealing ✓ too many banks and RE offices ✓ too much traffic ✓ boring and uninviting ✓ building height 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ banks and RE offices ✓ loss of vitality ✓ loss of variety in types of stores/services/local businesses ✓ attraction for tourists and locals ✓ appearance of Center ✓ brick sidewalks ✓ too many traffic lights and blocked off lanes ✓ too few gathering places ✓ Center looking shabby 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ banks and RE offices ✓ lack of vibrancy ✓ lack of diversity in stores/small businesses ✓ no place to shop ✓ not a place to hang out/no gathering places

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2012	2017	2022
Traffic:	Traffic:	Traffic:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ increased throughout Town ✓ congestion in downtown area ✓ congestion around Wilson's Farm area ✓ no traffic circles; use traffic lights ✓ traffic flow on Mass Ave, especially in East Lexington ✓ traffic will keep visitors away ✓ overcrowding will increase traffic ✓ traffic coming from Hayden Ave/on Spring St. ✓ traffic lights will impede traffic flow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ too much traffic ✓ traffic lights might help, but might also create congestion and frustration among drivers ✓ need more accommodation to increasing traffic – lights, signs, marked lanes ✓ loss/erosion of public transit options ✓ fear of creating traffic congestion with traffic lights, without improving safety ✓ Heavier traffic not adequately being addressed particularly during rush hours ✓ horrible condition of roads makes driving through Town very unpleasant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ bikes pose safety hazards ✓ parking ✓ noise ✓ road safety ✓ public transportation ✓ lights/street lights

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2012	2017	2022
Taxes:	Taxes:	Taxes:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ increases no longer make Lexington a good/reasonable value ✓ fear increases will push people out of Town (i.e., those whose children have graduated from schools, empty-nesters) ✓ property taxes too high ✓ too high, especially as compared with other Towns ✓ fear that taxes will not be enough to cover expenses/services ✓ such high taxes should give us better schools ✓ spending tax dollars on doubtful projects ✓ water/sewer taxes too high ✓ inadequate growth in commercial tax revenues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ taxes too high ✓ taxes growing out of control ✓ concern about affordability of living here ✓ stay within Prop. 2 ½ ✓ too many overrides – live within your means, including education! ✓ better tax rates for seniors ✓ Lexington no longer a good value for the dollar ✓ too many overrides, debt exclusions that raise taxes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ taxes too high ✓ fiscal irresponsibility ✓ need a better balance between residential and commercial tax bases ✓ should be a reduction in taxes for seniors

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2012	2017	2022
Financial issues:	Financial issues:	Financial issues:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ inability to meet financial obligations for Town employees handicapping Town operations ✓ wasteful spending 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ overrides ✓ commercial tax base insufficient ✓ affordability of living in Town ✓ conflict between school and municipal budgets/expenses ✓ public might not approve proposed overrides/debt exclusions ✓ too many projects requiring capital expenditures ✓ fear that funding for first responders will be cut in order to stay within budget ✓ consider limiting pensions and health care for Town employees – now too generous 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ conflict between residential and commercial tax bases ✓ affordability of living in Town ✓ concern about multiple expensive building projects

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2012	2017	2022
Government:	Government:	Government:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ keeping government honest ✓ need watchdog for spending by government ✓ sometimes actions/responses are too slow/take too long 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ lack of connection between government leaders/employees and citizens ✓ lack of adequate leadership ✓ lack of responsiveness ✓ lack of transparency ✓ lack of fiscal responsibility ✓ abuse of regulatory power ✓ inadequate accountability ✓ too much cronyism when hiring contractors to build buildings and maintain infrastructure and roads ✓ poor management of capital ✓ inadequate attention to infrastructure (especially roads/sidewalks) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ leadership issues in Town government ✓ leadership issues in boards/committees ✓ concerns about law enforcement ✓ not enough transparency/access to information ✓ inadequate control over developers ✓ inadequate attention to infrastructure (especially roads/sidewalks)

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2012	2017	2022
Diversity:	Diversity:	Diversity:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ lack of diversity of business in Center ✓ threat to economic diversity due to housing prices ✓ population diversity ✓ reduction in housing diversity (types and sizes of houses) ✓ building affordable housing in the name of diversity, but failing to consider impact on neighborhoods ✓ reduced demographic diversity in schools ✓ ethnic diversity of the Town is increasing, creating a cultural divisiveness ✓ focus on diversity sometimes comes with too high a price – ‘I have to look out for my family first’ ✓ lack of diversity among groups other than Asians, specifically African Americans and Latinos ✓ ‘diversity’ seems skewed toward certain groups and not others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ lack of/too little integration of newcomers/ ethnic groups within wider community ✓ absorption of other ‘races’ ✓ Asian community is not well integrated ✓ increase diversity of employees so as to reflect diversity in Town ✓ not enough SES diversity ✓ high earners/highly educated white collar workers don’t support mom and pop businesses in Town; they shop through Amazon ✓ reduction in civil discourse (implication that this is due to increased ethnic diversity in Town) ✓ civil discourse has deteriorated and will likely continue to do so ✓ young people and seniors will become scarcer in Town due to lack of affordability ✓ not enough channels for connection and understanding – too much division between different cultures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ lack of diversity of business in Center ✓ too little economic diversity in population ✓ concern about potential loss of age diversity due to affordability ✓ too little/too much emphasis on DEI ✓ need for greater diversity in School/Town staff ✓ concern about affinity groups and potential result in separation of individuals/ groups ✓ need for greater diversity in school curricula ✓ declining sense of community ✓ more attention needs to be paid to the long and diverse history of Lexington

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✓ attention should be paid to more than just ethnic diversity – e.g., age, income, academic abilities	✓ all staff, from LCC to teachers, police, firefighters, DPW, secretaries, receptionists should be more diverse ✓ fear of increase in hate crimes ✓ for newest residents, there is reduced spirit of volunteerism and continued emphasis on more and bigger cars, homes, conspicuous materialism. Town is losing its core characteristics	
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Use of Town Amenities

The surveys asked about the use of Town amenities by the respondent as well as by members of the respondent's family. Participation is reported in the table below. Numbers represent percentages of responses.

Activity		2012	2017	2022
Recreation Department activity	Respondent	14.3	13.5	34.9
	Family Member	46.9	33.3	51.1
Utilized ball fields/playgrounds	Respondent	44.1	30.7	53.2
	Family Member	62.3	49.8	59.9
Community walking/bike trails	Respondent	79.3	64.2	87.6
	Family Member	69.2	57.3	71.9
Community education class	Respondent	16.8	16.9	23.9
	Family Member	19.1	17.0	20.9
Attended program at library	Respondent	36.7	31.7	40.8
	Family Member	35.7	30.9	34.6
Checked out materials from library	Respondent	67.5	56.4	67.8
	Family Member	65.5	55.4	60.4
Used (Senior Center in 2012) Lexington Community Center (2017, 2022)	Respondent	N/A	40.6	45.0
	Family Member	N/A	32.5	37.5
Participated in Senior programs	Respondent	5.0	12.7	33.9
	Family Member	14.5	8.7	23.6
Rode on Lexpress	Respondent	6.2	6.0	8.5
	Family Member	20.0	17.4	17.1
Received assistance from Police/fire Departments	Respondent	20.0	12.7	33.9
	Family Member	14.5	8.7	23.6
Received assistance from Human Services	Respondent	2.7	1.7	5.6
	Family Member	2.8	2.0	5.7

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Generally, rates of use of Town amenities went down between 2012 and 2017, but those rates appear to have rebounded in 2022. The numbers for use of the Lexington Community Center (LCC) were not available for 2012 as the LCC did not exist at that time. It is worth noting that participation in programs for seniors increased between 2012 and 2017, and even more dramatically in 2022. It is possible that offering those programs through the new LCC encouraged more people to participate. It should also be noted that the COVID pandemic, hitting hardest during the second half of 2020 and all of 2021, changed participation patterns. For most of that period, people were either not allowed to or were strongly discouraged from engaging in activities that brought them in close contact with others. By the time the 2022 survey was conducted, most (or all) restrictions had been lifted and people were (largely) able to return to their previous lifestyles. The sharp increase in participation may be due to increased interest, or it may at least partly reflect people's desire to get out of the house and 'do something'. In other words, it is hard to interpret the large increases in participation between 2017 and 2022.

Civic Participation

Respondents were asked about their participation in various civic roles. The chart below identifies 'current participation' at the time of each survey, 'past participation', and non-participation. Numbers represent percentages of responses.

Community Activity*	Currently participate (%)			Used to participate (%)			Never participated (%)		
	2012	2017	2022	2012	2017	2022	2012	2017	2022
Town Meeting Member	6.8	9.9	NA	5.1	5.3	NA	88.1	84.9	NA
Board or Committee member	8.8	8.8	8.6	6.5	8.6	7.7	84.7	82.6	83.3
Community volunteer	30.2	32.6	19.6	23.9	27.1	22.3	45.9	40.3	58.1
Ethnic community organization member	N/A	11.0	NA	N/A	3.6	NA	N/A	85.4	NA
Public school volunteer	38.5	37.2	18.0	32.5	37.5	45.9	29.0	25.2	36.1
Religious institution volunteer	21.6	24.8	17.2	12.7	11.1	17.0	65.7	64.1	65.7

*Questions about participation in ethnic communities were not asked in 2012 or 2022. A question about Town Meeting participation was not asked in 2022.

The percentages in this chart are, much as in the chart recording use of amenities, hard to interpret due to the effects of the COVID pandemic. Percentages of those

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‘currently participating’ are down in most categories, but that could reflect the slow return of volunteers to situations involving close physical contact.

Demographic Profiles

For 2012 and 2017 and 2022, samples of respondents were deemed to be representative of the population of Lexington. Demographic data from the questionnaires on sex, age, ethnicity, education level, and income were compared with data from the U.S. Census Bureau.

The chart below summarizes the demographic profile as reported by respondents.

	2012		2017		2022	
Number of responses	1203		1695		2404	
Sex of respondents	Males	36.8%	Males	31.3%	Males	46.1%
	Females	63.2%	Females	68.7%	Females	53.2%
			A few respondents self-identified as gender neutral, transgendered or other		A few respondents identified as non-binary or other	
Average age of respondents	55		55		59	

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	2012	2017	2022
Ethnic composition	Asian 15.0% Black 0.3% Hispanic or Latino/a/x 1.8% White 78.6% Other 4.2%	Asian 21.5% Black 0.6% Hispanic or Latino/a/x 1.4% White 70.3% Other 6.3%	Asian/S.Asian 18.7% Black 0.8% Hispanic or Latino/a/x 2.1% White 72.3% Other 4.3%
Educational status	College degree 26.1% Master's degree 42% Professional degree 10.8% Ph.D. 17.6%	College degree 22.9% Master's degree 44.0% Professional degree 1.6% Ph.D. 17.7%	College degree 18.7% Master's degree 39.5% Professional degree 8.8% Ph.D. 23.8%
Length of time living in Lexington	Over 20 years 28.7%	Over 20 years 33.2%	Over 20 years 45.9%
# children living at home under the age of 18	One 22.3% Two 33.6% Three + 13.7%	One 20.2% Two 36.1% Three + 11.8%	One 16.3% Two 22.9% Three + 6.8%
Registered voters	92.1%	91.1%	93.6%
Average household income	Between \$151,000 and \$200,000 Mode=between \$201,000 and \$300,000	Between \$151,000 and \$200,000 Mode=between \$201,000 and \$300,000	Over \$200,000 Mode=between \$200,000 and \$299,999
Average property valuation	Between \$751,000 and \$850,000 Mode=between \$951,000 and \$1,500,000	Between \$951,000 and \$1,500,000 Mode=between \$951,000 and \$1,500,000	NA

The *sample size* in 2017 was larger than the sample size in 2012 and larger again in 2022. This may be due, among other things, to greater campaigns for participation in 2017 and 2022. Reminders were sent to residents on a number of occasions and through a number of organizations, listservs, the Town website, and by individuals in 2017. These actions were repeated in 2022 and were supplemented with postcards sent to all households and with an insert included in the Census form sent from the Town which alerted residents about the survey, and through Town eNewsletters. One-third of respondents said they were made aware of the survey by the postcard; 12.1%

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were made aware through the Census insert; and 25.0% were made aware through Town eNewsletters (e.g., Link to Lexington, Town News and Alerts).

In 2022, a greater percentage of *males* responded to the survey. A smaller percentage of *Asians/South Asians* responded, while the percentages of *White and Hispanic/Latino/a/x* and *Black* respondents increased. The average *age* of respondents increased. The *average household income* of respondents remained steady. The number of people who have *lived in Lexington for at least 20 years* increased, as did the overall percentage of respondents with *higher education* degrees.

Conclusions

Overall, there is not much change from the results of the 2012 and 2017 surveys of residents. Just as a “sense of community” was important to respondents in 2012 and 2017, so it is to respondents (including those residents who participated in focus groups) in 2022. However, unlike in previous surveys, there was more dismay voiced in 2022 about the loss of ‘community’ and ‘community character’. This was expressed in direct comments from respondents to the questionnaire and in focus groups. The unease was manifest in responses associated with economic development, especially the Town Center; schools; housing issues; DEI foci; and aspects of the physical character of the Town. The tenor of responses generally was one of concern about both current and future circumstances. Opinions of what is most important to preserve the character and ‘sense of community’ in Lexington varied, but many respondents said the Town is in danger of losing ‘community’.

While some specific concerns (such as the desire for a better and more suitable place for senior programming and activities in 2012 and the desire for greater communication with residents by the Town in 2017) have changed as a consequence of responses from the Town leaders to results of previous surveys, most issues remain the same in terms of both their importance and assessments of performance, and a few have become more important and more central in respondents’ minds (such as the Town Center and infrastructure and housing in 2022). In the 2022 survey, additional issues became important as society and culture have changed since 2017. Specifically, those are issues associated with the environment and sustainability and with DEI. With regard to environmental issues, respondents were concerned about effects of climate change and the ability of the Town to respond to those effects. With regard to DEI, respondents had mixed responses. While welcoming diverse groups of people remains important, reactions to efforts with regard to DEI varied, with some respondents saying more needs to be done but others saying current efforts are sufficient and still others saying too much effort is being spent on this issue.

Some of the noted changes from the 2017 to the 2022 survey may be a function of changing demographics and dynamics in the Town. According to the U.S. Census, the

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composition of the Town has changed to some extent, primarily in terms of a greater percentage of residents who identify as Asian/South Asian, although responses from these groups declined from 2017. Based on reports by respondents and according to the U.S. Census, the Town also has a somewhat more highly educated population, and higher average household incomes in 2022. Length of residence in Lexington also increased since 2017. According to respondents, number of children under the age of 18 living at home has consistently declined since 2012. Use of Town-provided activities and opportunities remains reasonably high and has increased since 2012 and 2017 despite COVID restrictions (or because of the end of restrictions at the time of the survey).

Based on responses to open-ended questions in the questionnaire and comments received from participants in focus groups, respondents in 2017 said they would like to have even more opportunities to engage and to make connections and become more involved with the Town. However, results of the 2022 survey revealed that volunteerism and membership in community organizations and committees declined since 2017. (This could be at least partly a function of the effects of the COVID pandemic and people's slower return to in-person interactions.) As a further illustration of how residents are less engaged in 2022 than they were in 2017, while 23% of eligible voters voted in the March 2016 local election, only 12% of eligible voters voted in the March 2021 local election. It is important to note that the March 2016 election included Presidential primary voting and that may have been a factor in increased turnout that year. Among reasons given by non-voters in 2022 were a belief that issues were not important, that an individual vote would not make a difference, that local elections don't make an impact, and a distrust of governmental entities. There is clearly a disconnect between some residents and their community.

Nation-wide rates of community participation are declining²⁶. It is notable that Lexington residents had a commitment to their community in the past, but that the commitment appears to be waning and is now more consistent with general patterns nation-wide. Given the past penchant, and current concerns about potential loss of 'community' expressed by many respondents, it would be prudent for Town leaders to encourage greater civic participation in order to engage more residents and to bring participation back up to past levels. Indeed, encouragement of greater participation would address one of the issues found to be important to many respondents. A majority of respondents (71.0%) said it is important for the Town to encourage citizen participation in Town affairs but only a third of respondents rated the Town's performance positively. One-fourth gave the Town 'fair' or 'poor' ratings. Participation does not solely have to be in connection with serving on Boards or Committees. As noted by respondents to the questionnaire and by participants in focus groups, there is a need for more and better opportunities for social connections. This could include

²⁶ See, for example, Putnam, Robert. 2000. *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community*. New York: Simon and Shuster.

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more community-building activities such as events that bring together residents across generations, across ethnic communities, from different areas of Town and with different points of view. Two-thirds of respondents (66.7%) said that offering gathering places for diverse ages and interests is ‘extremely’ or ‘very’ important. Three-quarters of respondents said providing quality services and facilities for senior citizens and for children and teens (outside of school) is ‘extremely’ or ‘very’ important. Opportunities to interact with those from whom there is a sense of disconnect could improve understanding of “the other” and lead to an increased sense of togetherness. As noted in a focus group, we should be celebrating cultures rather than separating them. Greater engagement of residents through a variety of means might, in turn, encourage more residents to volunteer for positions in governance, i.e., on Boards and Committees.

It should also be noted that, while in previous years, there were many issues about which respondents said they lacked enough information to comment, especially with regard to performance, in 2022 the numbers claiming lack of adequate information declined dramatically. Communication issues appeared in several places in previous questionnaires (in specific questions asked of respondents and in open-ended responses) and arose as topics in focus group discussions. In 2022, however, communication issues were rarely raised. This is most likely due to the efforts of the Public Information Officer (PIO), hired in response to comments on the 2017 survey. Clearly, there was a thirst for more information, and the PIO was able to largely quench that thirst.

Engagement and involvement, which are, at least to some degree, dependent upon information²⁷, are good for the social health and well-being of individuals²⁸ and benefit the community as a whole as well. Social interactions that result from participation with others in one’s community lead to civic discussions and generation of ideas and actions that can advantage all. Greater utilization of the passion and creativity expressed by respondents to the survey could lead to more and better implementation of the ‘values’ expressed by residents. As many respondents and participants in focus groups noted, there is greater incivility and polarization in society in general, as well as in Lexington. Increased opportunities for engagement and commitment could help address these negative trends (at least on a local level). There is a need for reflective and critical, but respectful, dialogues that establish a set of social virtues and values that Lexington, as a community, can endorse in order to engage now and with the future. This can best be achieved with broad spectrum participation. There is a call for

²⁷ See <http://www.journalism.org/2016/11/03/2-participation-in-civic-life-and-community-rating-show-weaker-ties-to-local-news-habits/> for information about the relationship between having information and civic volunteerism.

²⁸ See, for example, Borgonovi, F. 2008. “Doing Well by Doing Good: The Relationship Between Formal Volunteering and Self-Reported Health and Happiness”. *Social Science and Medicine* 66(11): 2321-2334.

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this communitarian²⁹ approach that appears repeatedly through responses to the questionnaire and in the focus groups.

Even though there were complaints registered by respondents, and suggestions made for improvements, on the whole, respondents expressed a desire to continue living in Lexington, but hoped that some key issues could be addressed and resolved. In particular, attention should be paid to varying businesses in and increasing the appeal of the Town Center; diversifying housing options; addressing aspects of infrastructure and schools; making taxes more equitable; and examining how tax dollars are used. Overall, levels of satisfaction remain high and most respondents indicated that they envision living in the Town for the foreseeable future. This commitment to Lexington is all the more reason to encourage greater participation and attention to issues identified as most important.

To encourage greater participation and commitment and satisfaction, there are important questions that the Town would be well advised to address: what are Lexington ‘values’? How are those values expressed? What are shared values vs. values that might make for differences among residents? How can a greater sense of ‘community’ be built? While there are many definitions of ‘community’, the one thing they have in common is that there must be a sense of belonging and interdependence. The answers to the questions lie in an investigation into key social institutions and the role each may play in creating a greater shared community culture in Lexington. Sociologists study five (5) institutions believed to be essential for creating, and understanding, society. Those are politics or government or institutions, education, economics or work, family, and religion³⁰. The roles of these institutions, as relevant to this discussion, are socialization, development and communication of a sense of purpose, preservation of social order, and transmission of culture. Comments made in the questionnaire and in focus groups about how each of these institutions (without participants identifying them as such) is responsible for both the good and the problematic conditions in Lexington suggest that a coordinated effort to address concerns or problems is in order. As Bell and Newby note in their book, *Community Studies*, “a community study must be concerned with the study of the interrelationships of social institutions in a locality”.³¹ It is not enough to address issues in one societal realm without appreciating how that realm relates to other social institutions.

It is recommended that Town leaders, both those who are employed by the Town and those who serve on the three elected Boards, use the information provided by respondents to help guide and shape their decision-making and planning for the

²⁹ See, for example, Etzioni, A. 1993. *The Spirit of Community*. New York: Crown.

³⁰ <https://www.sociologyguide.com/basic-concepts/Social-Institutions.php>;

Ayodele, A.O. “Social Institutions”. https://www.academia.edu/7991458/SOCIAL_INSTITUTIONS

³¹ Bell, C. and H. Newby. 1971. *Community Studies: An Introduction to the Sociology of a Local Community*. London: Routledge, p. 19.

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future. It is clear that residents want to be involved in their community, that many are involved, and that they have strong views of what Lexington should look like now, and in the future. Sustaining that which works, and fixing that which needs improvement, will contribute to continued satisfaction and commitment among residents and enhance the valued “sense of community”.

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Appendix A

Town-wide Survey 2022

PURPOSE OF THE SURVEY

The Select Board, the School Committee, and the Planning Board are committed to developing a vision of Lexington's future that can guide decision making. The Vision for Lexington Committee has been asked to conduct a survey of residents similar to the surveys conducted by the Committee in 2012 and 2017. Findings from these surveys proved extremely useful to decision-makers in identifying areas of interest to residents and assuring that Town government reflects our shared vision.

We ask that you complete the following questionnaire to inform Town leaders of community perspectives and aspects of our Town that are of greatest interest and concern. This questionnaire should take approximately 20 minutes to complete.

Please be assured that your responses will be confidential. Findings will be presented in terms of aggregated data, not individual responses, in our final report.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful responses, and for supporting Lexington.

Click here to download a Chinese translation of the survey as a reference to help you complete the online survey.

[Lexingtonma.gov/Survey2022-chinese](https://lexingtonma.gov/Survey2022-chinese)

点击这里下载调查的中文译本 作为参考 · 帮助您完成在线调查。

Click here to download a Korean translation of the survey as a reference to help you complete the online survey. [Lexingtonma.gov/Survey2022-korean](https://lexingtonma.gov/Survey2022-korean)

한국어 번역 설문지를 다운로드 하셔서, 온라인 영어 설문지를 완성하시는데 참고해 주십시오.

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PART ONE

This portion of the questionnaire asks for your input on a number of different aspects of the Town that have been identified as being of interest to residents: Economic Development; Public Education; Climate, Environmental Health and Sustainability; Physical Character; Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; Town Government; and Town Services.

Under each topic, there are three (3) questions:

- The first question asks you to indicate *how important* you feel the different issues related to the topic are to preserving or improving Lexington.
- The second question asks you to rate the *performance* of the Town on those issues.
- The third question asks you to identify what you believe to be the *single most important issue* related to that topic from among the issues listed.

For each item in the left-hand column of the tables, please indicate your response by checking the circle under the choice most appropriate for you.

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - Importance

How important are each of the following items to you in preserving or improving Lexington?

	Extremely	Very	Somewhat	Not very	Not at all
Having a vibrant downtown that attracts residents and visitors	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Capitalizing on the Town's history to attract tourists	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Providing supportive framework for economic development for <i>large businesses</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Providing supportive framework for economic development for <i>small businesses</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Attracting additional business development to expand the commercial tax base	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Attracting socially conscious retail and service businesses	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - Current Performance

How would you rate the current performance of the Town with regard to each of the following items?

