

Appendix B: Community Survey

Original Community Survey

Survey Results Booklet

Visioning Survey

Visioning Survey Results





2019 Holden Master Plan: Community Survey

Welcome

Dear Holden resident,

The Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) has been selected by the Town of Holden to develop Holden's 2019 Master Plan. The project began in April 2018 and will conclude in February 2019 with a plan that lays out a vision for a community's future over the next ten years, or more, and creates a roadmap to get there through goals and actions. The main topics of a Master Plan include:

1. Land Use
2. Population and Housing
3. Economic Development
4. Natural and Cultural Resources
5. Open Space and Recreation
6. Transportation and Circulation
7. Town Services and Facilities

As you may be aware, we will be holding an initial community event, a visioning exercise, in September 2018. The event will provide background information about the project, and organize resident focus groups to identify initial strengths and challenges. Stay tuned for more information regarding this event. A notice with details will be included in your August Light Department bill.

A critical part of the Master Plan process is to collect the opinions, thoughts, and input on a range of different subjects from as many Holden stakeholders as possible.

The more residents and business owners that take the time to complete the

questions; the better informed we are to create goals and strategies that will enhance Holden's strengths and help to overcome its challenges. We cannot do this process without you!

The entire survey should take ~30 minutes. Please take this survey and share the importance of taking it with others.

We understand that your time is valuable. As an incentive for completing the survey, if you enter your contact info at the end you will be entered into a drawing to win one of three \$25 gift cards to local Holden businesses. If you are unable to finish it entirely, please fill out and submit as much as you can. Only completed surveys will be entered in the drawing for the gift cards. Surveys must be submitted by Monday, July 18, 2018 at 5:00pm. Paper copies can be picked up and dropped off at the following locations:

- Town Hall, 1196 Main Street
- Gale Public Library
- Senior Center
- Light Department

Sincerely,

Jessica Milliken, Holden Master Plan Committee Co-Chair
Becky Tornblom, Holden Master Plan Committee Co-Chair

Master Plan Committee Members:

Scott Carlson
Joseph Dolak
Andrew Jensen
Barbara Kohlstrom
Scott Morrison
Robin Owens
Anthony Renzoni
Stephen Yerdon



2019 Holden Master Plan: Community Survey

General

1. Please rate the following items as you believe they contribute to Holden's quality of life.

	Very Important	Important	Not Important
Town Services (Highway, Water, Fire, Police)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Housing affordability	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Recreational resources (Parks, Pools, Playgrounds, Fields)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Open space (farms, views)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Job opportunities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Transportation options	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Walkability in Town Center	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Shopping convenience	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cultural activities (Memorial Day Parade, Holden Days)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Youth programs (baseball, soccer, basketball)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Town facilities (Town Hall, Library, Senior Center)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Historic Town Center	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Quality of education/ Schools	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Availability of high speed internet	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Emergency service response time	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



2019 Holden Master Plan: Community Survey

Land Use

2. When thinking about Holden's Town Center, to what extent would you agree or disagree with the following options for potential growth...

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
New small scale mixed-use development (retail/office space on first floor, housing on upper floor(s))	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
More small scale business opportunities in existing buildings	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Create more stringent design guidelines for new buildings	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Create more stringent design guidelines for renovations of existing buildings	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
New small scale apartment/townhouse buildings	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
More housing opportunities in existing buildings	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Maintain or require small scale and well-designed signs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

3. On a scale of 3 to -3, what type of development do you feel Holden needs more or less of? Negative numbers mean you think Holden should reduce the amount of that type of space with -3 meaning the strongest negative opinion, zero (0) is representative of having just the right amount, and three (3) means you really think Holden needs more of that type of development.

Please select only one (1) answer per row for each type of development.

	3	2	1	0	-1	-2	-3
Commercial (gas stations, auto repair, banks)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Personal service (e.g. hair salon)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Retail (e.g. convenience stores, package stores, antiques)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Restaurants	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fast food (Dunkin Donuts, Subway)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Office space (lawyer, dentist, veterinary)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Energy generation (commercial solar)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Single family residential (subdivisions)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Multifamily residential (apartments/townhouses)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Light industrial	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mixed-use (first floor businesses, upper floor residential)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Small scale home businesses (bed and breakfasts, Certified Public Accountant, contractor, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

4. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about Holden's historic assets.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Historic resources are part of the distinctive character of Holden	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Historic resources are worth preserving, even at the expense of some new development opportunities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Historic resources deserve public support through local policy action (e.g. tax incentive, Community Preservation Act)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Historic resources are important but should be paid for and maintained by property owners	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Certain historic resources and areas should be protected through local regulations, such as a Local Historic District	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

5. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following, as they relate to tourism and visitors.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Encourage lodging opportunities such as bed and breakfasts, Airbnb, and/or small boutique hotels for overnight stays	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Continue promotion and awareness of local businesses that may appeal to both residents and visitors	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Explore additional community events (i.e. Holden Days) that may offer significant appeal for visitors	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Raise awareness of Holden's unique features and create a plan to promote visitorship	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

6. Do you think the town should change its by-laws to restrict future residential growth?

☐ Yes
 ☐ No
 ☐ Possibly



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Economic Development

7. To what extent do you feel the following specific commercial, industrial or business types are desirable or undesirable?

	Very Desirable	Desirable	Neutral	Undesirable	Very Undesirable
Clean energy (commercial solar)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Culture and tourism	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agriculture-based business and services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Consumer services (lawyer, dentist, hair salons, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Small retail shops, boutiques, art galleries	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Shopping mall, big box retail, outlet shopping	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Rental housing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Historic/cultural museums	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Light industry	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mixed-use development	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Hotels, motels, resorts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Small boutique hotels, Air BnB, bed and breakfast, etc.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

8. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following ideas regarding future commercial development in Holden?

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
New development should take place in and near the existing town center	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
New development should be concentrated in existing business areas along Main Street	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Commercial growth and expansion should focus on the entire 122A	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Explore potential for new light industrial development	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Home occupations should be allowed with some restrictions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Consider ways to enhance tourism into Holden to stimulate new revenue	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



Housing

9. Do you own or rent your home?

- ☐ Own
- ☐ Rent
- ☐ Not applicable

10. How important do you think the following housing types are to Holden's future over the next 10-20 years?

	Very Important	Important	Not Important
Small single-family market-rate homes geared towards first time buyers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Medium-sized single-family homes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Low income housing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Luxury single-family homes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Small market-rate homes geared towards seniors	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Owner-occupied, town houses, condominiums	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Rental units/apartments	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Housing units that qualify as affordable per state regulations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mixed-used development (e.g. retail/office on first floor and residential units above)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Accessory apartments (e.g. small apartments inside or on property of a single family home)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Conversion of larger homes into apartments	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cluster or open space subdivisions (these are typically single family homes on slightly smaller lots with remaining land designated as protected open space)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Assisted living	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Housing for elderly	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Housing for youth	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Housing for those in recovery (drug & alcohol)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

11. Is housing affordability an issue for you or anyone you know who lives in Holden?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ No opinion

12. If you were to consider moving out of your community during your retirement, would the following factors impact your decision to move?

	Yes	No	Not Sure
Looking for a different home size that meets your needs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Maintaining your current home will be too expensive	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Looking for a home that will help you live independently as you age	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wanting to move to an area that has better health care facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wanting to be closer to family	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Needing more access to public transportation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wanting to live in a different climate	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Looking for an area that has a lower cost of living	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please specify)

13. How important is it for you to remain in your community as you age?

- ☐ Extremely important
- ☐ Very important
- ☐ Somewhat important
- ☐ Not so important
- ☐ Not at all important

14. What Section of the Town do you live in?

- ☐ Chaffins
- ☐ Center of Town
- ☐ Jefferson
- ☐ Dawson
- ☐ Other (please specify)

15. What is Holden's greatest need:

- ☐ Road/Traffic/Sidewalks
- ☐ Schools
- ☐ Business Growth
- ☐ Government
- ☐ More Revenue
- ☐ Sewers
- ☐ Water
- ☐ Town Vision
- ☐ Growth Management
- ☐ Lower Taxes
- ☐ Recreational Services
- ☐ Other (please specify)

16. What is Holden's greatest asset:

- ☐ People
- ☐ Natural Beauty
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Schools
- ☐ Reality of Small Town
- ☐ Neighborhoods
- ☐ Safety
- ☐ Government
- ☐ Police
- ☐ Recreational Services



Open Space and Recreation

17. Which of the following recreational opportunities would you like to see more of in Holden? Check all that apply.

- ☐ Hiking trails
- ☐ Canoe/ Kayak locations
- ☐ Motorized vehicle trails
- ☐ Dedicated bike routes
- ☐ Indoor sports recreation facilities
- ☐ Picnic areas
- ☐ Playgrounds
- ☐ Athletic fields
- ☐ Tennis courts
- ☐ Horseback riding/ equestrian trails
- ☐ Public Fishing Access
- ☐ None of the above
- ☐ Other (please specify)

18. Does Holden have an adequate number of these recreational or open space resources?

	Surplus	Adequate	Not enough of
Tennis Courts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Basketball Courts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bicycle Route/ Walk Path	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Motorized Vehicle Trail (e.g. ATV or dirt bikes)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Nature/ Hiking Trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Community Gardens	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Indoor Sports Recreation Facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Off-leash Dog Recreation Areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Outdoor Ice Skating	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Indoor Ice Skating	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Athletic Fields (e.g. baseball, soccer, football)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Playgrounds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Canoe/ Kayak Locations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Public Fishing Access	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Horseback Riding/ Equestrian Trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Picnic Areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Skateboard Parks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please specify)

19. Have you or any of your household members visited any of these open spaces in the past five (5) years?

	Yes	No	Don't know about it
Holbrook Forest	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mass Audubon's Eagle Lake Wildlife Sanctuary	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mason Park (Off Mason Rd. adjacent to & contiguous with Trout Brook Reservation)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Town Forest (Harris and Paul Streets)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Jefferson Park (Princeton St.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Kimball Park (Wyoming Dr.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Winthrop Oaks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mayberry Park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Trout Brook Conservation Area	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Eagle Lake Town Beach	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Central Mass Rail Trail	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
White Oak Land Conservation Society properties (e.g. Porcupine Hill, Potter Sanctuary, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please specify)



2019 Holden Master Plan: Community Survey

Natural Resources

20. What are your top (3) three most important natural features in Holden? Select three (3).

- ☐ Water bodies (e.g. Eagle Lake)
- ☐ Fields/open space
- ☐ Forests
- ☐ Wetlands
- ☐ Farms
- ☐ Scenic views
- ☐ Fish/wildlife
- ☐ None of the above
- ☐ Other (please specify)

**21. How do you use the local water sources (e.g. Eagle Lake or any other water body in Holden)?
Check all that apply.**

- ☐ Canoe or kayaking
- ☐ Swimming
- ☐ Fishing
- ☐ For the view
- ☐ Recreation water resources
- ☐ Winter recreational activities
- ☐ I do not use water resources like lakes, ponds, streams in town.
- ☐ Other (please specify)



22. How often do you or your household use these town services and facilities?

	Frequently (daily or weekly)	Occasionally (once a month)	Very Rarely (once every few months)	Never
Library	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Recreational facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parks and open spaces	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Town Hall	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Town website	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Town events	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Online bill pay	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wachusett Regional Recycling Center	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Senior Center	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please specify)

23. How satisfied are you with town services and facilities?

	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Not Satisfied	I do not use this service/facility
Gale Library	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Davis Hill Elementary School	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mayo Elementary	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dawson Elementary	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mountview Middle School	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wachusett Regional High School	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Recreational facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parks and open spaces	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Town Hall	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Town website	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Town events	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Online bill pay	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Senior center	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

24. What municipal services or facilities do you feel the town needs but does not currently provide?

25. What would you improve about the library?

26. On a scale of 1 to 3, please rate your familiarity with what the following Boards and Committees purposes and functions are:

1 = I do not know anything about this Board/Committee

2 = I have a good understanding (from Town Meeting or occasional communication)

3 = I talk with other residents about this frequently; follow agendas; etc.

	1	2	3
275th Celebration Committee	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agricultural Commission	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Board of Assessors	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Board of Health	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Board of Selectmen	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cable Advisory Committee	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Community Garden Committee	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Conservation Commission	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Council on Aging	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cultural Council	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Department of Public Works Facility Committee	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Eagle Lake Committee	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Economic Development Commission	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Education Options Review Committee	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Finance Committee	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Help at H.O.M.E. (Holden Outreach Managing Emergencies)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Historical Commission	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Historic District Committee	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Housing Authority	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Infrastructure Investment Fund	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	1	2	3
Memorial Day Parade Committee	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Municipal Electric Power Advisory Board	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Planning Board	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Recreation Committee	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Trustees of Damon Memorial Library	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Veterans Advisory Committee	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Water/Sewer Advisory Board	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Winter Festival Committee	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Zoning Board of Appeals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

27. On a scale of 1 to 3, please rate your familiarity with what the following Town services or departments' purpose and functions are:

1 = I do not know anything about this Board/Committee

2 = I have a good understanding (from Town Meeting or occasional communication)

3 = I talk with other residents about this frequently; follow agendas; etc.

	1	2	3
Accounting	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Animal Control	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Assessor	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Building Department	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Conservation Department	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Department of Public Works	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Emergency Management	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fire Department	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Health Department	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Holden Community Television	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Holden Housing Authority	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Holden Community Television	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Holden Housing Authority	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Information Technology	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Library	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Light Department	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	1	2	3
Planning and Development Office	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Police Department	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Recreation Department	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
School Department	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Senior Services/Council on Aging	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Town Clerk	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Town Manager	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Town Treasurer/Tax Collector	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Trash and Recycling	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Veteran's Agent	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Water and Sewer Division	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Zoning/Zoning Board of Appeals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

28. For private well users, if Town water became available in your neighborhood would you ever consider connecting?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure. I would need more information first.
- ☐ Not Applicable

29. Where do you get your water?

- ☐ Town water
- ☐ Private well (serving my home only)
- ☐ Private well (shared with others)
- ☐ Other (please specify)

30. For Town water users, please rate your satisfaction

- ☐ Excellent
- ☐ Good
- ☐ Poor
- ☐ No opinion
- ☐ Not Applicable

31. Would you support the town's efforts to build a new DPW Facility at 18 Industrial Way?

- ☐ This is the first I heard of these plans
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Maybe

32. How is your home served for waste treatment?

- ☐ Town Sewer
- ☐ Private Septic (serving my home only)
- ☐ Private Septic (shared with others)
- ☐ Other (please specify)

33. For Town sewer users, please rate your satisfaction

- ☐ Excellent
- ☐ Good
- ☐ Poor
- ☐ No Opinion
- ☐ Not Applicable

34. For private septic users, if Town sewer became available in your neighborhood, would you ever consider connecting?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure
- ☐ Not Applicable

35. Are you aware that the Wachusett Regional Recycling Center is available for use?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

36. For recycling center users, please rate your satisfaction

- ☐ Satisfied
- ☐ Unsatisfied
- ☐ Very Unsatisfied
- ☐ Do Not Use



2019 Holden Master Plan: Community Survey

Schools

37. Do you currently have children enrolled in the Wachusett Regional School District?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ No Opinion on the School District (skips school questions)

38. Did the quality of the Wachusett Regional School District factor into your decision to live in Holden?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ No opinion

39. If your child(ren) live within 1.5 miles of the Davis Hill, Mayo, or Dawson Elementary School, do they...

- ☐ Walk
- ☐ Bike
- ☐ Bus
- ☐ Drop-off or ride share
- ☐ Not Applicable

40. If your child(ren) live within 1.5 miles of Davis Hill, Mayo, or Dawson and do not walk or bike to school, why not? Check all that apply.

- ☐ Sidewalks/paths/crossings are missing or in poor condition
- ☐ Traffic is too fast and heavy
- ☐ Concerned about personal security or safety
- ☐ Lack of or poor condition of bike facilities (i.e bike lanes, paths, wide shoulders)
- ☐ Motorists do not exercise caution around cyclists/pedestrians
- ☐ Not Applicable
- ☐ Other (please specify)

41. How important do you think the following Elementary School programs are?

	Very Important	Important	Not Important	Not Applicable
Academic programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Athletic programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Vocational programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Special education programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Arts programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Music programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bus transportation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

42. How important do you think the following Middle School programs are?

	Very Important	Important	Not Important	Not Applicable
Academic programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Athletic programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Vocational programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Special education programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Arts programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Music programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bus transportation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

43. How important do you think the following High School programs are?

	Very Important	Important	Not Important	Not Applicable
Academic programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Athletic programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Vocational programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Special education programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Arts programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bus transportation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

44. What percentage of the Town Budget should be allocated to education? Current allocation is 51.8% of the Town Budget.

- ☐ 30%
- ☐ 40%
- ☐ 50%
- ☐ 60%
- ☐ 70%

45. Do you have any other ideas about the Wachusett Regional School District? Please share any and all comments below.



2019 Holden Master Plan: Community Survey

Transportation and Circulation

46. Do you believe there are parking challenges in any part of Holden?

47. How would you rate the overall road conditions in Town?

- ☐ Good
- ☐ Adequate
- ☐ Poor

48. How do you travel to work?

- ☐ Drive alone
- ☐ Carpool or ride share
- ☐ Walk
- ☐ Bicycle
- ☐ I telecommute/work from home.
- ☐ I do not work
- ☐ Other (please specify)

49. How many miles do you travel to get to work? (one-way)

- ☐ I do not work/retired
- ☐ Telecommute/ Work from home
- ☐ Work in Holden
- ☐ 1-10 miles
- ☐ 11-20 miles
- ☐ 21-30 miles
- ☐ 30+ miles

50. What types of transportation options should Holden explore? Check all that apply.

- ☐ Sidewalks and crosswalks to enhance pedestrian mobility
- ☐ Enhanced WRTA bus service
- ☐ Dedicated bike lanes
- ☐ Taxi/ Uber/ Lyft availability
- ☐ Park-n-ride lot/ carpool lot
- ☐ Holden does not need any alternatives
- ☐ Other (please specify)

51. How often do you use ridesharing apps like "Uber" or "Lyft"?

- ☐ Frequently
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ Never
- ☐ Would consider

52. Would you use public transit if it were available in Holden?

- ☐ Yes, I would use public transit.
- ☐ No, I prefer to use my car or alternative modes of transportation.
- ☐ Unsure. I would need more information first.
- ☐ No opinion

53. Suggested locations for additional bicycle infrastructure

54. How important is it to provide additional bicycle infrastructure (bike lanes, shoulders, signs) throughout Holden?

- ☐ Very Important
- ☐ Important
- ☐ Not very important
- ☐ Not Important at all

Suggested locations (please specify)

55. Please rate your support for the extension of sidewalks along Route 122A.

- ☐ Strongly Support
- ☐ Support
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Oppose
- ☐ Strongly Oppose

Other (please specify)

56. Suggested locations for extension of sidewalks along Route 122A

57. If you bike locally in Holden, where do you bike?

- ☐ To or around Town Center
- ☐ On recreational trails
- ☐ To/from work
- ☐ I do not bike locally
- ☐ Other (please specify)

58. How safe do you feel riding your bicycle in the following areas of Holden?

	Very Safe	Safe	A little safe	Not safe
Town Center	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Residential Areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Along Route 122A	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Along Route 31	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Rural Communities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

59. Please specify whether any of the following needs to be addressed regarding pedestrian facilities in Holden (i.e. sidewalks, crosswalks). Check all that apply.

- ☐ Sidewalk conditions
- ☐ Gaps in sidewalks
- ☐ ADA accessible ramps or sidewalk width
- ☐ Sidewalk materials (asphalt versus concrete)
- ☐ Crosswalk striping
- ☐ Walk signal length and visibility and/or audible signal
- ☐ Other (please specify)

60. Suggested locations for pedestrian facilities improvements

61. What transportation issues would you consider to be most important in Holden?

	Priority	Non-Priority	N/A
Condition of roads/bridges	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Congestion	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Rising gas prices	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
New vehicle technologies (electric cars, automated vehicles)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Access to transportation for Aging Populations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Air Quality	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

62. What are the most difficult areas or intersections you encounter in Holden on a regular basis?



2019 Holden Master Plan: Community Survey

Resident Demographics (OPTIONAL)

***** Your answers to these questions are optional, but are valuable for helping us ensure our survey reaches a diverse audience and that all perspectives and experiences are represented. *****

63. What is your age?

- ☐ Under 18
- ☐ 18-20 years
- ☐ 21-25 years
- ☐ 26-30 years
- ☐ 31-40 years
- ☐ 41 to 50 years
- ☐ 51 to 60 years
- ☐ 61 to 70 years
- ☐ Over 70 years

64. Which best describes the highest level of education you have completed?

- ☐ Less than a high school diploma
- ☐ High school diploma
- ☐ Some college
- ☐ College graduate
- ☐ Master's degree
- ☐ Ph.D

65. What is your combined family income?

- ☐ less than \$30,000 per year
- ☐ income between \$30,000 and \$50,000
- ☐ income of between \$50,000 and \$70,000
- ☐ income of between \$70,000 and 100,000
- ☐ income between 100,000 and 130,000
- ☐ income over 130,000

66. What type of home do you live in?

- ☐ Single-family
- ☐ Condominium
- ☐ Apartment
- ☐ Duplex

67. How long have you lived in Holden?

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

68. How long do you plan to stay in Holden?

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

69. How do you get news about the Town of Holden?

- ☐ Town website
- ☐ Local weekly papers (The Landmark, etc)
- ☐ TV News
- ☐ Telegram and Gazette
- ☐ Social media, such as Facebook
- ☐ Word of mouth/friends and family
- ☐ Other (please specify)

70. In the past five (5) years, how many public meetings, Town meetings, hearings or forums have you attended?

- ☐ None
- ☐ 1-5 meetings
- ☐ 6-10 meetings
- ☐ 11-20 meetings
- ☐ 21+ meetings

71. How did you hear about the Master Plan? Check all that apply

- ☐ Newspaper article
- ☐ Facebook
- ☐ Postcard
- ☐ Word of mouth
- ☐ Flyer
- ☐ Web page
- ☐ Email
- ☐ Announced at another meeting
- ☐ Other (please specify)



2019 Holden Master Plan: Community Survey

Thank You

72. What is Holden's greatest strength?

73. What is Holden's greatest challenge?

74. General comments, questions, or concerns (OPTIONAL)

Thank you for your participation.

Please click on the red button below to submit your answers.

Completed paper copies can also be dropped off at the following locations:

- Town Hall
- Gale Public Library
- Senior Center
- U.S. Post Office

***** All surveys must be returned by Monday, July 16, 2018 *****

If you would like to be entered in the raffle for a \$25 gift card to Bagel Inn, Seven Saws Brewery, or Dunkin Donuts please include your contact information.

75. Enter your contact information below.

Name

Email Address

Phone Number

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



2019 Holden Master Plan: Community Survey

June – August 2018

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



979

Total Responses

75

Questions

Open June 18 – July 18

extended to August 1

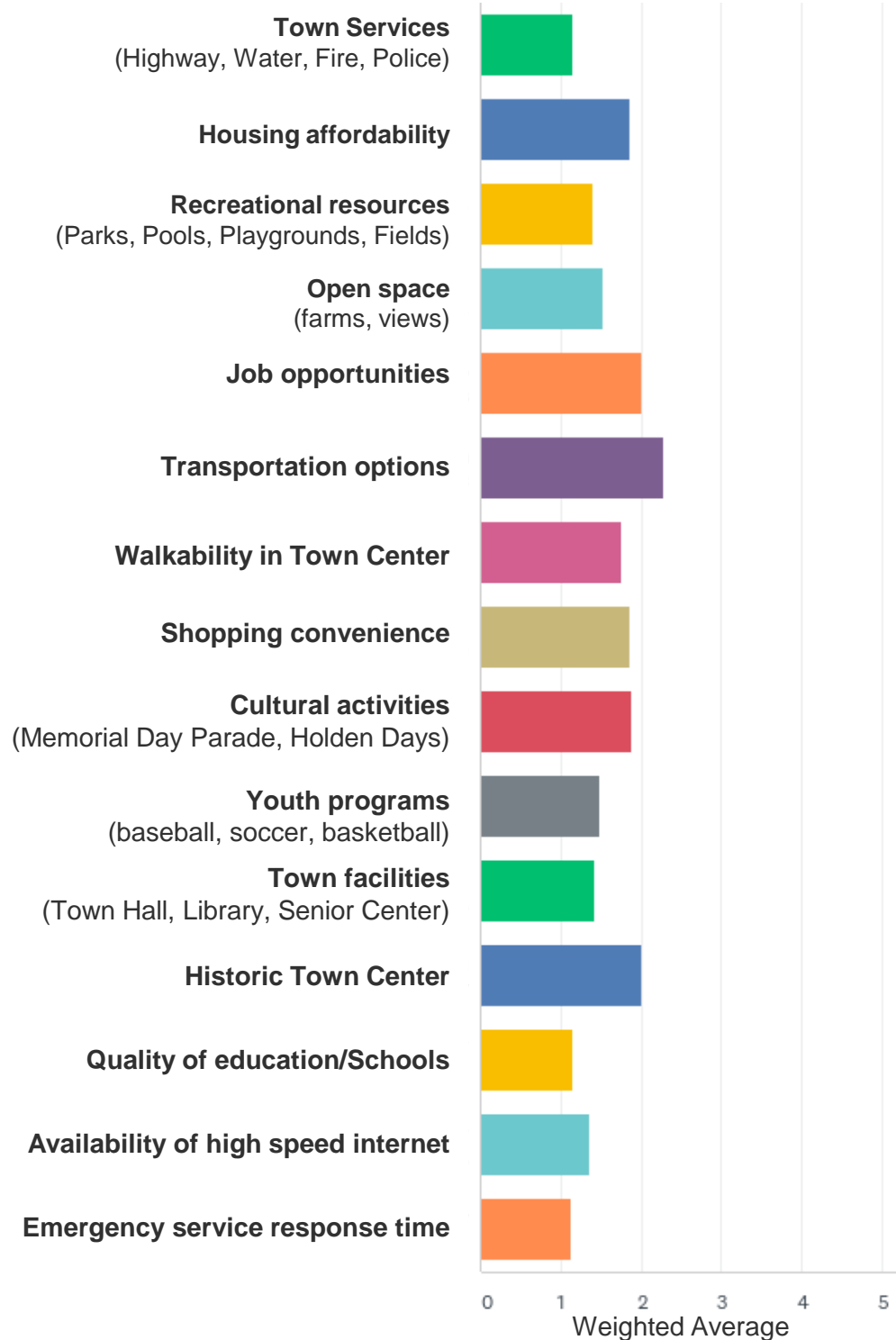
Quick Facts

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q1: Please rate the following items as you believe they contribute to Holden's quality of life.



Answered: 971

Skipped: 8

GENERAL

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q1: Please rate the following items as you believe they contribute to Holden's quality of life.

	VERY IMPORTANT	IMPORTANT	NOT IMPORTANT	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Town Services (Highway, Water, Fire, Police)	84.89% 820	14.39% 139	0.72% 7	966	1.16
Housing affordability	29.95% 286	54.45% 520	15.60% 149	955	1.86
Recreational resources (Parks, Pools, Playgrounds, Fields)	62.96% 605	33.71% 324	3.33% 32	961	1.40
Open space (farms, views)	53.84% 519	39.21% 378	6.95% 67	964	1.53
Job opportunities	21.84% 209	55.28% 529	22.88% 219	957	2.01
Transportation options	14.71% 140	43.17% 411	42.12% 401	952	2.27
Walkability in Town Center	39.23% 377	45.47% 437	15.30% 147	961	1.76
Shopping convenience	29.75% 285	53.55% 513	16.70% 160	958	1.87
Cultural activities (Memorial Day Parade, Holden Days)	27.68% 266	55.15% 530	17.17% 165	961	1.89
Youth programs (baseball, soccer, basketball)	58.13% 558	35.83% 344	6.04% 58	960	1.48
Town facilities (Town Hall, Library, Senior Center)	60.27% 581	36.00% 347	3.73% 36	964	1.43
Historic Town Center	22.29% 214	55.73% 535	21.98% 211	960	2.00
Quality of education/ Schools	86.89% 835	11.65% 112	1.46% 14	961	1.15
Availability of high speed internet	69.13% 665	25.26% 243	5.61% 54	962	1.36
Emergency service response time	87.77% 847	11.19% 108	1.04% 10	965	1.13

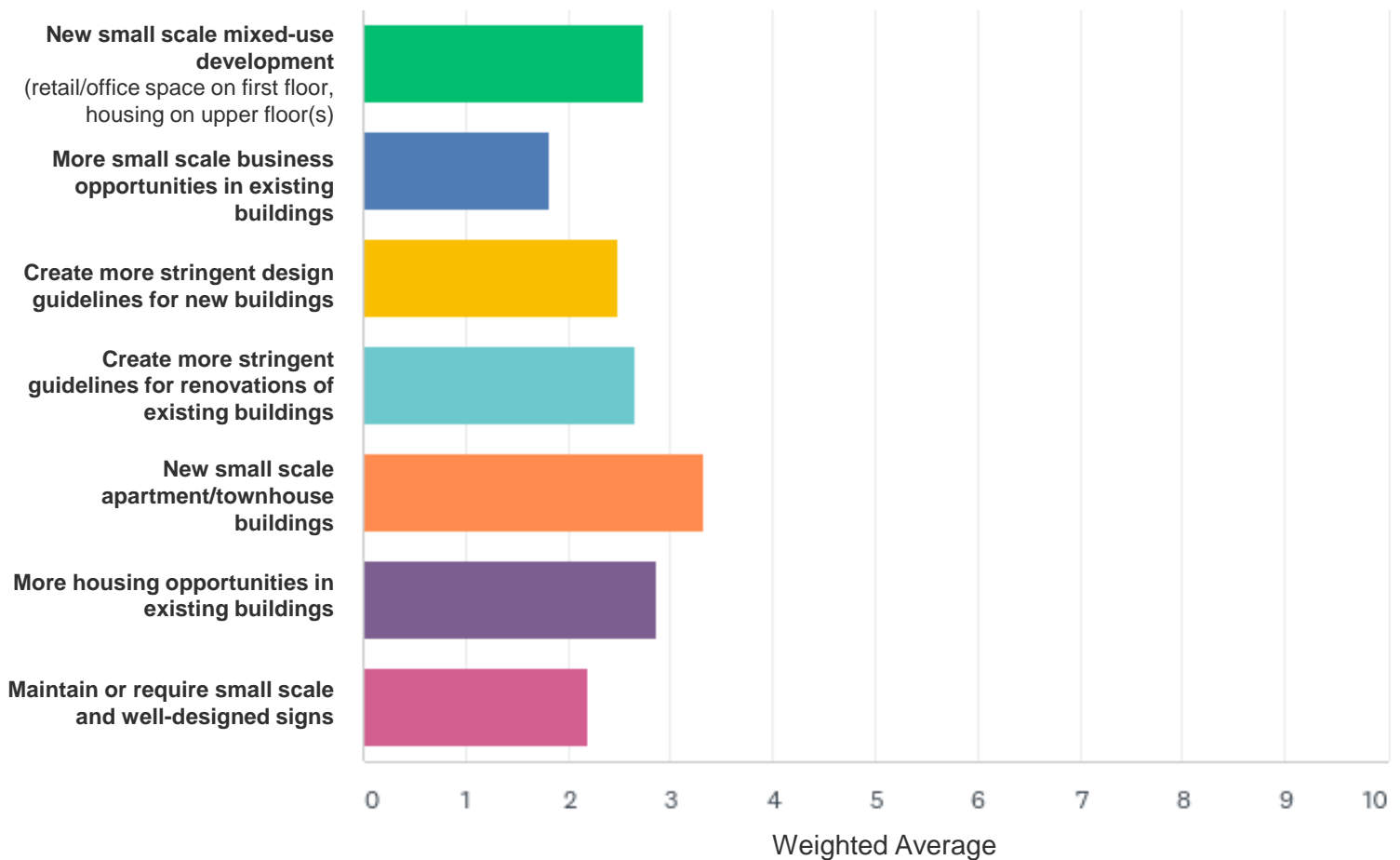
GENERAL

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q2: When thinking about Holden's Town Center, to what extent would you agree or disagree with the following options for potential growth...



Answered: 903

Skipped: 76

LAND USE

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q2: When thinking about Holden's Town Center, to what extent would you agree or disagree with the following options for potential growth...

	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	NEUTRAL	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
New small scale mixed-use development (retail/office space on first floor, housing on upper floor(s))	14.13% 126	31.61% 282	27.80% 248	18.16% 162	8.30% 74	892	2.75
More small scale business opportunities in existing buildings	37.40% 337	46.39% 418	13.43% 121	1.89% 17	0.89% 8	901	1.82
Create more stringent design guidelines for new buildings	21.42% 193	28.30% 255	33.41% 301	13.54% 122	3.33% 30	901	2.49
Create more stringent design guidelines for renovations of existing buildings	14.35% 129	30.03% 270	36.04% 324	14.79% 133	4.78% 43	899	2.66
New small scale apartment/townhouse buildings	5.89% 53	20.44% 184	27.22% 245	28.33% 255	18.11% 163	900	3.32
More housing opportunities in existing buildings	8.70% 78	30.55% 274	35.34% 317	16.72% 150	8.70% 78	897	2.86
Maintain or require small scale and well-designed signs	23.38% 209	43.40% 388	26.06% 233	5.03% 45	2.13% 19	894	2.19

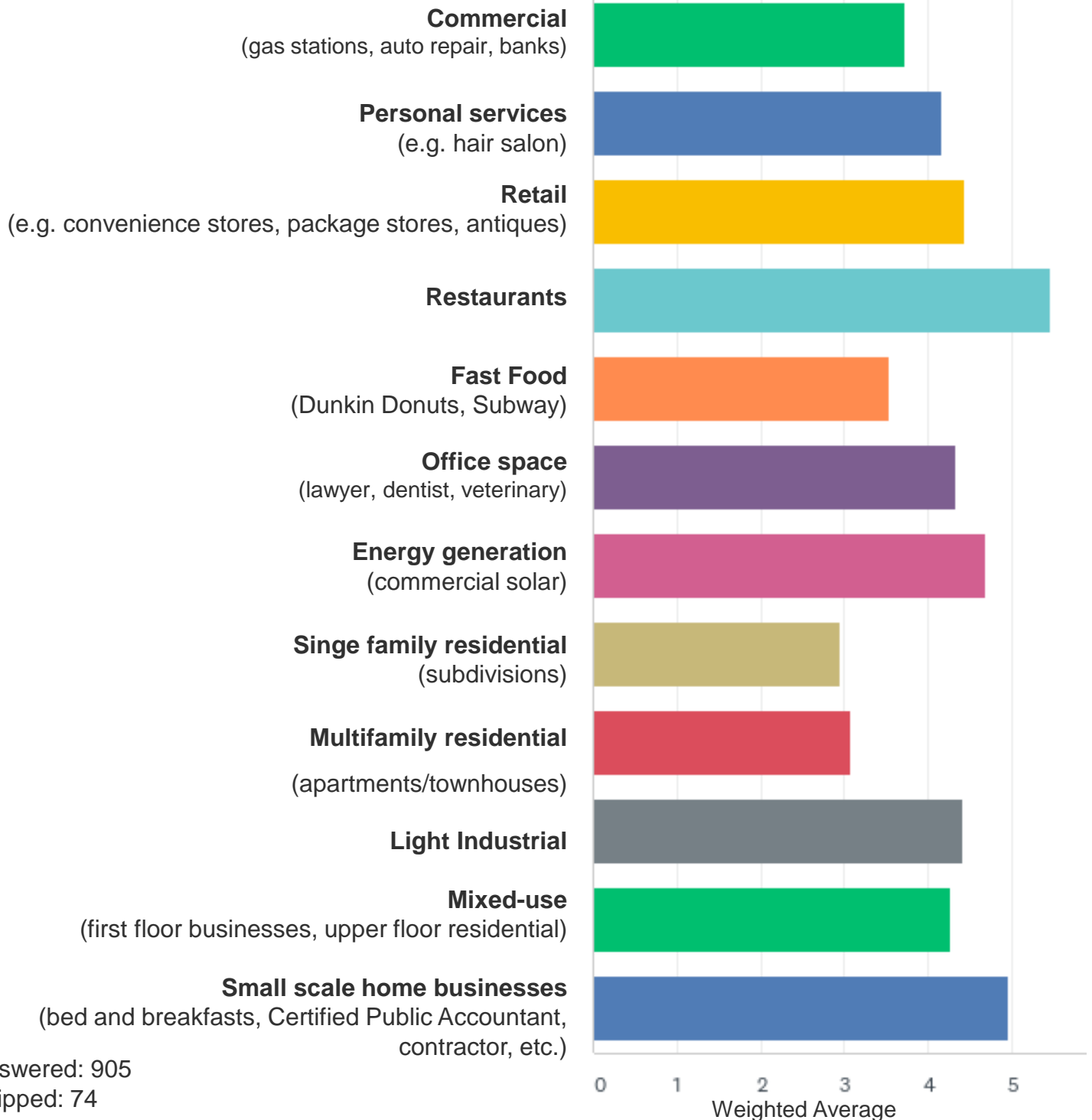
LAND USE

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q3: On a scale of 3 to -3, what type of development do you feel Holden needs more or less of?



Answered: 905

Skipped: 74

LAND USE

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q3: On a scale of 3 to -3, what type of development do you feel Holden needs more or less of?

	3	2	1	0	-1	-2	-3	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Commercial (gas stations, auto repair, banks)	3.46% 31	5.58% 50	11.27% 101	50.67% 454	10.71% 96	5.80% 52	12.50% 112	896	3.73
Personal service (e.g. hair salon)	3.01% 27	7.59% 68	23.21% 208	49.33% 442	7.92% 71	3.35% 30	5.58% 50	896	4.16
Retail (e.g. convenience stores, package stores, antiques)	7.05% 63	14.00% 125	23.96% 214	38.86% 347	7.28% 65	3.47% 31	5.38% 48	893	4.43
Restaurants	26.17% 234	26.73% 239	24.61% 220	17.00% 152	2.46% 22	1.34% 12	1.68% 15	894	5.46
Fast food (Dunkin Donuts, Subway)	3.14% 28	4.37% 39	10.75% 96	46.14% 412	11.53% 103	8.96% 80	15.12% 135	893	3.54
Office space (lawyer, dentist, veterinary)	3.81% 34	10.19% 91	24.75% 221	48.49% 433	6.94% 62	2.02% 18	3.81% 34	893	4.34
Energy generation (commercial solar)	16.33% 144	15.42% 136	25.96% 229	24.38% 215	6.92% 61	3.40% 30	7.60% 67	882	4.69
Single family residential (subdivisions)	2.45% 22	3.79% 34	10.02% 90	28.06% 252	13.14% 118	10.13% 91	32.41% 291	898	2.94
Multifamily residential (apartments/townhouses)	2.12% 19	5.92% 53	14.64% 131	24.47% 219	12.07% 108	8.94% 80	31.84% 285	895	3.07
Light industrial	6.36% 57	13.17% 118	26.23% 235	38.28% 343	7.59% 68	2.79% 25	5.58% 50	896	4.42
Mixed-use (first floor businesses, upper floor residential)	7.04% 63	13.30% 119	24.69% 221	31.62% 283	10.06% 90	3.35% 30	9.94% 89	895	4.26
Small scale home businesses (bed and breakfasts, Certified Public Accountant, contractor, etc.)	10.89% 98	22.11% 199	35.00% 315	24.00% 216	3.22% 29	1.67% 15	3.11% 28	900	4.96

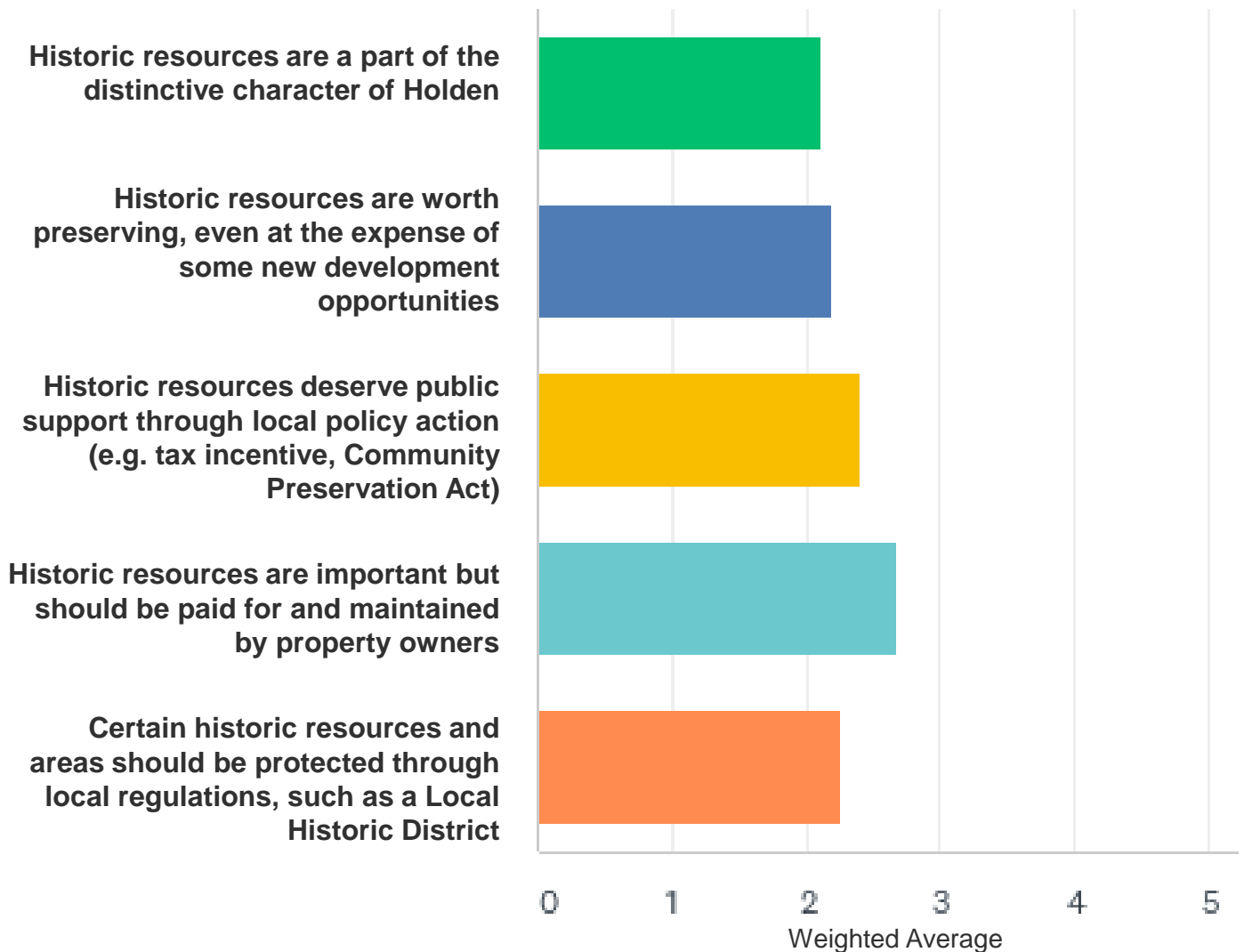
LAND USE

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q4: Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about Holden's historic assets.



Answered: 906

Skipped: 73

LAND USE

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q4: Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about Holden's historic assets.

	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	NEUTRAL	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Historic resources are part of the distinctive character of Holden	25.69% 232	45.96% 415	21.48% 194	4.65% 42	2.21% 20	903	2.12
Historic resources are worth preserving, even at the expense of some new development opportunities	27.49% 248	39.47% 356	21.84% 197	8.43% 76	2.77% 25	902	2.20
Historic resources deserve public support through local policy action (e.g. tax incentive, Community Preservation Act)	20.73% 187	38.91% 351	25.39% 229	9.98% 90	4.99% 45	902	2.40
Historic resources are important but should be paid for and maintained by property owners	10.21% 92	32.85% 296	39.40% 355	14.43% 130	3.11% 28	901	2.67
Certain historic resources and areas should be protected through local regulations, such as a Local Historic District	18.29% 165	48.56% 438	25.83% 233	4.21% 38	3.10% 28	902	2.25

LAND USE

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q5: Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following, as they relate to tourism and visitors.

Encourage lodging opportunities such as bed and breakfasts, Airbnb, and/or small boutique hotels for overnight stays



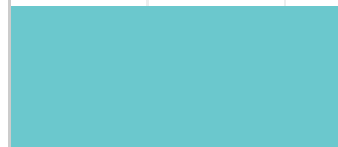
Continue promotion and awareness of local businesses that may appeal to both residents and visitors



Explore additional community events (i.e. Holden Days) that may offer significant appeal for visitors



Raise awareness of Holden's unique features and create a plan to promote visitorship



0 1 2 3 4 5

Weighted Average

Answered: 904

Skipped: 75

LAND USE

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q5: Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following, as they relate to tourism and visitors.

	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	NEUTRAL	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Encourage lodging opportunities such as bed and breakfasts, Airbnb, and/or small boutique hotels for overnight stays	10.85% 98	35.44% 320	23.37% 211	21.37% 193	8.97% 81	903	2.82
Continue promotion and awareness of local businesses that may appeal to both residents and visitors	32.23% 291	54.82% 495	10.41% 94	2.10% 19	0.44% 4	903	1.84
Explore additional community events (i.e. Holden Days) that may offer significant appeal for visitors	24.28% 219	42.13% 380	22.95% 207	7.65% 69	2.99% 27	902	2.23
Raise awareness of Holden's unique features and create a plan to promote visitorship	16.82% 151	37.75% 339	31.74% 285	9.24% 83	4.45% 40	898	2.47

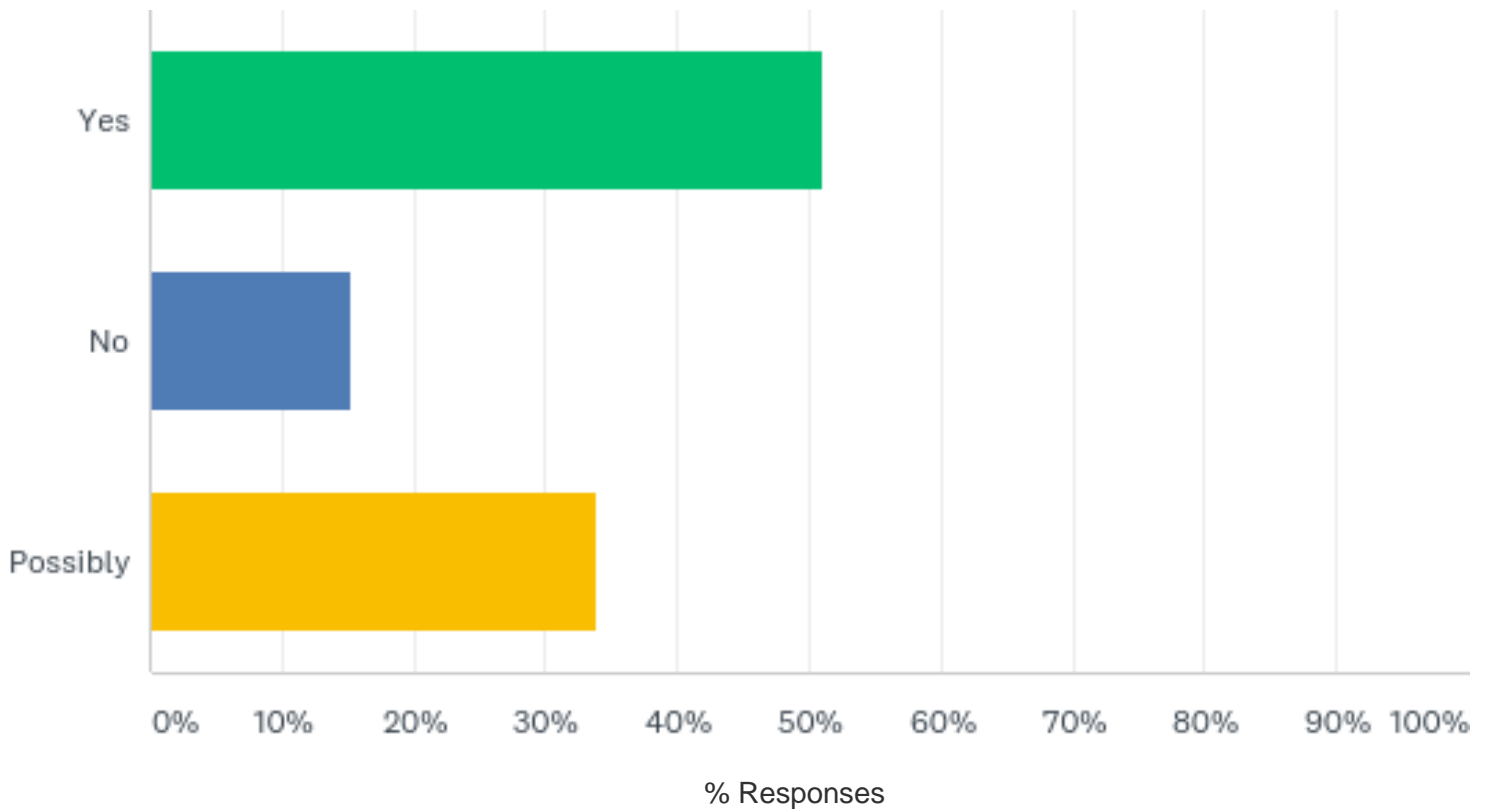
LAND USE

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q6: Do you think the town should change its by-laws to restrict future residential growth?



Answered: 899

Skipped: 80

LAND USE

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q6: Do you think the town should change its by-laws to restrict future residential growth?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	50.95%	458
No	15.24%	137
Possibly	33.82%	304
TOTAL		899

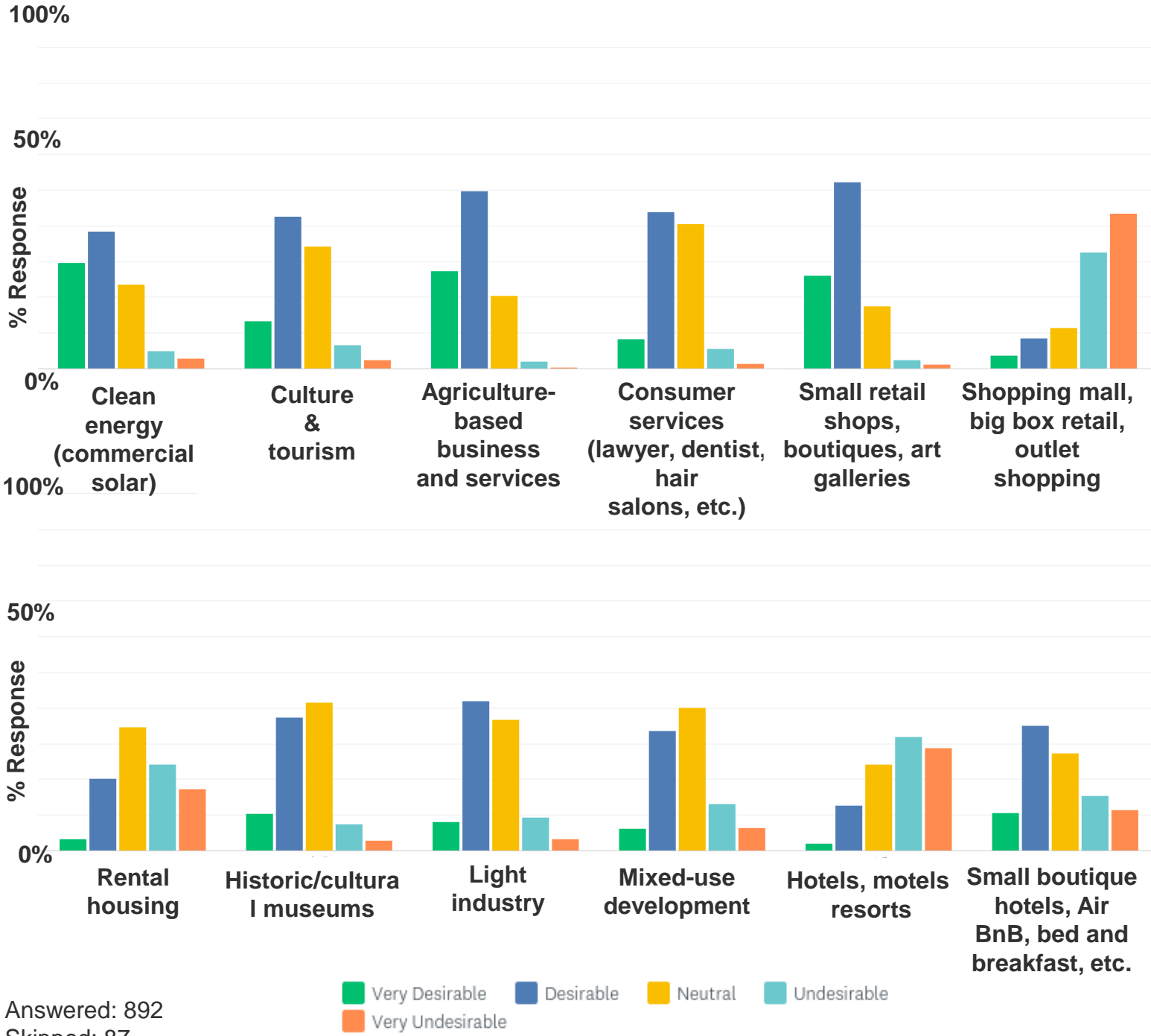
LAND USE

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q7: To what extent do you feel the following specific commercial, industrial or business types are desirable or undesirable?



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q7: To what extent do you feel the following specific commercial, industrial or business types are desirable or undesirable?

	VERY DESIRABLE	DESIRABLE	NEUTRAL	UNDESIRABLE	VERY UNDESIRABLE	TOTAL
Clean energy (commercial solar)	29.78% 265	38.54% 343	23.71% 211	5.06% 45	2.92% 26	890
Culture and tourism	13.46% 119	42.76% 378	34.39% 304	6.79% 60	2.60% 23	884
Agriculture-based business and services	27.32% 241	49.77% 439	20.41% 180	2.04% 18	0.45% 4	882
Consumer services (lawyer, dentist, hair salons, etc.)	8.47% 75	43.91% 389	40.52% 359	5.64% 50	1.47% 13	886
Small retail shops, boutiques, art galleries	26.13% 231	52.38% 463	17.65% 156	2.60% 23	1.24% 11	884
Shopping mall, big box retail, outlet shopping	3.71% 33	8.55% 76	11.59% 103	32.62% 290	43.53% 387	889
Rental housing	3.39% 30	20.23% 179	34.80% 308	24.18% 214	17.40% 154	885
Historic/cultural museums	10.40% 92	37.51% 332	41.69% 369	7.46% 66	2.94% 26	885
Light industry	8.15% 72	42.13% 372	36.92% 326	9.51% 84	3.28% 29	883
Mixed-use development	6.22% 55	33.71% 298	40.27% 356	13.24% 117	6.56% 58	884
Hotels, motels, resorts	2.15% 19	12.78% 113	24.21% 214	32.01% 283	28.85% 255	884
Small boutique hotels, Air BnB, bed and breakfast, etc.	10.59% 94	35.14% 312	27.36% 243	15.43% 137	11.49% 102	888

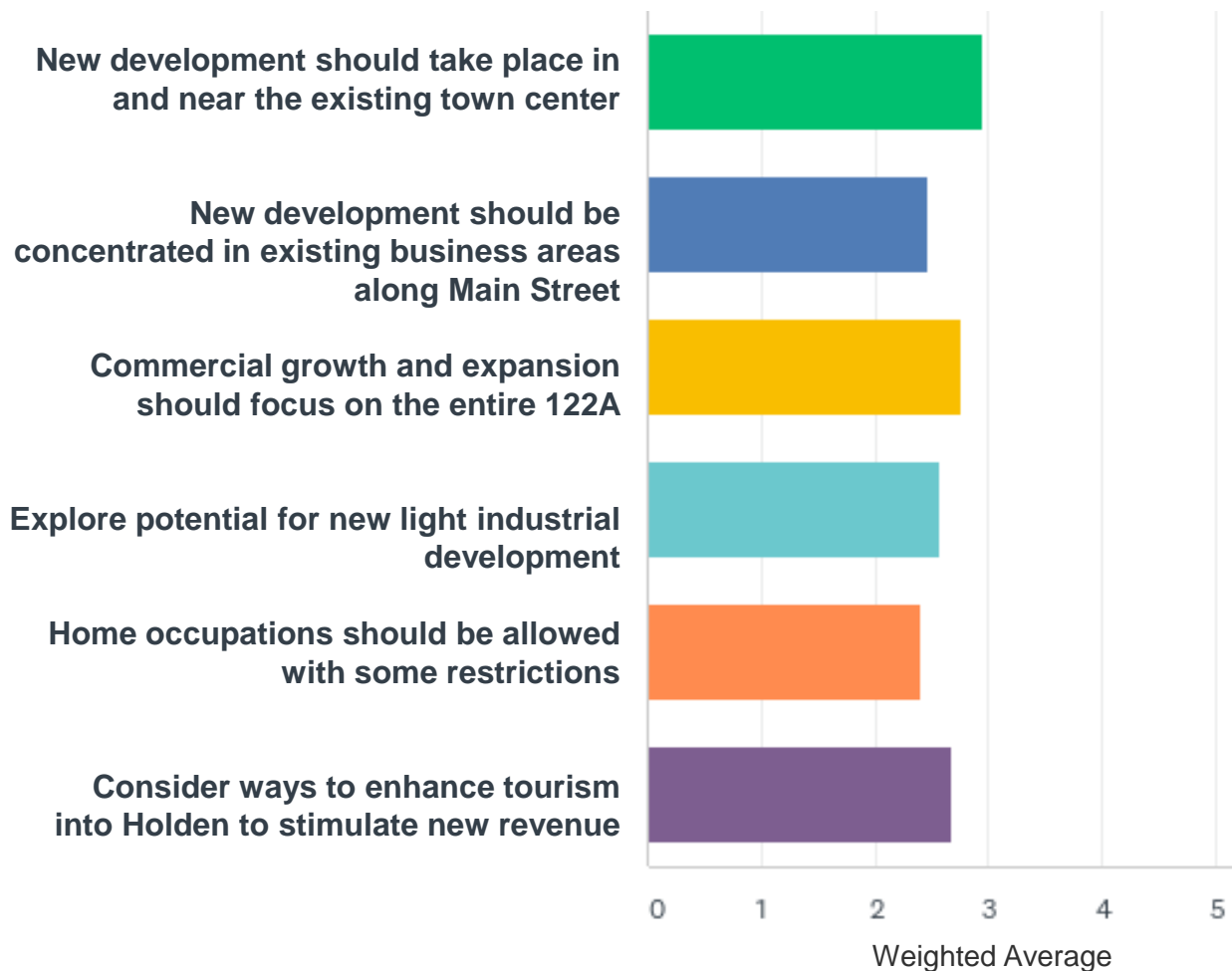
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q8: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following ideas regarding future commercial development in Holden?



Answered: 890

Skipped: 89

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q8: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following ideas regarding future commercial development in Holden?

	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	NEUTRAL	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
New development should take place in and near the existing town center	8.73% 77	31.18% 275	28.00% 247	20.75% 183	11.34% 100	882	2.95
New development should be concentrated in existing business areas along Main Street	15.48% 137	45.31% 401	21.92% 194	12.20% 108	5.08% 45	885	2.46
Commercial growth and expansion should focus on the entire 122A	11.36% 100	36.36% 320	26.14% 230	17.05% 150	9.09% 80	880	2.76
Explore potential for new light industrial development	10.96% 96	40.98% 359	33.11% 290	10.39% 91	4.57% 40	876	2.57
Home occupations should be allowed with some restrictions	13.54% 119	45.16% 397	31.17% 274	7.17% 63	2.96% 26	879	2.41
Consider ways to enhance tourism into Holden to stimulate new revenue	10.32% 91	38.66% 341	30.39% 268	13.49% 119	7.14% 63	882	2.68

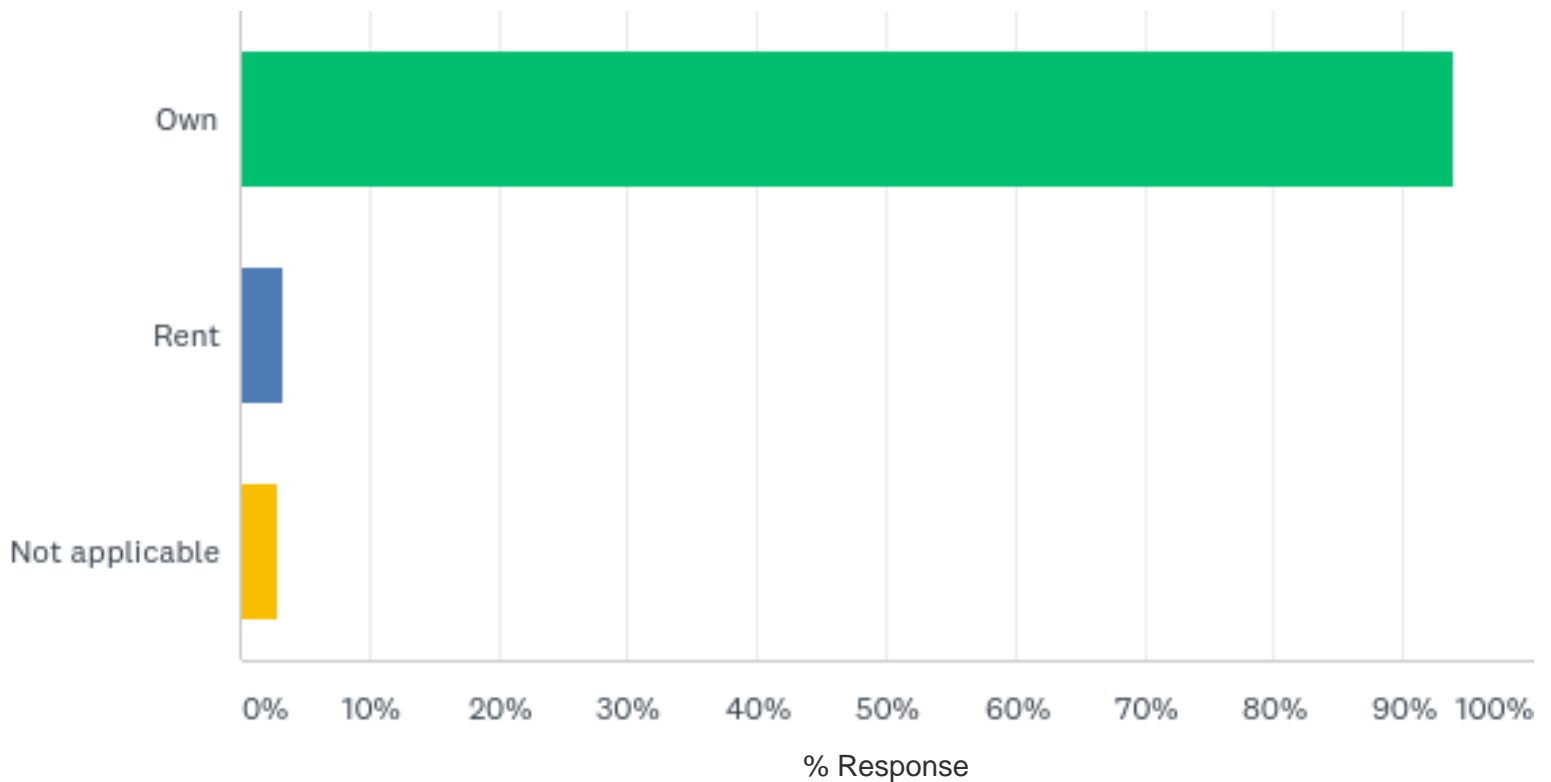
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q9: Do you own or rent your home?



Answered: 875

Skipped: 104

HOUSING

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q9: Do you own or rent your home?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Own	93.83%	821
Rent	3.31%	29
Not applicable	2.86%	25
TOTAL		875

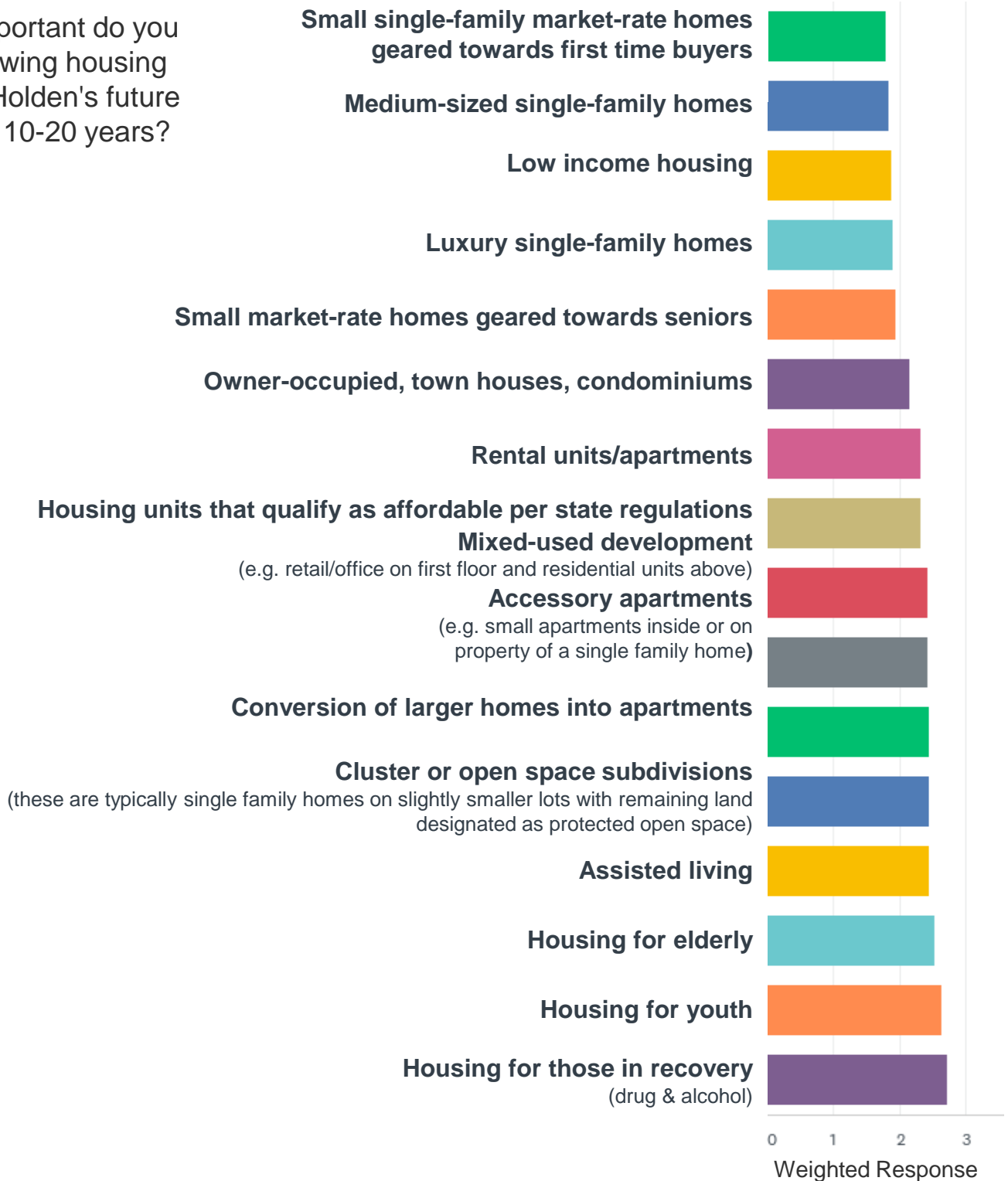
HOUSING

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q10: How important do you think the following housing types are to Holden's future over the next 10-20 years?



Answered: 874
Skipped: 105

HOUSING

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q10: How important do you think the following housing types are to Holden's future over the next 10-20 years?

	VERY IMPORTANT	IMPORTANT	NOT IMPORTANT	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Medium-sized single-family homes	31.36% 270	57.49% 495	11.15% 96	861	1.80
Housing for elderly	26.74% 230	61.16% 526	12.09% 104	860	1.85
Small market-rate homes geared towards seniors	26.88% 232	57.82% 499	15.30% 132	863	1.88
Small single-family market-rate homes geared towards first time buyers	29.56% 256	51.27% 444	19.17% 166	866	1.90
Assisted living	21.55% 186	62.34% 538	16.11% 139	863	1.95
Owner-occupied, town houses, condominiums	15.53% 134	53.65% 463	30.82% 266	863	2.15
Mixed-used development (e.g. retail/office on first floor and residential units above)	11.64% 100	44.00% 378	44.35% 381	859	2.33
Cluster or open space subdivisions (these are typically single family homes on slightly smaller lots with remaining land designated as protected open space)	14.39% 124	38.28% 330	47.33% 408	862	2.33
Luxury single-family homes	11.79% 101	33.37% 286	54.84% 470	857	2.43
Housing for youth	6.65% 57	43.52% 373	49.82% 427	857	2.43
Housing units that qualify as affordable per state regulations	9.33% 80	37.46% 321	53.21% 456	857	2.44
Rental units/apartments	7.67% 66	40.19% 346	52.15% 449	861	2.44
Accessory apartments (e.g. small apartments inside or on property of a single family home)	10.31% 89	35.23% 304	54.46% 470	863	2.44
Low income housing	7.23% 62	33.02% 283	59.74% 512	857	2.53
Housing for those in recovery (drug & alcohol)	4.30% 37	26.98% 232	68.72% 591	860	2.64
Conversion of larger homes into apartments	3.84% 33	21.65% 186	74.51% 640	859	2.71

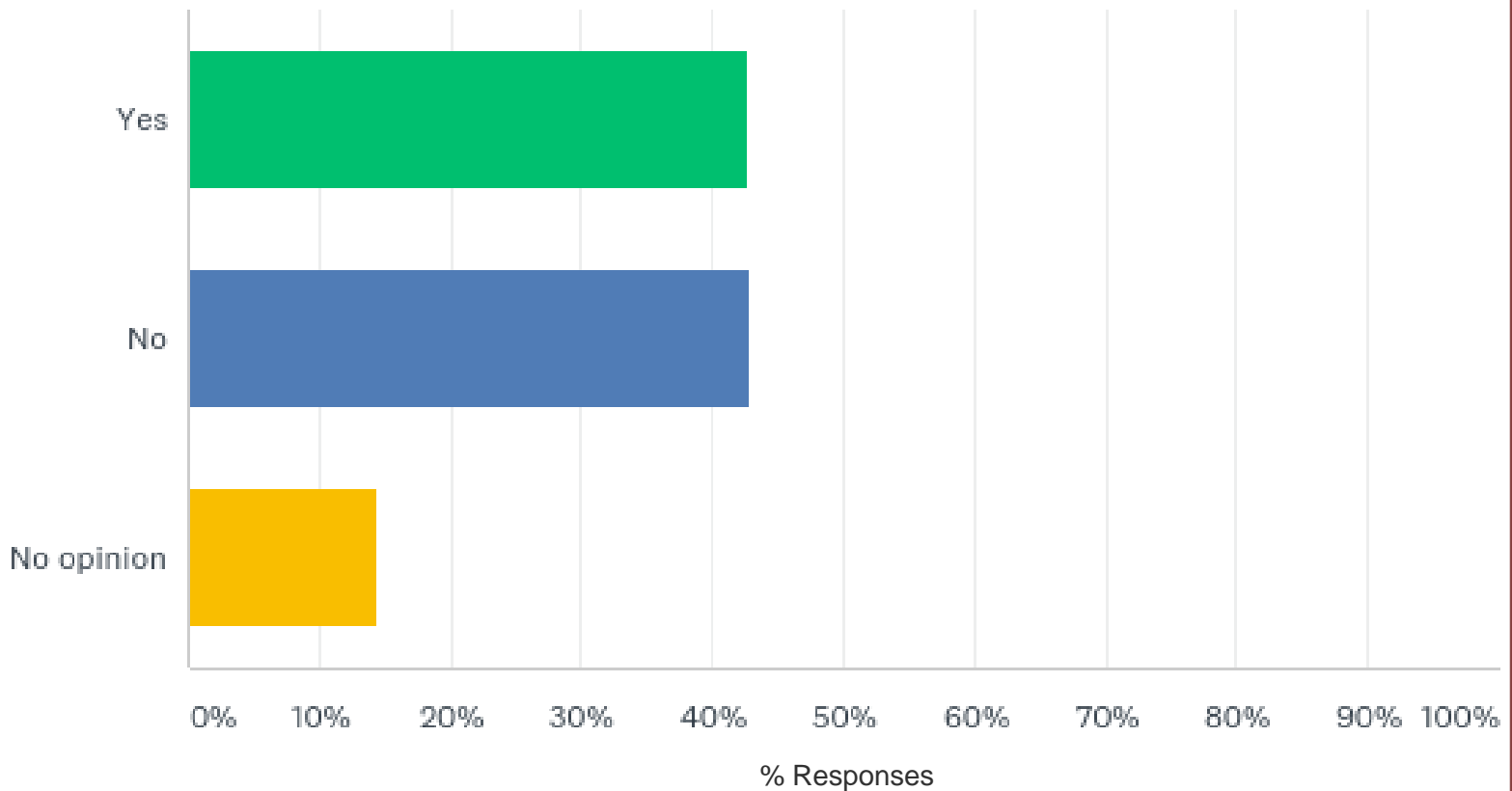
HOUSING

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q11: Is housing affordability an issue for you or anyone you know who lives in Holden?



