



2025 Resident Survey Presentation of Results



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Data insights to help communities move forward.
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What is the Dakota County Resident Survey?

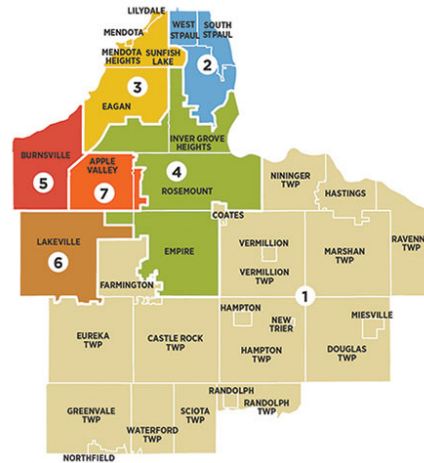
Statistically valid survey of
Dakota County residents

Scorecard of community
livability

Feedback on County services
and employees

Resident opinion about
community issues

Guide for future planning and
policy development



How was the Dakota County Resident Survey administered?

Surveys mailed to
7,000 households

786 completed
12%
Response Rate

Results
weighted to
reflect
community

Comparisons
to national
benchmarks

Comparisons to
four other
participating
MN Counties

Dear Dakota County Resident,

Dakota County Commissioners want to know what you think about your community and local government programs and services.

Your household has been randomly selected to participate in Dakota County's 2025 Community Survey. To hear from a representative group of residents, the adult 18 or older in your household who most recently had a birthday should complete this survey. You can go online and complete the confidential survey at:

www.polco.us/xxplaceholder

Please do not share your survey link. This survey is for randomly selected households only. You can also wait a few days for the survey to arrive in the mail. We do not track addresses or names; your responses are completely anonymous.

If you have any questions about the survey, please call 651-438-4496.

Thank you for helping create a better County!

Sincerely,

Michael J. ...

Dakota County 2025 Residential Survey

Please complete this questionnaire if you are the adult (age 18 or older) in the household who most recently had a birthday. The adult's year of birth does not matter. Your responses are anonymous and will be reported in group form only. Thank you.

1. How would you rate your overall quality of life in Dakota County? (Please select only one.)

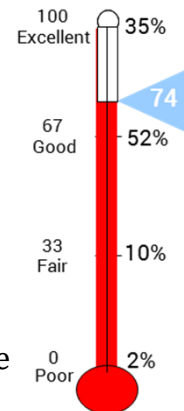
2. What one thing do you like most about living in Dakota County? (Please select only one.)

3. Please rate each of the following characteristics of Dakota County.

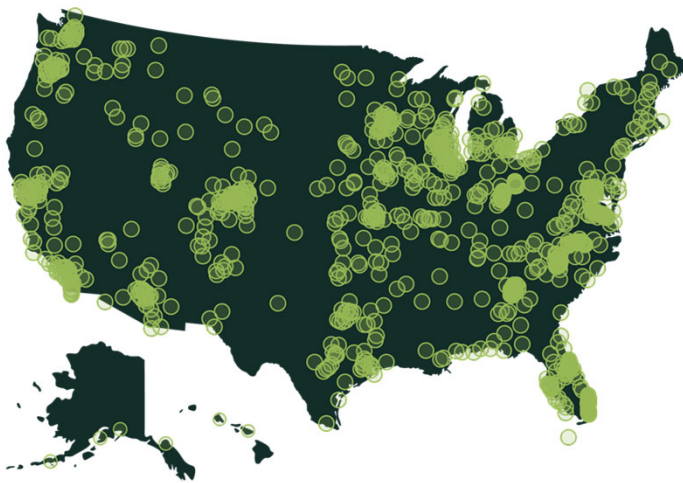
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't know
Dakota County as a place to live.....	1	2	3	4	5
Dakota County as a place to work.....	1	2	3	4	5
Dakota County as a place to retire.....	1	2	3	4	5
Dakota County as a place to raise a family.....	1	2	3	4	5
Sense of community.....	1	2	3	4	5
Openness and acceptance of people with diverse backgrounds.....	1	2	3	4	5
Outdoor recreational opportunities in Dakota County.....	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of biking paths and walking trails.....	1	2	3	4	5
Accessibility of biking paths and walking trails.....	1	2	3	4	5
Economic health of Dakota County.....	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of employment opportunities.....	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of quality, affordable child care.....	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of affordable housing.....	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of transportation/transit for work purposes and commuting.....	1	2	3	4	5
Water quality/health of environment.....	1	2	3	4	5

How to interpret the Dakota County Resident Survey results?