	Excellent	Very good	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't know
Having a vibrant downtown that attracts residents and visitors	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Capitalizing on the Town's history to attract tourists	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Providing supportive framework for economic development for <i>large businesses</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Providing supportive framework for economic development for <i>small businesses</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Attracting additional business development to expand the commercial tax base	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Attracting socially conscious retail and service businesses	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Please click on ONE of the items in the list below to indicate which is MOST important to you.

- ☐ Having a vibrant downtown that attracts residents and visitors
- ☐ Capitalizing on the Town's history to attract tourists
- ☐ Providing supportive framework for economic development for *large businesses*
- ☐ Providing supportive framework for economic development for *small businesses*
- ☐ Attracting additional business development to expand the commercial tax base
- ☐ Attracting socially conscious retail and service businesses

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PUBLIC EDUCATION - Importance

How important are each of the following items to you in preserving or improving Lexington?

	Extremely	Very	Somewhat	Not very	Not at all
Meeting academic, social, and emotional needs of all students	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Attracting and retaining high quality teachers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ensuring educationally appropriate student-teacher ratios	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Providing state of the art facilities for teaching and learning	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Delivering public education cost effectively	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Providing adequate funding for education	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ensuring Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion within the school system	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Final Report on Town-Wide Survey 2022

PUBLIC EDUCATION - Current Performance

How would you rate the current performance of the Town with regard to each of the following items?

	Excellent	Very good	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't know
Meeting academic, social, and emotional needs of all students	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Attracting and retaining high quality teachers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ensuring educationally appropriate student-teacher ratios	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Providing state of the art facilities for teaching and learning	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Delivering public education cost effectively	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Providing adequate funding for education	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ensuring Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion within the school system	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Final Report on Town-Wide Survey 2022

PUBLIC EDUCATION

Please click on ONE of the items in the list below to indicate which is MOST important to you.

- ☐ Meeting academic, social, and emotional needs of all students
- ☐ Attracting and retaining high quality teachers
- ☐ Ensuring educationally appropriate student-teacher ratios
- ☐ Providing state of the art facilities for teaching and learning
- ☐ Delivering public education cost effectively
- ☐ Providing adequate funding for education
- ☐ Ensuring Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion within the school system

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CLIMATE, ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SUSTAINABILITY - Importance

How important are each of the following items to you in preserving or improving Lexington?

	Extremely	Very	Somewhat	Not very	Not at all
Meeting Town and state goals of net zero emissions in the next 15-30 years	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reducing the use of toxic materials	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reducing Greenhouse Gas production from transportation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Stopping expansion of fossil fuel use	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Maintaining farmlands and access to locally grown foods	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reducing waste streams, including diverting food waste to composting	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Providing public health and safety services in response to rising temperatures and extreme weather	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ensuring access to safe drinking water	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Providing education to citizens about sustainability	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Final Report on Town-Wide Survey 2022

CLIMATE, ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SUSTAINABILITY - Current Performance

How would you rate the current performance of the Town with regard to each of the following items?

	Excellent	Very good	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't know
Meeting Town and state goals of net zero emissions in the next 15-30 years	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reducing the use of toxic materials	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reducing Greenhouse Gas production from transportation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Stopping expansion of fossil fuel use	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Maintaining farmlands and access to locally grown foods	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reducing waste streams, including diverting food waste to composting	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Providing public health and safety services in response to rising temperatures and extreme weather	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ensuring access to safe drinking water	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Providing education to citizens about sustainability	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Final Report on Town-Wide Survey 2022

CLIMATE, ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SUSTAINABILITY

Please click on ONE of the items in the list below to indicate which is MOST important to you.

- ☐ Meeting Town and state goals of net zero emissions in the next 15-30 years
- ☐ Reducing the use of toxic materials
- ☐ Reducing Greenhouse Gas production from transportation
- ☐ Stopping expansion of fossil fuel use
- ☐ Maintaining farmlands and access to locally grown foods
- ☐ Reducing waste streams, including diverting food waste to composting
- ☐ Providing public health and safety services in response to rising temperatures and extreme weather
- ☐ Ensuring access to safe drinking water
- ☐ Providing education to citizens about sustainability

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PHYSICAL CHARACTER - Importance

How important are each of the following items to you in preserving or improving Lexington?

	Extremely	Very	Somewhat	Not very	Not at all
Preserving the Town's historic areas and structures	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Preserving Town owned open space	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Making Town's public historic areas and structures accessible to all	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Preserving the physical character of residential neighborhoods	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Enhancing the physical environment of the Town Center	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Managing the flow of traffic through Town	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ensuring adequate, convenient parking in the business districts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Final Report on Town-Wide Survey 2022

PHYSICAL CHARACTER - Current Performance

How would you rate the current performance of the Town with regard to each of the following items?

	Excellent	Very good	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't know
Preserving the Town's historic areas and structures	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Preserving Town owned open space	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Making Town's public historic areas and structures accessible to all	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Preserving the physical character of residential neighborhoods	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Enhancing the physical environment of the Town Center	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Managing the flow of traffic through Town	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ensuring adequate, convenient parking in the business districts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Final Report on Town-Wide Survey 2022

PHYSICAL CHARACTER

Please click on ONE of the items in the list below to indicate which is MOST important to you.

- ☐ Preserving the Town's historic areas and structures
- ☐ Preserving Town owned open space
- ☐ Making Town's public historic areas and structures accessible to all
- ☐ Preserving the physical character of residential neighborhoods
- ☐ Enhancing the physical environment of the Town Center
- ☐ Managing the flow of traffic through Town
- ☐ Ensuring adequate, convenient parking in the business districts

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DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION - Importance

How important are each of the following to you in preserving or improving Lexington?

	Extremely	Very	Somewhat	Not very	Not at all
Welcoming diverse groups of people	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ensuring housing is available for a diverse population	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Offering gathering places for diverse ages and interests	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Providing books and other materials for a diverse population in the library	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Providing translated materials on the Town website and through Town departments	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Creating awareness of the Town's diversity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Diversifying Town and school staff	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Final Report on Town-Wide Survey 2022

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION - Current Performance

How would you rate the current performance of the Town with regard to each of the following items?

	Excellent	Very good	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't know
Welcoming diverse groups of people	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ensuring housing is available for a diverse population	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Offering gathering places for diverse ages and interests	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Providing books and other materials for a diverse population in the library	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Providing translated materials on the Town website and through Town departments	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Creating awareness of the Town's diversity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Diversifying Town and school staff	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Final Report on Town-Wide Survey 2022

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Please click on ONE of the items in the list below to indicate which is MOST important to you.

- ☐ Welcoming diverse groups of people
- ☐ Ensuring housing is available for a diverse population
- ☐ Offering gathering places for diverse ages and interests
- ☐ Providing books and other materials for a diverse population in the library
- ☐ Providing translated materials on the Town website and through Town departments
- ☐ Creating awareness of the Town's diversity
- ☐ Diversifying Town and school staff

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TOWN GOVERNMENT - Importance

How important are each of the following items to you in preserving or improving Lexington?

	Extremely	Very	Somewhat	Not very	Not at all
Town officials and staff acting with integrity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Balancing short-term needs with long-term issues	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Acting in a fiscally responsible manner	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Living within constraints of Proposition 2 1/2 (which limits annual growth of the property tax levy)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Making information on decisions and actions easy to obtain	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Encouraging diversity in participation in Town affairs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Participating in regional groups to share resources, services, and ideas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Planning for the long-term future	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ensuring Emergency Preparedness & Response plans are up to date	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Final Report on Town-Wide Survey 2022

TOWN GOVERNMENT - Current Performance

How would you rate the current performance of the Town with regard to each of the following items?

	Excellent	Very good	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't know
Town officials and staff acting with integrity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Balancing short-term needs with long-term issues	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Acting in a fiscally responsible manner	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Living within constraints of Proposition 2 1/2 (which limits annual growth of the property tax levy)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Making information on decisions and actions easy to obtain	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Encouraging diversity in participation in Town affairs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Participating in regional groups to share resources, services, and ideas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Planning for the long-term future	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ensuring Emergency Preparedness & Response plans are up to date	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Final Report on Town-Wide Survey 2022

TOWN GOVERNMENT

Please click on ONE of the items in the list below to indicate which is MOST important to you.

- ☐ Town officials and staff acting with integrity
- ☐ Balancing short-term needs with long-term issues
- ☐ Acting in a fiscally responsible manner
- ☐ Living within constraints of Proposition 2 1/2 (which limits annual growth of the property tax levy)
- ☐ Making information on decisions and actions easy to obtain
- ☐ Encouraging diversity in participation in Town affairs
- ☐ Participating in regional groups to share resources, services, and ideas
- ☐ Planning for the long-term future
- ☐ Ensuring Emergency Preparedness & Response plans are up to date

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TOWN SERVICES - Importance

How important are each of the following items to you in preserving or improving Lexington?

	Extremely	Very	Somewhat	Not very	Not at all
Ensuring public safety (police, fire department, and emergency medical services)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Maintaining roads and sidewalks (including street cleaning, snow removal, pick-up of debris, timely repairs)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Offering sports fields and recreation facilities for diverse activities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Providing comprehensive library services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Providing quality services and facilities for senior citizens	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Providing quality services and facilities, outside of schools, for children and teens	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Delivering Town services in a responsive and friendly manner	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Delivering Town services cost-effectively	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Allocating adequate money for Town services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Providing opportunities for life-long learning	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Final Report on Town-Wide Survey 2022

TOWN SERVICES - Current Performance

How would you rate the current performance of the Town with regard to each of the following items?

	Excellent	Very good	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't know
Ensuring public safety (police, fire department, and emergency medical services)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Maintaining roads and sidewalks (including street cleaning, snow removal, pick-up of debris, timely repairs)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Offering sports fields and recreation facilities for diverse activities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Providing comprehensive library services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Providing quality services and facilities for senior citizens	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Providing quality services and facilities, outside of schools, for children and teens	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Delivering Town services in a responsive and friendly manner	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Delivering Town services cost-effectively	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Allocating adequate money for Town services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Providing opportunities for life-long learning	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Final Report on Town-Wide Survey 2022

TOWN SERVICES

Please click on ONE of the items in the list below to indicate which is MOST important to you.

- ☐ Ensuring public safety (police, fire department, and emergency medical services)
- ☐ Maintaining roads and sidewalks (including street cleaning, snow removal, pick-up of debris, timely repairs)
- ☐ Offering sports fields and recreation facilities for diverse activities
- ☐ Providing comprehensive library services
- ☐ Providing quality services and facilities for senior citizens
- ☐ Providing quality services and facilities, outside of schools, for children and teens
- ☐ Delivering Town services in a responsive and friendly manner
- ☐ Delivering Town services cost-effectively
- ☐ Allocating adequate money for Town services
- ☐ Providing opportunities for life-long learning

Are there issues, other than those we have identified, that you feel are important to consider when preserving or improving Lexington? If so, please indicate those below.

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PART TWO

Questions in this section ask you to reflect on your experiences living in Lexington.

Taking everything into account, on a scale from 1 to 10 (where 1 = extremely satisfied and 10 = not at all satisfied), how satisfied are you currently with Lexington as a place to live?

	1 = extremely satisfied	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10 = not at all satisfied
How satisfied are you with Lexington as a place to live?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please click on the option below that indicates how the quality of life in Lexington for you today compares with the quality of life for you in Lexington five (5) years ago.

- ☐ Better than it was five years ago
- ☐ The same as it was five years ago
- ☐ Worse than it was five years ago
- ☐ I don't know/I haven't been here that long

What is making the quality of life in Lexington worse than it was five (5) years ago?

What potential changes that might occur in Lexington most concern you?

Questions in this next section relate to issues of diversity, equity and inclusion.

What actions should the Town take to make all residents feel welcome?

Final Report on Town-Wide Survey 2022

How have you been treated by the following Town entities?

	Extremely well	Very well	Acceptably	Poorly	Very Poorly	Not relevant to me
Town municipal offices	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
DPW (Department of Public Works)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Police Department	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fire Department/EMTs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Human Services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Recreation Department	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lexington Public Schools	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cary Library	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Final Report on Town-Wide Survey 2022

Do you feel any of the following might have influenced your treatment?

	Yes	No	Don't know/Unsure
Your age group	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Your religious affiliation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Your racial/ethnic background	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Your social/economic class	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Your disability	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Your sex/gender identity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Your sexual orientation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Your national origin	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Your English language proficiency	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please identify any other factor that you believe might have influenced your treatment by Town entities.

Final Report on Town-Wide Survey 2022

Questions in this next section relate to taxes.

Please click on a response below that indicates how you feel about your Town taxes relative to the level of services you receive from the Town.

- ☐ My taxes are high
- ☐ My taxes are appropriate
- ☐ My taxes are low

Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statement: My property taxes make it difficult for me to meet my other financial obligations and maintain my standard of living.

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

Are you aware of the tax deferral/reduction programs available in Town? (For further information on these programs please go to: <https://www.lexingtonma.gov/assessor/pages/4-elderly-other-tax-relief>)

Please check all the programs of which you are aware.

- ☐ Senior Tax Deferral Program
- ☐ Financial Hardship and Temporary Tax Deferral
- ☐ Property Tax Exemption
- ☐ Community Preservation Act Surcharge Exemption
- ☐ I was not aware of any of these programs

Final Report on Town-Wide Survey 2022

Have you used any of the following tax deferral/reduction programs? (Please check all that apply.)

☐

Senior Tax Deferral Program

☐

Financial Hardship and Temporary Tax Deferral

☐

Property Tax Exemption

☐

Community Preservation Act Surcharge Exemption

Final Report on Town-Wide Survey 2022

Questions in this next section focus on community participation.

For each of the following, please indicate whether you and/or a member of your family has participated in the activity at any time during the last five years.

	You	Family member
Participated in a Recreation Department program	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Utilized ball fields, playgrounds, tennis courts, golf course, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Used community walking trails or bike trails	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Took a Community Education class	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attended a program at the Library	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Checked out any materials (e.g., books, DVDs) from the Library	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Used the Lexington Community Center	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Participated in Senior programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rode on the Lexpress	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Received assistance from the Police or Fire Departments	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Received assistance from Human Services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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For each type of activity, please indicate whether you currently participate in the activity, used to participate in the activity, or never participated in the activity.

	Currently participate	Used to participate	Never participated
Town of Lexington committee or board (e.g., Planning Board, Council on Aging, Vision for Lexington Committee, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cultural, civic or community organization (e.g., IAL, ABCL, Little League, League of Women Voters, LexPride, Neighborhood associations, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lexington Public Schools volunteer (e.g., PTO, LexFUN, room parent, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Religious institution volunteer	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please specify)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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Which of the following have you used to stay connected to the community? (Please check all that apply.)

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Lexington Newcomers Club |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Local Facebook groups |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Lexington listserv |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Neighborhood listserv |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Neighborhood groups |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Neighborhood pools |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Town website |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Town of Lexington email lists |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Town of Lexington social media |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Community-wide events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Faith community |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Cultural events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Cultural affinity groups |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | PTOs (Parent Teacher Organizations) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Book clubs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Cary Library programming |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Recreation Department programming |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | WeChat |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | WhatsApp |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Other (please specify) |
-

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PART THREE

Lexington will always need to prioritize resources and make trade-offs. For each of the questions in this section you will be asked to indicate which of the identified competing issues are more important to you.

With regard to school services and programs, which of the following would you prefer?

- ☐ Increasing property taxes to meet budgetary needs
- ☐ Reducing publicly funded school services and programs

With regard to municipal services (public safety, public works, human services, recreation, etc.), which of the following would you prefer?

- ☐ Increasing property taxes to meet budgetary needs
- ☐ Reducing publicly funded municipal services

To the extent that resources are insufficient to maintain our current level of services, which of the following would you prefer?

- ☐ A reduction in school services and programs
- ☐ A reduction in municipal services
- ☐ A reduction in both school and municipal services

One way to reduce reliance on residential property taxes is to expand the commercial tax base. Which of the following would you prefer?

- ☐ Increasing commercial density (and increasing the commercial tax base)
- ☐ Keeping zoning the same and not allow additional commercial density

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As roadways and intersections are being rebuilt, which of the following would you prefer?

- ☐ Making roadways safer for pedestrians and cyclists, including traffic calming measures
- ☐ Prioritizing roadways for vehicular flow

Most of the land in Lexington is already committed to particular uses. Of the remaining land that is still available for development, which of the following would you prefer?

- ☐ Developing affordable housing
- ☐ Creating recreation fields
- ☐ Preserving available open space

Market forces are causing existing homes to be torn down. The new homes that replace them are often more expensive. Which of the following would you prefer?

- ☐ Regulating residential land use to ensure diversity of housing options
- ☐ Limiting regulation of residential land use and allowing the market to determine the housing mix

Which do you think is more important?

- ☐ Preserving the rights of property owners
- ☐ Preserving the natural environment

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As the Town plans for the future, it is necessary to balance the needs and interests of all citizens. To help us better do this, the following question asks you to rank each of the areas of planning identified in Part One of the questionnaire (above).

Please drag and drop each of the following items to number them from 1 to 7, where 1 = most important and 7 = least important.

- _____ Ensuring economic development (e.g., attracting businesses, tourism, vibrant downtown, etc.)
- _____ Ensuring quality public education (e.g., teacher/student ratios, meeting social and academic needs, providing adequate funding for education, etc.)
- _____ Addressing climate, environmental health and sustainability issues (e.g., reducing energy consumption, reducing waste streams, meeting net zero emission goals, etc.)
- _____ Sustaining the physical character of the Town (e.g., open spaces, neighborhoods, historic venues, traffic flow, parking, etc.)
- _____ Promoting diversity, equity and inclusion (e.g., housing, educational opportunities, hiring, etc.)
- _____ Providing responsible Town government (e.g., making information easy to obtain, ensuring emergency preparedness, acting in a fiscally responsible manner, etc.)
- _____ Delivering Town services (e.g., public safety, responsiveness to citizens' needs, maintaining roads and sidewalks, etc.)

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PART FOUR

Just a few more questions to help us ensure we are getting a representative sample of Lexington residents.

This section asks for background information about you. Please be assured that the information will be confidential. It will be used in aggregated form to assess patterns of responses to the questions in Parts One, Two and Three.

For each of the following questions, please either check the circle next to the appropriate answer for you or provide an answer in the blank space when requested.

Are you...?

(Please check all that apply.)

- ☐ A Lexington resident
- ☐ A Town or School staff member
- ☐ An owner/employer of a Lexington business
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____

Which of the following describes your sex or gender identify?

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female
- ☐ Non-binary
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____

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How old are you?

- ☐ Younger than 20
- ☐ 20-29
- ☐ 30-39
- ☐ 40-49
- ☐ 50-59
- ☐ 60-69
- ☐ 70-79
- ☐ 80-89
- ☐ Older than 89

What is your occupation?

What is the highest level of education that you have completed?

- ☐ Less than high school
- ☐ Some high school
- ☐ High school graduate (or GED degree or vocational or technical school degree)
- ☐ Some college
- ☐ College graduate
- ☐ Some graduate school
- ☐ Master's Degree
- ☐ Professional Degree
- ☐ Doctoral Degree

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With which of the following groups do you most identify?

- ☐ Asian
- ☐ Black or African American
- ☐ Hispanic or Latino/a/x
- ☐ Middle Eastern or Arab American
- ☐ Native American, American Indian or Alaska Native
- ☐ Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- ☐ South Asian (e.g., Asian Indian, Bangladeshi, Sri Lankan)
- ☐ White or Caucasian
- ☐ Other race or multi-racial/ethnic (please specify)

What is the primary language that you speak at home?

For how long have you lived in Lexington?

- ☐ Less than one year
- ☐ 1-5 years
- ☐ 6-10 years
- ☐ 11-20 years
- ☐ More than 20 years

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What initially drew you to Lexington as a place to live?

(Please check all that apply.)

- ☐ I grew up here
- ☐ Family
- ☐ Friends
- ☐ The history
- ☐ Location
- ☐ The schools
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____

How likely is it that you will still be living in Lexington in eight (8) years?

- ☐ Highly likely
- ☐ Somewhat likely
- ☐ Somewhat unlikely
- ☐ Very unlikely
- ☐ Don't know

Under what conditions do you see yourself moving out of Lexington?

What is the number of people living in your household at the current time?

- ☐ One, I live alone
- ☐ Two
- ☐ Three or more

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How many children aged 18 or younger live in your household?

- ☐ None
- ☐ One
- ☐ Two
- ☐ Three or more

How many of the children in your household aged 5-18 currently attend Lexington Public Schools or Minuteman Technical High School?

- ☐ None. All children are under age 5.
- ☐ None. The children go to other schools.
- ☐ One
- ☐ Two
- ☐ Three or more

How many of the children in your household under the age of five (5) will likely attend Lexington Public Schools?

- ☐ None. The children will likely go to other schools.
- ☐ One
- ☐ Two
- ☐ Three or more

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What is the approximate assessed value of your residence?

(If you do not know the assessed value of your residence, please go to <http://gis.vgsi.com/lexingtonma/Search.aspx>)

- ☐ Less than \$500,000
- ☐ Between \$500,000 and \$999,999
- ☐ Between \$1,000,000 and \$1,499,999
- ☐ Between \$1,500,000 and \$1,999,999
- ☐ Between \$2,000,000 and \$2,499,999
- ☐ Between \$2,500,000 and \$2,999,999
- ☐ Between \$3,000,000 and \$3,499,999
- ☐ Between \$3,500,000 and \$3,999,999
- ☐ \$4,000,000 or more
- ☐ I am a renter
- ☐ I don't know

What was your household income (from all sources) in 2021?

- ☐ Less than \$24,999
- ☐ Between \$25,000 and \$49,999
- ☐ Between \$50,000 and \$74,999
- ☐ Between \$75,000 and \$99,999
- ☐ Between \$100,000 and \$149,999
- ☐ Between \$150,000 and \$199,999
- ☐ Between \$200,000 and \$299,999
- ☐ Between \$300,000 and \$399,999
- ☐ Between \$400,000 and \$499,999
- ☐ \$500,000 or more

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In which precinct (number) do you reside?

If you do not know, please consult: <http://wheredoivotema.com/bal/MyElectionInfo.aspx>

- ☐ 1
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4
- ☐ 5
- ☐ 6
- ☐ 7
- ☐ 8
- ☐ 9

Are you a registered voter?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I don't know

Did you vote in the last municipal election in March 2021?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I don't remember

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If you did not vote, why not?
(Please check all that apply.)

- ☐ I am not a citizen.
- ☐ I missed deadlines (registration, absentee ballot, etc.)
- ☐ Polling place hours were inconvenient
- ☐ I didn't believe my vote would have an influence
- ☐ Issues didn't matter to me/issues weren't important enough
- ☐ I didn't like the choices offered
- ☐ Accessibility issues (e.g., transportation, bad weather, illness, etc.)
- ☐ I was too busy
- ☐ I didn't believe local elections really make an impact
- ☐ I don't trust government/governmental entities
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____

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How did you learn about the 2022 Town Wide Survey?
(Please check all that apply.)

- ☐ Census insert
- ☐ Survey postcard
- ☐ Word of mouth
- ☐ Town website
- ☐ Town eNewsletter (e.g., Link to Lexington, Town News and Alerts)
- ☐ Other Town social media
- ☐ PTO newsletter
- ☐ Community listserv
- ☐ Other community social media (e.g., Lexington Mavens)
- ☐ Community organization mailing (e.g., IAL, KOLex, CAAL, CaLex)
- ☐ Local newspaper/media
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____

Is there anything else about preserving or improving Lexington that you wish to add?