Answered: 871
Skipped: 108

HOUSING

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q11: Is housing affordability an issue for you or anyone you know who lives in Holden?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	42.71%	372
No	42.94%	374
No opinion	14.35%	125
TOTAL		871

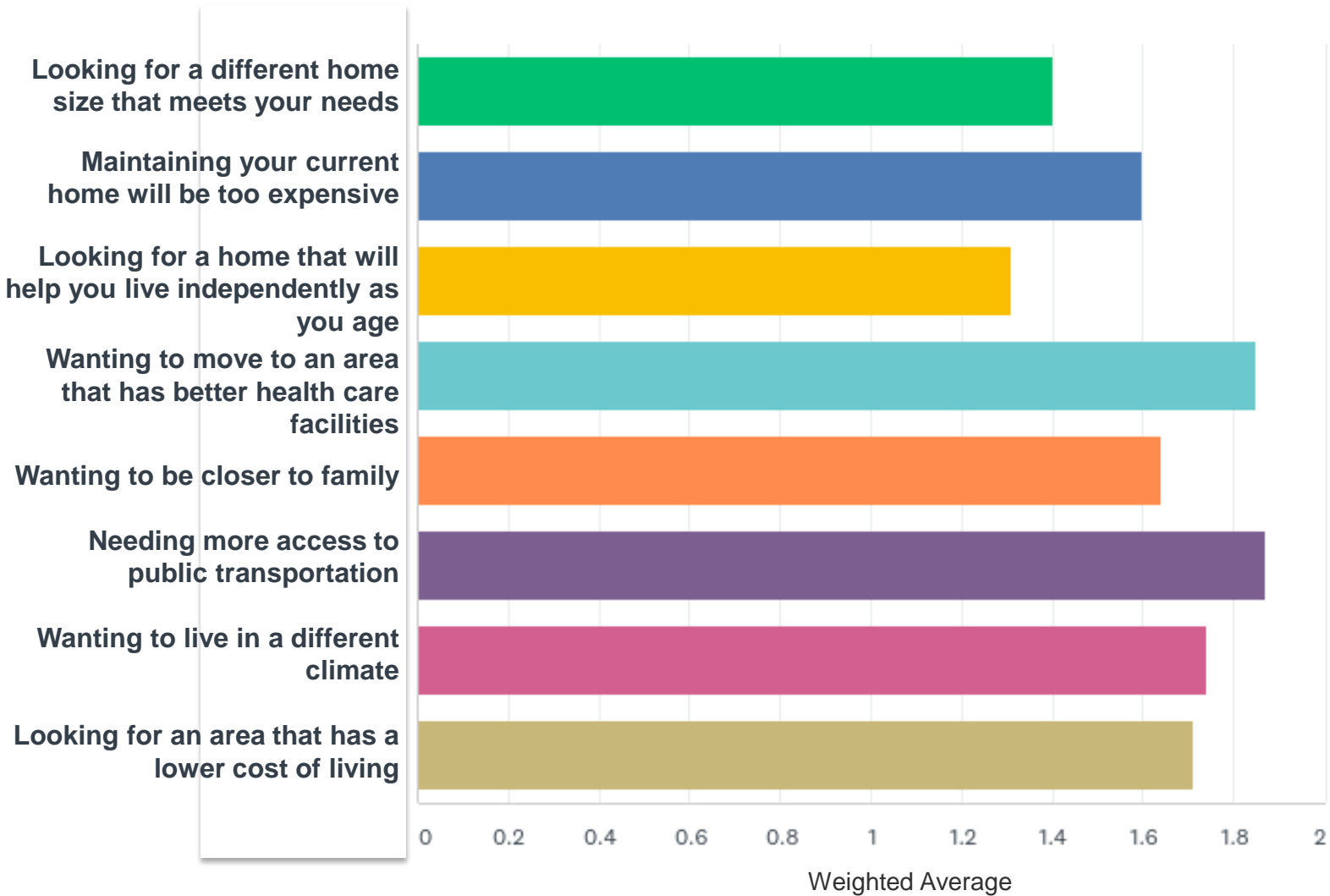
HOUSING

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q12: If you were to consider moving out of your community during your retirement, would the following factors impact your decision to move?



Answered: 869

Skipped: 110

HOUSING

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q12: If you were to consider moving out of your community during your retirement, would the following factors impact your decision to move?

	YES	NO	NOT SURE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Looking for a different home size that meets your needs	71.79% 621	15.95% 138	12.25% 106	865	1.40
Maintaining your current home will be too expensive	56.63% 491	26.99% 234	16.38% 142	867	1.60
Looking for a home that will help you live independently as you age	78.73% 681	12.02% 104	9.25% 80	865	1.31
Wanting to move to an area that has better health care facilities	32.72% 283	49.13% 425	18.15% 157	865	1.85
Wanting to be closer to family	49.25% 425	37.20% 321	13.56% 117	863	1.64
Needing more access to public transportation	34.26% 295	44.72% 385	21.02% 181	861	1.87
Wanting to live in a different climate	45.83% 396	34.38% 297	19.79% 171	864	1.74
Looking for an area that has a lower cost of living	50.92% 441	27.25% 236	21.82% 189	866	1.71

HOUSING

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q12: If you were to consider moving out of your community during your retirement, would the following factors impact your decision to move?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not wanting to be near apartment buildings • 55+ community • a town that you can actually get around and not be grid-locked frequently • a walk-able community with retail, services, restaurants, etc. • Access to public transportation and support services will be very important to me as I age. • Accessibility, walkability • Area where there is entertainment, activities, good people • assisted living facility • balance of open space and culture / activities • condo with first floor bedroom and bath • Culture and Access to Resources • Get out of the Northeast • HAWAII • Headed to a CCRC • Holden does not need any more residential properties of any type built. • Holden has too high of taxes for a senior • Holden's ridiculous tax rate! • I'm never moving | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If I moved, I'd leave the country • If the town got to big and busy, I'd want to move. • If the town grows excessively and more apartments are built, we would seek to relocate. • less tax • Less traffic • Less traffic! The traffic is ridiculous! • Living closer or walking distance to amenities such as markets, retail, etc. • Looking for a continuing care option • Looking for a town where we can walk to the Town Center to be with people. • Looking for a walkable and bike-able downtown • looking for an area with less noise and traffic, more countryside • Looking for handicap accessible housing • looking for LOWER PROPERTY TAXES over \$8000 a year is ridiculous we need a moratorium on public building • Looking for more land • Lower real estate and excise tax • lower tax rates • Lower taxes • Lower taxes nu 8 |
|--|---|

HOUSING

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q12: If you were to consider moving out of your community during your retirement, would the following factors impact your decision to move?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • managing home & yard upkeep - finding & arranging for contractors • more recreation, retail and restaurant options • Moving away from over-development to a place that's more rural. • Moving to a more interesting/vibrant town • Need more national restaurants and pubs. • None • One level living with amenities. • Open spaces and recreational facilities available like Eagle Lake, Trout Brook • Other (please specify) • Property tax rates • Public Transportation is a necessity in Holden. • rental opportunities for seniors who have a medium-range income. • Some where where young people aren't partying • State with lower taxes such as the Carolina's • Tax breaks for older people! • Tax rate in Holden continues to go up • Tax rate will be a key factor. High rate = leave. Low rate or zero rate = stay. • TAXES • taxes and utilities high • taxes are high. • Taxes are too expensive to retire in Holden • Taxes getting way to high • taxes, fees, meter rental, trash, utility rates • Taxes, highway and road maintenance, shopping proximity, reduced government intrusion (water bans, excise taxes, etc) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This town offers little to no public transportation. There are no sidewalks or bike/walkways along much of Reservoir St to encourage walking to the shopping complex or center of town. This is not a 'walk friendly' town which is important to me and others. We also need a dog park facility for many of those who own dogs. Thank -you to Davis Hill School for their welcoming and ease of dogs on their grounds and the abutting town park. • too much 'development' in Holden - it was better the way it was - more of 'edge city' too much traffic on 122 the traffic noise is a blight on the town and the aggressive drivers now on main st hurtling through our town on their way to somewhere else; too bad to see valuable things ruined, • Too young to consider previous questions for #12 • Traffic has gotten so bad in town that continued walk-ability would be important. • Walkability • Wanting a location with access to the outdoors/nature/activities/restaurants • Wanting an area where laws were enforced, especially speeding and recklessness • Wanting to stay close to local friends and community organizations (e.g., church) • We're senior citizens and content for now. • Will not move • would stay in town if affordable housing options were available with special regard to HOA fees. |
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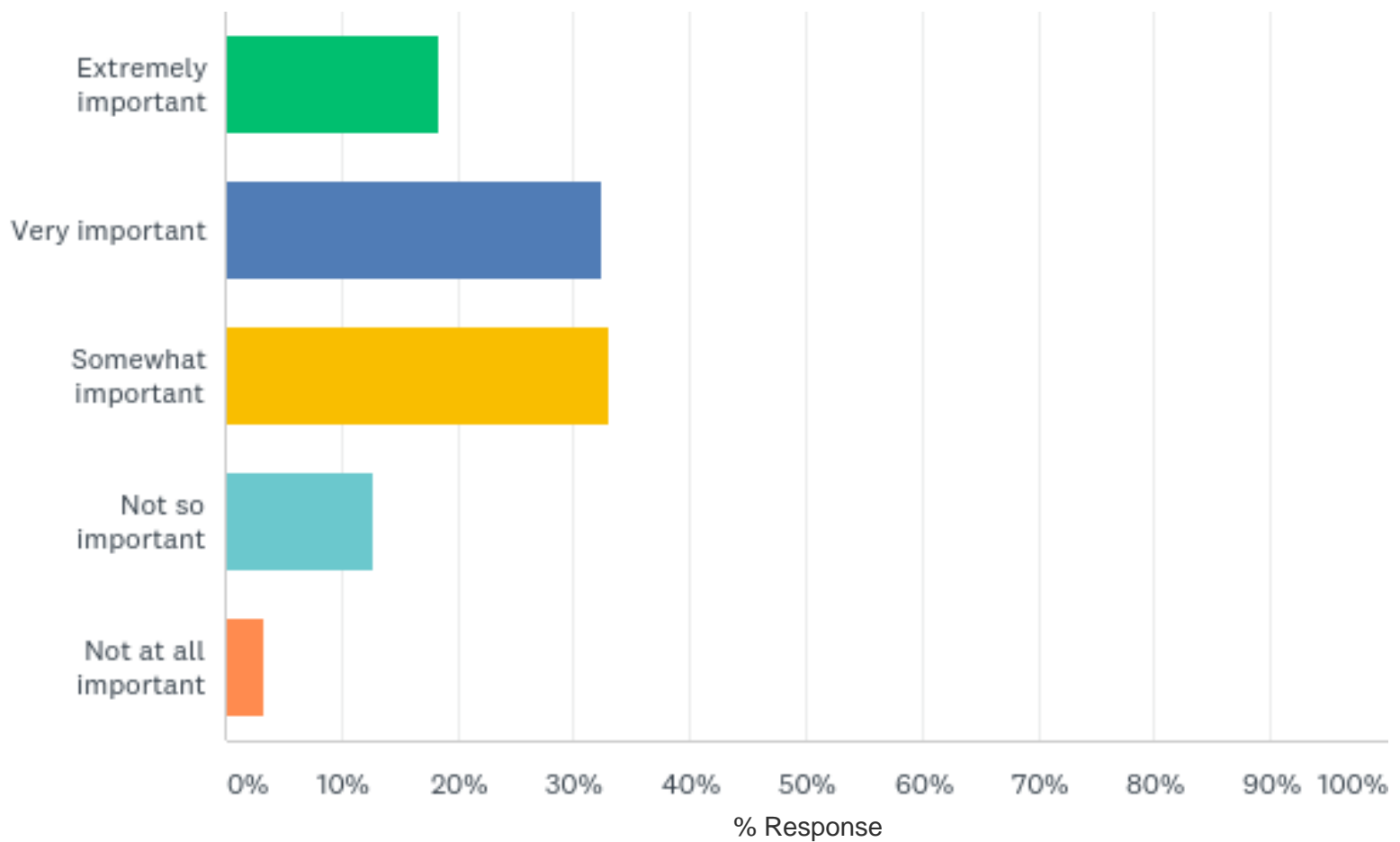
HOUSING

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q13: How important is it for you to remain in your community as you age?



Answered: 872

Skipped: 107

HOUSING

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q13: How important is it for you to remain in your community as you age?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Extremely important	18.35%	160
Very important	32.34%	282
Somewhat important	33.14%	289
Not so important	12.73%	111
Not at all important	3.44%	30
TOTAL		872

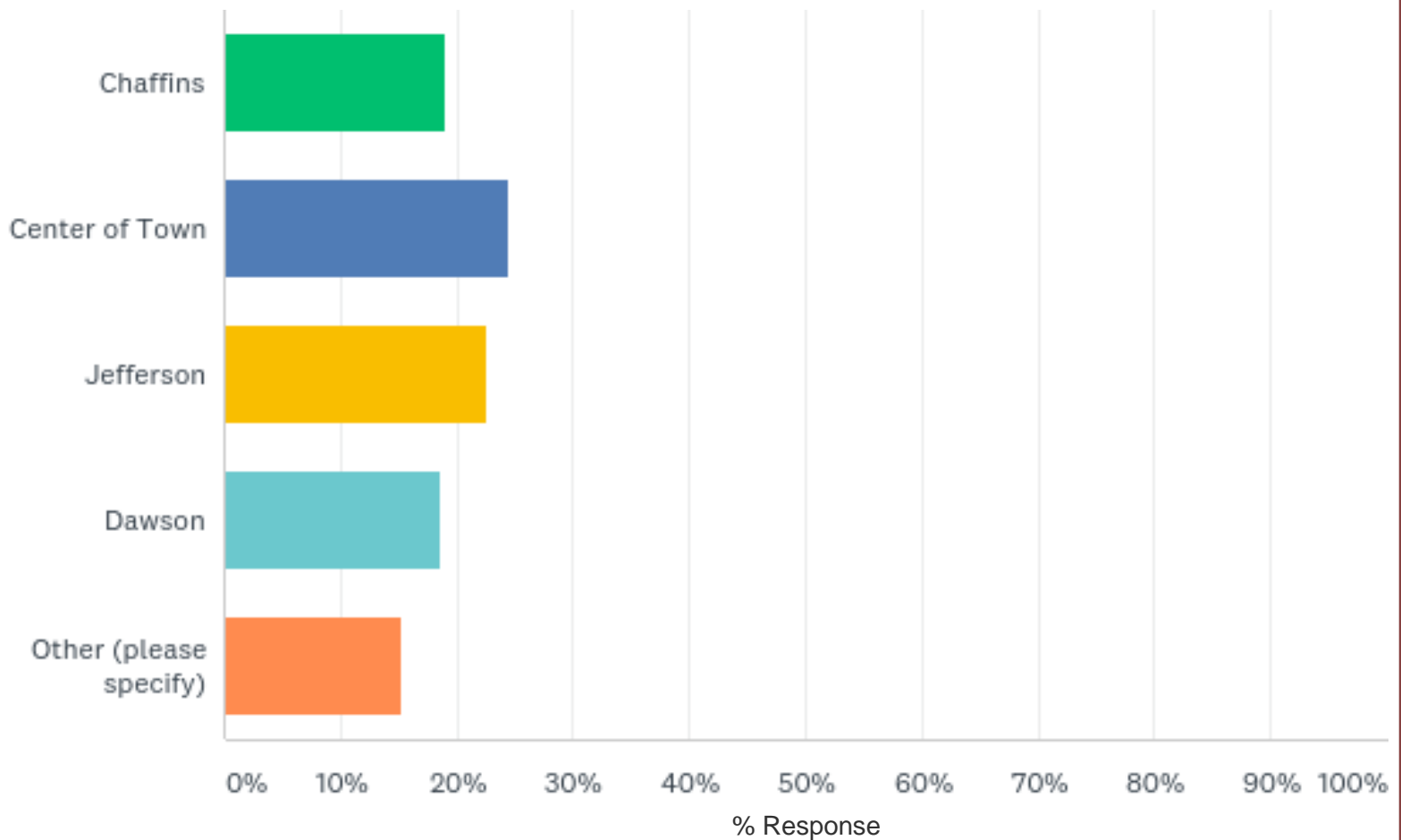
HOUSING

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q14: What Section of the Town do you live in?



Answered: 860

Skipped: 119

HOUSING

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q14: What Section of the Town do you live in?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Chaffins	18.95%	163
Center of Town	24.42%	210
Jefferson	22.56%	194
Dawson	18.72%	161
Other (please specify)	15.35%	132
TOTAL		860

HOUSING

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q14: What Section of the Town do you live in?

• "the maze" area	• Doyle rd
• ??	• Fisher Rd
• 122A	• Fisher Road, have no clue which one this is
• 122A Main St. ☺	• Greystone Dr.
• 122A South near Worcester line	• Holden Street neighborhood.
• 122a south/Worcester line	• Homestead Rd.
• 190 side	• I
• Avery Heights	• I abut Holden bu am a Holden employee
• Avery Heights	• I don't know what section I am
• Avery Heights Area	• Lovelville?
• Avery Heights area	• Lower Bullard Street
• Bailey Rd	• Lower Malden St. near W. Boylston
• Between center and Jefferson - well beyond sidewalks	• Lower Malden St. near W. Boylston
• Between Sunnyside Ford and State police station	• Lower Shrewsbury Street (near West Boylston)
• Big Y area	• Main st
• BigY/Rt 31	• Main Street area
• Birchwood	• Malden St near 190
• Birchwood Neighborhood near Mountivew MS	• Mayo
• Brattle	• Mayo
• Bullard	• Mayo
• Bullard st	• Mayo
• Bullard St area.	• Mayo
• Bullard Street (Mayo) Area	• Mayo district
• Chapel	• Maze
• Chapel Street	• Maze
• Chaple	• Maze
• Davis hill	• Maze
• Davis Hill	• Maze
• Davis Hill Elementary School neighborhood	• Maze
• Davis School area	• Maze
• don't know	• Maze
	• maze area

HOUSING

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q14: What Section of the Town do you live in?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meadow Wood Drive • Near big y • Near Davis Hill • Near Mayo Elementary School • Near Middle School • Near Mountview Middle School • Near Paxton Town Line • near Sunnyside Ford and Meadow Wood Drive • near W Boylston line • Near West Boyleston and on Main St • Near West Boylston: Worcester • Near Worcester line off 122a • North toward Princeton • not sure where the Reserve on Salisbury would fall. Not ideal for seniors. • Not Sure where we fit in • Off of 122A on the Worcester/Holden border. • outskirts • Paxton RD • Pinecroft • Pinecroft • Pinecroft • Pinecroft area/Bullard street maybe this is still considered chaffins • Red barn • reservior area • Reservoir St area • Route 31 toward paxton • Rt 31 • rt 31 north toward Princton • RTE 31 South • Salisbury St. near Worcester city line • Salisbury Street • Shrewsbury and Anderson Ave • shrewsbury street south towards pinecroft dairy • South Holden (Holden St) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Main • South Main St • South main street with no side walks or natural gas • South Main Street, Worcester line • south of Davis Hill • South Paxton line • South Road near causeway • South Road near Paxton and Tatnuck • Southview Road near Worcester border • Southwest states • States • Stony Brooke. • The maze • the maze • The Maze • Union • Union Street • Unionville • Unionville • Unionville • Unionville • Unionville Pond area • Village Green Lane • Wachusett St/mayo • Was in Unionville area - recently downsized to Dawson area condo • West Boylston border • West side towards Paxton • Western States • Whatever section on RT 31 towards paxton • Why would you assume everyone knows the location of each of these? • worcester line
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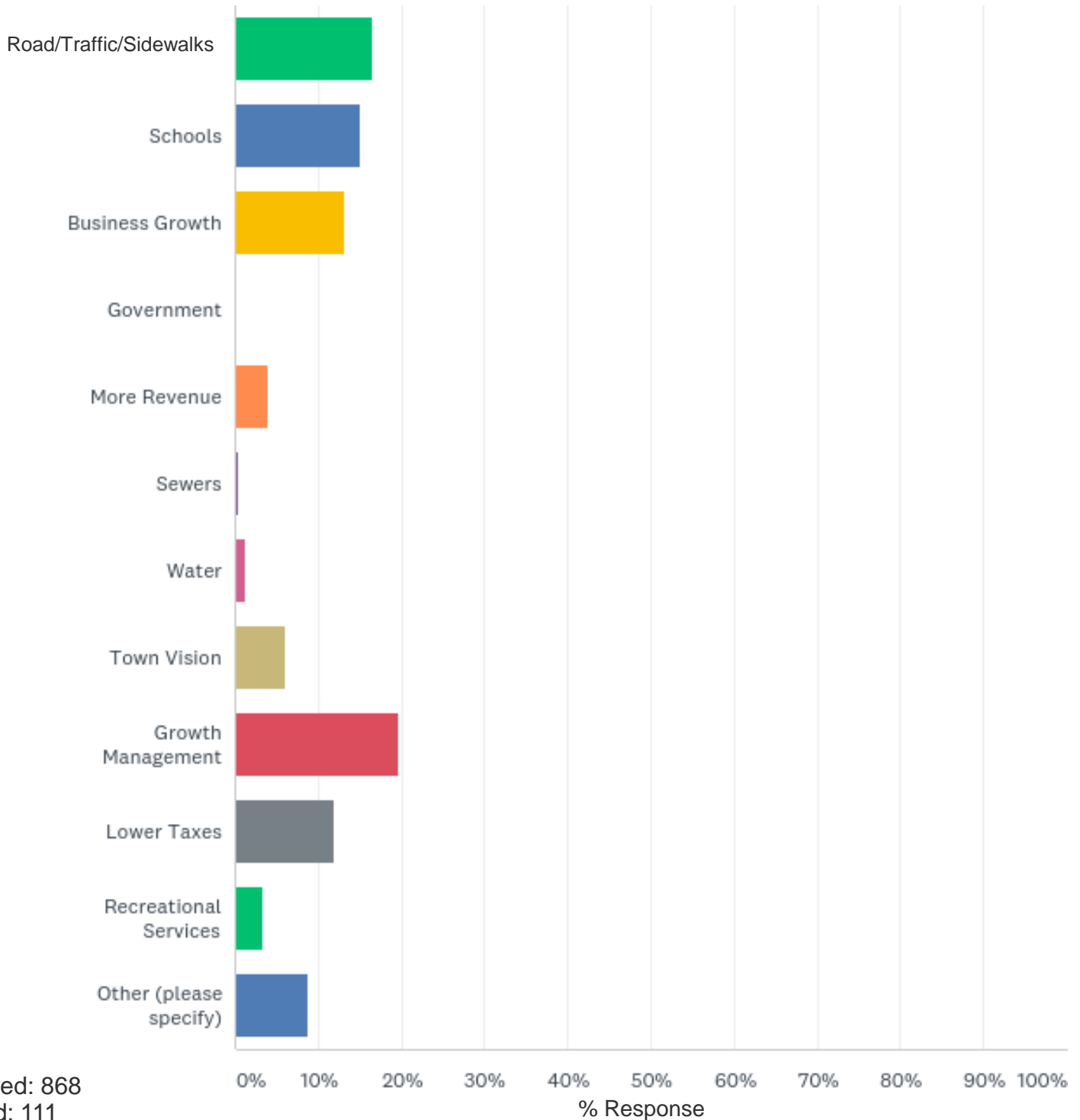
HOUSING

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q15: What is Holden's greatest need:



Answered: 868

Skipped: 111

HOUSING

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q15: What is Holden's greatest need:

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Road/Traffic/Sidewalks	16.47%	143
Schools	15.09%	131
Business Growth	13.13%	114
Government	0.12%	1
More Revenue	3.92%	34
Sewers	0.35%	3
Water	1.27%	11
Town Vision	5.99%	52
Growth Management	19.70%	171
Lower Taxes	11.87%	103
Recreational Services	3.34%	29
Other (please specify)	8.76%	76
TOTAL		868

HOUSING

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q15: What is Holden's greatest need:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A way to ensure that the younger generation can work locally and afford a home, a way to stabilize home prices so the younger families can have the size home they need, also allowing them to buy homes from the older people who want to downsize • All of the above • A detail officer at Wachusett or better traffic mgmt. • A nightlife • A plan for a vibrant, walkable Town Center • affordable apartments • All of the above. We do a great job at some of these, but all are important. • Alternatives to cable/internet • another grocery store ie. Trader Joes, Wegmans, Whole Foods, • Better access to major routes • better connection to major highways and mixed housing • Better electric company • Bike lanes and bike paths • business growth + growth management of new homes • by-pass highway, one way streets eliminate neighborhood cut throughs • Contain water/sewer cost • Current traffic demands are choking entire 122 corridor • Developing independent retailers in town. • Don't build any more houses • Eagle Lake | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eagle lake back • Elderly needs • Empty properties on Main st that have had For Rent signs for years need to be filled with businesses! Traffic on Main street need to be addressed as well. • Find uses for empty buildings and stop building houses • Green open space • Growth management and traffic solutions. With so many new McMansions, traffic congestion is making Holden more polluted with less trees! • Have you seen the DPW facility? It's a disgrace, to a town of our resources.. • Holden needs a connector off Malden Street to I-190, you should have never of passed on it in the 70's when it was an option for the town, now you have grid lock, everyone I talk to will avoid the town at all costs due to traffic issues. • Holden needs additional ball fields for all sports • I think Holden is great the way it is but could use a little more light industrial growth. Bringing businesses to fill in the existing industrial park would be a big improvement • indeterminate • Internet options! • Leash-free public dog parks and trails • Less new home construction and actual adherence to conservation regulations - a conservation committee with a backbone • Limiting additional homes being built • Maintaining, creating and supporting open space and lower taxes • Manage the number of unused commercial buildings on Main Street - put these assets to better use, even if it means taking the buildings by eminent domain. It is a BLIGHT that has been allowed for far too long. • More pharmaceutical and I.T. industries. |
|---|--|

HOUSING

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q15: What is Holden's greatest need:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Near Rail Trail • no charge for full time kindergarten • NO MORE LARGE DEVELOPMENTS!!! • Non town recreation • One more food store • Open space • Open space • Preservation, restriction on buildings • Public transport • Public Transportation! • Redesign of main st to accommodate traffic • Restaurants; walkable town center • Restricted new home building | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sidewalks and traffic calming on Holden's busy roads • Sidewalks in residential areas so seniors can walk close to home for some exercise • Skate park open to skateboarding, BMX, scooters, and WCMX. • Slow down growth, retain open space • Snowplow drivers that do not drive too fast and knock mailboxes over • Social scene: bars/restaurants • stop allowing for large housing developments- create snob zoning • Stop green lighting housing developments • stop overdevelopment • Town Internet Service / Cable - Holden needs to offer its own |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • road/traffic issues need to be addressed & management of growth is related to this and need for additional schools - taxes are too high because of need for schools • Schools & Sidewalks are foundational to stronger neighborhoods, people buy for the neighborhoods. • Shopping, grocery store besides Big Y. • Sidewalk along route 31 from Paxton to center of town, more develop of housing but no where to safely walk to get to town. • Sidewalks and bike lanes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • traffic - traffic congestion, speeding. and noise; repave 122 to decrease noise; then you must narrow the lane as drivers approach Jefferson to slow them down towards the high school - can you build walls like on Mass Pike to shield housing from the incessant drone? where is the genius (\$\$\$) who thought up 122 = Mass Pike through Holden? • Traffic / Better yielding to pedestrians • TRAFFIC ON ROUTE 122A • Trails and promotion of walking, hiking and biking • transportation services • unoccupied/abandoned properties/buildings should not be left to just rot....make the owners keep the property up to neighboring esthetic standards, at minimum. • We need to limit the amount of subdivisions going in. These houses are stacked on top of each other. How will the schools keep up if the population grows so fast? |

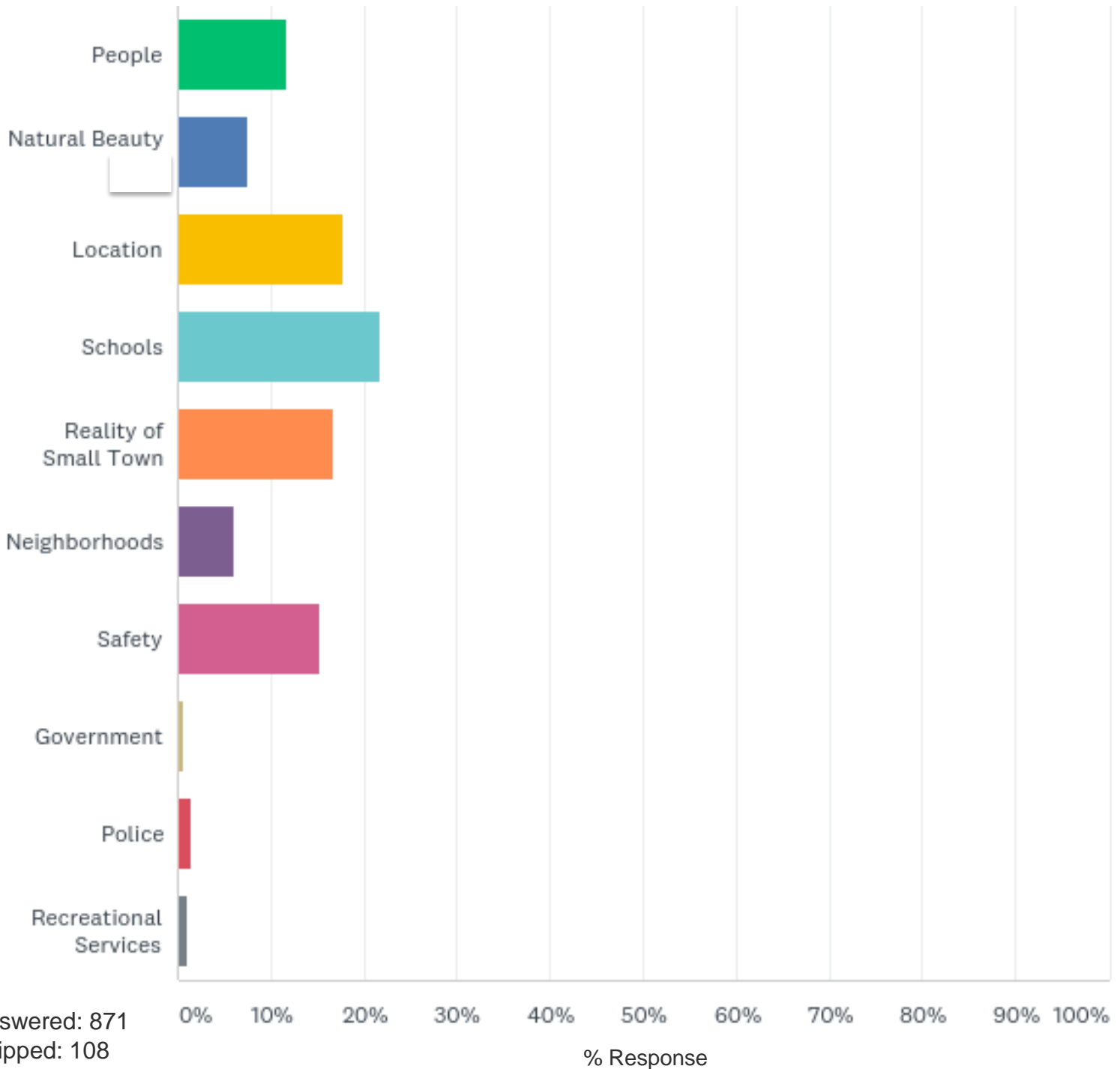
HOUSING

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q16: What is Holden's greatest asset:



HOUSING

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q16: What is Holden's greatest asset:

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
People	11.71%	102
Natural Beauty	7.46%	65
Location	17.80%	155
Schools	21.81%	190
Reality of Small Town	16.76%	146
Neighborhoods	5.97%	52
Safety	15.27%	133
Government	0.57%	5
Police	1.49%	13
Recreational Services	1.15%	10
TOTAL		871

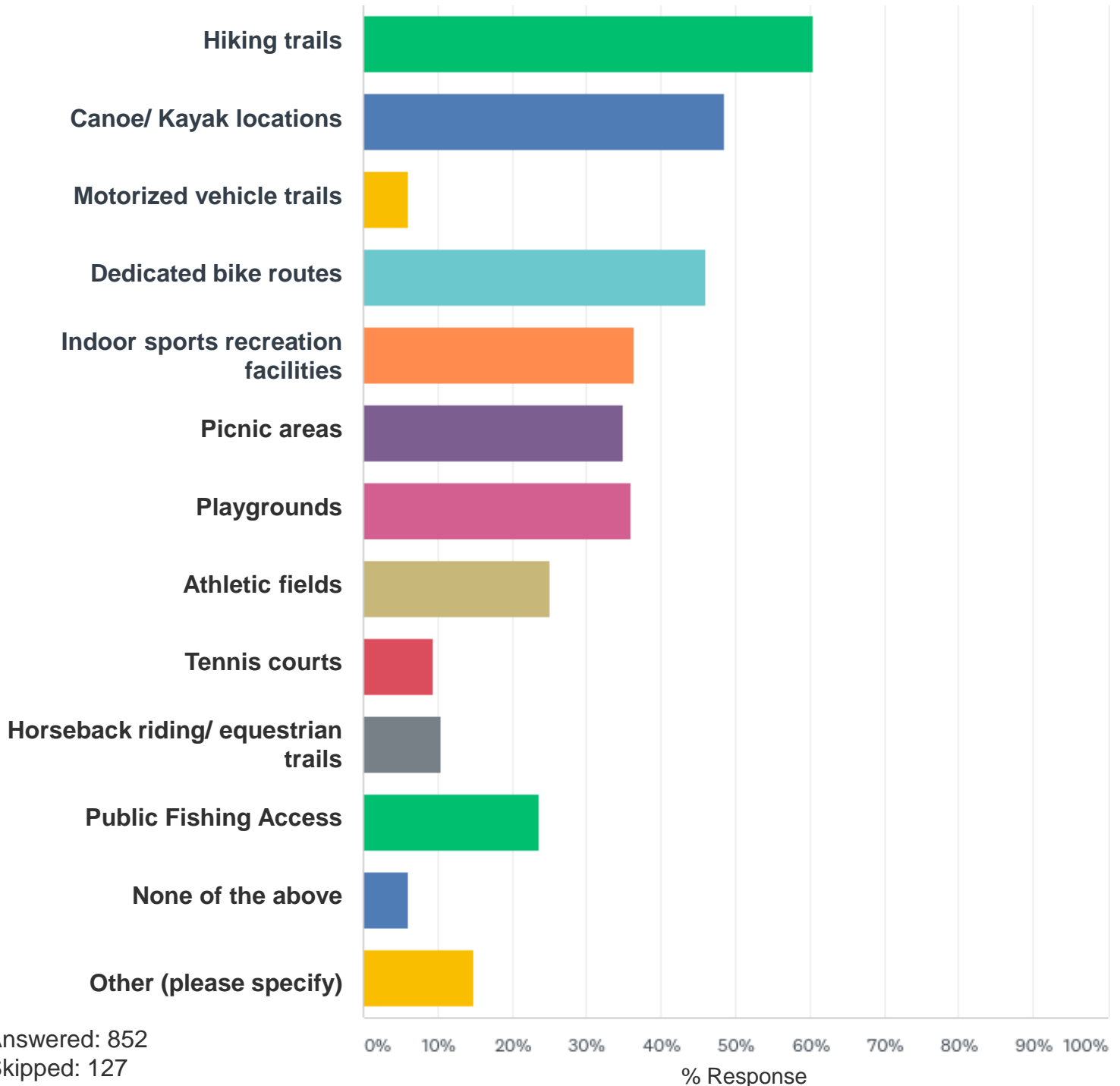
HOUSING

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q17: Which of the following recreational opportunities would you like to see more of in Holden? Check all that apply.



OPEN SPACE & RECREATION

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q17: Which of the following recreational opportunities would you like to see more of in Holden? Check all that apply.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Hiking trails	60.45%	515
Canoe/ Kayak locations	48.59%	414
Motorized vehicle trails	5.99%	51
Dedicated bike routes	46.01%	392
Indoor sports recreation facilities	36.50%	311
Picnic areas	34.98%	298
Playgrounds	35.92%	306
Athletic fields	25.12%	214
Tennis courts	9.39%	80
Horseback riding/ equestrian trails	10.56%	90
Public Fishing Access	23.71%	202
None of the above	6.10%	52
Other (please specify)	14.79%	126
Total Respondents: 852		

OPEN SPACE & RECREATION

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q17: Which of the following recreational opportunities would you like to see more of in Holden? Check all that apply.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A dog park • A healthy Eagle Lake • A town common for fireworks/community gatherings/etc • access to historic buildings • Additional sidewalks created on narrow roads, such as 122A, Newell, etc to keep children safe • Agritourism • An indoor pool in the high school • Another town pool • Any that require 0 tax dollars are good. If people want to donate their own time or material great. If not, then no program. • Arts center. • As seniors our sporting days are done • Bike lanes • Bike oaths • bring back Eagle Lake as a place to swim • Buy the dam at Eagle lake, the town already owns the beach and the water. the 2 month pool is a waste of taxes • Buy/maintain Eagle Lake as a lake + rec facility • Clean lake swimming, the way Eagle Lake used to be • Community garden lots • Community Garden space • Community Youth Center (There is nothing for teenage kids to do in town) • Dedicated green spaces • does not matter to me • Dog friendly hiking trails, indoor pool with hours dedicated to adults, hours dedicated for adults only at the town pool (not only ten minutes a day, which is useless and makes it not worth the money to join the pool) • Dog friendly places parks track etc there's good owners out there with responsibility and this town is so anti dogs based on bad information • Dog park • Dog park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog park • Dog park • dog park • dog park • dog park • Dog park • Dog park • Dog park • Dog Park - most vibrant communities have a great dog park, check out Weston, MA • Dog park. This town has many dog owners and offers them nothing. Why privilege horses over dogs? • Dog park/dog walking areas • Dog parks • Dogs allowed hiking trails, Adult sports league, more indoor court access to adults for recreational purposes. • Eagle lake activities • Eagle lake back for kids to swim and play • Eagle Lake could be further developed to provide more of these opportunities. • Exercise facilities • expansion of Eagle Lake facilities and uses • Handicap accessible recreation opportunities. ie: trails access to water ways • Help upkeep of Elder Housing • Honestly, Ice rinks are surprisingly sparse in central Mass. There is great opportunity to provide that need for the Wachusett area, fill the need and generate income, promote in-state travel & tourism in the process.
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OPEN SPACE & RECREATION

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q17: Which of the following recreational opportunities would you like to see more of in Holden? Check all that apply.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How about sidewalk access from Shrewsbury Street and 122A to downtown. You can't even cross the intersection on foot. Sidewalks on Brattle Street would be good too. And in the winter you can't cross the intersection of Shrewsbury and Holden Street on foot because they don't plow it. More people would walk for recreation if they improved the ability to negotiate certain intersections and stretches of the road. • I think the town already provides and ample supply of all of the above • Improve Eagle Lake area • Improve Eagle Lake area, Band concerts • Improve play ground areas • Indoor lap pool, sauna, weight room • Indoor rec center / pool / aquatics center • Indoor town pool with dedicated adult swim hours and classes (not just a few minutes) • It would be nice if I could use the Holden Pool I can't by the time I get home from work it's closed. Why does it need to have a life guard on if I can swim . Swim at my own risk? • Just enough! • Kimball park is mowed during the summer, but rarely is used. There is a basketball net broken down sitting on broken concrete. Parks need an upgrade. Kids need parks. • Mini golf or similar type of recreation area • Mountain Biking • Mountain biking trails - allow the community to build and maintain • Mountain biking trails and a skate park that allows BMX, skateboards, scooters, and WCMX. • Natural swimming areas • Nice balance now • Non league indoor basketball for kids • Not sure we just moved here in Oct. 2017 • Off leash dog opportunities • Off leash dog walking area • Off-leash Dog Recreation Areas • Once again, more leash-free dog parks and trails. Let's finally open up Trout Brook! | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Space • Open space • open space conservation land please no more turning our town into another edge city • Organized sports/teams for adults • outdoor spaces in general • Pavilions for parties. • Pet friendly walking areas • Pickle ball courts • Places to hike with dogs • Public park • Public water focused park as the gateway to Holden on Chaffin Pond • Rail trails I can bring my dog on • Racquetball • Recreational Areas for Biking, Snowmobiling, Cross Country Skiing, Hiking, Animal Watching, Scenery • restoration of Eagle Lake area • Restore eagle lake • Restore Eagle Lake • Resurface current tennis courts at Dawson Rec • Safe sidewalks for walking, running, dog walking, pushing a stroller or walking with children. TOO MANY new homes have been built with more people wanting to walk / run / etc.... and it simply isn't safe. • Safe walking and biking on the roads with marked lanes/shoulders or sidewalks • Save Eagle Lake • Save Eagle Lake! |
|---|--|

OPEN SPACE & RECREATION

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q17: Which of the following recreational opportunities would you like to see more of in Holden? Check all that apply.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scenic walking trails that are dog-friendly Sidewalk on 31 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skate Park Skateboard park skateboard park Skateboarding area Swimming access such as Eagle Lake. Swimming for public at Eagle Lake Swimming/beaches
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sidewalks (we live near Pinecroft Dairy and cannot walk to Town Center 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sidewalks and dog friendly amenities sidewalks kept clear of cars parking on then. Sidewalks on Holden's busy roads 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a serious lack of motorized trails in Central Mass. The state of Mass has the taxpayer money to maintain these trails but the money is barely used. If Holden dedicated some trails for ATV/Snowmobile/motorbike, it would be a great way to attract visitors as well as give residents reasons to stay in town on the weekends instead of driving two hours to Pittsfield for the nearest ATV/Snowmobile/motorbike trails. The Mass Environmental Police would patrol and maintain these trails as they are funded by the riders' license and registrations fees. I think there is a MAJOR opportunity for Holden in motorized trails!
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sidewalks on lower Main St., Decrease weeds in Chaffin Pond 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Too old for these
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sidewalks on Malden Street that connect to Main St 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town recreational sports (including some for adults) Trees and protected areas of nature Updated basketball courts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sidewalks to facilitate safe walking. Sidewalks! SIDEWALKS!!! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Variety of recreational opportunities - STEM-related options, cooking, art for kids for example
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sidewalks, outdoor track for walking Skate Park Skate park Skate Park Skate park Skate Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water activities/Beachfront. None of our ponds in Holden have a sandy beach front that could accomodate summer water/beach fun. We honly have overgrown ponds for fishing or small boating. Eagle Lake is an asset that should be saved, used, maintained etc. We do well in this area Yes Youth/Teen Community Center

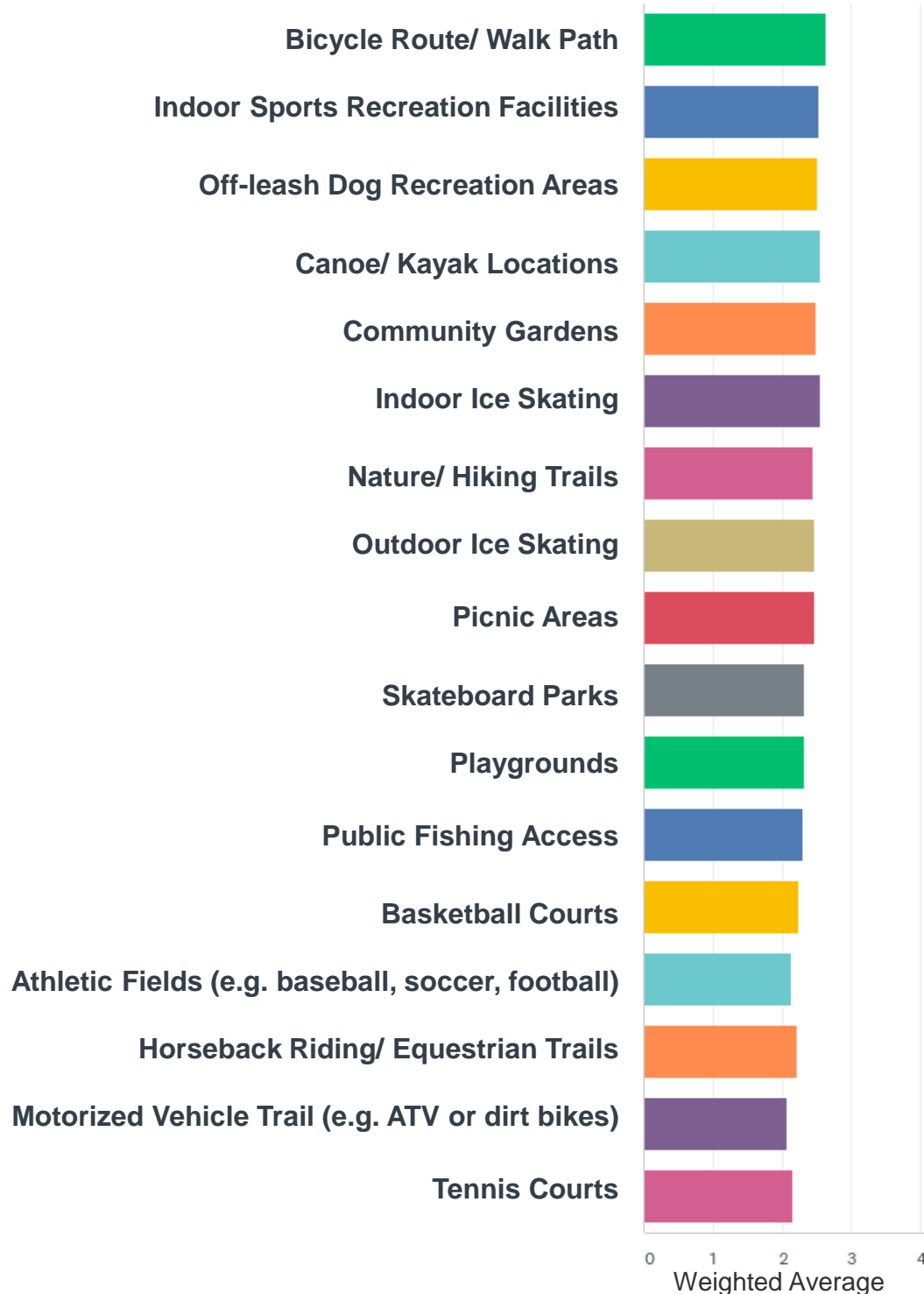
OPEN SPACE & RECREATION

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q18: Does Holden have an adequate number of these recreational or open space resources?



Answered: 844
Skipped: 135

OPEN SPACE & RECREATION

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q18: Does Holden have an adequate number of these recreational or open space resources?

	SURPLUS	ADEQUATE	NOT ENOUGH OF	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Bicycle Route/ Walk Path	0.99% 8	35.59% 289	63.55% 516	812	2.63
Indoor Sports Recreation Facilities	3.22% 25	39.51% 307	57.27% 445	777	2.54
Off-leash Dog Recreation Areas	5.27% 41	38.43% 299	56.30% 438	778	2.51
Canoe/ Kayak Locations	0.91% 7	42.69% 330	56.40% 436	773	2.55
Community Gardens	1.88% 15	46.42% 370	51.82% 413	797	2.50
Indoor Ice Skating	1.63% 12	42.10% 309	56.27% 413	734	2.55
Nature/ Hiking Trails	2.22% 18	50.80% 411	46.97% 380	809	2.45
Outdoor Ice Skating	1.55% 12	51.29% 398	47.16% 366	776	2.46
Picnic Areas	1.04% 8	52.02% 400	47.07% 362	769	2.46
Skateboard Parks	7.67% 56	52.88% 386	39.45% 288	730	2.32
Playgrounds	3.47% 27	60.21% 469	36.33% 283	779	2.33
Public Fishing Access	1.73% 13	66.58% 500	31.69% 238	751	2.30
Basketball Courts	2.04% 16	71.85% 564	26.11% 205	785	2.24
Athletic Fields (e.g. baseball, soccer, football)	9.53% 75	67.09% 528	23.38% 184	787	2.14
Horseback Riding/ Equestrian Trails	3.69% 27	72.09% 527	24.21% 177	731	2.21
Motorized Vehicle Trail (e.g. ATV or dirt bikes)	13.69% 99	65.42% 473	21.02% 152	723	2.08
Tennis Courts	2.69% 21	79.41% 621	17.90% 140	782	2.15

OPEN SPACE & RECREATION

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q18: Does Holden have an adequate number of these recreational or open space resources?

- 5-10 year old play areas - Jungle Gyms, etc.
- A public walking track (there are none in the area) - maybe around another type of open athletic field would be a great asset; enough tennis courts, but a tennis backboard/wall to practice indoors or solo without using an entire court would be nice
- Another softball field would be nice!
- Areas where dogs can be walked on leash...rail trails, etc.
- Basketball courts need updating
- Book store
- Current playgrounds need to be revamped. There are a lot in town but they are very dated
- Don't feel comfortable answering this. We just moved here in Oct 2017.
- Eagle Lake
- Eagle lake used to be cleared for skating. Fix it for that again
- Holden needs an ice rink
- I would say areas for people to walk are extremely limited. Sidewalks should be available to everyone!
- In general, it seems the majority of Holden's Recreational space is dedicated to sports. The use of space seems unbalanced currently. Please consider future recreational space for people without children who enjoy the outdoors.
- indoor swimming options
- May be enough if the schools were more accessible
- Nicer playgrounds, more picnic areas
- Replace the playground equipment at Eagle Lake that the wreck dept removed without town permission.
- Save Eagle Lake
- Scenic views with parking to enjoy without getting out of car
- Some trails in town could be used for skateboards if paved; some for motorized vehicles; and leave others for walkers and hikers, all with some picnic tables etc for resting. Maybe a small, limited access campground at Trout Brook would be welcome!
- swimming areas
- swimming-not enough
- This was very hard to answer because there was no N/A option if we did not know the answer.
- User friendly neighborhood parks are in order.

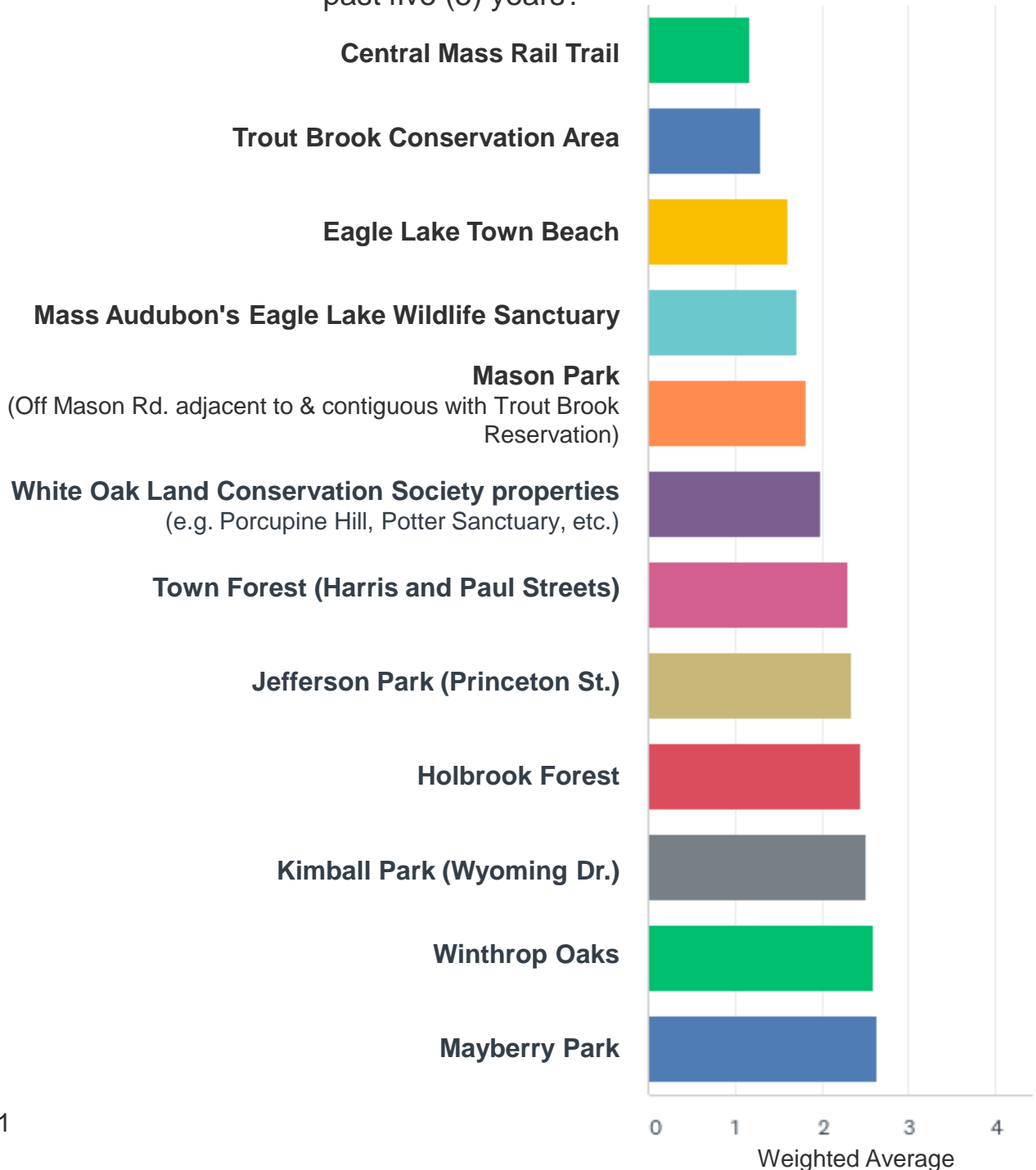
OPEN SPACE & RECREATION

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q19: Have you or any of your household members visited any of these open spaces in the past five (5) years?



OPEN SPACE & RECREATION

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q19: Have you or any of your household members visited any of these open spaces in the past five (5) years?

	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW ABOUT IT	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Central Mass Rail Trail	84.20% 714	13.21% 112	2.59% 22	848	1.18
Trout Brook Conservation Area	77.57% 650	14.92% 125	7.52% 63	838	1.30
Eagle Lake Town Beach	48.98% 410	41.46% 347	9.56% 80	837	1.61
Mass Audubon's Eagle Lake Wildlife Sanctuary	47.02% 394	34.49% 289	18.50% 155	838	1.71
Mason Park (Off Mason Rd. adjacent to & contiguous with Trout Brook Reservation)	45.27% 378	27.54% 230	27.31% 228	835	1.82
White Oak Land Conservation Society properties (e.g. Porcupine Hill, Potter Sanctuary, etc.)	32.81% 272	35.95% 298	31.24% 259	829	1.98
Town Forest (Harris and Paul Streets)	17.73% 147	34.50% 286	47.77% 396	829	2.30
Jefferson Park (Princeton St.)	15.49% 127	34.63% 284	49.88% 409	820	2.34
Holbrook Forest	10.69% 88	33.17% 273	56.14% 462	823	2.45
Kimball Park (Wyoming Dr.)	5.72% 47	36.05% 296	58.22% 478	821	2.52
Winthrop Oaks	3.18% 26	34.72% 284	62.10% 508	818	2.59
Mayberry Park	2.70% 22	31.45% 256	65.85% 536	814	2.63

OPEN SPACE & RECREATION

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q19: Have you or any of your household members visited any of these open spaces in the past five (5) years?

- bandstand park
- better maintain of eagle lake.
- Conserve the WTAG towers as a meadowland ecosystem
- Davis Hill School facilities, Dawson School facilities,
- Dawson pool is very well used
- Dawson Pool Park
- DCR properties additional to rail trail
- Did when was younger - was runner, walker, biker. Too old now. All important!!
- I had a really hard time finding a trail off River St once. Better signage would help!
- I have limited mobility
- I have lived here most of my life and haven't heard of the majority of these places. I grew up near the states streets and never heard of the park on Wyoming Drive.
- Jefferson Park is ridiculous
- Just moved here, haven't heard if most of these places
- Just moved to town last year
- Land where the old Radio Towers are located (for dog walking)
- Lived here all my life, 48 years, and have never heard of many of these
- Need public transportation
- Open Space areas not well known and info about them not disseminated to public in adequate way.
- Other than Trout Brook, none of these parks offered a picnic table; for some of these parks, where do you park? light dept has a playground & basketball, Phillips Rd. has a playground
- Peter Carr Pond
- Peter Carr Pond, Union Pond
- Why are all these areas kept a secret? Is there a directory?
- Why are all these areas kept a secret? They should be promoted

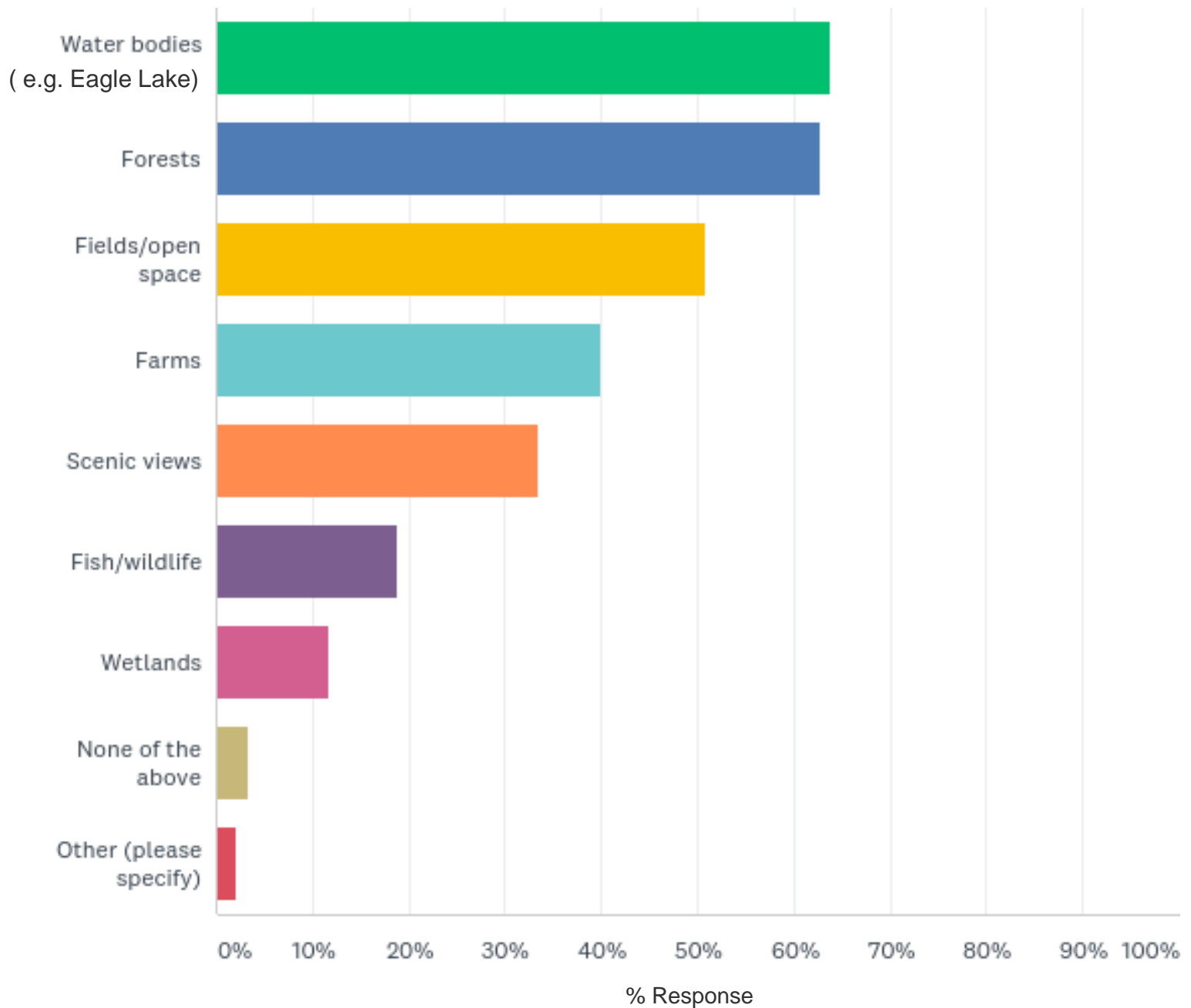
OPEN SPACE & RECREATION

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q20: What are your top (3) three most important natural features in Holden? Select three (3).



Answered: 852

Skipped: 127

NATURAL RESOURCES

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q20: What are your top (3) three most important natural features in Holden? Select three (3).

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Water bodies (e.g. Eagle Lake)	63.85%	544
Forests	62.79%	535
Fields/open space	50.82%	433
Farms	39.91%	340
Scenic views	33.57%	286
Fish/wildlife	18.90%	161
Wetlands	11.62%	99
None of the above	3.29%	28
Other (please specify)	2.00%	17
Total Respondents: 852		

NATURAL RESOURCES

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q20: What are your top (3) three most important natural features in Holden? Select three (3).

- Bike Trail
- biking trails
- Clean air
- Don't give away Eagle lake. Save it
- Eagle lake
- farms aren't really 'natural' are they? they use nature...but they are agriculture not just organically sprouting
- From what I understand Eagle Lake is man made from a dam--not a natural feature.
- Grove Cemetery
- Mountain view
- Parks / Community Garden areas
- rail trail
- Reservoir off Route 31
- The disappearing Chaffins Pond (utrification) Union Pond
- Trails
- Trout Brook
- Walking trails (rail trail)
- White Oak properties

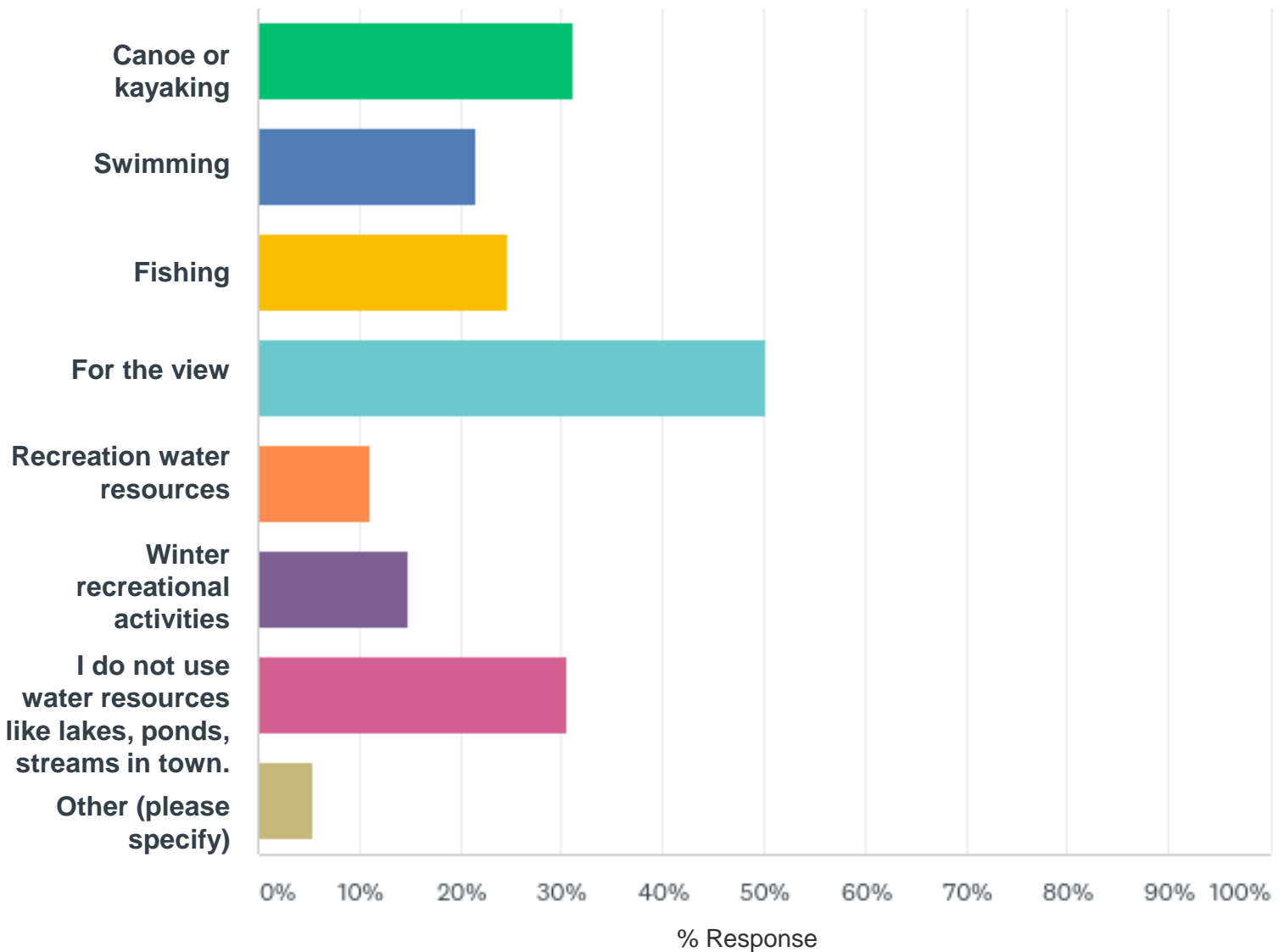
NATURAL RESOURCES

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q21: How do you use the local water sources (e.g. Eagle Lake or any other water body in Holden)? Check all that apply.



Answered: 854

Skipped: 125

NATURAL RESOURCES

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q21: How do you use the local water sources (e.g. Eagle Lake or any other water body in Holden)? Check all that apply.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Canoe or kayaking	31.15%	266
Swimming	21.55%	184
Fishing	24.59%	210
For the view	50.12%	428
Recreation water resources	11.01%	94
Winter recreational activities	14.87%	127
I do not use water resources like lakes, ponds, streams in town.	30.56%	261
Other (please specify)	5.50%	47
Total Respondents: 854		

NATURAL RESOURCES

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q21: How do you use the local water sources (e.g. Eagle Lake or any other water body in Holden)? Check all that apply.

- Birding, enjoying nature
- Concerned they are not clean or maintained
- Dogs like to swim in lakes and ponds
- Eagle Lake is a mess. The water needs to be treated in a big way. I used to swim there. Not anymore.
- Eagle lake isn't desirable at all
- Eagle lake water does not appear to be healthy or appealing to use...needs major work
- Family in Rutland has private local water source
- Hiking along the shoreline
- hiking around - the beauty
- Hiking or walking paths
- Holden Pool
- However used to enjoy Eagle Lake
- I am not aware of many of these local water resources and do not know where it is permissible to canoe/kayak, fish, swim, etc. More information about them and the activities permitted in them would be great.
- I don't use them but would like to if kept up nicely
- I don't use it but would like to
- I haven't swam a lot in them because not sure how often the water quality is monitored.
- I often go to surrounding towns eg Comet Pond
- I would use more if they were accessible
- Lifeguards wherever there is swimming!
- living near the ponds near Alden Lab, I'm sure the water would get more use if the pond was dredged and maybe defoliated
- No public access for boats or recreation
- Not aware of availability

NATURAL RESOURCES

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q21: How do you use the local water sources (e.g. Eagle Lake or any other water body in Holden)? Check all that apply.