- Many responses on a 100-point scale
 - Average rating (not percent)
 - Excellent=100, Good=67, Fair=33, Poor=0
- Margin of error:
 - +/- 2 points for results reported on the 100-point scale
 - +/- 4 percentage points for results reported as percentages
- Significant differences from 2022 to 2025:
 - 2 points or more for results reported on the 100-point scale
 - 4 percentage points or more for results reported as percentages



POLCO'S BENCHMARKING DATABASE



More than **400** comparison communities across the nation.

Representing the opinions of more than **50 million** residents.



OVERVIEW OF SURVEY RESULTS



Key Finding #1

Quality of life ratings for
Dakota County residents
remain high.

Overall Quality of Life

How would you rate your overall quality of life in Dakota County?



**100-point scale*



Higher than Olmsted, Scott, and St. Louis County



Much higher than the national benchmark

Quality of Community

Top rated dimensions of community



Other well-rated dimensions:

- Outdoor recreational opportunities
- Accessibility of biking paths and walking trails



Higher than the national benchmark

What Residents Like Most

What one thing do you like most about living in Dakota County?



29%

Location



23%

Quality of life



13%

Parks and greenways



10%

My neighborhood



10%

Rural character

Key Finding #2

Evaluations of County services and the County government remain positive.

Overall Quality of County Services



**100-point scale*

Higher than Scott and St. Louis County

★ *Much higher than the national benchmark*

Highest-Rated Services



**Top
Five**

**100-point scale*

★ *Much higher than the national benchmark*

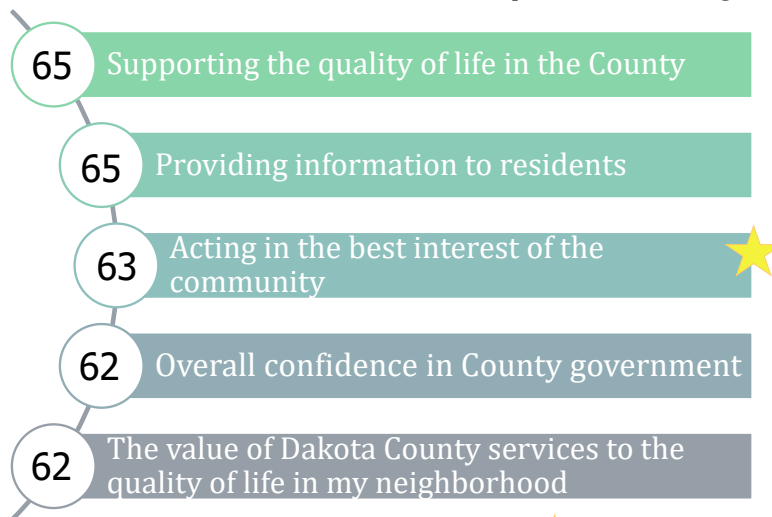
County Board Approval




**100-point scale*



Government Performance: Top-rated categories



**100-point scale*

 *Much higher than the national benchmark*

Government Performance Benchmarks

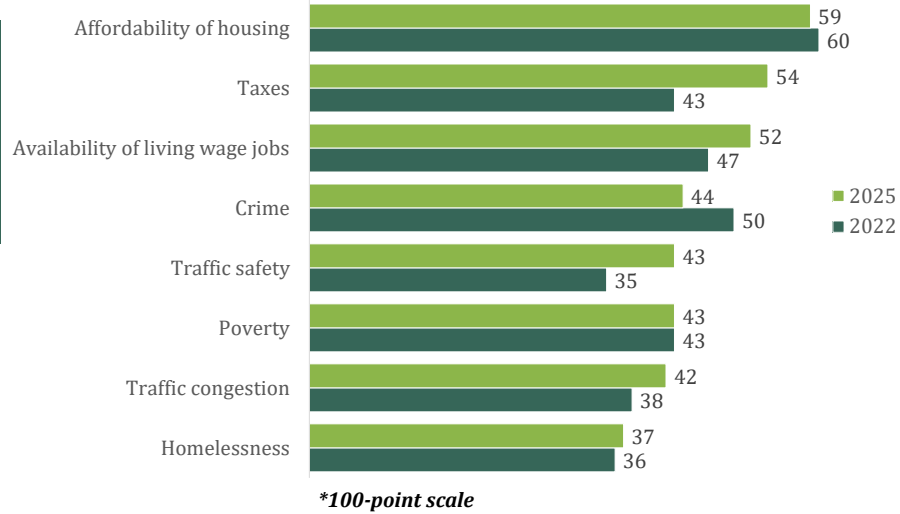


Key Finding #3

Residents are increasingly concerned about affordable housing and taxes, which have replaced safety issues as the most serious concerns in Dakota County.

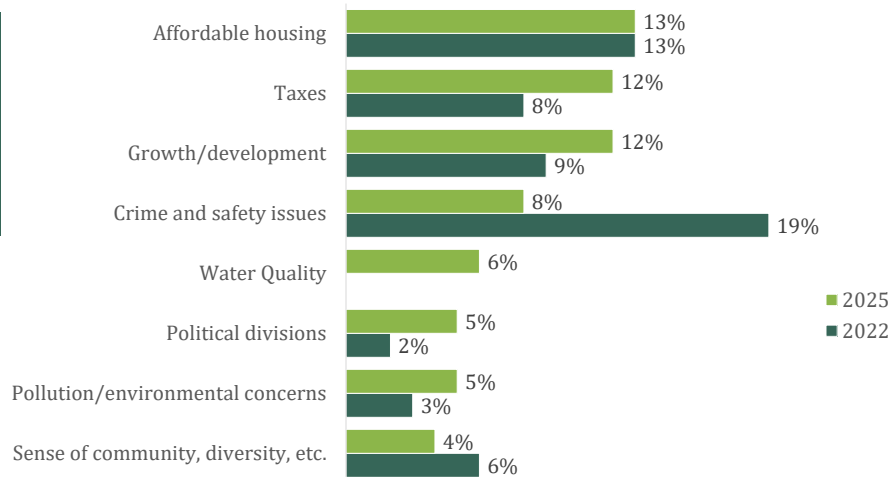
Average Ratings of Potential Problems

Please rate, to what degree, each of the following is a problem in Dakota County.

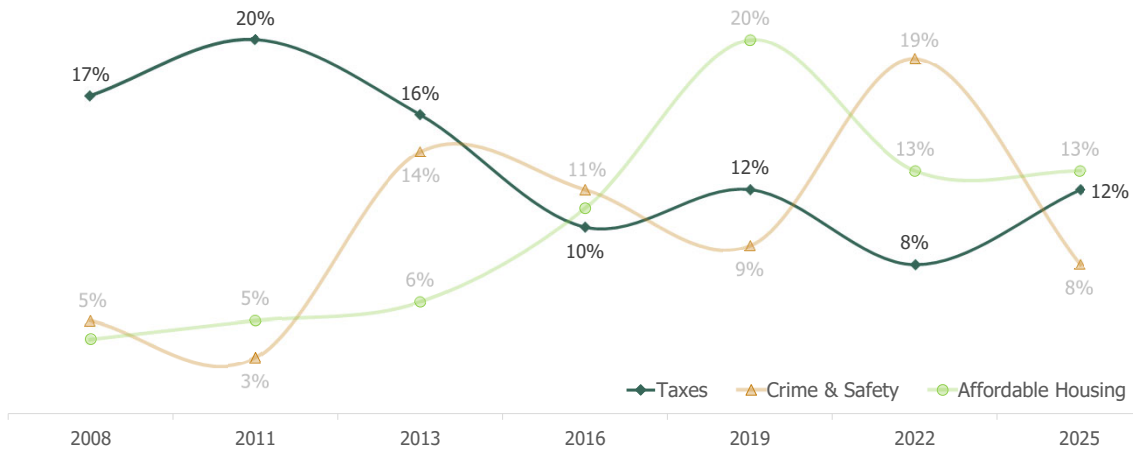


Most Serious Issue Facing Dakota County

What do you feel is the most serious issue facing Dakota County at this time?