Thank you very much for your time and thoughtful responses. A final report based on the findings of the survey will be posted on the Town's website at LexingtonMA.gov/VisionForLexington, as well as through the Town's communications channels. For a list of the Town of Lexington communication channels, visit LexingtonMA.gov/StayInformed.

The Town will be further exploring issues raised in several areas addressed in this survey. We encourage residents to participate in focus groups designed to elicit more detailed information. If you are interested in participating, please go to this link to sign up: lexingtonma.gov/VfL2022focusgroup

Appendix B

Questions for Focus Groups

1. We have found, from responses to the survey, that Lexington Center is an issue for many people. We'd like to hear your thoughts. What do you think about when you think of Lexington Center?

Probes: appearance
variety of stores/businesses
parking
vibrancy

2. Public education is considered to be important in our Town. What are key issues on which School Committee and the school administration should be focusing?

Probes: new high school
overcrowding
stress/competition
leadership

Be sure to ask this at the end of the discussion on public education:
What do we do well?

3. Our Town has become more diverse (in particular, in terms of ethnicity and economics) in recent years. What should be the role of the Town in diversity, equity and inclusion?

Probes: planning
hiring
education
too much or too little emphasis?

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4. Questionnaire results indicated interest in a number of issues associated with infrastructure. Those included open space, conditions of roads/sidewalks, effects of climate change. Let's discuss each of these separately.

a. How should open space be handled?

Probes: trees

open space

bike/walking trails

b. Conditions of roads/sidewalks

Probes: paving of roads

creation/maintenance of sidewalks

traffic

c. Effects of climate change

Probes: fossil fuel use – should it be limited? by whom?

planning for climate-related crises

5. What do you think about the current state of housing in Lexington?

Probes: current zoning regulations

affordability

mansionization

property rights of owners

historic preservation

6. Taxes are of concern to many people.

a. Under what conditions would you be willing to pay higher taxes? For what services/purposes?

b. What would you be willing to forego in order to contain (or reduce) taxes?

c. What should be the balance between commercial development and residential taxes? What do you think the impact of increased commercial development might be?

Probes: definition of 'higher' or 'high' taxes

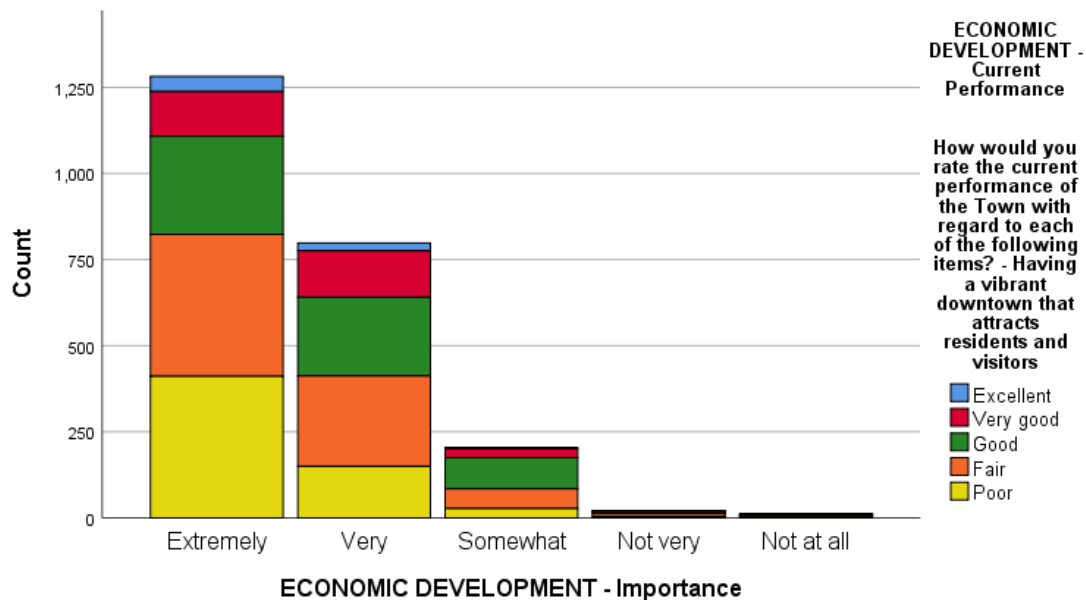
Appendix C

Stacked Bar Chart Comparisons of Importance and Performance Ratings

The following charts present ratings of importance and performance for each of the issues within the broad categories in Part I of the questionnaire. The X-axis (horizontal) corresponds to ratings of importance. The Y-axis (vertical) indicates how respondents rated performance. (For example, the chart immediately below shows the distribution of ratings of performance within each of the categories of importance of having a vibrant downtown that attracts residents and visitors. Reading across the chart, one can see a comparison of the ratings of performance across all the categories of importance.)

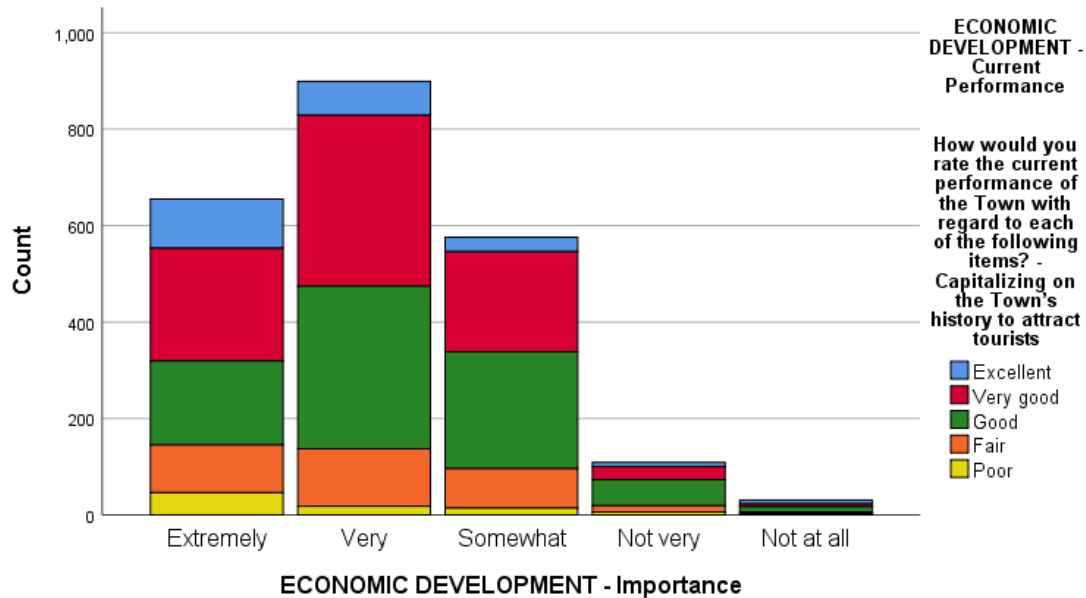
Findings are presented in frequencies.

Economic Development

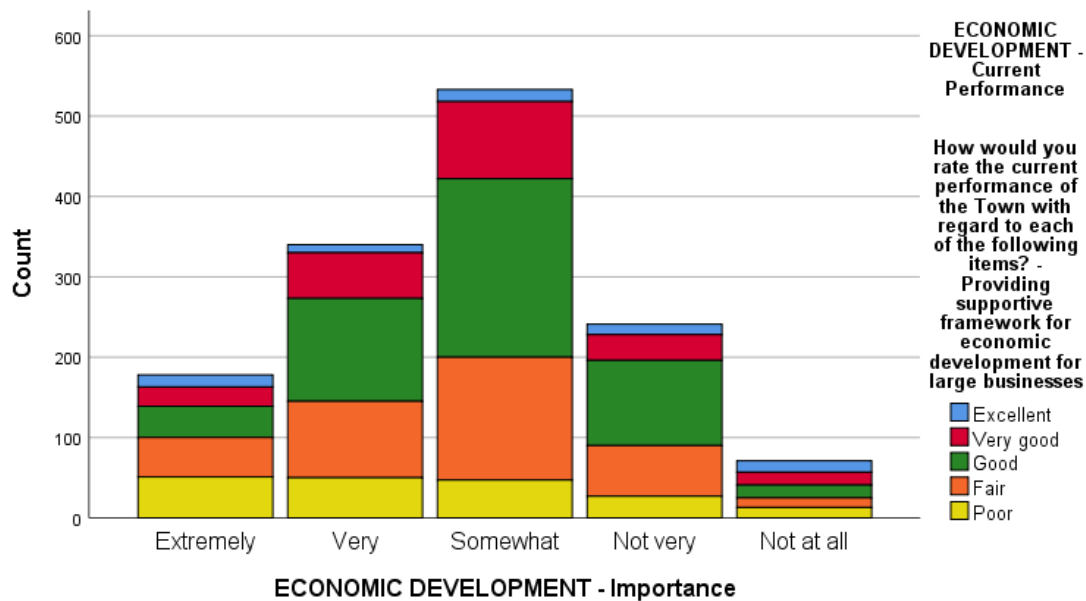


How important are each of the following items to you in preserving or improving Lexington? - Having a vibrant downtown that attracts residents and visitors

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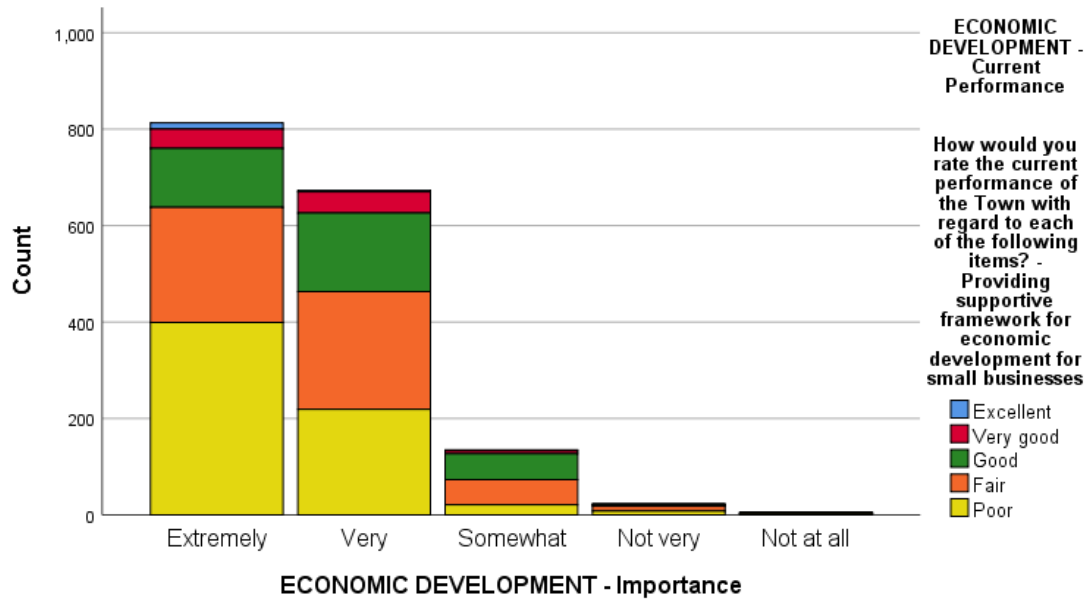


How important are each of the following items to you in preserving or improving Lexington? - Capitalizing on the Town's history to attract tourists

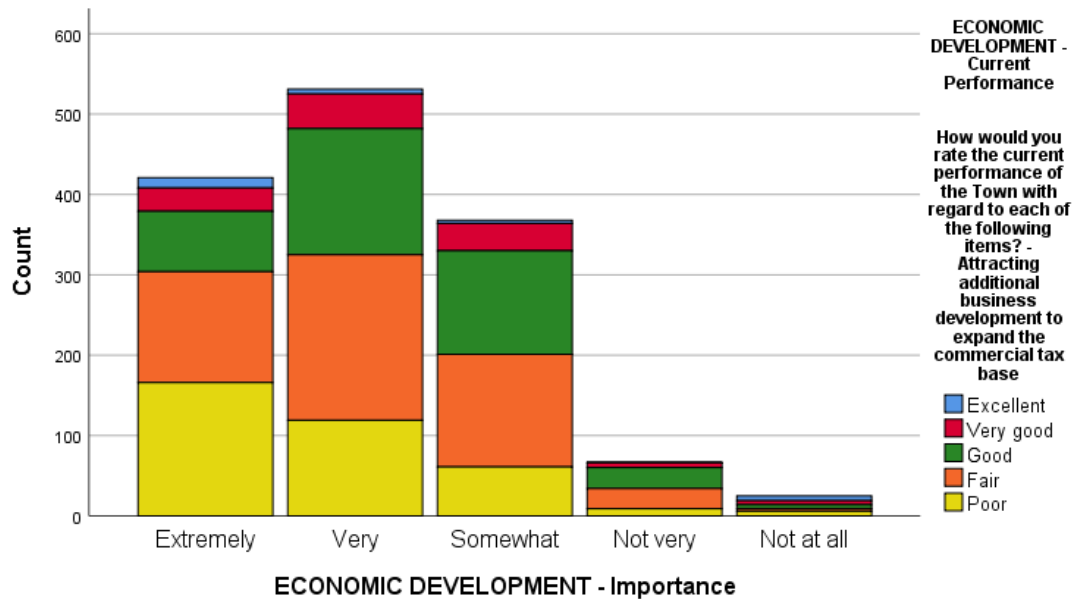


How important are each of the following items to you in preserving or improving Lexington? - Providing supportive framework for economic development for large businesses

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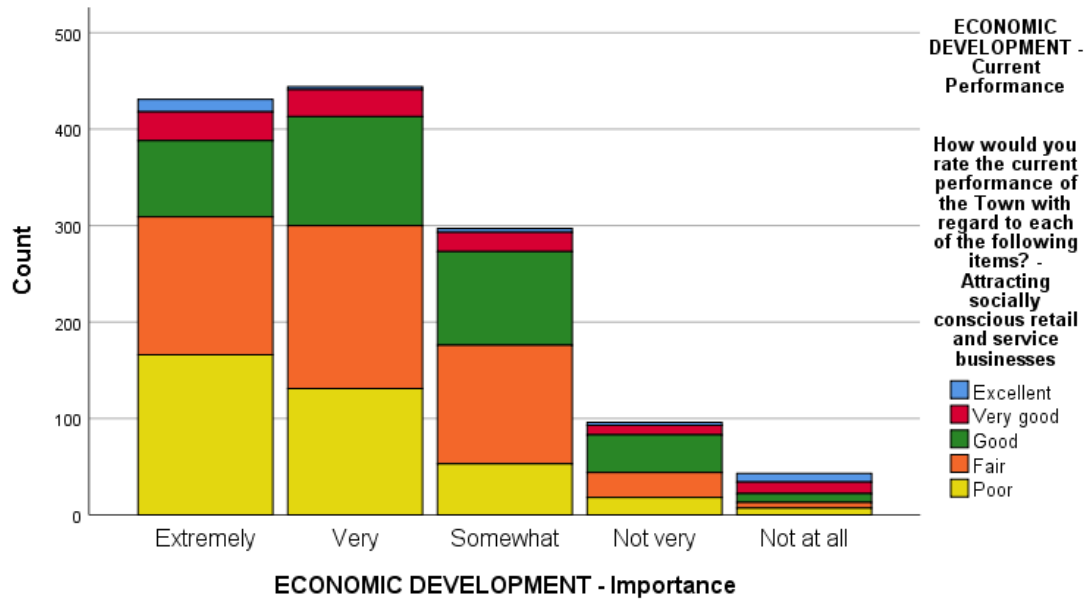


How important are each of the following items to you in preserving or improving Lexington? - Providing supportive framework for economic development for small businesses



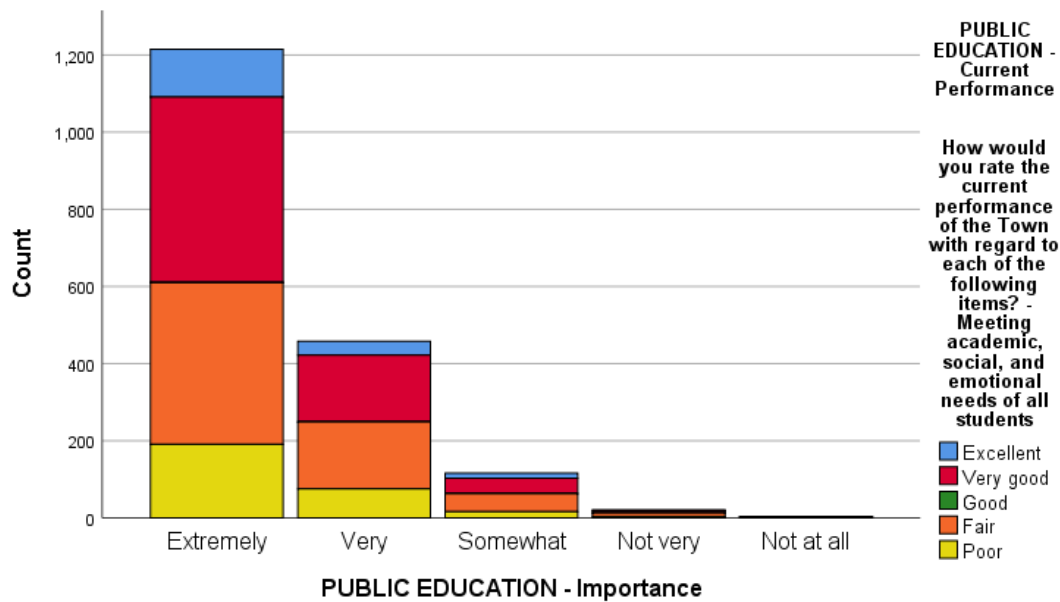
How important are each of the following items to you in preserving or improving Lexington? - Attracting additional business development to expand the commercial tax base

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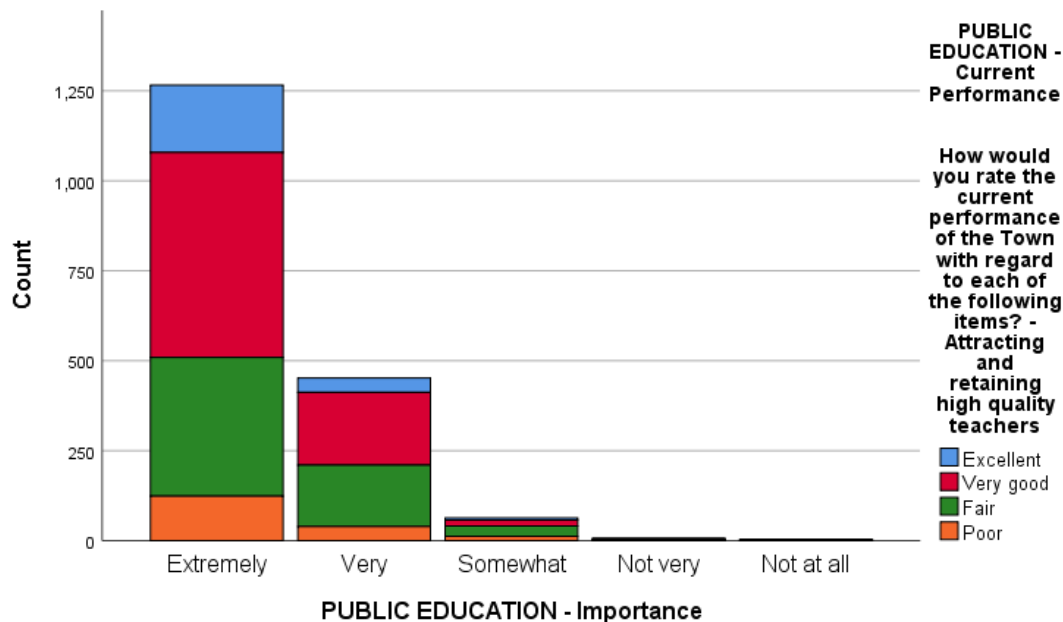


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Public Education

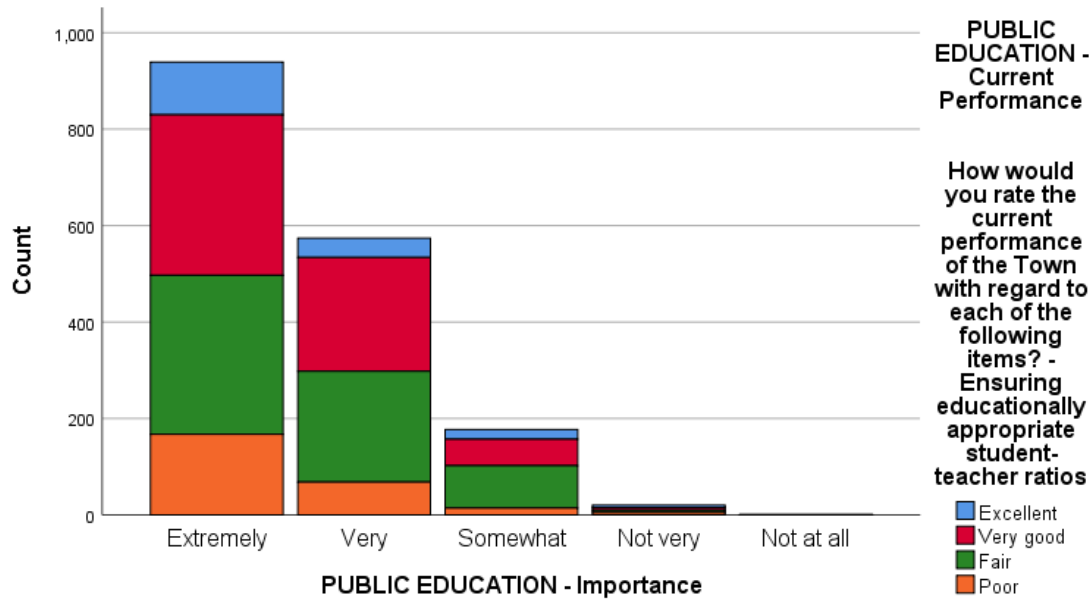


How important are each of the following items to you in preserving or improving Lexington? - Meeting academic, social, and emotional needs of all students

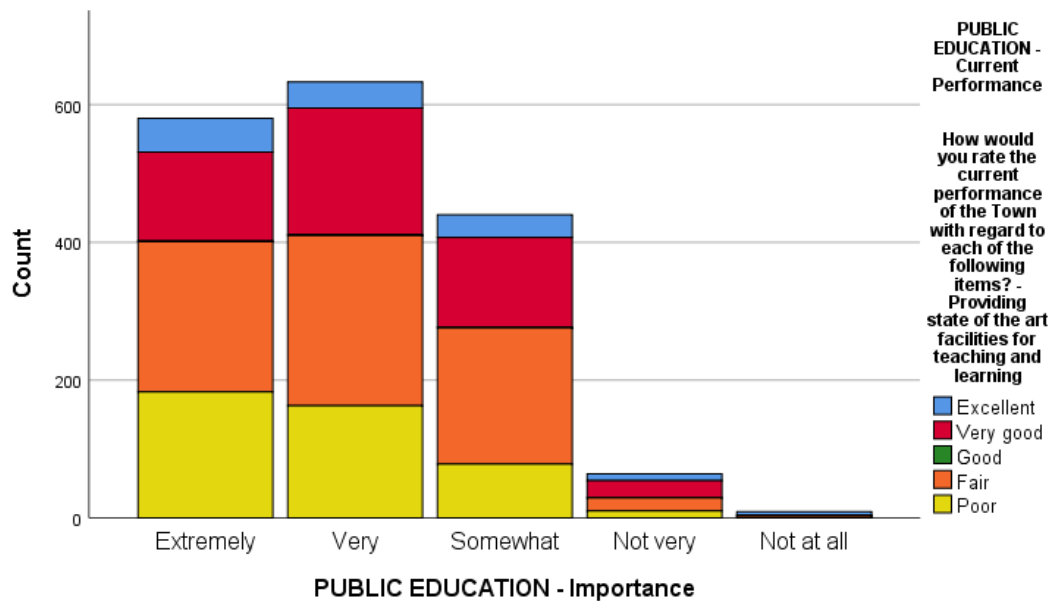


How important are each of the following items to you in preserving or improving Lexington? - Attracting and retaining high quality teachers