- Other than Dawson pond, I wasn't aware of valid access/use for any other local water sources. I would like to have the options for viewing, fishing, picnics, swimming, canoe/kayaking though.
- photography
- Photography, painting, sketching, teaching about nature.
- Photography, Science and Biology examples
- Picnicking
- picnicking at Trout Brook and Eagle Lake
- plan to just haven't yet
- Restore Eagle Lake facilities for skating
- Save Eagle Lake! Best place for kids and adults
- Short walks for fresh air
- Skating in winter
- Take dogs swimming
- Take the dogs there, hiking.
- The water is too dirty
- To take dogs swimming (private pond)
- Used to swim at Eagle Lake. Now I go to Comet Pond.
- Used to swim there before Eagle Lake was choked with weeds. I would kayak there if it weren't so choked with weeds.
- Used to swim there years ago
- walking trails adjacent
- we don't go to the lakes or ponds. we do enjoy walking near the streams and rivers in the woods
- We have not used Eagle Lake for many years because the beach became dirty and overrun with geese. If it were maintained again we would begin to use the space again.
- We just moved here in the fall but look forward to kayaking and swimming this summer
- We just moved to Holden so we have not had a chance to use the local water sources yet.
- when it was usable
- wildlife viewing

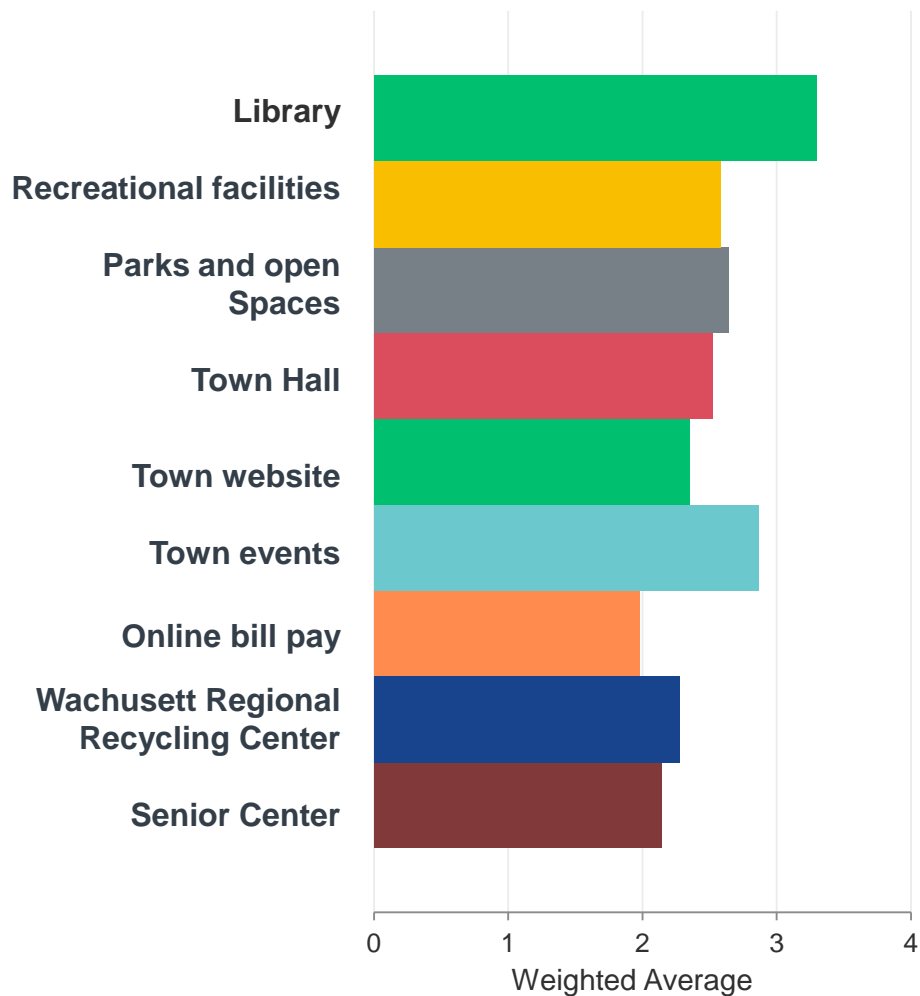
NATURAL RESOURCES

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q22: How often do you or your household use these town services and facilities?



Answered: 834

Skipped: 145

MUNICIPAL FACILITIES & SERVICES

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q22: How often do you or your household use these town services and facilities?

	FREQUENTLY (DAILY OR WEEKLY)	OCCASIONALLY (ONCE A MONTH)	VERY RARELY (ONCE EVERY FEW MONTHS)	NEVER	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Library	32.25% 268	30.57% 254	27.68% 230	9.51% 79	831	2.14
Schools	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0	0.00
West Brookfield Elementary School	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0	0.00
Quaboag Middle School	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0	0.00
Quaboag High School	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0	0.00
Recreational facilities	30.10% 245	28.50% 232	25.06% 204	16.34% 133	814	2.28
Parks and open spaces	35.69% 293	36.30% 298	22.41% 184	5.60% 46	821	1.98
Town Hall	4.00% 33	22.52% 186	56.54% 467	16.95% 140	826	2.86
Town website	14.37% 119	45.41% 376	31.40% 260	8.82% 73	828	2.35
Town events	7.06% 58	40.07% 329	47.14% 387	5.72% 47	821	2.52
Online bill pay	17.56% 144	33.66% 276	16.34% 134	32.44% 266	820	2.64
Wachusett Regional Recycling Center	11.17% 92	34.59% 285	39.44% 325	14.81% 122	824	2.58
Senior Center	7.83% 64	9.79% 80	26.81% 219	55.57% 454	817	3.30

MUNICIPAL FACILITIES & SERVICES

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q22: How often do you or your household use these town services and facilities?

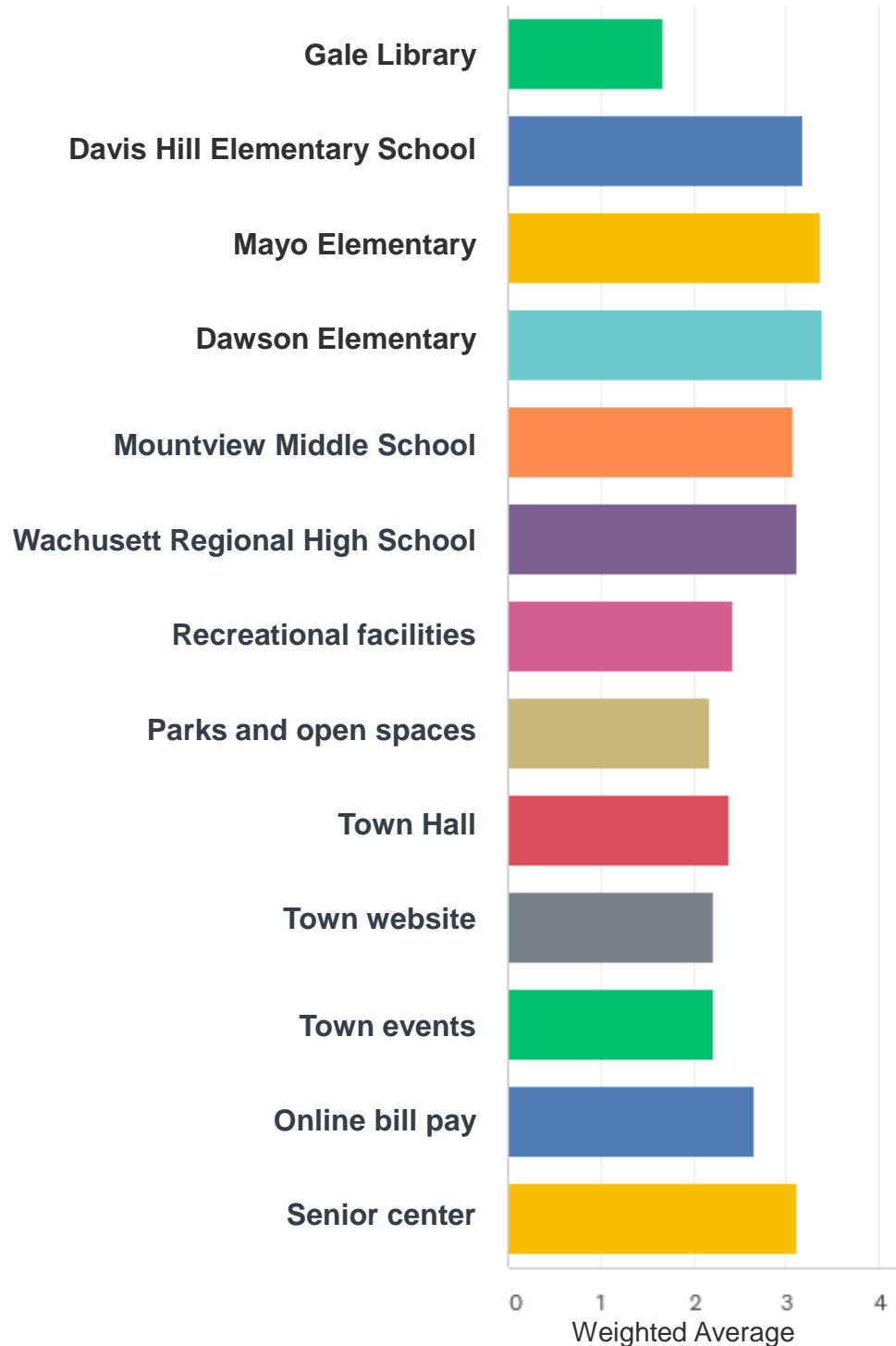
- Eagle Lake
- Farmer's market
- I would like to use the pool if there were guaranteed swim hours for adults or if the lap pool was dedicated for those swimming laps. Right now, it's not worth the money for the adults who paid for it to be built.
- Library is in need of improvements.
- Police took my license so I cant go to these places anymore. Town website is awful
- Pool too crowded & expensive. NEVER go there. New director might help.
- Recycling center hours are difficult to utilize facility.
- Selectmen have to stop the riffraff coming into the Holden pool. PLEASE RESTRICT TO HOLDEN ONLY or to the district towns (sterling restricts their lake)! Two weeks ago there were thugs with ankle tracking bracelets on. Please restrict it!
- Voting & some presentations
- Wachusett Recycling Center is a valuable asset
- We would use online bill pay more often if it were easier user interface &/or had auto bill-pay feature
- Would like more access to Hendrick's house

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q23: How satisfied are you with town services and facilities?



Answered: 832
Skipped: 147

MUNICIPAL FACILITIES & SERVICES

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q23: How satisfied are you with town services and facilities?

	VERY SATISFIED	SATISFIED	NOT SATISFIED	I DO NOT USE THIS SERVICE/FACILITY	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Gale Library	54.71% 453	34.06% 282	0.97% 8	10.27% 85	828	1.67
Davis Hill Elementary School	18.70% 153	13.08% 107	0.37% 3	67.85% 555	818	3.17
Mayo Elementary	11.96% 97	12.58% 102	1.48% 12	73.98% 600	811	3.37
Dawson Elementary	12.18% 99	12.30% 100	1.23% 10	74.29% 604	813	3.38
Mountview Middle School	19.24% 157	15.69% 128	3.43% 28	61.64% 503	816	3.07
Wachusett Regional High School	16.65% 136	17.14% 140	4.04% 33	62.18% 508	817	3.12
Recreational facilities	13.42% 109	53.45% 434	9.61% 78	23.52% 191	812	2.43
Parks and open spaces	13.07% 106	65.84% 534	11.59% 94	9.49% 77	811	2.18
Town Hall	11.33% 93	60.66% 498	6.70% 55	21.32% 175	821	2.38
Town website	13.83% 113	64.26% 525	8.20% 67	13.71% 112	817	2.22
Town events	10.13% 83	70.33% 576	7.45% 61	12.09% 99	819	2.21
Online bill pay	16.38% 134	39.49% 323	6.36% 52	37.78% 309	818	2.66
Senior center	10.84% 89	27.28% 224	1.83% 15	60.05% 493	821	3.11

MUNICIPAL FACILITIES & SERVICES

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q24 What municipal services or facilities do you feel the town needs but does not currently provide?

- I'd like to see more events at the beaches and lakes. Too many of our children sit all day in school and then sit at home on the computer doing work or other things like games. It's affecting our health and mental well-being. Residents of all ages need to learn how to play outside again. There could be game nights or police department assisted bike rides on the rail trail
- "Facility" open land - the kind that is getting plowed under the developers back hoe and turned into a suburban development - more and more the character of the place is lost, inch by inch, I still love just driving through forested areas knowing that they may be gone soon... the new houses are way too big for the lots .. the lots too small. the infrastructure of the town out of scale for the increased population - who is served by this any way?
- ?
- ?
- ?
- ???
- 1. Away around the town center. 2. Better or alternate internet service than Charter
- 1: More high speed internet choices!!! Verizon Fios, Large scale town WiFi, or other choices to compete with Charter. 2: Holden Community Television should be broadcast over the air for many of us that do not receive cable TV. Maybe you could have an app to live stream it instead?
- A better facility for all of the town vehicles and trucks.
- A better on-line or social media based system for reporting issues with roadways. A few more community based events or improvements to current events like Holden Days and Memorial Day Parade.
- A community gathering open space for fireworks/annual events/etc
- A community theatre group/location
- A good recreation program at any facility OTHER than the pool area.
- A large community park/playground.
- A new DPW facility for those hard workers --- they are exposed to the elements (heat in summer, snow and ice in winter) and they are the least appreciated and supported.
- A place for hungry kids to get food during summer and vacations. Yes Holden has kids who are hungry
- A place for teenagers to socialize.
- A really nice park. A better deal with Spectrum/Charter or at least a competitor for cable services. Spectrum/Charter doesn't offer Holden any of the less expensive options.
- A year round pool and exercise center.
- Above references online bill pay for town services - my experience has been so poor I don't even consider it a viable service. This needs improvement to be current with technology.

Answered: 324
Skipped: 655

MUNICIPAL FACILITIES & SERVICES

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q24 What municipal services or facilities do you feel the town needs but does not currently provide?

- Access to compost for home use
- Access to faster internet services via FIOS or similar. Also, more options re: cable service
- Affordable recreation. Activities are too expensive.
- After school care on half days.
- All Holden youth sports should roll into one department as part of Holden Rec, overseen by a commissioner or board.
- Allowance for us to pay our town bills using our own online banking system; we are repeatedly told that we should not do this which is ludicrous.
- already answered
- Alternate Internet providers
- An alternative to big market cable/internet. There is only one choice currently
- An austerity attitude is needed when looking at new or renovated facilities. The costs really hurt the quality of life for residents especially fixed income ones.
- an indoor pool
- An upgraded, cleaned up Eagle Lake Park
- areas to walk
- Assisted living
- Automatic payment for HMLD. More recycling pick up. Better playground (s).
- Being able to schedule a recurring payment for online bill pay
- Better cable provider, Comcast, Verizon DSL
- Better care of Eagle Lake area
- Better communications about town departments and government--many aspects of the website are not updated.
- Better protected cycling lanes:
- Better signage for rec areas, outreach to seniors and the disabled (including snow management), better sidewalk and bike lane system, promotion of community and neighborhood ties and events

MUNICIPAL FACILITIES & SERVICES

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q24 What municipal services or facilities do you feel the town needs but

- Better ways to recycle big ticket or hazardous materials
- Bike lanes
- Bus service
- bus service from Worcester
- Bus service to Worcester
- Buses
- Cable TV and Internet offered other than Spectrum
- Cable/Internet options
- Can 't think of anything right now
- Can't think of any
- Can't think of anything
- Childcare at adult rec programs (pilates classes, etc)
- choice of TV options
- clean energy department
- Clean lake swimming.
- Clean up and maintain-improve Eagle Lake
- clean up eagle lake so residents can use it
- Comcast Xfinity instead of Charter
- Communication lacking
- Community Broadband
- community engagement events such as DCR lecture series, the how-to events at the old red barn. fwiw, I heard the DPW went to a day care center for a demonstration/"meet-and- greet type of thing which I thought was great
- Community garden spaces. Campground. Maker facilities with equipment and staff.
- composting
- Composting of daily food waste.
- cultural centers--galleries, museums, quiet space besides the library. place to sit and read indoors or do work like a local coffee shop

MUNICIPAL FACILITIES & SERVICES

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q24 What municipal services or facilities do you feel the town needs but does not currently provide?

- cut taxes no need more facilities
- Designated bike lanes
- Dig park
- dog park
- dog park
- Dog park
- Dog park
- Dog park
- Dog park
- Dog park
- dog park off leash walking trails walking trails at the back of Main Street stores
- Dog Park, Youth Center
- Dog Parks
- DPW building needs replacing. Too bad it was not considered when we built the light department and public safety buildings.
- Eagle Lake and Union Pond are choking. Look to Indian Lake in Worcester for how old mill ponds are properly managed.
- electric vehicle charging stations
- Electronic communication. The ability for residents to sign up for more online transactions, town news, and meeting minutes.
- Energy savings programs that National Grid and other larger companies provide.
- Enhance the playgrounds. Restroom and more benches at playground.
- Expand the yard waste program. The limited open times for the yard waste facility are extremely problematic in fall making it hard to dispose of e.g. leaves. I also have no good means to dispose of grass clippings or prunings throughout the year. Also, a small community/ youth center with flexible spaces for sports and activities, especially in winter, would be terrific. E.g. meeting spaces for hobbies, indoor basketball/ soccer/ tennis/ etc space, indoor community movie nights, amateur theater, etc...
- Expand yard waste program, please! We have lots of trouble getting rid of grass clippings, leaves and other yard debris to the facility with the limited dates and times provided.
- Extend the sidewalks on Mai. Street all the way to the Worcester line.
- Fios/ different cable provider
- food waste recycling, having the pool open for a longer season
- Free wifi/internet
- Free/Subsidized "Burnable" Trash Stickers

MUNICIPAL FACILITIES & SERVICES

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q24 What municipal services or facilities do you feel the town needs but does not currently provide?

- Good government
- Good, natural open-space parks with long walking paths and room for picnics. All parks are either sports fields or woods. (Too many sports fields as is.)
- growth management
- Heating
- High speed Internet
- high speed internet access to other utility options such as solar energy
- Holden needs a proper town museum, perhaps by adding on and updating the Hendricks House, and having a paid director and volunteer staff. The museum could also incorporate the local history room at the library, freeing up space there. There are many stories to tell about Holden and the region. It's a missed opportunity to neglect this aspect of the town's heritage.
- Home energy evaluation, that can offer discounted services and products.
- I can never get to the Recycling center given the sporadic hours
- I can't think of anything
- I think Holden provides a lot.
- I think they need a teen hang out place with books and video games that people can play for free. They also need a comic book shop.
- I would like a town common.
- ice skating
- Ice skating rink
- -Ice skating rink
- I'd love to see an outdoor concert series / outdoor movie night targeted to families. The concerts at the library and senior center frequently target children or seniors, no in between.
- Improve Eagle Lake. This should be a choice for families especially if rec Dept pool busy.
- Improved waste management services
- Independent living facility
- Indoor pool
- Indoor pool with dedicated adult hours and classes (water aerobics)
- Indoor pool with dedicated adult swim hours
- indoor pool. indoor track community garden spaces greatly expanded
- Indoor Rec
- Indoor recreation complex Nice town beach

MUNICIPAL FACILITIES & SERVICES

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q24 What municipal services or facilities do you feel the town needs but does not currently provide?

- indoor recreation for kids and teens
- indoor recreational area
- Indoor recreational space
- Indoor sports facilities, where basketball tournaments, flag football etc could be held
- Indoor swimming pool
- Indoor swimming pool
- Indoor rec. youth programs that are not sports. LEGO, theatre, music etc
- Internet access (Charter alternative)
- Internet/Cable service
- its ok
- kayak rentals, unless they do and I do not know about it
- Large appliance pick-up; additional services to clear sidewalks
- Leaf collection
- Leaf pick up
- Leash-free dog parks and trails / ponds
- Less traffic on 122A
- Local Energy Committee to guide town decision making on energy and conservation matters
- Longer before school care in the morning. If the town could start the program at 7 or 715 it would be a game changer and make life a lot easier for those that commute to work.
- Lower property taxes
- Maintain Eagle Lake Rec area
- Marked bicycle lanes on major roadways. Better communication before and after town & committee meetings. Some committees do not provide well documented meeting minutes. Better communication about things like this survey. It was not obvious on the website, yet is extremely important. I heard about it only from a friend, who heard from a friend.
- Maybe a new DPW facility.
- More accessible and up to date playgrounds not attached to a school
- More athletic facilities such as futsal courts
- More athletic fields
- More athletic fields.
- More childcare options (HoldenRec is very limited number), More indoor sport facilities, access to swimming/canoeing, racquetball, update to the playground at Dawson Rec area
- More classes for senior citizens
- More community based gatherings/festivals
- More comprehensive Historical guide on town website, including maps of "Old Holden" through the years.

MUNICIPAL FACILITIES & SERVICES

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q24 What municipal services or facilities do you feel the town needs but does not currently provide?

- More current email updates on what is happening in Holden- construction, business, programs, etc.
- More development of sidewalks! Roads are twisty and dangerous.
- More dog walking Parks. Dog friendly swimming locations. More lenient off leash dog policy at Trout Brook. More information about what parks are available to residents.
- More focus on maintaining the "current character". School grounds and roadways are not often maintained to the full potential. A solution to the common answer of its the school district or state highways responsibility needs to be resolved because we are not seeing the results currently
- More for teens. Skate park, teen center or other sports facility.
- More indoor sports and/or swimming facility for the long winters!
- More inside recreational facilities
- More internet options (fios)
- More natural gas access.
- More open space/fields that are accessible by the public with parking available (maybe using the new property in back of the new DPW?) Also, Eagle Lake needs new sand and weed control. It really has been neglected.
- More open spaces and areas to walk with dogs and ride horses.
- More recreation areas for sporting activities. Librarians in the public school system!
- More recreational space for youth.
- More sidewalks on busy narrow roadways. Annual leaf collection
- More sidewalks on lower Main St
- More state & federal agencies-SSA, DMV, VA
- more than one high speed Internet service option bicycle lanes on roads more sidewalks
- More things for children.
- More town events, festivals, etc.
- More town sewer would be helpful
- More transportation options
- More usable open water and more hiking trails
- More year round turf athletic fields for sports like soccer, field hockey, lacrosse and Flag Football
- Municipal services are adequate.
- Music - all year

MUNICIPAL FACILITIES & SERVICES

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q24 What municipal services or facilities do you feel the town needs but does not currently provide?

- N/a
- N/A
- N/A
- n/a
- NA
- NA
- NA
- Natural gas
- Natural gas , solar electricity
- Natural gas expansion into the maze. Fast way (app, facebook, etc?) to report pot-holes or damage to public property/parks/etc.
- negotiation of compatible internet service providers.
- New roads that improve infrastructure and people going to and leaving Holden
- Night senior classes at senior center... some seniors still working
- Nine
- no comment
- no sure-would have to think on that
- Non-destructive snow plowing Possible leaf collection
- none
- none
- none
- nONE
- none
- None
- None
- None Already do too much People need to be more independant
- None that I can think of offhand.
- None that I can think of.
- not much
- Not nearly enough high quality athletic fields, basketball courts and more high quality playgrounds
- Not sure
- Not sure
- Not sure
- not sure if "sidewalks" comes under facilities, but we need more
- Nothing
- nothing new needed

MUNICIPAL FACILITIES & SERVICES

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q24 What municipal services or facilities do you feel the town needs but does not currently provide?

- off leash dog park or trails
- Off-leash dog spaces
- ok
- Old electronics pick up
- Online bill pay that is easier
- Online bill pay without a fee
- Open space for dogs. Town run and maintained parks/playground that are in good shape and updated.
- Outdoor hockey rink
- Own the cable company
- pick up leaves that homeowners rake to the street
- Playgrounds, especially tot lots.
- public transportation
- public transportation
- Public Transportation
- Public transportation
- Put a list of specifically what items are recyclable for trash pick up. vs. what items are trash
- Recycling every week
- Repair of curbs destroyed by snowplows
- Report a problem app
- Road improvement. Also, I live on a private street, here for 40 years. I pay same taxes as those that live on paved roads. The sewers that were installed made the road much worse and it would be very beneficial to the residents on this road if the town would be willing to fill in a few of the deep holes with excess material that may be available. Would have never bought this house if I had known the road would NEVER get any help. Unfortunately I was very young and believed the RE agent that the road would become public! We pay our fair share of taxes and a little help would be so appreciated. After all, Worcester plows us out as a courtesy even though most of the road is in Worcester and also considered private! It would not take much to fill a few holes which are in front of just 6 homes that are in Holden. Thank you. Anything anyone can do will be most appreciated!!
- Save Eagle Lake!
- School librarians
- School Transportation
- Seldom uses town facilities
- sewer for all. unfair to have areas left out.

MUNICIPAL FACILITIES & SERVICES

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q24 What municipal services or facilities do you feel the town needs but does not currently provide?

- Side walks A Senior Center that knows, understands and is responsive to the needs of a growing elder population Traffic control/diversion suggested decades ago
- Sidewalk on Highland St (rt 31) down to at least Manning St
- sidewalks in common walking areas
- Sidewalks on south main st. Bike lane on main st.
- sidewalks on south main street
- single stream recycling or recycling every week; I generate half the trash in comparison to what I recycle
- Skate park for the kids
- skate park for the kids would be great; also PLEASE do something to maintain the water quality in Eagle Lake and Chaffins pond before we lose them to eutrophication
- Skate park is needed.
- Skateboard park
- Skatepark
- Solar
- Solar energy/facilities rebates for replacement.
- Solar farm
- Solar Power and make the beach at Eagle Lake more swimmable and nicer for families.
- Solar, competition high speed Internet,
- Splash pad
- Sports Complex
- Streets that can handle town traffic
- Taxi Bus
- Teen/Youth rec, off-leash dog area
- the dpw which will be a major drain on taxes paid by every citizen in Holden / Jefferson should be required to plow EVERY road public and private, if for nothing else other than PUBLIC (citizen) safety. including ALL of Hilltop ave. that was plowed in the past and is not plowed now,
- The town does a good job of providing services and facilities. If there are enough artists in town, an open studio or other arts or arts and crafts event would be a good addition and might attract people from out of town.
- The town needs an app for smart phones on which we can pay bills and follow events and recreation areas, etc.

MUNICIPAL FACILITIES & SERVICES

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q24 What municipal services or facilities do you feel the town needs but does not currently provide?

- The town needs more recreational fields with lights so that youth sports can be played after dark. The Little League fields at the CRA are the only ones I am aware of with lights. I am on the Board of Directors of Wachusett Flag Football. We use the Dawson and Mayo school fields. I would love it if our season could go a few more weeks in the fall, but the reality is that once we turn back the clocks the first weekend of November, there is nowhere for teams to practice in the evening because it gets dark at 4:30pm, and there are no lighted fields available to us. So, our season has to end around Halloween unfortunately, when there is definitely demand to go a few weeks longer. The town would also benefit from an indoor recreation facility like Bancroft built for indoor soccer, deck hockey, basketball, etc to offer more winter options when the weather is bad.
- The water and electric bills should be able to be budgeted for the year, to have a more equal monthly payment. Also I would like to see natural gas service available throughout the town.
- There seems to be a complete and total disregard for handicap access and programs the elderly and handicap can enjoy. If they exist they are not publicized.
- They need a sanitation pick up of big items without charging once a month or by appointment
- To be more for the people
- Town cable and internet (like Shrewsbury)
- Town cable/ internet like Shrewsbury MA. Recycling every week.
- Town common / gathering area by town hall not senior center
- Town history, information about parks and trails
- Town indoor rec center with various programs and free play times as well.
- Town owned internet service similar to Shrewsbury
- Town recreation facility's
- Town wide events.
- Town-sponsored recreational equipment rental (ie, canoes, kayaks, bikes)
- townwide sewerage
- Traffic control
- Traffic management
- Transportation
- Transportation
- Transportation
- Transportation for those who can no longer drive. Elder vans very limited as to where they will go.

MUNICIPAL FACILITIES & SERVICES

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q24 What municipal services or facilities do you feel the town needs but does not currently provide?

- Transportation such as bus service
- Trash and recycling in condos
- Trash drop off site
- Unsure
- unsure
- Unsure
- Updated DPW facilities
- We need a dump. Or curbside free pick up. We also need leaf pick up (bags) in the fall.
- Web access
- Weekly recycling pick up
- weekly recycling pick up instead of every other week
- Weekly recycling pick up, leaf collection pick up.
- Weekly yard waste site
- Wifi
- Winter swimming
- yard waste pick up, dog park
- Yard waste removal!!! Moving from VA, where this was prevalent, it's SO hard to believe that a rural town such as this doesn't offer a sensible option here (and no, borrowing a truck, loading it, and running the waste to the local brush pile once a month is NOT a sensible option). This may not be a problem for residents on larger lots, as it isn't problematic to start a compost pile on 1+ acre. But for those of us downtown, there's simply no space. A yard waste removal program, paid for by participants, really should be a consideration.
- Yard waste/leave pickup like Worcester does
- Year round brush and lawn dumping.
- youth activity center
- Youth Center
- Youth center
- Youth center or recreation center for school aged children.
- Youth classes that do not interfere with school schedules that can teach kids S.T.E.A.M., sport or dance classes that only last a couple of weeks at a time. Classes that families can take together.

MUNICIPAL FACILITIES & SERVICES

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q25 What would you improve about the library?

- I haven't been
- Unfortunately in the digital age my book needs are met online
- More events in the children's room More current construction and landscape periodicals (I.e. this old house"
- ?
- A better children's story time and a better play area (West Boylston has a great program so more like that). More audio books for adults.
- A media room with some newer equipment, computers, televisions, and media access.
- Add more evening/weekend program/events for families who have to work.
- Additional computers and lessons for the residents that need the help!
- Allow the book drops to be accessible during open hours. Moms with young children sometimes have young kids/babies who fall asleep in the car, making it difficult to go in to return items.
- Attitude of librarians
- Baby activities were difficult to access. (Don't happen in summer, limited spots for lapsit)
- Be OPEN more often!
- better "publicity" for the services the library already provides e.g. the entire Mars library, the discount coupons the library can provide, the special events at the library, etc.
- Better children's programs for summertime.
- Better children's area
- Better children's programs, similar to that of Beaman Library in West Boylston.
- Better computer access
- Better hours and use of book drop outside of library. If books are dropped off the day they are due they count as late because they are not counted until the next day. Sometimes it is difficult to go inside the library with a sleeping child for example, but you have to or you will get a late fine.
- Better income tax form/booklet availability
- Better lighting for visually impaired in the newspaper room
- Better publication of events.
- better selection for online availability
- Better space for the kids (difficult to get into children groups such as lapsit). More activities for children. Better lounge space for reading.
- Bigger and better area for children. Example: West Boylston library
- Book Cellar hours

Answered: 339
Skipped: 640

MUNICIPAL FACILITIES & SERVICES

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q25 What would you improve about the library?

- book mobile
- Books for download
- Bring back Jane Dutton's cheerful tone. Even her remonstrances were graceful and charming
- Budget increase/more programs
- Cards expire and must be renewed in person - I use online service for ebooks all the time but have to stop and find time for a trip in every couple of years. Why not renew online or have a longer card life?
- Cell phone App for reserving/locating materials that you could pick up upon arrival.
- Change the entrance and make it more inviting.
- Changing table in upstairs bathroom
- Children's Room
- Children's services! Surely you know that many families go to the West Boylston Library because Holden's library cannot meet our needs.
- Collaborate more with elementary schools (as the schools don't have a vast collection of decent books or librarians)
- computer access
- Continue with community programs
- Cozy chairs placed strategically.
- Discount tickets
- Do not use
- Don't use
- don't know
- Don't use the library so no comments on how to improve.
- ease of borrowing online books.
- ease of use (i.e. communication regarding the expiration of one's library card)
- Easier use online
- Enable family membership, sharing s single library account for checking out and tracking books.
- expand
- Expand hours and offer more children's programming.

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q25 What would you improve about the library?

- Expand technology access and services for teens and young adults
- Extended hours
- Flooring could be updated, is very worn.
- Friendliness
- Friendliness of some of the staff.
- Fun classes for adults, ie: painting, music, crafts, in the evening
- Funding, but they do a wonderful job with little.
- good as is
- Good shape. Maybe more computer spaces, classes for technology, etc.
- have authors come to speak
- Have extended evening and Saturday hours.
- Have rentable meeting space, more community events.
- having a wider selection of books; more topics/sections in library & more large print books
- Hours
- Hours
- Hours
- Hours
- Hours - till 7pm for working parents
- Hours and accessibility for working families
- Hours of children events are only for stay-at-home parents, could offer some outside of the working day.
- Hours of operation
- Hours of operation?
- I do not know
- I don't use it enough
- I feel that the library is very good

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q25 What would you improve about the library?

- I like it the way it is
- I love the library! More funding for programs and books. Borrow I bicycle orogram.
- I love the library. I only wish they had more money for more books and services.
- I think it works pretty well as is.
- I think the Gale free is awesome.
- I think the library is fine.
- I think the library is the best thing about this town
- I think they need to put romance books in there won section. In the YA section here should be a YA romance section.
- I would add STEM resources and programs. A 3D printer would be a great fit. It would expose kids to STEM topics early and allow locals to work on personal projects.
- I would first like to understand their budget increases before considering improvements.
- I would like to borrow books longer than it does now!
- I would like to see the Library purchase more relevant material, I am always waititng on books from other libraries. Especially new Releases.
- I would offer more things to rent and more options for passes that travel further than a few miles from the location.
- I would utilize the magazine area better.
- if this isn't done already, the book cellar - if book not sold in X time, let it go
- Improve the Wi-Fi access for cellular devices.
- Increase hours - most interested in early morning hours.
- Increase size
- increased town funding
- It could be more welcoming.
- it is great
- It is perfect
- It is sufficient.
- it needs more publicity about the "newer" ways to use the library such as borrowing on-line books.
- It should be open on Sundays! That's when people are free.
- It's excellent
- It's great
- Just moved here in Oct haven't used the library but I plan to use the library for my grad courses. I think good internet access and quiet study spaces are important, as well as conf. rooms for group meetings/projects. Also I think it is important to have programs for children and seniors. It is amazing how many people utilize the library when it is adequate and functional.
- Kids programming - evenings and weekends
- Larger children's area-- more similar to the one at West Boylston's Beaman Library.
- Less fees. West Boylston doesn't charge fees. I stop going when I forget to return books

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q25 What would you improve about the library?

- library excellent
- Library is almost perfect.
- Library is excellent and works well for all. Would love more staff so historical resources could be available more often.
- Library is fine
- Library is great!
- Library is very good. I'd add more outreach to the younger generation that reads less.
- like it just the way it is, sometimes the librarians have an attitude.
- Longer hours
- Longer operating hours and more story time activities for children.
- longer times for books
- Love it
- Love the library as it is!
- Love the library. When kids were young went weekly.
- mailings to inform residents about what is being offered.
- Make it larger and more modern
- Make it more friendly and modern add fun programs
- Make the library a fun place for kids. The children's section is lacking.
- Maybe expand the operating hours
- Maybe more programming for seniors??
- modernization
- More activities for children and families.
- More activities for children. Love the summer concerts!
- More activities.
- More and varied activities or services for older school aged children.
- More author visits for adult readers
- More books
- More books
- More books!
- More children events during the summer Children groups with times to accommodate those that work.
- More children's books
- more comfortable chairs
- More communication about online services
- More computers? Haven't been into the library since I was a kid (I'm now 33)
- More current books
- More digital content
- More ebooks More hours for book cellar

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q25 What would you improve about the library?

- more evening hours for programming (even if the entire building is not open); more programs for all ages - tweens especially seem left out (can library & recreation partner to do things like STEAM or cooking? Lego/robotics club? etc?)
- more evening hours. open on Sunday.
- More evening programs
- More events
- More events (talks and such), modernize inside a bit to appeal to millennial generation, maybe coffee bar would be fun.
- More events for kids
- More events for small children.
- More events for teens
- More floor space Cafe
- More funding
- More funding
- More funding
- More graphic novels for kids 10 to 14 year olds.
- More Handicap parking.
- More help with card file
- More hours
- More hours
- More hours and delivery service, more meeting spaces
- more hours available
- More hours I suppose. A Dropbox in another part of town would be nice, sometimes I don't want to deal with driving all the way up 122 just to return a book
- more hours on the weekend. and check out of books in the children's area
- More hours open, better publicity of events
- More info about what is available on the second floor and the basement.
- More kid/toddler drop in activities
- More kids activities on weekends
- More kids programs on weekends
- More online loan options
- more parking
- More Parking
- More pleasant interactions with users especially in the book return
- More programming for children, improved appearance of interior of library as well as grounds and wall surrounding library.

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q25 What would you improve about the library?

- More programming for kids. The west boylston children's library offers so many more "centers" we often go there and not Holden. More passes to local attractions at discount prices
- More programs for children and teens.
- more programs for youth and adults
- more public programs - movies, music, readings
- More reading space
- More reasonable policies, friendlier staff. It's just not a pleasant place to go...never been a nice feeling in there except for the kids' room where the staff is helpful and friendly.
- More recent books
- More resources
- More staff, bigger program room
- More weekend hours
- More/Better Kids Programs. We use the West Boylston Library because of their childrens programs.
- More/better selection of books
- More/longer hours
- My kids are toddlers so it works for us now. But I'm certain their needs will increase and I hope it keeps up with them.
- n.a
- N/A
- N/A
- N/A
- n/a
- N/A
- N/A
- N/A The Library is great. We like the Book Cellar.
- NA
- NA
- NA
- None....excellent
- Not a thing
- Not much - this is one of our favorite places in town. The staff is so nice and accommodating.
- Not much, it's a very nice library.
- Not realistic, but the exterior. Gorgeous original stone building with 70's era add-on that looks like medical offices.
- Not sure
- Not sure.

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q25 What would you improve about the library?

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| • Nothing | • Nothing |
| • Nothing | • Nothing |
| • Nothing | • Nothing |
| • Nothing | • Nothing |
| • Nothing | • Nothing |
| • Nothing | |
| • Nothing | |
| • Nothing | |
| • nothing | • Nothing |
| • Nothing | • nothing |
| • Nothing | • nothing really |
| • nothing | • Nothing to improve |
| • nothing | • Nothing! |
| • Nothing | • Nothing, I love the library |
| • nothing | • Nothing, it is AWESOME |
| • Nothing | • nothing, it's fine the way it is |
| • Nothing | • Nothing, it's good as is. |
| • Nothing | • Nothing, outdated because of the internet. |
| • Nothing | • Nothing, very satisfied |
| • Nothing | • Nothing, we really love our library here. |
| • Nothing | • Nothing. |
| • nothing | • Nothing. |
| • Nothing | • Nothing. Great library! |
| • nothing | |
| • Nothing | |
| • Nothing | • Nothing. Libraries are obsolete from a research and document perspective. They are effective as community gathering locations; especially for kids. |
| • Nothing | • Nothing. I love it, the staff are wonderful |
| • nOTHING | • Nothing. It's perfect. |
| • Nothing | • Nothing. Maybe more events? |
| • Nothing | |
| • Nothing | • offer more classes for adults (self-improvement, etc.) |

MUNICIPAL FACILITIES & SERVICES

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q25 What would you improve about the library?

- ok
- OK as is
- Open Monday nights
- Open on Sunday
- Open on Sundays; more adult fiction selection
- OPEN SUNDAYS!!! more story times, more summer events maybe, but I love what the library does.
- Our library is terrific
- outdoor book drop!!!
- Outside book drop during open hours for moms with young kids. Bigger book drop that isn't always full. It's is really hard to get back numerous times and get inside with children.
- Outside drop off during business hours. More onsite parking
- parking
- parking
- Parking
- Parking
- parking
- parking
- Parking
- Parking space
- parking, hours and days open
- Parking,,, better access to historical town information
- Private study carals are needed
- Provide it with more funding to continue its good work
- Provisions for searching the library's resources from off site locations, e.g. home computer.
- Purchasing of new books
- Put it all on one floor, stop trying to save the past.
- seems adequate
- Seldom uses library
- Selection, events
- Slightly longer hours
- Small for the size of town. Enhanced children's section.
- Summer programs for children
- Sunday hours
- Sunday hours
- Sunday hours would be great

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q25 What would you improve about the library?

- Technology
- Telescope borrowing option like surrounding towns libraries have. More community gatherings such as the knitting and meditation groups.
- The bulletin board at entrance should be available for community events like it was previously.
- The children's room could do so much more. More events, more toys/games, etc. We use the library a lot but Gale children's library doesn't hold a candle to the West Boylston Library Children's room. Also, Gale needs to be renovated.
- The downstairs/basement area is not inviting. The atmosphere is stale. Some remodeling to update and create a comfortable and more cheerful reading/researching space would be a big improvement.
- The hours.
- The library could use more weekend hours and more staff to cover those additional hours. A maker space could be a welcome addition.
- The Library does not need any improvements
- The library is awesome
- The library is exceptionally good.
- The library is fantastic.
- The library is great!
- The library is perfect!
- The staff isn't the friendliest
- The stairs leading to the children's room - too steep!
- There is nothing I would change about the library.
- They do a great job.
- They never seem to have the books I am looking for but I can have them sent over from other libraries so it's not that big of a deal.
- Times; open longer, later in the day.
- To be able to check out books in the Children's Area. To reserve books online and pick them up at the library. To offer story time for smaller children in the afternoon on certain days instead of only in the mornings.
- Update the inside
- We have the best library!!
- We love the library. The only think I can think of to improve is having it open for a few hours on Sunday.
- We love the library. It would be great to have more programs for teens/young adults.
- Weekend Hours
- West Boylston library (children's area) is 1000 times better. They have more play based social programs, there is more for the children and it's just a more pleasant surrounding. I love our librarians but really wished we offered more like WB.

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q25 What would you improve about the library?

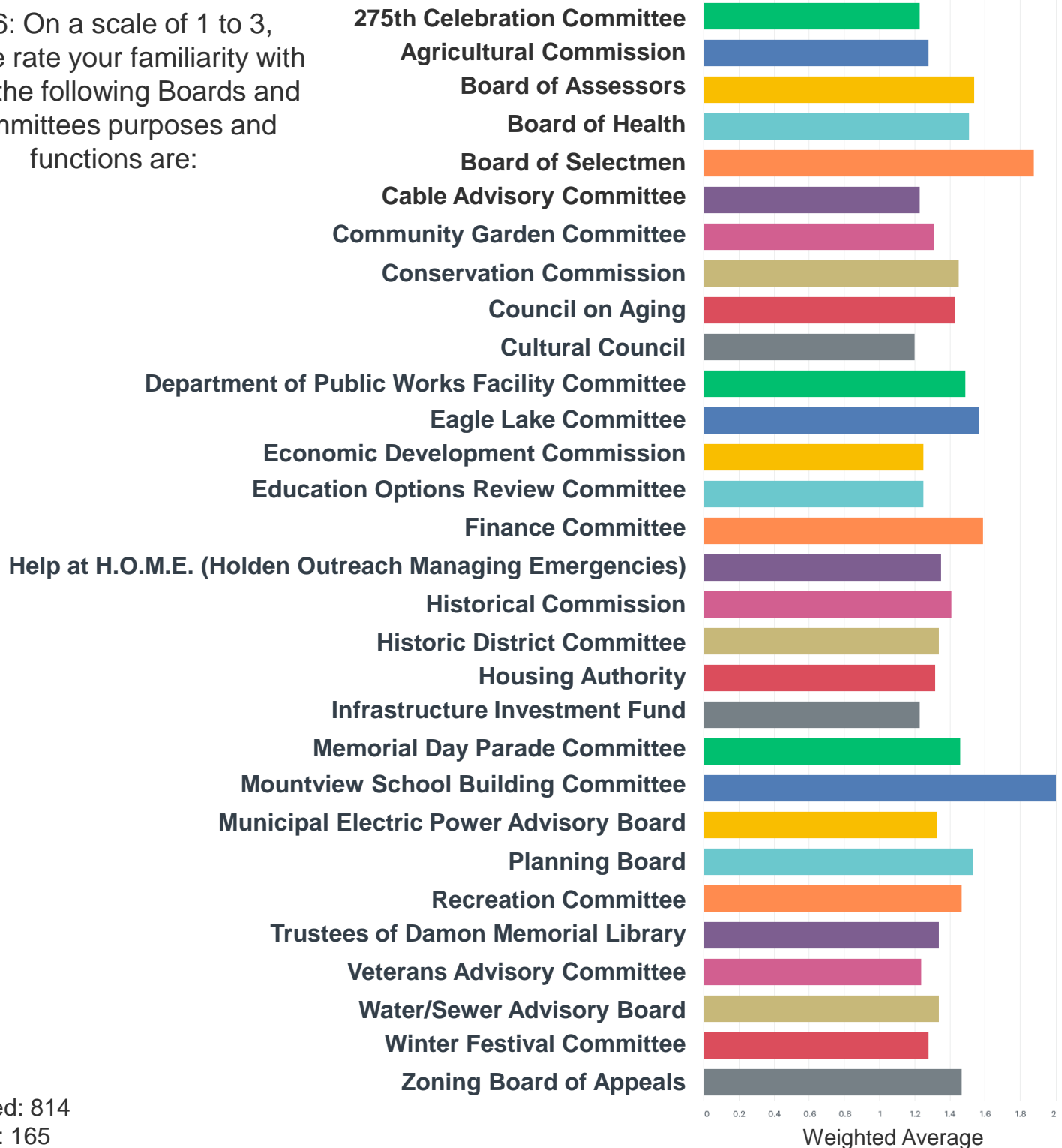
- With the growth of the town, it's time to think about expanding the library again--perhaps with a branch in e.g. Chaffins.
- Would like a discussion of current events so we have a chance to listen to one another in the community
- Would like it to be more like a library....quieter :)
- Zero

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q26: On a scale of 1 to 3, please rate your familiarity with what the following Boards and Committees purposes and functions are:



Answered: 814
Skipped: 165

MUNICIPAL FACILITIES & SERVICES

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q26: On a scale of 1 to 3, please rate your familiarity with what the following Boards and Committees purposes and functions are:

	1	2	3	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
275th Celebration Committee	78.99% 639	18.54% 150	2.47% 20	809	1.23
Agricultural Commission	75.71% 611	20.82% 168	3.47% 28	807	1.28
Board of Assessors	49.50% 400	47.03% 380	3.47% 28	808	1.54
Board of Health	52.97% 428	43.19% 349	3.84% 31	808	1.51
Board of Selectmen	28.25% 228	55.02% 444	16.73% 135	807	1.88
Cable Advisory Committee	80.20% 648	16.71% 135	3.09% 25	808	1.23
Community Garden Committee	73.66% 593	21.61% 174	4.72% 38	805	1.31
Conservation Commission	60.84% 491	33.21% 268	5.95% 48	807	1.45
Council on Aging	61.32% 493	33.96% 273	4.73% 38	804	1.43
Cultural Council	81.74% 658	16.40% 132	1.86% 15	805	1.20
Department of Public Works Facility Committee	57.29% 460	36.61% 294	6.10% 49	803	1.49
Eagle Lake Committee	55.53% 447	31.68% 255	12.80% 103	805	1.57
Economic Development Commission	77.02% 620	20.75% 167	2.24% 18	805	1.25
Education Options Review Committee	79.18% 639	16.60% 134	4.21% 34	807	1.25
Finance Committee	50.68% 407	39.60% 318	9.71% 78	803	1.59
Help at H.O.M.E. (Holden Outreach Managing Emergencies)	69.27% 559	26.64% 215	4.09% 33	807	1.35
Historical Commission	62.06% 499	34.70% 279	3.23% 26	804	1.41
Historic District Committee	68.53% 551	28.48% 229	2.99% 24	804	1.34
Housing Authority	70.35% 567	27.05% 218	2.61% 21	806	1.32
Infrastructure Investment Fund	80.47% 647	16.17% 130	3.36% 27	804	1.23
Memorial Day Parade Committee	58.19% 469	37.72% 304	4.09% 33	806	1.46
Mountview School Building Committee	50.00% 1	0.00% 0	50.00% 1	2	2.00
Municipal Electric Power Advisory Board	71.34% 575	24.81% 200	3.85% 31	806	1.33
Planning Board	52.86% 425	41.42% 333	5.72% 46	804	1.53
Recreation Committee	58.14% 468	36.40% 293	5.47% 44	805	1.47
Trustees of Damon Memorial Library	69.39% 560	26.77% 216	3.84% 31	807	1.34
Veterans Advisory Committee	79.23% 637	17.79% 143	2.99% 24	804	1.24
Water/Sewer Advisory Board	69.23% 558	27.30% 220	3.47% 28	806	1.34
Winter Festival Committee	75.40% 607	20.87% 168	3.73% 30	805	1.28
Zoning Board of Appeals	58.08% 467	36.82% 296	5.10% 41	804	1.47

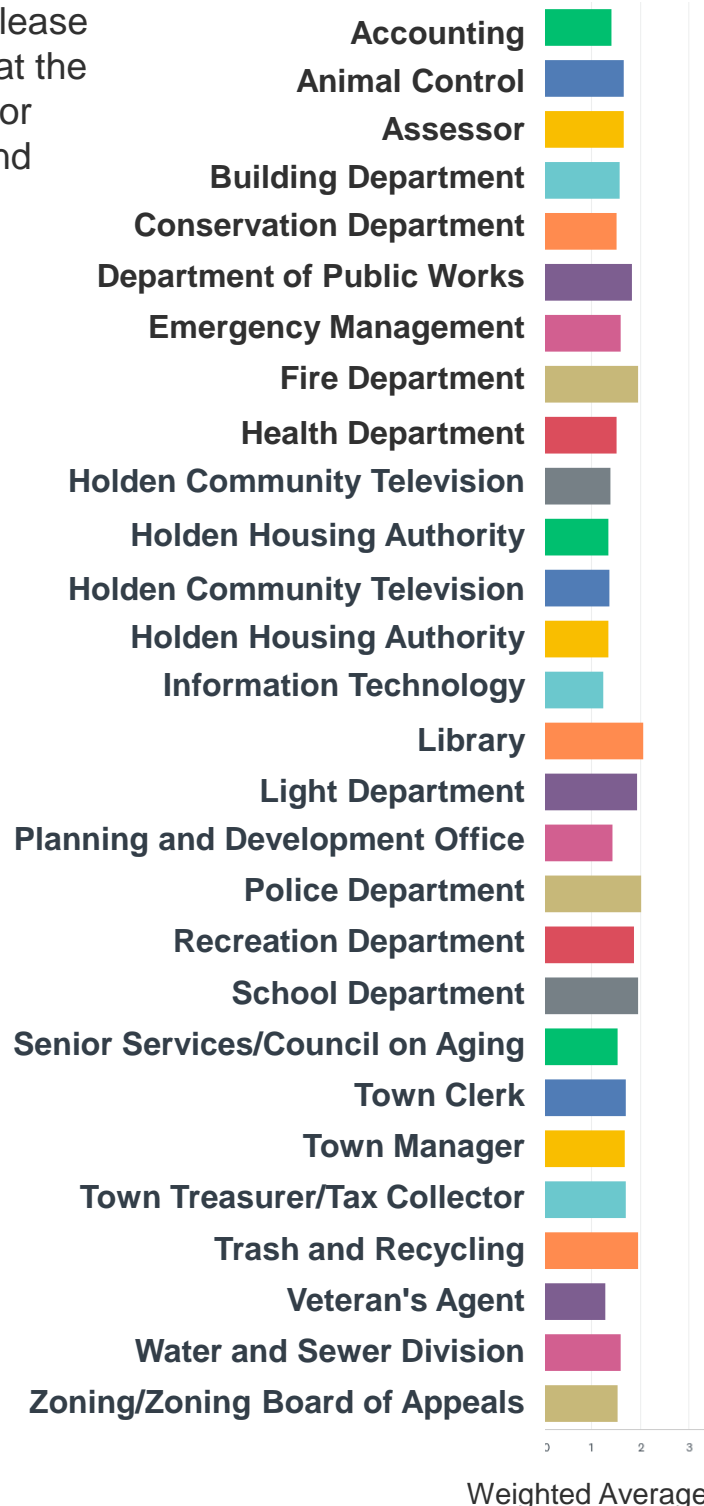
MUNICIPAL FACILITIES & SERVICES

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q27: On a scale of 1 to 3, please rate your familiarity with what the following Town services or departments' purpose and functions are:



Answered: 815
Skipped: 164

MUNICIPAL FACILITIES & SERVICES

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q27: On a scale of 1 to 3, please rate your familiarity with what the following Town services or departments' purpose and functions are:

	1	2	3	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Accounting	60.32% 485	36.82% 296	2.86% 23	804	1.43
Animal Control	38.07% 308	57.35% 464	4.57% 37	809	1.67
Assessor	37.36% 300	57.41% 461	5.23% 42	803	1.68
Building Department	47.26% 380	47.64% 383	5.10% 41	804	1.58
Conservation Department	53.25% 426	41.88% 335	4.88% 39	800	1.52
Department of Public Works	27.02% 217	60.52% 486	12.45% 100	803	1.85
Emergency Management	45.76% 367	47.38% 380	6.86% 55	802	1.61
Fire Department	19.43% 156	65.38% 525	15.19% 122	803	1.96
Health Department	50.56% 404	45.81% 366	3.63% 29	799	1.53
Holden Community Television	62.84% 504	32.92% 264	4.24% 34	802	1.41
Holden Housing Authority	66.67% 536	30.60% 246	2.74% 22	804	1.36
Holden Community Television	65.70% 521	29.89% 237	4.41% 35	793	1.39
Holden Housing Authority	67.09% 532	30.39% 241	2.52% 20	793	1.35
Information Technology	76.78% 615	20.85% 167	2.37% 19	801	1.26
Library	15.92% 128	60.20% 484	23.88% 192	804	2.08
Light Department	21.17% 170	64.13% 515	14.69% 118	803	1.94
Planning and Development Office	59.97% 478	35.13% 280	4.89% 39	797	1.45
Police Department	16.54% 133	64.30% 517	19.15% 154	804	2.03
Recreation Department	28.38% 227	55.63% 445	16.00% 128	800	1.88
School Department	24.16% 194	55.17% 443	20.67% 166	803	1.97
Senior Services/Council on Aging	50.75% 408	43.03% 346	6.22% 50	804	1.55
Town Clerk	36.80% 294	55.32% 442	7.88% 63	799	1.71
Town Manager	39.10% 312	52.01% 415	8.90% 71	798	1.70
Town Treasurer/Tax Collector	35.23% 279	58.84% 466	5.93% 47	792	1.71
Trash and Recycling	19.27% 154	65.58% 524	15.14% 121	799	1.96
Veteran's Agent	73.53% 586	23.71% 189	2.76% 22	797	1.29
Water and Sewer Division	43.38% 347	51.25% 410	5.38% 43	800	1.62
Zoning/Zoning Board of Appeals	50.94% 406	44.29% 353	4.77% 38	797	1.54

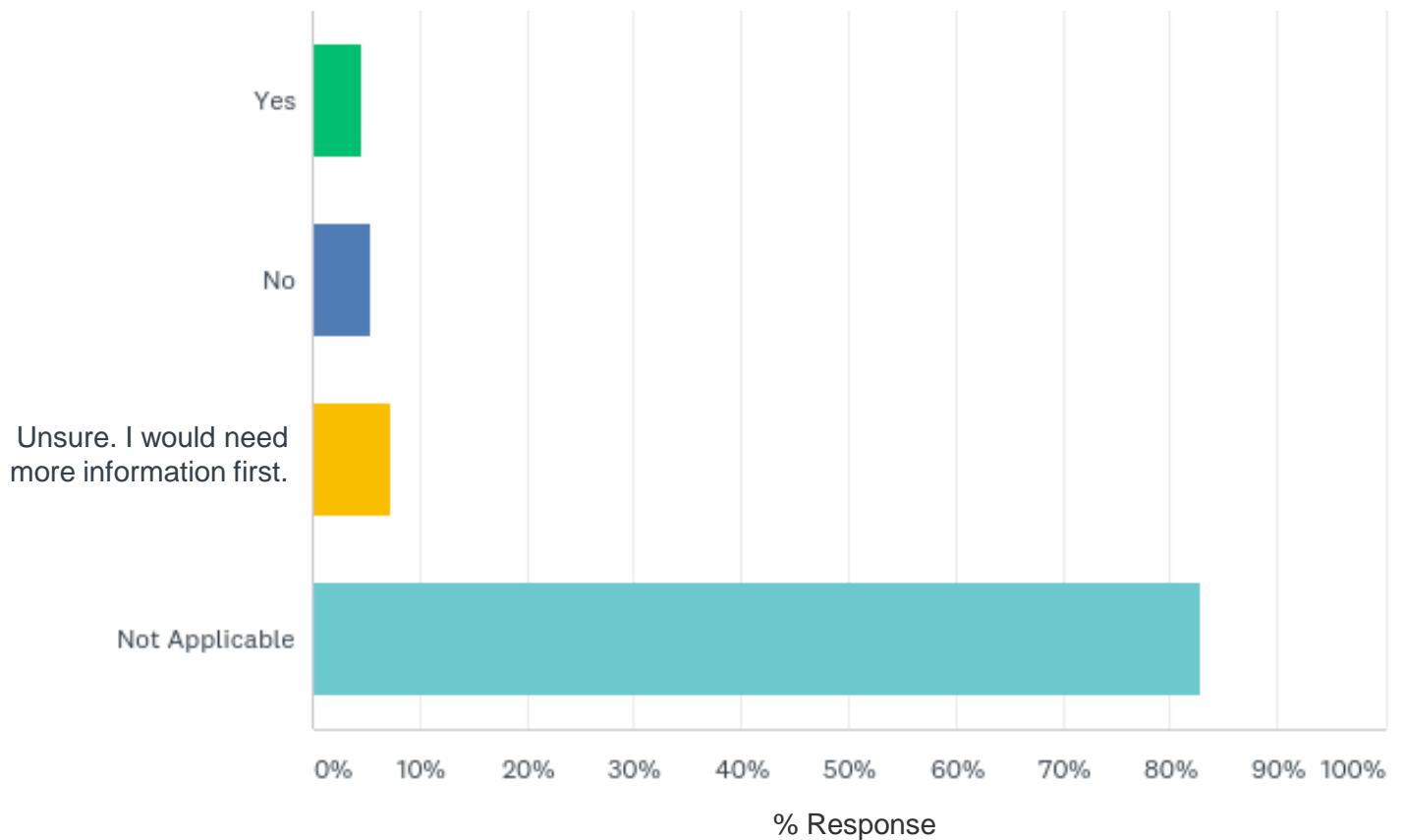
MUNICIPAL FACILITIES & SERVICES

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q28: For private well users, if Town water became available in your neighborhood would you ever consider connecting?



Answered: 766

Skipped: 213

MUNICIPAL FACILITIES & SERVICES

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q28: For private well users, if Town water became available in your neighborhood would you ever consider connecting?

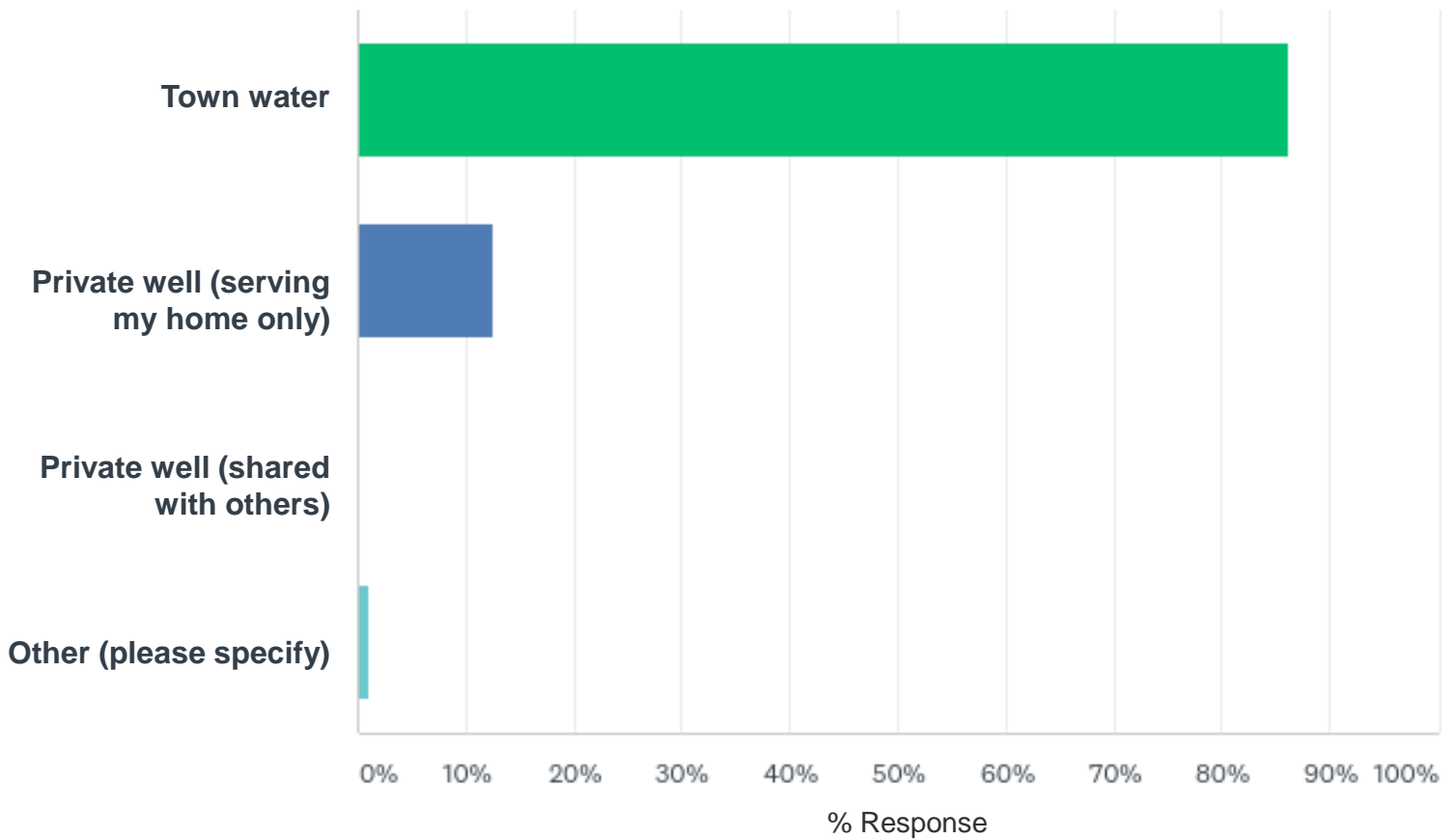
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	4.57%	35
No	5.35%	41
Unsure. I would need more information first.	7.31%	56
Not Applicable	82.77%	634
TOTAL		766

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q29: Where do you get your water?



Answered: 814
Skipped: 165

MUNICIPAL FACILITIES & SERVICES

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q29: Where do you get your water?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Town water	86.12%	701
Private well (serving my home only)	12.65%	103
Private well (shared with others)	0.12%	1
Other (please specify)	1.11%	9
TOTAL		814

MUNICIPAL FACILITIES & SERVICES

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q29: Where do you get your water?

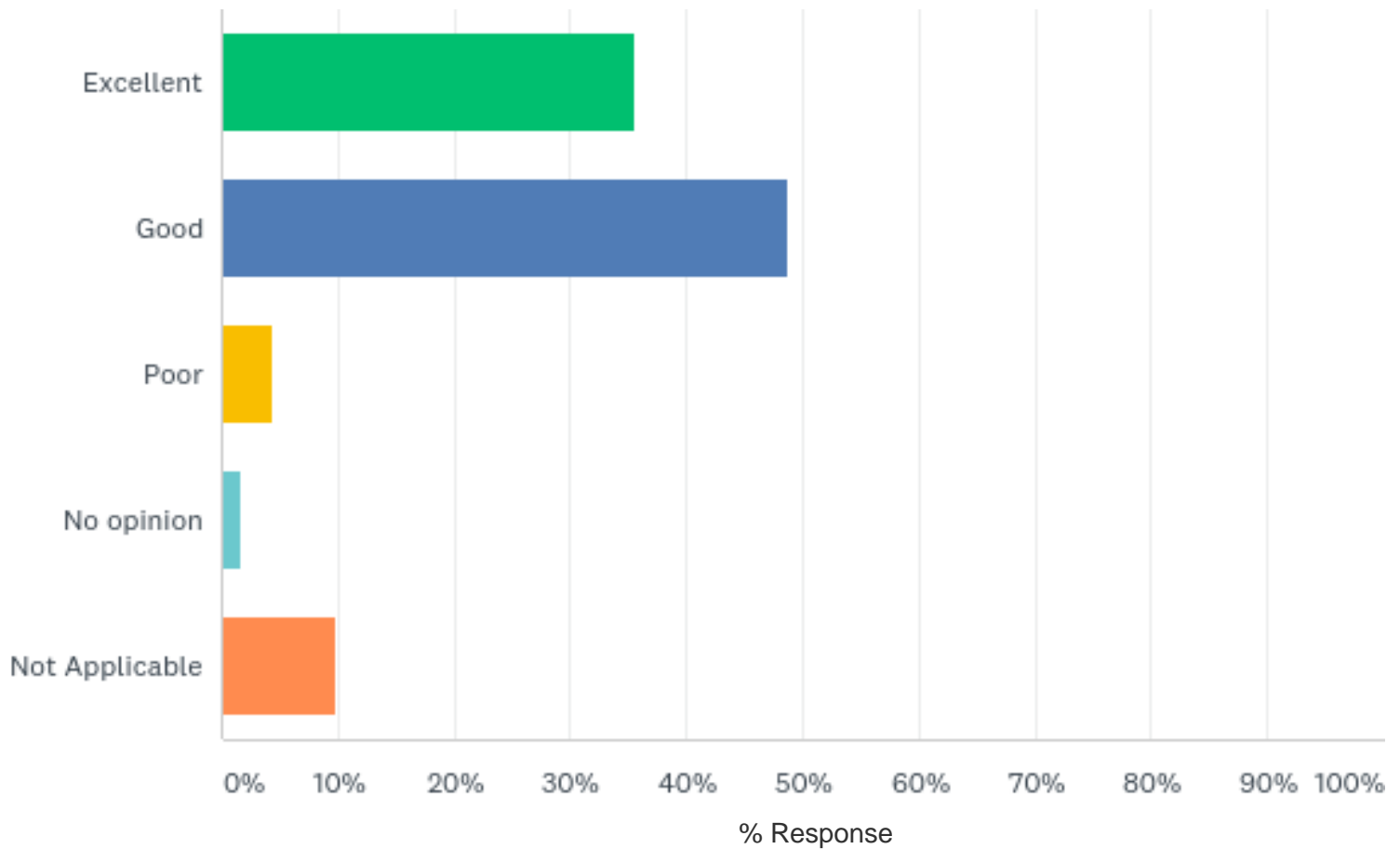
- 8u78oo
- A
- Both town and well
- I must purchase my drinking water because sodium levels in public drinking water are too high for my health.
- live in abutting town
- Probably owned by Worcester
- unsure of where the Reserve
- Up until 1-1/2 months ago, a private well serving my home only. Now town water
- We use town water and a private well. Right now the well is only hooked up to the sprinkler system

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q30: For Town water users, please rate your satisfaction



Answered: 789

Skipped: 190

MUNICIPAL FACILITIES & SERVICES

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q30: For Town water users, please rate your satisfaction

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Excellent	35.49%	280
Good	48.67%	384
Poor	4.44%	35
No opinion	1.65%	13
Not Applicable	9.76%	77
TOTAL		789

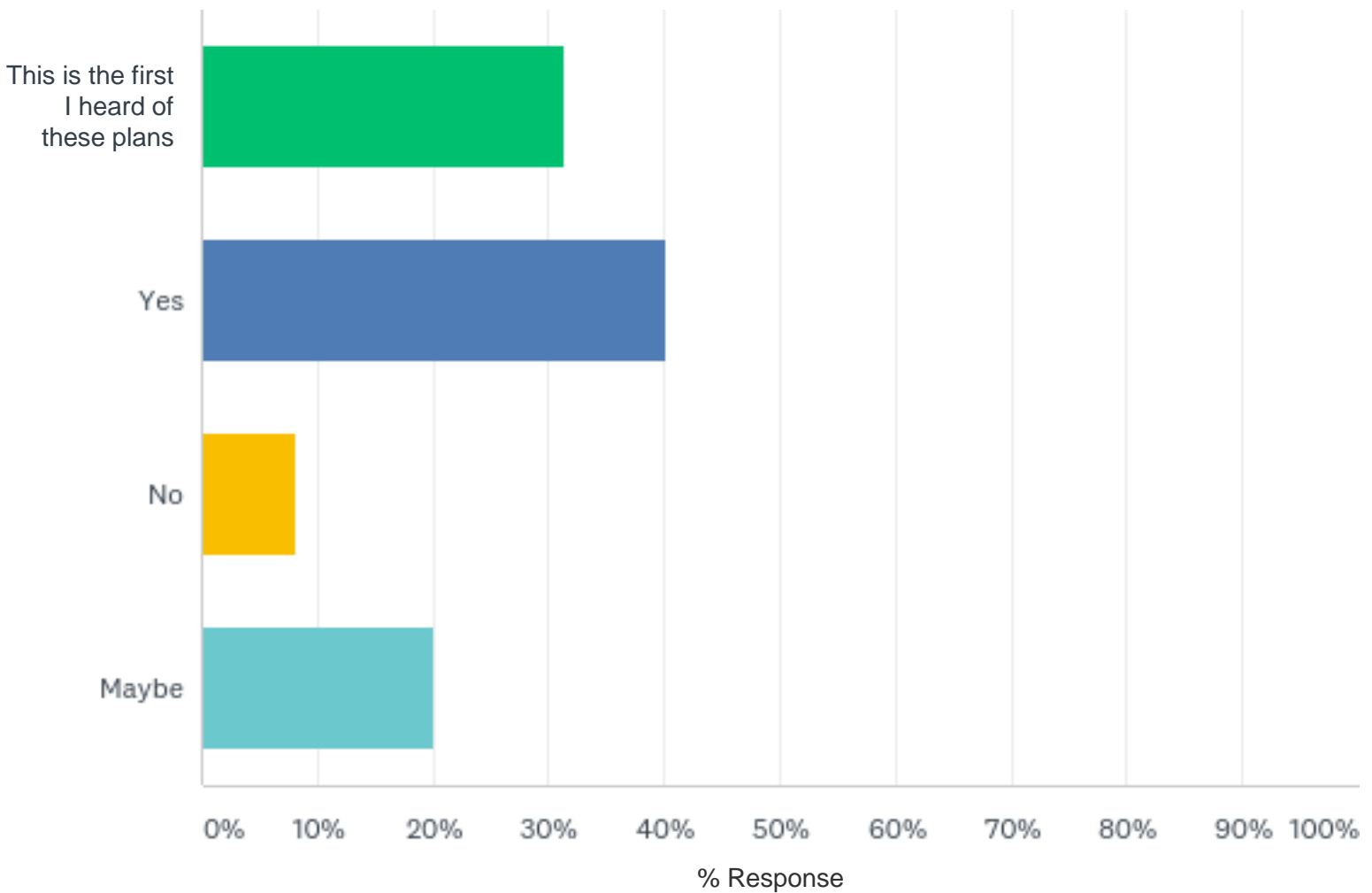
MUNICIPAL FACILITIES & SERVICES

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q31: Would you support the town's efforts to build a new DPW Facility at 18 Industrial Way?