Most Serious Issue by Year: Taxes v. Crime & Safety v. Affordable Housing



Housing Needs

What type of housing is most needed in your community? Choose up to three (3).

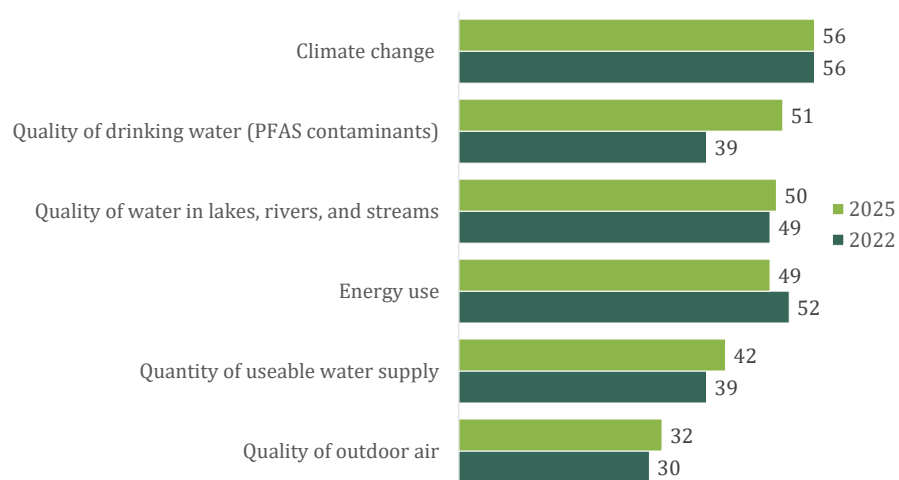
- 49% Affordable family housing
- 41% Market-rate stand-alone single-family housing
- 35% Affordable housing for older adults
- 22% Market-rate apartments
- 21% Market-rate housing for older adults
- 19% Assisted living or supportive housing
- 19% Workforce housing for single person households
- 11% Homeless shelters

Key Finding #4

Concerns about the quality of drinking water have increased since 2022.

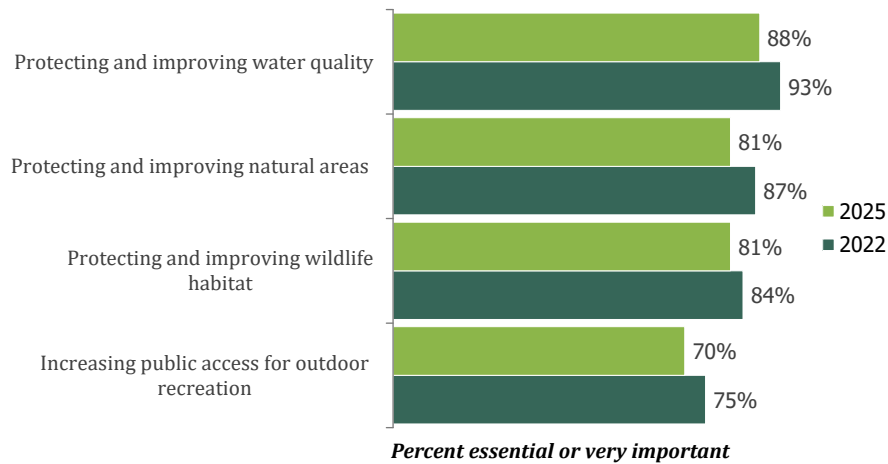
Average Ratings of Environmental Concerns

Please rate to what degree, if at all, each of the following is an environmental concern in Dakota County.



Investment in Preserved Land

Since 2003, Dakota County and partners have preserved land outside of County parks for many public purposes. How important, if at all, is it to continue using County funds for these purposes?



Summary of Key Findings

1. Quality of life ratings for Dakota County residents remain high.
2. Evaluations of County services and the County government remain positive.
3. Residents are increasingly concerned about affordable housing and taxes, which have replaced safety issues as the most serious concerns in Dakota County.
4. Concerns about the quality of drinking water have increased since 2022.



Questions?



Thank you!

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