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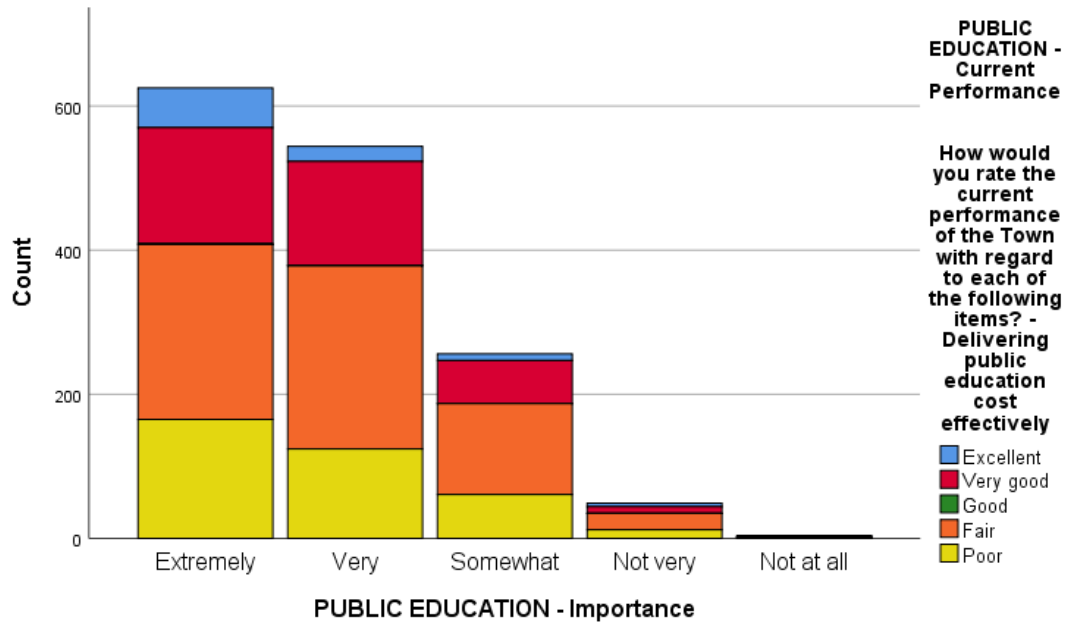


How important are each of the following items to you in preserving or improving Lexington? - Ensuring educationally appropriate student-teacher ratios

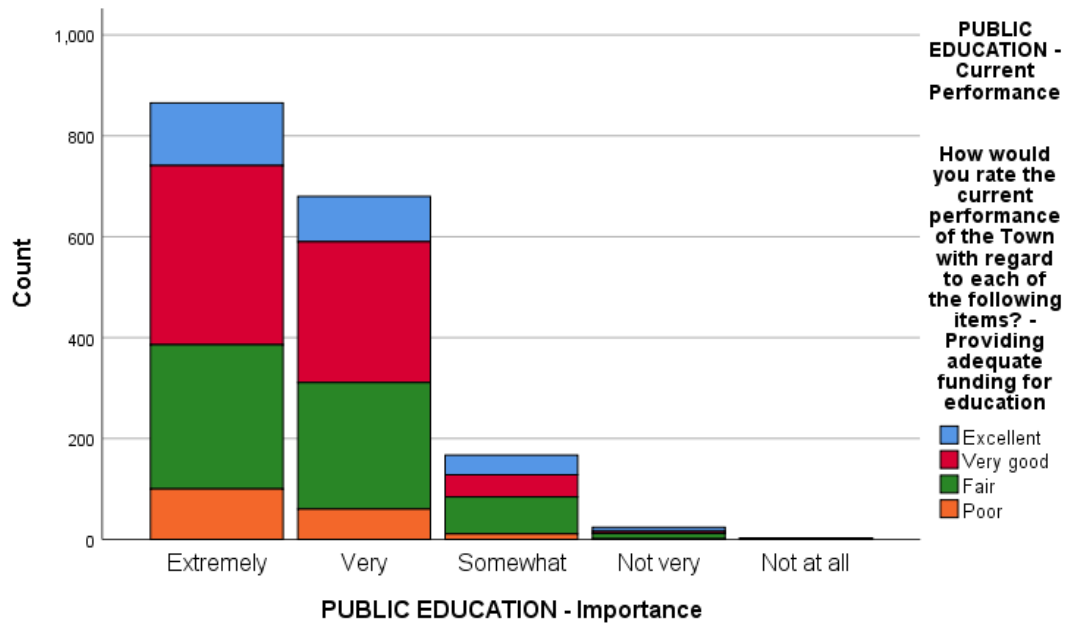


How important are each of the following items to you in preserving or improving Lexington? - Providing state of the art facilities for teaching and learning

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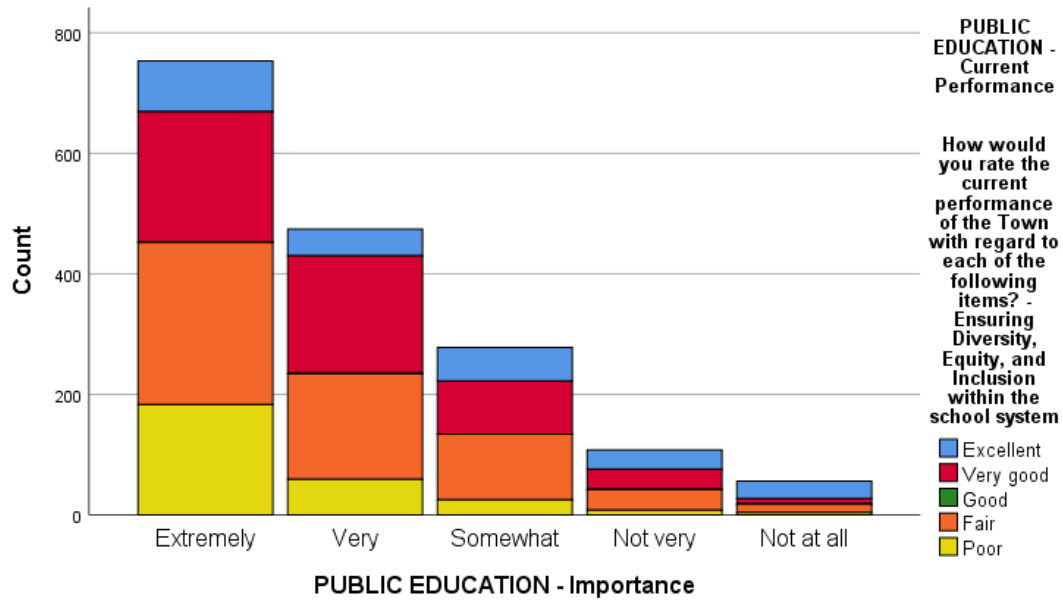


How important are each of the following items to you in preserving or improving Lexington? - Delivering public education cost effectively



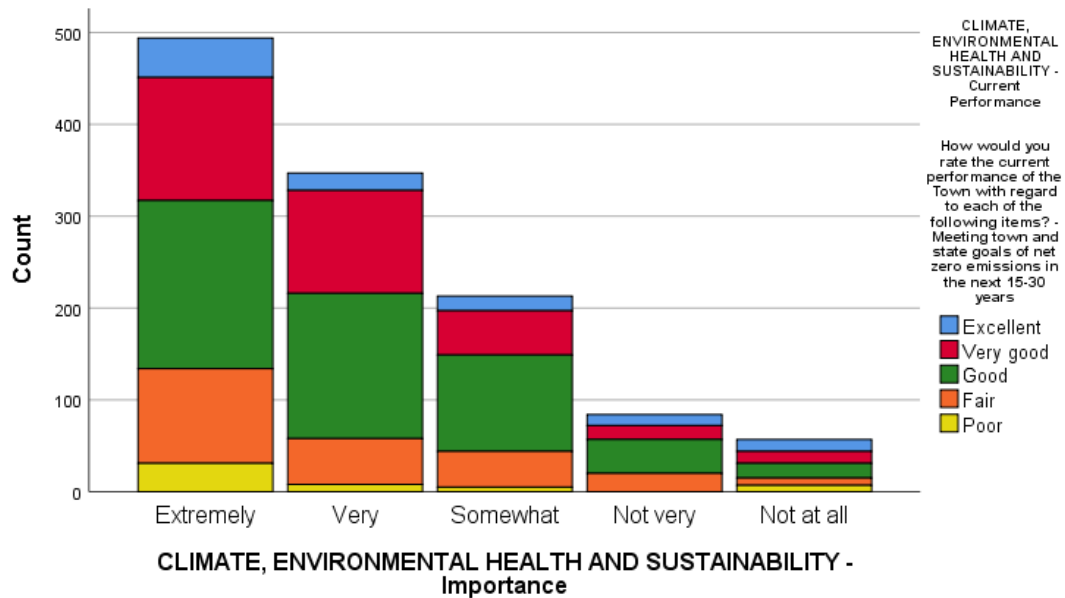
How important are each of the following items to you in preserving or improving Lexington? - Providing adequate funding for education

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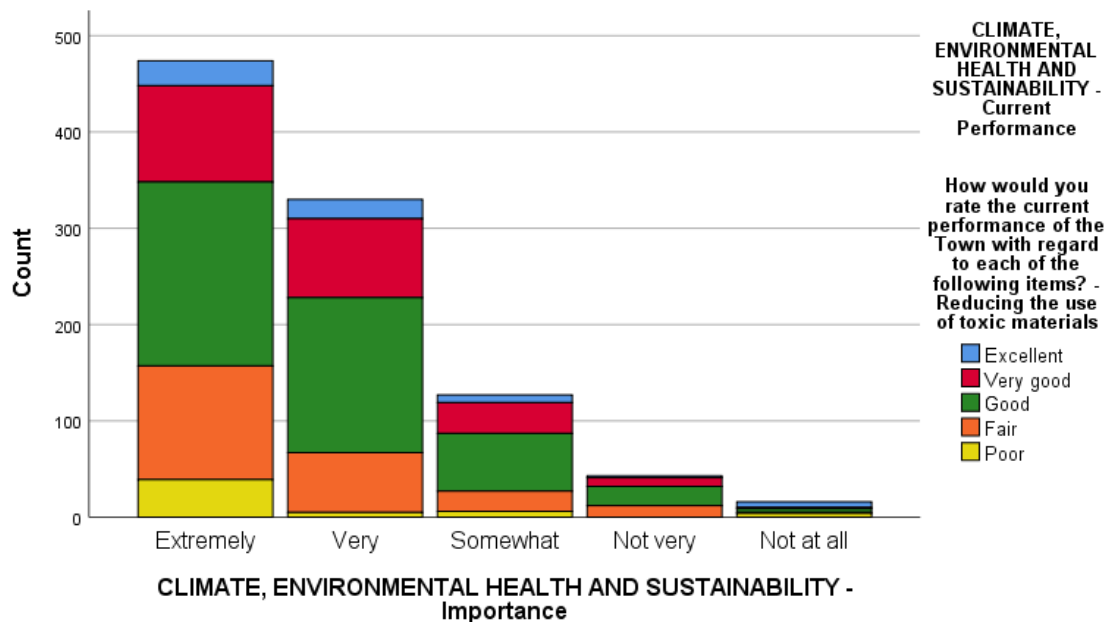


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Climate, Environmental Health and Sustainability

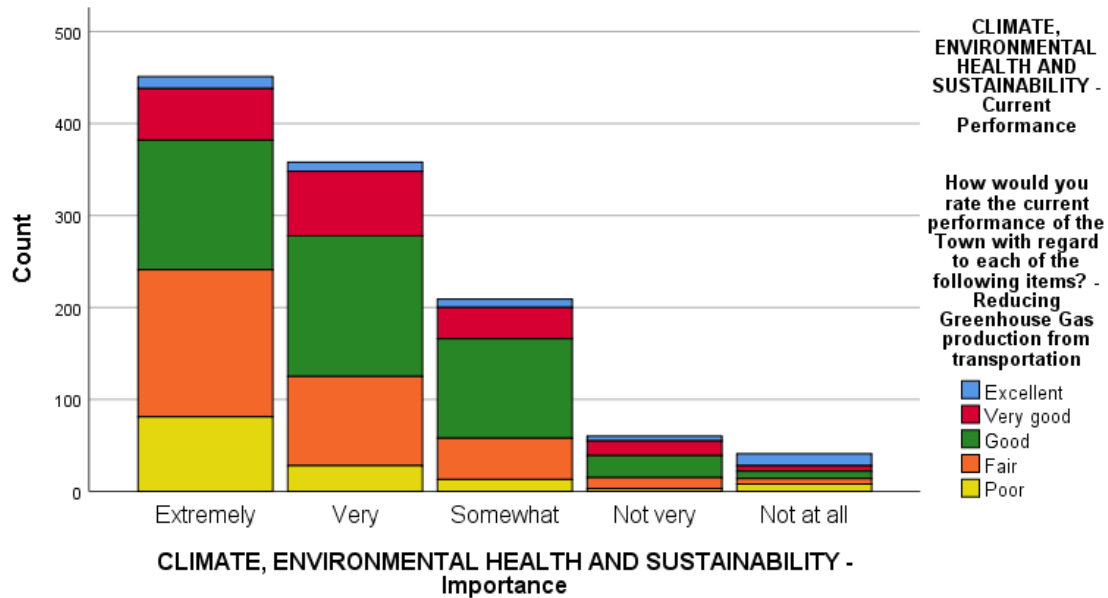


How important are each of the following items to you in preserving or improving Lexington? - Meeting town and state goals of net zero emissions in the next 15-30 years

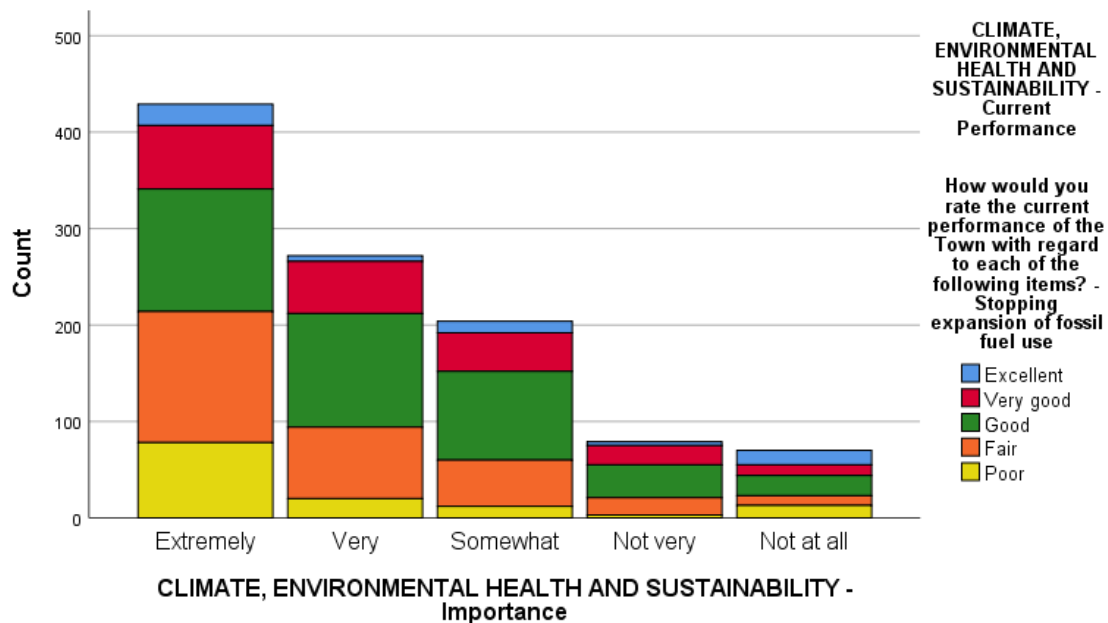


How important are each of the following items to you in preserving or improving Lexington? - Reducing the use of toxic materials

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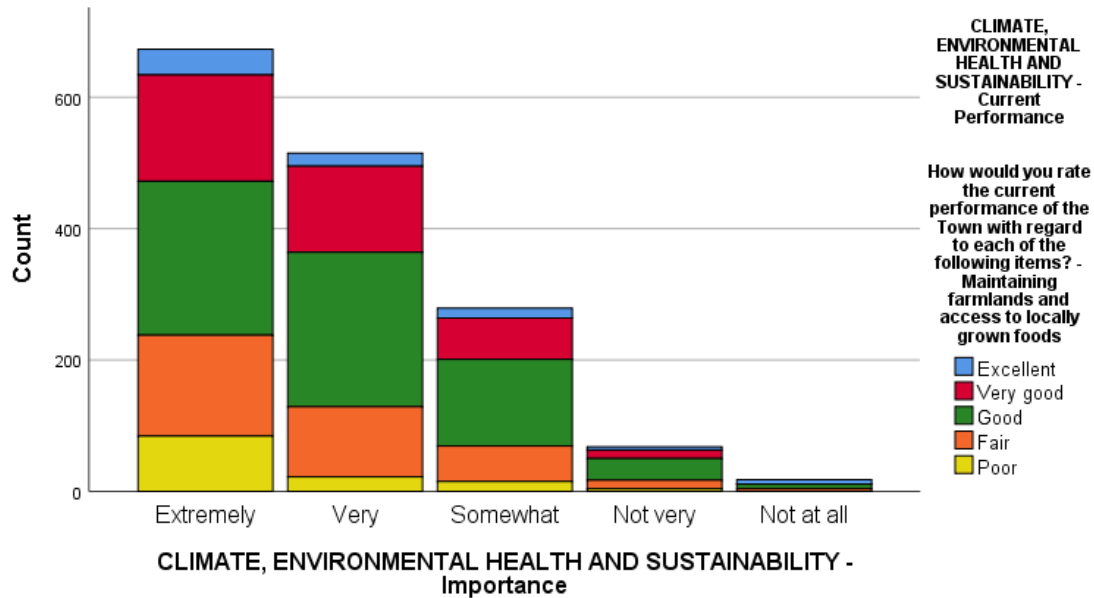


How important are each of the following items to you in preserving or improving Lexington? - Reducing Greenhouse Gas production from transportation

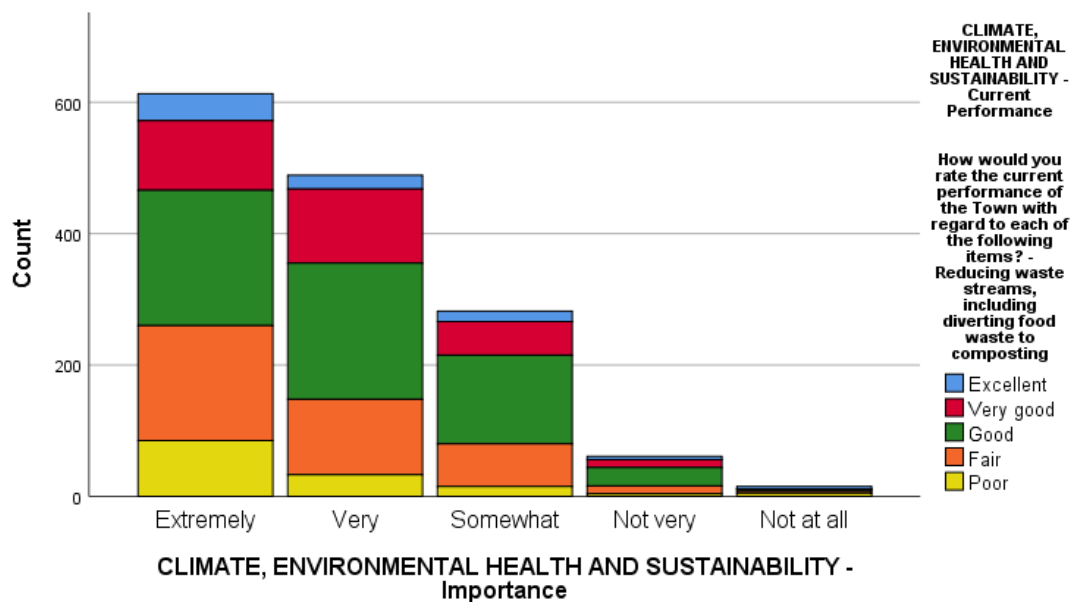


How important are each of the following items to you in preserving or improving Lexington? - Stopping expansion of fossil fuel use

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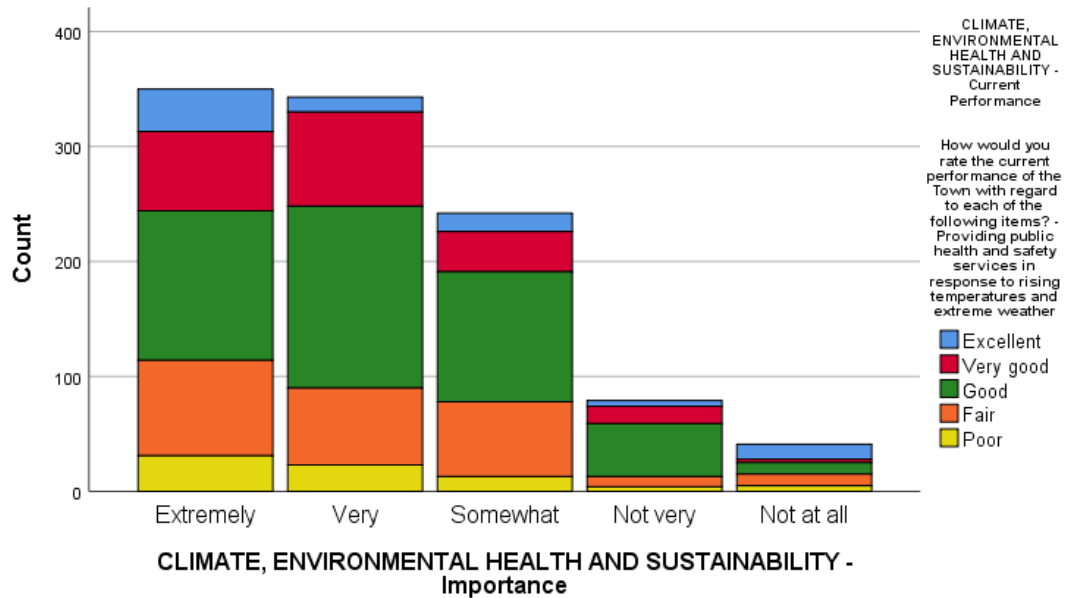


How important are each of the following items to you in preserving or improving Lexington? - Maintaining farmlands and access to locally grown foods