Answered: 826
Skipped: 153

MUNICIPAL FACILITIES & SERVICES

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q31: Would you support the town's efforts to build a new DPW Facility at 18 Industrial Way?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
This is the first I heard of these plans	31.48%	260
Yes	40.19%	332
No	8.23%	68
Maybe	20.10%	166
TOTAL		826

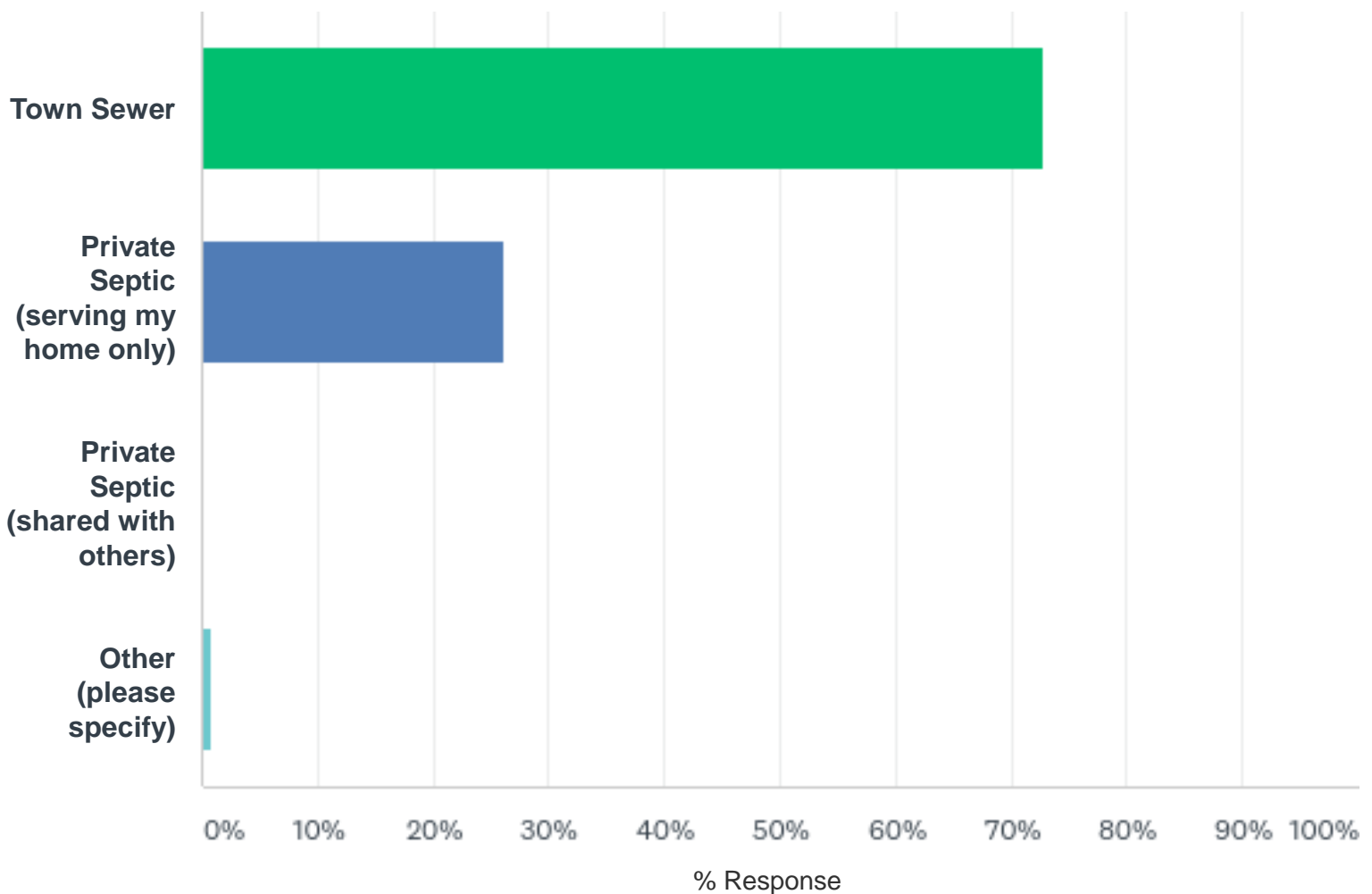
MUNICIPAL FACILITIES & SERVICES

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q32: How is your home served for waste treatment?



Answered: 823

Skipped: 156

MUNICIPAL FACILITIES & SERVICES

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q32: How is your home served for waste treatment?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Town Sewer	72.78%	599
Private Septic (serving my home only)	26.12%	215
Private Septic (shared with others)	0.24%	2
Other (please specify)	0.85%	7
TOTAL		823

MUNICIPAL FACILITIES & SERVICES

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q32: How is your home served for waste treatment?

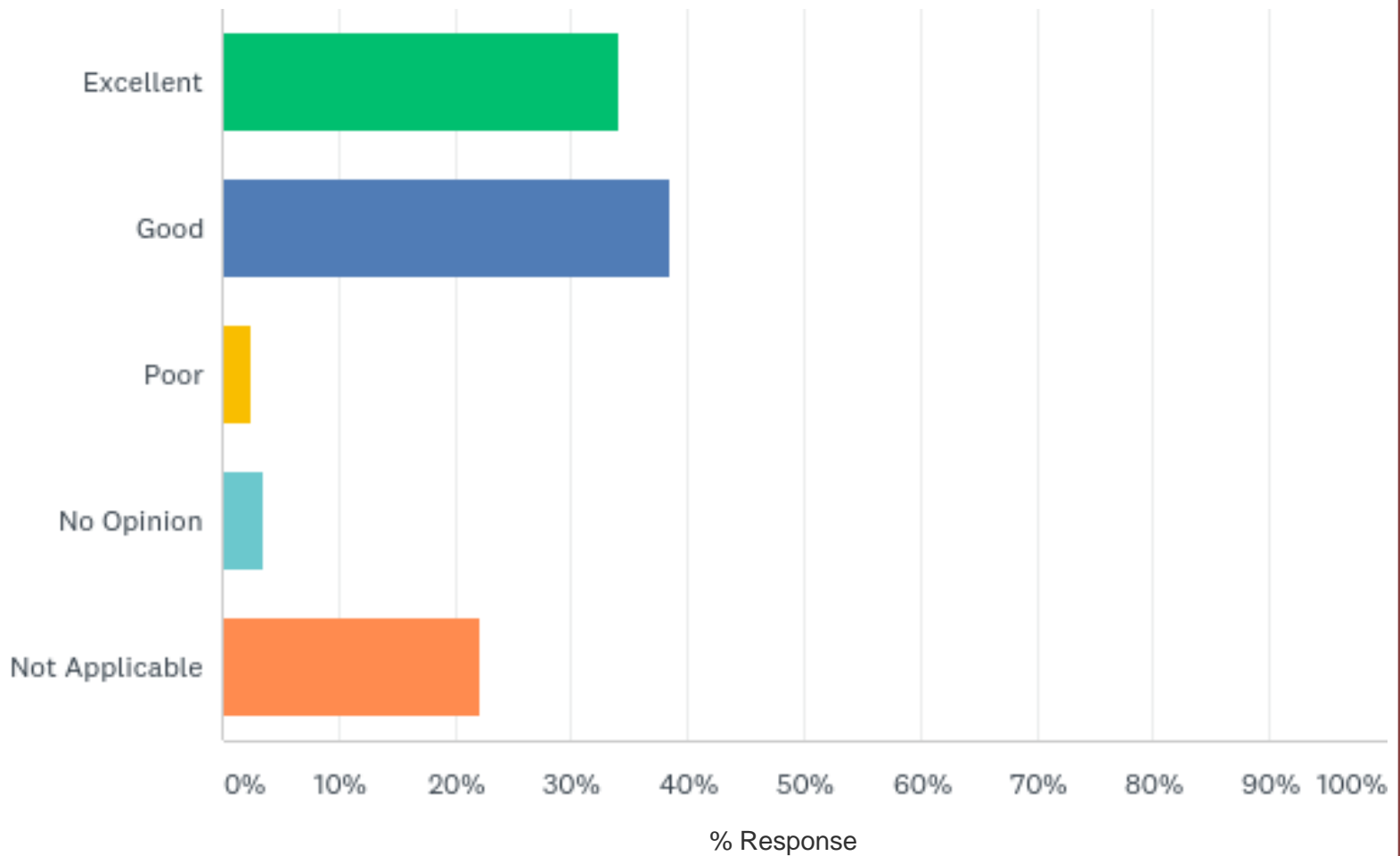
- I
- I live in checker? berry village
- live in abutting town
- Live in townhouse, pay for own trash and recycling
- M
- Up until 1-1/2 months ago, private septic serving my home only. Now town sewer
- Why has it become so expensive?

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q33: For Town sewer users, please rate your satisfaction



Answered: 778

Skipped: 201

MUNICIPAL FACILITIES & SERVICES

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q33: For Town sewer users, please rate your satisfaction

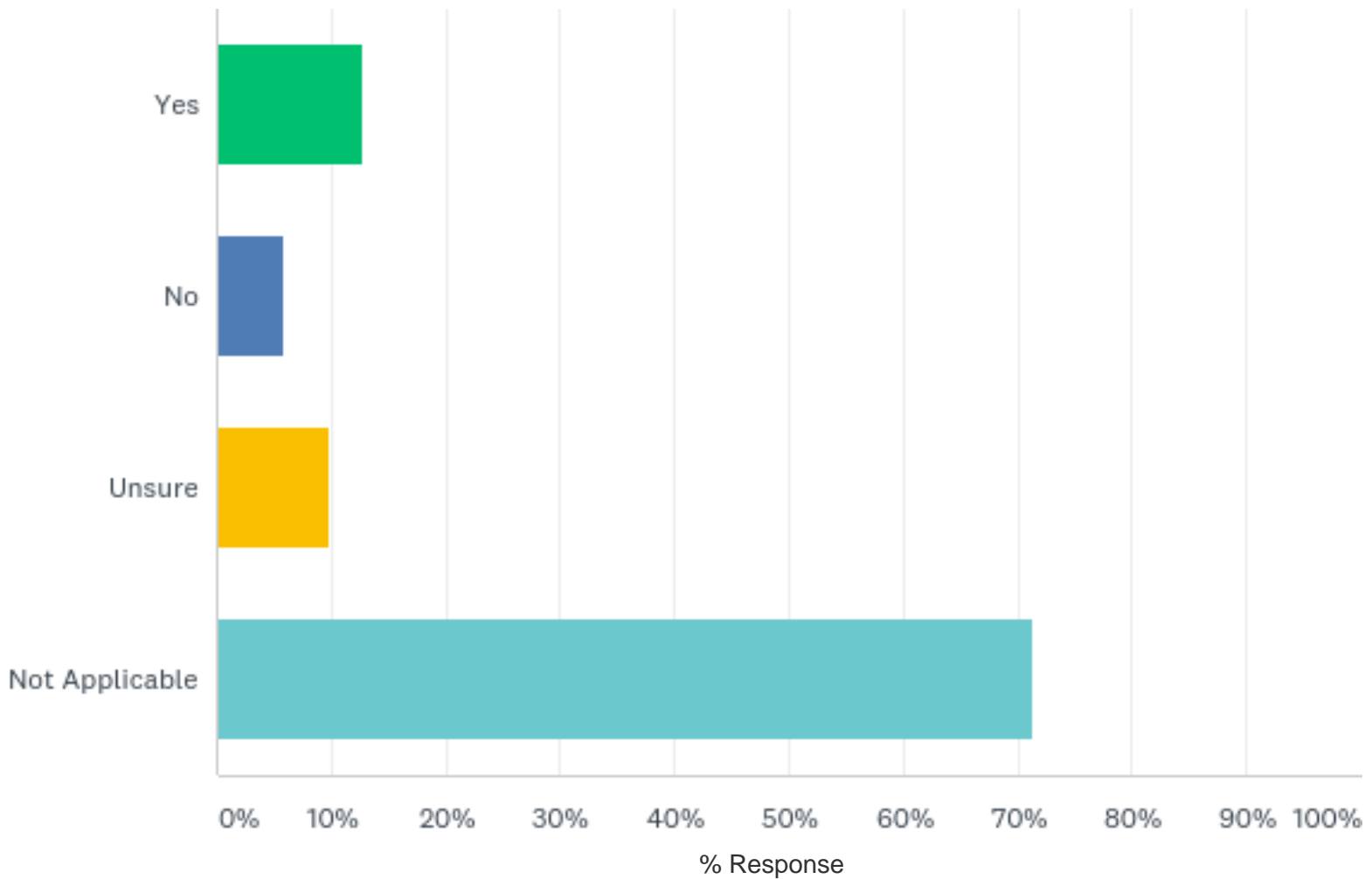
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Excellent	34.19%	266
Good	38.43%	299
Poor	2.44%	19
No Opinion	3.47%	27
Not Applicable	22.11%	172
Total Respondents: 778		

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q34: For private septic users, if Town sewer became available in your neighborhood, would you ever consider connecting?



Answered: 756
Skipped: 223

MUNICIPAL FACILITIES & SERVICES

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q34: For private septic users, if Town sewer became available in your neighborhood, would you ever consider connecting?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	12.83%	97
No	5.95%	45
Unsure	9.79%	74
Not Applicable	71.43%	540
TOTAL		756

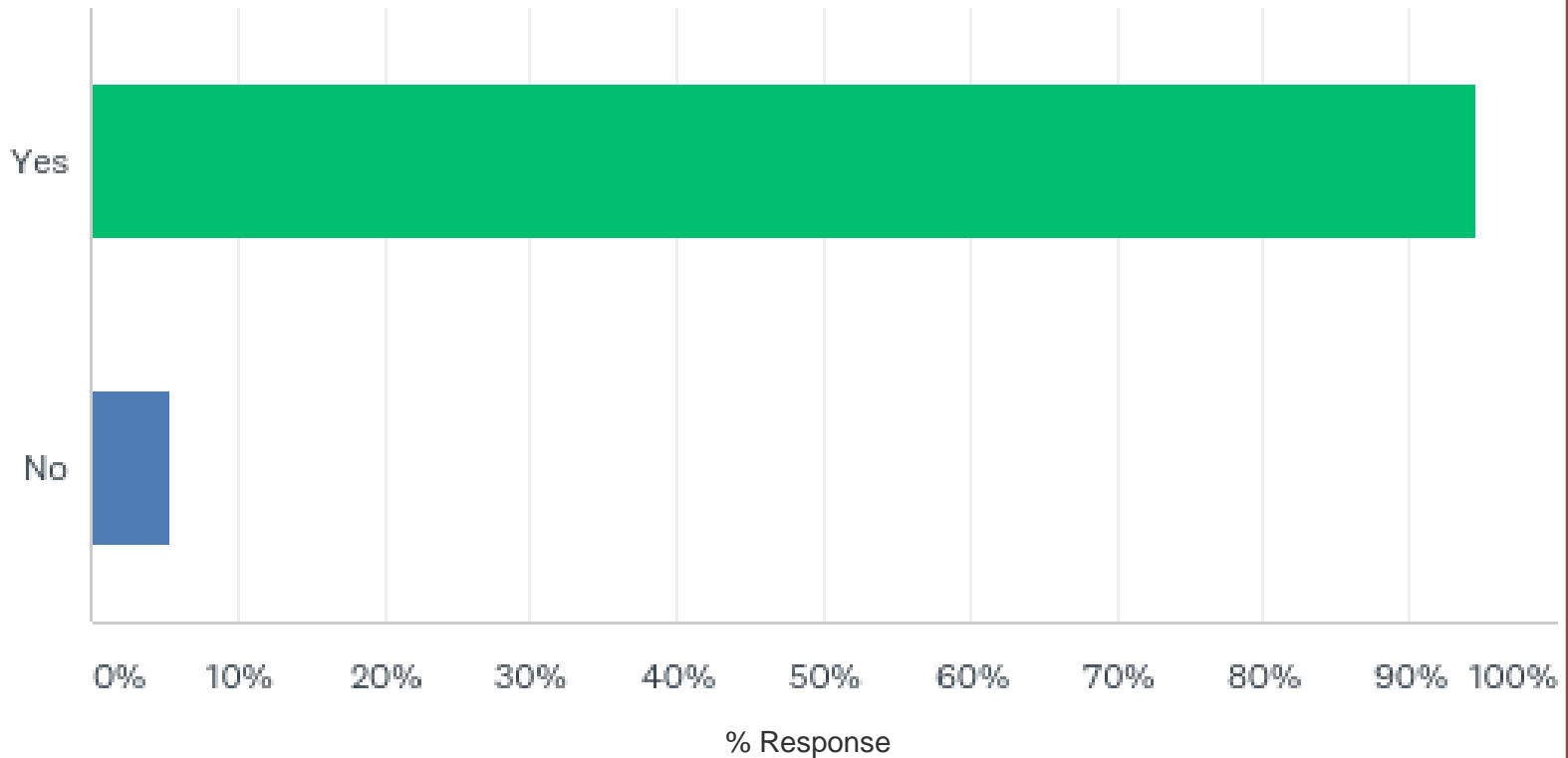
MUNICIPAL FACILITIES & SERVICES

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q35: Are you aware that the Wachusett Regional Recycling Center is available for use?



Answered: 823
Skipped: 156

MUNICIPAL FACILITIES & SERVICES

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q35: Are you aware that the Wachusett Regional Recycling Center is available for use?

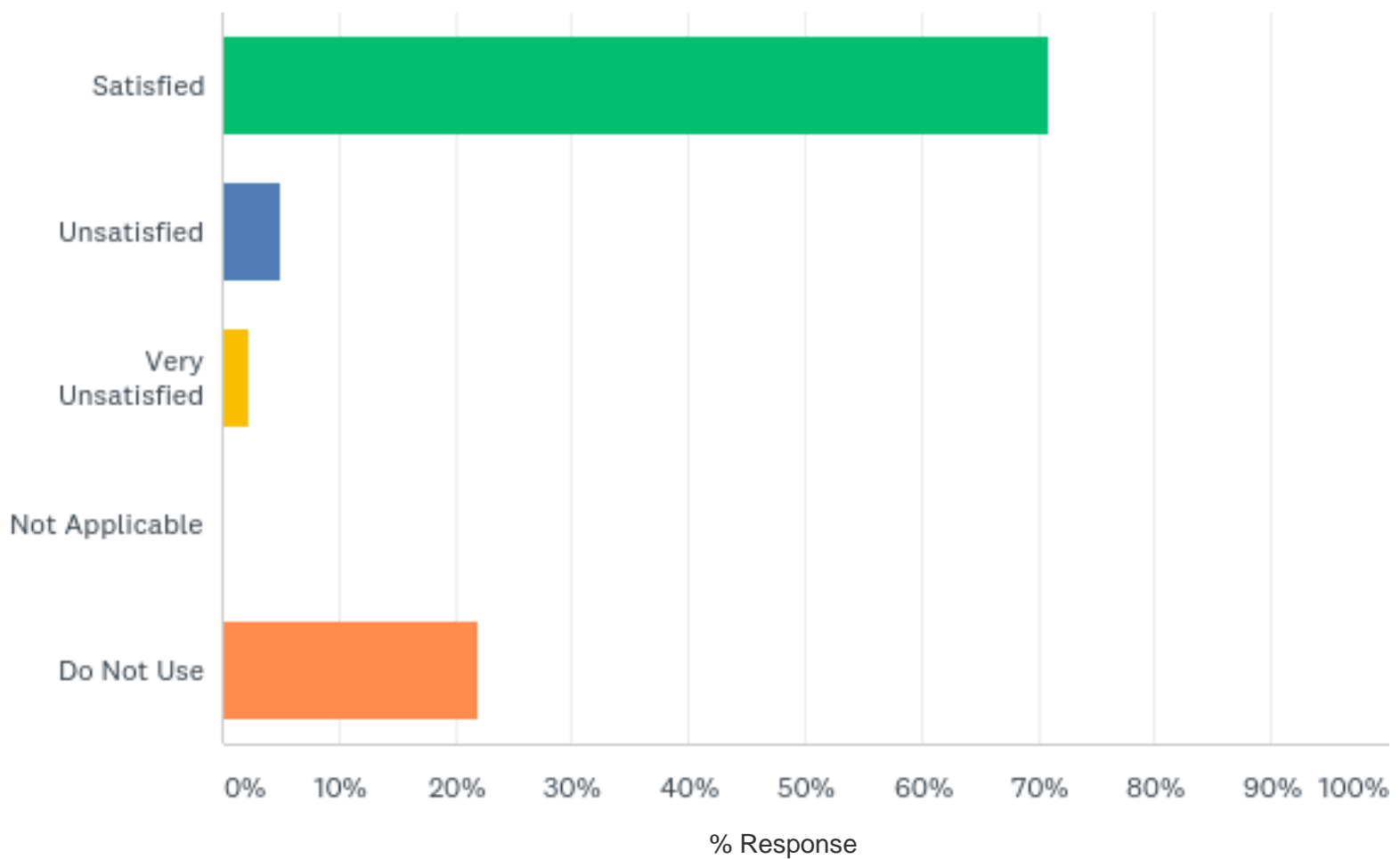
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	94.65%	779
No	5.35%	44
TOTAL		823

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q36: For recycling center users, please rate your satisfaction



Answered: 817

Skipped: 162

MUNICIPAL FACILITIES & SERVICES

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q36: For recycling center users, please rate your satisfaction

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Satisfied	70.87%	579
Unsatisfied	5.02%	41
Very Unsatisfied	2.20%	18
Not Applicable	0.00%	0
Do Not Use	21.91%	179
TOTAL		817

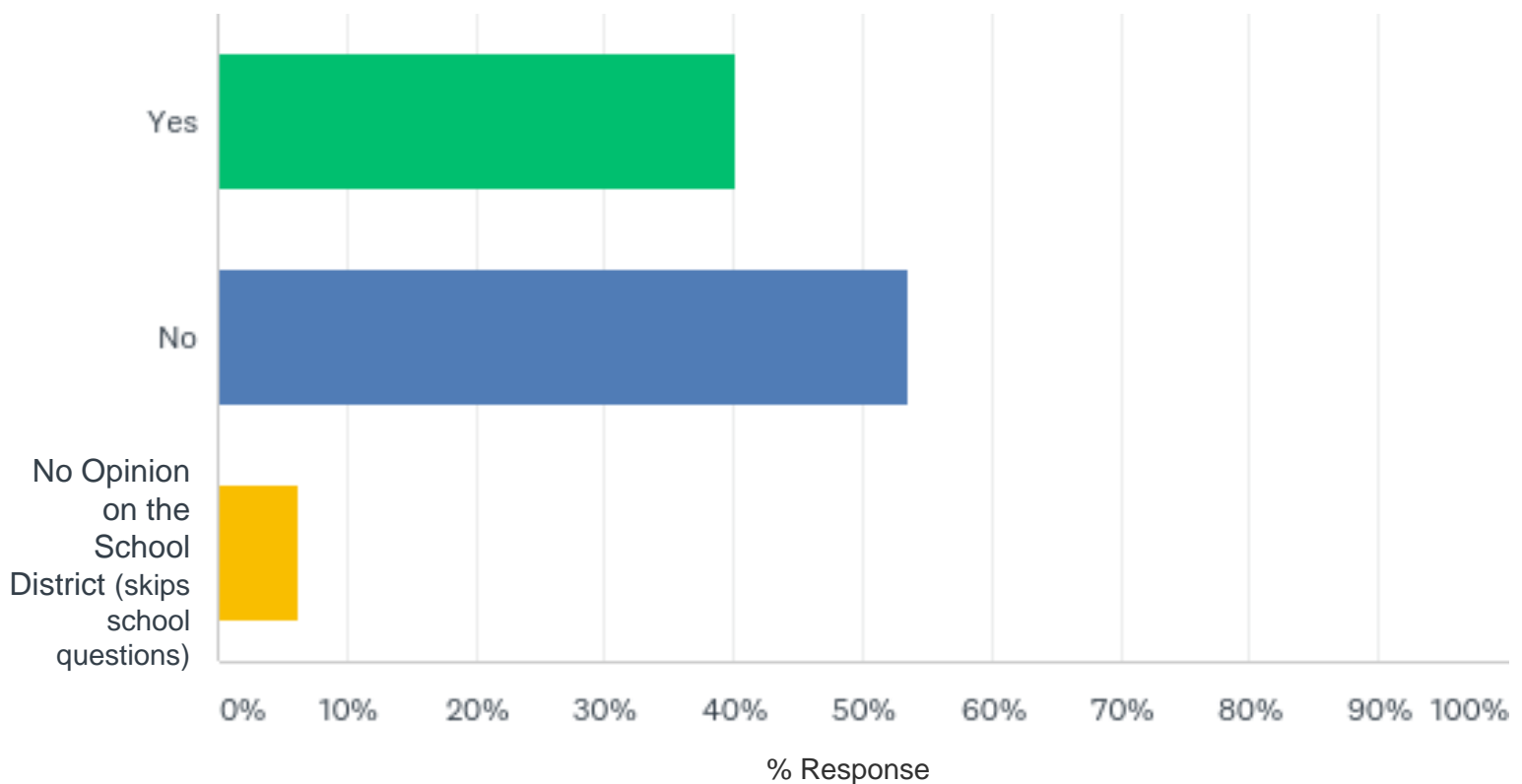
MUNICIPAL FACILITIES & SERVICES

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q37: Do you currently have children enrolled in the Wachusett Regional School District?



Answered: 821
Skipped: 158

SCHOOLS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q37: Do you currently have children enrolled in the Wachusett Regional School District?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	40.07%	329
No	53.59%	440
No Opinion on the School District (skips school questions)	6.33%	52
TOTAL		821

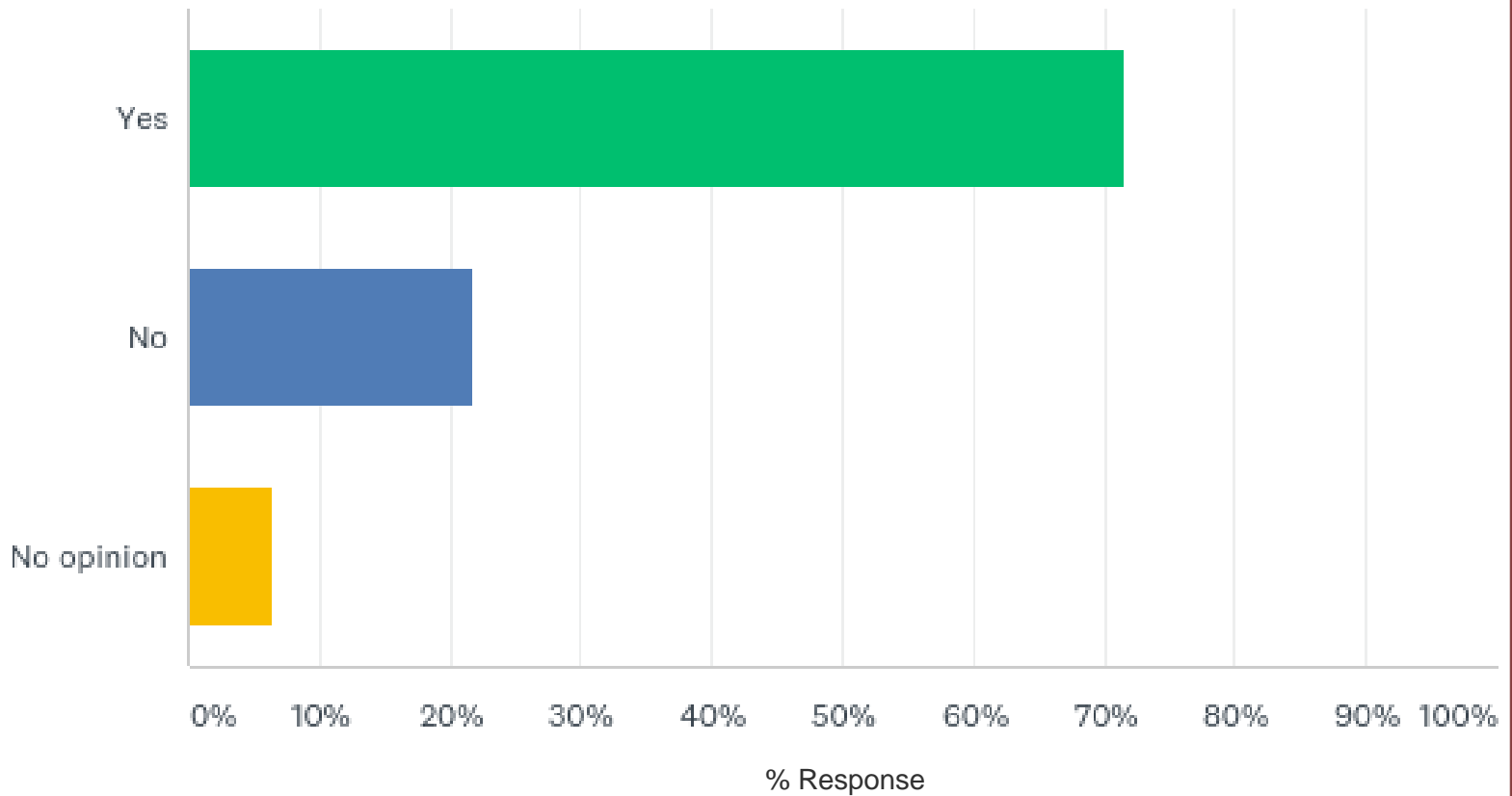
SCHOOLS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q38: Did the quality of the Wachusett Regional School District factor into your decision to live in Holden?



Answered: 783

Skipped: 196

SCHOOLS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q38: Did the quality of the Wachusett Regional School District factor into your decision to live in Holden?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	71.65%	561
No	21.84%	171
No opinion	6.51%	51
TOTAL		783

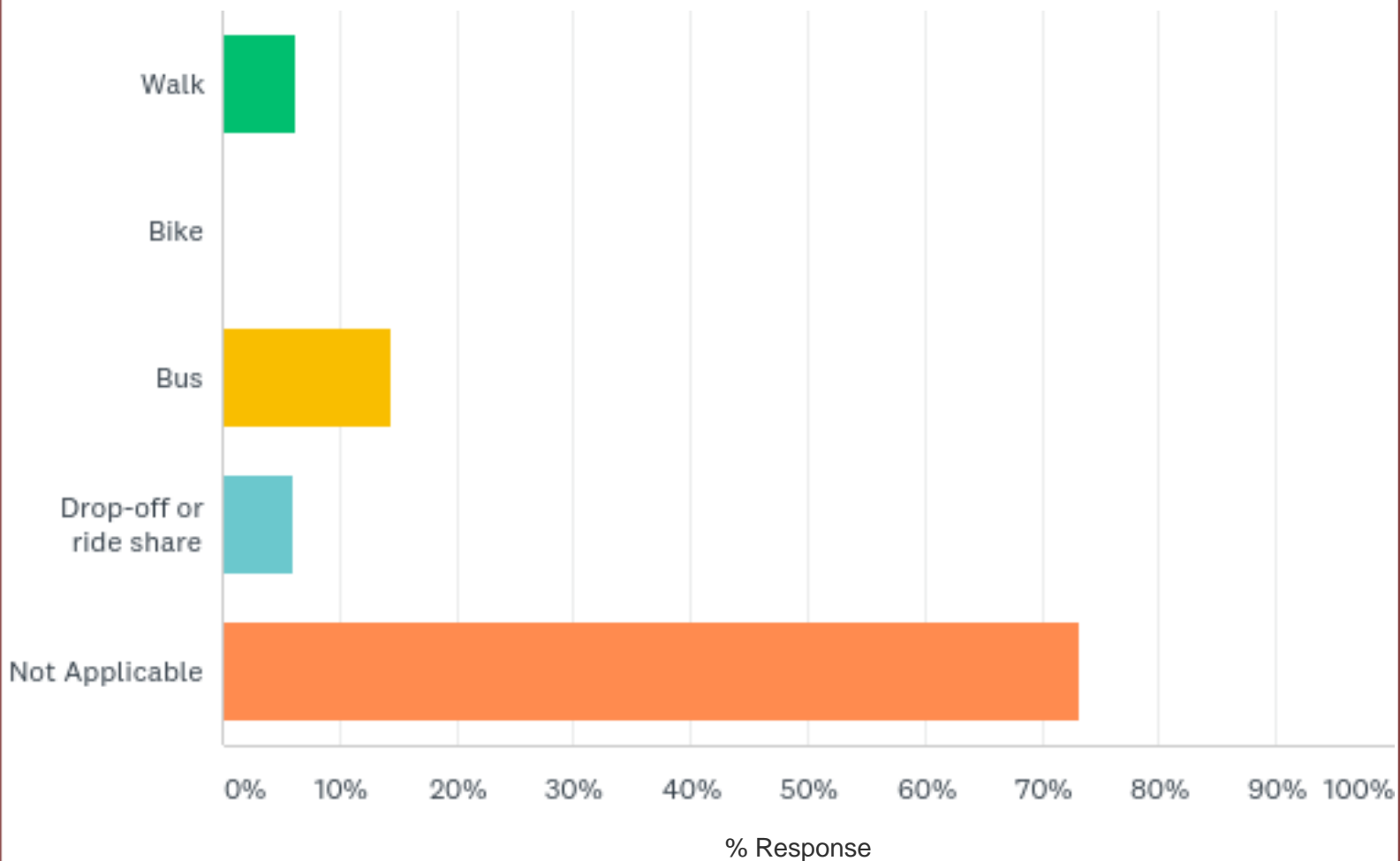
SCHOOLS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q39: If your child(ren) live within 1.5 miles of the Davis Hill, Mayo, or Dawson Elementary School, do they...



Answered: 760

Skipped: 219

SCHOOLS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q39: If your child(ren) live within 1.5 miles of the Davis Hill, Mayo, or Dawson Elementary School, do they...

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Walk	6.32%	48
Bike	0.13%	1
Bus	14.34%	109
Drop-off or ride share	6.05%	46
Not Applicable	73.16%	556
TOTAL		760

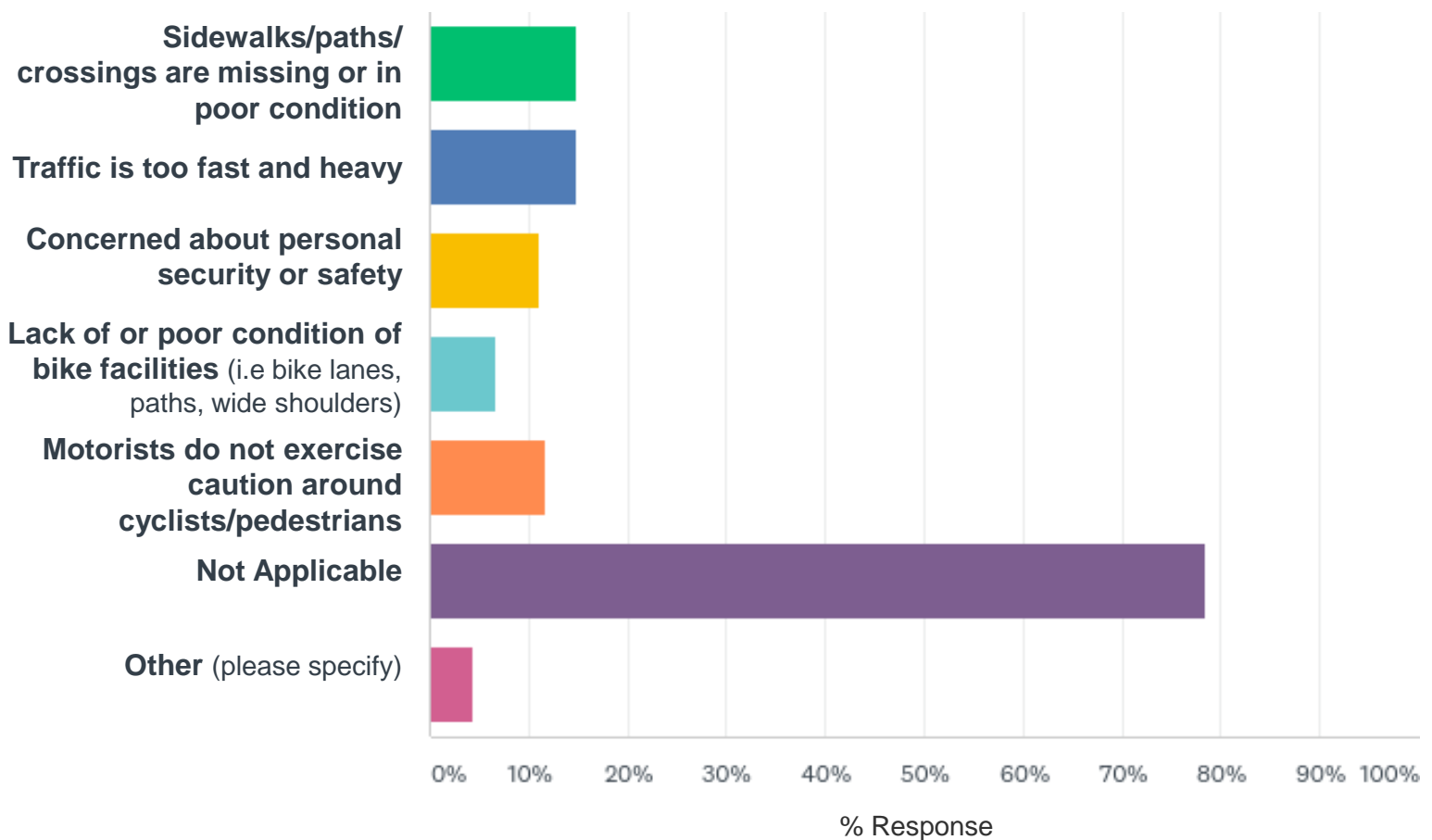
SCHOOLS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q40: If your child(ren) live within 1.5 miles of Davis Hill, Mayo, or Dawson and do not walk or bike to school, why not? Check all that apply.



Answered: 739
Skipped: 240

SCHOOLS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q40: If your child(ren) live within 1.5 miles of Davis Hill, Mayo, or Dawson and do not walk or bike to school, why not? Check all that apply.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Sidewalks/paths/crossings are missing or in poor condition	14.75%	109
Traffic is too fast and heavy	14.75%	109
Concerned about personal security or safety	11.10%	82
Lack of or poor condition of bike facilities (i.e bike lanes, paths, wide shoulders)	6.63%	49
Motorists do not exercise caution around cyclists/pedestrians	11.77%	87
Not Applicable	78.35%	579
Other (please specify)	4.47%	33
Total Respondents: 739		

SCHOOLS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q40: If your child(ren) live within 1.5 miles of Davis Hill, Mayo, or Dawson and do not walk or bike to school, why not? Check all that apply.

- Age of children
- Before / After School Program
- both attend Thomas Prince in Princeton
- Child did not go to Davis Hill, but walks and rides bike to Davis for recreation.
- Children in elementary school too young to walk safely
- Drop off is convenient for my schedule
- Holden's busy roads are in need of traffic calming and sidewalks. The traffic volume is far too high for Holden's current roadways.
- I actually think we do live within 1.5 and yet my kid gets a bus. Now that I'm thinking about it, I do think it's because of lack of sidewalks, but barely!!! I think Holden does SO well with providing safe walking spaces. I'm an educator who works in multiple different towns. Holden is way better than most.
- I no longer have children living at home. My children rode the bus. Up until 1-1/2 months ago I lived on Wachusett St. and traffic was terrible - no sidewalks and not safe for biking or walking
- If I did we need better sidewalks and parents to not hold hands of children all the time. Let them figure things out. We have a great safe town to not worry about bad things
- Kids are too young.
- Kids need exercise
- Lives within 1.5 miles of both Davis hill and Wachusett and the lack of side walks on high street is a danger for everyone
- Many of our roads are too narrow for kids to walk or bike on safely with all of the traffic in the morning/afternoon in and out of town. We should seriously consider creating a fund where sidewalks are created and maintained by companies who wish to build new homes (contributing to traffic) in our town.
- My children did walk to Mayo School 2007-2015. All of the above applied.
- Need crosswalk at Nicholas on Manning
- Newell Road does not have sidewalks at all parts of street

SCHOOLS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q40: If your child(ren) live within 1.5 miles of Davis Hill, Mayo, or Dawson and do not walk or bike to school, why not? Check all that apply.

- No sidewalks on Newell! Dangerous road that we complained about repeatedly!
- not applicable
- Really, really need sidewalks for kids to be able to walk to school. Bus picks kids up at each individual house due to lack of sidewalks.
- Sidewalks end in Salisbury street. Walking is hazardous as cars speed by.
- Society has changed. I walked to both elementary school and high school and unless I lived on the same street as the school and a quarter mile or less away, my kids will not walk.
- The area on RT 31 called the "Damon Road Walking Line" is well known to be dangerous to children. Cars drive too fast, side walks are narrow, and driver's ignore crossing guards.
- There is NO supervised walking line for Nola Drive walkers!!
- they are on the bus route
- They attend one school, but live in another's area
- They do occasionally bike - but that wasn't an option on question #39. It's dependent on the weather.
- This was not posed as an option. The bus schedule comes out every year and we just get on it.
- Too young
- Too young. Kindergarten and 1st
- When my child attended Davis Hill, she walked
- Wouldn't you call dcf if kids walked to school on their own?

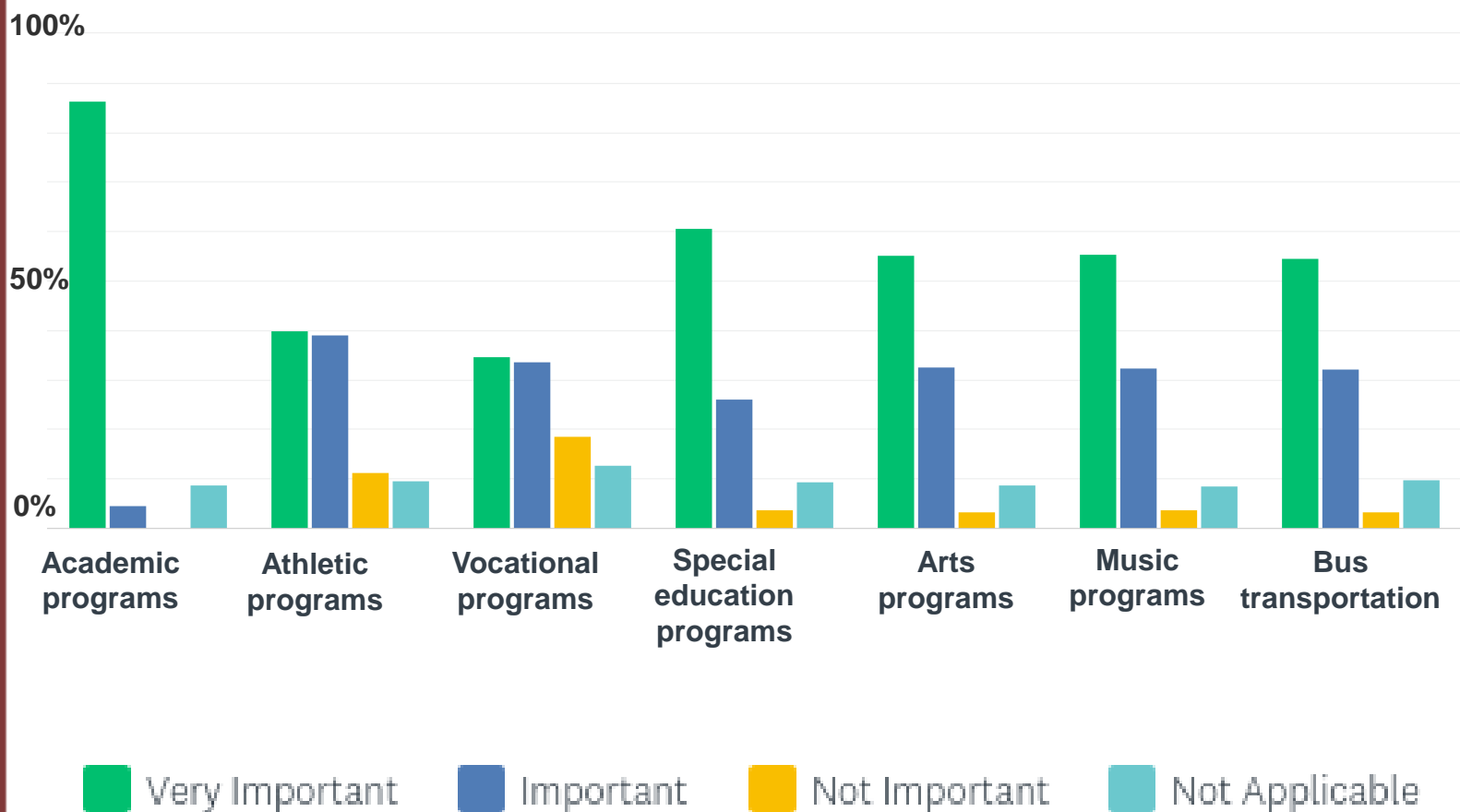
SCHOOLS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q41: How important do you think the following Elementary School programs are?



Answered: 767

Skipped: 212

SCHOOLS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q41: How important do you think the following Elementary School programs are?

	VERY IMPORTANT	IMPORTANT	NOT IMPORTANT	NOT APPLICABLE	TOTAL
Academic programs	86.50% 660	4.59% 35	0.13% 1	8.78% 67	763
Athletic programs	39.92% 305	39.14% 299	11.39% 87	9.55% 73	764
Vocational programs	34.69% 265	33.77% 258	18.72% 143	12.83% 98	764
Special education programs	60.65% 464	26.14% 200	3.79% 29	9.41% 72	765
Arts programs	55.29% 423	32.55% 249	3.40% 26	8.76% 67	765
Music programs	55.37% 423	32.33% 247	3.80% 29	8.51% 65	764
Bus transportation	54.52% 416	32.24% 246	3.41% 26	9.83% 75	763

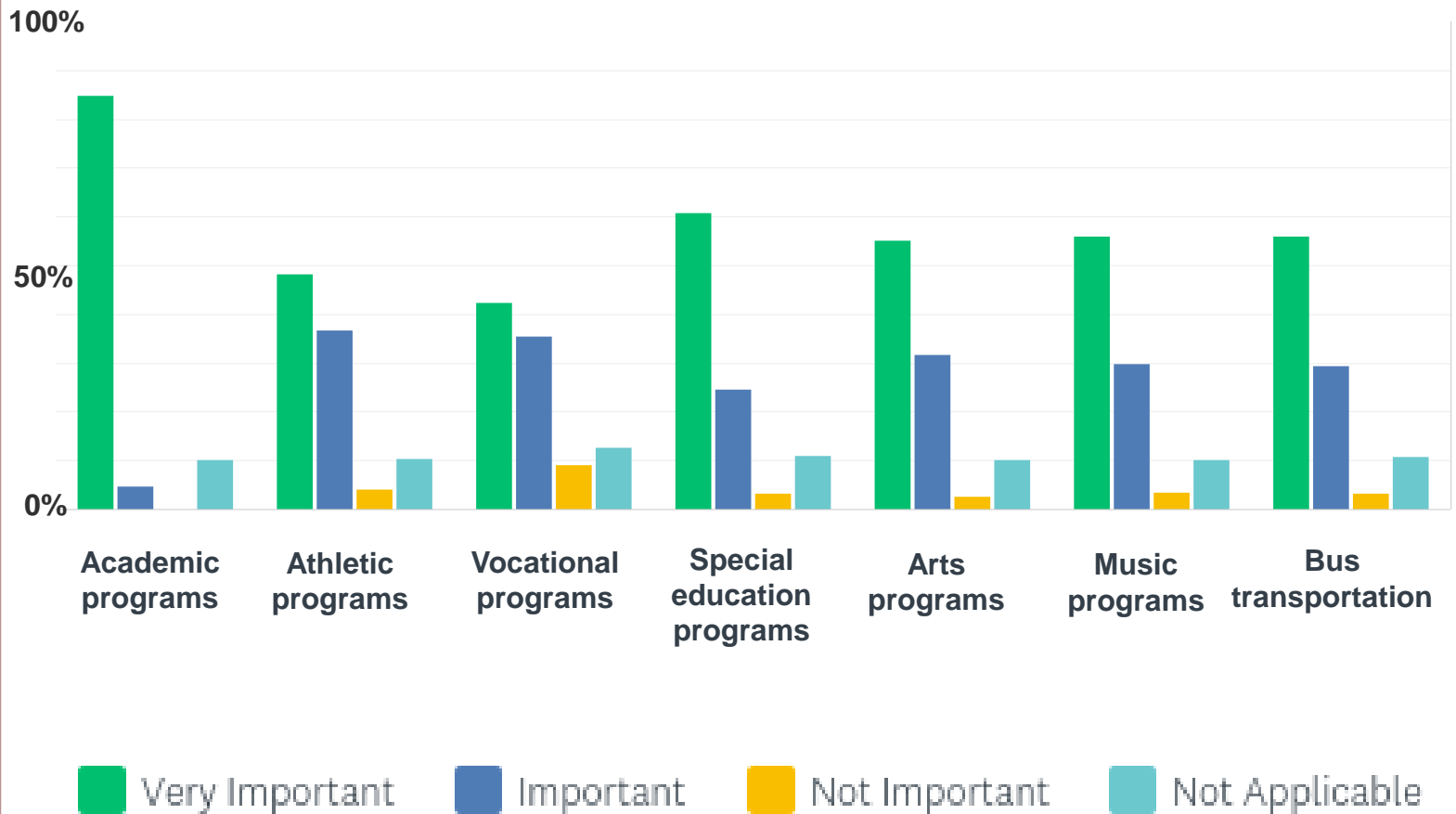
SCHOOLS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q42: How important do you think the following Middle School programs are?



Answered: 766
Skipped: 213

SCHOOLS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q42: How important do you think the following Middle School programs are?

	VERY IMPORTANT	IMPORTANT	NOT IMPORTANT	NOT APPLICABLE	TOTAL
Academic programs	84.93% 648	4.72% 36	0.00% 0	10.35% 79	763
Athletic programs	48.43% 369	36.88% 281	4.20% 32	10.50% 80	762
Vocational programs	42.46% 324	35.52% 271	9.31% 71	12.71% 97	763
Special education programs	60.89% 464	24.67% 188	3.28% 25	11.15% 85	762
Arts programs	55.18% 421	31.72% 242	2.75% 21	10.35% 79	763
Music programs	56.14% 425	29.99% 227	3.57% 27	10.30% 78	757
Bus transportation	56.16% 424	29.54% 223	3.44% 26	10.86% 82	755

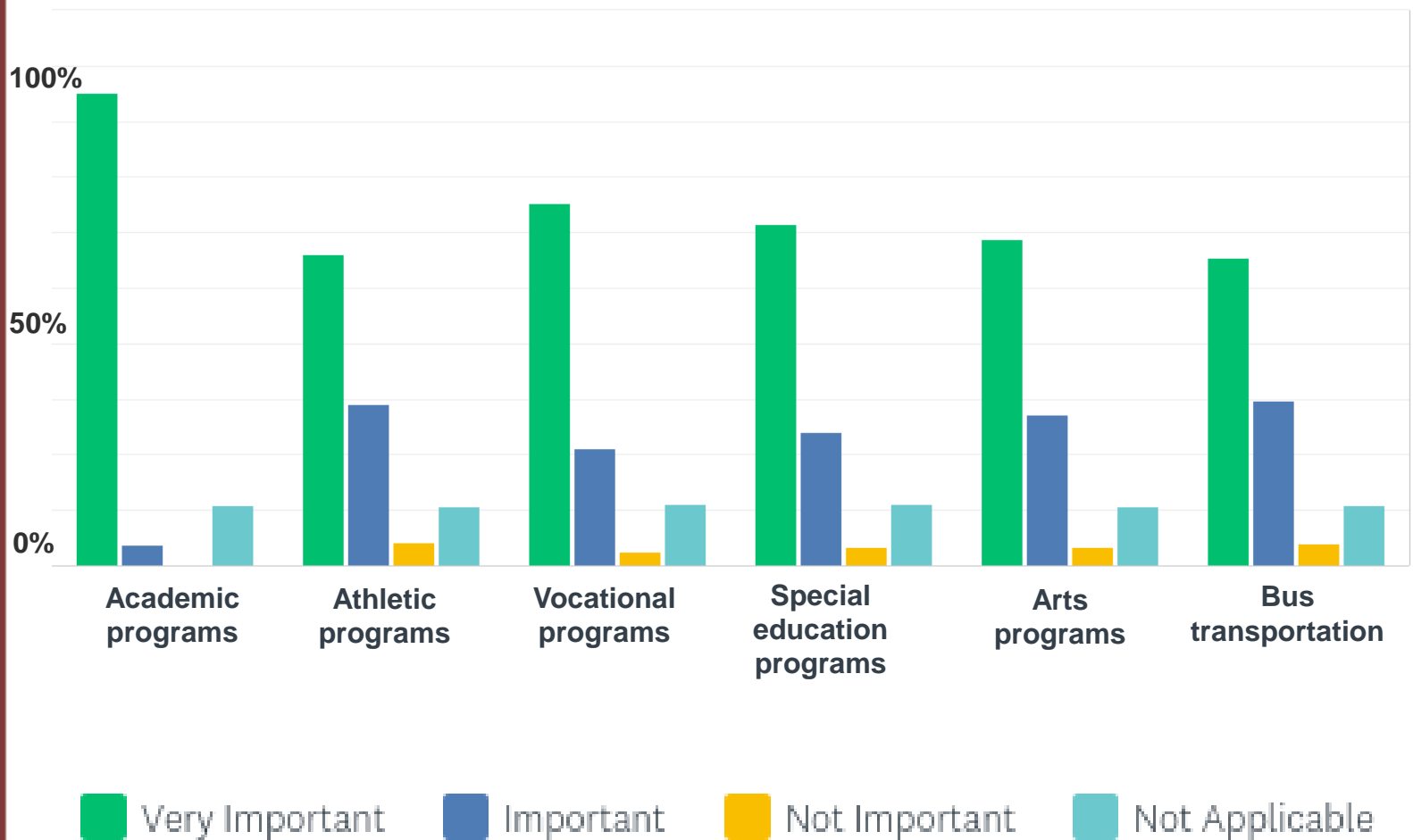
SCHOOLS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q43: How important do you think the following High School programs are?



Answered: 765

Skipped: 214

SCHOOLS

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Holden Community Survey Results



Q43: How important do you think the following High School programs are?

	VERY IMPORTANT	IMPORTANT	NOT IMPORTANT	NOT APPLICABLE	TOTAL
Academic programs	85.21% 651	3.80% 29	0.13% 1	10.86% 83	764
Athletic programs	56.04% 427	29.00% 221	4.20% 32	10.76% 82	762
Vocational programs	65.18% 498	21.20% 162	2.49% 19	11.13% 85	764
Special education programs	61.55% 469	24.02% 183	3.28% 25	11.15% 85	762
Arts programs	58.82% 447	27.24% 207	3.29% 25	10.66% 81	760
Bus transportation	55.54% 421	29.68% 225	3.96% 30	10.82% 82	758

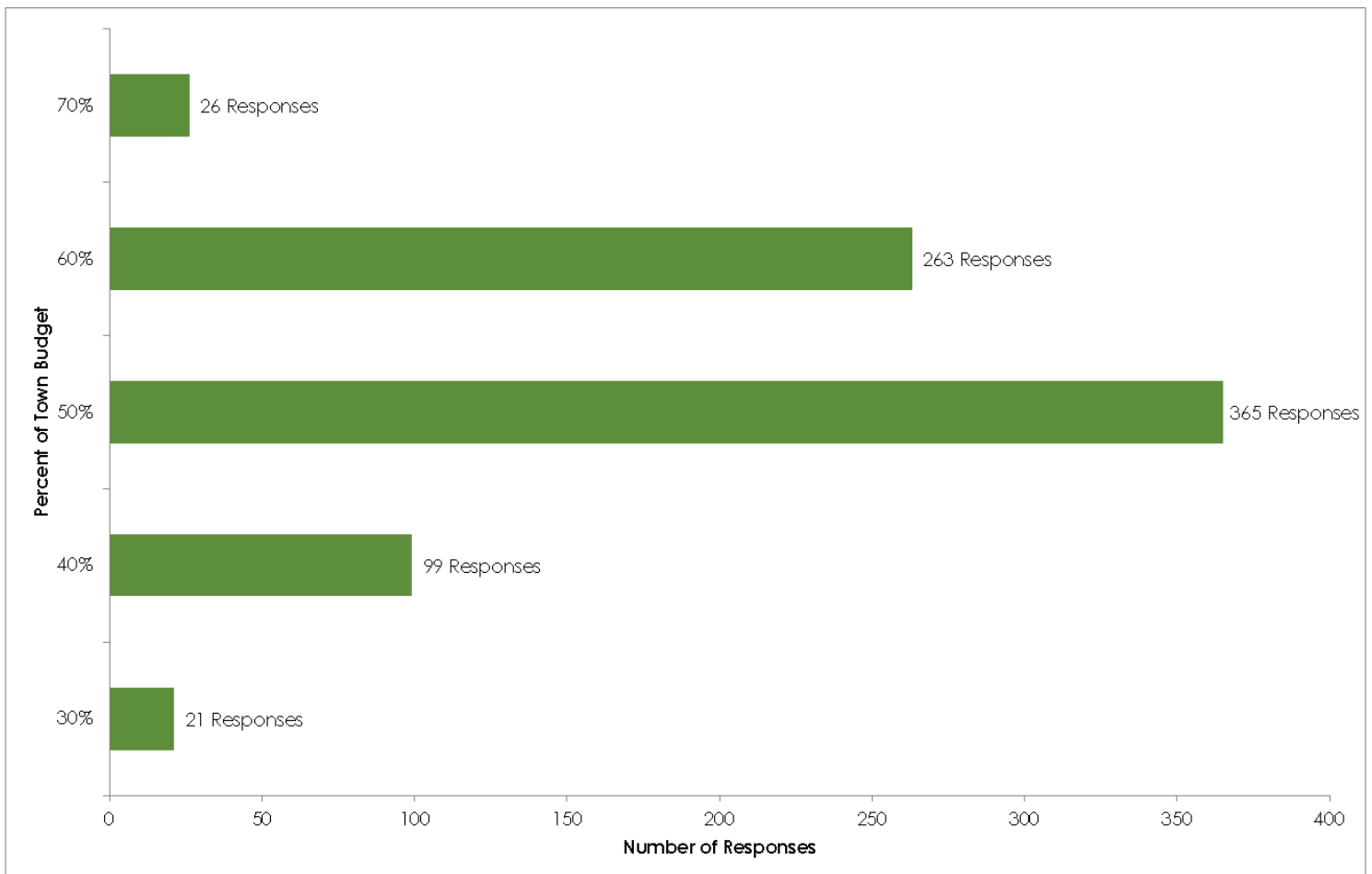
SCHOOLS

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Holden Community Survey Results



Q44: What percentage of the Town Budget should be allocated to education? Current allocation is 51.8% of the Town Budget.



Answered: 774

Skipped: 205

SCHOOLS

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Holden Community Survey Results



Q44: What percentage of the Town Budget should be allocated to education? Current allocation is 51.8% of the Town Budget.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
30%	2.71%	21
40%	12.79%	99
50%	47.16%	365
60%	33.98%	263
70%	3.36%	26
TOTAL		774

SCHOOLS

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Holden Community Survey Results



Q45 Do you have any other ideas about the Wachusett Regional School District? Please share any and all comments below.

- I think it's hard to convince people who don't have children or whose children have grown up and moved away that half of the budget should go to schools. Maybe more effort can be put into events going on at the school like plays or science fairs so that the community as a whole can see what the children are doing and what we're investing in the future
- 1. Need better teaching of history. 2, Need a vocational school.
- 1.Decreased aid from the state is troublesome. 2.Rutland is growing and needs to pay more to district. 3.Many high school buses have very low ridership - research using large vans for some of the trips.
- A struggling child should not be pushed through if on paper it 'appears' the child is meeting goals. We wasted almost an entire year getting to the point of IEP.
- Add more vocational options. Needs an anti -bullying community in all schools.
- After moving to Holden from out of state, I was absolutely shocked that there are no librarians, computer/tech or gifted programs in the elementary schools. I have considered moving due the lack of available programs for my elementary aged child.
- Allocate the amount of budget needed to make our schools great again!
- Annual cost increases must be sustainable in order to assure municipal support. Cannot continue to rob Peter to pay Paul.
- Another town should open a regionalized high school to reduce the traffic and congestion in Holden
- As a College Board-endorsed consultant, I donate unneeded freebie AP textbooks to the Wachusett English department. The fact that this donation is needed shocks me. I am a WRHS grad.
- As a parent of a 2 and 4 year old that will soon be entering the school system I'm pleased with what I see in the elementary and middle schools. I'm concerned about the long-term health of the regional high school given the rate of growth of all five towns.
- Athletics create serious conflicts with classroom education due to scheduling. Education should be 1st priority.
- Better growth management so our schools don't suffer and ratio of teacher to students doesn't continually rise.
- Better technology- iPads, chrome books
- Biggest problem is conflicting information re school finances. I would like to see an independent study of where finances stand re other regional districts. Where are we different- is it admin, pension costs, state re-imbursement, or what. I would not be opposed to an increase in my taxes (we are senior aged) if I can be confident of reasonability of costs. Right now there is way too much false news about costs. An independent study comparing us to neighboring regional systems will go a long way to resolving this. To me this is the highest priority of a master plan.
- Break away from other towns if they do not want to participate in the cost to keep our schools at a high quality.

Answered: 248
Skipped: 731

SCHOOLS

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Holden Community Survey Results



Q45 Do you have any other ideas about the Wachusett Regional School District? Please share any and all comments below.

- Bring back required high school civics and Mass. history. Give students a sophisticated understanding of the history and functioning of the state and nation.
- Busing is a problem! Many of the buses are crowded - kids 3 in a seat! Additionally - this relates back to the sidewalk problem! In our neighborhood there is NO sidewalk, there is also no "side of the road" - kids have to walk up the middle of the road (15+) to get home. In the winter, there is NO safe place for them!
- Busing is a problem. Why pay for all these buses when there are so many empty seats
- Class sizes are too big. I will have a kindergartner in the 2019-2020 school year and I'm concerned
- Class sizes need to be smaller. Seem to get larger every year.
- Climate control at Dawson, classrooms are unbearably hot in warm weather
- Closer vocational school, elementary school to attend earlier and high schoolers later.
- Committee is too large and cumbersome
- Concerned about future plans Breaking up is unaffordable
- Concerned that existing budget is not administered with efficiency and eye to cost management.
- Consider later start high school w/earlier start for elementary. Makes WAY more sense for kids/teens health and development.
- Consideration not only of Arts and Bus Transportation, but also the importance of healthy school meals for all and recognition of the staff who are responsible for the meals. The importance of healthy and nutrition as part of required school Wellness not just bullying
- Continue with practical learning. With families being so busy, I would eliminate homework, unless for special projects, studying for exams and mandate that ALL kids READ!
- Cut funding from sports and give it to english and arts departments
- Dawson needs to be expanded. We have struggled with space the whole time my child has been attending and I see no changes in enrollment in the future. Last year was the only drop in enrollment.
- Did not pick a % of town budget to be allocated for education as that is way too arbitrary and depends on how the money is spent.
- District is too large. Holden should separate from district.
- don't overload bureaucratic positions and instead support more teachers
- Each school needs a librarian! Librarians are not just keepers of books--they also teach necessary skills about information technology.
- Education is great but this year comes at significant expense to the tax payers. Hoping they can figure this out and become more efficient and fiscally responsible with our money in future.
- Environmental study. Keep our Nature Trails

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Holden Community Survey Results



Q45 Do you have any other ideas about the Wachusett Regional School District? Please share any and all comments below.

- Excellent school system. Let's keep it competitive with other well funded school systems in Massachusetts.
- Expand funding
- Expand the high school or restructure the district
- Feel this is very important to town feel and safety and housing values; per pupil spending too low; open to ideas to increase funds avail to town
- Find out why principals keep leaving and assistants don't want to be promoted from within.
- Find ways to conserve energy, retrofit school to LED lights would save well over 20 thousand dollars
- Free all day kindergarten is very important! Holden should be able to offer this even if other towns can't due to space. Also- the town should get a Spanish inclusion class/program. Where the class is taught all in Spanish- it's meant for English speaking kids to learn another language. Milford and Upton offer this and people move to those towns because of this program. It could be a turning point for the town in the advancement of education. At the very least - you need to offer Spanish classes at the elementary levels!
- Free full-day Kindergarten needs to be implemented! We're behind the times!
- Full day kindergarten should be available to all students. More space in before/after school programs.
- Full Day Pre-School should be paid for via taxes.
- Fund it better and stop building houses at a faster rate than our schools can support
- Funding needs to be increased to state average or above.
- Get books/curriculums for the elementary schools.
- Get rid of common core
- Get rid of Rutland and Paxton if they continue to refuse paying their share. Both towns have been holding back the district for too long.
- Get state to fund late buses - our kids get done out of extra-curriculars
- Good job overall
- Good quality, all should pay fair share per pupil
- Great elementary schools, Mountview OK, needed update. Update looks great. Wish my kids got to experience it. High school was challenge with construction. Increased life skills and exposure to more vocational training/ opportunities would be helpful for expanding choices for students
- Great system! The superintendent as well as principal are terrific and communicate with parents well.
- Have longer days

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Holden Community Survey Results



Q45 Do you have any other ideas about the Wachusett Regional School District? Please share any and all comments below.

- High school is way too large. New builds in Holden and district towns are expanding, forcing the personablity level at the H.S. to decrease and suffer dramatically. Educators are not trained in managing all types of students. Focus seems to be only on scholarly students and very good athletes. Middle of the road students get lost and are not given 100% attention.
- Holden deserves its own schools. Unfortunately we are locked into the district
- Holden does a wonderful job supporting our schools! I am hopeful that the other towns in the region will also support the schools.
- Holden needs to develop the commercial tax base in order to help support the schools.
- Holden schools only, others should regionalize.
- Holden should get out
- Holden should have its own high school instead of a regional school
- Honestly, I am a recent graduate of Wachusett and there are a lot of issues. Firstly, I think the police department really has to crack down on the amount of drug and underage nicotine use at the school. Also the guidance department does an awful job getting students into top 50 colleges and universities. After my experience at the school my 3 siblings were all enrolled in private schools and we are considering leaving the town
- I Always want more money for schools. Sadly and to my discredit, I did not analyze each line item in WRHS's budget. I do know that the technology plan did not meet the state standards and our class enrollments are high. I also do not know if this budget reflects health care cost ls for employees.
- I am not impressed with what my child receives for an education based on the excessive amount of money the town contributes. My child spends too much time listening to teachers complain about adult issues and not enough time focusing on learning.
- I am not sure question 45 is accurate. My understanding was that 80%+ of the town budget went to the school.
- i feel our taxes are be wasted on programs that are rarely used.
- I feel that growth of the district is still not being controlled. The schools are the major reason why the town should create a limit for new homes or an acreage minimum. As the number of students at the high school continues to grow, there is a squeezing out of AP courses and electives because the current staff is mandated to teach required classes only.
- I feel that while beautiful, Mountview is too small.

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Holden Community Survey Results



Q45 Do you have any other ideas about the Wachusett Regional School District? Please share any and all comments below.

- I find it distressing that every year the school applies for a budget they know is inflated and the every year the other towns (knowing this) vote against the budget until a more realistic one is presented. My thought is to submit a budget for what amounted is needed, then if the other guys don't want to buy it, they can find their own school . It feels like we're shopping for used cars every year. Time to go with no-haggling pricing for the school budget. My guess on the % of the town budget is just that- a guess. I think we should spend what we can to get and keep our schools at highly competitive levels. I don't like the idea of surrounding neighborhoods dragging down the level of education we need to provide for our children.
- I have a significant concern about the rate of residential growth in Holden and impact on a school system/budget that is already stretched too thin. It is essential that our government representatives consider and discuss this situation openly and honestly with residents and while making decisions regarding growth & revenue. Although 60+% is an excessive amount to spend on schools (and unrealistic) the reality for Holden residents is that as long as more families are moving into town, we will need the appropriate number of school classrooms/seats/buildings to educate them. With this (just as with the recent middle school), even if the District budget were to stay the same or even decrease, there will likely need to be some plan for how to pay for this - either the cost of new physical space in Holden or the substantial increase that will be needed to add additional classrooms, supplies, teachers, & overhead costs to support them in the district budget.
- I have my children in a projects-based independent school to foster creativity and self-motivation but I plan to send them to WachusettRHS and all I hear about the schools is positive.
- I like that the facilities are newer and clean. Please continue to keep class sizes smaller.
- I think full day kindergarten should be the only option, so that parents don't have to pay for it.
- I think given the demands on early learners, full day kindergarten (at no additional cost) is important to develop readiness to learn skills in increase success in years to follow.
- I think Holden could have it's own high school. I would also like another technical school that is closer than Fitchburg. I think our schools are overcrowded. I also think our teachers do a damn good job with what they have
- I think it's great
- I think there is plenty of money in the budget. It needs to be managed more effectively.
- I think they should consider not being a regional high school soon, too many kids at the high school and the numbers are only growing
- I was very happy with the school system when my children were in school. I was also a teacher in the system for quite a few years. However, I sent all of my sons to St. John's High School due to greater discipline there.

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Holden Community Survey Results



Q45 Do you have any other ideas about the Wachusett Regional School District? Please share any and all comments below.

- I worry about how underfunded our schools are both on the state and local level. I grew up in Holden and chose to stay in Holden, a lot of which was for the schools when I someday have children. With the exponential growth Holden has seen and the building on top of each other i ticky tacky homes with no land or space, we can't keep growing at this rate. We are already the largest regional district in the STATE with over 7200 students and growing, and are so grossly underfunded...some serious research needs to be done about pulling out of the region or funding the region properly. This is not the town that I grew up and the schooling I had growing up here.
- I would like to see foreign language taught in the elementary schools
- I would like to see full day Kindergarten as well as more programs come back into our schools, like a library teacher/program. We need increased technology in our classrooms. I would like to see more programs being offered not taken away. Our schools are one of the most positive draws to our community. We need to support the programs and staff that are needed at all levels.
- I would love to see the district provide more support services for kids on the cusp. I think the kids who easily excel or struggle significantly have good support but the kids who have challenges but manage to get by don't get the support they could be getting.
- If at all possible we should get out of the rationalization agreement. It was the worse thing Holden ever did to our schools.
- If the schools are good, many in town will benefit from increased property values. Also it is our responsibility as a community to support the schools.
- Improve the quality of the middle school cirriculum.
- In my opinion, children with learning disabilities do not get the help they need to succeed.
- In order to keep this district competitive with the rest of the state, we need gifted and talented programs, additional advanced placement options for students, librarians for our school libraries, increased emphasis on art and music, STEM/STEAM programs, increased programs emphasizing the environment.
- Invest in our schools and support the elected officials on the school committee, as well as the administration of the district. Our schools are our most important resource.....nurture them. And STOP asking what Holden will get from the school budgets. They are Wachusett students, not Holden students. Support all Wachusett students.
- Involve more high tech partnerships, etc.
- Is it possible to provide a better break down to tax payers as to how the money is spent? There should be a better system to monitor students to make sure they are living in town and are from a tax payer family.
- It seems as though our school district is still at the bottom of the state with amounts spent per pupil. I would like a bigger investment in our children.
- It seems to me that the high school will soon have an enormous student body. The community might benefit from a second high school.

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Holden Community Survey Results



Q45 Do you have any other ideas about the Wachusett Regional School District? Please share any and all comments below.

- Keep it excellent, including music and arts.
- Keep up the good work!
- Kindergarten should be free. Class size is important.
- Lets stop being a regional school district because Im tired of holden having to pick up the school budget tabs for the other towns that vote it down. As a parent of a child that is educationally challenged, I think it is horrible that he gets bused to a different town for his education, because his home school is not set up to accomidate his needs. Children with special needs should be accomidated in there home schools, both for them and other students to help build a sense of community.
- Librarians would be helpful (even one that could float between the elementary schools at least).
- Libraries. Art and music are crucial for a good education
- Lose language and add vocational studies..
- Marijuana should not be used as a fear tactic. We should be pro use for taxes and proactive with thought. Fear is not the answer. Change is good and a solution to a problem. Also we need to be fiscally responsible and save for a bad time. This current time is similar to 2008 where just before we thought we had it good. Not blaming trump or Obama just need to be cautious and not forget that bad times happen.
- Minimal transparency. School starts too early for HS.
- More adjustment counselors/ social emotional corrdinators. College advisors
- More arts Librarians in every school More AP options in high school
- More computer skills to be taught earlier.
- More focus on arts and vocational programs
- More mental health support in schools
- More science and history....grandchildren just have math stress.
- More teachers. Fewer kids per classroom.
- more transparency with budget numbers
- More vocational education should be available without having to leave Wachusett to get it. Not everyone is going to college. Kids need to learn practical skills as well, ie balancing a check book, writing checks, keeping a budget.
- Mountview is outstanding.
- Music programs are important
- Music programs are important in high school--this option was not included in the high school question
- My children are not yet school age but I look forward to sending them to Holden/Wachusett schools and want to be sure the quality of education is maintained or improved.
- My children are older now, but we had issues with MountView and neither one of my kids ended up graduating from Wachusett as it didn't meet their needs. I do, however, feel that the school system is one of the most important places to put our money as they are the future of our town and our country.