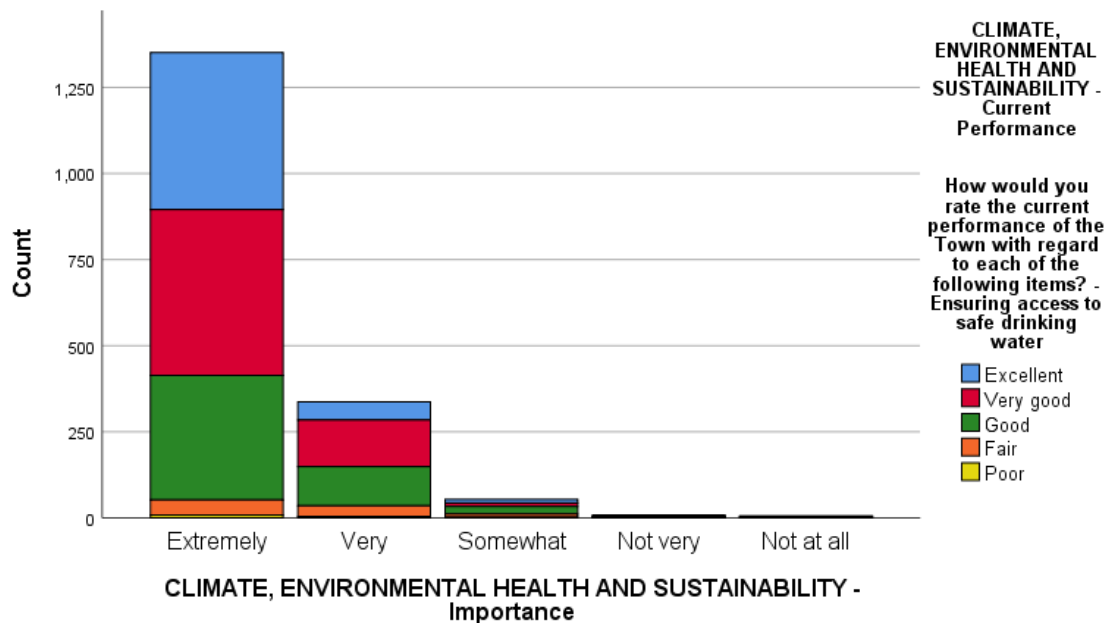


How important are each of the following items to you in preserving or improving Lexington? - Reducing waste streams, including diverting food waste to composting

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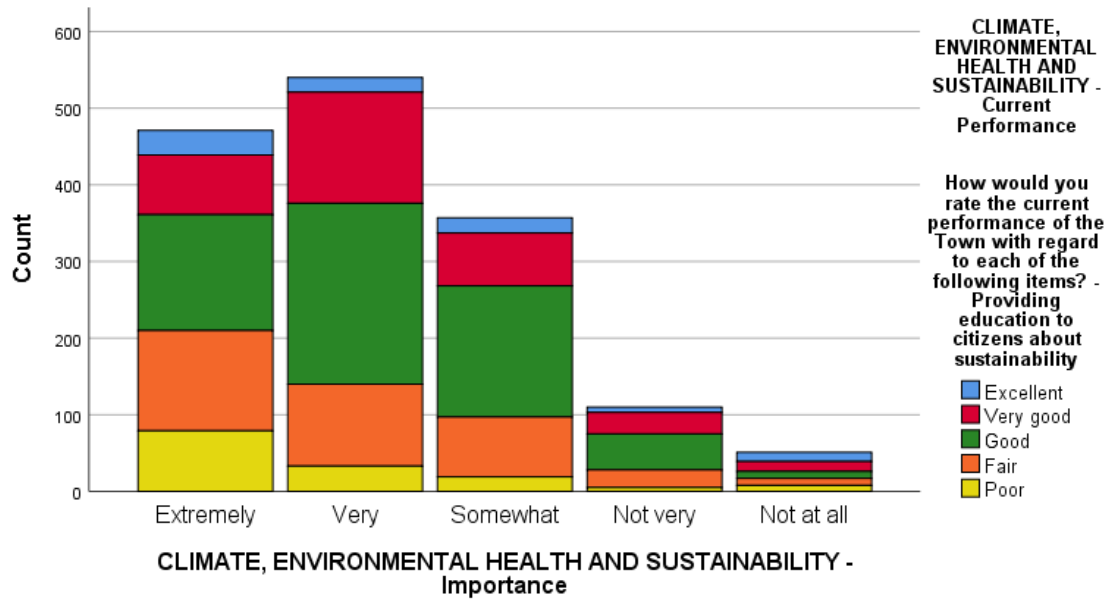


How important are each of the following items to you in preserving or improving Lexington? - Providing public health and safety services in response to rising temperatures and extreme weather



How important are each of the following items to you in preserving or improving Lexington? - Ensuring access to safe drinking water

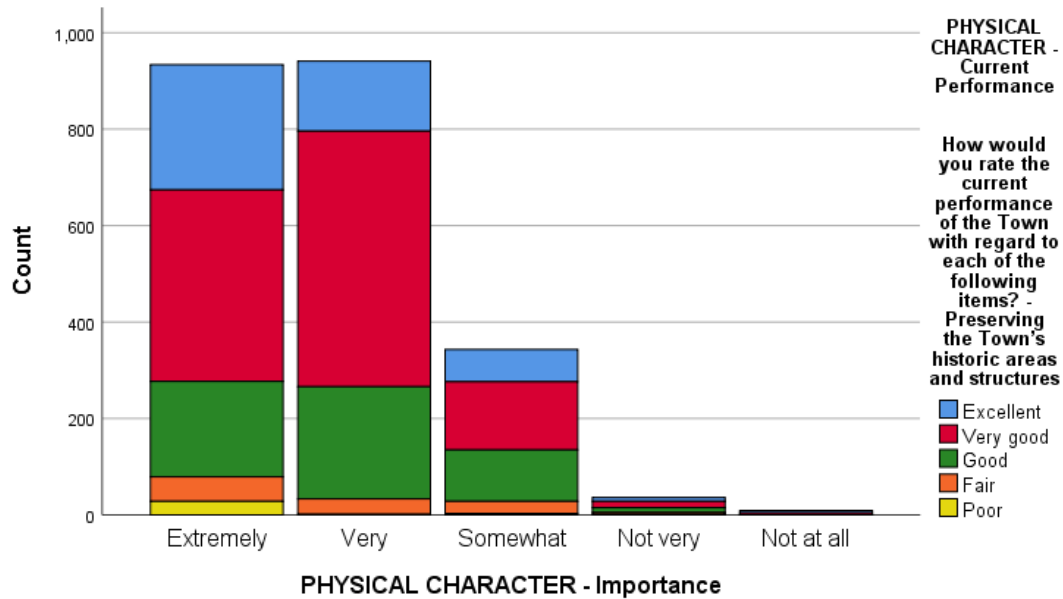
Final Report on Town-Wide Survey 2022



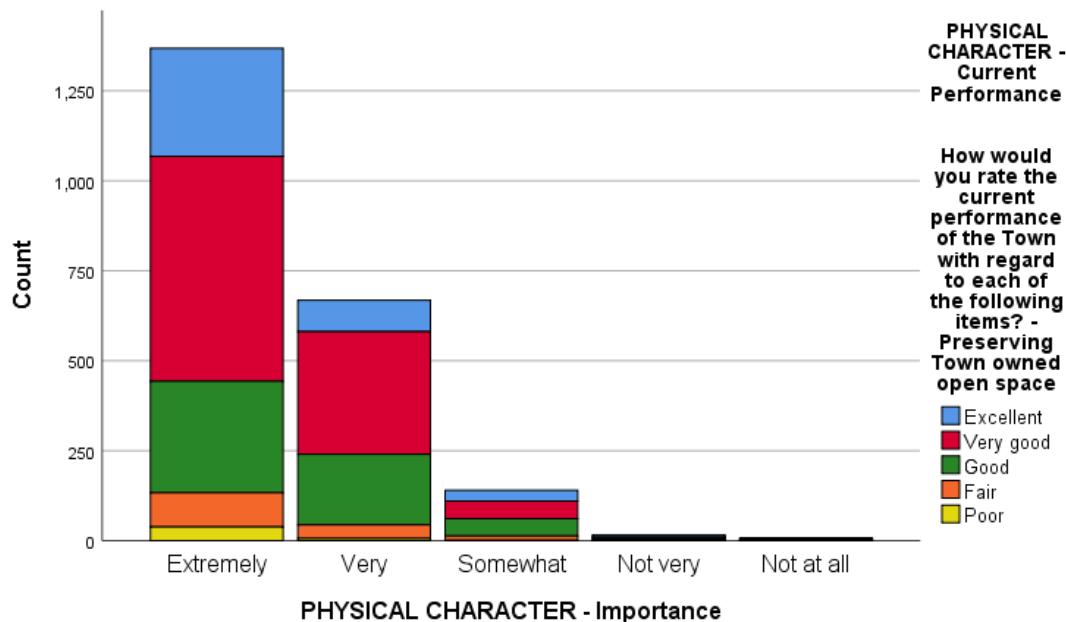
How important are each of the following items to you in preserving or improving Lexington? - Providing education to citizens about sustainability

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Physical Character

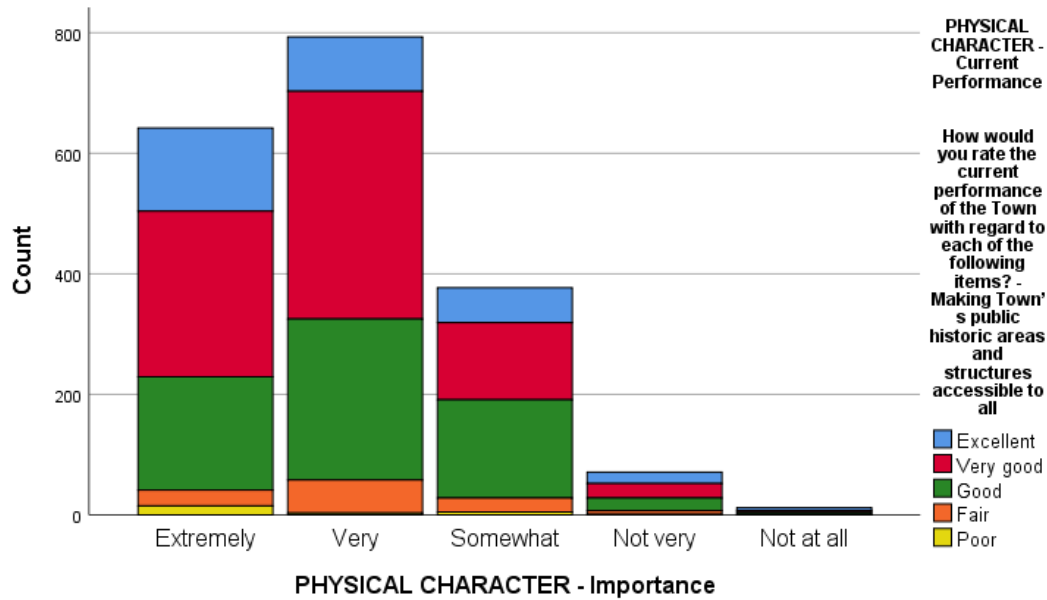


How important are each of the following items to you in preserving or improving Lexington? - Preserving the Town's historic areas and structures

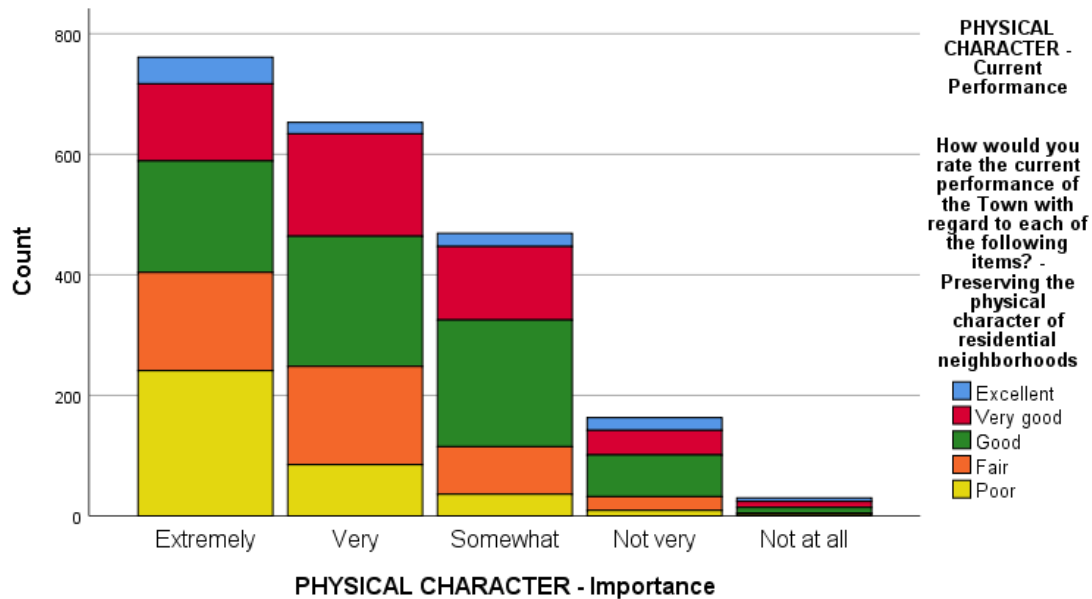


How important are each of the following items to you in preserving or improving Lexington? - Preserving Town owned open space

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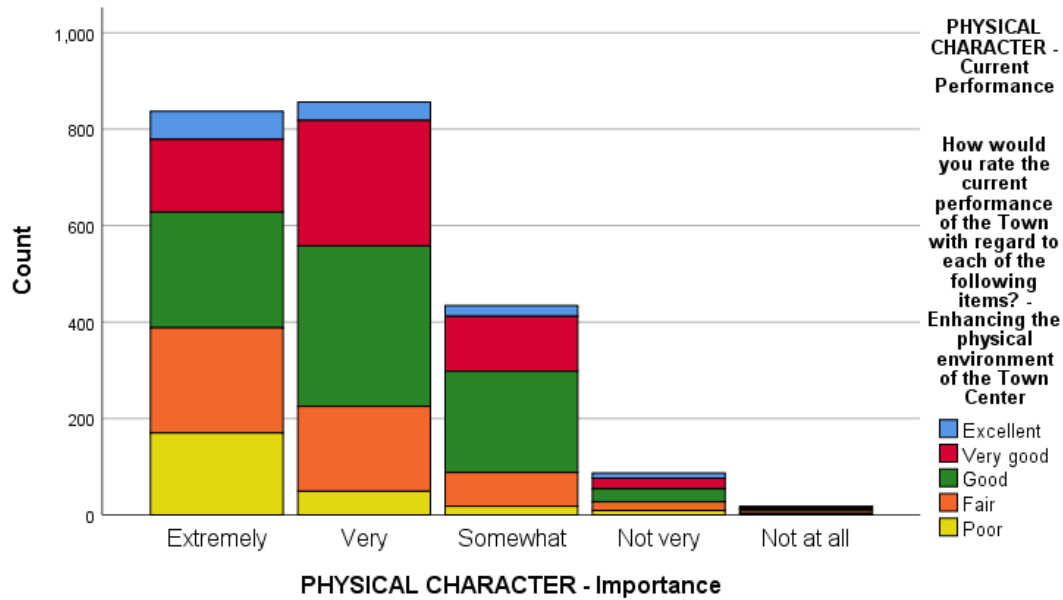


How important are each of the following items to you in preserving or improving Lexington? - Making Town's public historic areas and structures accessible to all

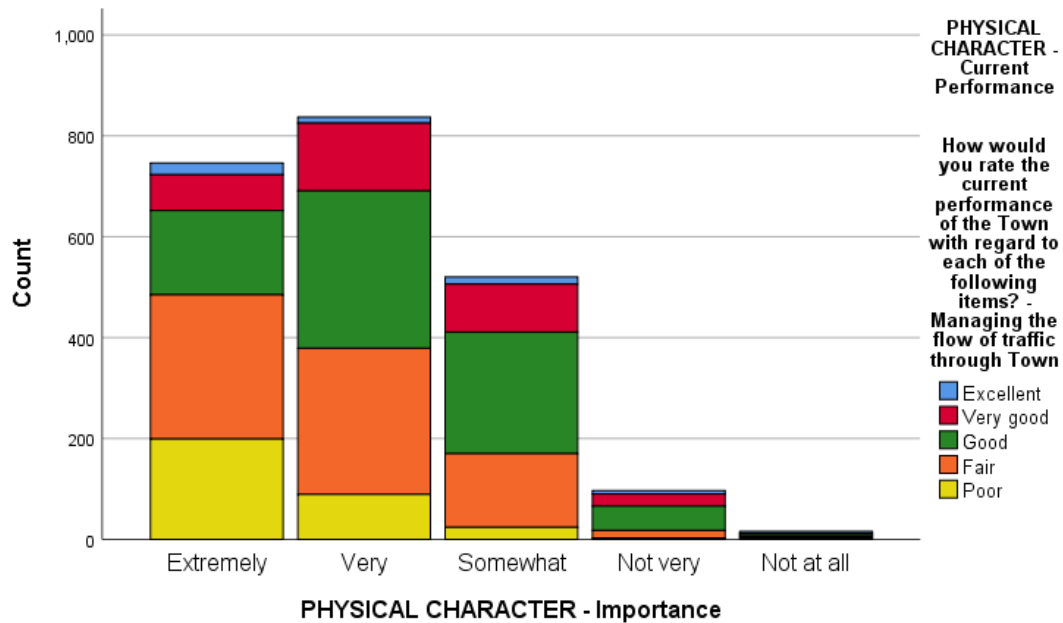


How important are each of the following items to you in preserving or improving Lexington? - Preserving the physical character of residential neighborhoods

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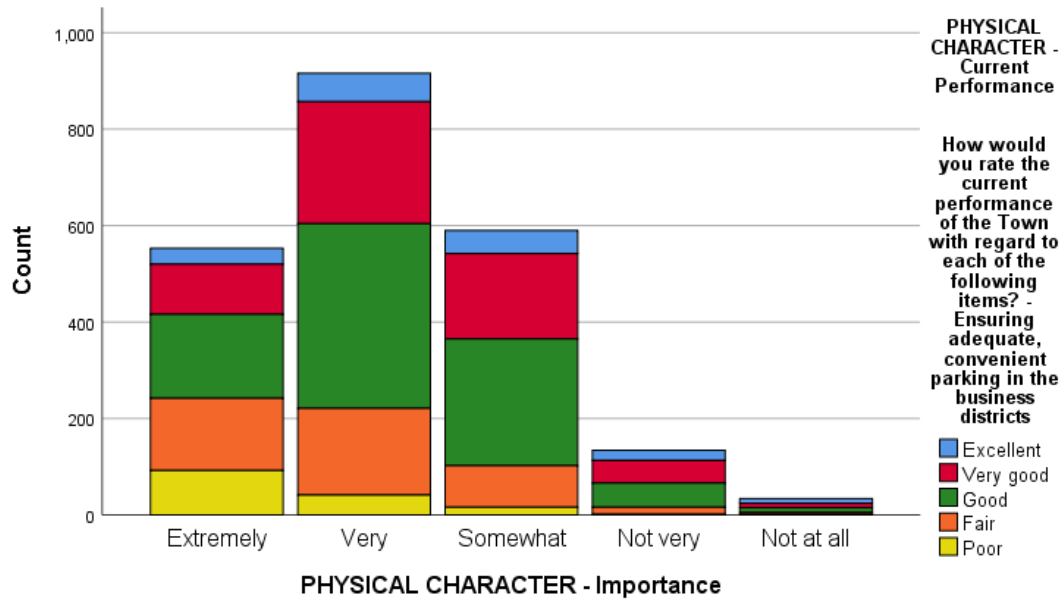


How important are each of the following items to you in preserving or improving Lexington? - Enhancing the physical environment of the Town Center



How important are each of the following items to you in preserving or improving Lexington? - Managing the flow of traffic through Town

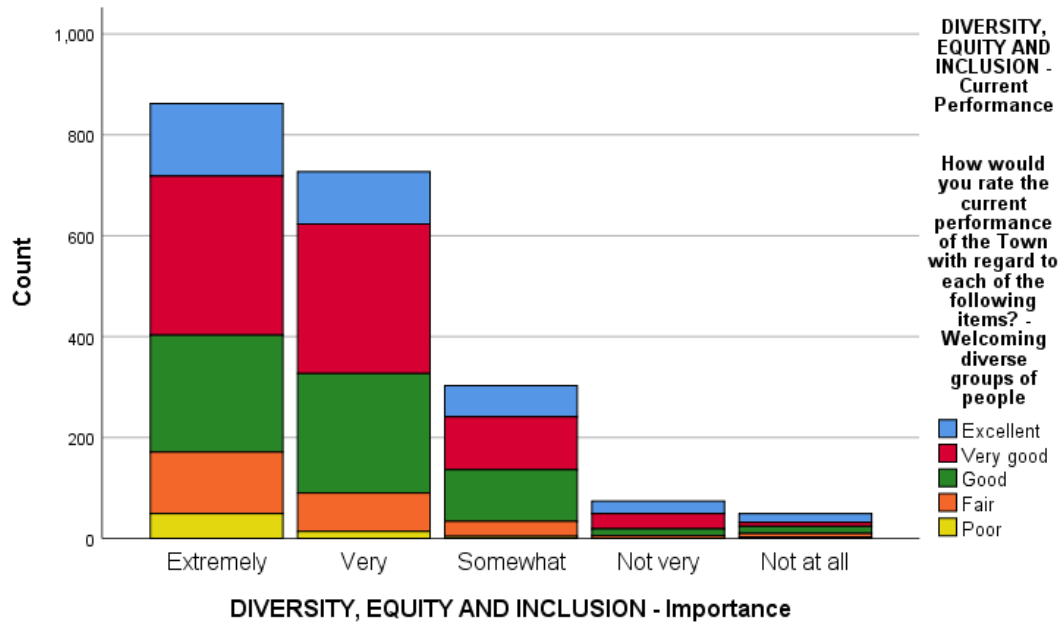
Final Report on Town-Wide Survey 2022



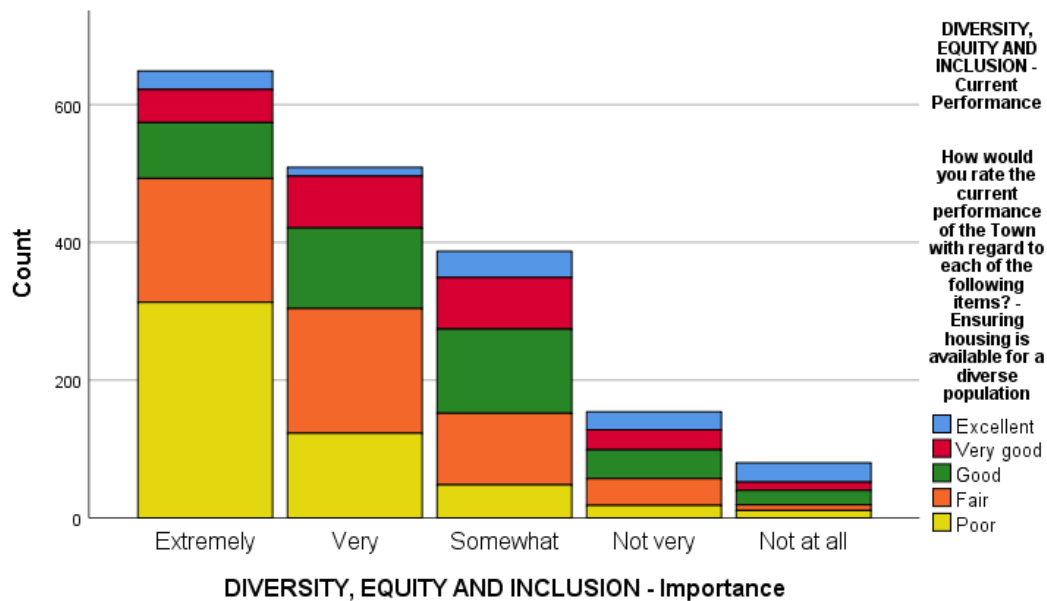
How important are each of the following items to you in preserving or improving Lexington? - Ensuring adequate, convenient parking in the business districts

Final Report on Town-Wide Survey 2022

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

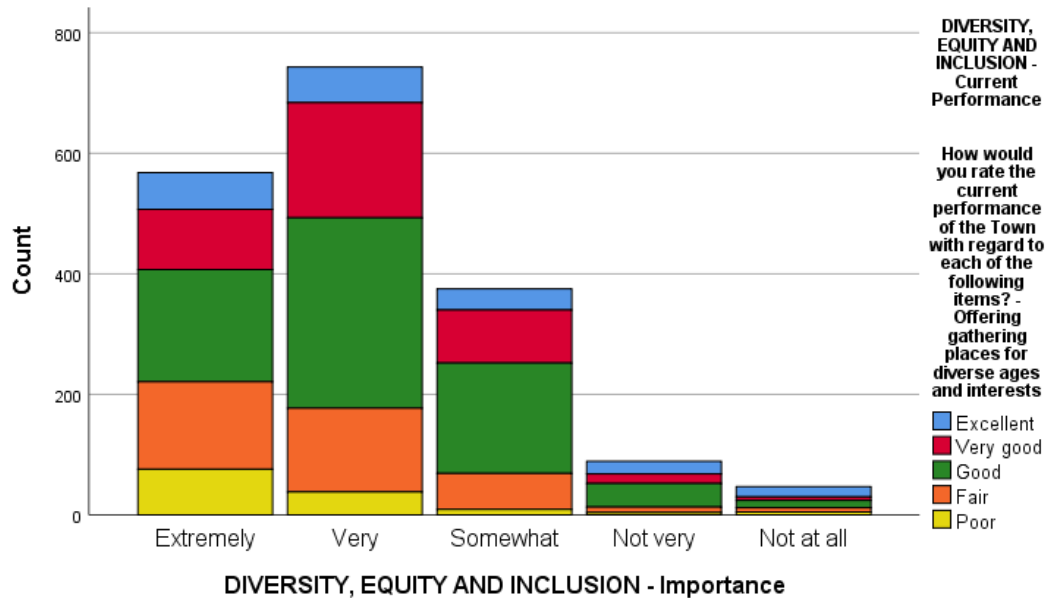


How important are each of the following to you in preserving or improving Lexington? - Welcoming diverse groups of people

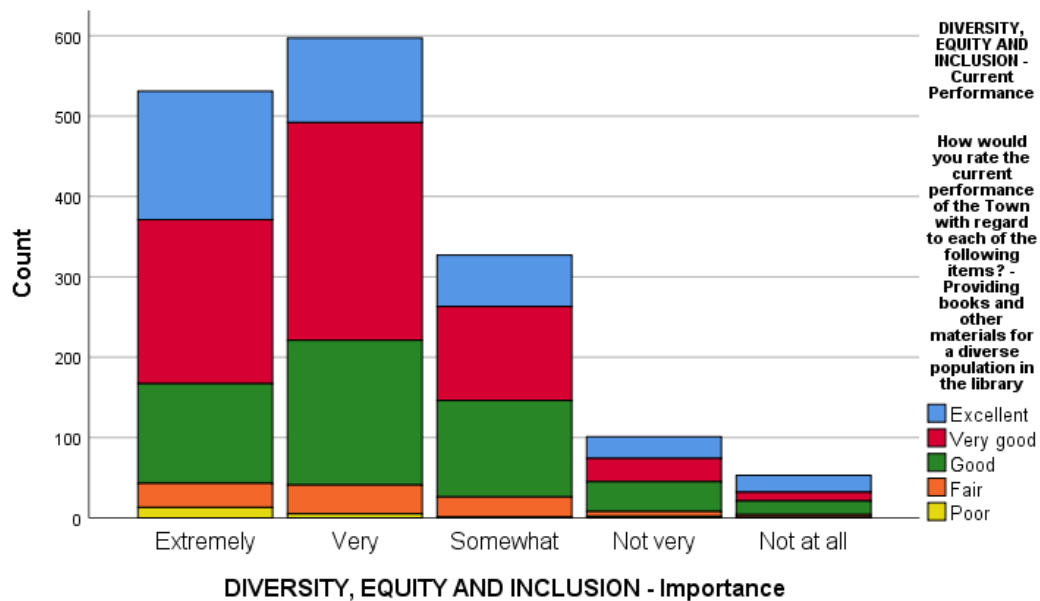


How important are each of the following to you in preserving or improving Lexington? - Ensuring housing is available for a diverse population

Final Report on Town-Wide Survey 2022

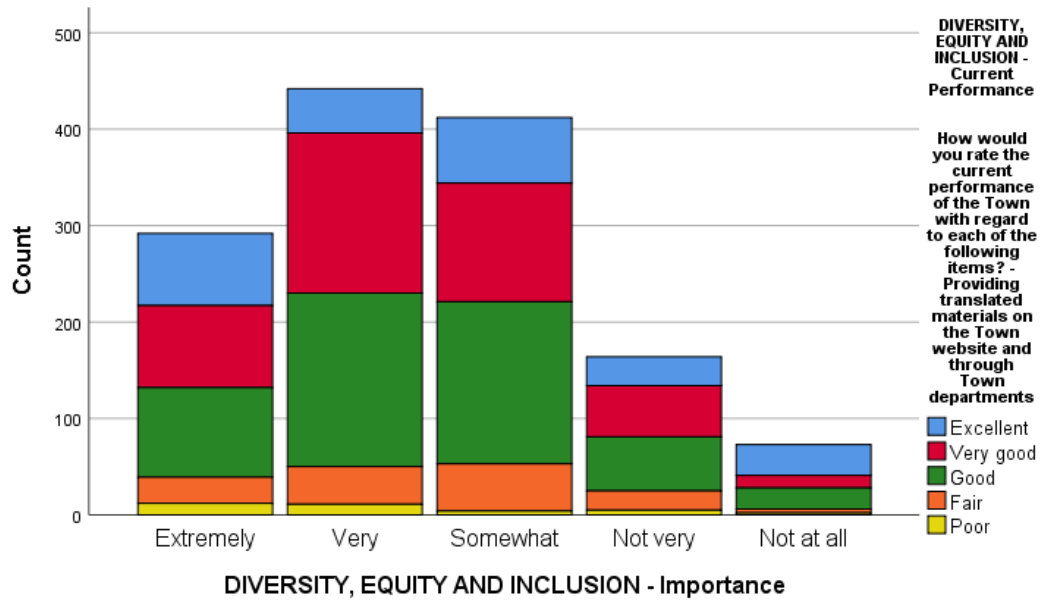


How important are each of the following to you in preserving or improving Lexington? - Offering gathering places for diverse ages and interests

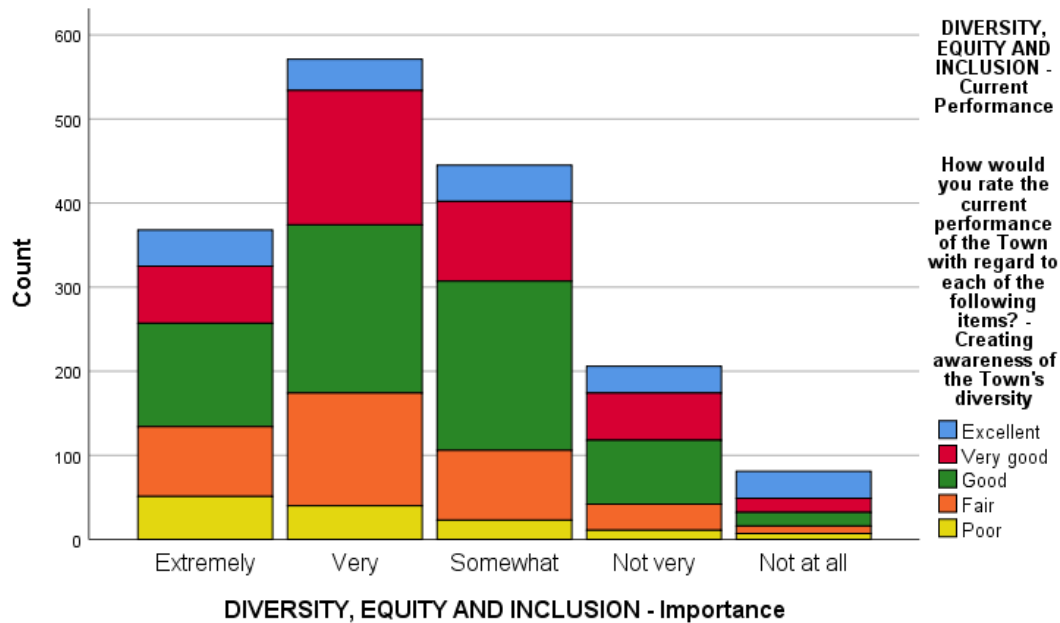


How important are each of the following to you in preserving or improving Lexington? - Providing books and other materials for a diverse population in the library

Final Report on Town-Wide Survey 2022

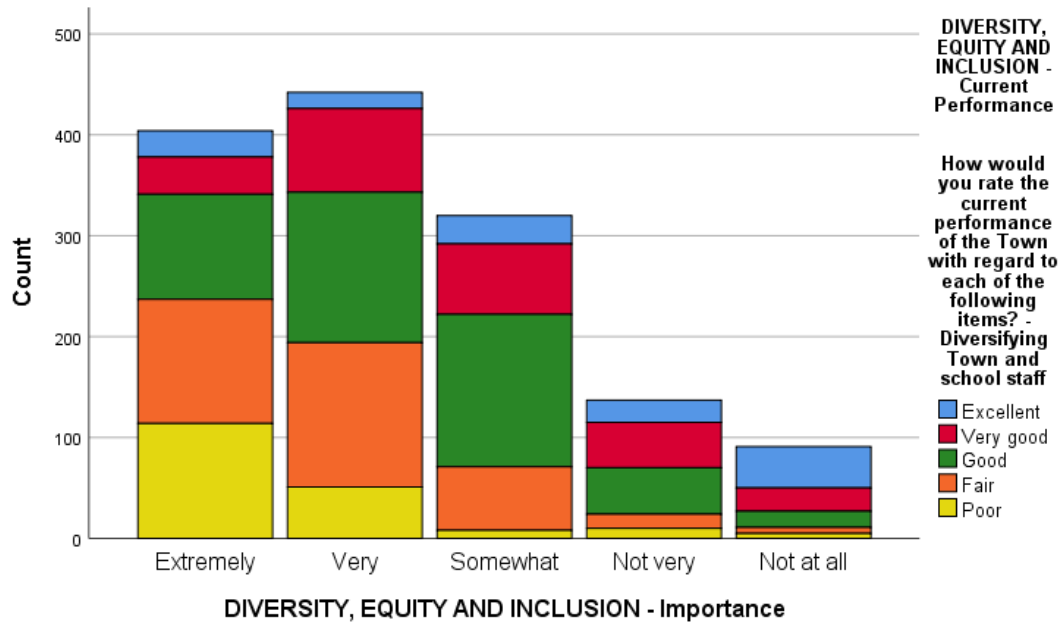


How important are each of the following to you in preserving or improving Lexington? - Providing translated materials on the Town website and through Town departments



How important are each of the following to you in preserving or improving Lexington? - Creating awareness of the Town's diversity

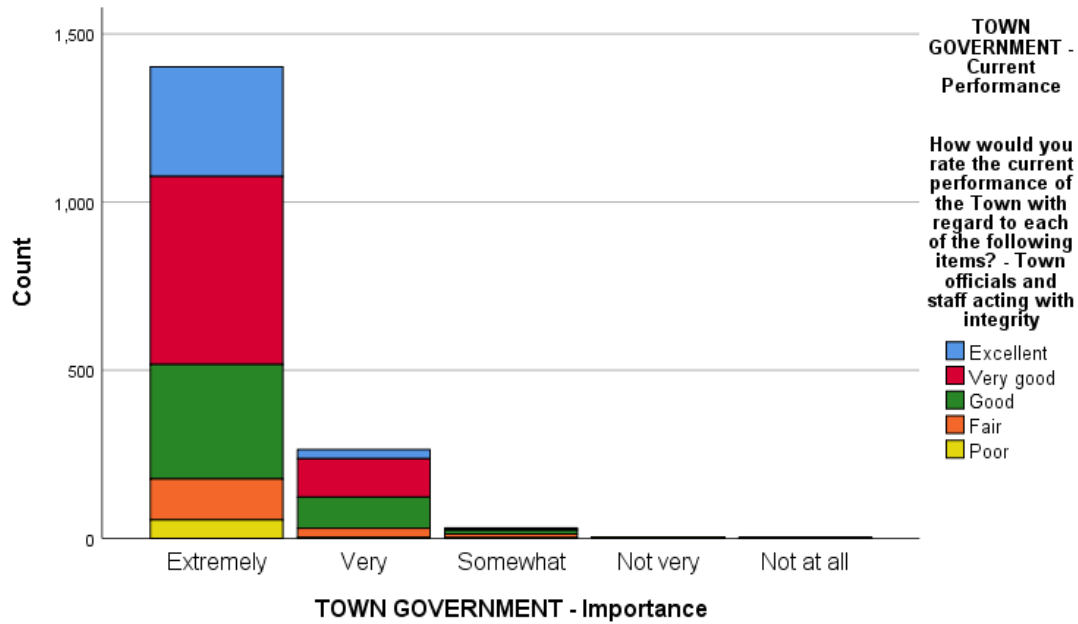
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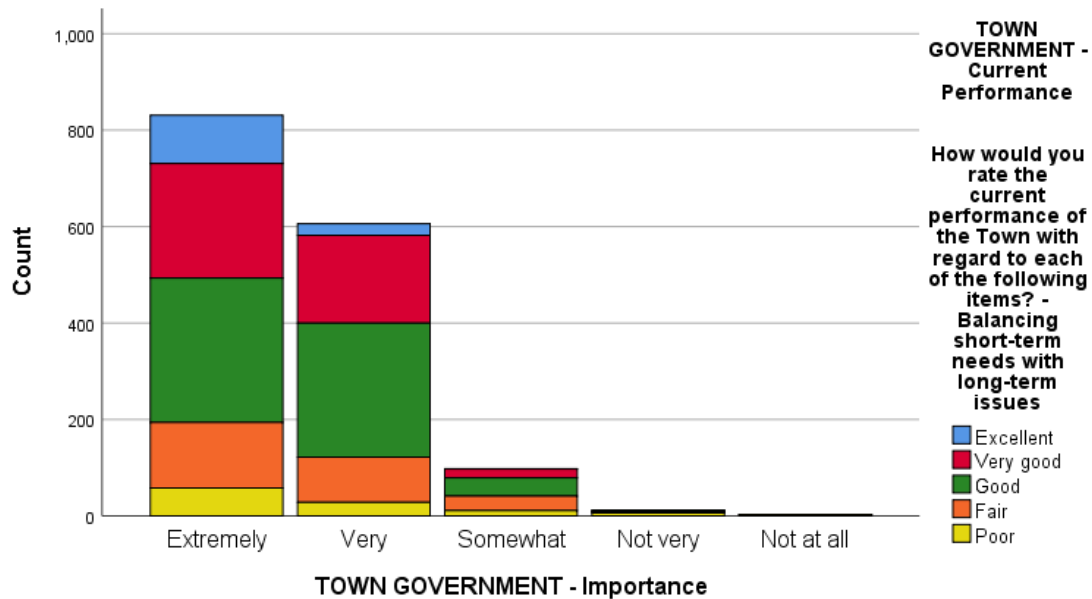
How important are each of the following to you in preserving or improving Lexington? - Diversifying Town and school staff

Final Report on Town-Wide Survey 2022

Town Government

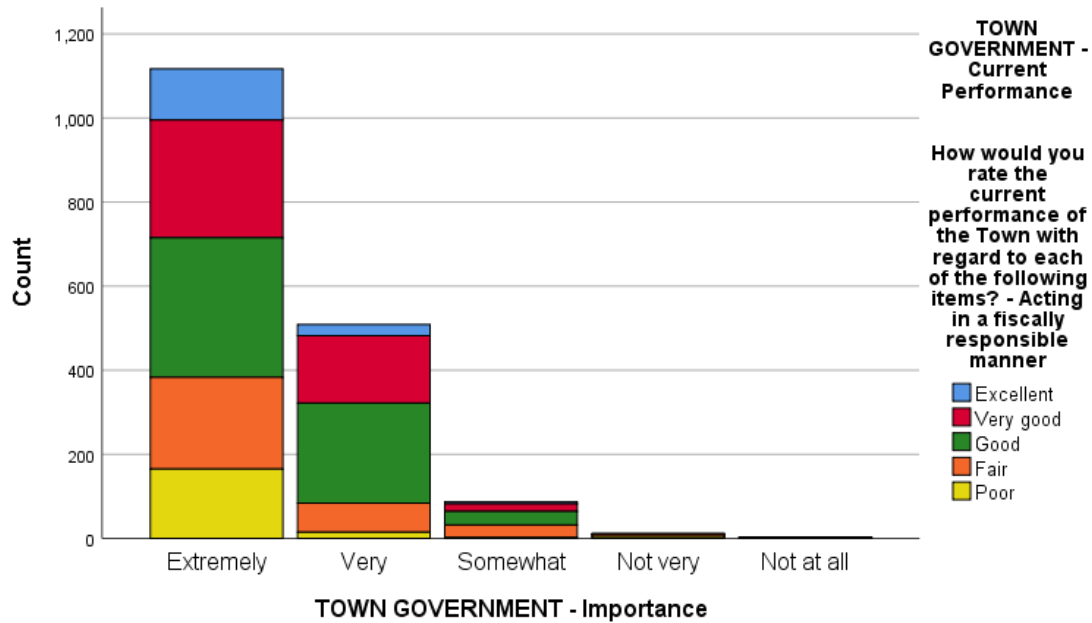


How important are each of the following items to you in preserving or improving Lexington? - Town officials and staff acting with integrity

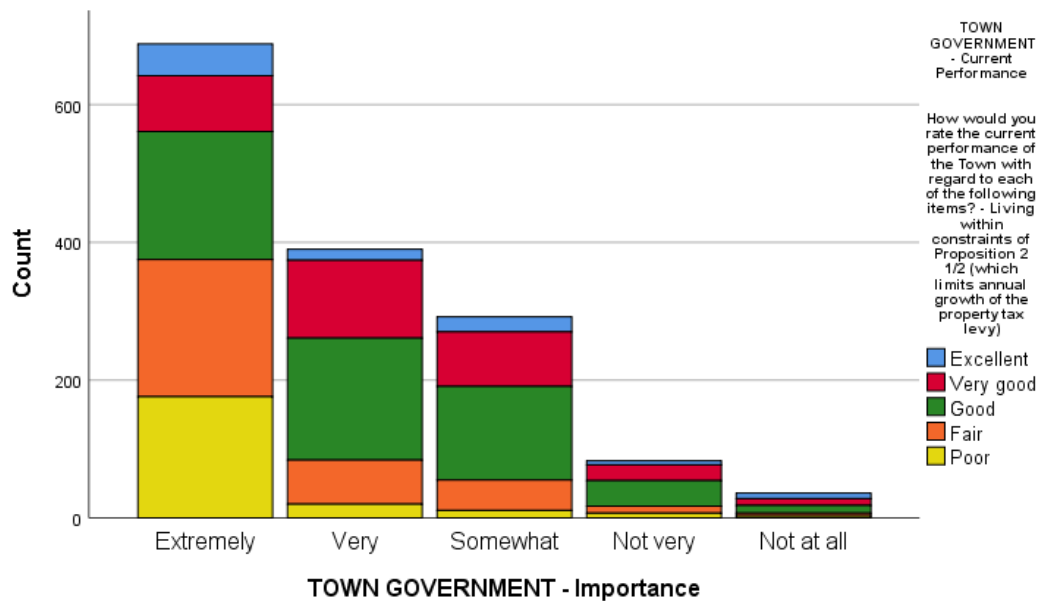


How important are each of the following items to you in preserving or improving Lexington? - Balancing short-term needs with long-term issues

Final Report on Town-Wide Survey 2022

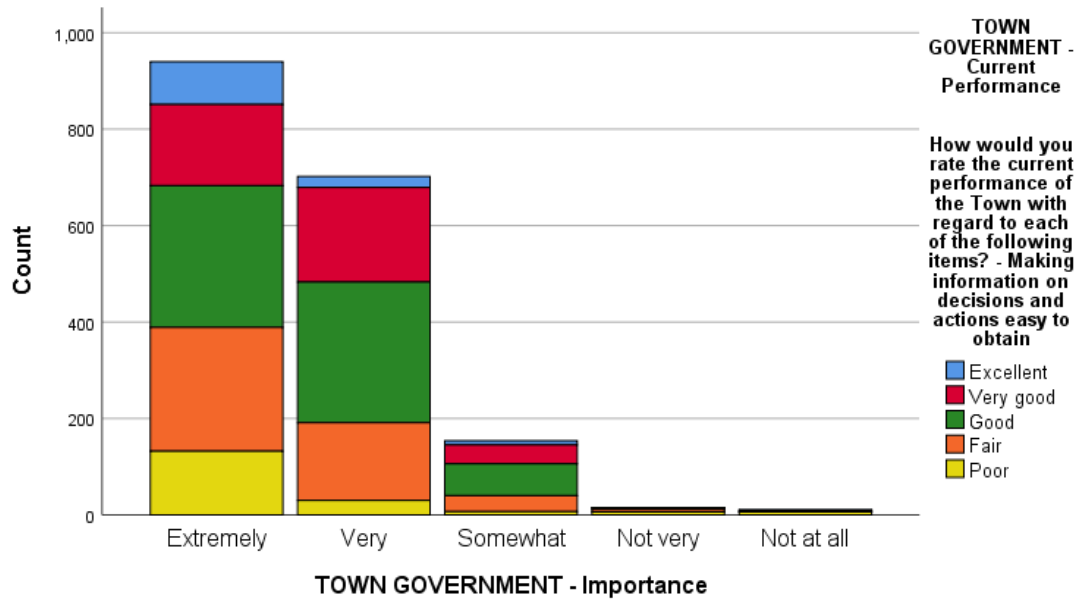


How important are each of the following items to you in preserving or improving Lexington? - Acting in a fiscally responsible manner

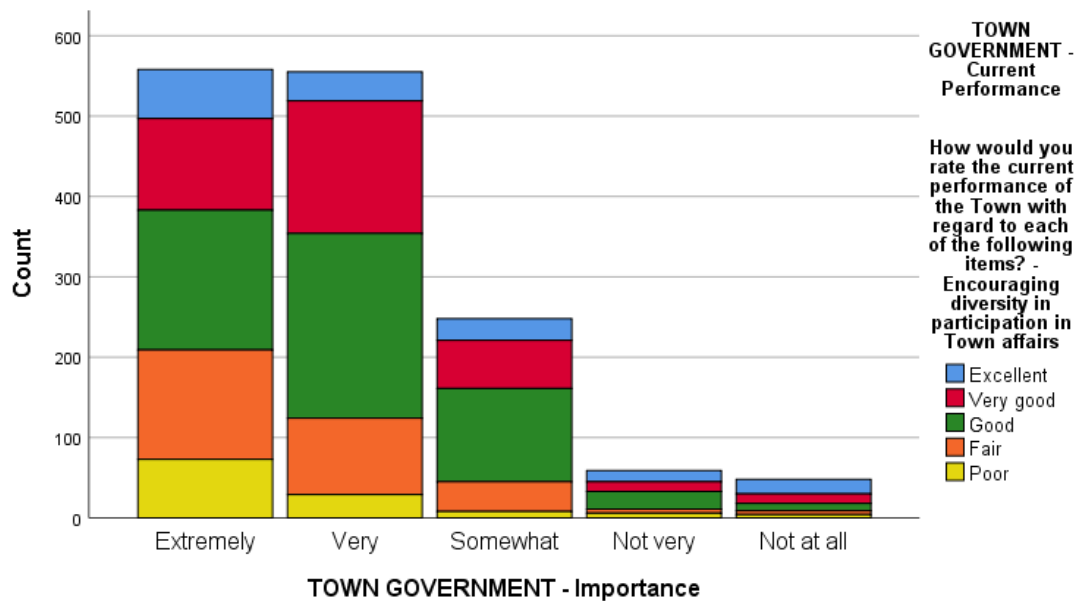


How important are each of the following items to you in preserving or improving Lexington? - Living within constraints of Proposition 2 1/2 (which limits annual growth of the property tax levy)