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Holden Community Survey Results



Q45 Do you have any other ideas about the Wachusett Regional School District? Please share any and all comments below.

- My children went through the Holden Schools. They all went to good colleges. They all have enjoyed success in life - albeit in Chicago & SF areas
- My daughter went to WRHS, after that experience i made sure my son went to a private school from 7th grade thru his senior year, WRHS does a good job with kids on the high end of the specturm, meaning good students and athletes, but does very poorly with kids that struggle with grades and have a difficult time with school work, this was my experience with the school.
- My wife and I are constantly concerned about the budget and access to up-to-date resources for the students.
- N/A
- N/A
- Need a program geared towards gifted students
- need for adequate funding with special attention to art music and especially civics and public education
- Need more before and after school care options. They fill up so quickly
- need more compassionate leaders, need to reduce bullying and drug use
- Need support teachers (interventionists, reading specialists, etc, librarians) at the elementary schools
- Need to contain budget. Cost is getting to high
- needs full time kindergarden
- needs more investment in
- No
- no
- no
- No
- No
- No
- No
- none
- none
- none
- not yet
- offer free full day kindergarten
- offer incentives to parents to put their students on the bus and not drive them
- Offer vouchers.
- One of the best music programs in central MA. Keep it up!
- Open athletic facilities after school hours and charge what fitness centers charge to pay for staff and personal trainers.

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Holden Community Survey Results



Q45 Do you have any other ideas about the Wachusett Regional School District? Please share any and all comments below.

- Our daughter has one year left in Mayo and then will move to Mountview. During our time at Mayo she has gone to the Before & After school program. This program has been amazing. I am concerned that Mountview does not offer a true extended day option. I am aware of Mountviews Homework club until 4:30PM. However, a 4:30PM pickup is not conducive to a working parents schedule. I would pay the for extended care if it was available at Mountview. I wish the town would consider offering this during the middle school years. I know there are many other parents out there hoping for this as well.
- Our grandchildren seem to be receiving a decent education
- Our schools are severely underfunded and most people move to this town for the good schools. We need to bring our schools back to the level they should be. We are losing families and teachers due to the issues with our school funding. We are doing a disservice to our kids and our town but making our schools excellent.
- Our schools need more support and consensus among the 5 towns to ensure there remains a strong and responsive educational system for all children!
- Paying high rates for FT Kindergarten shouldn't be necessary.
- Per pupil spending is far too low. Class sizes need to be smaller. The schools are our most important resource. Nothing is more important than the best education possible for ALL.
- redo the regional agreement
- Reduce the number of elected officials serving on the WRSD Committee---smaller groups can be more effective in implementing changes.
- Regionalization was a good idea when Holden was only slightly larger than Paxton, Rutland, Princeton, and Sterling. Now, it is significantly larger; which is a huge issue that is only growing worse. Ideally, a town of Holden's population needs a dedicated high school. As a district, a second high school is needed in the next 20 years...it's just too large to offer a quality education.
- Restrict more housing developments so we can not have overcrowding in the schools.
- School
- School District should control spending better and make a real line item budget available to the public
- School is getting to large. We should downsize to just Holden. How are you planning to keep the school safe with such a large student base. I hear form high school kids there is a huge drug problem at Wachusett, this conserns me. Need random drug searches, and strike conferences for offenders.
- Schools are becoming overcrowded and needs to be addressed. Removing librarians is devastating.
- Schools are very overcrowded
- Schools need chomebooks and librarians and books in their library.
- Schools should stay out of politics. Do not encourage or condone a walk out or walk in.
- Sidewalks so childrens can walk home safely should a ride be unavailable
- Spend money wisely on any town contracts that could impact the budget. Town is in driver's seat and don't over pay for anything. Make vendors compete on our dime.

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Holden Community Survey Results



Q45 Do you have any other ideas about the Wachusett Regional School District? Please share any and all comments below.

- Spending per pupil isn't really an issue, otherwise Worcester and Lowell would have better districts. I think the psychology and expectations of excellence are what make a school district desirable, since it directly relates to measurable performance.
- split up some towns; split up WRHS
- Sports cost is expensive.
- Start times should be later - especially for high school students. This matter should be reconsidered. More needs to be done to address drug use - especially the drug use that is taking place in school in the bathrooms and back of classrooms.
- State funding formula should be fixed so regional school districts can afford quality education.
- Stop allowing builders to plop giant 4+ BR homes on postage stamp sized lots with disregard to school size, budget and spending limits, and safe sidewalks. The families moving into these homes need school services and we are already are the lowest per-pupil spending school district in the state. It is irresponsible for the town to keep allowing this to happen and then be "surprised" that the schools need more funding.
- Stop building houses to prevent overcrowding in schools
- stop growing!
- Stop letting developers come in and fire up houses on small lots. The schools are crowded because the town has allowed uncontrollable houses being built. Enough is enough. I'd like my kids to have woods and have the schools be able to serve them. Everything is already crowded. Stop building homes!!!!
- Strive for smaller size at all levels
- Teach cursive. Get rid of new math. teach functional education get rid of teaching JUST to MCAS
- Teach more mental health/coping skills classes and more Activities of Daily Living classes (Not just hygiene, but budgeting, basic car and home maintenance, grocery shopping, meal planning and prep., etc.) As REQUIRED CLASSES
- Teacher to student ratios need to remain low! This is one of the things that makes WRSD desirable. Full day kindergarten should be offered to all and not hold a lottery. There should also not be a fee associated with full day kindergarten.
- Teacher training and competence needs to significantly improve. Teachers have tenure and therefore no incentive to keep learning and training in their respective disciplines. It shows in their teaching.
- The "district" is only a district in name. My children attend different schools in different towns and each school and teacher does their own things differently even though they are part of the same "district".
- The district is getting too large & changes need be made,
- The district wasting a lot of money.
- The high costs of the admin needs to be controlled
- The kindergarten lottery process needs to be reevaluated. We need to re-organize as Mayo is far too crowded.
- The more money you put into the school, the more you will improve the entire town. Excellent schools attract, well, everything you want. And the high school is TOO BIG

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Holden Community Survey Results



Q45 Do you have any other ideas about the Wachusett Regional School District? Please share any and all comments below.

- The parking lot at the Early Childhood Center in Jefferson should be reviewed and hopefully repaired. The lot has severe holes, it is hard or impossible to see the striping, when meetings are held during school hours it is close to impossible to find a parking spot, when it rains or there is snow the holes are hard to see or huge puddles are created once the snow has melted or after the rain has fallen. There is no clear indication or markings for anyone to cross from the main doors to the play area which can sometimes be dangerous when drivers go way to fast around the parking lot. Air conditioning throughout the schools should be considered or put in the schools that do not have them, especially the rooms that do not have windows that can be opened to let in any circulation on hot, humid days.
- The per pupil expenditure is one of the lowest in the state. There is a financial and budgeting issue in the towns and the district. Tax rates and housing values are higher than other area districts that spend more per pupil. (Quabbin for example.).
- The preschool should get more financial help to lower the cost of tuition or take away the tuition all together and treat the school like all the others in the district. Why is there a tuition for a public school that is part of the district? The school should also get a new parking lot. while we're on the topic of little kids. There should be a kindergarten. Having a wait list and having to pay for full time kindergarten that should be automatic is appalling.
- The question above is the wrong question. The schools should be getting more money but preferably the tax base (commercial) can be increased to support that.
- The school district consistently spends less per capita student than other districts, yet their budget is consistently increasing. Not sure how their budget increases 5-8%/year yet this far exceeds rate of inflation. I am big proponent of schools but this is unsustainable and one of biggest complaints amongst residents in the district. Part of the problem lies in the uninhibited growth in Holden & Rutland increasing school population. Problem will continue to worsen until growth is controlled and the school district learns to live within a budget.
- The school district is too large and Holden should break off and be independent.
- The schools are overcrowded
- The schools are overcrowded and the town keeps allowing more developments with 4+ bedrooms/multiple children which is overflowing our school system.
- The schools need better funding. Our two children attended private high school because of inadequate facility in 2002
- the schools need to do a better job of talking to each other and sharing ideas and resources. The elementary schools are all so different from one another. We also need more technology in the elementary schools.
- The schools should be better funded, especially special departments like music and art
- The SpEd classrooms at high school are offered for the state minimum required weeks. It should be extended on both ends and should be extended to a full school day and school week.

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Holden Community Survey Results



Q45 Do you have any other ideas about the Wachusett Regional School District? Please share any and all comments below.

- The Town of Holden should look into dissolving its regional agreement on any level possible. (K-12 or K-8, whatever can be done)
- There needs to be more teacher accountability and weeding out of poor teachers who do not follow sound business practices. The PAWS program at Mayo has to end as it is a bullying tactic to single out a few kids who don't get it and destroys kids' self esteem.
- There should be a study done for school bus capacity on the routes.
- They are management heavy and effectiveness poor. low value for the \$.
- They are way over burden with administrative staff ie. assistant principals, both in the schools and administrative offices. Rather than threatening taxpayers with loss of teachers cut some of the above.
- They should provide a transparent line by line budget
- This district needs a house cleaning, starting with the superintendent, who has been a failure since the failure of the school committee to run a proper search. The funding level from the town of holden is excellent but they continue to request more money. They need to find efficiencies and do more with what they have. We also need to do whatever is legally possible to deregionalize the K-8 schools.
- Too crowded more educational options would be great, needs to be fully funded but with an eye towards cost conscious management. Could improve by being more strategic less reactive
- Too many early release days!
- Too many kids here. Our burden is too high.
- Too many students not enough teachers.
- Too many teachers do not care about the kids at the high school, they take pleasure in making learning as difficult as possible. They make frequent errors and either blame the kids or don't acknowledge them, lose the kids homework and make the kids prove they did it, FAR too much homework in some classes, teachers don't make themselves available for extra help and some push their own agendas and political/social views. The administration does NOT want to hear from parents and dismiss our concerns.
- Too much administration, academics not stressed enough. Standards of excellence slipping, political correctness rampant. Chose to send children to private school where they excelled. High school tries to force students into mediocrity and not holding all to high expectations. My spouse a former teacher in Wachusett High quit in disgust and vowed not to have her children attend there. There is a false sense in the community that the schools are so wonderful and that is alarming.
- Town tends to pit their budget against schools with questions like above, which has no context to it.
- Unchecked development has severely overcrowded the schools- Wachusett Regional High School in particular. High population density and 'affordable' development has increased the overcrowding in higher proportion vs. other development. However, it is irresponsible to allow continued unchecked development without the infrastructure and planning to support it. This situation is already shameful and will likely have a negative affect upon future property values.

SCHOOLS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q45 Do you have any other ideas about the Wachusett Regional School District? Please share any and all comments below.

- Value teachers more
- Very happy with the District
- Wachusett has become too big. Kids can (and do) feel very much like a number there. Great opportunity and school but something is failing. Also after school transportation (late bus, low cost shuttle) is important for kids whose parents work thru the evening. More vocational opportunities would be great, too.
- Wachusett is a fine district, but it's not outstanding. Nothing stands out to me- what do we specialize in? What makes us unique from other districts? Rather than just trying to do it all for everyone, we should find a niche. It's sad that we have a very large district and yet the electives at the high school are pathetic.
- Wachusett regional school district should add more bottle filling stations and check the blubbers to make sure the water tastes good and is not contaminated.
- Wachusett school districts rate highly despite the amount of funding they receive, I think one of the easiest ways to increase the value of Holden is to increase the education system. There is nearly always a direct correlation to how well a town does to the education it provides. It could also be considered equally important to those who don't use it. Better education in the area, the better the property investment. It's also impossible to understand budget allocation without context as to what the total budget and needs of the schools are.
- We are in our last year of our student going through the system. I just feel there are too many children in each class.
- We build new schools and within 5 years they are already too small because of the large homes being built. The town needs to plan and possibly redraw school borders. I have no problem supporting new schools but when you hear things are cramped or we should have built for more it's frustrating
- We first moved to town based on the school district's reputation. We were disappointed by continuous budget cuts that reduce the quality of teaching and eliminates important offerings such as librarians, textbooks, up-to-date technology, among other things. It is disappointing to see the heavy focus on standardized tests comes at the expense of intellectually challenging the town's children. We currently pay taxes to support the local schools AND tuition to private schools because the present system could not meet our needs.
- We have been told that class sizes are enormous in the high school. This combined with the information we have received through the I Am Wachusett group make us question as parents if we should school choice out of the district once our children reach high school.
- We have limited experience having been here 2 years, but overall, I'd love better planning/direction for school events. School events often seem hastily thrown together at the last minute (although I'm sure they're not), but lack of vision/direction is evident.
- We have often considered leaving town because of concerns about quality of education
- We need free universal full day kindergarten

SCHOOLS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q45 Do you have any other ideas about the Wachusett Regional School District? Please share any and all comments below.

- We need to allow for more business opportunities in town, to help pay for our school budget. Along with this, we need to restrict future new home building to smaller local builders, at 5-10 homes max (not massive neighborhoods that cannot contribute enough tax dollars to cover the cost of additional pupils in our district, bus needs, while adding to traffic on already busy roads). When allowing for additional building permits, we need to be more fiscally responsible with the larger picture in mind (a town plan).
- we need to spend more money on schools - not enough AP and honors classes
- We need to split this 5 town system up and reduce the high school size somehow. It is way too overcrowded!
- We pulled our kids out and sent them to private school where the quality was better than Wachusett
- We should have stronger investment in our schools. Strong schools are critical for attracting and maintaining families in our community, for developing children who will be future leaders in our community, for ensuring all children are supported and educated (which enhances safety in our community). Stop building new homes--our schools are becoming over crowded. Allow home prices to rise through strong schools, and invest in other infrastructure like educational hiking trails, kids recreational activities, or other kids programs that will keep kids busy, help them develop leadership skills, and attract other families to visit our town (ex, Holden pool) and support local businesses while being here.
- What happened to school choice within the WRS district?
- Where is it available for residents to view all the new middle school's functional issues that occurred within the 1st 3 years of residency and how they are financially reconciled?
- with regards to what?? The traffic situation at Wachusett is horrible. What can be done about that? It is outright dangerous!
- With the amount I pay in taxes the amount that is charged to parents for pre-school (ECC) and Kindergarten is astronomical. Especially as a parent with multiples, there should be a multiples discount.
- Woefully underfunded, leading to an increase in inexperienced teachers in key subjects. Time to increase per student spending to within 80% of the state average. Or we risk destroying the thing that draws educated people to Holden to raise their families and participate in the community.
- Would like more information about vocational school options
- Would like realistic look at breaking off from district
- would like to see life skills reinstated
- WRSD Committee is out of touch (or doesn't care) about the reality of town finances. Their arrogance may ultimately lead to a breakup of the K-12 district.
- WRSD should produce a line item budget for the residents of the district.
- Yes. Class sizes at Mountview and WRHS are way too large and this affects instruction. Wachusett Regional High School and Mountview Middle School are very large schools, and contractors keep building, building, building. The new Mountview is only 2 1/2 years old and already has more students than was designed.

SCHOOLS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q46 Do you believe there are parking challenges in any part of Holden?

• No	• Downtown
• No	
• ?	• Ellies Pet Barn Plaza parking and Holden Rec Area
• ???	• Everywhere
• allow on street limited parking	• EVERYWHERE
• Allow on street parking overnight	
• Along Main Street at local businesses	• farmers market parking is a little overcrowded
• are you kidding? for small businesses there is almost no parking. The biggest limitation to restaurants and small businesses is the lack of parking	• Farners market on Tuesdays
• At the library on certain days	• Get rid of overnight ban
• Big Y parking lot. is it one way or not? Who monitors it?	• Historical area
• Bo	• Holden Center on 122A
• business on north main street	• Holden Pool.
• By the schools for events, the pool	
• Center	• I dislike the Big Y parking lot but I think there are enough spaces. It's poorly designed.
• Center	• I haven't experienced any.
• Center	• In the center, Gale Free Library, Dawson Recreation
• Center near 31/Main is beginning to see issues.	• indeterminate
• center of town	• Just about everywhere in Holden!
• Center of town	• Library
• Center of town - Farmer's market area, library	• Library and town pool
• Center of town on Holden Days	• Library if not outside book drop off during business hours
• center of town-senior center/ball field/ice cream store/beer store	• Library parking lot
• Chaffins Rec area parking lot	• Main & Sr. Ctr Drive, Pool
• Don't really know.	• Main st
• Down town	• main st
	• Main st
	• Main st during Holden Days
	• Main St small businesses without own sufficient lots

Answered: 546
Skipped: 433

SCHOOLS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q46 Do you believe there are parking challenges in any part of Holden?

• Main street	• No	• No	• no	• No	• No	• No	• No	• No	• No
• maybe in town center with new brewery	• No	• No	• No	• no	• no	• no	• no	• No	• no
• Meolas parking, WRHS student parking, Seven Saws, etc	• No	• No	• No	• no	• no	• no	• no	• no	• no
• More access to highways than anything	• No	• No	• No	• no	• No	• No	• No	• no	• No
	• No	• No	• No	• No	• no	• no	• No	• no	• No
• Most Businesses on Main Street have limited parking. Also the town pool lot is too small.	• No	• No	• no	• no	• no	• No	• No	• No	• No
	• No	• No	• no	• no	• No	• No	• No	• no	• No
• Municipal parking lot to small and time limit wat to short	• No	• No	• No	• No	• No	• no	• No	• No	• no
• N/A	• No	• No	• No	• no	• No	• no	• no	• no	• No
• n/a	• No	• No	• No	• no	• no	• no	• no	• No	• No
• Near meolas	• No	• No	• No	• No	• No	• no	• no	• no	• no
• near small stores and restaurants	• No	• No	• No	• No	• No	• No	• No	• no	• No
	• No	• No	• No	• No	• No	• No	• No	• No	• No
• Near the town Center, yes	• no	• No	• no	• No	• No	• no	• no	• no	• No
• Need main st parking	• no	• No	• No	• No	• No	• no	• no	• No	• No
• No	• No	• No	• No	• No	• No	• No	• No	• No	• no
• No	• No	• No	• No	• No	• no	• No	• No	• No	• No
• No	• no	• No	• no	• no	• No	• No	• no	• no	• No
• No	• No	• No	• No	• no	• no	• no	• No	• No	• no
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• No	• no	• No	• No	• No	• no	• No	• No	• No	• No
• No	• no	• No	• No	• No	• no	• No	• No	• No	• No

SCHOOLS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q46 Do you believe there are parking challenges in any part of Holden?

• No	• No	• No, just driving challenges.	• Not sure
• No	• No	• No, not enough business attraction to have parking issues, except the new Meolas Ice Cream	• not sure
• no	• No	• No, parking is good	• Not sure.
• no	• No	• No, we moved here for the wonderful off street parking everywhere	• Not that I am aware of
• No	• No	• No.	• Not that I have experienced
• No	• No	• No.	• Not that I have noticed.
• No	• no	• No.	• Not that i know of
• No	• No	• no.	• Not that I'm aware of
• No	• No	• none	• Not that I'm aware of
• no	• No	• Not	• Not to my knowledge
• No	• No	• Not anything insurmountable.	• Not to my knowledge
• No	• no	• Not aware	• Occasionally
• no	• No	• Not in my experience	• Occasionally at the library; Starbard/Town Hall lot can get tricky
• no	• No	• Not really	• occasionally center of town/library
• No	• no	• not really	
• No	• no	• Not really	
• No	• no	• Not really	
• No	• no	• Not really	
• No	• No	• Not really	
• No	• no	• Not really	
• NO	• no	• Not really	
• No	• no	• not really	
• No	• no	• Not Really	
• no	• no	• Not really	
• No	• No	• Not really	
• No	• No	• Not really, though Meola's is shaping up to have some parking troubles	
• No	• no	• Not really, unless there is an event at the high school.	
• No	• No	• Not really.	
• no	• no	• not really7	
• No	• No	• Not sure	
• No	• No	• not sure	
			• only during parades, farmers' markets and Holden Days
			• only during parades, farmers' markets nd Holden Days
			• Only during town events
			• Overnight parking ban
			• Overnight parking on the streets is not strictly enforced
			• Parking challenges in center of town

SCHOOLS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q46 Do you believe there are parking challenges in any part of Holden?

• Parking, no. But traffic is often too heavy on Main Street to get in and out of businesses.	• unsure, lived in town 1.5yrs.	• Yes	• Yes
• Public parking should be clearly marked	• very little for some center of town businesses	• YES	• yes
• Rec center, downtown	• Wachusett regional high school	• Yes	• Yes
• School parking can be challenging during events.	• Wachusett Street and other over populated streets which are too narrow and too populated to be able to park cars when gathers occur.	• yes	• Yes
• seems adequate at current date.	• Where no off site parking is available	• yes	• yes
• Seldom	• whole town, night parking ban	• Yes	• Yes
• some in the center of town	• Yes	• yes	• Yes
• some parts of Holden center (small businesses with limited parking, which limits their clientele)	• Yes	• Yes	• yes - along Main Street if additional businesses were to be added
• Some parts of main street	• yes	• Yes	• Yes especially handicap parking
• The downtown area is not a visitor friendly walking area and does not have adequate parking	• Yes	• Yes	• Yes difficult to enter and exit everywhere
• the High School	• Yes	• yes	• Yes during events.
• The library needs more handicap parking, Meolas hogs all the town parking.	• Yes	• Yes	• Yes ECC
• The Specialty Sandwich parking lot is very tight and difficult to maneuver when busy.	• Yes	• Yes	• Yes in restaurants like the Friendly's in Holden center
• There are some main street stores that I don't frequent because of parking. Also, it can be a pain leaving one part of Main Street and crossing over to the other side of the street.	• Yes	• Yes	• yes, around Main St.
• There is minimal parking for businesses on 122A immediately north of Rt 31	• yes	• Yes	• Yes, at Farmer's Market. Should be moved to field next to the Senior Center.
• Town Center	• yes	• yes	
• Town center	• Yes	• Yes	
• Town center	• Yes	• Yes	
• Town pool	• Yes	• Yes	
• Unsure	• yes	• yes	

SCHOOLS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q46 Do you believe there are parking challenges in any part of Holden?

- Yes, at some businesses line The Landmark and Sweets & Java. There is limited parking, which makes me not patronize these businesses.
- Yes, do agree with the parking ban at night. Should be allowed to park on the roadway as long as its not a traffic hazard
- yes, homes on state highways
- Yes, in the town center shops.
- Yes, limited parking on Main Street
- Yes, mostly in commercial areas
- yes, near some of the businesses, not enough
- Yes, parking by-law should be removed
- Yes, parking not allowed on either side of street
- yes, some of the turns are crazy with people passing and having to wait to turn left out of lots
- Yes, the new beer place, and anywhere when there is a special event
- Yes, the new Meola's is great, but parking is a challenge.
- Yes, the Senior Center
- Yes, there are no clear municipal parking for businesses near Routes 31/122A intersection.
- Yes, town center
- yes, uptown
- yes,side streets
- Yes. Mayo Elementary, Center of Town
- Yes. Not being allowed to park on the street after 1AM can be an issue in some areas.
- Yes....everywhere
- Yes...high school, pool
- Yes..center of town
- Yes: WRHS
- YUP!

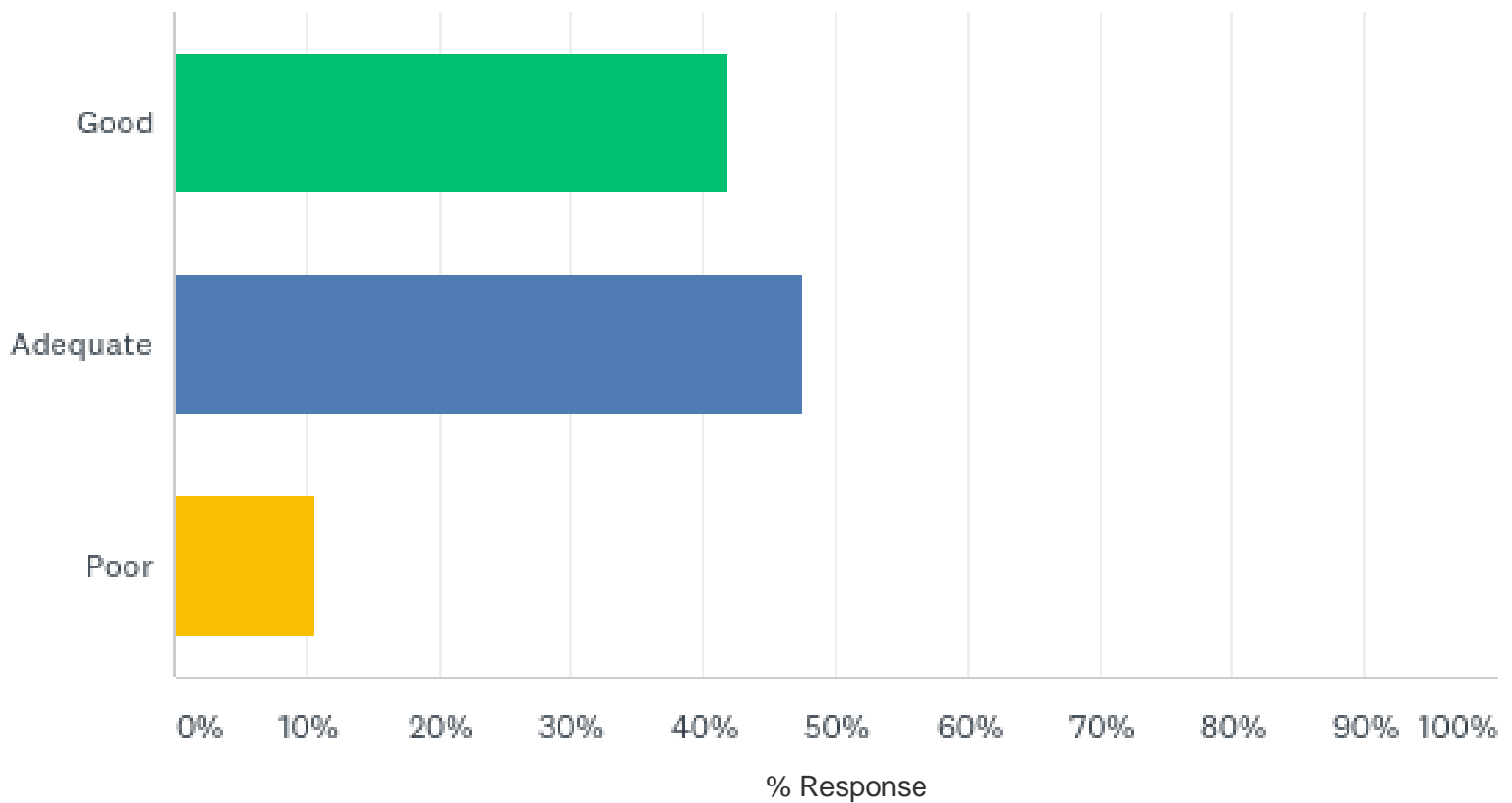
SCHOOLS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q47: How would you rate the overall road conditions in Town?



Answered: 810

Skipped: 169

TRANSPORTATION

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q47: How would you rate the overall road conditions in Town?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Good	41.85%	339
Adequate	47.53%	385
Poor	10.62%	86
TOTAL		810

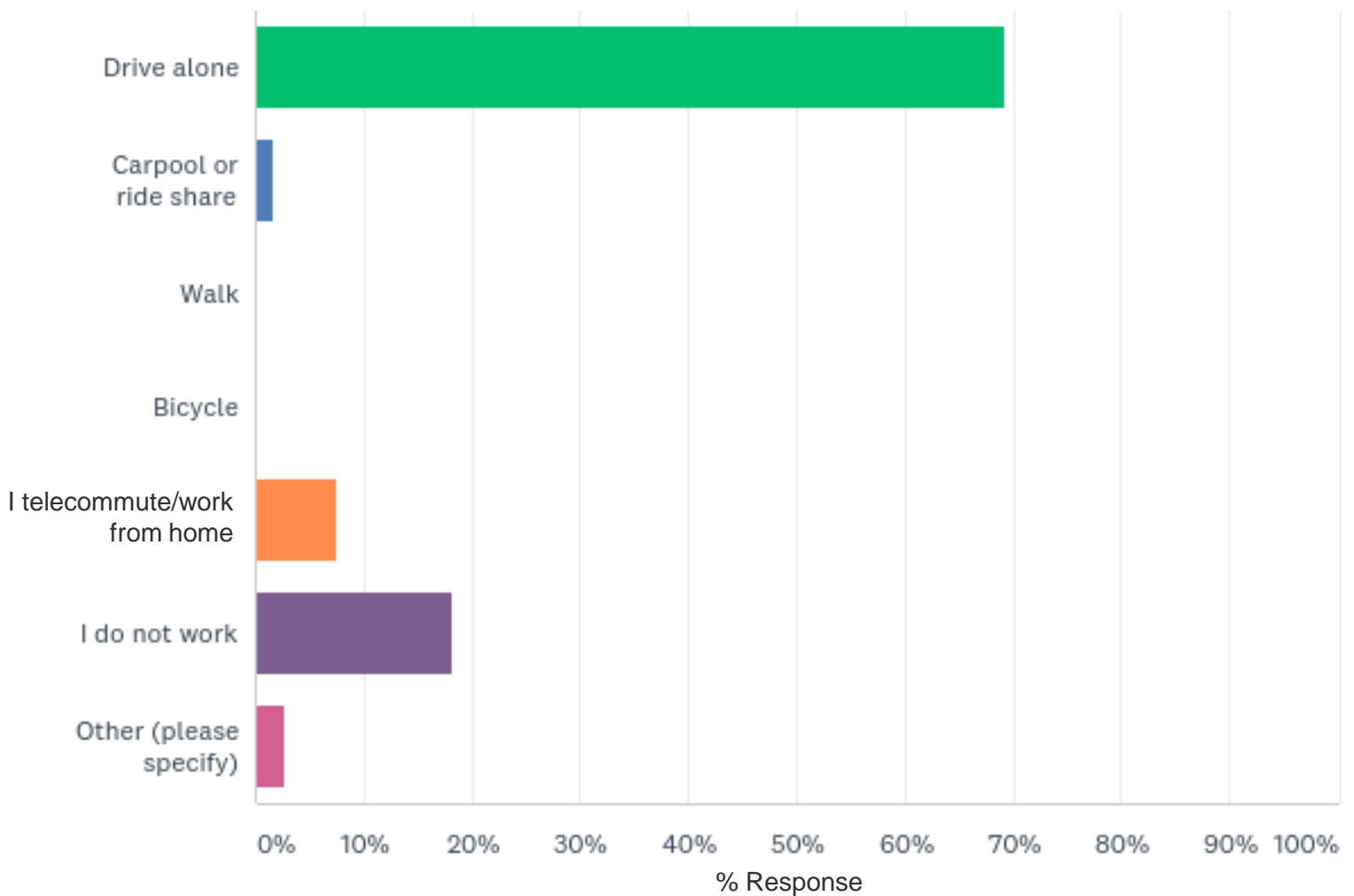
TRANSPORTATION

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q48: How do you travel to work?



Answered: 809

Skipped: 170

TRANSPORTATION

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q48: How do you travel to work?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Drive alone	69.22%	560
Carpool or ride share	1.73%	14
Walk	0.25%	2
Bicycle	0.25%	2
I telecommute/work from home.	7.54%	61
I do not work	18.29%	148
Other (please specify)	2.72%	22
TOTAL		809

TRANSPORTATION

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q48: How do you travel to work?

- alternate driving & bicycle
- Combination of driving alone/telecommuting
- Commuter rail to Cambridge
- Do regularly use Holdens roads for travel
- Don't work everyday
- Drive to commuter rail
- Drive to Worcester for commuter rail
- drive, then commuter rail
- i am retired
- I am still in school and I take the bus and occasionally walk home.
- I often work from home but when I do travel to work I do so alone.
- I used to drive alone. Now I'm retired.
- I would like public transportation to main hub in Worcester.. I currently drive alone
- I would like to travel to town on my bicycle but the roads are unsafe for cyclers. I work nationally for the College Board (see next question, with no appropriate option).
- MBTA Commuter Rail
- motorcycle
- Retired
- Retired
- Retired
- Stay at home mom
- Telecommute most days commute car others
- Train to Boston or work from home

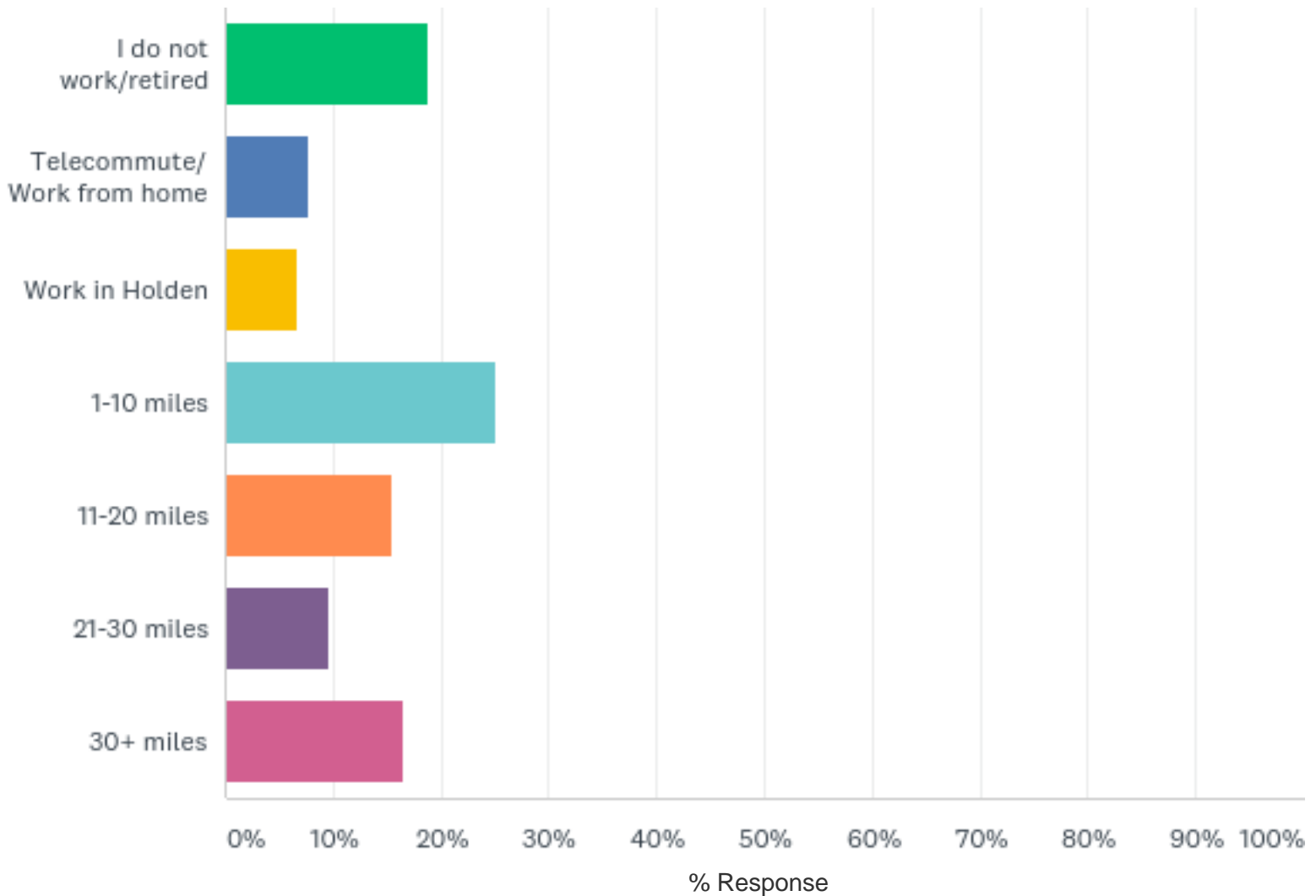
TRANSPORTATION

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q49: How many miles do you travel to get to work? (one-way)



Answered: 799

Skipped: 180

TRANSPORTATION

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q49: How many miles do you travel to get to work? (one-way)

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I do not work/retired	18.77%	150
Telecommute/ Work from home	7.76%	62
Work in Holden	6.76%	54
1-10 miles	25.03%	200
11-20 miles	15.52%	124
21-30 miles	9.64%	77
30+ miles	16.52%	132
TOTAL		799

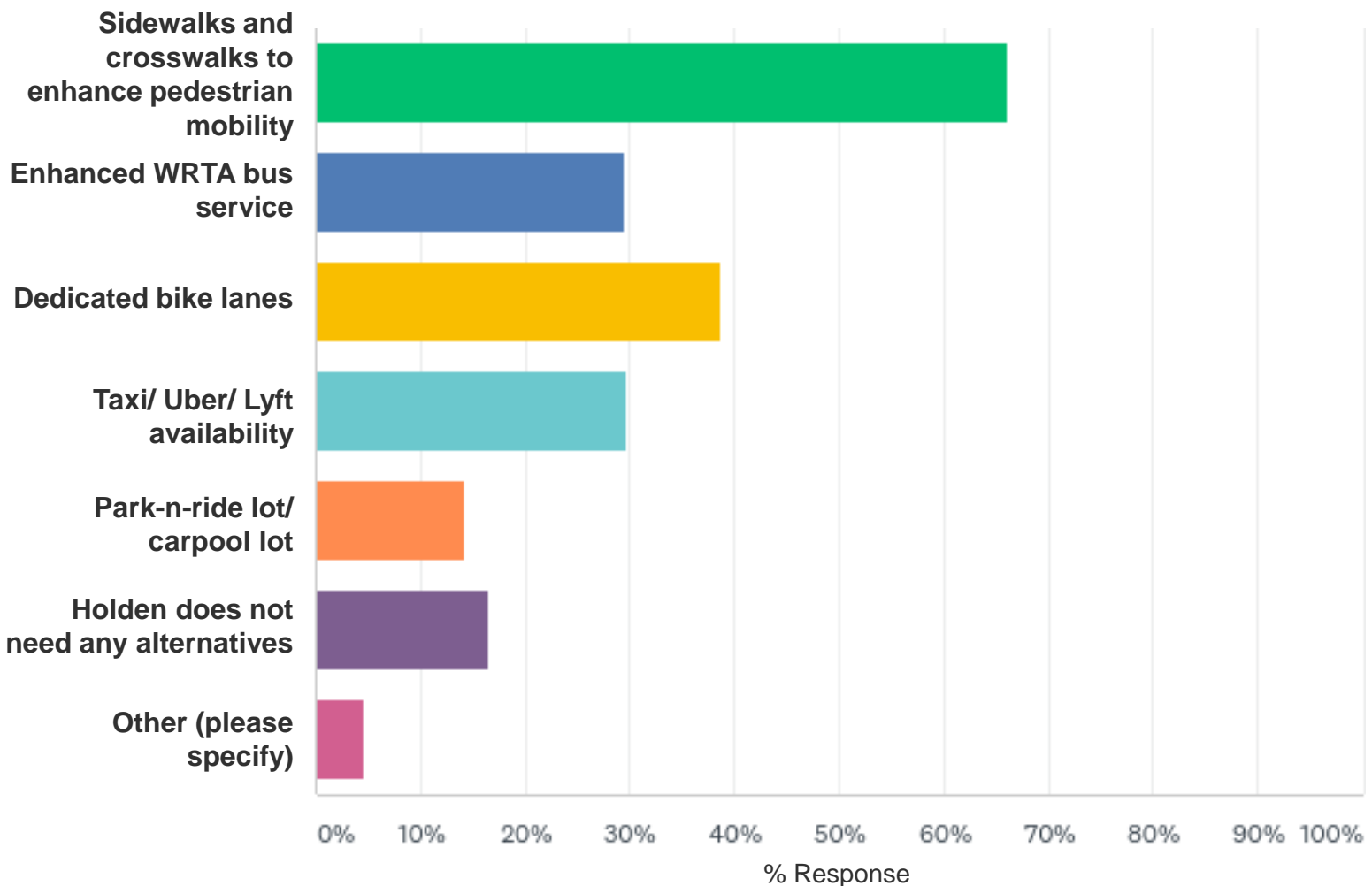
TRANSPORTATION

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q50 What types of transportation options should Holden explore? Check all that apply.



Answered: 789
Skipped: 190

TRANSPORTATION

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q50 What types of transportation options should Holden explore? Check all that apply.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Sidewalks and crosswalks to enhance pedestrian mobility	66.03%	521
Enhanced WRTA bus service	29.40%	232
Dedicated bike lanes	38.66%	305
Taxi/ Uber/ Lyft availability	29.78%	235
Park-n-ride lot/ carpool lot	14.20%	112
Holden does not need any alternatives	16.48%	130
Other (please specify)	4.56%	36
Total Respondents: 789		

TRANSPORTATION

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q50 What types of transportation options should Holden explore? Check all that apply.

- More roads
- more sidewalks
- move traffic throfh Main St faster.
- Need to identify/improve traffic flow in key alternative routes to Interstate I.190
- Open at least one, or preferably two, I-190 entrances. The original plan called for one via Malden Street. That is a good option. What else is available?
- Paratransit for seniors and people with disabilities
- petition the state to build road to give Rutland, Oakham, Barre access to 190 instead of having to go through the center of Holden to get anywhere
- Professional traffic-flow engineering and road adequacy issues are solely needed
- relieving main street traffic
- roads are in poor condition in some areas - not as bad as Worcester for sure, but in need of surface upgrade esp. Main St.
- Sidewalks and bike lanes/paths is on of the most underrated and under-provided pieces of infrastructure Holden has. Not to mention some areas, particularly 122A is a complete hazard to walk on. How many kids need to walk/bike on a road where the speed limit is 40 and passing in the opposite lane is allowed?
- T to Boston would be nice!
- Thanks
- To reduce or at least maintain the auto traffic in Holden
- Traffic at peak commuter times is a problem and should be addressed. Add more lanes and for turning.
- Traffic is from outer towns such as Rutland and Barre
- Trolley
- Two-lane road from Shrewsbury/Main Street intersection to Routes 21/122A intersections.
- uber
- Van service to commuter rail in Worcester/Westminster
- We need less traffic in town. It's horrible
- What a better place Holden would be if we had more sidewalks! And better traffic management in general. How on earth do you think we can continue adding to the current system here? Add a new ramp off 190!
- You really, really need to repaint the crosswalks they are in awful condition. I drive through many towns and Holden's are the hardest to notice.

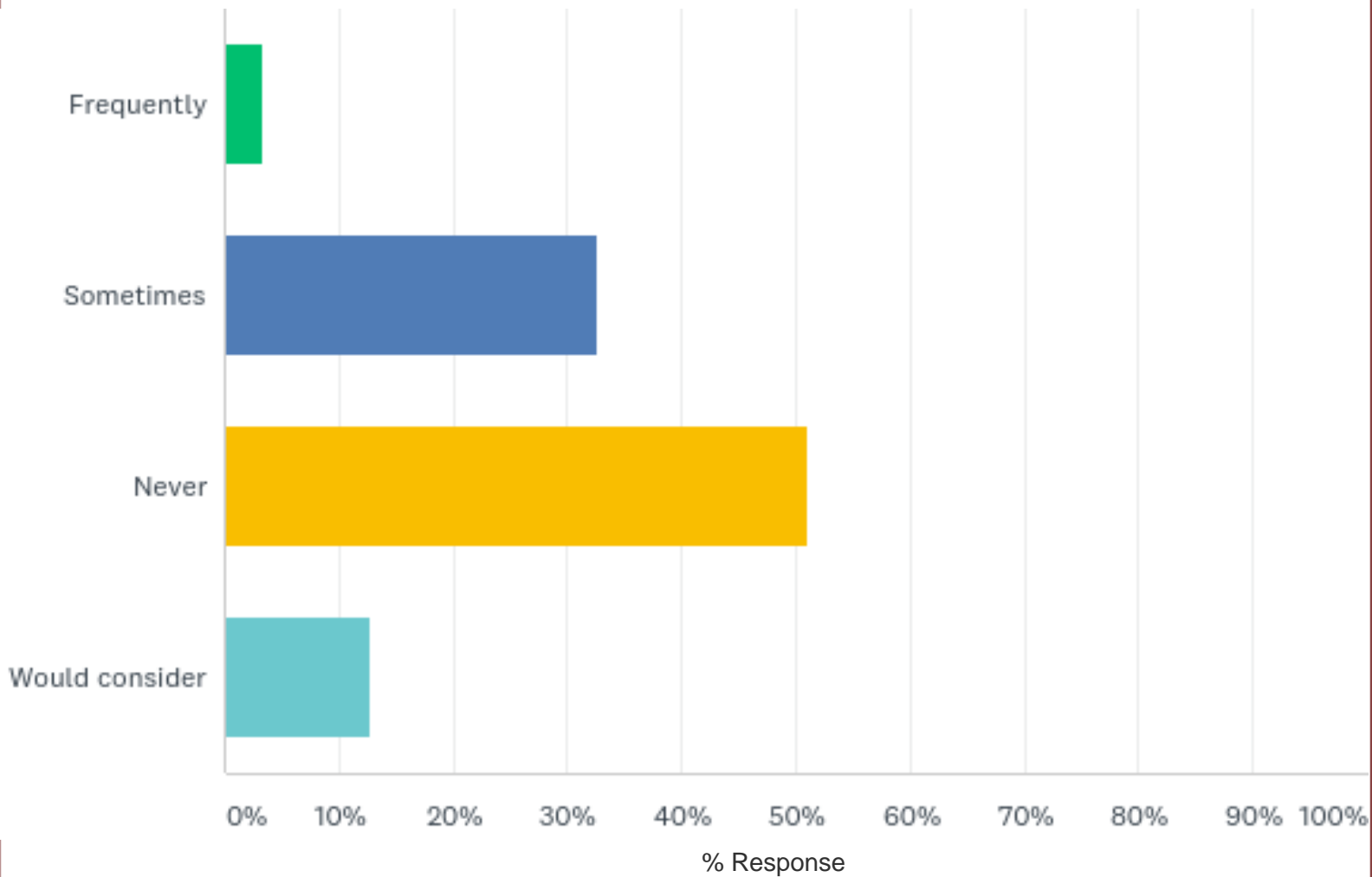
TRANSPORTATION

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q51: How often do you use ridesharing apps like "Uber" or "Lyft"?



Answered: 801

Skipped: 178

TRANSPORTATION

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q51: How often do you use ridesharing apps like "Uber" or "Lyft"?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Frequently	3.37%	27
Sometimes	32.71%	262
Never	51.06%	409
Would consider	12.86%	103
TOTAL		801

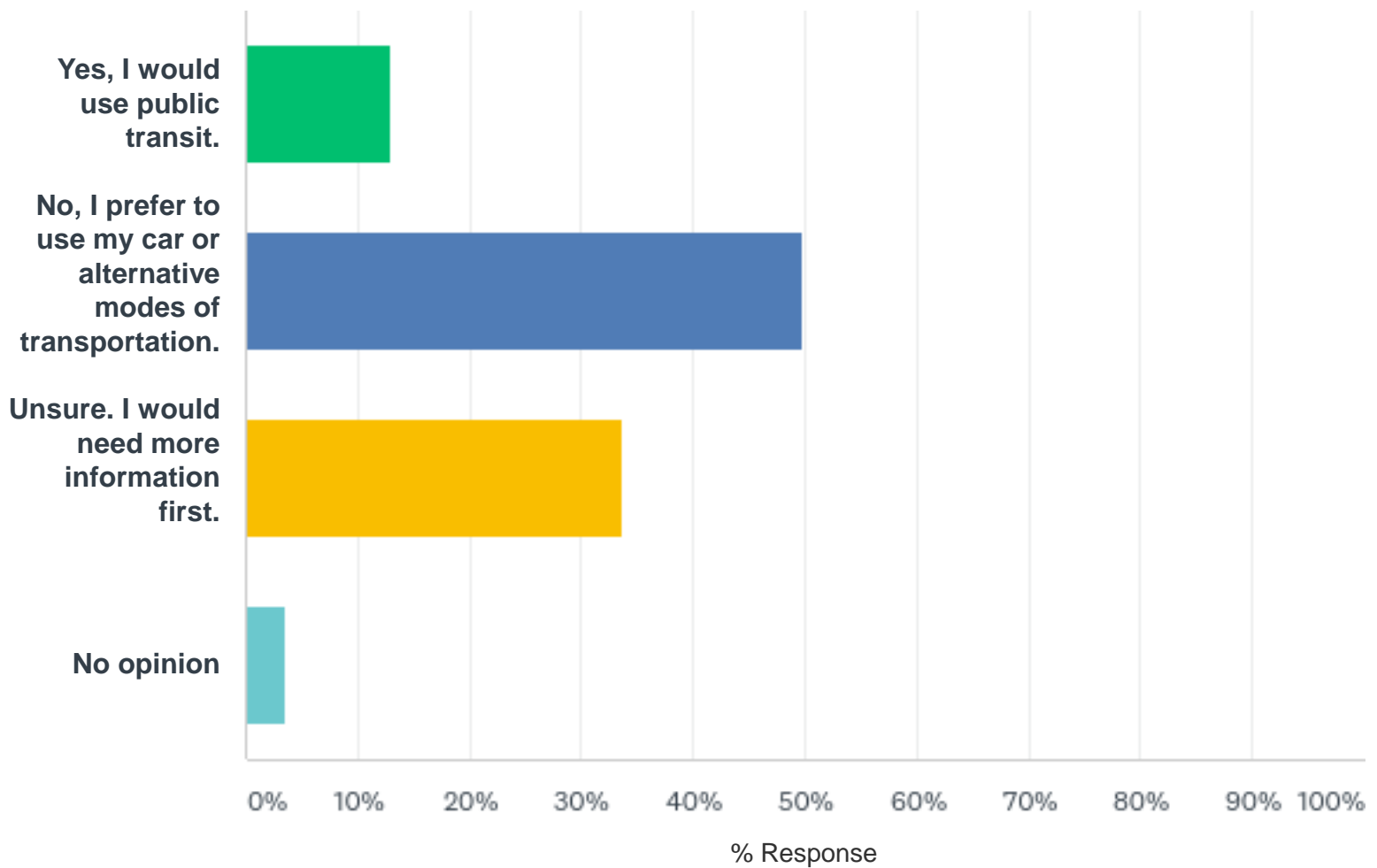
TRANSPORTATION

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q52: Would you use public transit if it were available in Holden?



Answered: 807

Skipped: 172

TRANSPORTATION

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q52: Would you use public transit if it were available in Holden?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes, I would use public transit.	13.01%	105
No, I prefer to use my car or alternative modes of transportation.	49.69%	401
Unsure. I would need more information first.	33.71%	272
No opinion	3.59%	29
TOTAL		807

TRANSPORTATION

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q53 Suggested locations for additional bicycle infrastructure

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 31 • ? • ??? • ???? • 122 and 31 • 122A • 122A • 122A • 122A and 31. • 122A between town and high school, Highland St, Route 3 • 122A from Holden Hills to Mountview middle school. Also to the Library/Damon House lot where the farmers market is • 122A is dangerous • 122A to Route 68 • 31, • A bike path from Jefferson to Wachusett Regional High School. A bike path from Jefferson post office to neighborhoods in Jefferson. • A marked bike lane on Main Street would be nice. It's unpleasant to bike there, but sometimes there's no other option. • A plan to allow for greater student access to schools and recreation areas. • Additional bicycle infrastructure to my family would be mountain bike trails and a skatepark not transportation infrastructure. • additional? How about any? • all along Main Street, Reservoir Rd, Shrewsbury St, Holden St • All main routes • All major routes • Along 122A Main St. Also Rt. 31 to town lines. • along 31 and 122 • along long stretches of 31, 122, 122A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Along main roads • along main roads • along main routes • along Main St and on routes to schools • Along main street and near the rail trail • Alongside main roads, • An actual rail trail. Not that extremely hilly trail. • Around the center of town, 122 and 31 • Bailey Rd, Reservoir Rd, Malden St • Be careful. I bike and jog and no one pays attention anymore. • Big Y Plaza (bike rack) • bike lane on Main st • Bike lane on Main Street, on Salisbury (support going to Rec pool and Dawson via bicycle). Best to have a curb to separate bike lane from main traffic. Ideal would be a bike path, such as between the Holden pool and Main Street. Bike path off the street is much safer (I would definitely use a bike path) • bike lanes are all that is necessary. • bike paths separate from the roads • Bike Paths toward center of town from residential heavy areas..perhaps connecting schools • Center of town • Center of town and near schools and parks • Center of town, recreation areas • Chapel St, Wachusett Rd. (maybe) • Chapel street
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Answered: 185
Skipped: 794

TRANSPORTATION

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q53 Suggested locations for additional bicycle infrastructure

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dawson rec/Industrial way bikepath • Downtown and along major arterial corridors. • Especially along 31 and 122A • Everywhere • Everywhere • Forest north of Quinapoxet street. • From Big Y/Holden Christian Academy area to center of town • Holden Street, Rt 31, Salisbury St, Shrewsbury St, 122A • I don't know. • I don't ride | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main St, rte 31, Malden St, all secondary roads • main st, shrewsbury st, bullard at • Main St, Shrewsbury St, Rte 31, Wachusett St • Main St, Shrewsbury St, Salsibury St, Doyel Rd, Holden St, Highland St, Reservoir Stt • Main St, Shrewsbury St, Salsibury St, Reservoir St, Highland St, Wachusett St • Main st. Route 31. • Main St. Shrewsbury St. Salisbury St • Main st. Highland rd. • Main St. through Jefferson the roads are terrible for biking. • Main st., Rt 31, Shrewsbury st. bike lanes • Main St., Salisbury St, Shrewsbury St. bike paths • Main st., Shrewsbury st, manning st, rte 31, Salisbury st, chapel st, holden st • Main St/122A, Doyle St, Shrewsbury St • Main stree and rt 31 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I have visited Denmark specifically to see how a 'cycle-friendly' community works. I am prepared to present to an appropriate body information about my research. • I wish that the sidewalks were on 122A like they are on Shrewsbury Street • Improved signage throughout town to share the road with cyclists. bike lanes marked on road surfaces • Isolated North-South and East-West bike routes, protected from mainstream auto traffic. • It would be nice if you could ride bikes all thru Holden, but too much traffic and distracted drivers for that • It would take space away from cars- not safe • Jefferson • Main roads • Main roads and in town • main roads to businesses • main st • Main St and connection to MCRT • Main St bikes lanes • Main st, route 31, wachusett st, • Main St, Rte 31 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main street • Main Street • Main Street • Main Street • Main Street and connecting to the pool • Main street bike lanes • Main Street corridor, Salisbury Street, Rte 31 • Main Street, and also improved cut-throughs for bike riders on smaller streets to make it easier to bypass the main roads • Main Street, Holden Street, Shrewsbury Street, particularly for kids going to the pool. • Main Street, Near Schools, Near Rail Trail • Main, shrewsbury, Holden, Bullard streets |

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q53 Suggested locations for additional bicycle infrastructure

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> major routes; major roads (ex. Salisbury St) Most major streets should have marked bike lanes and signage to promote "Sharing the Road" N/a n/a N/A N/A N/A N/A n/a NA NA Newell is extremely dangerous for walkers and cyclists. But so are all the roads as solid white lines are consistently ignored with passing in the right Newell road No clue, wouldn't use. No idea. No Opinion none none none none None None. Keep the bikes away from vehicles. None.. Not on the main roads Not qualified to answer this question 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not Sure Not sure Not sure, but would love more bike options Not sure. On 31 On any road where it can logistically work. Paved bike routes connecting other towns? Quinapoxet street Quinapoxet, Chapel, Wachusett, Manning Rail trail, not on main roads which are too narrow rail trail? main street? around some of the lakes Reservoir Drive next to water reservoir/highland sts Restrict to designated bike paths Route 31 Route 31 & Mason Road route 31 for sure, some in the center on main street, and 122a north side Route 31, long side streets off of rt 31 that are highly travelled Rt 31 Rt 31, Chapel, Wachusett, Main and Salisbury Rt 31, entire length. Bikes use it now, it's not safe. RT. 122A Rt. 122A RT. 122A - South Main Rt. 31 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rutland Salisbury and Main streets Salisbury St Salisbury ST intersect Salisbury st to Main to Malden to rail trail Salisbury St. Salisbury St. (around the rec area, and a bike path from industrial drive. Shrewsbury St. Wachusett St. Manning St. Quinneboxet St. and Main St. Salisbury Street Salisbury street, Main Street, route 31 Salisbury street, Newell Road, 122a. Shopping, recreation, education, job sites. Shrewsbury st Shrewsbury St and Salisbury St Shrewsbury St., Bullard St., Malden St., Main St. shrewsbury street Something would have to be done with the conditions of the roads, particularly Main St. The condition of Main St. is horrendous and the traffic is ridiculous. Start with main roads There is plenty of bike riding. Drivers need to pay better attention Too dangerous with all the traffic
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TRANSPORTATION

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q53 Suggested locations for additional bicycle infrastructure

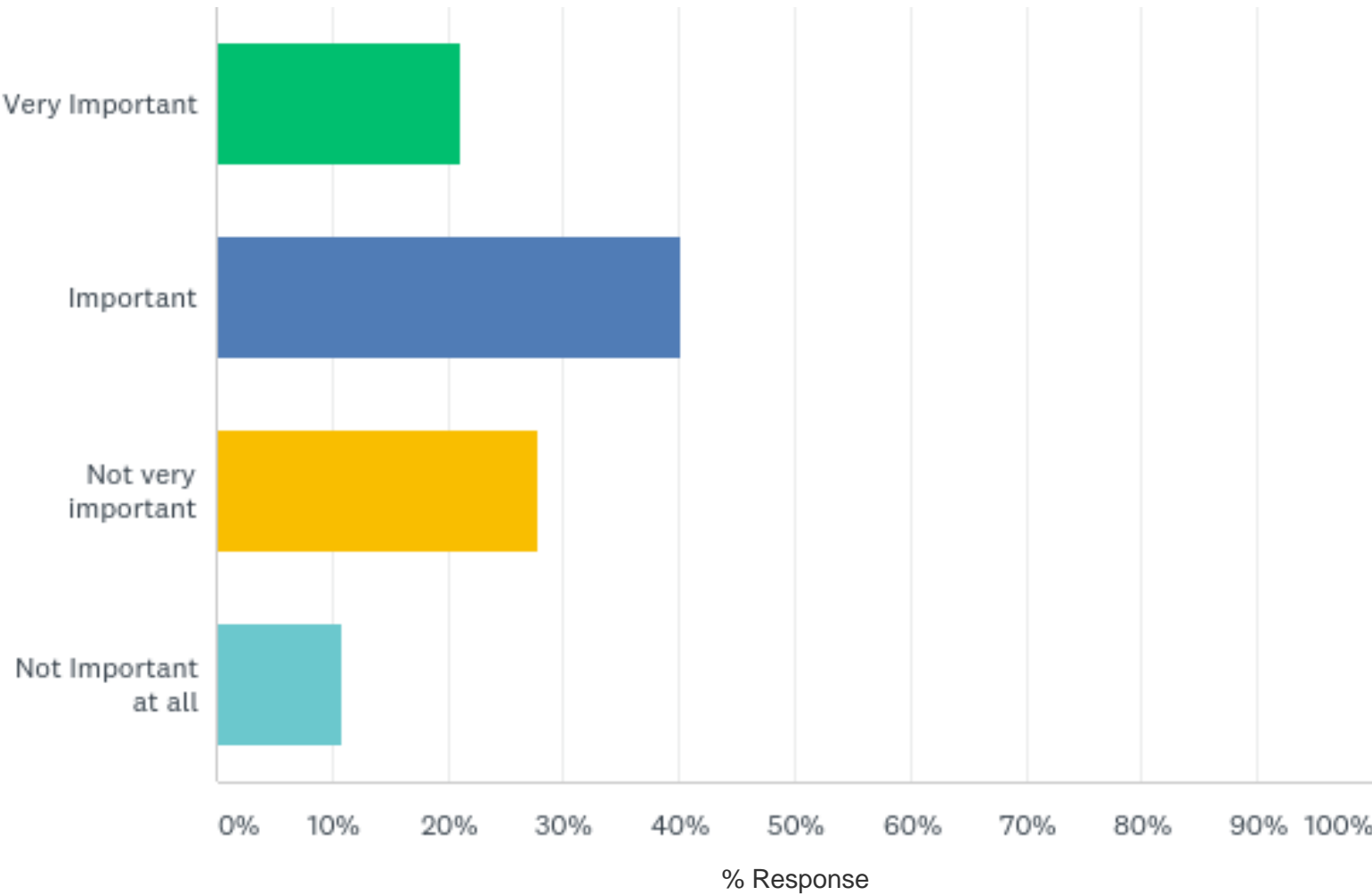
- Wachusett Street
- Would be great to have dedicated separate bike lanes down Main Street.
- would need to research first

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q54: How important is it to provide additional bicycle infrastructure (bike lanes, shoulders, signs) throughout Holden?



Answered: 792
Skipped: 187

TRANSPORTATION

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q54: How important is it to provide additional bicycle infrastructure (bike lanes, shoulders, signs) throughout Holden?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very Important	21.09%	167
Important	40.15%	318
Not very important	27.90%	221
Not Important at all	10.86%	86
TOTAL		792

TRANSPORTATION

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q54: How important is it to provide additional bicycle infrastructure (bike lanes, shoulders, signs) throughout Holden?

- I don't think Holden is urban enough to think about people using their bicycles as a main means of transportation I think the rail trail in areas like it are perfect for mountain biking if you want to do it recreationally
- ???
- 122 A from both ends of Holden, Rt. 31 N and S
- 122 and 31, where everyone bikes of course
- 122A
- 122A
- 122A between town and high school, Highland St, Route 31
- 122A, Newell Rd. Salisbury St., Chapel St. Holden St.
- 122a, Shrewsbury st, 31, Holden st, Doyle rd
- A bike path from Jefferson post office to Wachusett Regional high school.
- A sidewalk on Malden, Chapel, Bullard , Wachusett Streets Is necessary for Pedestrians and Bicyclists. Cars make traveling through here unsafe. It would be nice to be able to safely bike to the rail trail from anywhere in town.
- All routes leading towards town center.
- Along chapel, 31
- Along main street and near the rail trail & into Worcester
- along Main Street, Reservoir Rd, Shrewsbury St, Holden St
- Along the busy roads of 122A and Route 31 to Paxton and Princeton town lines. Much needed.
- Along the main roads of Main Street, Shrewsbury Street, the 31, Salisbury Street, and Bullard Street.
- Any of the winding roads where visibility is an issue.
- As a driver I don't like it. As a biker, I don't bike on streets anymore. There's too much traffic.
- As above.
- Bailey Rd, Reservoir Rd, Malden St
- Bicyclists rarely use dedicated lanes properly and continue to bike into traffic and do not observe basic road safety so spending money on dedicated lanes would be a waste.
- bike lane often create additional traffic
- Bike path along Newell, Salisbury, short cut from Holden pool to Main Street. Bike racks!
- Bikers on Reservior St. Create very dangerous conditions as there is no room for a bike lane.

TRANSPORTATION

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q54: How important is it to provide additional bicycle infrastructure (bike lanes, shoulders, signs) throughout Holden?

- Chapel st. Shrewsbury st
- Connections from neighborhoods to park facilities and/or recreation areas. Also, from the middle school and high school to the center of town/neighborhoods.
- don't know
- From Big Y/Holden Christian Academy area to center of town
- Have to start from ground zero and design a road with protected bike lanes
- Holden Street, Shrewsbury Street, Doyle Road,
- I could be wrong, but I think we have about as many bike lanes as needed. That said, if there are areas where motorists need to give cyclists extra room or even just a heads up like the motorcycles are everywhere signs, I'm for it.
- I don't bike but I do see bikers on roads like Bullard that have no shoulder and this could lead to accidents/injuries so perhaps it would be helpful on roads like those.
- I think it's too dangerous to ride a bike unfortunately
- I worry that bike lanes on heavily traveled roads is a safety concern. I commute through Concord Ma every day. They have skinny old roads. It is very scary. Bike lanes are fine, but not on heavy traffic areas. To much risk!
- I would make sure that if people are riding your bike from your house to the rail trail then you should explore providing save routes for them to do this.
- Ideally it would be great to have bike lanes on 122A, but the roads are already too narrow as they are.
- If changes were made to the roads, I'd rather use the space to have central "suicide lanes" down Main Street so it's easier to cross traffic. It's so hard to pull in and out of McDonald's, flip flops, Walgreens, etc.
- In and around town center.
- In the "breakdown lane" on Main st for starters. Perhaps it would curb all the illegal and dangerous passing on the right.
- In the middle of woods with cameras around for safety but provide shortcuts to major things such as schools or athletic fields.
- Increasing bike infrastructure should be a clear long term development goal to reduce car use, promote biking safety, address public health, etc.
- Main road --> (side roads) Wachusett St., Chapel, Manning St.
- Main roads...Holden St., Shrewsbury St., areas around schools
- Main st
- main st
- main st, reservoir, rt. 31, shrewsbury st., chapel st, any routes to area schools.
- Main St., Salisbury St, Shrewsbury St. bike paths
- Main St/122A, Doyle St, Shrewsbury St
- Main Street

TRANSPORTATION

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q54: How important is it to provide additional bicycle infrastructure (bike lanes, shoulders, signs) throughout Holden?

- Main Street and rest of route 122A
- Main Street and routes to schools/recreation areas
- Main street has a decent shoulder now. Its already too congested to add a bike lane
- Main thoroughfares
- Main, Salisbury, 31, 122a, Manning, Wachusett, Holden st, Reservoir, South.
- Most major streets.
- Near any current rec areas, and to parks (I.e. mason park, trout brook etc). To and around future rec areas and to schools
- No idea.
- Not a location, but a bike suggestion: Bicycling is very popular in Central Mass. We have a friend in Boston who brings his bike out every weekend in the fall. Why not sponsor a rally, like the annual Thanksgiving road race?
- older "back" roads...ie: Bullard st, Wachusett st
- On all major roads
- On all major roads 122A 31 Salisbury st Shrewsbury st
- People just need to slow down and pay attention. Don't waste money on that. I do like the blinking stop signs at Malden although still have seen many people blow through them.
- Quinapoxet st, Highland St, Wachusett, Bullard... these roads are traveled like highways at high speeds with no shoulder at all
- Reservoir St. down around reservoir
- Reservoir Street!
- route 31 for sure, some in the center on main street, and 122a north side
- Route 31, Union Street, Wachusett Street, Chapel Street
- Rt 31, Chapel, Wachusett, Main and Salisbury
- Rt 31, salsbury st
- RTE122A Worcester to Rutland
- Salisbury st, Shrewsbury st, main st, reservoir st (31) and connecting streets
- Shrewsbury St
- Shrewsbury St., Bullard St., Malden St., Main St.
- Shrewsbury Street, 31 and 122A

TRANSPORTATION

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q54: How important is it to provide additional bicycle infrastructure (bike lanes, shoulders, signs) throughout Holden?

- South Main St., heading into and continuing into Worcester.
- streets: highland, rt 31, quinapoxet, wachusett, chapel, bullard, harris, princeton, resevoir, holden, shrewsbury, main
- the major intersections and busiest roads
- The Planning Board members might consider trying to travel from various locations in town to, for example, the Big Y. Note that cycle lanes appear and disappear unexpectedly, and cyclists are defenceless at intersections. To improve: every intersection should have appropriate cycle lanes clearly marked. In Denmark, cyclists have the right of way. Sorry, I rant. Trying to preserve my health and that of my fellow citizens, including my sister.
- There are a lot of children in Holden and having safe ways for them to ride their bikes is important.
- This is extremely important to me. I would walk to the center of town instead of drive if 122A (towards Jed's) and especially through that bridge at the main intersection was pedestrian/biker friendly.
- This should be integrated into new projects' designs.
- To/from all schools and shopping areas - BigY / center of town
- Traffic is already an issue...adding bike lanes would complicate it further, especially where bicycle riders don't adhere to road rules.
- unknown
- Wachusett
- with cluster housing or mixed use housing, this will become more important
- With the traffic issues in Holden I think Bike lanes would be awfully dangerous.

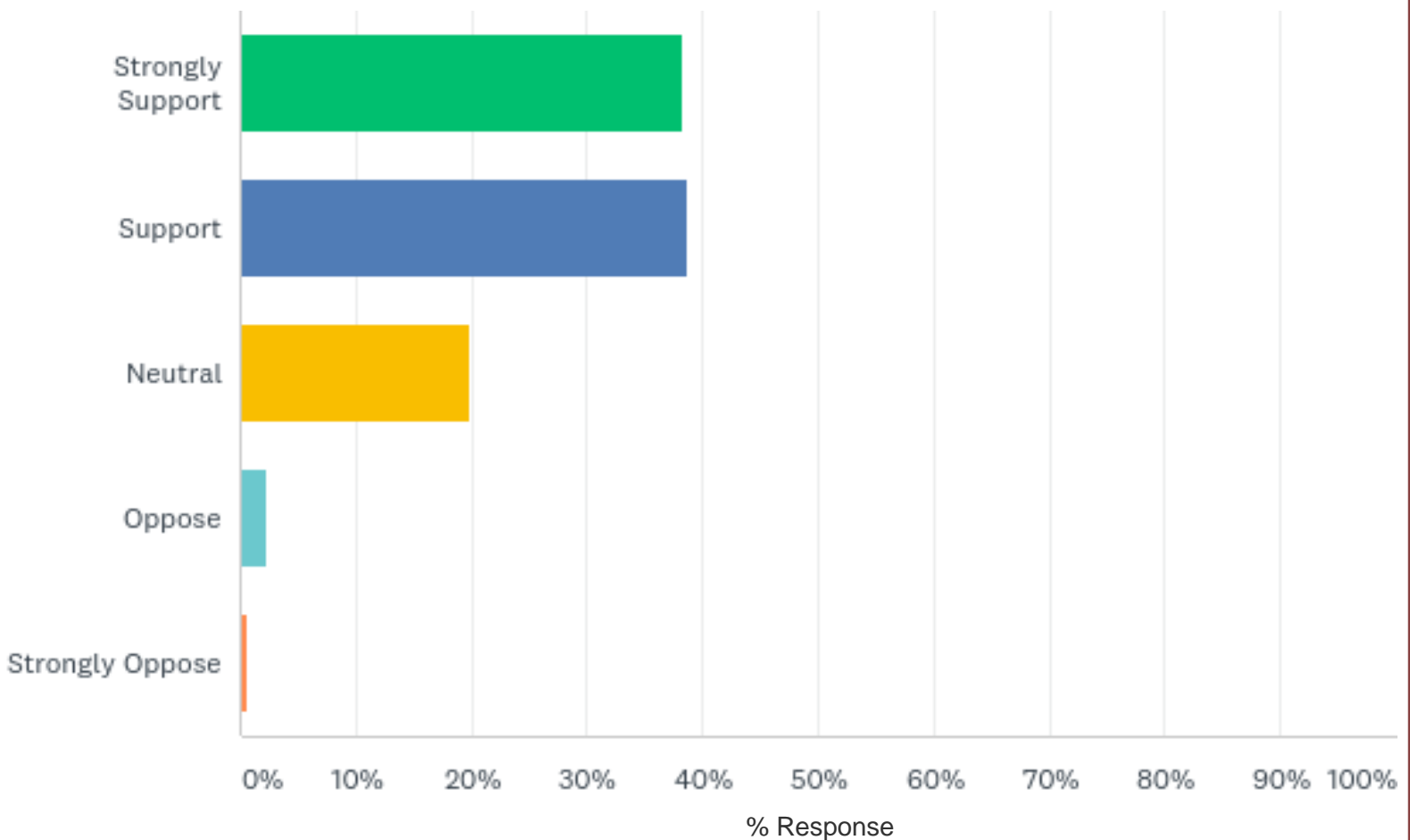
TRANSPORTATION

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q55: Please rate your support for the extension of sidewalks along Route 122A.



Answered: 807

Skipped: 172

TRANSPORTATION

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q55: Please rate your support for the extension of sidewalks along Route 122A.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly Support	38.29%	309
Support	38.79%	313
Neutral	19.95%	161
Oppose	2.35%	19
Strongly Oppose	0.62%	5
TOTAL		807

TRANSPORTATION

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q55: Please rate your support for the extension of sidewalks along Route 122A.

- I think I would want to know more about this topic like why they want to put them in - are there businesses there people need to get to?
- About time!
- Add a protected lane for cyclists.
- also along RT 31!
- ALSO NEEDED on other residential and highly trafficked road for residentd safety to get to a mailbox as well as a healthy walk
- Also on 31 towards Paxton
- Better yet along route 31 so children can walk to school.
- Can paved bike trails be created along the railroad tracks?
- Cart b4 the horse-just paved it all!!!!
- Extremely necessary
- First I've heard if it.
- Fix sidewalk at 68 + 122A intersection. Crosswalks at intersection
- From Big Y/Holden Christian Academy area to center of town
- how about making the turn lanes TURN ONLY, rt31,the industrial park, at Sunnyside
- I believe it is adequate
- I run a lot - more sidewalks would be awesome, also for child safety.
- I think 122A itself needs to be widened. Traffic is horrendous.
- I'd like sidewalks on Route 31 connecting the housing developments around Greystone/Stoneybrook
- It depends how this will be funded
- Let's build a backbone for the future - Sidewalks are critical
- need more info
- Need to balance with objectives of the projects
- NOT JUST 122A - we need sidewalks throughout Holden!
- Route 31
- Sidewalks on Wachusett St are highly needed. It is a busy cut through street and there are also a lot of runners/walkers and cars are usually flying.
- South Main Street should be addressed
- Wachusett Regional High School, Bullard St
- Would like to see sidewalks along route 31 near reservoir up to Paxton line.
- YES PLEASE! Safe places to walk should be available to all!

TRANSPORTATION

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q56 Suggested locations for extension of sidewalks along Route 122A

- | | |
|---|---|
| • ??? | • Bank of America |
| • ???? | • beginning of Main St starting at the Worcester line |
| • 112a? Is this a typo? | • both sides all the way to WRHS, dunkin donuts paza to CRA/Jeds |
| • 122A sidewalks need to be upgraded northwest of the Rt 31 intersection (i.e., toward and past WRHS). | • Both sides of street near high school |
| • 122A, between the 2 Sunnyside Ave's. Tough when coming from high school to center and crossing. | • busiest traffic areas |
| • 31 from big y towards paxton | • Crossing of Shrewsbury Street |
| • all | • Down highland. And up reservoir to start. |
| • all | • down to Holden Hills |
| • all | • Down to Little league field |
| • All along | • Entire |
| • All the way along 122A from the Dunkin Donuts South to Worcester line | • Entire area, with narrow sidewalks widened and new ones added |
| • All the way from Jed's to Holden Hills | • Entire length of the route |
| • All the way near the Worcester border into town toward dunkins | • Entire route |
| • All the way to Shrewsbury Street and Main Street. The intersection doesn't even have crosswalks now. And at least half a mile from Shrewsbury Street toward Worcester. Get the bank at the interesection to allow a sidewalk. | • Entirety |
| • all the way to Worcester- only one side of the road is necessary (not sure how you would choose) | • especially related to the middle school! |
| • Aloha Commercial Places | • everywhere |
| • Along ALL of 122A from the Worcester border to downtown. Also figuring out how to make the main intersection more kid/pedestrian safe. | • Extend them as far as reasonably allowed. |
| • Along south side of 122A between 2 WRHS driveways | • From Big Y/Holden Christian Academy area to center of town (There are two big housing developments and a school and no way to access the center of town-too dangerous without sidewalks). |
| • Along the route to the CRA from Dunkins | • From Bond road to Worcester line, and all of 31 and Shrewsbury ST, Doyle Roan and Holden Street |
| • Anywhere leading to/from schools that need them. | • From high school toward Rutland |
| • Anywhere there aren't any! | • from Newell into town. |
| • Anywhere there is not one :) | • From railroad bridges to Worcester line. |
| • at Holden/Worcester line through to town center | • From rite aid to worcester border |
| • At least to Jefferson, but could also go to rt. 68 | • From Rutland to worcester |
| • At the end near the Worcester line | • From Shrewsbury St to Worcester Line |

Answered: 807
Skipped: 172

TRANSPORTATION

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q56 Suggested locations for extension of sidewalks along Route 122A

• from Sunnyside Ford area to Worcester line	• N/A	• Shrewsbury to Newell Rd.
• From the area of Holden Pizza to Jeds	• near business, school crossings, residential areas?	
• From the Worcester / Holden line to Main Street	• near junction of shrewsbury and main....kids walking from mt. view to town.	• Sidewalks should be built whenever a roadway is constructed or re-done
• From town center to the high school	• Near the high school	
• from town line to town line	• need sidewalks on RT 31 south of Big Y where many housing units have been added	
• From Worcester line to Rutland line	• No idea.	
• Holden Hills to Mountview Middle School	• No Opinion	
• I'd support extending it to Worcester and Rutland town lines.	• none	• sidewalks should be extended along shrewsbury street along the west boylston line
• If starting at the high school, they should be available all the way the Worcester line.	• none	
• In front of high school on same side as school	• north toward HS and Rutland from center	
• In front of Wachusett and Bullard Street	• Not on 122A but high street	
• Jefferson	• Not sure-would need to see a map	
• Jefferson area - very poor walking areas	• On at least one side of road all the way down.	• South Main
• Jefferson to Rutland	• Preferably throughout Holden.	• South Main
• Luddy chev. to Worc. line	• railroad bridge to Leroux's lot	• South main area
• main north	• Route 31	
• Main st Holden needs sidewalks from Worcester line to Rite aid plaza	• S. Main ST. DD to Worcester Line	• South Main from R/R bridge to City line
• Main St. Holden center	• Salisbury St interse	
• Make shoveling sidewalks or pathways mandatory	• Should at least run to Little League fields and mile past towards Worcester. Also in front of Bank of America.	• South Main St
• Malden St	• Shrewsbury st	
• Malden St., Bullard St., Chapel St., Wachusett St.	• Shrewsbury st to main st	
• Malden Street	• Shrewsbury St to Worcester line, more cross walks ie: near 612 Main St	• South Main St. (Needed on only one side of the street)
• Malden street to reservoir.	• shrewsbury st, within 5 miles of the elementary schools and middle school.	
• More, all over!	• Shrewsbury Street	• South Main Street
• n/a	• Shrewsbury street past bullard	

TRANSPORTATION

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q56 Suggested locations for extension of sidewalks along Route 122A

- South Main Street
- South Main Street
- South Main Street
- South Main Street
- south main street from dunkin donuts to the Worcester line
- south of railroad bridge towards jeds
- South to the Worcester border.
- The entire business district
- The entire length.
- The entire road from Route 68 to Rite Aid plaza
- The more sidewalks the better.
- The southern part of Main Street. As a side note, Shrewsbury St. past Mountview towards West Boylston should have sidewalks too. Children walk home from school and there should be sidewalks there.
- Through Jefferson to rutland line and down to worcester line. The whole way.
- Through the Adams road facility
- To Princeton Street
- To the Rutland line
- To the Rutland Line and route 68
- To the Worcester line on S. Main and to the Rutland line on N. Main.
- Toward Goodhiles
- Towards Jed's-terminating at that business complex-this would include the ball fields in that area.
- Town Hall to HS
- Unknown
- unsure
- unsure
- Wachusett High School to Jefferson
- Where ever kids walk to school and on Main Street from post office to recreation area across from Jeds. Where ever children need access to town facilities and schools
- Where WRHS runners run
- wherever missing
- wherever necessary
- Whole way
- Worc town line (Clearview / Steppingstone) to Shrewsbury St. intersection
- Worcester line to Shrewsbury St
- Your discretion. Where people want to walk.

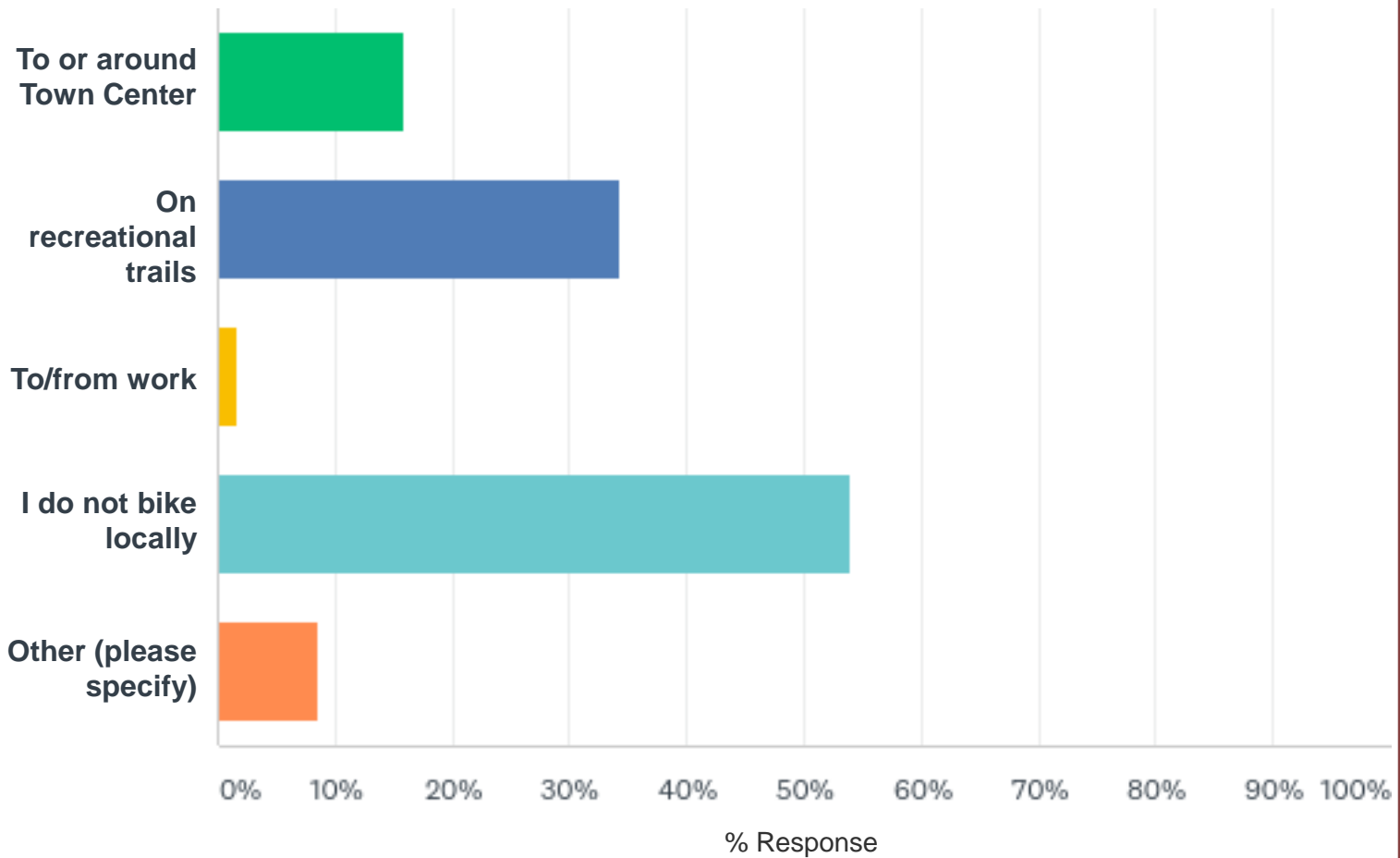
TRANSPORTATION

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q57: If you bike locally in Holden, where do you bike?



Answered: 762
Skipped: 217

TRANSPORTATION

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q57: If you bike locally in Holden, where do you bike?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
To or around Town Center	15.88%	121
On recreational trails	34.25%	261
To/from work	1.71%	13
I do not bike locally	54.07%	412
Other (please specify)	8.66%	66
Total Respondents: 762		

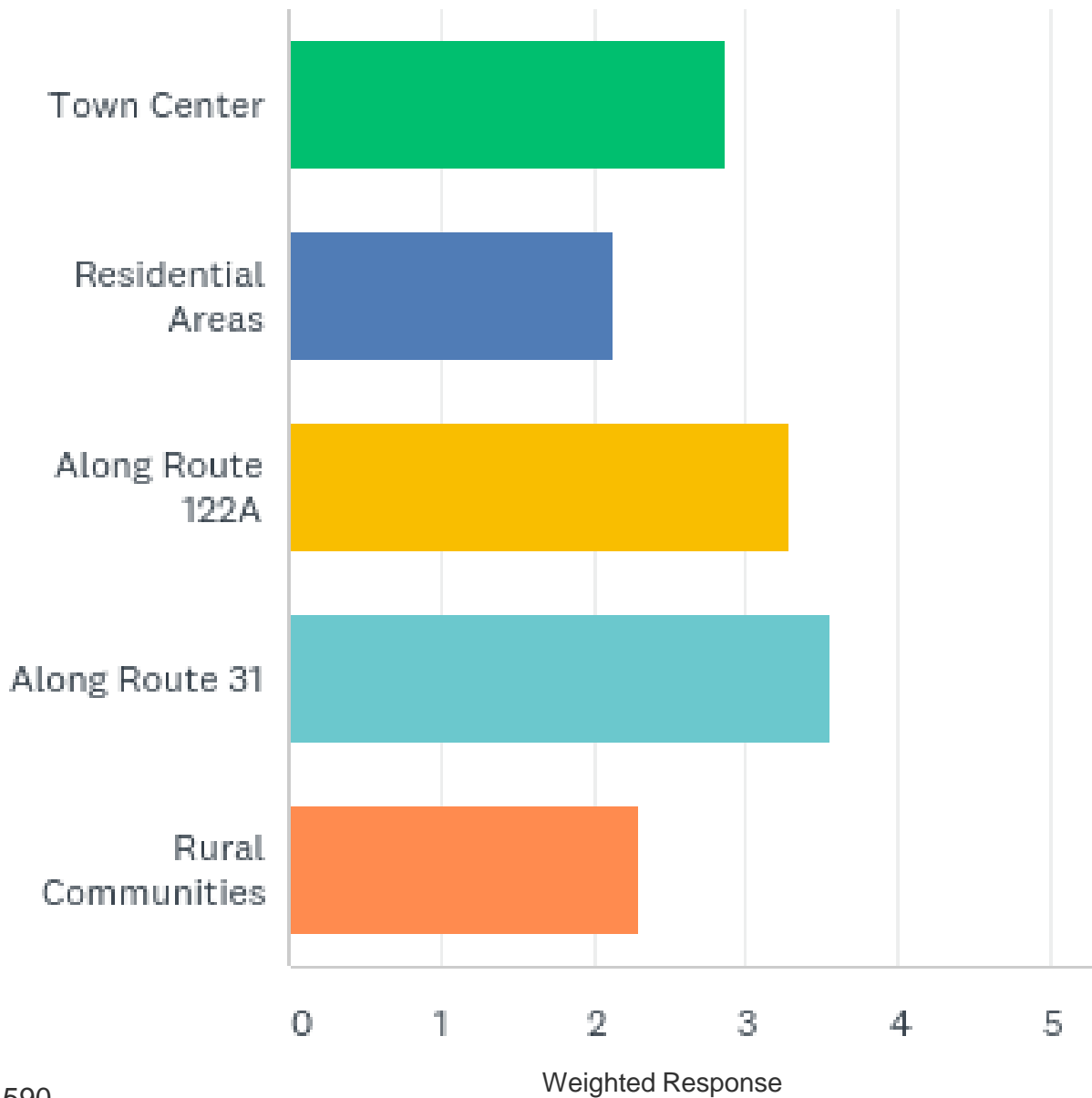
TRANSPORTATION

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q58: How safe do you feel riding your bicycle in the following areas of Holden?



Answered: 590

Skipped: 389

TRANSPORTATION

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q58: How safe do you feel riding your bicycle in the following areas of Holden?

	VERY SAFE	SAFE	A LITTLE SAFE	NOT SAFE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Town Center	5.94% 34	31.99% 183	31.99% 183	30.07% 172	572	2.86
Residential Areas	21.84% 126	52.17% 301	16.98% 98	9.01% 52	577	2.13
Along Route 122A	2.28% 13	17.05% 97	30.23% 172	50.44% 287	569	3.29
Along Route 31	1.39% 8	9.04% 52	21.91% 126	67.65% 389	575	3.56
Rural Communities	16.25% 92	49.47% 280	21.55% 122	12.72% 72	566	2.31

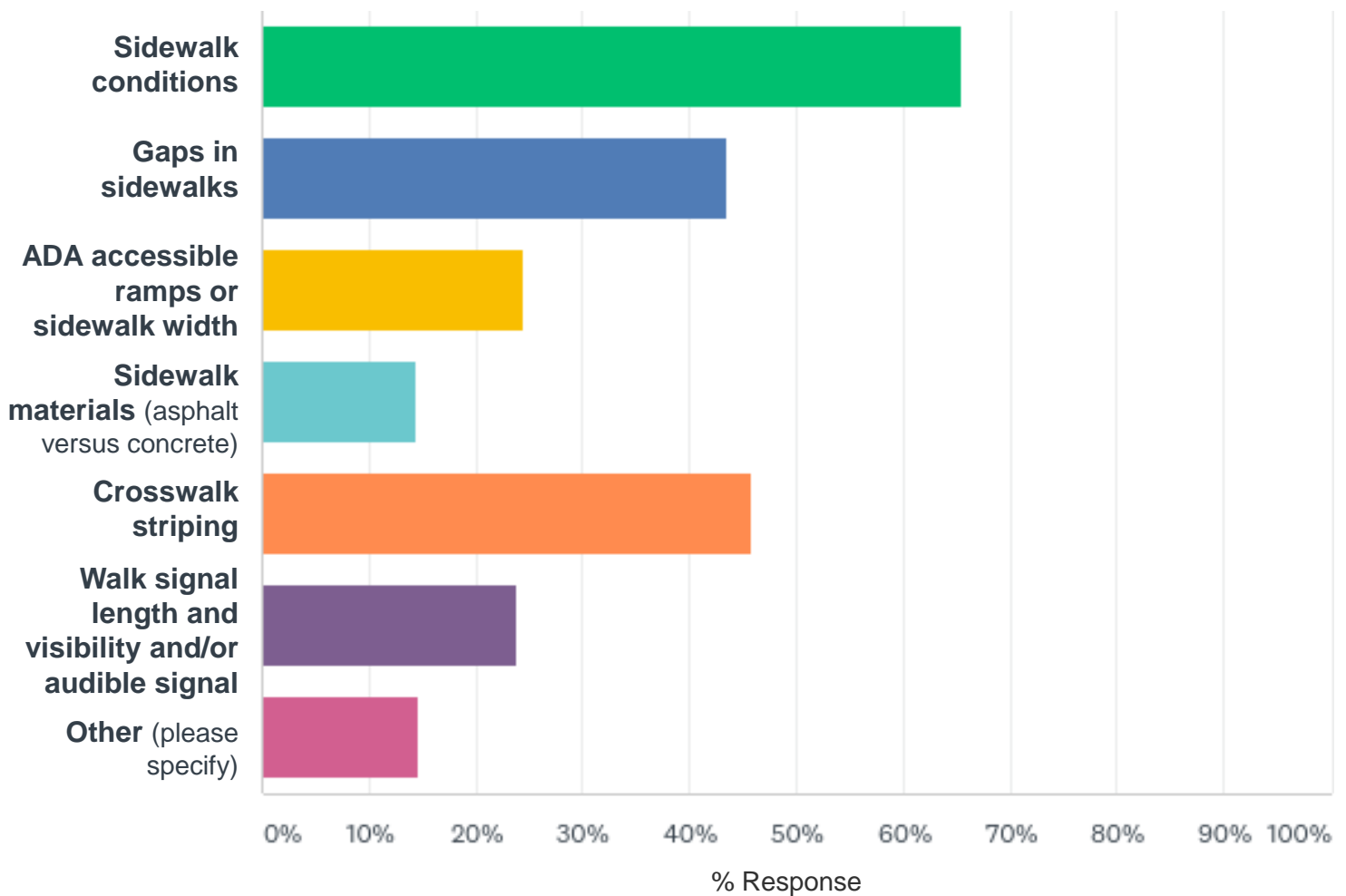
TRANSPORTATION

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q59: Please specify whether any of the following needs to be addressed regarding pedestrian facilities in Holden (i.e. sidewalks, crosswalks). Check all that apply.



Answered: 572
Skipped: 407

TRANSPORTATION

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q59: Please specify whether any of the following needs to be addressed regarding pedestrian facilities in Holden (i.e. sidewalks, crosswalks). Check all that apply.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Sidewalk conditions	65.38%	374
Gaps in sidewalks	43.53%	249
ADA accessible ramps or sidewalk width	24.48%	140
Sidewalk materials (asphalt versus concrete)	14.34%	82
Crosswalk striping	45.80%	262
Walk signal length and visibility and/or audible signal	23.95%	137
Other (please specify)	14.69%	84
Total Respondents: 572		

TRANSPORTATION

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q59: Please specify whether any of the following needs to be addressed regarding pedestrian facilities in Holden (i.e. sidewalks, crosswalks). Check all that apply.

- Add more and widen them for safety
- Add sidewalks
- ADDED SIDEWALKS!
- Addition of sidewalks on Wachusett Street (by Alden Labs) and on Bullard Street would be nice.
- additional cross walks on main st at walgreen's to Meola's and Sweets & Java to municipal lot and playground
- All main roads and many side roads need sidewalks to improve pedestrian mobility (especially lower Main St!)
- all sidewalks are not cleared after snowstorms. My neighborhood has sidewalks and most of them weren't cleared all of last winter.
- Areas outside of the center...Holden Street, Shrewsbury Street
- Availability of side walks on Wachusett (31), Quinapoxet, Bullard
- Barrels And signs at crosswalks work well in other communities and our inexpensive compared to some other options
- Better snow removal. Mailboxes in sidewalks upset snow removal
- Brush + Poison Ivy near crosswalks
- Can't use the cross walks at Holden and Shrewsbury street intersection in winter because they don't plow the island or the upramps. No way to walk legally onto Main Street from Shrewsbury St. or 122A
- Chapel street sidewalks
- concrete is the best material for sidewalk, asphalt is too hot
- concrete vs asphalt
- crossing Quinapoxet from Tannery
- crosswalk from library to cross street parking area
- Crosswalk signs to meet MUTCD specifications. Proper signage in Big Y plaza with enforcement.
- Crosswalk with pedestrian traffic light along Highland Ave, between Union and Library
- Enforcement!
- Extensive damage to crosswalks on Main Street
- Flashing crosswalk @ colony Ret. Home & @ Village Repair (sidewalks both sides)
- Happy
- I am rarely a pedestrian in town, so I can't really speak to this.

TRANSPORTATION

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q59: Please specify whether any of the following needs to be addressed regarding pedestrian facilities in Holden (i.e. sidewalks, crosswalks). Check all that apply.

- I cannot comment. I don't use them enough.
- I currently have a sidewalk in front of my home and watched children walk in the street due to un shoveled walks and no town conditions
- idk
- In the winter, some businesses plow the snow onto the sidewalk on Main Street after the town clears the walkways making it difficult for runners and pedestrians
- keep sidewalks for walking. snow removeable of sidewalks. fine owners that plow on sidewalks.
- Large signs of color (florescent)
- Main street traffic flow needs to be assessed. Additional lights etc may be needed due to increase traffic.
- More cross walks in Holden Center
- More cross walks/signs on 31
- More crosswalk options and signage along main street
- More crosswalks on Main St
- More enforcement of pedestrian right of way
- More sidewalks
- More sidewalks
- More sidewalks in general!
- more sidewalks on narrow roads
- More sidewalks, plowed in winter. Found myself walking in the street a lot during the winter
- More sidewalks....esp. on main roads
- most seen good to me
- Motorists do not see people crossing from Sweets and Java side of Main st to the Exxon. Maybe there shouldn't be a turn on red there.
- Need for more crosswalks across 122A
- Need more sidewalks
- Need more sidewalks on Route 31
- Need to improve current sidewalks and add more!
- New crosswalks repaint existing

TRANSPORTATION

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q59: Please specify whether any of the following needs to be addressed regarding pedestrian facilities in Holden (i.e. sidewalks, crosswalks). Check all that apply.

- none
- None. Spend less money. Your jobs are expendable
- Not a pedestrian friendly town
- Not enough room on roads
- Plowing of sidewalks on Main Street
- Police should monitor failure-to-yield in crosswalk violations. Promote a kinder, gentler community. Let people know it feels rewarding to let a Mom push a stroller across the street without fear of being run over
- quinapoxet needs side walks
- Ramps/cut curbs at crosswalks
- remove mailboxes from sidewalks. Have to go in street with stroller, into oncoming traffic.
- Safety
- Side walks on high traffic roads
- sidewalk from Main Street southbound from Shrewsbury Street
- Sidewalks along route 31.
- Sidewalks needed where there are none.
- Sidewalks on 31
- sidewalks on Quinapoxet St
- Sidewalks should be street level.
- Sidwalks needed on more streets
- snow Removal
- Some are very narrow, especially between town and high school
- Some of the roads in town with the heaviest vehicular traffic are without any sidewalks or bike lanes at all.
- street lights along rt 31/Reservoir St!!!!!!
- The crosswalks at Holden Town Center take a VERY long time. It can take up to 10 minutes to cross the street. I like that I can walk from my house to Meola's or Sweets and Java, but the long wait time at the crosswalks for the "Walk" light is very frustrating.
- There are NO crosswalks from State Police to Salisbury St
- There are no sidewalks beyond the big Y plaza towards Paxton on Reservoir St.
- There needs to be a crosswalk around Sunnyside Ave or the next street over heading towards the center. There's only one at the police station and another at the center of town.
- Tree branches too low on Main Street sidewalk. Need to be trimmed
- Uneven surface that you can trip on

TRANSPORTATION

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q59: Please specify whether any of the following needs to be addressed regarding pedestrian facilities in Holden (i.e. sidewalks, crosswalks). Check all that apply.

- Wach street from Alden to Malden. Chapel St. some of these roads I wouldn't walk or use. Cars are too fast and people do not pay attention.
- We need a crosswalk at rite aid to Alden
- Weekly I walk with friends in Holden center. Everyone stops as we cross Rte. 31. I live on Holden Street, which some drivers regard as a 'straight shot' to 190. It is scary to visit my friends and neighbors. I welcome more police patrols; last week someone shot off the Shrewsbury St./Holden St. light and almost hit me as I tried to back out of my driveway. A driver traveling toward Holden yelled at me for almost causing an accident.
- where are the sidewalks? They seem to pop up and then disappear
- You take your life in your hands trying to cross Main Street

TRANSPORTATION

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q60 Suggested locations for pedestrian facilities improvements

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 31 • 31 • ? • ? • ??? • 122, 31, Bullard, Crossing for MVT • 122A • 122A & 31 - to short for disabled (walk signal length); sidewalk from State police barracks area around to alden research & on, RT 21 from Main St. to Pleasant St. where the sidewalk changes from cement to asphalt there is no curb cars mistake it for road • 122A in the Jefferson area • 122a, 31, salisbury, chapel, wachusett • 122a, Shrewsbury st, 31, Holden st, Doyle rd • 31 near Damon rd • Add a crosswalk near Grove cemetery entrance • Addition of sidewalks on Wachusett Street (by Alden Labs) and on Bullard Street would be nice. • All along 122, 31, Bullard st, WRHS, Mountview • ALL MAIN ROADS and near ANY and ALL Schools • Along 122A. • Along Highland/31 from Union to the library-very confusing and unsafe pedestrian crosswalks. I've had several close accidents due to pedestrians crossing and traffic not expecting pedestrians to cross or cars to stop for pedestrians. I suggest only one central crosswalk along there (Not by Union St. due to hill). • Along main st. • Along Main Street 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • along shrewsbury street to the west boylston line • Any areas where children walk to school, and the areas between the Holden Pizza Lot and Jed's, as there are several businesses and ball fields there. • any residential are where there is now increased commuter and business traffic • As long as maintained and plowed no complaints here. • at intersection of 31 & 122a the pedestrian crossing does not allow enough time for those with disabilities or the aged. • Availability of side walks on Wachusett (31), Quinapoxet specifically from the train tracks to the Maze around Laurel Hill • Bank of America/Dunkin donut intersection/lights • Between CRA and Dunkins • Boyden & Main S. end • Bullard • Bullard needs a full sidewalk • Bullard st, Shrewsbury st • Bullard Street • Bullard Street • Bullard Street could use a side walk all the way down. • By Walgreens • center of town • Chapel and south main • Chapel st • Chapel St.
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Answered: 173
Skipped: 806

TRANSPORTATION

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q60 Suggested locations for pedestrian facilities improvements

- | | |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corner of Lovell road and adorothy Ave. • Crossing at doyle/brattle • Crossing by friendlies is missing sign for eastbound traffic • crossing Quinapoxet from Tannery and short sidewalk to the maze • crosswalk at Bailey Rd and Main St over to May Dr • Crosswalk at rite-aid / Alden, chapel sidewalk • Crosswalk at Walnut and Highland, lack of crossing in front of GFL • Crosswalk between Walgreens and senior center • crosswalk from library to cross street parking area • Dawson rec field needs additional walking paths from parking to soccer fields. • down hill on 31 from nola dr to goodhiles • Doyle road • Every road • Extend sidewalk access on Rt. 31 • extend sidewalks all the way down salisbury • Fix existing side walls on streets where the DPW refuses to maintain them. This b.s. of we incorporated the streets but not the sidewalk has to stop. • From Big Y/Holden Christian Academy area to center of town • From near Newell on 122 into town • Go up more on Route 31 to Goodhile's. • High street • High Street MAJOR cut through for High School traffic • Highland Street • Holden Center • Holden Hills to Wachusett Regional High School • Holden St./ Johnson St. bigger pedestrian crosswalk and sign. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How about sidewalks farther up and down route 31? • idk yet • Improve motorists alert before bridge of Ped crossing going south/west to Paxton at village repair/restaurant • Install crosswalk sign at Quinaporet St + Tannery • Intersection by Dunkin donuts/rite aid & bank of America • Intersection of 68 + 122A, Near highschool, Near Shrewsbury street + 122A intersection • Intersection of Shrewsbury, Holden and Chapel. Also on Main st if new business is brought in, such as a bars and restaurant district • It's dangerous to walk from the town center to the Big Y plaza. Improved sidewalks and a pedestrian crossing light would greatly help. • Jefferson, RT 122A • jug handle at main st. and shrewsbury • Lower Main St/122A - people are always walking, running, biking along this road, it NEEDS sidewalks! • main st • Main st • Main St / Shrewsbury St • Main st Holden from Worcester Line,past Vista Circle to bridge • Main St., Rt. 31 N and S • Main St., Shrewsbury St. intersection • Main Street • Main Street center of town • Main Street intersections with Highland and Reservoir Rd. New sidewalk and crosswalk on Reservoir Rd to Big Y shopping plaza. • Main street sidewalks/ramps into businesses, sidewalk quality in town center • Make 31N a no right on red onto 122a. Drivers can't see pedestrians as they start into the crosswalk |
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TRANSPORTATION

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q60 Suggested locations for pedestrian facilities improvements

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meadowood drive • More crossing locations along the town center. • More crosswalks along Main Street closet to the center. Traffic coming from Reservoir turning to main st toward worcester is dangerous, people do not stop at the red light to turn on red and do not look before going. Traffic speed on maint street is consistently well over the speed limit • More parking. More employment opportunities for teens. • More sidewalks especially along major roadways. • More sidewalks near schools for example Bullard Street • N/A • N/A • N/A • Near the Main Street Doyle Street intersection near the Dunkin Donuts and Bank of America, especially heading under the RR tracks towards Jed's Hardware • Need crosswalk near friendly's • Need more everywhere • Neighborhood sidewalks are in poor condition • Newell crosswalk at Newbury never re stripped. Cars never EVER stop. • Newell Road-needs sidewalks • Nine • No Opinion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • none • none • none • north main • Not qualified to answer. • Painting lines annually on 31 and 122a • Patrol 31 regularly...no one stops for pedestrians. Good source of money for town! • Princeton street during the Winter they used to plow the sidewalks but stopped and why don't the plow the sidewalks in the neighborhoods such as Jackson St.? • Quinapoxet Street • Quinapoxet street - Sidewalk from Tannery Drive to Laurel and down to Windy Ridge • Quinapoxet Street connecting Tannery Dr to Laurel Hill Ln • quinapoxet street! so many young families trying to get to neighborhoods and bus stop for kids when they are not picked up at their door...middle and high schoolers are not picked up at their door. we need sidewalks, commuters use Quinapoxet to bypass main st and it's VERY busy, also there is solar glare morning and afternoon.not to mention when weather is snowy or rainy the surfaces are difficult. • Quinapoxet, Wachusett, Chapel • Re 31 • Reservoir Rd /31 • Reservoir St • Reservoir St. and Paxton Rd Heading into Paxton Both sides! • Reservoir street • Route 31 • Route 31 • Route 31 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Route 31 connection popular areas like ponds, schools, tennis courts etc. • Route 31 north and south • Route 31. • RT 31/Reservoir St • Rte 31 sidewalks • Salisbury St. • salisbury st needs sidewalks extended • Salisbury street • See 59 Sunnyside Ave/Lovell area • Shrewsbury St • Shrewsbury st near Dunkin' Donuts • Shrewsbury St to Mountview School and down toward Pinecroft Dairy • Shrewsbury st, main roadways (not neighborhoods) • shrewsbury st, within 5 miles of the elementary schools and middle school. • Shrewsbury Street towards West Boylston • Sidewalk along 31 from Joel Scott to the center of town. • Sidewalk on Union Street and along Wachusett Street heading toward Princeton
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TRANSPORTATION

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q60 Suggested locations for pedestrian facilities improvements

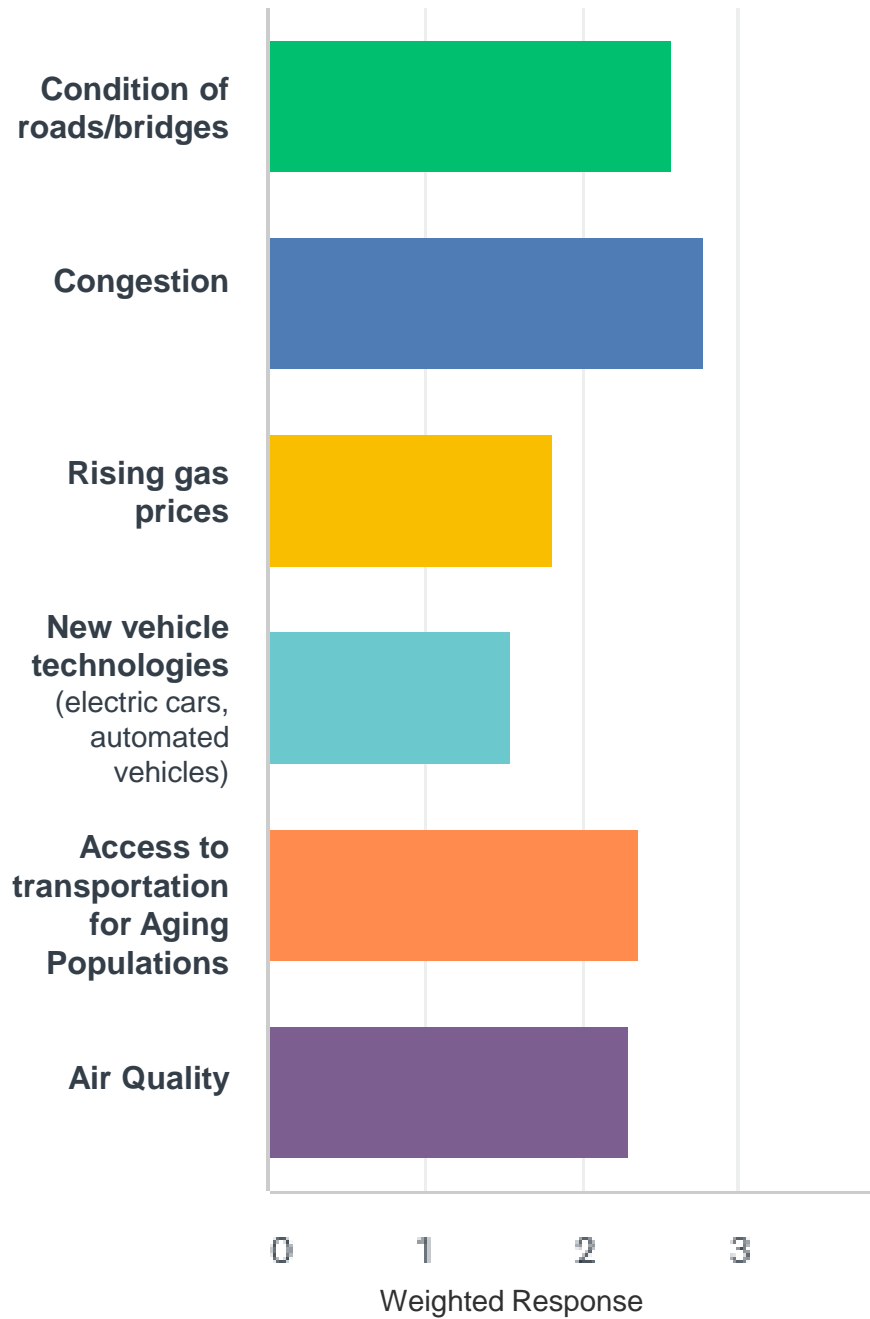
- Sidewalks along Malden, Chapel, Wachusett, and entire stretch of Bullard Streets
- Sidewalks needed along route 31.
- Sidewalks on 31
- Sidewalks on Bullard St and Chapel St.
- Sidewalks on rt 31 for bikers and joggers, baby strollers, etc.
- sidewalks to connect recent neighborhoods rt 31 south of Big Y
- small streets in residential areas, along school walking line routes
- South Main St
- Streets without sidewalks
- Strongly consider sidewalks on Rt-31
- Surrounding schools and town center for safety
- the crosswalk striping on 31 is in bad shape.
- There are NO crosswalks from State Police to Salisbury St
- There should be a flashing light button at the Mountview crosswalk
- They are overall pretty good.
- Town center
- Town center
- Town Center, Route 31
- Uncertain
- Wachusett st
- Wachusett St
- Wachusett Street
- Wachusett Street needs a side walk
- Walgreens to New Meolas - many children frequent both go from Walgreens to Dominos or Meolas please consider crosswalk or moving other crosswalk closer to that area
- wherever necessary
- whole town
- Work on expanding sidewalk connection by filling in the gaps between them and expand out to residential areas.

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q61: What transportation issues would you consider to be most important in Holden?



Answered: 796
Skipped: 183

TRANSPORTATION

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q61: What transportation issues would you consider to be most important in Holden?

	PRIORITY	NON-PRIORITY	N/A	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Condition of roads/bridges	74.70% 558	20.08% 150	5.22% 39	747	2.58
Congestion	88.25% 691	10.60% 83	1.15% 9	783	2.79
Rising gas prices	35.86% 260	51.86% 376	12.28% 89	725	1.82
New vehicle technologies (electric cars, automated vehicles)	23.58% 170	62.41% 450	14.01% 101	721	1.55
Access to transportation for Aging Populations	61.85% 462	28.25% 211	9.91% 74	747	2.37
Air Quality	60.14% 439	31.64% 231	8.22% 60	730	2.31

TRANSPORTATION

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q62 What are the most difficult areas or intersections you encounter in Holden on a regular basis?

- Really? Most of them..
- Holden and Shrewsbury St, Shrewsbury and main, 122A and 31, in that order.
- manning at 31
- 1) 31 and 122A, 2) Holden Street, Chapel Street, Shrewsbury Street
- 1. 122A & 31 (center of town). Also the back-up on 31 by the library during busy times. There needs to be more space for left-turning cars to get past the back-up of traffic going straight to proceed to/through the intersection. Maybe a center turn lane or longer turn lane? 2. Shrewsbury St/Chapel Street (need to add a formal turn lane R from Chapel onto Shrewsbury --so many people assume there are 2 lanes and either cut around traffic or honk/drive aggressively when you treat it as a single lane. I've been in center going straight onto Chapel and nearly hit multiple times because cars behind me try to go straight/assume I must be turning because I am not in the far right lane) 3. Quinnapoxit Street - not intersection but busy/backed up often & the RR crossing is VERY dangerous & in need of repair
- 1. 122A / 31 & 122A & Shrewsbury St. 2. Congestion on 122A is terrible. It shouldn't take 3/4 hr to drive to Worcester. During the winter months it is even worse. People don't want to stop along Main St. because of the traffic. If there is an event at WRHS or Miles, the drive home is horrendous. There needs to be a rout around rather than one main street through town.
- 1. 31 & 122A 2. Shrewsbury St. and Main St.
- 1. Chapel & Shrewsbury St. intersection 2. Holden needs a by pass from the West to Worcester
- 1. Shrewsbury Street from Mountview Middle School to Main Street. I avoid it like the plague 2. The intersection Union and Rt. 31; the entry from Union to Rt. 31 is too steep to enter without spinning wheels 3. The traffic from Manning to Rt. 31 is very bad at rush hour. It backs up to Trout Brook and there is very poor visibility to enter Rt. 31 due to the curves and high speed of traffic, which makes it harder to turn left there, compounding the traffic issue. A traffic light would only make it worse!
- 1. Union St. @ Wachusett St. 2. Union St. @ Highland St. 3. Harris St @ Wachusett St.
- 122 - A and 31
- 122 & 31, turning on to 31. Main St traffic sucks at all time during the day
- 122 and 31, by Sunnyside Ford, by Bank of America... EVERYONE is running red lights!!!!!! and nothing is being done about it. traffic is overwhelming and getting worse. It should NOT take 20+ minutes to go a couple miles!!
- 122 and shrewsbury st
- 122 in the morning
- 122 is anxiety inducing. Main/Shrewsbury is smartly designed but needs additional signage to clarify the design - also the new right on red light outside BOA is a waste of electricity!! Should've left the stop sign up. Shrewsbury/Chapel can be a nightmare, impossible to turn left, backups at the timed lights. Put sensors in and install left turn lanes on Shrewsbury at least!!!
- 122 to center of town at rush hour. It's why we don't live at the center of town.

TRANSPORTATION

Answered: 583

Skipped: 396

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q62 What are the most difficult areas or intersections you encounter in Holden on a regular basis?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 122/Rt31 122/Salisbury St. • 122A • 122A • 122a • 122A 122A and 31 intersection • 122A & 31 • 122A & 31, Wachusett & Highland • 122A & Malden Street intersection • 122A / Shrewsbury St. intersections back up in all directions during normal commuter periods. • 122A @ 31, and 122A at Shrewsbury street. many people making left -hand turns at Shrewsbury Street in no left turn lanes • 122A and 31 • 122A and 31 • 122A and 31 • 122a and 31 • 122A and 31 • 122a and 31 • 122A and 31 • 122A and 31 68 and 122A • 122A and 31, malden and 122A • 122A and 31. • 122A and Rt 31 • 122a at 5:00 pm • 122A at holden/worcester line • 122A between State Police and RT 31 • 122A entering golden from middle school to mobil station • 122A for the entire length through Holden 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 122A from Rite Aid to Route 31 intersection, and Shrewsbury St from Doyle Road to Rite Aid. • 122A intersections with Rt 31, Salisbury St, Industrial Park. There should be turning only lanes there, not 2 lanes that merge into one. • 122A mainst • 122A north between the center of town and south from 4 PM - 7 PM • 122A Speedway gas intersection. Please make that a left turn only. Also 122A and 31 intersection gets crazy. • 122A through the center of town during "rush hour" • 122a town center • 122a traffic between 3:00pm and 6:00pm • 122A/31 obviously. When approaching this intersection from the direction of Princeton, the backup and be considerable at rush hour. Many drivers pass on the left to get into the too-short left-turn lane, threatening oncoming traffic. It's also very risky for pedestrians to cross 31 at this time. • 122A/31. 122A/Shrewsbury. Around WRHS in morning/afternoon. • 122a@main, Shrewsbury @ main • 31 & 122A • 31 and 122A • 31 and 122a • 31 and 122A • 31 and Main St by the Mobil station is a difficult intersection without turn signals in all directions. Exiting post Office, Boyden Rd and Bailey Rd/Mayo drive are ridiculous. Also pedestrian traffic crossing between Walgreens/Meola's. • 31 and main st. Holden rd and Shrewsbury st. • 31 Reservoir heading from town towards paxton • 31/112A intersection, exiting public safety building • 31/122a • 31/122A Wachusett High School Area
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TRANSPORTATION

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q62 What are the most difficult areas or intersections you encounter in Holden on a regular basis?

- | | |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Again; how about making the turn lanes TURN ONLY, rt31, the industrial park, at Sunnyside • All along Main St from Shrewsbury St to Route 31 during evening rush hour. Manning St and Route 31. Salisbury St and Main St. • All along Main street (crossing the road) • All along Reservoir St. Distracted drivers and no sidewalks make walking /biking extremely dangerous! • All intersection along 122A • All intersections on 122A between Shrewsbury St. and Rt 68. Manning St. to Rt 31, turning left or right, traffic backs up. • all intersections on main street • All intersections on Shrewsbury street. Especially by Mountain school. • All of 122A • All of Holden . We need to think of new roads especially off Malden street and manning street off on ramps 190 • All of main st during rush hours • All of Main St is awful as all western traffic is funneled through there. Traffic planning is the single most important issue as it is extremely poor at present. You cannot manage growth until traffic is addressed. • All of main st. Princeton/122a • All of Main Street • All of main street • All of Main Street between 4pm - 6:30pm. End of Doyle Rd, Chapel St light • All of the intersections on Main St where a left turn is allowed and people use it as a way to bypass a section of traffic by going straight. • all of them! • along 122A - rush hour - people using turning lanes for passing at Sunnyside/Honeyfarms Shrewsbury St with Mountview School backing up at the Rite aid plaza • Along Main St. - Holden onto Shrewsbury St • along route 122 and Holden St. • Any intersection on 122A Union>Rt.31 • Any street intersecting Main St. - it is almost impossible to merge onto or cross Main St. • Anything along Shewssbury St and Main St. to RT 68. • anything unlit on main street - any pulling out of lots along main street | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anywhere along main st so I typically take back roads • Anywhere downtown • anywhere in the center of town Mt Pleasant Ave. Princeton Street, Wachusett Street, Shrewsbury Street • Anywhere on Main St where 2 lanes merge into 1. • anywhere on Main St. during morning and evening commuting hours. • Anywhere on Main Street that you have to take a left hand turn. • Anywhere on Main Street; Shrewsbury St./Doyle Rd. Shrewsbury St./Holden St /Chapel St • Around WRHS during morning commute time. • At most lights along 122A there are 2 lanes that can both go straight, but people only use 1. Drivers are aggressive and will try to push you off the road for using the other lane. If people used both, we could reduce congestion! I suggest signs saying to use 2 lanes at these lights. Many times I have had to wait at the Shrewsbury St light even though I'm trying to continue on 122A, because nobody is in the other lane and the traffic backs all the way up past Donut Kitchen. |
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TRANSPORTATION

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q62 What are the most difficult areas or intersections you encounter in Holden on a regular basis?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At most of the interesections, there are "Townie Rules" where townie traffic flows in one lane or another, leaving the other open (except for those who do not know). This seems to be wasted potential. Instead, how about a middle turn lane? Bailey and Main streets, and afternoon congested on Main Street Bailey Rd main St intersection and boyden Rd main St intersection Bailey Rd/Main St Crossing Main St bailey road and the cross road - seems like someone is always half out of either of the roads trying to turn. friendly's / the post office - turning left is impossible Bank of America to Mobil Gas station in the evening and reverse in the morning. Police do not enforce the limited use of handheld devices by drivers. Birchwood Drive as a cut through to avoid the light at Shrewsbury St/Doyle Rd Boyden Road & Main Street (by Friendly's) Boyden Road by Friendlys getting onto Main St going towards Worcester Boyden Road or any side streets off Main.AWFUL to pull out anywhere due to traffic. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brattle and Doyle Brattle and Doyle. Brattle St and Doyle Brattle st./Shrewsbury st. Brattle St/Doyle Rd--there should be a stoplight there. Brattle street and Doyle road. The blinking yellow light really needs to be a full stop light. Brattle Street/Shrewsbury Street congestion is always terrible at rush hour. Brooks and Mountain. by both gas stations Center Center is HOLDEN by Mobil Center of town center of town Center of Town Center of town - 122a & 31 - Try the hill up 31n and the unlevel ground of this intersection in a wheelchair - almost impossible. Center of town (due to over building in the district) Center of town / Main St betw Shrewsbury St and 31 / 31 Just North of 122 Center of town and by sunnyside Center of town and Main Street stretch from LCU to Sunnyside Center of town and near Sunnyside ford Center of town back up to Mt View at rush hour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Center of Town by the Town Hall and cemetery Center of town in late afternoon/ early evening. center of town to state police barracks Center of Town, entrance to WRHS Center of town, near highschool. Intersection of 68 + 122A (pedestrian) Center of town, Princeton street/ main street Center of Town, Salisbury/Malden/Main St instersection Intersection from Shrewsbury St/Main St.intersection Center of town, Shrewsbury/Main, any side street turning left onto Main Chaffins and Dunkin' Donuts. Chapel & Shrewsbury Chapel and Doyle
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TRANSPORTATION

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q62 What are the most difficult areas or intersections you encounter in Holden on a regular basis?

- Chapel and Shrewsbury Street (Very dangerous, need dedicated turning lanes), Union and Highland Street
- Chapel and Shrewsbury Street.
- Chapel/Shrewsbury st. Intersection during morning and evening commute
- Congestion on 122 during morning/evening rush hour
- Congestion on Shrewsbury Street, Holden Street and Shrewsbury Street, Main Street and Phillips Road
- Consider reuse of Adams Road co-ordinated with traffic signal before entrance to Rite Aid Plaza
- Construction by mount view All of Main Street
- Crossing anywhere on 122A but especially in center of town.
- Crossing street at rite aid. Walking down Malden is unsafe.
- Crossing the street while walking and in car on 1 Princeton St, Jefferson, MA 01522.
- Downtown at rush hour
- Downtown Holden, Chapel Street, Salisbury Street
- Downtown.
- Doyle & Shrewsbury
- Doyle and Brattle
- Doyle at Brattle
- doyle rd to shrewsbury /holden to main st, up to salisbury st
- Doyle Rd. and a Brattle St. is a horrendous intersection Congestion on Shrewsbury St. especially in Afternoon drive time
- Doyle Road and Brattle Streets. Town should experiment with a four-way stop.
- Doyle Road at Shrewsbury Street. Malden Street at Main Street. Rte 31 at Rte 122A.
- Drivers along Main St using general purpose lanes incorrectly.
- Driving on Main Street in general. I try to avoid it. Forget trying to get on Maine street by friendly. I work in Framingham. I take back roads all the way to 140 in West Boylston to avoid any sort of congestion before the highway. It's not fair to the residents of those roads
- Dunkin Donuts / Bank of America intersection
- entering Quinapoxet Street from either Tannery Drive or Laurel Hill is treacherouse, requires slow down and crossing signage and sidewalks on Quinapoxet Street
- Entering traffic on 122A
- Entire length of Main Street Traffic squeeze Shrewsbury/Main Main St. /route 31 Intersection inability to make left turn driving into Holden Solid yellow or white lines are totally disregarded and ignored Lack of traffic flow planning
- Every day getting out of my driveway. Cars passing on a double lined highway.
- Every intersection is difficult especially during rush hour. There's no other way for drivers to go around Holden to Rutland and towns north of Holden. Is an alternate route possible?
- Exiting Mayo Drive to Rt 122A
- Exiting Mountview Middle onto Shrewsbury Street
- Exiting Post Office
- Exiting Post Office, Talbots and turning left
- For walking: Shrewsbury/Main/122A intersection. Also along Brattle St.
- Freindly and 122
- From Bailey Rd to intersection by town hall
- From Bank of America to Miles Funeral Home Intersection at Mobil/31 Pulling out of First Congregational Church/Chapel St.
- From Shrewsbury Street going onto Main St

TRANSPORTATION

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q62 What are the most difficult areas or intersections you encounter in Holden on a regular basis?

- Getting onto Main Street from business between Town Hall and the Post Office.
- Getting out of my driveway
- Getting out of post office (why can't there be one traffic light somewhere near there to serve that whole 3 block area?) Intersection of 31 and 122A. Intersection of manning and 31. Overall, going through holden at rush hour is horrible. Too many people from Rutland and beyond use 122a to get to and from work and Worcester. It's gotten much worse in the 16 years we've lived here.
- Getting out of Post Office/Berkshire Bank in a car onto rt. 122A.
- Going north on Main St at Salisbury intersection. Rt 31 / 122a green lights and arrows are too short on 31 to go across. also to take right turn onto 31 from 122a
- Heavy traffic on Main St, short left turn lanes at Rt 31/Main.
- High school
- High School
- High School/Main Street
- Highland - Main - Reservoir Traffic level of service is poor on Highland St approaching Main Street at peak hours.
- Highland Ave & 122A - by the library (traffic stacks up during rush hours) Turning left anywhere along Main Street is difficult due to traffic and I often must turn right and detour
- Highland Street and Main Street Corner of Wachusett Street near Goodhile's
- Holden and Shrewsbury st
- Holden center at four way lights. Vehicles crossing from 122a to go toward Princeton have no light and are hard to see as they are waiting to cross
- Holden st/Chapel st/shrewsbury st is AWFUL at rush hour. Especially when they decide to close it off!!!!
- Holden st/Shrewsbury 122A/31 Between LLU and Friendly's on 122A
- Holden St/Shrewsbury St
- Holden Street and Shrewsbury Street - should be three lanes (one turning left and one going straight and one turning right).
- Holden Street, the Death Trap.
- Holden x Shrewsbury, 122 x 31, LCU
- Honey farms, pulling out of Mayo drive into Main Street,
- I live along 122a near the Worcester border and would love to be able to walk/run into town, but the sidewalks are inconsistent and end up walking in people's yards or just not at all. The amount of traffic wouldn't matter as much if their were actually sidewalks.
- Intersection at Sunnyside. Many not stopping at the red light! Intersection at Mobile Station...better management needed! The town is a disaster in terms of traffic management! Eventually, we will all be gridlocked. Causing a lot of frustration. Side streets are a mess too!
- Intersection at the Mobil station.
- intersection main and Shrewsbury St need a rt turn only into Riteaid to avoid that squeeze to one lane
- Intersection Main St. and Reservoir St.
- Intersection next to Friendly's onto 122A/Main St.
- Intersection of 122/31. Main street is too congested no alternative routes.
- Intersection of 122A and Rt. 31. During the school year.

TRANSPORTATION

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q62 What are the most difficult areas or intersections you encounter in Holden on a regular basis?

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intersection of 122a mayo drive and bailey rd • Intersection of 31 and 122, all directions • Intersection of Raymond st and Main st • Intersection of Rts. 122A and 31. Cars turning into Mobil station create a hazard. • Jefferson area, 122A, Country Club • jug handle at Main and Shrewsbury, Main st./ Malden/ Salisbury, basically all of Main St. is terrible, it's impossible to make a left out of any businesses. • Junction of Malden St. & Main St. • Late afternoon west bound traffic on Main Street. A bypass to Rutland and beyond might help. • Left turn north onto 31 from 122A heading east , ie at Congregational church. Also, the traffic to the high school in the morning on school days is awful and turning into high school is dangerous. Police help is inconsistent. • Left turn on to Wachusett St from 31, cars speed around and down the hill, it is very dangerous there. I totally avoid Main St at 31, Main St at Shrewsbury due to congestion. Top of Union St at 31 is steep. • left turns onto Main Street • left turns onto Main Street. Signage on main street about left turn lanes versus actual traffic pattern. • Light dept, center of town pulling onto 122a from Princeton st across from Pizza 17 • Light from Salisbury to Main is very short • Main and 31 • Main and 31. Left out of malden onto main. • Main and Lovell Main and Rt 31 Main and Boyden Rt 31 and Manning Chapel and Shrewsbury • Main and route 31 • Main and Shrewsbury Streets Main and Route 31 • Main st • Main St • Main St Manning St intersection at rush hour • Main St & Rt31 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main St + Rte 31 is dangerous and should have delay signal so when turning onto 31 we can see cars on the inside lane • Main St 6:00pm rush hour. I avoid it daily. • Main st and 31 • Main st and highland st • Main St and Route 31. Near collisions from cars turning right on red into traffic. • Main St and Rt 31 • main st and rt 31 • Main St and Rt. 31 • Main St and Shrewsbury St • Main st and shrewsbury st • Main St and Shrewsbury St; Shrewsbury St and Doyle Rd • Main st anywhere! • Main St at rush hour • Main St congestion • Main St from Dunkin Donuts/Rite aid through the 31 intersection • Main St from Leominster Credit Union to intersection of 31 • Main St from Salisbury St. to Route 31 intersection. • Main St is congested all day and it is only getting worse. From Friendly's to town hall is constant traffic jams. • Main St traffic • main st traffic in general • Main St, Bullard St, Chapel St. • Main St, Shrewsbury St. • Main St, trying to cut across traffic • Main St. • Main St. |
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TRANSPORTATION

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q62 What are the most difficult areas or intersections you encounter in Holden on a regular basis?

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| • Main St. certain hours of the day are tougher than others but I think those of us that live here and work just learn to deal with it because in the end the benefits of this community outweigh a little traffic in the morning | • Main street | • Main Street and Route 31 |
| • Main St. & Shrewsbury St. | • Main Street | • Main Street and Route 31 |
| • Main St. , Holden St. and Brattle St. intersection, Chapel St, and Shrewsbury St. intersection | • Main street | • Main Street and route 31 |
| • Main St. And 122a During commuting times. | • Main Street | • Main street and route 31 intersection |
| • Main St. and Bailey Road | • Main Street | • Main Street anytime after 4 pm |
| • Main St. between Rt. 31 and Shrewsbury St. | • Main Street | • Main Street at 31, Salisbury and Shrewsbury. |
| • Main St. congestion | • Main Street | • Main Street at Malden Street Rush hour traffic along Main Street |
| • Main St. during commute hours and on Saturday mornings | • main street outside of wachusett high school on school mornings - takes at least 20/30 min to just get into the school parking lot in the morning | • main street at mt pleasant ave. Princeton street at the post office |
| • Main St. traffic between 2PM-6PM | • Main Street - avoided at all costs | • Main Street at rush hours and the center intersection. Left turn lane from 31 north to Main Street South should be improved, the turn waiting area is too small causing people to cut down the incoming lane to catch the light, this is a safety hazard. |
| • Main st., shrewsbury St. area by Big Y. Rt31-Wachusett St. | • Main Street (122 and Highland) | • Main Street Center SHORT LIGHT AT SALISBURY STREET INTERSECTION |
| • Main st./Rt 31/122A | • Main Street (122A) from Phillips Rd to Shrewsbury Street. (It is impossible to make a left hand turn during the business day.) | |
| • Main St/ Intersection by the middle school | • Main Street / 31 Main Street/ Holt Road | |
| • Main St/122A, Newell/Cranbrook/Newbury all speed cut thrus | • Main Street / Shrewsbury traffic is a mess too often. This causes drivers to "cut through" too many residential areas a Speeds Way Too Fast in order to Beat The Traffic. | |
| • Main St/Highland Salisbury/Main St. | • Main Street /122a (Holden/Worcester side) | |
| • main st/RT 31 | • Main street + Phillips road | |
| • Main st: Salisbury to Shrewsbury Street Main st/Shrewsbury St construction was a disaster | • Main Street AM & PM commuting hours | |
| • Main Street | • Main Street and 31 | |
| • Main Street | • Main Street and Bayden Road | |
| • Main Street | • Main Street and Mayo Drive/Bailey, Main Street and Boyden Road near Friendly's | |
| • Main Street | | |
| • Main Street | | |
| • main street | | |
| • main street | | |
| • Main street | | |
| • Main street | | |
| • main street | | |

TRANSPORTATION

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q62 What are the most difficult areas or intersections you encounter in Holden on a regular basis?

- main street during commute times (7AM-9AM)
- Main Street during commuting times
- Main street during rush hour
- Main street during rush hour and near Mountview Middle School in morning rush hour when school is in session
- Main street during rush hour from the Main Shrewsbury intersection all the way to the town center
- Main Street from 430p-630p.
- Main Street from 4-6pm and around 7:45 to 8:30
- main street from center to dunkin donuts
- Main Street from dunkin donuts to sunny side
- Main Street from McDonald's to center of town
- Main Street from shrewsbury Street to 31. Also the light at shrewsbury Street and chapel/Holden st.
- Main Street getting out of Mobil parking lot, heading south on 31 or west on 122A. Leaving McDonalds and heading east on 122A. There is also a need for a left only arrow at the main intersection of 31 and 122A heading east and turning up 31. This is extremely dangerous and many people simply use the side streets for safety reasons. I can imagine this irritates the people who live there.
- Main street heading south (towards Worcester in the AM) and the return in the PM. Dah!
- Main street holden. Also taking a left hand turn out of any of the side streets onto main street.
- Main Street in the morning and afternoon. The traffic at the high school is utterly ridiculous.
- Main Street in town
- Main street is already very contested. it will need to be widened to 4 lanes to accommodate the great increase in traffic we will experience within the next 10 years. As more and more homes are built in the immediate towns North and West of Holden, those people will use routes 122A and 31 because there are no alternatives
- Main Street is busy at certain times of day and it can be difficult to make it to the fire department when necessary as I am a CERT member who lives on the other side of town. Shrewsbury Street is bad right now. The speed vehicles travel on Holden Street is dangerous.
- main street lack of 2 lanes consistently!! needs 2 lanes rutland to holden to reduce congestion
- Main Street rush hour traffic. (AM and PM)
- Main Street south of center during rush hour. Bad traffic and the traffic cops at every business make it so much worse. Also Main Street bear high school during drop off/ let out. Road should be wider to allow for non highschool traffic to pass

TRANSPORTATION

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q62 What are the most difficult areas or intersections you encounter in Holden on a regular basis?

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main Street Traffic • Main Street traffic is ridiculous • Main Street traffic. • Main Street with traffic from Rutland, all main street traffic during busy times, difficulty with left hand turns • Main Street! • main street, also, the left lane northbound approaching the light at sunnyside ford should be left turn only....many vehicles are speeding in this lane to pass right lane traffic and is dangerous • Main street, brattle street, • Main Street, Chapel St intersection • Main Street, Route 122 morning and afternoon • Main Street, Shrewsbury Street intersection, center of town, beginning and ending of school day at WRHS • Main Street, town center, Manning St./Route 31 • main street. • Main Street. Shrewsbury Street. • Main street. Traffic gets difficult • Main Street... shrewsbury street... manning street up to route 31 • Main Street/31 intersection. Light headed into Holden from high school should have a left turn signal. • Main Street/Reservoir. People FLY up and down Reservoir • main street; shrewsbury street • Main, Highland, Reservoir • Main/31 • Making a left hand turn anywhere between Shrewsbury St. & 31 on 122A between 3&6 pm • Making a left off Lovell Lane onto Main Street. • Making a left turn on Main Street almost any time of day • Making any left hand turn along main street • Malden and Chapel/Wachusett - lots of stop sign runs • Malden and main • Malden and main | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Malden and Main, Friendly's and Main • Malden St @ Chapel St @ Wachusett St - Union St @ Highland St - Center Intersection taking left or right onto Rt.31 • Malden St. at Main • Malden Street and Main Street • Malden Street our to Main Street • Malden/main, 122A/31, union/highland, wachusett/Shrewsbury • Malden/main, town center shopping, big Y, • Manning & Rt. 31 Quinnapoxet St. & Rt. 31 • Manning @rt 31 • Manning and Wachusett St, 31 and 122a, • manning as it hits 31. A simple dedicated right turn lane so that cars can go north on 31 would help. Also, cars try to pass other cars in the left lane in front of the ford dealership. Making the turn onto salisbury a turn only lane would make it a safer intersection. • Manning st & Wachusett st, Mt Pleasant and Princeton, Shrewsbury & Chapel, Shrewsbury and Doyle. • Manning St in late afternoon • Manning St to route 31. • Manning St/Route 31 • Manning street and Rt 31. Rt 31 and 122. 122 near speedway. 122 near sunny side. Rt 122 near the light dept.pretty much all of 122. • Manning street onto 31 Bailey rd onto main st • Manning/Wachusett Street Intersection • Marlen and Wachusett, Homestead and Shrewsbury • Mayo Drive • mayo drive and 122a; phillips road and 122a |
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TRANSPORTATION

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q62 What are the most difficult areas or intersections you encounter in Holden on a regular basis?

- mayo drive/main street
- Mayo/Baily/Main, Industrial Park, Honey Farm area, Malden & Main, Post Office
- MIn Street businesses
- Mobile station lights
- Mobile/ town hall intersection.
- MTV cross traffic
- Multi lanes at traffic signals on 122A create road rage. Why take an orderly single line of traffic, make it into 2 lanes before a signal, then squeeze it back to 1 lane. Also, getting onto main street from Princeton Street during rush hour is very difficult.
- My gas station
- My own driveway, my blind drive sign does not help
- N/A
- Near high school, center of town, Sunnyside
- Near sunnyside Ford
- Near the Bank of America and Urgent Care. We need a rotary or some change there with crossing traffic.
- near Town Hall
- Newell Road. Main Street
- No complaints
- none
- None. But if there is a problem somewhere in Town...consider a round-a-bout. They are safer and ease congestion.
- Not in Holden but impacts Holden: Drummond to Shore Drive. Bailey Rd (from Main Street to get to road to pick up kids from Dawson)
- Once you turn into Main St from Shrewsbury St, it's a 15-20 minute drive to the Rt31/122A intersection during rush hour. Most of it is due to left turns along the way and Miles Funeral Home. People get really rude. I try to avoid it and take a longer way home just to have a calm ride home.
- Other than rush hour in the center, traffic is fine.
- Philips rd & Main St.
- Phillips and Main
- Please refer to 2008 Master Plan Report 7.2 Major Recommendations for Transportation. Any of these recommendations not already completed should be addressed. Also sidewalks should be 100% completed within a radius of 1 mile from all schools
- post office :, turning left from Rite Aid lot onto Shrewsbury st (because left is prohibited onto Main st):. turning left basically anywhere in main st business district (especially during peak traffic)
- Post office, coffee shop meat market, Holden Pizza
- Princeton and Main street.

TRANSPORTATION

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q62 What are the most difficult areas or intersections you encounter in Holden on a regular basis?

- Princeton street and main, wachusett st and highland street. Princeton street and quinapoxet intersection, the light at the mobile gas station, chapel and main st (should have a second lane to turn)
- Pulling out into Main st... we need to be more kind and let cars into traffic... we should have a campaign
- Pulling out on Route 31 from Fort Sunter? Drive daily. Long wait
- Quinapoxet / 31
- Quinapoxet/Princeton St. (and while we are at it...those apartments right there across from the post office. Can we do anything about that?!? PLEASE)
- railroad crossing on quinapoxet st is physically in terrible condition, sometimes hard to get onto streets due to fast oncoming traffic (left from 31 onto Wachusett st, left onto Wachusett st near Union st), snow bankings sometimes make visibility a problem
- Ramp Main onto Shrewsbury St, Center Intersection (why are there not 4 turning arrows??
- Rarely, but occasionally from Shrewsbury St. to /rt. 31
- Reservoir and 122 near Mobile station
- Reservoir onto Main Street. Speed of traffic on Main Street creates dangerous conditions for pedestrians
- Reservoir/South Rd/Mixer Rd Intersection
- Ridiculous that the town center was never widened to 4 lanes, 2 each direction; or at least have implemented some provision for a center turn lane. Congestion in Holden is horrible during rush hours & Holden has a negative reputation for this.
- Route 122A and 31, Wachusett St at Highland St
- Route 122A and Princeton Street
- Route 122A congestion at rush hour, horrible!!
- Route 122A from Rutland to Holden Center and vise-versa depending on the time of day
- Route 122a practically the whole way through town
- Route 122A/Shrewsbury Street
- Route 31 & Main Street intersection - making a Left from either direction is very dangerous with poor visibility. Route 122A is very congested. Alternate/parallel routes should be explored.
- Route 68 & 122A
- RT 122A
- RT 122A + 31 Rt 31 + Manning Rt 122A + Salsbury ST
- Rt 122A and Rt 31
- Rt 31
- Rt 31 & 122A
- RT 31 / Mobil light... I literally think someone is going to die every night when I am sitting at that light. It should have left arrows on all lights
- RT 31 and Main ST

TRANSPORTATION

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q62 What are the most difficult areas or intersections you encounter in Holden on a regular basis?

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rt 31 and Quinapoxet/Manning • Rt 31 at Main • Rt. 122A/31 and Rt. 122A and Shrewsbury. • Rt. 31 where I live. I have young children. Worried about speed and due to no sidewalks, I need to travel in my car to another neighborhood to walk or jog or bike. • Rt122A • RT31 and RT122A, • Rt31& Main St • Rte 122A & Rte 31 intersection -No left turn arrow from 122A onto Rte 31 • Rte 31 and 122A Future plans should consider a bypass • Rte 31/rte 122A • rte122A and rte 31 • Rush hour travel on 122 is a nightmare. • Safeway Gas-Honey Farms area. Cars pass on right in turn lane to cut off traffic not turn. • Salisbury & main • Salisbury and 122a • Salisbury and main , route 31 and 122a • Salisbury and main st • Salisbury and Main Street intersection, Main Street evening traffic, end of Shrewsbury st speeding issues • Salisbury and Main. • Salisbury at main st • salisbury at main street ... light is too short getting onto main st. also, The ridiculous cement island at the Newell rd/Main st intersection where it says "enter here." | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salisbury light at Main during school let out and during rush hour • Salisbury ST and also Innertite intersections • salisbury st to main street stop light turning left. Main Street by the high school in the morning. • Salisbury Street & Main Street near Sunnyside Motors • Salisbury street and Main. Especially if there is a funeral at Miles. Afternoon. Wachusett through town center during school traffic. Heading up Shrewsbury street out of town during school traffic. • shreswbury st and holden/chapel st • Shrewsbury and Doyle, Main Street from Shrewsbury to uptown • Shrewsbury and Main streets • Shrewsbury St • Shrewsbury St and Chapel St intersection. Main St during am and pm commute. • Shrewsbury St and Main St. Shrewsbury St & South Wachusett St (you can't see past the boom to make a safe turn and no one can see you). Main & Reservoir • Shrewsbury St and main street • Shrewsbury st and main/31 • Shrewsbury St and Wachusett Street • Shrewsbury St from Mountview Drive to Main St. • Shrewsbury St from MTV to Main Main Street from Shrewsbury to past WRSD • Shrewsbury St near Mountview Middle school • Shrewsbury st, main st • Shrewsbury St, Main St. Center • Shrewsbury St. at Holden St. (people run yellow and red lights). Same at Shrewsbury and Doyle Rd. Right on red coming up Reservoir onto Main St. is a danger because of sight lines and need to be far out into Main St. at the crosswalk. |
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TRANSPORTATION

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q62 What are the most difficult areas or intersections you encounter in Holden on a regular basis?