Final Report on Town-Wide Survey 2022

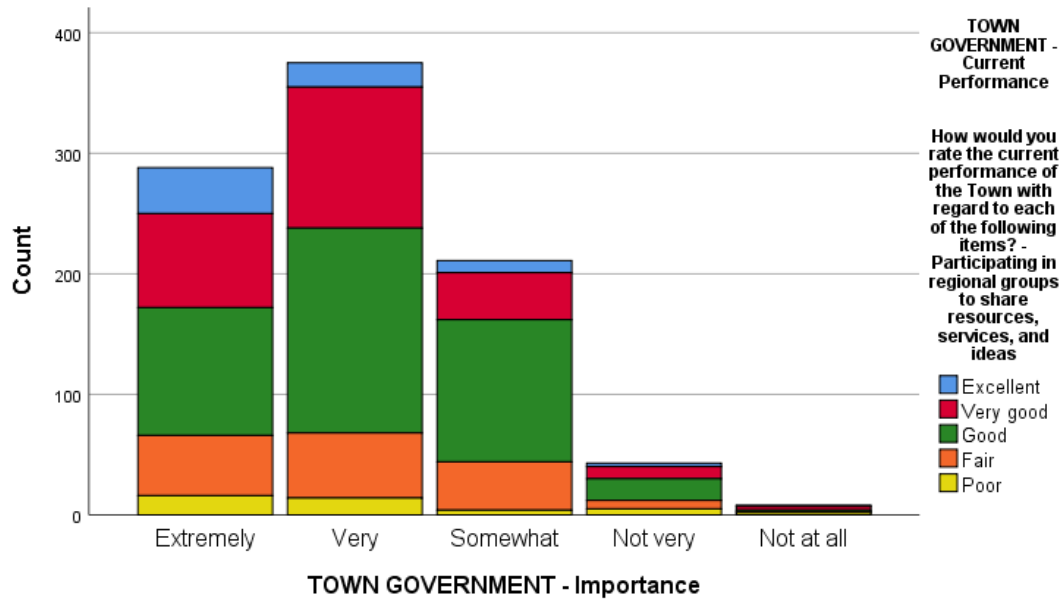


How important are each of the following items to you in preserving or improving Lexington? - Making information on decisions and actions easy to obtain

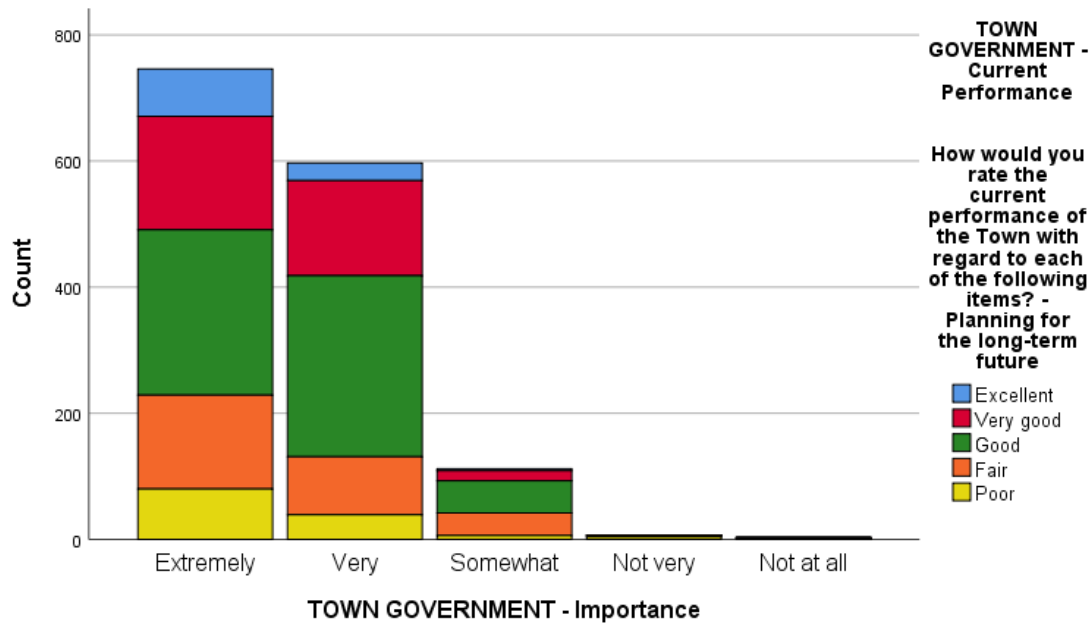


How important are each of the following items to you in preserving or improving Lexington? - Encouraging diversity in participation in Town affairs

Final Report on Town-Wide Survey 2022

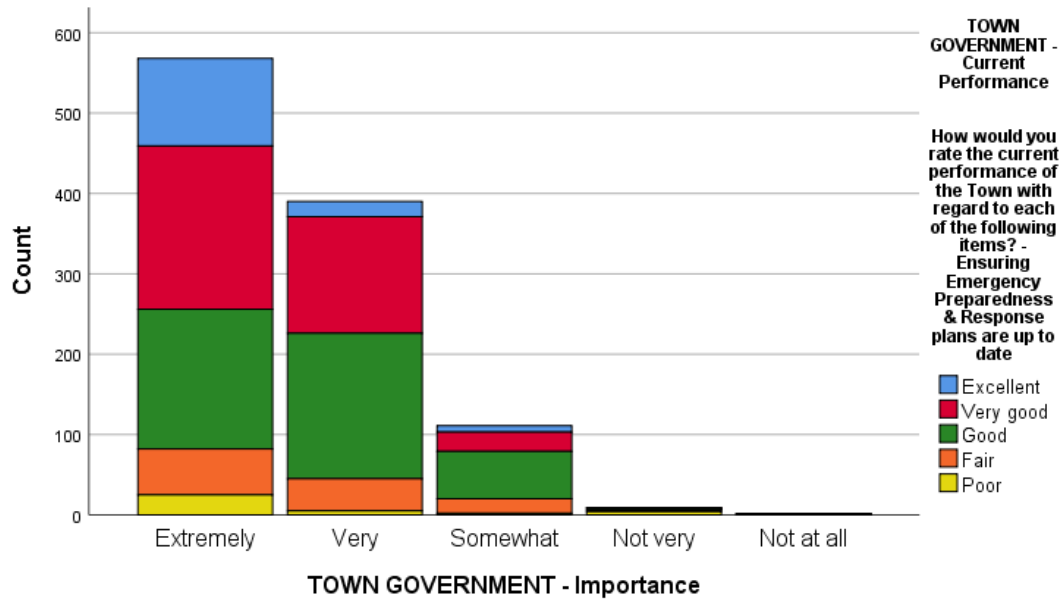


How important are each of the following items to you in preserving or improving Lexington? - Participating in regional groups to share resources, services, and ideas



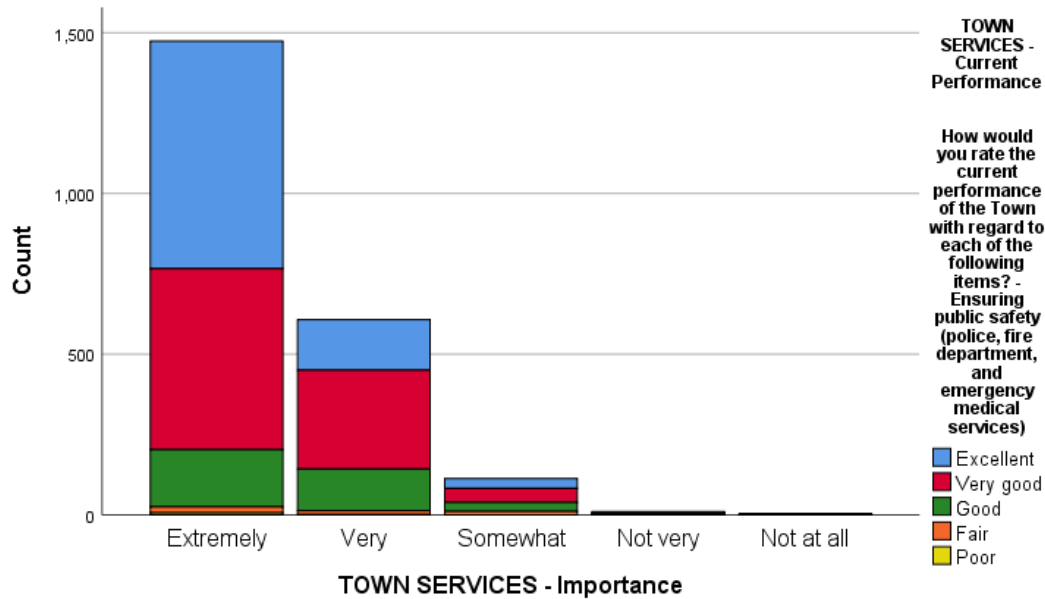
How important are each of the following items to you in preserving or improving Lexington? - Planning for the long-term future

Final Report on Town-Wide Survey 2022

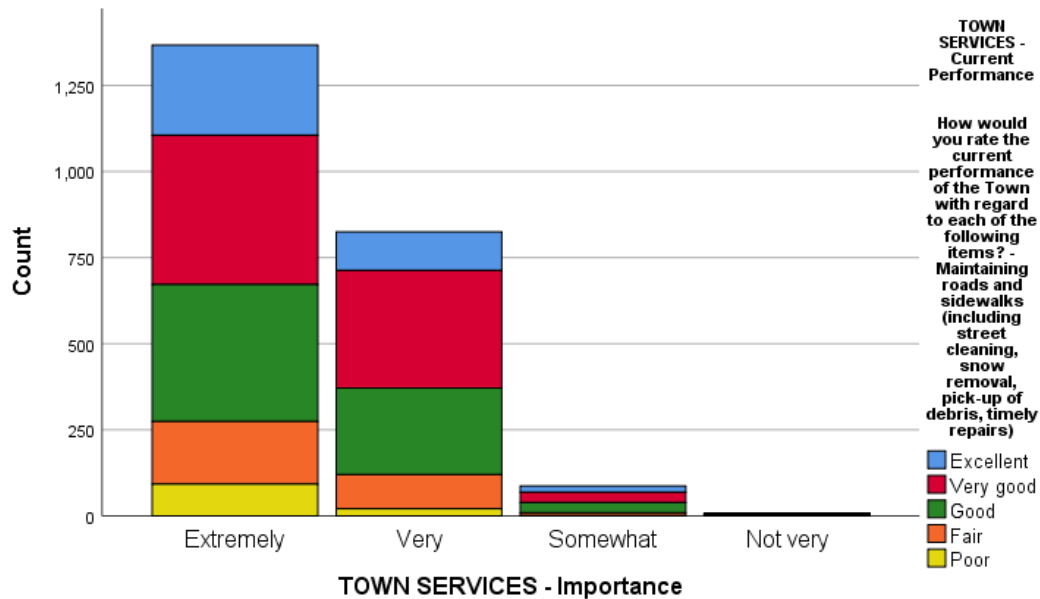


Final Report on Town-Wide Survey 2022

Town Services

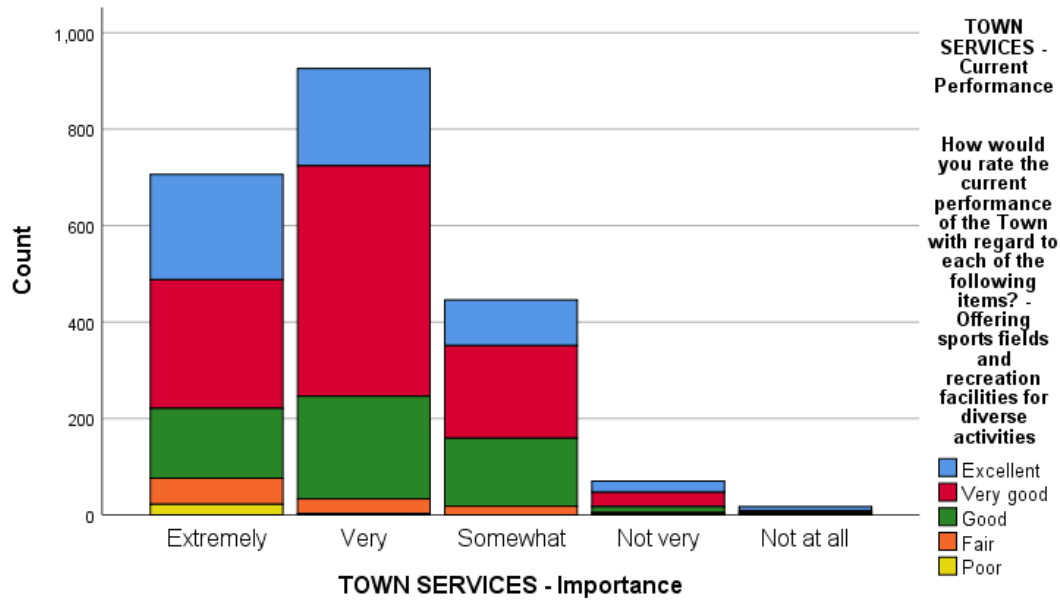


How important are each of the following items to you in preserving or improving Lexington? - Ensuring public safety (police, fire department, and emergency medical services)

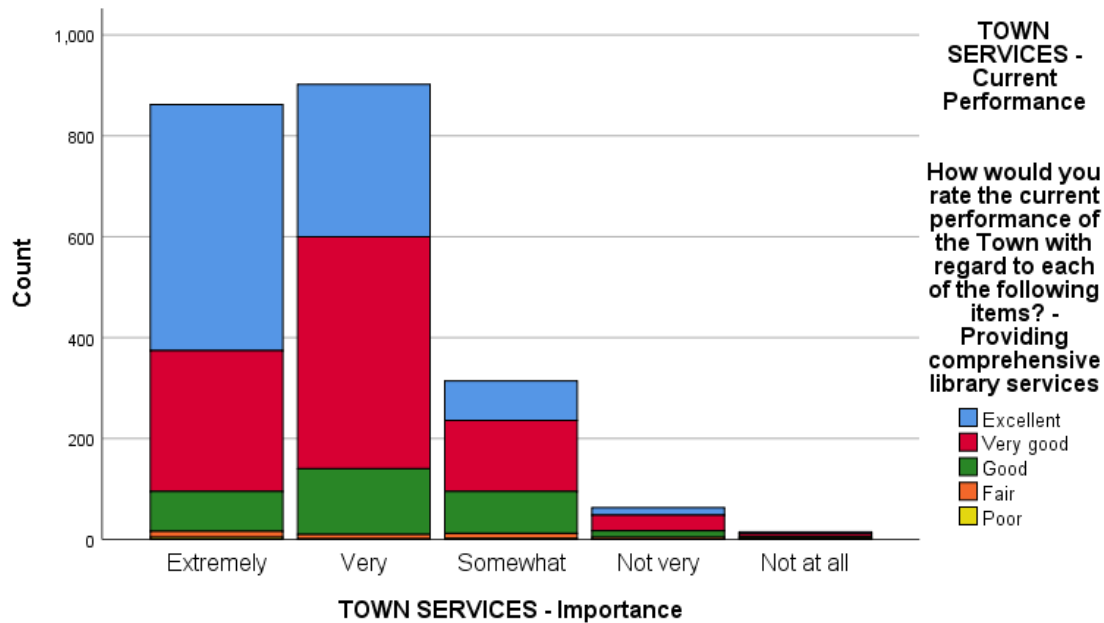


How important are each of the following items to you in preserving or improving Lexington? - Maintaining roads and sidewalks (including street cleaning, snow removal, pick-up of debris, timely repairs)

Final Report on Town-Wide Survey 2022

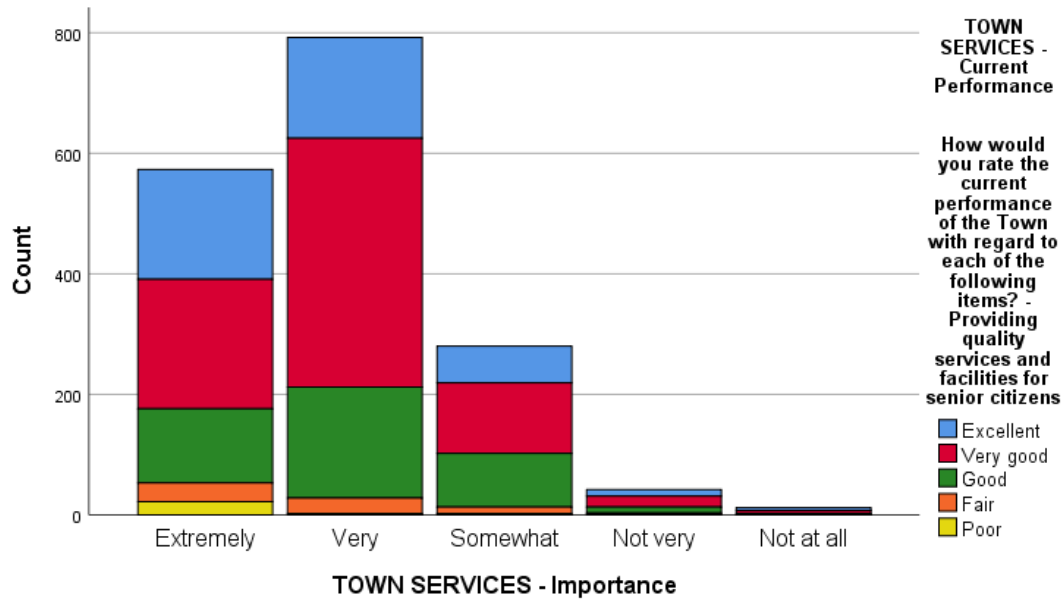


How important are each of the following items to you in preserving or improving Lexington? - Offering sports fields and recreation facilities for diverse activities

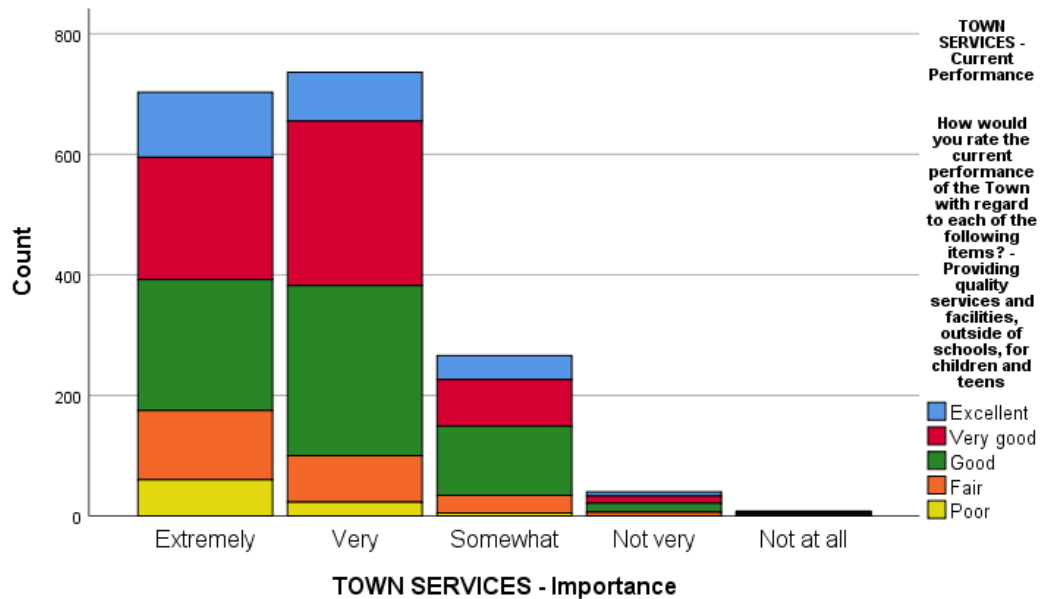


How important are each of the following items to you in preserving or improving Lexington? - Providing comprehensive library services

Final Report on Town-Wide Survey 2022

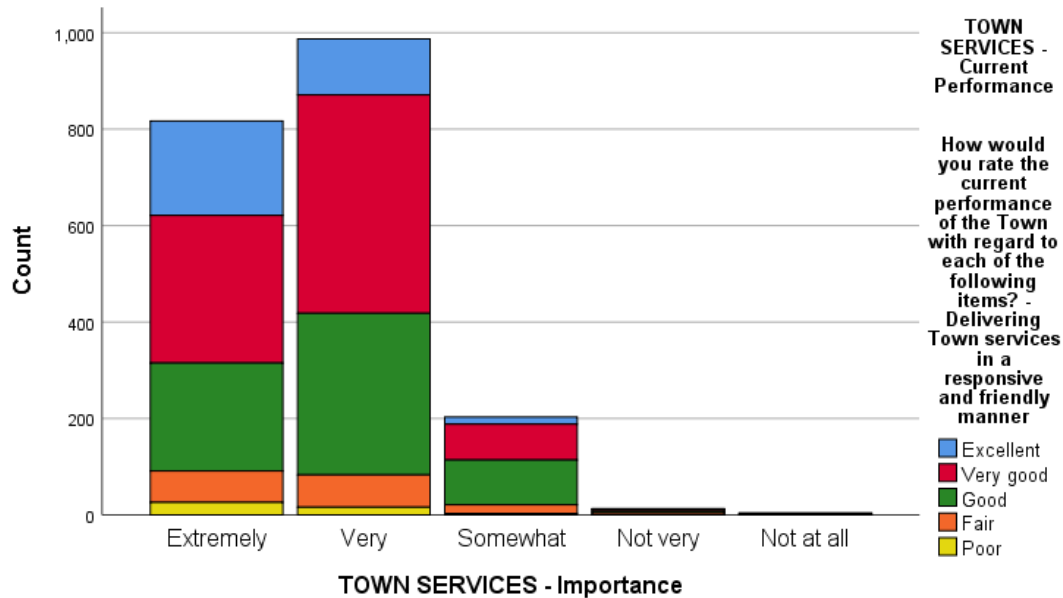


How important are each of the following items to you in preserving or improving Lexington? - Providing quality services and facilities for senior citizens

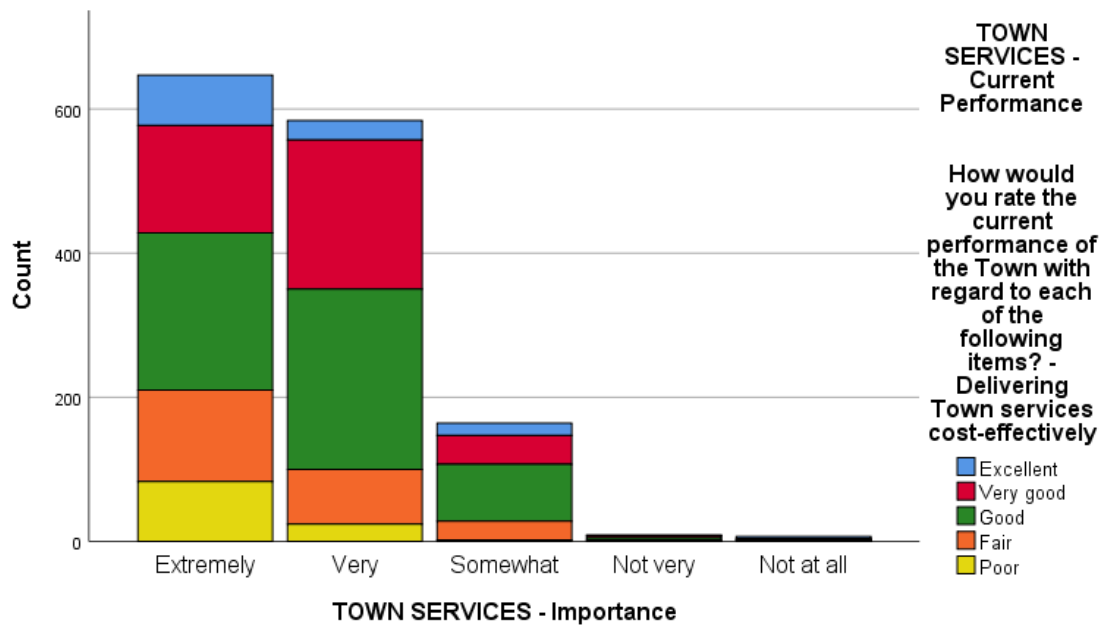


How important are each of the following items to you in preserving or improving Lexington? - Providing quality services and facilities, outside of schools, for children and teens