- Shrewsbury Street! The worst, that kind of traffic should not be going thru residential area, between the number of cars, not to mention the commercial vehicles, tractor trailers, it is just a matter of time before one of these massive trucks causes a huge industrial accident, i know it is a state road but it should not be allowed and the town should of done something about this 30 years ago and still nothing is being done and everday the problem gets worse. The town should also consider what this amount of traffic is doing to the air quality in town.
- Shrewsbury Street/Chapel/Holden Street Shrewsbury and Main
- Shrewsbury/Chapel St.,Friendly's/P.O./Main St, Main St/Rte31, Wachusett St/Rte 31
- Shrewsbury/Main, Main from Shrewsbury to WRHS
- South Main lights intersection
- Sunnyside and Mobil intersections
- Sunnyside For Intersection on route 122a both ways, and intersection of 31 and 122a traffic lights. Left lanes should be for left turn only all ways for both intersections. People always cutting causes worse traffic and angers commuters.
- Sunnyside Ford, Shrewsbury St
- Take your pick!!!!!! After the intersection at 31 and 122 A (which is a nightmare in any direction!!) I think the most dangerous is at Salisbury St. It should be a left lane for left turn only. People zoom past in the left lane, cutting off the car in the right lane. The second is after the Industrial Park, the road narrows and again people speed past and cut motorists off who are in the right lane and are merging left as the road narrows to one lane. It has gotten to the point where I will go back ways to avoid Main St. in Holden whenever I can. For all the "beautification" and "improvements" it is a nightmare.....then of course there are the potholes, crosswalks coming apart and all the man hole covers that could put your alignment out on any given day, time of year doesn't matter.
- taking a left anywhere on main street in Holden Center during rush hour. Also, the Rt 31 entrance/exit to the mobil station is an extreme hazard.
- taking a left out of Boyden Rd or left out of post office
- Taking a left out of Mayo Drive onto Main Street
- Taking a left out of the Big Y plaza. Making a left onto Shrewsbury st. from Rite Aid exit Congestion on Shrewsbury st. (Main to Holden St.)
- Taking left onto Salisbury from Main St traveling north. Trying to cross main street when leaving the Holden Post Office
- The amount of traffic coming from Rutland causes significant traffic congestion along Main Street, especially during commuting hours. With the continued population increase in Rutland, this is going to continue to be a growing concern.
- The area near State Police Station is confusing and the turning lane for Dunkin Donuts creates havoc.
- The back up in manning st at the stop sign and the back up around sunny side motors
- The center of town. 31 and 122A

TRANSPORTATION

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q62 What are the most difficult areas or intersections you encounter in Holden on a regular basis?

- The corner of 31 and Manning street and Wachusett Street and 31 split.
- The end of Salisbury- the light seems to be poorly timed.
- The intersection at 122A and Rt 31. Shrewsbury St to Route 31
- The intersection by the Friendly's restaurant and Post Office across the street. It could use a light. There have been accidents and I've witnessed a ton of near close calls. between the pedestrians walking, cars turning left and right off the main and cars turning left and right to get on main it's a lot going on. IN addition to that intersection I would say the bottle necking that happens at the Rite Aid/dunkin donuts from the two lanes merging could be eliminated with a simple right turn only lane to turn into Dunks. Then there is the bottle necking that happens at the 122A and 31 intersection. 122A should have a left turn only lane with an arrow light to indicate when to go. Another intersection with close calls when taking a left.
- The intersection of 31 and main st. If you are coming from Rutland and trying to turn onto Highland St, that is a VERY DANGEROUS turn. A few times I've nearly had a collision so I've stopped turning there and instead I now turn on Maple St, and I'm sure a lot of others do this as well which increases the traffic flow on Maple. Why can't we get a left turn arrow at that stop light?
- The intersection of Brattle and Doyle street
- the light at 122A and 31
- The lights and lane mergers at Speedway Gas
- The main intersection by Dunkin' Donuts, back ups by the light by the HMLD, and inaccessibility for pedestrians to walk along 122A safely.
- The maze
- the merge on Shrewsbury St. near Dunkin Donuts
- The one at Holden, Chapel, and Main.
- The railroad crossing at Quinopoxet in Jefferson. The surface and boards have broken away
- The railroad tracks on Quinapoxet Street are absolutely treacherous and nothing seems to be getting done other than a useless patch job by the Railroad company. The lanes at Honey Farms/Speedway are not used properly as people try to fly down one or the other to pass people. The center of Holden is always crazy backed up. I think something needs to be done about green/red arrows for Left hand turns and their timing.
- The Salisbury/Main Street intersection is awful at times, sometimes taking 5 or 6 cycles of waiting at the light when taking a left onto Main Street from Salisbury Street during rush hour.
- The stretch of Main Street from specialty sandwich all the way to the ford dealership is really hard to pull in and out of. I also hate that there are lanes that people sometimes use as a turning lane and sometimes use to race past the line of traffic. Just put a turning arrow so people just use those for turning and aren't driving so aggressively.
- The strip in front of McDonalds, needs a traffic light or two way traffic lanes.
- The town center intersection and main street during rush hour times from September - June.

TRANSPORTATION

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q62 What are the most difficult areas or intersections you encounter in Holden on a regular basis?

- Too many house being built - its absolutely ridiculous. Roads any morning or afternoon are pathetic with traffic. Need to stop building!!!! Add the increase with Rutland onto that and it is awful. Stop new house from being built please.
- Too much traffic on Quinapoxet Street - especially trucks!
- Top of bailey, by Holden Hands and Speedway
- Town Center
- Town center
- Town Center
- Town Center
- town center - 122A & rt 31
- town center and shrewsbury street
- town center at 31 and Main Street
- Town center at Mobile Congestion all the way from Rite Aid to Miles Funeral Route 31 flow into Mobile light intersection coming from Princeton..backs up all the way to Jamieson during week as light is too short.
- Town center during rush hour
- town center rt 31
- Town center, 122 by Dunkin Donuts, in front of middle school.
- Town center, intersection near Friendly's and post office.
- Town Center, Main St during afternoon "rush hour"
- Traffic near Mountview and Chapel, Getting on Main from businesses ir side steets
- Traffic on Main st. From bank of America to big y
- Traveling through Holden Center/Manning St between 2:30 and 6
- Trying to get out of the post office is awful !!!
- Trying to pull out of ALL retail or public buildings that are in the most congested areas of Main Street.
- Trying to take a left onto any part of Main Street is extremely difficult.
- Trying to take a left turn out of Post Office
- Turning left on main street
- turning left onto any part of main st
- turning left onto Main st from Boydon rd by friendlys' (it's an issue every day for me) turning left onto main st either direction from ANYWHERE during rush hour
- Turning left onto Main street
- turning left onto main street during heavy traffic anytime; sunny side area late afternoon; main st heading to worcester anytime in the morning; high school traffic at 7-730am. a turn off lane on the right would appease some of that; traffic by library in the afternoon;
- Turning on to Main St from Holt Rd, visibility from the right is obstructed.
- Turning onto Main Street from local businesses
- Turning onto Salisbury St heading out of town
- Union St/Rt 31
- Union street is annoying when people traveling south want to turn on it.
- Union Street to Highland St
- unionville pond bridge railroad tracks on quinnepoxet
- Unionville Pond bridge is not safe for traffic, walking, or riding. Someone is going to die there.

TRANSPORTATION

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q62 What are the most difficult areas or intersections you encounter in Holden on a regular basis?

- Very high congestion on Main/122A approaching the town center during weeknight commutes. Between the stoplight and the detail cop if there is a funeral, traffic can back up to the Speedway station or even the State Police Barracks. Also, the traffic light at the center of town always seems to default to a green light for 122A following disruption of the light cycle due to an emergency vehicle approaching. If multiple emergency vehicles come through a minute or so apart, this keeps repeating, meaning the cars sitting on 31N or S waiting at the intersection can end up being denied a green light for 3 or 4 light cycles. I have seen the cars stopped back to Jamieson because of this.
- Wachusett and Malden Streets.
- Wachusett St & 31 is a high-speed 3 way. Harris St & Bullard St is a blind 3 way. Both can be tough.
- Wachusett St. intersection with Rt. 31
- wachusett st/highland st
- Wachusett to Mountview
- Wachusett + Highland
- Walking on Newell Rd is dangerous
- Walking to Wachusett there is a cross walk across 122 to the school, but the cross walk puts you on the opposite side of the sidewalk to walk up the hill. It's a hazard
- We desperately need a stop light on the corner of Brattle Street and Doyle Road. That intersection is incredibly dangerous. A serious accident just waiting to happen.
- When police officers are assigned traffic duty at businesses located on Main St., I don't believe they should stop traffic on Main St. every time a single vehicle tries to enter or leave that business parking lot during rush hours.
- When the left from Main St to 31 (at Mobil Station) is unprotected, if miss green arrow hard to take left same from Main St left unto Salisbury St when unprotected left.
- Worcester-Holden Line (Merge into Doyle Road)
- WRHS, Center of town, Sunnyside, Shrewsbury Street/122A
- you must know the answer already

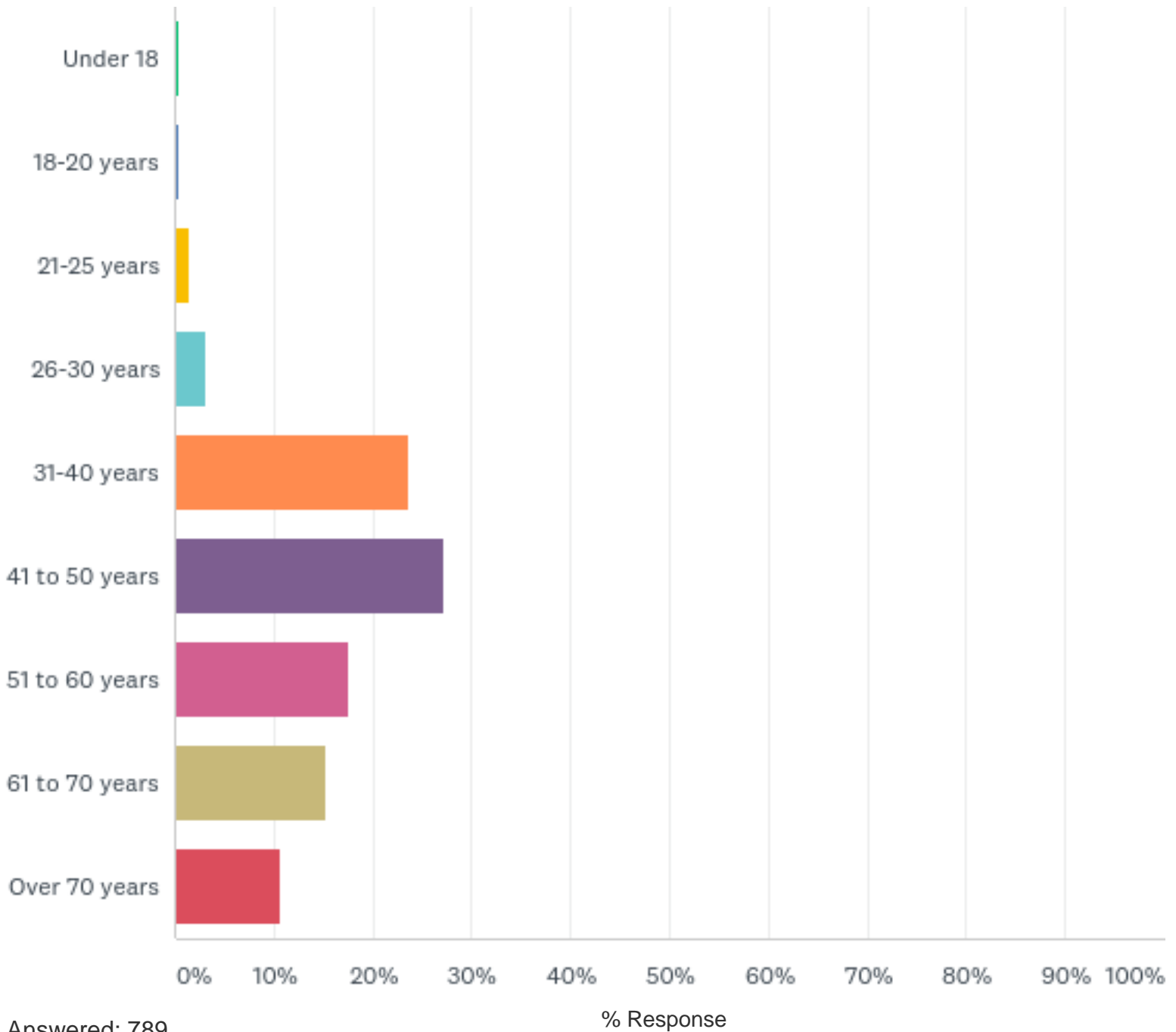
TRANSPORTATION

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q63: What is your age?



RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q63: What is your age?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Under 18	0.51%	4
18-20 years	0.51%	4
21-25 years	1.39%	11
26-30 years	3.04%	24
31-40 years	23.57%	186
41 to 50 years	27.25%	215
51 to 60 years	17.62%	139
61 to 70 years	15.34%	121
Over 70 years	10.77%	85
TOTAL		789

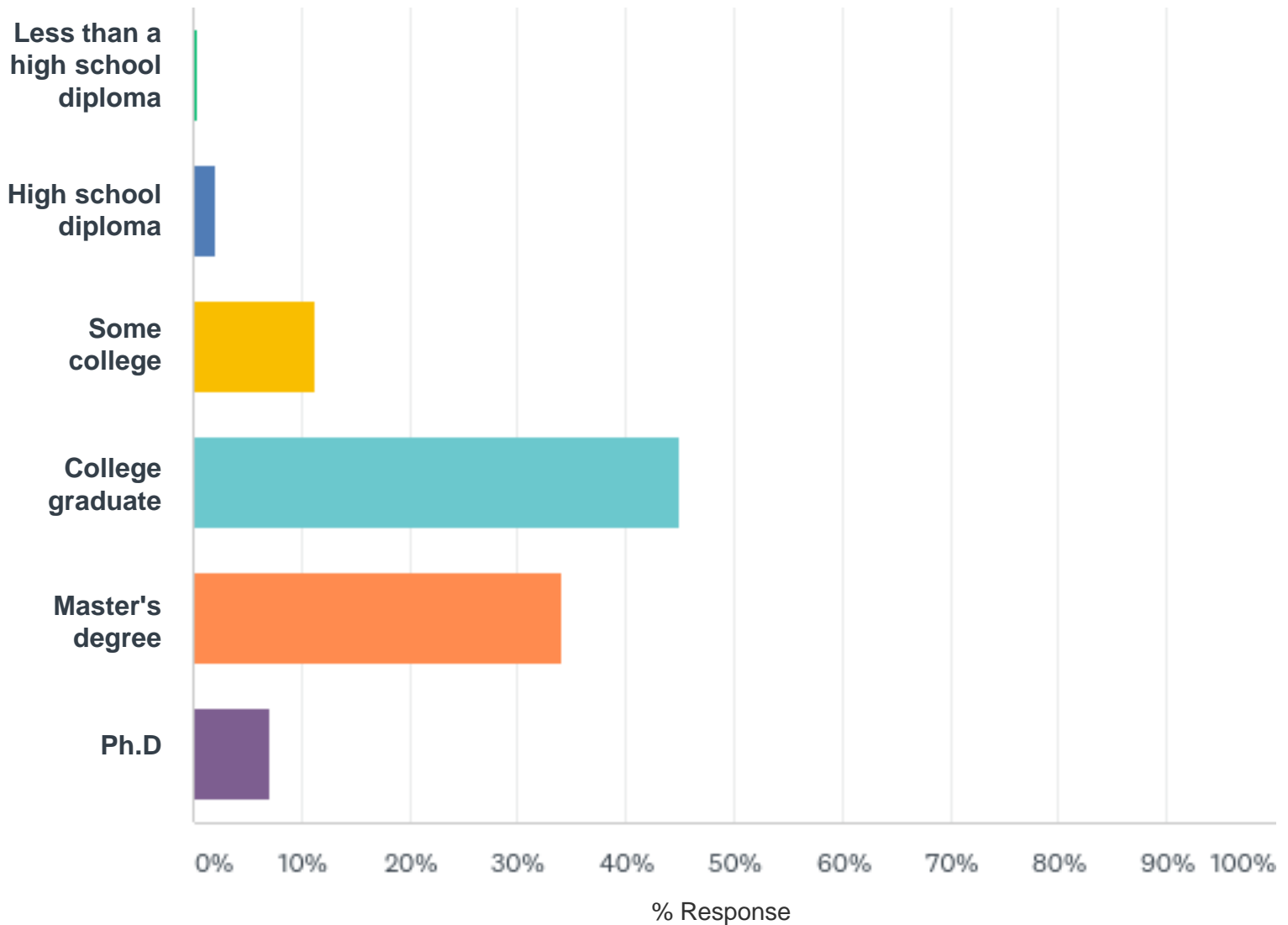
RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q64: Which best describes the highest level of education you have completed?



Answered: 794

Skipped: 185

RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q64: Which best describes the highest level of education you have completed?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Less than a high school diploma	0.50%	4
High school diploma	2.14%	17
Some college	11.21%	89
College graduate	44.96%	357
Master's degree	34.13%	271
Ph.D	7.05%	56
TOTAL		794

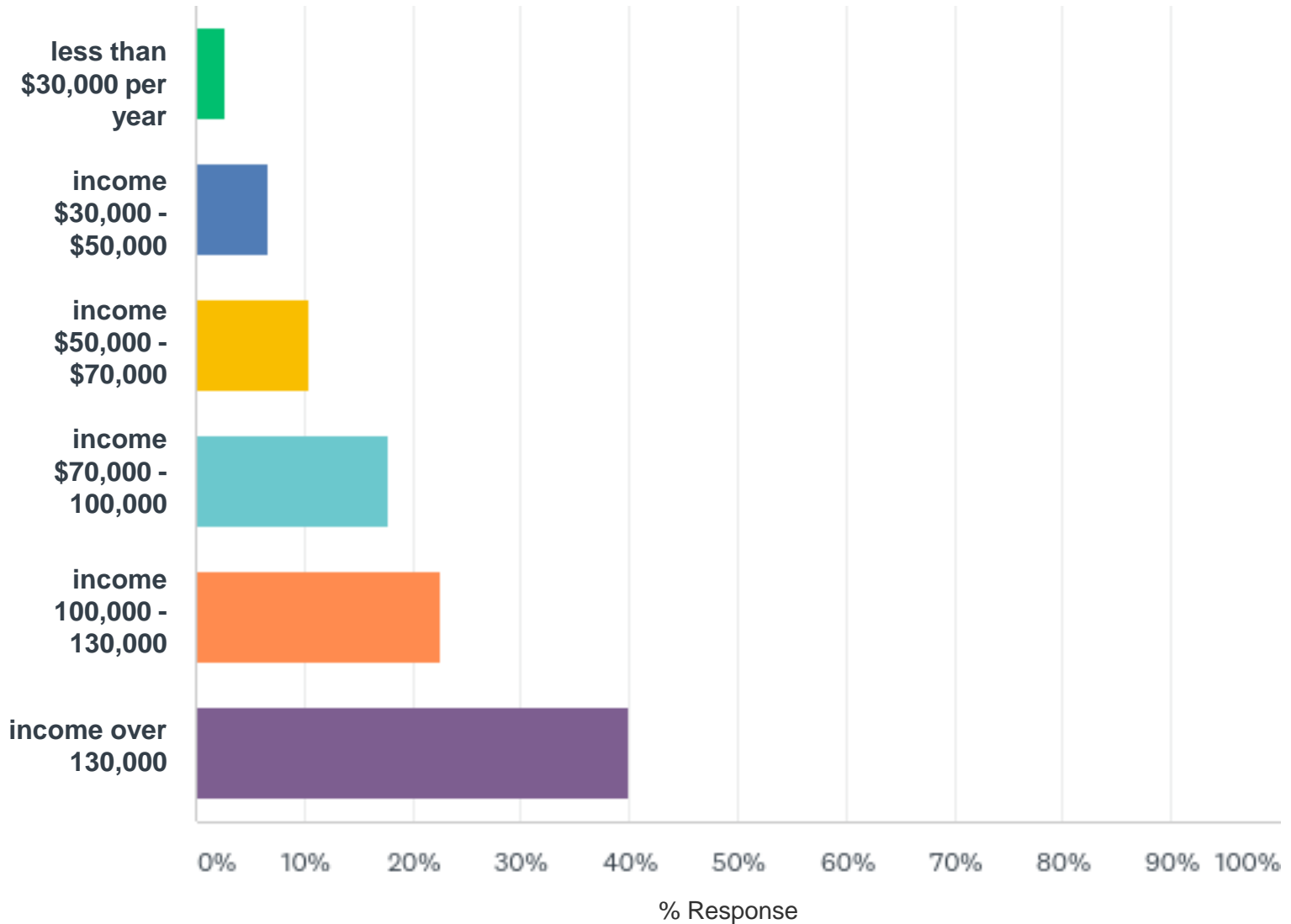
RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q65: What is your combined family income?



Answered: 709

Skipped: 270

RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q65: What is your combined family income?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
less than \$30,000 per year	2.68%	19
income between \$30,000 and \$50,000	6.63%	47
income of between \$50,000 and \$70,000	10.44%	74
income of between \$70,000 and 100,000	17.77%	126
income between 100,000 and 130,000	22.57%	160
income over 130,000	39.92%	283
TOTAL		709

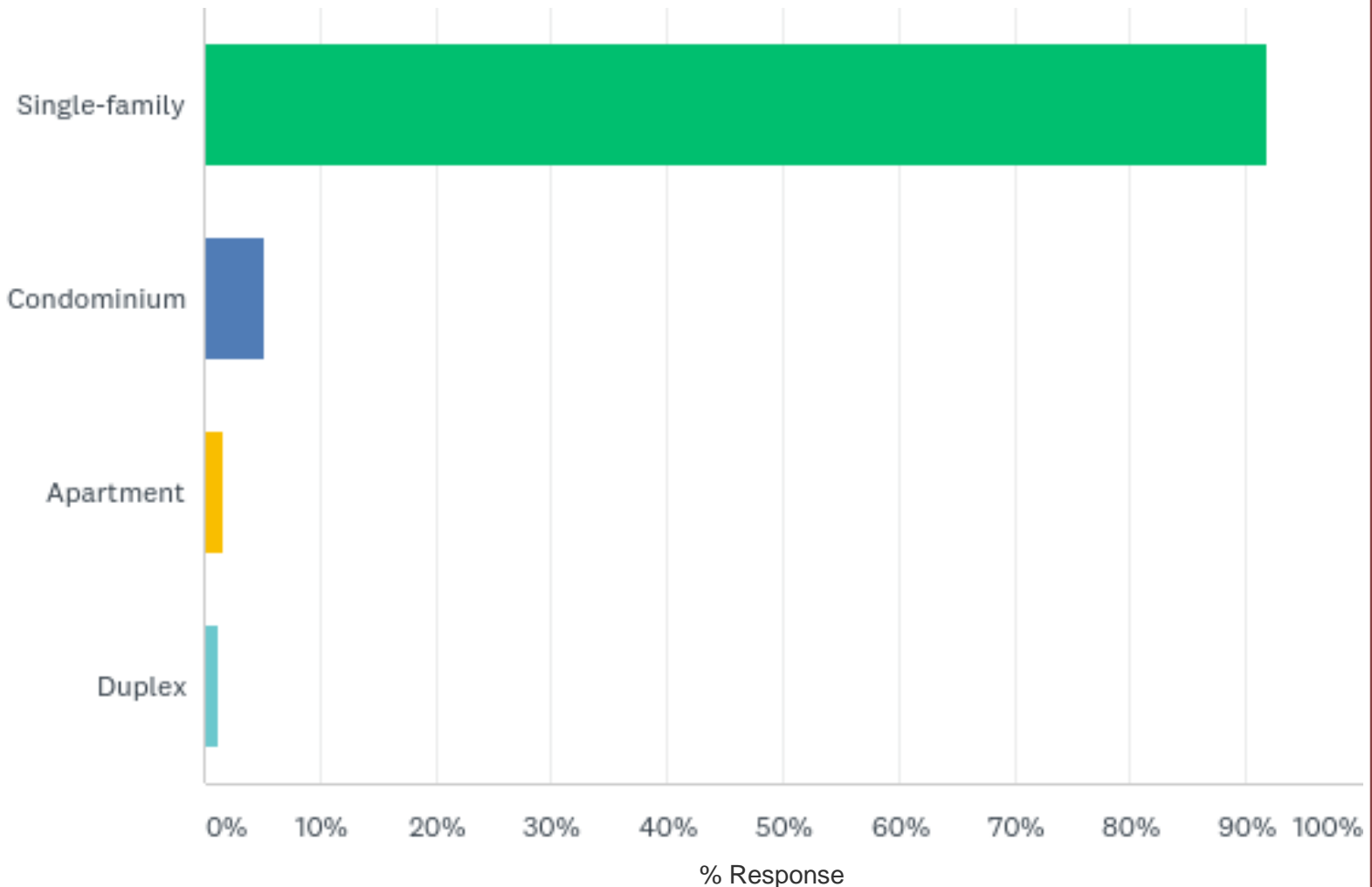
RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q66: What type of home do you live in?



Answered: 792
Skipped: 187

RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q66: What type of home do you live in?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Single-family	91.92%	728
Condominium	5.18%	41
Apartment	1.77%	14
Duplex	1.26%	10
Total Respondents: 792		

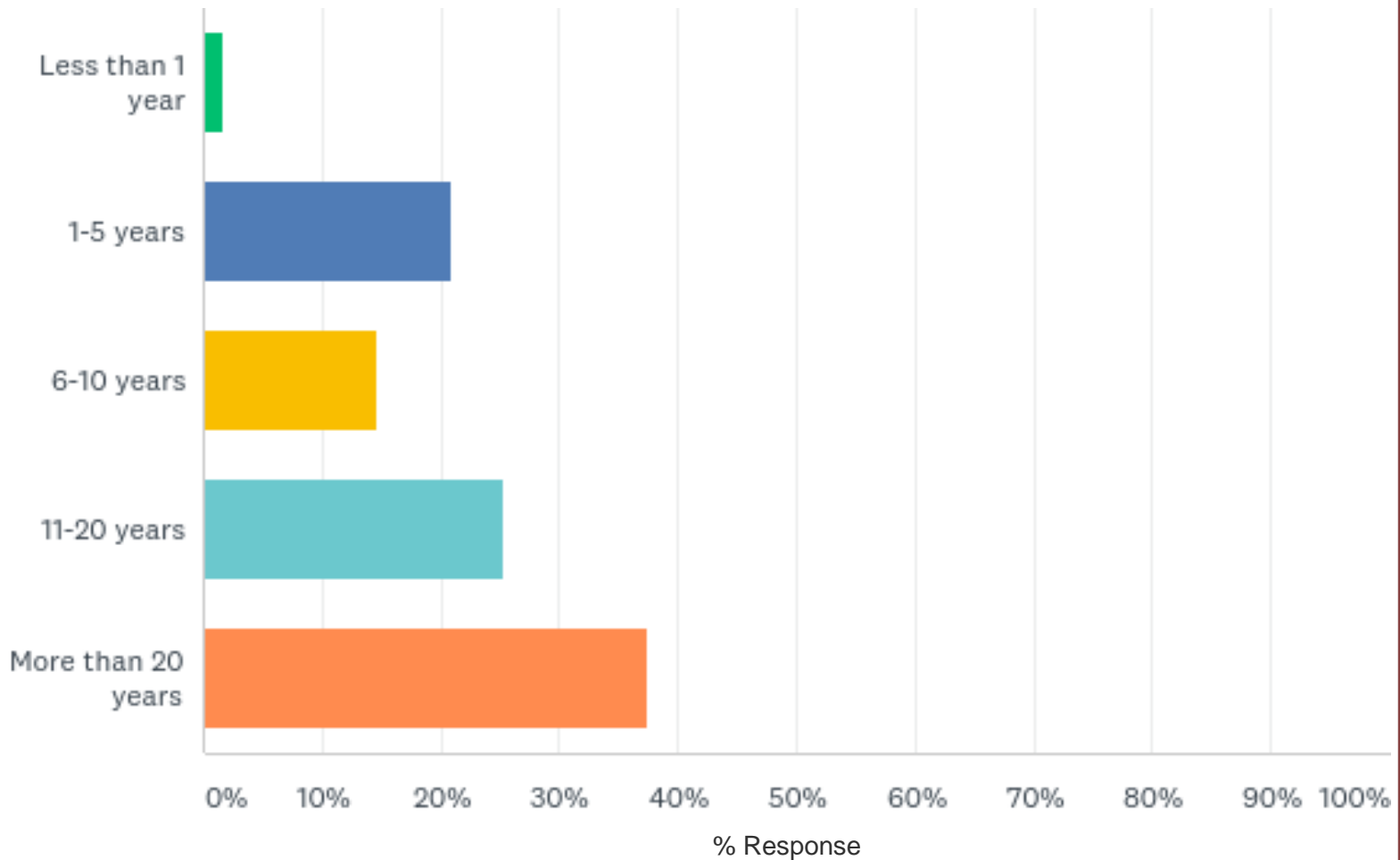
RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q67: How long have you lived in Holden?



Answered: 797

Skipped: 182

RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q67: How long have you lived in Holden?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Less than 1 year	1.76%	14
1-5 years	20.83%	166
6-10 years	14.68%	117
11-20 years	25.35%	202
More than 20 years	37.52%	299
Total Respondents: 797		

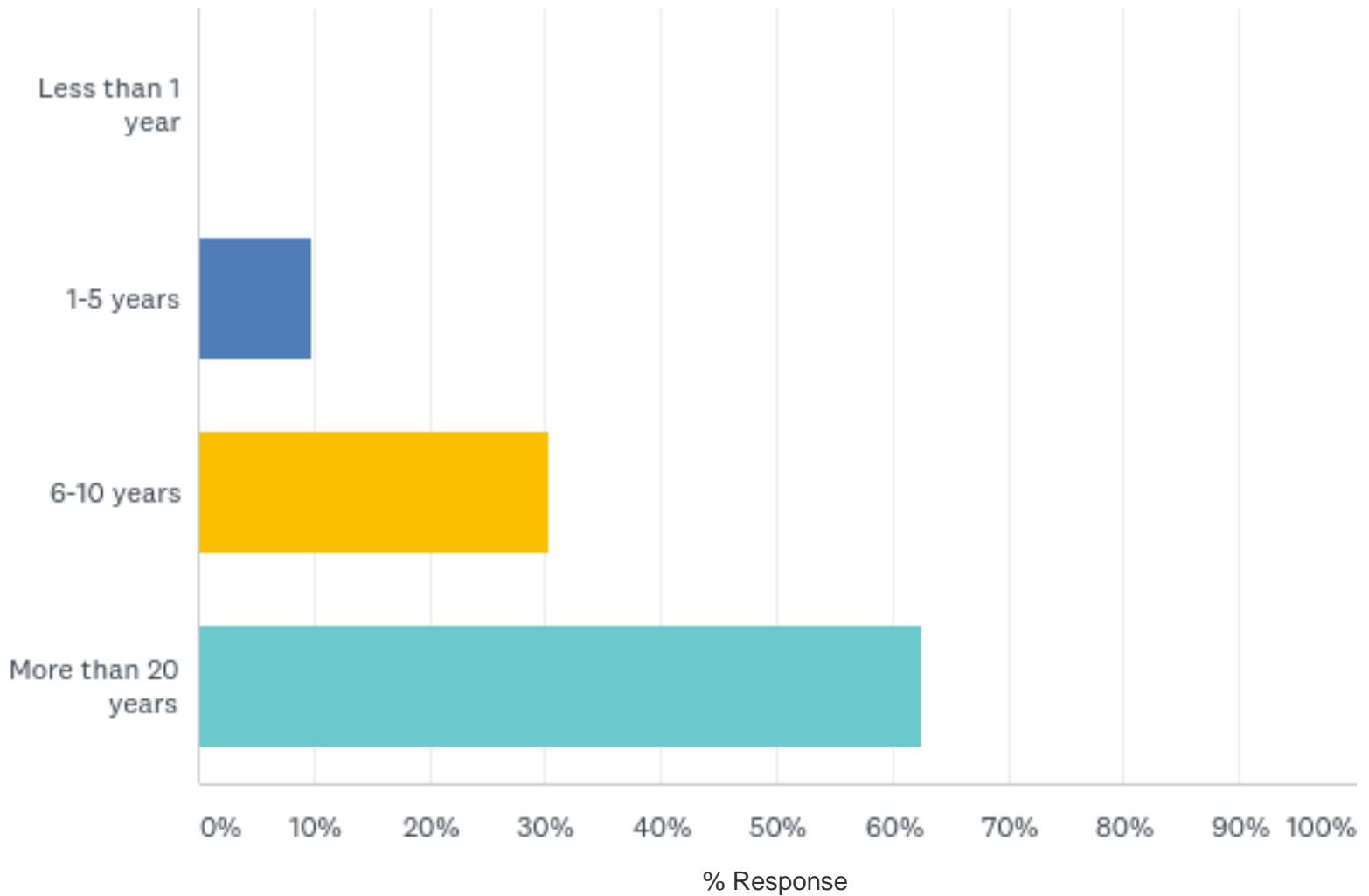
RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q68: How long do you plan to stay in Holden?



Answered: 770

Skipped: 209

RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q68: How long do you plan to stay in Holden?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Less than 1 year	0.00%	0
1-5 years	9.87%	76
6-10 years	30.39%	234
More than 20 years	62.60%	482
Total Respondents: 770		

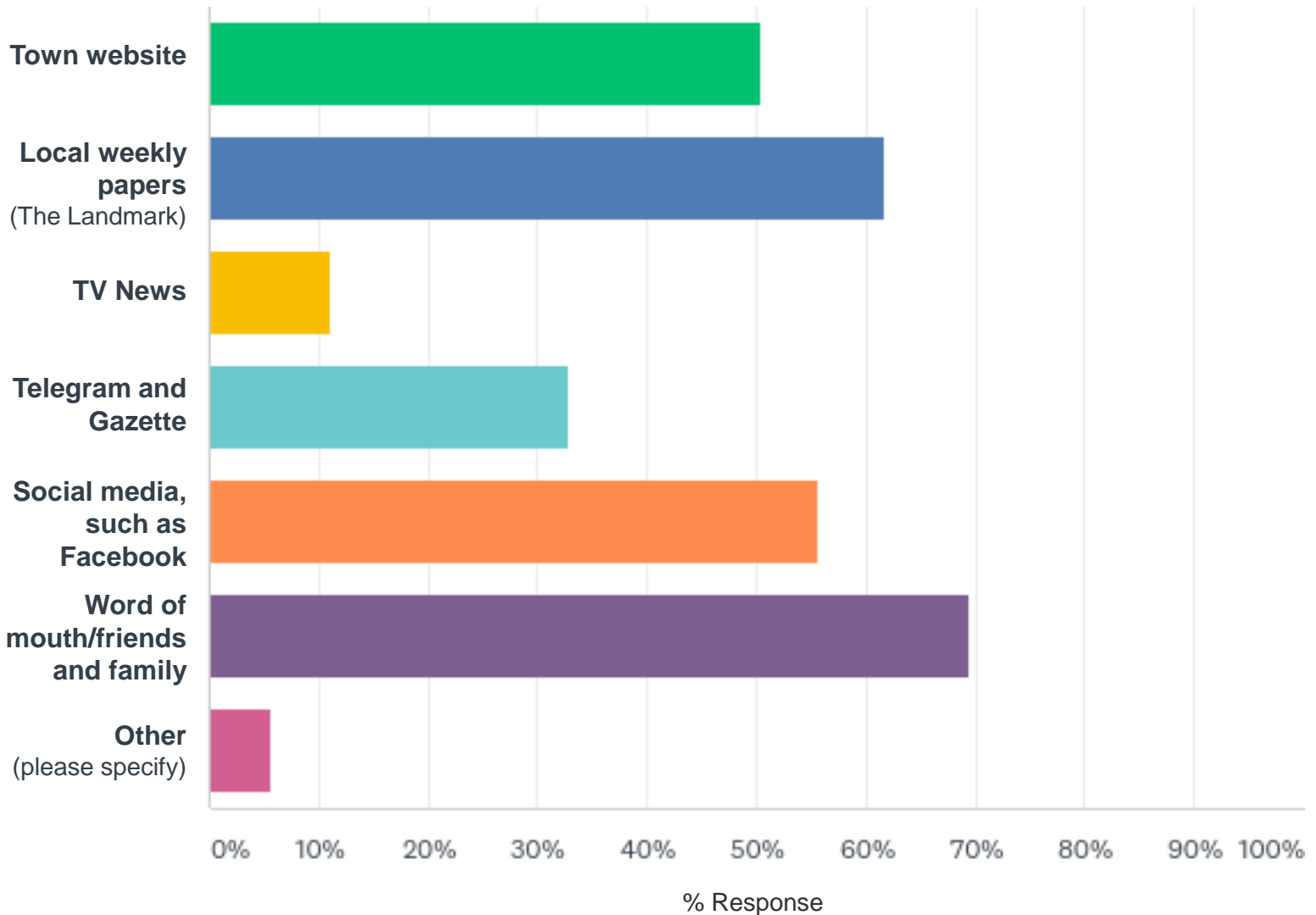
RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q69: How do you get news about the Town of Holden?



Answered: 800
Skipped: 179

RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q69: How do you get news about the Town of Holden?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Town website	50.38%	403
Local weekly papers (The Landmark, etc)	61.75%	494
TV News	11.00%	88
Telegram and Gazette	32.88%	263
Social media, such as Facebook	55.75%	446
Word of mouth/friends and family	69.50%	556
Other (please specify)	5.63%	45
Total Respondents: 800		

RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q69: How do you get news about the Town of Holden?

- Social media is a priceless tool – I think more events and meetings and things like that should be advertised using that platform Don't think many people read the newspaper anymore
- A Gypsy on Doyle Road.
- alerts on phone
- as far as the how long will you stay in holden, if the Taxes keep rising, how long can any retired people continue to live here, or is that the plan to price seniors right out of town
- citizen activist groups
- Code red
- electric bill
- Electronic sign which is ugly
- Electronic signage
- Facebook
- Flyers/ signs around town
- Gossip
- HMLD mailings. Otherwise, we almost get no news except for one neighbor. It is even hard to get election information!! All Holden residents should be mailed at least a postcard about election info. Hard also to get into about schools. My child goes to school, and I did not know about the after school program deadline until I happened across it on the Landmark website. There needs to be more direct email to parents about school news. And there should be a town LISTSERV that is publicized via postcard to all residents annually.
- Holden public access channels
- i dont. would be nice to have better outreach. flier mailings?
- Internet
- Landmark
- Landmark
- Landmark could do better for Holden, Better Press from Town Hall about town business
- Landmark has been poorly covering meetings in Holden
- Monthly town newsletter needed

RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q69: How do you get news about the Town of Holden?

- phone alerts
- Police / Fire scanner
- radio
- Realtor
- Select Board meetings on cable
- Senior center
- Senior Center Monthly News Letter
- Sweets and Java
- the advertisement board by the Bank of America
- The banner that hangs across 122A downtown
- The board in front of senior center and by Dublin donuts
- The town info sign by Shrewsbury St/122A
- Town Billboard & Shrewsbury and Main St.
- Town readerboard sign, banners across Main St
- town sign
- Town sign
- Town sign is very helpful
- Tried to determine the time of the Memorial Day parade, looked on website, no mention of the parade.....
- Twitter
- Twitter
- Work

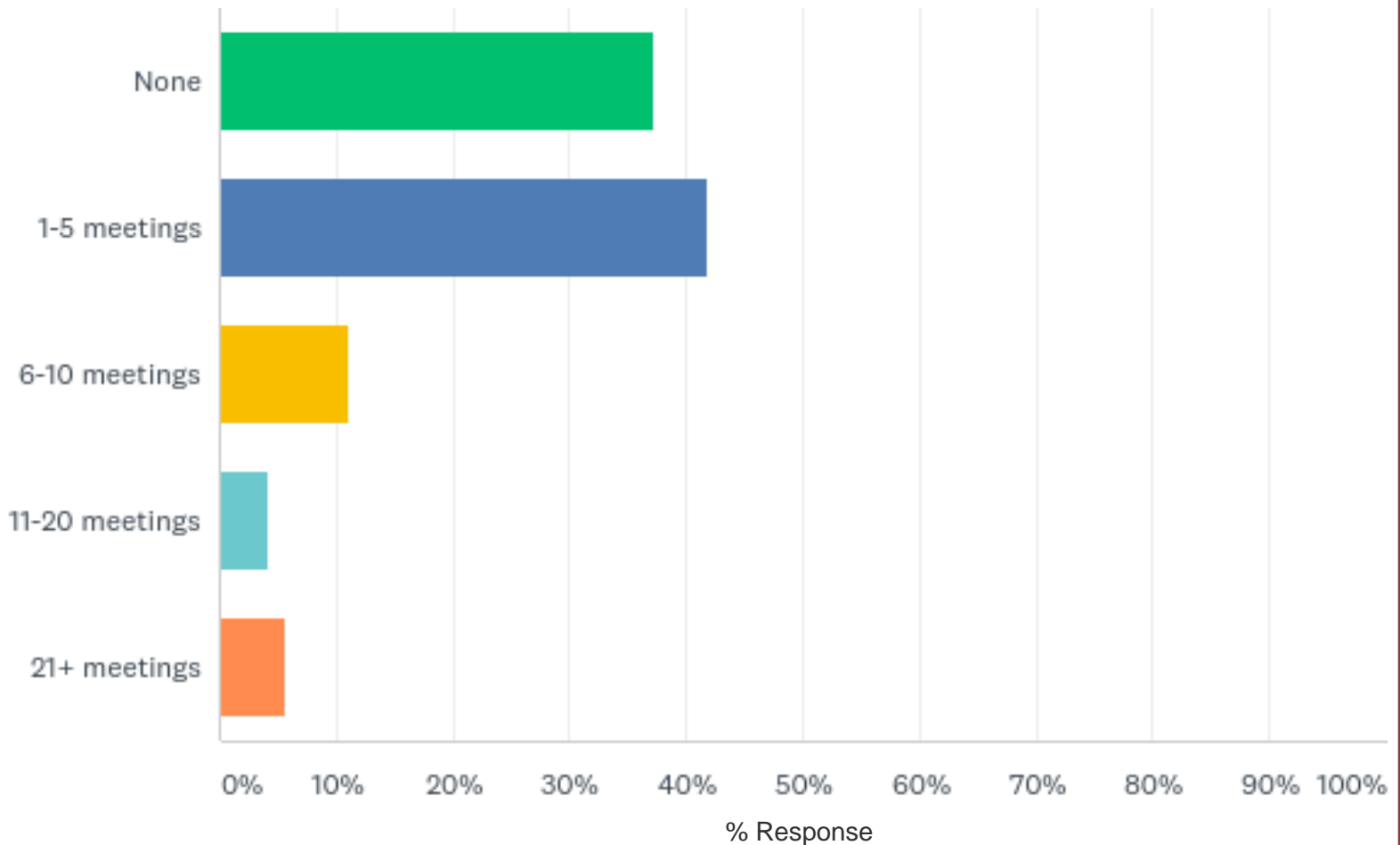
RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q70: In the past five (5) years, how many public meetings, Town meetings, hearings or forums have you attended?



Answered: 796

Skipped: 183

RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q70: In the past five (5) years, how many public meetings, Town meetings, hearings or forums have you attended?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None	37.31%	297
1-5 meetings	41.83%	333
6-10 meetings	11.06%	88
11-20 meetings	4.15%	33
21+ meetings	5.65%	45
TOTAL		796

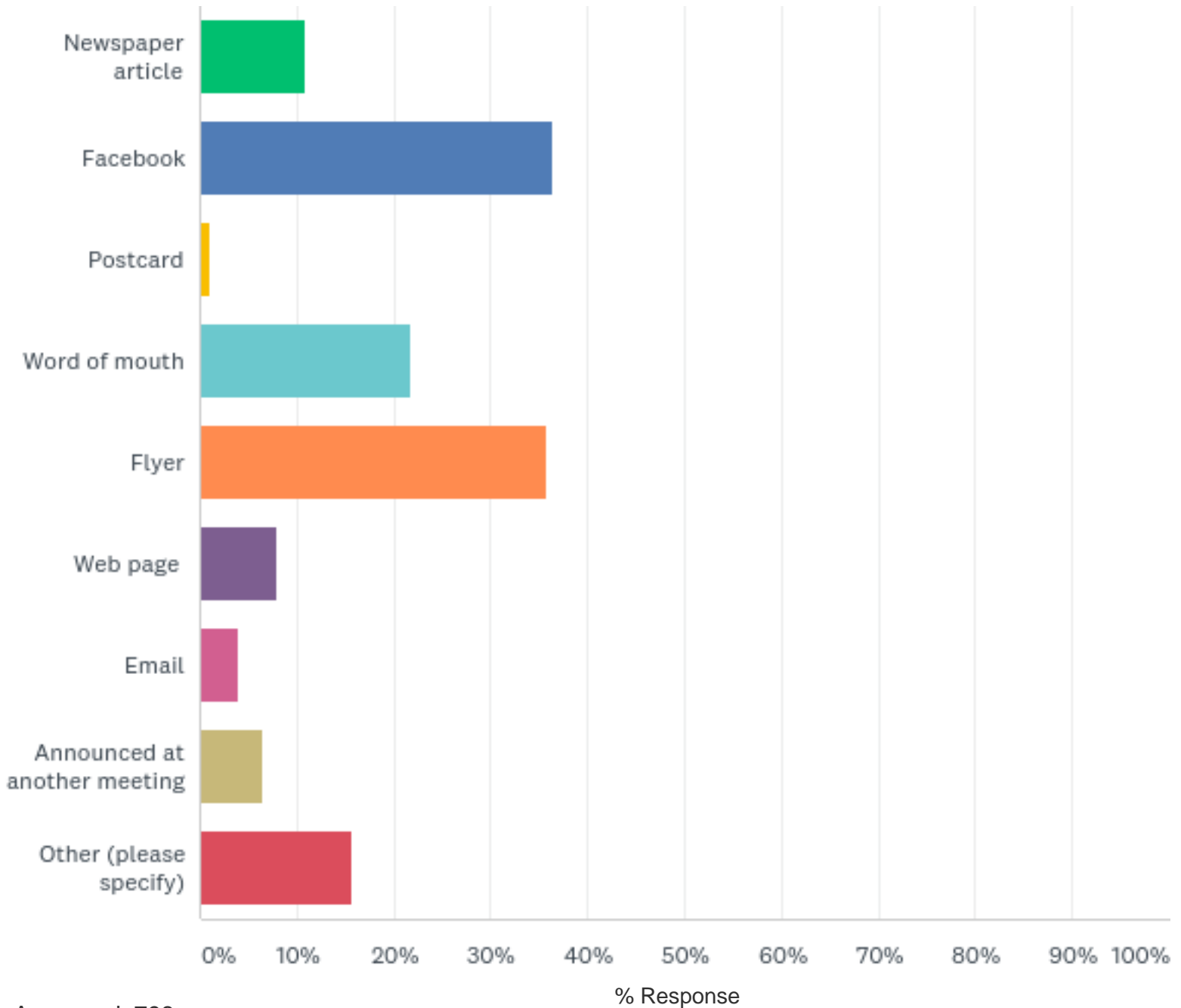
RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q71 How did you hear about the Master Plan? Check all that apply



Answered: 798

Skipped: 181

RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q71 How did you hear about the Master Plan? Check all that apply

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Newspaper article	10.90%	87
Facebook	36.34%	290
Postcard	1.13%	9
Word of mouth	21.80%	174
Flyer	35.71%	285
Web page	8.02%	64
Email	4.01%	32
Announced at another meeting	6.52%	52
Other (please specify)	15.79%	126
Total Respondents: 798		

RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q71 How did you hear about the Master Plan? Check all that apply

- | | |
|--|---|
| • A friend sent me the link | • Flyer that came with electric bill |
| • Advertisement board | • Flyer was included in HMLD bill. Good idea! |
| • At the Senior Center - presentation by Exec. Dir. of CMRPC | • Former member of 2008 MP. |
| • billboard | • Forms at Senior Center |
| • Budget meetings | • Friend |
| • Came with electric/ water trash bill | • Friends of Eagle Lake Facebook page |
| • Came with the electric bill | • Have not heard about the master plan |
| • Democratic Town Committee | • HMLD |
| • electric bill | • HMLD |
| • Electric bill flyer | • HMLD bill had a Flyer in it |
| • Electric sign @ Bank of America, Senior Center | • HMLD bill I think? |
| • Electronic billboard | • HMLD billing insert |
| • Electronic board | • HMLD flyer |
| • electronic bulletin board on 122A | • HMLD mailing |
| • Electronic sign | • HMLD sent out flyer with the electric bill |
| • electronic sign | • Holden Senior Center |
| • Electronic sign by BoA | • Holden Senior Center |
| • Enclosed in my HMLD bill | • Holden Senior Center |
| • Facebook | • Holden Senior Center |
| • Facebook | • Holden Senior Center |
| • Farmers market | • Holden Senior Center |
| • Farmers Market | • Holden Senior Center |
| • Farmers market | • Holden Senior Center |
| • Farmers Market | • Holden Senior Center |
| • Farmer's Market | • Holden Senior Center |
| • flyer in Electric/Water bill | • However I saw this survey. |
| • Flyer in hmlD Bill received june 18. | • husband heard the selectman talking about it on the radio |
| • Flyer in HMLD bill. | • I am dismayed that this survey was not mailed to every town resident as the oldest residents are invaluable to this master plan. Also everyone is so busy working and probably many residents have not even heard about this survey |
| • Flyer in HMLD Billing | • I did not hear about master plan. Friend happened to see tweet about survey. |
| • flyer in light bill | • I got the letter in the mail. Also I used to be an environmental engineer for a consulting firm and worked with towns so I was aware of master plans. |
| • Flyer in light bill | • I hope I made the survey in time as the front summary had Monday, July 18th listed and that is an incorrect day. |
| • flyer in light department bill. | • I would prefer digital channels, but I don't often see them that way. |
| • flyer in my electric bill | |
| • Flyer light department bill | |
| • Flyer light department bill | |

RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q71 How did you hear about the Master Plan? Check all that apply

- | | |
|---|---|
| • In my HMLD bill envelope | • sign board |
| • Included in HMLD bill | • sign board by dunkin |
| • Landmark | • Sign coming into Main st |
| • Landmark | • Sign Main St. |
| • Led board at shrewsbury st and main st. | • Table at the farmers market |
| • Light Bill | • That town sign |
| • light Bill | • The sign at Main and Shrewsbury. |
| • Mailer with light bill | • there was a flyer with my light bill |
| • Met some people at Eagle Lake who were photographing for the meeting. | • This survey |
| • my friend emailed me the survey | • Town announcement sign near 122A and Shrewsbury Street |
| • Notice came in light bill | • Town communication board |
| • Notice in the Holden Light bill | • Town Electronic Billboard |
| • notice included in utility bill | • Town info sign by bank of America |
| • on committee | • town sign |
| • on the digital board near the state police area. | • Town sign |
| • Plan given to me at the Farmer's Market today, 7/24/18 | • Town sign |
| • radio | • Town sign |
| • Radio | • Town sign |
| • Radio | • Town Sign to fill out survey |
| • radio interview | • Town signboard |
| • Radio interview | • Town Website |
| • radio interview J.Levy | • Tuesday Farmer's Market |
| • Radio. Jordan Levy show | • Twitter |
| • Received survey in email | • Twitter |
| • Reminded at Tuesday farmers market | • Twitter from the Landmark |
| • Saw at Holden Municipal Light Dept. | • Tyler Gibbs |
| • Selectman Renzoni is doing a great job informing people of the survey | • Utility Bill |
| • Selectman, town signage at Shrewsbury st. | • Was on last one |
| • set up at farmers market | • Wife brought one home from Sr. Center. Would never have known |
| • Sign | • with HMLD bill |
| • Sign at BOA/DD | • WTAG Radio |

RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q72 What is Holden's greatest strength?

- Holden is a wonderful balance of beautiful homes, farmlands, and natural resources that you don't find in the city while still having close access to highways and the city
- People and country charm
- Relatively safe, small town with some historic buildings/scenery (used to have more)
- A BOS that truly cares about Holden and has a strong working relationship with the Town Manager.
- A desirable community located in central Massachusetts with great schools and still has some open spaces.
- A good mix of people of various ages and economic backgrounds
- A nice community that is pleasant to live in
- A nice quiet area to live in.
- A quiet residential town that is adjacent to a good city.
- A well-educated population.
- A well-run small community. Still has a rural flavor. A very good education system
- Accessibility of stores and services.
- After living here over 50 years. It still has that (small) town feeling. Clean, safe, friendly
- Appeal of small town living
- At one time it was the great educations that students received
- Awesome teachers, kind people!
- Balance between residential and commercial development. Ability to shop and go to restaurants nearby
- Beautiful and safe community.
- Beautiful landscape and great schools
- Beauty
- Beauty and access to major highways
- Bedroom town. Land size. Location.
- Being a small suburb. A relief away from the bustling city and traffic. Forested areas and trails to get away for a while.
- Being well better than average in terms of quality schools, housing, and access to work and retail locations, all while being affordable...plus a sense of exclusiveness, at least in Central MA.
- Broad range of people, talents, resources

Answered: 621
Skipped: 358

RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q72 What is Holden's greatest strength?

- | | |
|--|--|
| • Budget management | • Community living |
| • Caring community and schools | • Community of people |
| • caring people | • community of the town |
| • Central Location | • community overall |
| • citizenry | • Community Safety |
| • Citizens with over 30 yrs in town | • Community services and schools |
| • Cleanliness & school system | • Community, Good schools |
| • close to most needs | • Community, its beauty and availability of activities and open areas. |
| • Community | • Community. |
| • Community | • Community. DPW. Police and fire. Schools. |
| • Community | • Convenience to Worcester for access to stores like Home Depot, Target, etc. Small town living, kind people |
| • community | • Convenient location to urban and rural areas. |
| • Community | • Convenient location, but still small town feel. |
| • Community | • Convenient to Fitchburg, Worcester, and metro Boston, but not at all like them in tenor or intensity. |
| • Community | • crime rate police dept. senior center. |
| • Community | • Eagle lake |
| • Community | • Easy to commute to most places yet have privacy in nature |
| • Community | • Educated and informed people . |
| • Community | • Education |
| • Community | • Education |
| • Community and focus on children, education, and sports | • Education |
| • Community and schools | • Education and excellent sports programs for youth. |
| • Community and schools | • Education and Public Safety (Police & Fire) |
| • Community and small town feel | • Education system |
| • Community closeness | • Education system, WRHD |
| • Community feel | • Employees |
| • Community feel, amenities in town center | • Excellent School System |
| • Community Involvement/Support | • Excellent school system Quiet, sleepy town. |
| | • Excellent schools are one of its greatest assets. |
| | • Excellent small town livability |

RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q72 What is Holden's greatest strength?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fairly safe community Families family atmosphere, safety, small commercial needs available Family friendly Family friendly town Family friendly, great neighborhoods Family oriented community Family oriented community, with affordable homes, great community facilities and good schools Family-oriented, safe community. fantastic schools/recreation services and natural beauty Farms, forests, schools feeling of community through the schools and raising children here. Few people, nice suburb, schools, beautiful area Financial management, School System Financial position Fiscal Soundness Friendly community Friendly People Friendly people and a somewhat "small town" feel, although not as small as it used to be or I want it to be. Friendly town Good balance of residential & small business Good balance of residential and commercial sections, excellent schools, easy access to major highways good community of people Good governance, dedicated public servants(DPW, Fire,Police,etc), good schools Good government Good housing stock, good schools, friendly people Good neighborhoods, public safety. Good school system good school system with affordable housing. Lots of outdoor things to do. There is always something to do with kids and we like that. Good schools | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good schools Good schools and (for the most part) good people. Good schools, farm friendly community, restaurants, small businesses. Good schools, relatively low property taxes, and a small town feel. Good schools, rising property value, cute town center, the pool, community events, the people, "mountaineer mamas". Good town facilities and good people aiming the same general direction. Governmental Leadership Great Community Great community. great fire and police Great location next to Worcester, a lot of restaurant options, beautiful area, friendly people. Great municipal services-roads are good and plows quick in wintertime, the trash and recycling is good, lights always on, etc. Great people Great people and a small town atmosphere, great schools Great people. Quiet, quaint neighborhoods. Huge potential. Great place to raise a family. Good schools and strong town sports programs. Great schools, affordability, Great schools. Size. Great sense of a safe solid community Great town departments - such as DPW,etc Great town. Great people. has wonderful schools and a great location to get to Worcester/highways |
|--|--|

RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q72 What is Holden's greatest strength?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> History of budget control and planning HMLD Holden has a good reputation for family living. Holden has the best of everything, highway trucks, HMLD vehicles, Fire and police fleet, pool, etc.... Holden is a pleasant, small community. Holden maintains a small town feel while still providing residents with great resources. I love mainstreet, Meola's Sweets and Java....it would be nice to see more of these types of businesses all within walking distance of each other. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It has a lot of the necessary commercial services, I feel like the town cares about its residents, it's a safe place It has lots of amenities but still maintains a small town feel. it is a nice place to live It is a safe town. Low crime rate. It is clean, DPW takes care of our roads and has great snow removal. Safe neighborhoods. it still has a small town feel. It was their small town feel....sense of community. Safety. It's army. It's commitment to being well maintained and educated and safe. It's in a lovely part of the state and has a nice small town vibe. It's just the right size. It's location It's location. Right near Worcester but the surrounding towns are being developed with residents but no businesses. Bringing in new restaurants and bars could pay huge dividends as well as improving recreation areas |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holden's greatest strength is its communities. Neighborhoods where children can make friends and play together safely truly make Holden a wonderful town in which to live. Amenities that are in the town (like supermarkets, convenience stores, gas stations, etc.) make living here a great place for our family. Holden's greatest strength is its sense of community and pride. Holden's location is great-close enough to major stores and hospitals, but away from a large city. It's community events sustain the quaint "small town" feel-i.e. outdoor music, festivals, etc. Hopefully- our longtime residents and their opinions Housing value, schools Housing, neighborhoods How uncrowded it is yet close to highway I feel safe here. I have only lived in Holden for three years but have come to enjoy the conservative nature of the town which includes respect and appreciation for our police and fire as well as the overall patriotism people in Holden seem to have. Not every town in Central MA, let alone the entire state provide the same environment. Increasing diversity. It has a great sense of community | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It's people It's people It's people It's residents and community It's small town character/natural beauty. It's young and old people. It's a smaller community with good access to central Mass. It's beauty and location Its central location is great, in between the rural communities to the north and the bustling city of Worcester. Great schools, too. It's charm and facilities.(Fire, Police, Light, DPW) |

RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q72 What is Holden's greatest strength?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Its citizens • Its citizens. • It's Education District • It's generous and compassionate people and the children who are our future. • It's great that everyone I meet asks me my name. • It's library and open space.for hiking • It's location - near major highways, near Worcester, yet still very country-like. • Its location near Worcester. The town's commitment to athletics and education for young people • It's location. • It's location. Close enough to urban areas but quaint enough to be a culturally rich small town. The school systems are also good, but need more funding to be great. • It's my home, and it feels like home to many people. • It's natural beauty/small town atmosphere & school system • Its people • Its people • Its people • its people • its people • it's people • It's people • It's people • IT'S PEOPLE • Its people • It's people and its education • It's people and it's school system • It's people and it's schools and library. • its people and small town feeling and friendliness • It's people and strong sense of community, it's schools. • Its people and the natural recreational resources available to townspeople • It's people many/most of whom do not live in the center of town the logo on this survey does not even depict us 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Its people, its community, its schools • it's people, schools and town employees who work hard. • It's people, the school system, natural beauty • Its people. • Its people. • Its people. • It's people. • Its people. Its schools. • It's people: volunteerism and it's schools. • It's police department • Its residents • Its scenic beauty and quaint lifestyle. • It's school system • It's school system. • It's schools • It's schools • It's schools • Its schools and its sense of community--it has the benefits of small-town life without a lot of the drawbacks of s mall town: it still provides very good municipal services. • It's schools, accessibility, and community • Its schools, good neighborhoods, and recreation options • It's small town feel and charm and the schools. • It's small town life style. • It's teachers. • It's very close to Worcester which is a growing city and a reasonable commute to Boston • Jefferson • Keeping that small town feel • Library
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RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q72 What is Holden's greatest strength?

- | | |
|---|--|
| • Library and public safety response time | • Location close to Worcester but also accessible to more rural areas. |
| • Library. Farmers Market. Troutbrook trails. | • Location just outside of worcester |
| • Limit access from highways | • Location near to revitalized Worcester |
| • Livability | • Location to Worcester and major highway |
| • Living in a safe small town where we have the freedom to live as we choose. Town pride. | • Location to Worcester/Highways. |
| • location | • Location! |
| • Location | • Location, and people |
| • location | • location, education, green spaces |
| • location | • Location, geographic assets and financial assets. |
| • Location | • Location, housing prices and small town feel. |
| • Location | • Location, low crime rate, family-centered, great schools |
| • location | • Location, relatively inexpensive housing, congested character |
| • location | • Location, school district |
| • Location | • Location, size, walking trails |
| • Location | • Location. In general K8 schools. |
| • Location It has all services I need... | • Location. It's convenient to get to most places I like and need to go to. |
| • Location / Schools / People | • Love the small town feel with great small local businesses |
| • Location / schools / walkability | • Low crime/law enforcement; schools, small town |
| • Location and bedroom community to Worcester | • Medium sized town with small town feel |
| • Location and dedicated citizens | • Mix of residential and open space, safe |
| • Location and natural beauty. | • Moderate growth rate that has raised revenue to continue to fund necessary services. |
| • Location and people | • Natural Beauty |
| • Location and size - a sweet, small town near a wonderful big city. Kind neighbors, lots of nature, and affordable houses. Great school system and services! | • Natural beauty |
| • Location and small town feel with access to resources | • Natural beauty - lakes, reservoir, forests |
| • Location between Leominster and Worcester, low crime and scenic | • Natural Resources |
| | • Natural resources and town services |
| | • Neighborhoods and schools |
| | • Neighborhoods, location, school system |
| | • Nice communities and the school system |
| | • Nice community. |
| | • Nice neighborhoods. |

RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q72 What is Holden's greatest strength?

• Over all the community is fantastic. The schools are good.	• People, schools
• Overall quality of life including size, schools, small businesses, town government.	• People, schools, location
• Parents choose to live here for the school district.	• People, size, not to commercial
• People	• People, tradition, structure
• People	• People. Location. Strong, vibrant, supportive and financial stable community
• People	• People/community
• people	• Police
• People	• Police & Fire, Schools
• People	• Police Department
• People	• Police, Fire, EMTs, DPW, HMLD
• People	• Poliece and Fire
• People	• primarily rural location in Central Massachusetts
• People	• Professional management and planning
• people	• Proximity to highways. People Affordable housing
• People	• Proximity to Worcester while retaining rural character
• People	• Pseudo small town, relative safety
• People	• Public safety
• People	• Public safety / emergency management
• People	• Public Safety and DPW
• People	• Public safety departments
• people	• Public safety, access to Worcester, Schools
• People	• Public servants
• People	• Public works, fire and police
• People	• Quality of life, safety, schools, location
• People	• Quiet safe town with good schools
• People - Town employees and volunteers	• quiet town
• people community	• Quiet, good schools
• People families	• Rec and school
• People with resources	• Reputation of WR school district.
• People, education, opportunity to enhance current main street	• Resident interest in the community
• People, family friendly, small town feel	• Responsible citizens
• People, neighborhoods, location, schools	• Roadways clear in winter due to town regulations
• People, schools	• Rural character

RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q72 What is Holden's greatest strength?

• Rural character	• Safety, sense of community, recreational facilities (pool), accessibility of Main Street, excellence of school system	• schools
• rural character	• Safety.	• Schools
• Rural character & attractive center	• Safety.	• Schools
• Safe community	• Safety. School.	• schools
• Safe community and near Worcester	• saftey	• Schools
• Safe community with caring people	• Scenic beauty	• Schools
• Safe Small New England Town	• School	• Schools
• Safe small town with good schools	• School	• schools
• Safe, Family oriented community	• School , recreation facilities, community activities, library	• schools
• safe, peaceful community	• School Large lot sizes	• schools
• Safe, small town with good small local businesses	• School district	• Schools
• Safe, small town, good schools	• school system	• Schools
• safety	• School System	• Schools
• Safety	• School system	• Schools
• safety	• School system	• Schools
• Safety	• School system	• Schools
• safety	• School system	• Schools
• safety	• School system	• Schools
• safety	• School system	• Schools
• Safety	• School system	• Schools
• Safety	• School system	• schools
• Safety	• School system Police department Light department Dpw	• Schools
• Safety and family environment	• School system and road clean up in the winter.	• Schools (which need some work) and the police department (though they are not very visible anymore).
• safety and pleasant neighborhoods with convenient access to stores and services	• School system. Sense of History, hopeful view of future.	• Safety...lived here my entire life and always felt safe. However, that is changing given the growth in Holden and all surrounding towns.
• Safety and quality of education	• Schools	• Schools , education, small town cerl
• Safety and school ratings.	• Schools	
• Safety and schools	• Schools	
• Safety, Location, Beauty, and Schools	• Schools	
• Safety, open space, not being over populated and cleanliness.	• Schools	
• safety, quaintness of town, accessibility of downtown for kids, diverse economic demographics	• Schools	

RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q72 What is Holden's greatest strength?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools and beauty of the spaces in town. • Schools and community • Schools and emergency facilities and personnel • Schools and location • schools and location • Schools and location • Schools and neighborhoods • Schools and People • Schools and police/fire/EMS • Schools and recreation • schools and recreation opportunities such as the pool (which is amazing). • Schools and small town feel • Schools and small town with easy access to bigger city amenities • Schools, but this is also the greatest challenge as our schools become too overcrowded. • schools, clean, first responders, infrastructure, commerce • Schools, community • Schools, community events • Schools, community spirit, walkability • Schools, community, location • schools, good public services • Schools, good sense of community • Schools, location • Schools, low crime, people • Schools, nice areas to live, safetytaxes • Schools, police, library, location, people • Schools, safety and sence of community. • Schools, sense of community • Schools, small town community • Schools, small town feel • Schools, small town outside of Worcester, semi-affordable housing as compared to Shrewsbury • Schools, town services | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools. It's inhabitants • Sense of a town • Sense of communitu • Sense of community • Sense of community • Sense of community Hard working school committee Grassroots organizations • Sense of community throughout town and within neighborhoods • Sense of community, keeping the town clean and quaint and incorporating community. • Sense of community, small town feel • Sense of community. Safety and education! • Sense of cummunity • Small Businesses along Main Street • Small family owned businesses • Small rural community feel, decent schools • Small size • Small size • Small town • Small town (& farm community) image near city of Worcester • Small town appeal with safety • Small town Atmosphere • Small town atmosphere • Small town atmosphere • Small town atmosphere. • Small town charm with terrific schools. • Small town charm, amenities Close to New England travel, entertainment venues • Small town charm, the people! • Small town charm. We should be doing more to increase foot traffic in the historic area and more festivals/community events |
|--|---|

RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q72 What is Holden's greatest strength?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small town community feel, good amenities and affordable housing • Small town community, history • Small town environment • Small town feel • Small town feel • small town feel • Small town feel • Small town feel • Small town feel • Small town feel and amazing school system • Small town feel and low population • Small town feel but close to major cities, great small businesses • Small town feel community • Small town feel near larger city (Worcester) • Small town feel next to big city • Small town feel with amenities of a big town
Recreation areas such as eagle lake Short commute to highway Education • Small town feel with distinct neighborhoods and balance of services meeting community needs including a commercial area that is not overrun with too many businesses • Small town feel with easy access to Worcester then Boston or points across New England (Location)
Housing affordability relative to points east. • Small town feel, beautiful scenery • small town feel, but close to larger town resources • Small town feel, good schools and services • Small town feel, independent businesses, affordable housing, prioritizing residents!! • Small town feel...keeping it's history alive. Great schools. Safety due to awesome fire and police! | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small town feeling • small town feeling, family oriented • Small town feeling, great schools • small town feeling, proximity to Wachusett Mtn., good schools • small town living • Small town living but close to everything • Small town living that offers high quality of living, good schools, effective use of tax revenue • Small town living. • Small town look and feel great schools and very safe • Small town size • Small town walkability • Small Town with historic character • Small town with strong sense of community. Safe and close to great Worcester restaurants. • Small town with very good schools • small town, community feel • Small town, rich history, natural lands • Small town, rural feel. Schools & recreation areas. Safe community. • Small town, safety. • Small town/agricultural community • Small, close knit town • Small, quaint community with access to Worcester and other Worcester public amenities (hospitals, stores like Target) and major routes of highways. • Staying a small rural community • strong community with adequate financial backing • strong education values; rural community • Strong schools , recreation, sense community |
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RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q72 What is Holden's greatest strength?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong Town Manager form of government • Strong, well balanced community- we're convenient to the highway and Worcester, we have decent services in town, and we balance it with a lot of nice community neighborhoods and open spaces. • The activities • The community • The community • The community and peace of mind • The community feel. • the community seems caring of eachother • The community spirit • The families • The history of a small town and the comradery and pride we have for our town. • The library, my neighborhood, the safe environment in which to raise children. • The natural beauty; the sense of a small town (that is rapidly changing) • The neighborhoods and people. • The people • the people • The people • The people • The people • The people • The people and sense of community • The people and that small town feel. • the people and the areas that bring us together as a community • The people in the community are amazing. Holden has an excellent safety record for being a suburb of Worcester. Keep investing in safety as it's the main reason I moved into town. We love the Holden pool also! • The people of Holden are amazing, and our natural beauty and small town charm are intoxicating. • The people work hard, are generous, charitable, and contribute to community and society. • The people, the schools, the pool | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The people. • The people. • The people. Lots of new families that was so see this town thrive! • The people. There is a really fantastic sense of community. • The potential for growth and the ability to control it. • The quality of the schools and the small town feel • The rural layout of the town. The absence of big box type stores. Small business along main street. • the school district • The school system and police dept. low crime rate, very safe town • The School System, its pool facility, and its perception of being affluent town. • The School systems and it is a great community. • The schools and its teachers. • The schools and proximity to Worcester, and the people • The schools are very good. • The schools. • The sense of community and small town feel. • The small town character of Holden • the small town feel and the quality of services the town is able to provide (police, fire, etc) • the small town with a good reputation. • The supportive community. • The value it placed on education. • Town government • Town manager and selectmen |
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RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q72 What is Holden's greatest strength?