Final Report on Town-Wide Survey 2022

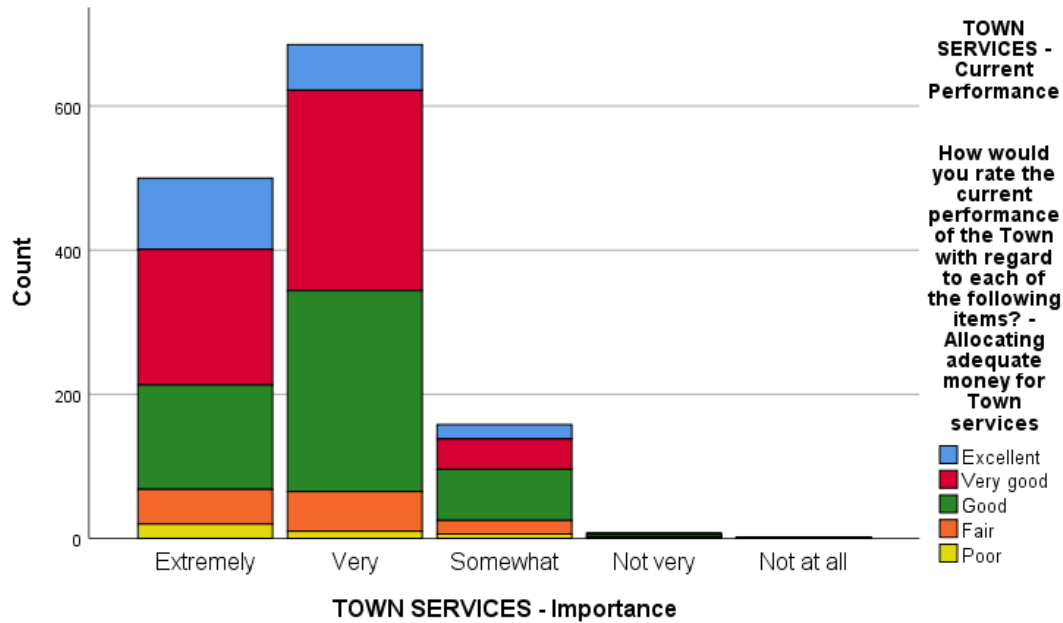


How important are each of the following items to you in preserving or improving Lexington? - Delivering Town services in a responsive and friendly manner

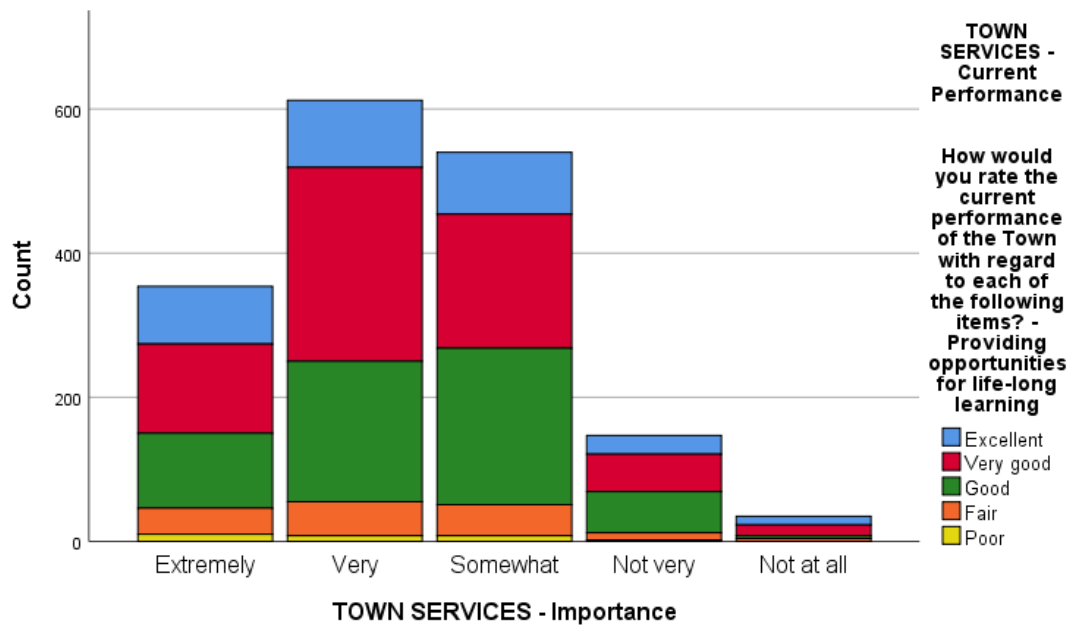


How important are each of the following items to you in preserving or improving Lexington? - Delivering Town services cost-effectively

Final Report on Town-Wide Survey 2022



How important are each of the following items to you in preserving or improving Lexington? - Allocating adequate money for Town services



How important are each of the following items to you in preserving or improving Lexington? - Providing opportunities for life-long learning

Final Report on Town-Wide Survey 2022

Appendix D – List of Tables and Charts

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AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

LEXINGTON SELECT BOARD MEETING

AGENDA ITEM TITLE:

Discussion: Town Manager Performance Evaluation

PRESENTER:

Board Discussion

ITEM NUMBER:

I.3

SUMMARY:

Category: Informing

The Select Board will conduct its annual review of the Town Manager Steve Bartha's performance. Individual Board member evaluations have been collected and consolidated into a summarized report for discussion.

At the public meeting, the Board will review the consolidated evaluation, discuss key performance themes, and consider any areas for refinement or clarification. Any member of the Board may request adjustments or additions to the consolidated review based on the discussion and the evaluation materials presented.

SUGGESTED MOTION:

FOLLOW-UP:

DATE AND APPROXIMATE TIME ON AGENDA:

12/15/2025

7:20pm

ATTACHMENTS:

Description	Type
 Draft Town Manager Performance Evaluation	Backup Material



Town of Lexington, Massachusetts

SELECT BOARD OFFICE

JILL I. HAI, CHAIR
JOSEPH N. PATO
DOUGLAS M. LUCENTE
MARK D. SANDEEN
VINEETA KUMAR

TEL: (781) 698-4580
FAX: (781) 863-9468

Town Manager: Steve Bartha
Review Period: 11/2024-10/2025

Rating Scale
4.5 to 5.0 – Outstanding
4.0 to 4.4 - Exceeds Expectations
3.0 to 3.9 - Meets Expectations
2.0 to 2.9 - Needs Improvement
0.0 to 1.9 - Unacceptable

Integrated Performance Review

Summary

Based on the Town Manager Performance Evaluations submitted by four members of the Select Board, the overall total rating score received for the past year is a 4.1- Exceeds Expectations.

The Select Board expressed deep appreciation for your strong and dedicated start as Town Manager. Every member noted that you stepped into an exceptionally demanding first year—with major capital planning underway, Lex250 preparations in full swing, complex zoning work, and multiple labor negotiations—you approached these challenges with energy, thoughtfulness, and steadiness. There is consistent acknowledgement of how quickly you adapted, how fully you immersed yourself in the community, and how effectively you managed a wide range of responsibilities during this pivotal time and your first year in Lexington.

Major Capital Projects

You provided solid administrative support and effective coordination, particularly on the Lexington High School project. As you gain additional familiarity with Lexington's long-range planning processes, there is room for a more proactive role in examining assumptions, questioning, to help ensure that major capital decisions remain well-grounded and fully vetted.

Housing & Community Development

You demonstrated strong relationship-building and steady support for housing related work, examples include convening the Housing Summit, and work with the MBTA Communities recalibration. This first year effort laid a strong foundation. There is room for forward-looking scenario planning.

Lex250 Celebration

The event was a significant success and your cross-departmental coordination and supportive leadership contributed meaningfully to a smooth and safe celebration.

Quality of Life, Resident Services, and Communications

During this first year, you shepherded progress on several quality-of-life initiatives, including Age-in-Community work, senior tax relief, and implementation of HERO Act-related benefits. There is encouragement for continued work to improve everyday resident-facing services, such as the need for a modern and reliable system for reporting concerns, as well as clearer communication about smaller public works and construction activity to support residents' day-to-day experience.

Economic Development

You made strong initial progress in establishing relationships with businesses, developers, and employers in this first year and the Board looks forward to seeing that work further a proactive and strategic approach to this important area.

Leadership, Staff Relations, and Internal Management

You made significant efforts in relationship-building with staff and the Senior Management Team. There are noticeable improvements in morale, collaboration, and organizational connection. Your efforts to engage with both frontline staff and senior leaders has also been clear and appreciated.

We look forward to your deepened strategic engagement, including independently evaluating recommendations, strengthening communication pathways, and maintaining a focus on accountability and team development as the organization evolves.

Financial Management

Financial management feedback was consistently positive, with all members commending your leadership through the FY2026 budget process and the continued maintenance of the Town's Aaa bond rating. Moving forward, there is a desire for more involvement with our long-range financial planning, innovation, and fiscal scenario analysis, to prepare for emerging pressures.

Labor Relations and Personnel Management

Having jumped into the middle of a major year for management of labor relations and personnel matters, you demonstrated a balanced and effective approach to multiple contract negotiations and worked to advance the Town's compensation philosophy. Your ability to find compromises and also to stand firm when needed, are appreciated.. Maintaining a strong focus on expectations, accountability, and performance will remain essential as the Town continues to invest in its workforce.

Community Presence and Public Engagement

Your efforts to become a highly visible presence in the community, attending events, connecting with residents, and supporting civic programs were clear and we look forward to you continuing that presence and furthering ties with the community and committee leadership.. Now with a better understanding of the community, you have the opportunity to take a more prominent leadership role during challenging public discussions.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

The restructuring of the Town's diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts was a thoughtful and effective response to organizational needs and a significant achievement. We look forward to seeing measurable outcomes both within the organization and throughout the broader community from this work.

SELECT BOARD

Jill I. Hai, Chair

Joseph N. Pato

Douglas M. Lucente

Mark D. Sandeen

Vineeta A. Kumar

DATE: _____

TOWN MANAGER

Steve Bartha

DATE: _____

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

LEXINGTON SELECT BOARD MEETING

AGENDA ITEM TITLE:

Discussion: Generate List of Decision Points for Non-Residential Development Surcharge for Affordable Housing

PRESENTER:

Board Discussion

ITEM NUMBER:

I.4

SUMMARY:

Category: Informing

At its December 8, 2025 meeting, the Select Board received a presentation on the Non-Residential Development Nexus Study for affordable housing. Following the presentation, the Board agreed that it would be useful to compile a list of decision points that will be required.

For this discussion, the Board will review the consultant's policy and administrative recommendations regarding non-residential housing contribution and develop a related set of policies/procedures:

- Setting the project size threshold at 30,000 square feet.
- Applying the housing contribution across all non-residential uses with no exemptions.
- Establishing a uniform fee across uses and throughout all areas of Lexington.
- Requiring payment of the one-time fee in three installments:
- Indexing the fee annually using either the Boston CPI or a construction-cost index.
- Reviewing and resetting the fee every 5–7 years in response to market conditions and projected non-residential development activity.

The purpose of this agenda item is for the Board to identify, refine, and expand the full set of decision points that will guide future consideration of whether and how to implement a non-residential development surcharge to support affordable housing.

SUGGESTED MOTION:

FOLLOW-UP:

DATE AND APPROXIMATE TIME ON AGENDA:

12/15/2025

7:40pm

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

LEXINGTON SELECT BOARD MEETING

AGENDA ITEM TITLE:

Vote: Article 97 Filing for High School Project

PRESENTER:

Steve Bartha, Town Manager

ITEM NUMBER:

I.5

SUMMARY:

On November 3, prior to STM 2025-2, the Select Board voted 5-0 in favor of Article 9 (home rule legislation for Article 97), which then passed with over 90% support from Town Meeting. On December 8, Lexingtonians then voted in favor of the LHS debt exclusion with 62% support.

Although it is arguable that the November 3 Select Board vote to authorize home rule legislation already satisfies the requirements laid out in Article 97 guidance issued by the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA) in 1998, town counsel is recommending that the November 3 vote be reaffirmed tonight—as a standalone item not connected to a town meeting article—to make clear the town's intent as the process moves forward.

SUGGESTED MOTION:

Move that the Board affirm its desire, as expressed at the November 3, 2025, Special Town Meeting, to petition the General Court to enact special legislation pursuant to Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution, in substantially the form authorized by Town Meeting, to authorize the transfer of the Center Athletic Field Parcels currently under the care, custody, management and control of the Select Board to the School Committee for school purposes and to authorize the Legislature to make changes to the text of such legislation as is consistent, subject to approval of such changes by the Town Manager.

FOLLOW-UP:

DATE AND APPROXIMATE TIME ON AGENDA:

12/15/2025

7:55pm

ATTACHMENTS:

Description	Type
📎 Select Board Statement from STM on Art. 97	Cover Memo
📎 Memo on Status of Article 97 (from 12.8 LSB Mtg)	Cover Memo



Town of Lexington Annual Town Meeting 2025-2

Article 9: Home Rule Legislation for New Lexington High School

Presenter: Jill Hai

This article requests that Town Meeting take three-related actions to allow for the construction of the new Lexington High School to move forward.

The first action is to transfer custody and control of certain areas of the current high school campus that are used for playing fields from the Select Board to the School Committee for the site of the new High School building.

The second action transfers from the School Committee to the Select Board the care and custody of land currently being used for the High School building for the new athletic fields. This action formally dedicates these lands to playing fields and related recreational uses pursuant to Article 97 of the Amendments to the Massachusetts Constitution.

The last action is related to the first. The areas of the current playing fields that will be used for the new High School building were acquired by the Town in 1914 and 1915 for park and recreation purposes by grants from August B. Scott, a park commissioner and former High School Principal in Lexington.

In 1961, the state legislature formally permitted the Town to use these fields for school building purposes. To confirm that it is *still* Town Meeting's desire that these fields be used for school building purposes (as they were authorized in 1961), and avoid any legal uncertainty over the Town's rights to build on these parcels as it embarks on this important project, the Select Board seeks the authority to file legislation pursuant to Article 97 reconfirming the 1961 release of any and all restrictions on the land that will be used for the new school, subject to adequate mitigation being provided in the form of new playing fields as stated in the second part of this motion.

The Town has already taken steps to begin the Article 97 process, including making the necessary filings with the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs to begin review of the proposed land swap to ensure that the Town is providing adequate recreational facilities for those that would be used for the new building. Overall, the Town is achieving “no net loss” of fields as all eight acres of existing fields to be used will be replaced with new fields, most on the same High School campus.

The Select Board unanimously supports the passage of Article 9.



Town of Lexington

Town Manager's Office



Steve Bartha, Town Manager
Kelly Axtell, Deputy Town Manager

Tel: (781) 698-4540
Fax: (781) 861-2921

Memorandum

To: Lexington Select Board
From: Steve Bartha, Town Manager *Step Bartha*
Date: December 3, 2025
Subject: Status of Article 97 Filing for High School Project

On November 3, prior to STM 2025-2, the Select Board voted 5-0 in favor of Article 9 (home rule legislation for Article 97), which then passed with over 90% support from Town Meeting.

As (a) explained by town counsel prior to Town Meeting and (b) noted in the accompanying Select Board Statement (attached), Town Meeting was being asked, in part, to "confirm that it is still Town Meeting's desire that these fields be used for school building purposes (as they were authorized in 1961), and avoid any legal uncertainty over the Town's rights to build on these parcels as it embarks on this important project, the Select Board seeks the authority to file legislation pursuant to Article 97 reconfirming the 1961 release of any and all restrictions on the land that will be used for the new school..."

The vote tonight should be viewed in a similar light. Although it is arguable that the 5-0 vote prior to STM 2025-2 to authorize home rule legislation already satisfies the requirements laid out in Article 97 guidance issued by the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA) in 1998, counsel is recommending that the November 3 vote be reaffirmed tonight to make clear the town's intent as the process moves forward.

The Town has been discussing and/or preparing for a potential Article 97 filing for many years. Provided the voters approve today's Debt Exclusion question, a Home Rule Petition will be presented to the Legislature for passage. The Town has received every indication from EOEA and members of our delegation that our Article 97 filing is straightforward. Our project is currently under review with the EOEA (which has viewed the project positively so far). Acting now allows our delegation to begin taking the steps necessary to file the legislation and preparing it for votes as soon as EOEA acts on the Article 97 submittal to maximize the chances for quick legislative action in the new year. That action, in turn, will allow us to stay on schedule with the project and minimize cost escalations.

Recommended Motion:

Move that the Board affirm its desire, as expressed at the November 3, 2025, Special Town Meeting, to petition the General Court to enact special legislation pursuant to Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution, in substantially the form authorized by Town Meeting, to authorize the transfer of the Center Athletic Field Parcels currently under the care, custody, management and control of the Select Board to the School Committee for school purposes and to authorize the Legislature to make changes to the text of such legislation as is consistent, subject to approval of such changes by the Town Manager; provided that the filing of such petition shall only occur if the Town votes in favor of the debt exclusion put before the voters today.

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

LEXINGTON SELECT BOARD MEETING

AGENDA ITEM TITLE:

Approve: Reversal of Liquor License and Adjust Liquor License Renewal – Whiskey and Wine, 55 Bedford Street

PRESENTER:

Jill Hai, Select Board Chair

ITEM NUMBER:

I.6

SUMMARY:

Cateogry: Decision Making

This matter is before the Select Board because the previously submitted application to transfer the All-Alcohol Package Store License at 55 Bedford Street, can no longer proceed. The parties to the Purchase and Sale (P&S) Agreement have not completed the transaction, requiring the seller to retain the existing license and request withdrawal of the pending transfer application.

As required by the ABCC, a letter signed by both the seller and buyer, has been submitted stating that the P&S agreement has been terminated and both parties request that the transfer application be withdrawn and the license be reverted to the original owner.

The Select Board is asked to vote to:

1. Authorize withdrawal of the transfer application with the ABCC;
2. Revert the All-Alcohol Package Store License at 55 Bedford Street to the original owner, d/b/a Whiskey and Wine, due to the non-completion of the P&S agreement and
3. Approve the 2026 liquor license renewal in the original owner's name, d/b/a Whiskey and Wine, as part of this reversion

This vote will formally clarify the status of the license at the local level and allow the Select Board Office to communicate the necessary withdrawal and reversion to the ABCC.

SUGGESTED MOTION:

Move to

1. Authorize withdrawal of the transfer application with the ABCC;
2. Revert the All-Alcohol Package Store License at 55 Bedford Street to the original owner, d/b/a Whiskey and Wine, due to the non-completion of the P&S agreement and
3. Approve the 2026 liquor license renewal in the original owner's name, d/b/a Whiskey and Wine, as part of this reversion

FOLLOW-UP:

Select Board Office

DATE AND APPROXIMATE TIME ON AGENDA:

12/15/2025

8:00pm

ATTACHMENTS:

Description		Type
<input type="checkbox"/>	Signed Letter of request for reversal of Liquor License 55 Bedford Street	Backup Material
<input type="checkbox"/>	Internal Memo to Board - Situation Overview	Backup Material

December 4th, 2025

Lexington Select Board
Town of Lexington
1625 Massachusetts Avenue
Lexington, MA 02420

Re: Joint Request to Reverse Approved Liquor License Transfer

Dear Members of the Lexington Select Board,

We, the undersigned parties, jointly submit this letter to formally notify the Board that the previously proposed asset purchase and sale transaction for the liquor store business located at 53 Bedford Street, Lexington, MA 02420 will not be closing.

Because the transaction will not be completed, no transfer of ownership or operational control has taken place. 55 Pearl Investment, LLC continues to own and operate the business, and the Buyer has no legal authority or involvement in its operations.

Accordingly, we respectfully request that the Select Board reverse the approved liquor license transfer and restore the liquor license to the current lawful owner/operator, 55 Pearl Investment, LLC, so that the business remains in full compliance with all Massachusetts alcohol regulations.

This joint petition is provided voluntarily by both parties for the purpose of ensuring proper licensing, accurate regulatory records, and uninterrupted lawful business operation.

Please advise us if the Town requires any additional documentation or if an appearance before the Board is necessary.

Respectfully submitted,

SELLER:

H Patel

55 Pearl Investment, LLC

Date:

12/09/2025

BUYER:

Kevin P. O'Neill

Kevin P. O'Neill

Date:

12/4/25

TOWN OF LEXINGTON

Select Board

Memorandum

Date: December 9, 2025
To: Select Board
From: Kim Katzenback, Executive Clerk
cc: Steve Bartha, Town Manager
RE: Reversion of Liquor License, Withdrawal of Pending Transfer Application, and Renewal Adjustment – Whiskey and Wine, 55 Bedford Street

Purpose of the Packet Item

This item is before the Select Board because the Purchase and Sale (P&S) Agreement associated with the proposed transfer of the All-Alcohol Package Store License for Whiskey and Wine, 55 Bedford Street, was not completed. As a result, the pending license transfer application must be withdrawn, the license must revert to the existing owner, and the previously approved renewal must be corrected to reflect the proper license holder. The Board is asked to vote to confirm these actions.

Background

Under Massachusetts law, ownership of an alcohol license does not transfer to a buyer until the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission (ABCC) and the Local Licensing Authority (LLA) approve the transfer and issue the new license. Until that occurs, the seller retains full ownership and operating rights under the existing license.

Because the P&S agreement was not finalized, the license transfer cannot proceed, and the license must remain with the original owner.

Requirement for License Renewal During Pending Transfer

The ABCC had already approved the pending transfer application, which required the proposed buyer to file the annual liquor license renewal by the November 30 statutory deadline. At that time, the license was still in an “approved for transfer” status; therefore, the Select Board properly voted to approve the renewal under the buyer’s name for compliance purposes.

Now that the purchase has not been completed, and the Board is acting to revert the license to the current owner, the renewal must also be adjusted. Approval of the reversion includes approval of the 2026 license renewal in the original owner’s name to accurately reflect the lawful license holder in both local and ABCC records.

Need for Formal Withdrawal of the Transfer Application

A formal withdrawal of the pending transfer application is required to close the record both locally and at the ABCC. Without withdrawal, the application remains active and may trigger administrative complications, such as:

- Continued listing of the license as “pending transfer” in state systems;
- Ongoing or unresolved compliance checks by the Department of Revenue (DOR) or the Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA).

The seller or their legal counsel must submit written notification to both the LLA and the ABCC that the P&S agreement has been terminated and request withdrawal of the transfer application. Use of legal counsel experienced in Massachusetts liquor licensing is recommended.

Action Needed by the Select Board

The Select Board is asked to vote to:

1. **Revert the All-Alcohol Package Store License for Whiskey and Wine, 55 Bedford Street, to the original owner due to the non-completion of the P&S agreement;**
2. **Approve the 2026 liquor license renewal in the original owner's name as part of this reversion; and**
3. **Authorize withdrawal of the pending transfer application with the ABCC.**