- Vibrant town
- Vigilant policing, DPW, HMLD
- Wachusett Access to Worcester; don't need big stores in Holden as they are a few miles away in Worcester and can keep the smaller town fee
- Walkable safe downtown
- Was the people that lived here
- We have maintained a strong sense of history with respect for growing and changing needs.
- We just moved here in Oct. The people are very friendly. We love the location of our house. We are 0.5 mile from a fitness center, 1 mile from the restaurants and grocery store. I think the amount of grocery stores and gas stations in the area is perfect. Holden is clean. You do a great job clearing the roads in the winter (kudos to DPW). We love that the rail trail is close and like our proximity to Wachusett Mountain. We don't love the Main Street traffic. Fortunately We don't need to use Main Street to get to our house (we can go back roads). We do not have kids in the school system, however, I am an educator and believe it is important to maintain a great school system. I also believe sports, arts, music etc. is super important. Please don't build up Holden like Shrewsbury! You need to limit development. So glad we moved here.
- We moved to Holden because it is SAFE! Police have a very good reputation and statistics indicate they do an excellent job. Also although we don't have children, the schools are rated highly which I believe supports home values and general quality of life.
- We support our school system
- Welcoming community with excellent public resources, library, recreation options, schools and local organizations which focus on making Holden a better place to live
- Well managed govt and finances. Good schools. Low crime rate
- Wildlife, walking trails, open space, center of town with the small businesses.
- Wonderful people

RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q73 What is Holden's greatest challenge?

- How to increase revenue while retaining what we have Like many other towns in the Commonwealth Holden is finding it has an aging population and no real way to draw on the younger people who might pay taxes and increase the revenue Having too many rentals is a problem because all the tenants have kids in the schools and use up many resources in the town but put in very little back into the town.
- 1) Controlling Housing 2) School Budget
- 1. Economic development needed 2. Main street traffic congestion 3. Control taxes
- 1. Having competent members on committees. 2. Holden is known throughout the area for being very unfriendly towards businesses. This needs to change.
- 1.) growing small businesses (too many vacant commercial buildings for long periods of time) 2.) managing traffic
- 122A congestion
- A walkable town center! We need to drive everywhere. I want to ride my bike into the center for shopping and dinning.
- Abandoned buildings on Main Street. Find a way to repurpose The Blue Plate.
- Access to town.. why build it up when there's no easy way in and out.
- Accommodating growth vis a vis education and housing.
- Adequate planning for the future especially as relates to energy innovation and resilience in the face of climate disruption.
- Adequately funding education with a heavily residential tax base is quite the challenge. With limited access to 190/290 handicapping us from soliciting industry and business we are losing out on tax revenue that could enhance our town finances.
- Affordability.
- affordable housing
- affordable single family homes
- Affordable single family housing but also rapid development
- Aging population and the aging infrastructure, DPW, the Damon Building, Town Hall building all need replacing or major renovations to accommodate new technology, changing workplaces, public demands for information and response time, etc.
- allowing diversity.
- Amount of traffic on Main Street, no competition for Cable TV and only one grocery store in town.
- Appropriate funding for the schools.
- Appropriate growth planning.
- Attracting and keeping business on main street
- Attracting business from Worcester
- attracting communal and intellectual business to help balance the tax payer base ie lighten the residential burden

Answered: 642
Skipped: 337

RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q73 What is Holden's greatest challenge?

- Avoid large scale housing/condo/apartment developments
- Avoiding an over-development situation like what has happened in Shrewsbury. They at least have rt 9 to offset some tax burden, but putting a house on every old farm has destroyed the town's character.
- Avoiding becoming a town like Shrewsbury
- Balanced industry - unused properties on main st.
- Balancing 122a development and traffic control
- Balancing congestion with natural growth, and maintaining an affordable tax rate with the very high school budget at play.
- Balancing development of residential, commercial, etc. to generate a tax base that can support all town services while maintaining a small town character. Maintaining the quality of the school district.
- Balancing finances between town and schools.
- Balancing growth across all areas. One example is to limit McMansions that bring families in during school age without the balance of empty nest housing growth.
- Balancing growth and traffic/services
- Balancing life as we grow
- Balancing measured growth with maintaining small town feel. And the taxes are stupid high.
- Balancing the need to educate our children with the need to provide excellent town services
- Becoming more genuinely inclusive of diversity of people and needs
- Becoming too elitist due to preponderance of new housing being very high-end!
- Being affordable while still maintaining quality services
- Belonging to a large regional school district
- Beware of overdevelopment. From experience, it can be very disappointing.
- Bringing in revenue besides relying on taxes.
- Bringing in revenue with commerce or light industry without disrupting the "small town feel"
- Bringing in the RIGHT TYPES of new business Holden likes to think of itself as a high end community, Athletic fields need to be better as do recreation areas. Hire better professionals to create and maintain these areas (whoever manages the Holden pool does nice work, otherwise town fields and playgrounds are mediocre at best. My family and I tend to go to other communities for these purposes)
- Bringing more interesting businesses (and small farms) and managing single housing growth.
- Budget challenges to meet needs of WRSD annual budget increases
- Budget cuts to schools and over building of new houses
- Building lot sizes are too small and should be increased to decrease new housing as Holden is turning into a Boston suburb with traffic.

RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q73 What is Holden's greatest challenge?

- Building new house and traffic
- Building school that can be expand or re vampt
- Building to many houses and losing the county feel
- business growth
- Cable access is awful
- Center of town needs updating. Shopping, services, restaurants are seriously lacking.
- civic engagement
- Commitment from working class families. Most have moved or live here because they feel we have one of the best educational systems in the state and one of the best places to raise a family.
- commuter traffic
- Concerned about development of open space and keeping the small town charm.
- Congestion
- Congestion
- congestion
- Congestion & over-development
- Congestion ,over population
- Congestion + Speeding. Need another Market
- Congestion and lack of indoor activities for young people
- Congestion and strain on town services
- Congestion and traffic, especially that due to Rutland's continued expansion
- Congestion downtown
- Congestion in the center of town
- Congestion of increased population as well as vehicles
- Congestion while traveling.
- congestion, building, traffic!
- Congestion. Congestion in housing and the roads. Cut down on residential developing and pleaseee require at least an acre of land to build, Sterling requires two acres minimum.
- Congestion/over population.
- congestion/through traffic to Rutland
- Constant issues with the other towns in the school district not voting to pay their share of the school budget, which hurts the kids from the towns that do support it every year (i.e. Holden). I strongly favor exploring the possibility of leaving the school district.
- Continuing to fund the things that help to make our community great.
- continuing to maintain high standards of living, safety in community, etc. despite rising cost of living
- Continuing to support the schools
- Controlling growth

RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q73 What is Holden's greatest challenge?

- Controlling growth and revenue.
- Controlling growth to a level that allows the town to appropriately provide services to its residents and keeps the traffic to a more manageable level during peak times.
- controlling housing growth, housing growth is compromising the school system
- Controlling rapid growth and retaining open space. Also Main Street traffic
- Controlling rate of growth
- Controlling rising younger population relative to current school sizes
- Controlling the amount of traffic.
- controlling the building of developments (with multiple homes)
- Controlling the school district spending.
- Coping with congestion.
- coping with demanding + growing school budgets
- Coping with influx of new people and traffic
- Correcting the years of unchecked development and poor infrastructure development that have resulted in grossly overcrowded schools and terrible rush hour congestion through the town center.
- Cost to live here
- Costs sharing structure within Educational District
- Creating a walking environment where Main Street can be lined with quality boutique shops, coffee shops and restaurants to welcome others into our town for visits or possible relocation.
- Crowding, stop building!
- Cutting Taxes
- Declining affordability and loss of natural areas to development.
- Developing a "real" downtown on Main St without creating too much congestion. Attracting more light industrial/commercial employers.
- development
- Development (too many houses, need to fill empty store fronts)
- Development that doesn't destroy the town and its natural environment
- Difficulty maintaining small business industries who will be tax payers.
- Diversify in business
- Diversifying it's tax base , it's solely dependent on its residents
- Diversity and tolerance
- Diversity and vision/planning
- Diversity.
- Downtown traffic, lack of restaurant choices, overpopulation to some extent, too many new houses being built
- Drivers crossing solid white and double yellow line

RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q73 What is Holden's greatest challenge?

- Earning enough money to support the schools without ruining the small town feel. Bringing in businesses that will generate income without harming the town. Stopping the large growth boom that the schools and town services can no longer support.
- Economic development
- Economic development Managing farm animals in residential areas
- education
- Elderly physical activities like swimming.
- Electric company
- Encroachment of developers
- Ending the ridiculous pace of residential expansion.
- Entitled people who want taxes to pay for everything, the drain the district is on the budget
- ever increasing traffic, too many developments
- Expenses
- Exploding construction. Town government.
- Fairness to all citizens, equal treatment and care for all neighborhoods.
- Far too conservative! Not enough political diversity in the BOS crew
- Financial stability while supporting population's growing needs.
- Finding a balance between schools and town government. What both entities do is very important. They should not be pitted against one another. The schools should stop threatening cutting teachers and either cut some administrators or start thinking outside the box.
- Finding a way to manage increasing taxes while not putting the most of the burden on the residential community and maintaining the feel of the town and resources.
- Forget any growth in town and public transportation until the main street bypass issue is solved. That goes for bike lanes too!
- Forward thinking
- Funding a balanced budget.
- funding for education
- Funding for schools...overcrowding
- Funding quality education
- Funding schools
- Funding the schools adequately. Need to provide some more retail options that are currently only available in Shrewsbury/Westboro
- Funding the schools, Traffic congestion, affordable housing
- Future growth in an already established town.
- Future vision...is the town's focus to retain (and thus focus on) current residents? Or is it to keep attracting what brought most current folks here (ie, the things in 72 above)?

RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q73 What is Holden's greatest challenge?

- Generating revenue, you won't beat major commercial applications being so close to Worcester, but you will win on charm, value, and education. Solid investments today will provide returns later, but we must weather the tough financial weather in the meantime.
- Gentrification, over-development, lack of school funding, really long construction timelines
- Gentrification/New developments/Lack of affordable housing
- Getting business into the many "For Rent" vacant buildings on Holden main street. Suggest tax review of these buildings, as those looking to lease report no reply or refusal.
- Getting over populated
- getting too big and busy
- Getting too congested with new developments being created without consideration to community impact.
- Growing commercial/retail tax base
- Growing population
- Growing population and budget concerns
- Growing rate, staying a nice small town
- Growing small local businesses
- Growing the industrial and commercial tax base.
- Growing too fast
- Growing too large..Holden has lost its small town feel. Its roadways cannot handle the traffic in and out and it's schools are challenged in keeping class sizes down due to over population. We are a town not a city. All for change and growth but at what expense.
- Growing too rapidly with new , extremely large (excessive) houses. Expenses increasing for others (taxes, water, etc)
- growth
- growth
- growth
- growth
- GROWTH
- Growth and loss of open/green space to houses everywhere. Resistance to things like extra soccer fields & solar fields which results in growth of housing and increased strain on resources. No one wants taxes to go up to pay for services or schools but we keep adding housing without this bigger discussion to preserve the quality of live we expect and that draws people to our town. Open space and recreation opportunities need to be preserved. Also congestion in center of town.
- Growth and the cultural divide between the young families and the older population.
- Growth I think it's growing too much too many new developments.
- Growth management
- Growth Management
- growth management
- Growth management

RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q73 What is Holden's greatest challenge?

- Growth of town with out huge increase of residential tax's. Need more common retail space that provide convience to residents.
- Growth while maintaining it's small town character
- Growth, and housing affordability so young people can afford to stay in town.
- growth, maybe it should stay a small town, but at what cost?
- Growth. Too many new developments!
- growth. We need to stop cutting down every wooded area to put in yet another new housing development. I realize all of the new developments are legal but we need to figure out a way to slow them down. We also need some starter homes. I sound like an old crank but in the 30 years I've lived in Holden (I'm not a native to Holden nor to Central Mass) the growth is really changing the town. The brand new middle school is over capacity, the high school has numbers we haven't seen in decades. I know this sounds like "I've got mine now let's keep everyone out". Not what I mean at all. The growth just doesn't seem well-planned. I do realize there may not be anything that can be done about it with current zoning laws. And none of these new homes allow for seniors to down-size unless they have money and none of them are starter homes.
- Hard to get to, traffic on main st, no shopping!
- Having only 1 type of new housing stock
- Heavy traffic through the center of town
- High speed internet, need better options. Residents feel cheated by charter being only option. Needs affordable grocery in town.
- High taxes
- High taxes on home owners.
- Holden could have more restaurants, and perhaps a small community theater and/or more arts/cultural events. It's hard, since Worcester is so close and offers so much of this, but worth looking into. Also, a Farmers' Market for the southern side of town, since getting up to the one in the center of town at high-traffic times is very challenging.
- Holden is quickly becoming overbuilt by developers. We have almost completely lost the "small town" feel. I've lived here for 30+ years and can't believe that there are no regulations in place to stop all the building and destruction of our beautiful town.
- Holden's entire atmosphere seems targeted at the older population. If Holden wants to grow it will have to start appealing to young people who are moving in to the area to work in Worcester or Boston.
- Holden's greatest challenge is Main Street. I think is unappealing for visitors (and residents) to see the number of vacant buildings in such an affluent town.
- Holden's greatest challenge is the seemingly uncontrolled population growth in Rutland that adversely Holden as a town; the traffic coming out of Rutland grows every year, causing major traffic backups. I also believe that the development of new subdivisions in Holden needs to be slowed - this influx affects town services more quickly than the town can adjust to the needs of these new homes.

RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q73 What is Holden's greatest challenge?

- Holden's identity-Holden has great potential to become a quaint New England town that attracts visitors, however much intentional work is to be done to achieve this. Currently, Holden feels compartmentalized-the old section of town (Town Hall, library, etc.) is the quaint part, but the rest of Main Street lacks identity with its mixture of cute, plain looking buildings, and run down buildings. Focusing on "beautifying" the appearance of businesses on Main Street would help dramatically and implementing a central community park as a focal point of town would be exceptional! It seems the Senior Center lawn is Holden's communal space for gatherings and events right now, but it feels forced and thrown together. That space has great potential if the open space/land surrounding the Senior Center were used as a community park. Ideally, that park would include accessible walking trails for people and dogs, picnic areas, community stage for events, playground area, central shaded area with benches and landscaping, etc. The baseball field in that area is not necessary, we have lots of other field space in Holden already, and could be turned into a space more functional to all of Holden residents. In general, protecting and expanding a central space in town where the community can gather and enjoy as a multi-functional park is very valuable in Holden's identity as a family town.
- Housing affordability and over development. Senior housing/transportation
- How to be a successful community for its diverse population. Recognize its strengths and stop trying to be everything for everyone.
- How to improve
- I think that Holden needs either main roads that can handle the volume of traffic at rush hours or a way around Holden center. Congestion at rush hour is frustrating to say the least.
- politicians
- Improved access to high paying jobs east of Worcester. Without improved access to high paying jobs in metrowest by way of thoughtful regional planning and very quick access to 290 from Holden on a controlled access road, the town will struggle to attract and keep educated highly skilled populations, its tax base will erode, and the schools will lose ground on funding. This turn would draw a new group to Holden, similar to those who moved to Auburn from Worcester over the last 20 years. Its trajectory would then unfortunately be set in a downward reinforcing path.
- Improving and maintaining natural areas. Development is nearing excessive and that can dramatically change the overall quality of town life. I'm an "old fart" and have sadly seen it in other towns. Not looking to "exclusivity" but clear priorities (as this survey may suggest is needed)
- Improving our school district that continues to degrade and undercuts the attractiveness of our town
- Improving schools while also supporting other important services. Convincing people that paying taxes is a good thing.
- Improving town center
- Improving traffic flow, keeping school budgets within reason, ensuring new growth is done wisely, maintain our public facilities
- Inability to be innovative, fiscally conservative nature of officials, unwillingness to change and realize that the population has changed.
- Inclusiveness and open to diversity

RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q73 What is Holden's greatest challenge?

- Increase in students at schools
- Increased congestion and population
- Increased traffic + too much building of subdivisions/homes
- Increasing ethnic diversity in town while limiting new residential development
- Increasing revenue without jeopardizing the feel of the town.
- Increasing sidewalks to allow pedestrians and bikers to safely navigate the town, more options for off leash dog hiking trails/walking path.
- infrastructure
- Infrastructure growth. Roads water sewer
- Infrastructure strains caused by future growth, business and residential.
- Infrastructure to handle growth
- It is growing so rapidly (so many new housing developments) it needs a plan to keep up with the growth and preserve open space.
- It's own government.
- Its leadership trying to make it into something it isn't.
- It's location - upwards of 15 min from Worcester makes it out of the way for people living there
- Its population rise. Must increase plot size restrictions on new homes. Should think about creating electric vehicle charging stations near town center.
- Just moved here. Couldn't say
- Justifying the amount of money we put into police, their vehicles to have them sit and do speed and other type of traps as their job.
- Keeping builders from governing our town
- Keeping from becoming a town that just tears down all of its trees to build houses.
- Keeping Holden the town we love with expected growth and expansion
- Keeping it a town, no more expansion. No more housing. Keep it beautiful
- keeping it affordable for the middle class
- Keeping its conservative roots
- keeping living here affordable
- Keeping open spaces at a premium and curing the rampant residential building.
- Keeping people connected and making it possible for people to age in place by providing affordable assistance to those who need it and transportation for daily living needs like shopping, appointments, and indoor exercise options for people of all ages..... More local transportation so that seniors and young people can reach appointment, town facilities and services without cars. With so much to offer it is a shame that many in our community are unable to take advantages of all the opportunities because of things that limit their ability to participate.

RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q73 What is Holden's greatest challenge?

- Keeping schools top priority and competitive In need of Retail, Restaurants, Entertainment (for adults and children) etc.
- Keeping taxes affordable to those on a fixed income.
- Keeping taxes low
- Keeping the amount of money spent on the schools down.
- Keeping the open space and preserve land for nature rather than overbuilding and making people want to leave.
- Keeping the small town feel when they build on every inch of space
- Keeping up with all new housing construction and the influx of new residents. Lots of traffic and resources being used up. Can the town sustain itself?
- keeping up with growth
- Keeping up with growth. Holden is becoming a destination.
- Keeping up with the growing population
- keeping up with the times regarding business, retail and schools
- Keeping up with the tremendous growth we are experiencing. More families means more services are required be it schools, police, fire etc. New development must be addressed.
- Keeping vandals out of town
- Knowing when enough is enough with all the new housing. We are getting overcrowded.
- Lack of a town center
- Lack of accountability of poor teachers in the schools and the school superintendent not seeming to care about citizens' concerns.
- Lack of in town variety for stores/restaurants/supermarkets
- Lack of pedestrian access to the schools, recreation areas, and downtown area from the neighborhoods via the main roads. Far too much vehicle traffic for the overburdened, windy, and narrow roads.
- Lack of recreational facilities for adults, including an indoor pool with guaranteed adult swim times of more than ten minutes. Lack of swim opportunities at the existing town pool for adults. The town pool should be reserved for town residents who pay for its maintenance, as opposed to people from other towns.
- Lack of space at schools-too much new building.
- Lack of strong, town-wide vision/identity
- Large class sizes not enough sidewalks
- less taxes, housing, traffice, more town events and town committment
- Like all communities in MA, taxes continue to go up while towns struggle to provide quality services. I consider Holden to be an affluent town, when compared to surrounding towns, yet there are plenty of people living here that may be forced to leave in the future because of risings costs.

RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q73 What is Holden's greatest challenge?

- Limited resources such as grocery stores, clothing stores, commercial rental space for small businesses.
- Limiting growth!!
- Limiting residential growth. Schools are crowded. We don't need more houses and condo type living here. Dawson is especially crowded.
- location
- Location
- Main roads are not in great shape and construction on them seems to take forever.
- main st traffic congestion, un-occupied properties on main st
- Main St traffic, lack of competition for gas and groceries. Balancing development even in neighboring communities and traffic.
- Main Street sucks and the lack of business development around town is not good.
- Main street traffic.
- Maintaining a school budget that supports the schools. Maintaining natural resources like Eagle Lake. Building more town spirit.
- Maintaining a small town atmosphere and preserving open space.
- Maintaining a small-town feel, attracting younger families, overpopulation in schools
- Maintaining affordability of housing and quality of schools. That, and the traffic. OMG the traffic.
- Maintaining affordable tax rates. Commercial growth only, no more housing developments
- Maintaining current level of development while still meeting financial obligations.
- maintaining good quality of schools and keeping the cost of living within reach for all ages.
- Maintaining good schools in the face of those who have no value for education
- Maintaining high property value
- maintaining its recreational resources
- Maintaining its strengths
- Maintaining natural beauty
- Maintaining our schools. We are at or above capacity! Maintaining the small town charm. We need to stop building more new homes!
- maintaining restrictions on low-income housing, residential treatment housing, apartments
- Maintaining schools vs services (fire, police, DPW) with an increasing population
- Maintaining small class sizes
- maintaining small town feel
- Maintaining the commercial tax base.
- Maintaining the reason why parents choose to live here.

RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q73 What is Holden's greatest challenge?

- Maintaining the small town feel by limiting residential growth which is decimating open areas and flooding our streets and schools with additional traffic and students. Also, don't turn Main Street into an over commercialized zone.
- Maintaining the small town feel, managing the growth and staying affordable for young families to move here.
- Maintaining the small town mentality.
- Maintaining the strength of its schools while still developing the community.
- Make it more pedestrian friendly, please. Sidewalks on 122A.
- Making it a truly desirable place to live
- Making sure that racism is never allowed in this town.
- Making the town walkable like when I was a kid, lots of traffic and speeding drivers now
- Manage growth to continue to have an amazing community and continue to have green space
- Managed growth, infrastructure needs to grow with population, need more amenities to attract new residents
- Managemnet of growth in a fiscally responsible manner.
- managing growth
- Managing growth
- Managing Growth
- Managing growth
- Managing growth in a thoughtful way. This survey should be a tremendous help.
- managing new development/growth so services are not stretched thin and forests are preserved
- Managing population growth, the need for industrial revenue and Main Street traffic.
- Managing the growth. I see more houses being built but worry that revenues and public services, especially schools and town budgets, will not keep up with the growth.
- McMansions
- McMansions and subdivisions
- More points of entry from major access routes other than Araratt/Brattle St and Mountain St. Relieving Main St congestion.
- More revenue
- Natural resources.
- Nay-saying "fiscal conservatives" who don't believe in investing in the future.
- need economic development; ripe with opportunity along Main St.
- Need more shopping and revenue from small business
- Need more sidewalks
- New commercial and residential development without rehabilitation of existing buildings and homes first
- New construction.
- New housing developments

RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q73 What is Holden's greatest challenge?

- No "main street". A place where folks gather/shop/dine. Would be nice to create that, maybe in pockets along main st.
- Not enough business (retails, restaurants, Starbuck's, Trader Joe's, etc); which manifests itself in many ways. Such as, a lack of commercial tax base creates constant budget problems for the school district, or tax increases for residential homeowners; residents have to drive to Worcester, Shrewsbury, or Northborough for critical mass of desired shops and restaurants which means constant congestion in the center of town.
- Not enough commercial space in town
- Not enough independent retail stores and restaurants & traffic
- Not enough new clothing retail, general gifts, Starbucks-like cafes or trendy restaurants. We used to have Heather Shop, and Fashion Bug (many years ago) now that is gone too, no place to quick go for pick-up of a gift or fun/modern retail space/dining. Have to go all the way to Northboro, Marlboro or Sutton.
- not enough sidewalks in residential areas, needs more apartments/affordable housing
- NOT ENOUGH SPACE FOR BUSINESSES
- not overbuilding residential property (like Rutland)
- Not pricing out single people (old and young) with no children in the schools
- Not sure about this one...but I would think it would be keeping property taxes low given that you do not have a lot of commercial and industrial tax revenue coming in.
- Not to get too overgrown
- Obviously growth. It's fun seeing businesses come up in town and places to actually hang out after work or on the weekend. Yes I have noticed traffic increasing. I think we need to manage our growth wisely.
- Offering services for low taxes
- open Space
- opening to other visitors and growing with the change while maintaining its charm and history
- Options for restaurants and lack of delivery via food delivery apps.
- Out of control water, sewer, taxes
- Out-of-control growth.
- Over building of homes
- Over building of single family homes.
- over building,traffic
- over development
- Over development
- Over development creating a huge burden on the schools, finding new revenue sources by diversifying the tax base.
- Over populating the town and thus its schools as well. Through traffic to Rutland as it is over expanding, which will lead to another problem, our school district

RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q73 What is Holden's greatest challenge?

- Over population - stop building developments!
- Over population/increasing school costs!
- Overbuilding of homes/crowding of schools/change in school finance formula Need for Industrial tax base
- Overcrowding
- Overcrowding
- Overcrowding
- Overcrowding to many houses are being built
- overdevelopment
- Overdevelopment of subdivisions causing school crowding. Lack of desirable small businesses (retail, restaurants, services)
- Overgrowth
- Overgrowth. Schools seem taxed due to new developments.
- Over-population, new housing
- Overpopulation. This affects everything including congestion and traffic, and it is starting to affect our schools. Classes that are too large affect instruction and are hard on teachers. Good teachers will leave to find smaller student loads. Class sizes may appear to be okay (20-25) on the surface, but at Mountview Middle School, one teacher has 6 classes a day and close to 140 students to teach and grade.
- Oversized 3 bedroom mcmanions.
- Patient drivers
- Places for 30-40 yr olds to meet up after work
- Planning for more private housing and sewer and electric
- Please reduce industrial and even commercial. Holden has great Main Street feel with the lampposts, Historic buildings. Keep it feeling historical and maintain open space and recreational space that helps people enjoy the open space. Allow a small restaurant to move onto the edge of a park, and allow live music--for example, BBQ weekly with live music to help community gather and enjoy open space. We drive to Sterling every Thursday and Saturday for an outdoor BBQ + music at Meadosbrook Orchard and for ice cream on a farm. Holden offerings are inside restaurants or in more commercial spaces or on busy streets (Meolas). If we had nicer outdoor spaces where we could spend money to support local business while enhancing our time outdoors, I would rather do so in Holden! Whitefish Bay has a great weekly Biergarten with local bands or local kids music group performances. Let's think creatively with local businesses (food trucks? Catered events? Performance groups?) to enhance use of our open and natural spaces. Let's reduce industry and move toward stronger open space, community-based, creative business opportunities and traditions.
- Police department
- Politics
- Poor traffic control & over development.
- Population control. No more apartment style housing, or you end up like Shrewsbury, bursting at the seams with regards to school, traffic, etc.

RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q73 What is Holden's greatest challenge?

Population control. Too much building will compromise quality of already overcrowded schools

population growth

Population growth and supporting the schools

Population growth.

Population growth/traffic & LED street lights

Population rising too fast. Not enough services to handle it.

Possible off ramp 190 southbound between Malden St and exit 3.

Probably not the biggest challenge but Jefferson feels like it's not really part of Holden. Eagle Lake totally underutilized. Not very welcoming. Roads poor. With icy roads Causeway to 122A a challenge each and every day. Very dangerous. The administration building/ECC preschool parking lot is beyond ridiculous during rainy days especially. Very unsafe parking lot with tight parking and all the preschoolers. School and staff amazing though.

Properly funding public education since some of the other towns continually choose to not fully fund each years budget.

Protected growth

Protecting open spaces. Affordable single family homes. Keeping taxes reasonable.

Providing everything we need without making it too expensive

Providing good schools and good athletic facilities

Provincial, short sighted town government.

Quality of education has been slipping. Town's approach to any capital project is over build. Look at public safety building, all the extra space on the Fire Station side. All the extra architecture, add to costs, later maintenance, etc. Costs are pricing many seniors out of their houses and the town.

Rapid growth

Rapid growth and school budget concerns forcing parents to consider private schools

Recreational facilities

Reducing the residential tax rate - need to work on economic development. Improve on availability of water and sewer.

Remaining affordable

Remaining sewer capacity

Renting empty buildings

Residential Expansion: needs to be slowed, overflowing schools etc that come with it and loss of wooded areas

Residential growth/congestion

Residential lot sizes should be a lot larger

RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q73 What is Holden's greatest challenge?

- Restaurants are poor quality. Need chefs not production food. Need small shops for novelty items, unique goods, toy store, etc.
- Restricting housing development to retrain rural character
- revenue
- Revenue
- Revisit options for a bypass to major highway routes to ease Holden's traffic congestion. Increasing traffic is prohibitive to commercial operations along Main Street and a deterrent to those who would be patrons of these businesses.
- Rising home prices, too many new developments
- Rising housing developments will change the look and feel of the community and increase congestion and crime rate
- Rising population
- Rising real estate taxes with little visible improvement. Empty Main Street businesses. Rapidly rising population that will overcrowd schools
- Rising school assessments
- rising taxes and cost of living cost of services limited access to cost saving options (solar power)
- Rising taxes.
- Road access to highways
- roads
- Roads
- Roads and proactive ideas
- Roads/Sidewalks/Congestion
- Rush hour traffic on Main Street
- School committee and school budget
- School crowding
- School district. Not enough per pupil expenditures
- School enrollment too high
- School funding
- School funding, Main Street traffic, and empty real estate on Main Street
- school vs municipal funds - both are essential, but we tend to polarize unnecessarily instead of working together
- Schools
- Schools
- schools
- Schools are getting worse and finance committee is run by anti tax republicans
- School's finances

RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q73 What is Holden's greatest challenge?

- Schools need funding Traffic
- Sewer and water rates
- Sidewalks
- Sidewalks on 31
- slowing growth while maintaining revenue
- Sometimes people here have a bad attitude. Not sure I really want to retire here.
- space in schools, too much construction in town
- spending
- Staying a small town, not "selling out" (Shrewsbury)
- Staying this way while maintaining financial stability.
- Stop growing residential, keep the children entertained. Keep clean!
- Stopping all the housing development that is a drain on our limited water resources.
- Stopping the growth!
- Subdivisions
- Subdivisions
- Suburban sprawl. Loss of open space
- Sufficiently funding education across all grade and school levels. Please make our schools desirable places for our students to learn again. For a town as strong as Holden in so many ways, we should not be at the bottom end of the school funding scale. Our kids deserve better!
- Sustainability
- Taming traffic
- Tax base, need more industry and less houses.
- Tax rate/expense.
- Taxes
- taxes
- Taxes and housing developments
- Taxes and lack of professional government i.e., selectmen with special interests, not the interests of EVERYONE in the town.
- Taxes going up for Mountview and DPW facility with few commercial properties to help bear the burden. The DPW facility is absolutely necessary and I agree with the idea that we need adequate indoor storage to protect capital assets. I work in municipal government, so I understand and agree with the arguments made. However, I still think the cost is excessive, given the other DPW facilities I've seen built around this State for less money.
- Taxes, unregulated growth, traffic flow
- Taxes. Debt exclusions will drive retirees out because they do not need the schools. They will be replaced by young families who will need more services. Additionally, more single family home developments will do the same.

RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q73 What is Holden's greatest challenge?

- Taxing home owners, lack of commercial sources of taxation.
- The apartment building on quinpoxet street. The distance from 495/128 loops
- The building codes in town that make it difficult to attract new businesses
- The congestion on Main Street, the abandoned properties on Main Street, run down playgrounds, no choice for alternative internet providers, the low per-student school budget.
- The elected officials unwillingness to change/ this is not a small farm community anymore
- The empty businesses on Main St, especially the long term empty buildings are an eyesore as well as the condition of many business..in need of painting, updating, etc. Holden needs to be "business friendly". Too much residential growth esp along Salisbury St. Do we reAlly need to build in every empty space?
- The excessive growth of town, ticky tacky neighborhood with houses being built on top of eachother on less than a quarter of an acre...thus contributing to the amount of students we have going to an already gigantic regional system that is severely underfunded for its size.
- The fast that did nothing to help out residents regarding Eagle Lake until Tim Either raised the concern
- The historic district/downtown should really focus on a future design plan to prevent the area from losing its charm (which is currently happening). The town must strike a balance between progress/change with preservation and maintaining the historic area feel, if that makes sense. Downtown Holden has ENORMOUS potential - after living in PA, NY, and VA, I know this - but the charm of Rutland/Princeton is being lost in Holden. I grew up in Hershey, PA, and REALLY appreciate how they've encouraged biz development while also staying true to their roots with tasteful, consistent design, largely due to a thoughtful plan. They have COMPLETELY changed their downtown in the last 10 years - and yes, I know in a way, it's an apples and oranges comparison, given the HUGE tourism industry there - but Holden could take a page out of their book when considering the downtown's future.
- The intertwined issues of the schools and residential growth. The schools are one of the town's greatest strengths, but many Holdenites seem reluctant to invest in them, especially when so many families are moving into Holden. The schools used to be terrific, but have been coasting on that reputation while budgets have been cut and overall school performance has declined due to lack of investment.
- The monster some call 'development' that is actually undevelopment a reversal of the good for the less good or the worse or the outright bad. Please leave a little of the character of this town in place for the next generation, that's a challenge.
- The over building. In the 4 years we have lived here so much land has been turning into subdivision. It is disturbing the wild life.
- The people
- The perception that economic growth solves problems without creating new ones.
- The residential areas being constructed are out of control. They raise costs for all services-schools, fire, police, road maintenance, water, etc without adding on off-setting tax base. Housing developments don't increase the town's income, businesses do. STOP BUILDING HOUSES!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q73 What is Holden's greatest challenge?

- The restrictions mad by committees
- The school budget is unsustainable and eating into services
- The school budget! Get it DOWN!
- the school budget, what holden pays vs other towns in district
- The schools
- The tax base is not sufficiently diversified, which results in some residents living on fixed incomes having difficulty affording their property taxes, which are an important aspect financial support for the schools and other town services. We need more small businesses in town to diversify the tax base.
- The town center crosswalk lights for pedestrians are extremely long and frustrating to wait for. Traffic during rush hour can get very backed up. Holden needs a community park/playground.
- The town has become too congested and busy. It is too built up now and I wish there was more open space.
- The Traffic and also no regard when it comes to speeding in residential areas.....
- The ugly town center. It really could be so cute and attractive. The traffic on Main
- They are putting developments everywhere. We need to protect out wooded areas and stop with the congestion
- To avoid becoming what Shrewsbury is now
- To decide what a thriving small New England town should look like and how to get to that. Personally, I like the idea of a quaint Main St. or even just a kind of artsy area off the main drag (I'm thinking of something like Peterboro, N.H.) At the same time, be aware that our future is our children at both local and national levels, and we need to educate them and empower them.
- To develop a comprehensive plan for future revenue growth and to find efficiencies in existing programs to best expend allocated funds.
- To keep it a small town with updated services and prevent it from being choppy and honky tonk looking. Most towns have a colonial theme with their structures. Holden looks like it has no unification in design. It's not an attractive town.
- To maintain the character of Holden so we don't burst at the seams. Improving what we have does not mean we need to grow by 1000's
- TO MANY HOUSE'S/TRAFFIC
- To many people
- To much building destroying landscape and wetlands. Not accounting for resources such as water, sewer, schools or police. Speeding traffic.
- To not outgrow our few remaining open spaces and put overdue burdens on town services and schools.
- To stay a small town, not turning Main Street into a route 9 in Shrewsbury. Staying with local business', not big companies.
- to stop the overcrowding of our schools. By keeping the building sub-division permits at the lowest we possibly can.

RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q73 What is Holden's greatest challenge?

- Too many homes being built and the safety services, schools and water/electricity can't keep up with it. There are too many empty businesses along Main street that have been empty for years. Commercial taxes must not be high enough if it's cheaper to pay the tax every year instead of taking a lower rent from a potential business. There is too much traffic and side roads and neighborhoods are used as "cut offs" and short cuts making them unsafe for kids to play outside. The bottom line is that we want people to come to Holden, but we can't fit them and adequately take care of them, and unfortunately those of us who have lived here our whole lives are the ones paying for and putting up with things for the "new" generation that we could never get ourselves.
- Too many houses on postage stamp lots increasing the number of kids in schools making tax rate too high.
- TOO many houses that are new and exorbitant without regard for school costs and congestion.
- Too many new single family homes will cause long term traffic and school issues. My children went to Dawson and I saw overcrowding with my youngest child that i did not see with my older two. The middle school is already quite full and more homes are being built.
- too many new subdivisions and over-55 developments
- Too many new subdivisions. Increasing population and the inability to provide services for all of them.
- too many people in too small of a space
- Too much building too fast. Congestion on Main st during commuting hours
- Too much building!
- too much building, need to stop the housing developments, crowded schools
- Too much development of residential homes. Our schools cannot handle the growth! Lacking another affordable grocery store.
- Too much growth
- Too much growth
- Too much growth (overpopulation and destroying natural habitats).
- too much growth, too much traffic,
- Too much new building, too many overpriced cookie cutter homes that have destroyed the natural beauty of a once lovely, small, rural New England town.
- Too much new housing developments. New neighborhoods have no character... buildings all look exactly alike and are extremely close together. Schools are getting crowded and the money coming in from property taxes isn't adequately funding the student population.
- Too much population expansion without infrastructure updates
- Too much residential development
- Too much residential development further straining limited resources
- Too much residential growth without limit or plans for accommodation.
- Too much traffic! Lack of control on growth of housing Needs better access to Eastern MA
- TOO MUCH TRAFFIC, people using streets like racetracks and nothing being done about it. The other is the quality of the teachers at WRHS is going down, treating the kids poorly.

RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



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RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

• Too much traffic. Property taxes	• traffic
• Too rapid of growth, traffic, and impacts on school system	• Traffic
• Town budget containment	• Traffic
• Town vision execution of wants and needs of residents. Takes to many meetings to get things accomplished	• traffic
• traffic	• Traffic
• traffic	• Traffic
• traffic	• Traffic
• Traffic	• Traffic
• traffic	• Traffic
• traffic	• Traffic
• Traffic	• Traffic
• Traffic	• Traffic
• Traffic	• Traffic
• Traffic	• Traffic
• traffic	• Traffic population growth
• traffic	• Traffic & Schools
• traffic	• Trafficit takes me 20 minutes to get out of town to get to a highway, I spend too much time sitting in the “parade” of traffic because there is only 1 road in and 1 road out of town
• traffic	• Traffic and an aging population
• Traffic	• Traffic and changing technologies
• Traffic	• Traffic and empty stores
• Traffic	• Traffic and expanding home development/s
• traffic	• Traffic and housing developments. Rutland's growth will exponentially increase traffic on Main St.
• traffic	• Traffic and Internet provider
• traffic	• Traffic and keeping up with current technology. Town should have an app and Fios or something along those lines.
• Traffic	• traffic and more speed control
• traffic	• Traffic and narrow roads
• Traffic	• Traffic and overdevelopment
• traffic	• Traffic and overpopulation
• Traffic	• Traffic and people trying to tell us how to feel or vote. When people in town try to meddle in private affairs.
• traffic	• Traffic and starting to get congested
• Traffic	• Traffic and taxes
• traffic	• traffic and taxes
• Traffic	• Traffic and taxes
• Traffic	• TRAFFIC and the building of outrageously priced housing.

RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q73 What is Holden's greatest challenge?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic and too many houses being built with little land • Traffic and too much growth (fast) • traffic and water quality and school functionality at a proper cost • Traffic business diversity. • Traffic coming through town • Traffic congestion • traffic congestion • Traffic congestion • Traffic congestion • traffic congestion - mainly all 122A to shrewsbury st. • Traffic generations from Holden & other towns and flows into 122A (Rt. 68, princeton St. Rte. 31, Salisbury St) The buses to and from WRHS add another 30-40 vehicles along with student and faculty vehicles during commuter hours. The major area is all main st 122A to shrewsbury st. • Traffic congestion and keeping lower income housing out. • Traffic congestion and over population • traffic congestion and taxes • traffic congestion main streets, to and from • Traffic congestion! • Traffic congestion, lack of restaurants (other than pizza) • Traffic congestion. • Traffic congestion. • Traffic Conjestion • Traffic control • Traffic control, development of business to provide increase tax base, Increase apartments, condo, limit some development of single family housing. • Traffic during rush hour • Traffic especially along Rt. 122A • Traffic flow. Too much growth...Wachusett is over capacity, can't get around anymore. The theme through this entire survey should be that of frustration as someone who has lived here all my life. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic for new housing developments. • Traffic jams • Traffic needs to be more walkable and attract more relevant current commercial • Traffic on 122A • traffic on Main st • Traffic on Main Street • Traffic on Main Street • Traffic on Main Street at all times of the day. Internet options!! • Traffic on Main Street, Keeping Eagle Lake available for free for outdoor activities, swimming, nature learning and observance, fishing, kayaking etc. • traffic on main street, sprawl, loss of nature due to development • Traffic on Rte 122A - Better access to major routes • Traffic planning • Traffic problems along main Street all the way to the middle school. • Traffic supporting school • Traffic through the center of town during commute times. • Traffic uncontrollable growth • Traffic! Please commission a traffic study of Main Street. • TRAFFIC!!!! • Traffic, availability of places for teenagers (they could use something like a skate park) • Traffic, empty commercial buildings along Main Street • Traffic, especially during rush hours & during the school year • Traffic, funding its schools! • Traffic, housing • Traffic, housing growth |
|---|--|

RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q73 What is Holden's greatest challenge?

- Traffic, the traffic is horrible. Period
- Traffic, too many single family homes, not enough housing for single and elderly people and not enough business. Main Street looks bad with empty business buildings.
- Traffic, unoccupied buildings on Main Street, needs more small businesses.
- Traffic.
- Traffic. Continued growth in Holden and Rutland will continue. Plans need to be made.
- Traffic. I faint! My out-of-town friends constantly complain!!
- Traffic. It's boring.
- Traffic. Loss of open space/wetlands
- Traffic/lack of free wifi
- Traffic. Speed, noise. More than police can handle. Neighborhood cut thru road use
- Transportation - traffic, public transportation, walkability
- Trying to be a better suburb of Worcester while maintaining small town charm and aesthetic.
- Trying to maintain a reasonable tax rate
- Turning the Main Street of town into someplace that people would like to go
- Uncontrolled residential growth.
- unrestrained growth
- Up bringing + training children for the future
- Upkeep on roads Prioritizing fund allocation Eagle lake and the damn
- Very few sidewalks on major roads
- Walk-ability for our families beyond our pockets of neighborhoods. Residential building needs to be reviewed for financial long term viability. Additional commercial tax base needed to support our schools based on current population (let alone future residential population based on building projects already underway).
- Walkability. Needs a more appealing town center. Few restaurants.
- water demand, traffic congestion
- Water. Traffic on main street at commute times
- Way too much residential development
- We are building too many homes! The schools are over crowded and the building has not stopped. Retirees are moving out and small families (1-5 kids) are moving in.
- We don't look as good as we are. Many local businesses, especially along Main St., look very tired and run down. To the outside observer, we are a community that doesn't really care. Holden needs a makeover, perhaps starting with a downtown revitalization. It's encouraging to see businesses like Sweets n'Java, Seven Saws, Meola's, and Vintage Retrivers. Visitors need a reason to come here, and residents need a reason to spend their discretionary income locally without driving to Worcester.
- -We need more businesses -Traffic

RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q74 General comments, questions, or concerns (OPTIONAL)

- Many small items needing attention. Don't get attention or drag on and on. More observation & reporting needs to be done by taxpayer and employees alike (DPW, Light, Police, Committee Members)(Potholes, line of sight intersections, limbs on wires, poor drainage, speeders). Count on us to care. Show that we care. All in all - Great Job. Holden is a great town. Been here since 2 years old. great place to have kids. Now, as retirees, & money limited, its taxes are high. Could we stop or do more control on house building that puts extra tax on water, sewer, home taxes, school, etc. Don't tax out the elder population.
- I would love to be more involved in the town but find it hard to find information. I don't get the newspaper in the town website doesn't ever seem to answer my questions. Maybe a Facebook page could be created specifically for people to announce / remind of meetings and other events like that ?
- 1. Recycling Center needs more open hours 2. Senior Center offer coffee every day for socialization - self serve 0 like Sterling. Could have many more programs like Sterling Senior Center and Worcester 3. Find some grant money to clean up brownfields along Main St. to allow for development. 1) Beside Lawton Eye, 2) Old Village Repair site, 3) Blue plate lot
- 1. Town management needs to make more efficient use of financial resources 2. Dose the DPW need all new trucks?
- 1. What about services for elderly? 2. Holden is all about children and schools. That's where the tax money goes. 3. How about competition for Big Y!!
- Absolutely need to clean up non-residents from being able to access the Holden pool. Also need to stop building new house in town. So many existing homes still for sale.
- Allow everyone to have chickens and goats. This is a right to farm community
- Appreciate the opportunity to have my opinions be heard
- As Holden develops its infrastructure, careful attention must be paid to complying with standards for accessibility to people with disabilities, including elderly people who have challenges with mobility and other concerns.
- Committee's somehow need to be made more appealing. Past experience has left an impression that public meeting communication is poor. There appear to be too many members that want to talk and not truely listen. In fairness, it has been a few years since I last attended a meeting but have heard the same opinions from others.
- Concerned about 87 home Blair development on Union St with access from Union St only and detriment to water quality of Unionville pond below.
- continue to keep Holden a safe town
- Dawson Elementary is really space challenged and this end of town doesn't stop growing (house construction!.)
- Did a LOT of research when choosing a town to live in. Chose Holden for reputation of low crime and good schools.
- Difficult task. Good Luck

Answered: 241
Skipped: 738

RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



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- Many small items needing attention. Don't get attention or drag on and on. More observation & reporting needs to be done by taxpayer and employees alike (DPW, Light, Police, Committee Members)(Potholes, line of sight intersections, limbs on wires, poor drainage, speeders). Count on us to care. Show that we care. All in all - Great Job. Holden is a great town. Been here since 2 years old. great place to have kids. Now, as retirees, & money limited, its taxes are high. Could we stop or do more control on house building that puts extra tax on water, sewer, home taxes, school, etc. Don't tax out the elder population.
- I would love to be more involved in the town but find it hard to find information. I don't get the newspaper in the town website doesn't ever seem to answer my questions. Maybe a Facebook page could be created specifically for people to announce / remind of meetings and other events like that ?
- 1. Recycling Center needs more open hours 2. Senior Center offer coffee every day for socialization - self serve 0 like Sterling. Could have many more programs like Sterling Senior Center and Worcester 3. Find some grant money to clean up brownfields along Main St. to allow for development. 1) Beside Lawton Eye, 2) Old Village Repair site, 3) Blue plate lot
- 1. Town management needs to make more efficient use of financial resources 2. Dose the DPW need all new trucks?
- 1. What about services for elderly? 2. Holden is all about children and schools. That's where the tax money goes. 3. How about competition for Big Y!!
- Absolutely need to clean up non-residents from being able to access the Holden pool. Also need to stop building new house in town. So many existing homes still for sale.
- Allow everyone to have chickens and goats. This is a right to farm community
- Appreciate the opportunity to have my opinions be heard
- As Holden develops its infrastructure, careful attention must be paid to complying with standards for accessibility to people with disabilities, including elderly people who have challenges with mobility and other concerns.
- Committee's somehow need to be made more appealing. Past experience has left an impression that public meeting communication is poor. There appear to be too many members that want to talk and not truely listen. In fairness, it has been a few years since I last attended a meeting but have heard the same opinions from others.
- Concerned about 87 home Blair development on Union St with access from Union St only and detriment to water quality of Unionville pond below.
- continue to keep Holden a safe town
- Dawson Elementary is really space challenged and this end of town doesn't stop growing (house construction!.)
- Did a LOT of research when choosing a town to live in. Chose Holden for reputation of low crime and good schools.
- Difficult task. Good Luck

RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q74 General comments, questions, or concerns (OPTIONAL)

- Don't like the selling of new developments when current homes are empty and unsold. Main St cannot handle current traffic numbers. Unused and contaminated industrial buildings (in industrial park, Princeton st, Jefferson Mill present liabilities to town now and in future). Town needs more commercial to keep residential taxes down.
- Downtown walkability is also huge, and having a community of restaurants, boutique shops, small businesses, etc., in consistent, thoughtfully designed structures is truly the ideal. Holden really doesn't have that quaint, classic, small town feel, while several neighboring communities do, and I feel like that should be a HUGE priority for the town going forward.
- DPW do a better job with upkeep and cleanliness of traffic islands and Main St and sidewalks
- Eagle Lake is a recreational, and more importantly environmental necessity, here in town. It has been established for over 200 years. Changing that now will have a huge negative impact on the environment that the animals have come to depend on. Home owners purchased around the lake because of its beauty. I have enjoyed going there since I was a child and first moved to town in 1977. I have learned that there are folks who want to drain it. We can not undo that without devastating consequences to people, the town's reputation for caring and the well established eco-systems that are functioning there.
- Eagle Lake is a town treasure. Steps should be taken to take ownership of the lake's dam and maintain it properly to provide a water resource for future generations
- Eagle Lake needs to be a priority.
- Empty storefronts and vacant buildings present a dying town image...Holden has too many and nothing seems to be done about them. Also large for rent signs over empty buildings do not enhance the town.
- Enjoyed 55 years in a wonderful town
- Full Day preschool should be paid for by taxes. More lights on Main Street. Remove mailboxes from the center of sidewalks. Not safe for walking with children.
- Get the empty business buildings on 122A occupied! I can't believe how many stand empty for years on end- its such a waste.
- Get your traffic under control, get connect to I-190
- Glad to see MP is being updated, as essential it continuously reviewed.
- good government in town is a plus
- Good luck with your town planning!
- High water use charge on low water users is unfair
- Holden continues to promote a community feel and provide excellent town services and protection.
- Holden has a great deal of potential! I'm glad that someone is asking the right questions and committed to thoughtful planning.
- Holden has been a well managed town. Let's keep that a town priority.

RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q74 General comments, questions, or concerns (OPTIONAL)

- Holden has been growing and that is good, but we also need to consider which spaces to develop and which to leave open. I know we have people working on this but some of the survey questions were tough to answer without more input. I'm happy to see more housing available but would like to see what can be done with land that has older, not-in-use structures before we clear more trees. Also, the railroad crossing on Quinapoxet st is in pretty bad shape.
- Holden is a beautiful place to live and raise a family. The schools are great, the town services are professional and responsive, and the town is well run. Please make it a priority to deal with the heavy vehicle traffic in and through the town for the future of Holden.
- Holden is a great place to live and raise a family. I'm glad we moved here in spite of the high taxes.
- Holden is a great place to live.
- Holden is a great town!
- Holden is a right to farm community yet there are no farm veterinarians that provide service to the large animals in the community. This is a huge problem for those who have large animals.
- Holden is awesome.
- Holden is becoming oversaturated with housing developments and traffic. Development needs to be kept in check.
- Holden is close enough to many of Worcester's colleges that more apartments and better WRTA access would provide a huge chance for growth
- Holden needs a vision of itself other than as a bedroom community independent of Worcester County.
- Holden needs more shopping, restaurants, ect. Keep people from leaving to go to Worcester or Natick. I would love a more affordable grocery store! A dog park, better modern playgrounds. Holden Days should be 2 or 3 days long. Overall I love living in Holden! Great schools, friendly people! Good place to raise a family.
- Holden should adopt a two acre minimum for any new residential homes going forward.
- Holden use to be a great town. But (and not just Holden) too many special interests run the town and the cost of education has sky-rocked out of control. The "everything for the schools" mentality is gong to Kill this town.
- Holden's history as a small, working class, rural New England town needs to be preserved
- How does the town decide where to propose new sidewalks? What could I do? I believe less than 1 mile of sidewalk added to south of Big Y on Rt 31 would connect more some 500-1000 residents to Main St.
- I am thrilled that the town is looking into improving the town center.
- I am very concerned about all the subdivisions going up in our town. I would hope that there are some new laws made about how many more we will allow. We need open land!

RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q74 General comments, questions, or concerns (OPTIONAL)

- I believe that Holden needs to curb the rate of home building. A minimum of 1 acre lots for all home building should be enacted. In 27+ years that I have lived here, I think the quality of living in the Town of Holden has gone down due to all of the building and stress put on the limited resources (water and sewerage especially).
- I believe that such a wonderful town should not have such an utterly disgraceful main st with old Ill kept structures with owners only concerned with income producing with no concern about appearance or town pride,
- I can honestly say I chose Holden for the qualities mentioned prior and if those were jeopardized, I would relocate. I witnessed Shrewsbury's demise and would hate to see that happen here. I owned two homes there and was a town meeting member for 6 years.
- I do not want to see every open land lot or buildable acre filled with housing.
- I enjoyed an opportunity to contribute. I think it would be good to provide this kind of expression on specific questions as they come up. I'm not sure how this could be implemented, maybe through something like the code-red system where Holden can come out and say "we want to do XYZ, what do you think?" I know that sounds a lot like voting, but it could be a spur of the moment thing as opposed to a once a year major ballot initiative. As far as that implementation goes, I bet you if you ask one of the WRHS kids, how they would do it, you would get some fresh ideas. Good Luck.
- I feel Eagle Lake and the Community Garden are both important and bring great value to Holden.
- I feel our town is changing but we are to driven to expand uncontrollable
- I feel that Holden is well positioned from a demographic and educational perspective to mirror the development trajectory of Hudson Massachusetts. If we're able to create limited duration tax incentives for the first round of small businesses/restaurants, we might be able to parlay their development into an improved city center. Our school system and location support younger demographics and we should continue to encourage their choice to make Holden their place to live.
- I have a bunch for Fincom. I'll send them separately.
- I have a few comments: Police - I've had a few intersections with police officers over the past 7 years where I have been treating so rudely, for no reason. The police Dept doesn't have a great reputation in general and I haven't witnessed any positives first hand. I'd love to see that perception change so they are an involved part of our community. 2- The EMS ambulance responders are amazing as we've needed them twice for an infant with food allergies. I wish they would consider having a contract with major insurance providers to make it more affordable for residents. 3-I'd love to see more programs geared to families and kids. Holden does a great job for seniors and kids but can do better for weekend activities for working parents. The recent touch a truck sounded awesome but it was on a week day! 4-Holden pool pass is restrictive for working parents. One guest should allowed to be added to the family pass. 5-would love to see the abandoned buildings on Main Street repurposed and used 6-the constant budget issues between other towns is troubling. At what point can Holden ever branch out in their own?

RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q74 General comments, questions, or concerns (OPTIONAL)

- I have great concerns about the overzealousness of the Holden Police. They are very aggressive and hard on many people in this town, especially under-age minority children. My son (who is black) gets stopped by the Holden police ALL THE TIME. One time he had to go to court. The local judge quickly disposed of the ticket. The Assistant DA told me he's worked in the local courts for over 20 years and the Holden Police have a bad reputation for being too aggressive against their own residents. He told my son to keep his head up when driving in Holden because he has three strikes against him: 1) He's young 2) He's black 3) He drives a sports car. The Holden Police are an embarrassment to Holden in this regard. I would add that my wife (who is black) was refused service at a nail salon on Main Street. (they said they were closed). She called back a half hour later and they told her to come on over. When she did, she was still refused service. We've has other similar situations. Between the Holden Police and these types of incidents, we feel like we live in the deep south. Not good.
- I have often found the town of Holden to be too self congratulatory and lacking in imagination. We have no upscale restaurants, specialty shops or boutiques. We have only one grocery store! We have no art or theater venues. We have the population and the income to do better.
- I have tried for years to join the historical society or historical commission and failed to obtain any information on meeting times or dates. Why are they not published?
- I hope Holden continues with its small town feel, although do think something like a retail store with more products should be considered.
- I hope the town decides to save Eagle Lake. It would be a shame to see much of the wildlife there die because the lake is no longer.
- I like Holden Days.
- I lived in Rutland for 30 years and moved to Holden 4 years ago. I am so much happier, wonderful community, excellent police and fire dept. great town to live in
- I love Holden and I think town management spends in ways that benefit the most residents.
- I love Holden. I grew up in an adjacent town and hope to raise a family here soon. I don't see myself moving anytime soon (but for to a larger home in town). I'd love to see Eagle Lake thrive and for something to be done with the old mills by WRHS.
- I love living in Holden.

RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q74 General comments, questions, or concerns (OPTIONAL)

- I strongly support development of renewable energy options for electric customers. We need a dialog about long term sustainability.
- I think Holden is generally a great place to live. The police, fire, ambulance and light department are all extremely well run. We have expanded the safety department and most schools and they are already getting too full, but we're building even more houses and roads. If you want to make money, tax businesses more. If you want them to move in, then have an incentive rate, but if they are successful, then they should be able to afford a higher rate. Empty businesses and store fronts won't bring new residents to town but "small town" living isn't small town anymore because we've expanded too much. Improve life for the people who ARE here and have been for years and let new residents see that they'll be well cared for, but don't cater to them before those of us who have been here.
- I think lot sizes for home should be made larger. We can not afford the town services and school services when we cram that many homes in at our current tax rate.
- I think the DPW generally does a wonderful job keeping up with our roads and potholes and conditions etc. I realize this is more of a state problem, but Main Street is despicable, especially after having completely redone it years ago. The sunken manholes, the water main breaks that tore up the brick cross walks, the potholes. Myself and almost everyone I know avoid Main street at all costs, it looks horrible, and does a number on our vehicles. I would rather take back roads to West Boylston or Worcester or even Rutland to run an errand or go shopping than drive through town, not to mention the traffic. And that is sad, because we live in such a great place where I would love to shop local and stay local. Also, you may want to note that some places say this survey is due Monday July 16th, others say the 18th. So you may want to look at that and honor submissions for 2 more days.
- I understand water quality reports. However, kitchen sink water...some days water smells like a pond. Then it smells like bleach for a few days. After living here 20 yrs. had sewer piped in also - There have been more than a few under street pipe bursts. Town planning has to get better in these respects.
- I was born in this town, left for some years and have been back for 16 years! Love it here! So pretty and a safer community. I would love more public walkability to Main Street from where I live and would love more attention to the many pets here in this town. Pet owners have no designated dog areas other than Davis Hill school grounds (which is really not a designated dog park). I would love more attention to boutique shops and eateries dotting Main St.
- I wasn't aware of some of the parks/open spaces mentioned in the survey, water has become much more expensive (relative to what it was when I first moved here), I have heard sewer service is costly on a monthly basis-more communication about the actuality would be good, school buses sometimes cause commuter headaches-considering alternate directions/routes would be nice

RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q74 General comments, questions, or concerns (OPTIONAL)

- I wish that Holden would spend a little bit of money on kids recreation outside of the Town pool. I get that people love it- but we also need playgrounds! I've brought my kids to several playgrounds that we just awful and outdated and boring. We just go to West Boylston elementary now. The "park" in our neighborhood- Kimball Park- is not really useable. There are no facilities and it's very remote from the road. I'm not sure why anyone would go there, except high school kids to do naughty things away from their parents. I would love it if Holden put a small playground there. I also think that if we're going to take over the dam at Eagle Lake we need to make sure we spend money making the public facility useable and attractive to everyone. We shouldn't spend money just to protect a select group's property values (although I do sympathize with them and their perspective). The current facility at Eagle Lake is gross and I would never bring my kids there right now.
- I would love for central turning lanes on Main Street to be considered (suicide lanes). I would also love to have more choices when it comes to internet providers.
- I would love for the town to preserve open land. As we destroy forests, we are seeing more wildlife (which can be dangerous) and the town is becoming too crowded.
- I would personally be willing to volunteer my time to help the town of Holden transition from an ordinary town to an exceptional town!...and I know many other residents would volunteer as well. Before moving to Holden, I worked for the parks and recreation department in Bloomington, IN and learned a lot about community outreach and providing functional space for the community (Our town was actually the model for the show Parks and Recreation :)). Their use of parks was very successful and used by many in it's town. I really appreciate the effort of this Master Plan committee and look forward to seeing changes implemented.
- I would strongly advocate for a sidewalk from Stoneybrook neighborhood/Holden Christian Academy to Big Y. Two large housing developments and a school and no way for families or children to access the center of town.
- If the town website could be more user friendly and possibly have main announcement on the home page that would be wonderful! If the town could also inform it's residents and business owners of construction, road blockage, flushing out pipes, and events they know will happen beforehand or even the night before it would be very helpful and residents can prepare as much as they can accordingly.
- I'm glad that I found this survey
- Im most concerned about the large classroom side at the elementary level. The safety of my children as it relates to sidewalks and the affordability of my living here. Why are my taxes increasing every 6 months?
- Improve restrictions on allowing farm animals, pigs in residential areas
- Improve traffic congestion is a major priority and limit the amount of new housing structures taking over. This plan off Union Street for > 80 homes is deplorable.
- Improvements to Board of Selectmen

RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q74 General comments, questions, or concerns (OPTIONAL)

- In general, I am not in favor of a lot of development, but I think that developing the old (partially renovated but still empty) mill near my house in Jefferson on 122A would make our section of town a lot more nice and a lot more like the rest of town. I would be open to apartments, condos, business, anything that would fill those buildings well. Jefferson could become a mini-center of small businesses and I think that would be really useful to the town and wonderful.
- instead of waiting until the last 48 hour, (min required by the open meeting law) announce all meetings a week in advance. Life is busy these days and 48 hours is not enough time for TAX PAYING CITIZENS to be alerted to a up coming meeting.
- It is nice that we are not far from Worcester and cultural options but we hare lacking core stores on this side of the city. We have to go towards Shrewsbury to get most of our needs met.
- It would be great to attract bicyclists to locations which are safe; especially people who use it for exercise and training; them riding on narrow back roads is dangerous for all.
- It would be nice if there was a better way to notify residents of town meetings, committees, etc. I don;t think this information is communicated well, but I'd like to become more involved.
- It's getting crowded!
- Its like living in Times Square with these LED lights
- I've lived in Holden for over 30 years. I raised my kids here. I like the town. I hope we can make some smart decisions about the future.
- I've noticed a lot of growth in luxury housing developments in town in the past few years. Perhaps increasing the rate on properties worth over a certain amount could be a way of providing better funding to help maintain the town's very good municipal services while also encouraging the building of more affordable housing.
- Keep it a small town
- Keep up the great work. Holden is a wonderful place to live. I am proud to be a Holdenite.
- Let's stop the growth! This is absurd it's not helping this town one bit. A petition will be filed for next town meeting.
- Let's stop being penny wise and pound foolish. Spend money on growth and maintenance as needed so that long term we don't have to keep replacing buildings. Spend for the future-and support the schools which is the main asset of the town.
- lifeguards to be paid at least minimum wage (it's ridiculous that someone handing out candy at the snack shack is making the same amount as a lifeguard) also surrounding town pools that are seasonal are making over minimum wage

RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q74 General comments, questions, or concerns (OPTIONAL)

- Looking forward to results!
- Love my town.
- Low property and business tax. Encourage development of all kinds including mixed use without much regulation.
- Main street congestion and empty stores on main st
- Make it more pedestrian friendly, please. Sidewalks on 122A.
- Many thanks to the master plan committee for putting together the survey and collecting input from residents.
- Master plans should be driven by professional planners and engineers assessing the facility needs of the town, NOT by laymen answering "What do I like" questions. This survey is heavily skewed toward schools (e.g. why no question regarding the percentage of the budget we would like to see for Police, or Fire, or DPW, etc? Sorry, but this endeavor seems headed for the same fate as the last Master Plan which, among other things, wanted Holden to spend about \$8 million on walkways, plantings, and "connectivity" in and around Holden Center.
- More awareness of issues and involvement of people needed. Website could be more up-to-date, more social media presence, more community building activities
- More housing in Holden or in Rutland = more traffic, I would like to see a slowdown in growth rate until present conditions are rectified.
- More restaurants in town would be great
- My now young adult kids went through the Holden school system, played a lot of sports and have what will be life long friends from town. I'm very happy I picked this town to raise them.
- Need better traffic control on roads used to bypass 122A
- need more after school programs
- Need more for teenagers to do in town. Skatepark.
- Need more involvement of young residents and educated residents
- Need more playing fields rec areas and conservation areas; highway access improved; traffic on main routes
- Need side road to bypass traffic
- Need to bring better options of high speed internet to town. Need a competitor to Big Y.
- need to draw people into shared responsibility in government and in civic associations
- Need to get MA to rethink how they treat regional school districts. The school administrative burden is really hurting the educational value. Any new town service needs to look at the tax burden that puts on the people not only for the current year, but 5, 10, 20, 30 years from now
- need to make the walking experience better throughout town. More sidewalks in important or dangerous places.
- Needs to remain an affordable small town

RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q74 General comments, questions, or concerns (OPTIONAL)

- No sidewalks...no public transportation at all... you must have a car...no way to walk to any store...
- none
- Obviously, serious concerns about the growth of this town and all towns because the traffic flows through Holden. Stop the growth, the housing, etc. We are at capacity!
- One very disturbing trend in Holden that none of your questions has addressed speaks to the ugly new subdivisions that have been created around town - on Rt. 31 towards Princeton, off Main Street near Alden Labs. They are ugly and real eyesores. If we have more unconstrained development like that, we will lose a lot of our cache as a great place to live.
- Our family felt a bait and switch occurred when we moved to Holden. Coming from out of state, we had to rely on test scores and reputation to learn about the schools. We have been disappointed with the decreasing support of the local schools, and the lack of resources at the schools.
- Please bring more AFFORDABLE elderly housing to Holden. Many elders are forced to leave our town because it's not affordable.
- Please build a skatepark for young people
- Please consider widening Main st between Shrewsbury and 31. It's horrible. I won't go in town most of the time because of the traffic. Also-do more events! Festivals and whatnot. I want to participate in town stuff without diving headfirst onto a committee seat!
- PLEASE DECREASE HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS AND OVER POPULATION!
- Please do something about the condition of Main Street and the traffic. By the way, your flyer read June 18 to July 18 When I started this survey, it said Monday July 18, well the 18th is Wednesday. Today is Tuesday July 17, so I hope my answers will count.
- Please make our schools a priority! Our kids deserve it.
- Please negotiate with Worcester to return (occasional) water flow to the Asnebumskit Brook through Eagle Lake and Holden. Sustained 100% water bypass to Worcester is choking Eagle Lake and surely not what Holden agreed to when the bypass / reservoir system was built.
- Please so not make more developments or specific rental properties
- Please stop allowing the destruction of this small town. Cap new construction. Encourage renovation of existing buildings. Stop tearing down trees!!!!
- Please stop allowing the housing developments to be built.
- Please stop building houses, our infrastructure cannot handle it! I have been looking at homes in Sterling recently to get the heck away from the overpopulated, traffic nightmare that is the new Holden. It's Rutland's fault too :)
- Please support a new DPW facility.

RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q74 General comments, questions, or concerns (OPTIONAL)

- Rec department is a joke. How do you have facilities that are managed with a ZERO budget? Why was this situation allowed through the layers of upper management for so long? This needs to be addressed by select board, Rec comm, and Town selectmen. Dept Director needs to retire or be removed. She is and has been a waste of taxpayer dollars.
- Save Eagle Lake
- Save Eagle Lake!
- Save Eagle Lake!
- Save our open spaces! Also, the town and schools need to stop being adversaries, they are all town services and not opponents.
- School district needs to be readdressed and Holden should break off.
- -Schools are already not large enough and we have just rebuilt out schools -Increasing traffic is paramount to me as a 51 year resident of Holden. Please do something -Safety for cars (mine was broken into) at Mason/Trout brook recreation areas in parking lots. I do not feel my car is safe
- Schools should be a priority
- Seems to be lack of enforcement of basic ordinances. Junk cars, graffiti on the rise. These are signs of a comity in decline.
- Seriously, zoning for buildings like the apartments on Princeton St/ quinepoxet St.
- Several questions in this survey were poor.
- Should limit developing remaining open space - keep it a town - not allow it to become a "city"
- Should purchase or care for Eagle Lake. No more business or industry unless you provide a means to get through town
- Sidewalks on 31 from Mobil station downtown heading toward Paxton would be appreciated
- Sometimes feels like Jefferson is an outreach part of Holden.
- Speed limit is not enforced on Wachusett Street west of Manning
- Speed limit on Wachusett St./Rt31. In Jefferson. I've almost been hit getting my mail multiple times. Lack of sidewalks for safe walking/biking
- Speeding(lack of police presence). Overcrowding in schools including the new Mt. View!!! To many developments in environmentally sensitive areas on small lots.
- STOP APPROVING NEW RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS!
- Stop building so many subdivisions
- Stop the cluster building. Overcrowding everything
- stop the new developments already. There will be no forests left. They're too close to wetland areas. The schools are already at capacity. Just stop. Review and change the zoning regulations NOW. MAKE them stricter. Put in SMALLER houses if anything. Enough is enough. We do not need anymore houses, traffic etc!!!

RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q74 General comments, questions, or concerns (OPTIONAL)

- Term limits for selectmen
- Term limits for town officials (selectmen)
- THANK YOU for doing this. Please let us know if the results will be made public at any point (including comments, assuming they would be presented anonymously).
- Thank you for giving the opportunity to share preferences.
- Thank you for letting us be part of the decision making process.
- Thank you for offering this survey! Fingers crossed on the sidewalk expansion project!
- Thank you for reaching out to residents with this survey.
- Thank you for sending this survey to ask for our opinions. It helped me to think about what I love and appreciate about my town. It also made me aware that I want to be more involved and informed.
- Thank you for taking the time!
- Thank you for the public comments
- Thank you for this poll. Last year, while talking with a police officer about the large gravel trucks roaring down my road, I mentioned the increased traffic. He mentioned that 650 new housing permits were issued for Holden for 2018. Meanwhile, Rutland and nearby rural areas all funnel down Shrewsbury and Holden Streets. We need an Exit or two for I-190 to siphon off these cars. Do you guys know about the original plan: Exit via Malden Street? Take another look! Help!!!
- Thank you for valuing our opinions. We love living in this town!
- THANKS for the opportunity to participate and for asking! Looking forward to the results!
- Thanks for asking for our opinions!
- Thanks for asking!
- Thanks for caring enough to create this survey!
- Thanks for doing this. Efforts to mandate signage and building designs should be studied very cautiously to be sure that such mandates do not impinge upon property owner rights. See work done by the Main Street Design Review and Zoning Study Committee completed over 20 years ago. Successfully passed at town meeting. However, its implementation has been thwarted by successful presentations of "hardship" to the Zoning Board of Appeals.
- Thankyou.
- The by-laws that allow the moderator to appoint fin comm without approval of selectmen and voters is of great concern.
- The Recreation Department needs to be addressed. It is the least customer focused department in town, and multiple negative interactions with staff have caused us to abandon almost all of their programs and services. It starts with the director and permeates throughout the organization.
- The speed that cars travel make it unsafe. The town needs to do a better job with traffic control.

RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q74 General comments, questions, or concerns (OPTIONAL)

- the summer rec program is wonderful but too short. expanding the use of the facility with reduced hours might be a great way to ease into the fall and get through hot september days. also, the kids who work as lifeguards are way underpaid. they take the responsibility of guarding lives and are paid the same as kids who are selling snacks. the position should be paid more (they have to pay to train to be certified and take on a lot) .
- The survey is way too long. Did you have focus groups?
- the taxes have increased every year since we moved in. they just seem to want to spend more every year. they could retrofit the building on industrial dr for the dpw instead of building new, it already has bay doors and everything. a huge concern is the raise in taxes for education this year, but the HS is regional, so if our tax raise generates \$20 mil extra dollars, how much are other town contributing?
- The town does a great job providing excellent services. The residents demand it and the town delivers. Job well done.
- The town is growing too fast!
- The town is remarkably well run. A constant challenge is getting more citizens to participate in town government, particularly younger people. The school PTAs should be considered a "farm team" of talent. They're wrapped up in the schools for now (and sometimes seen as adversaries in battles over the town budget), but they are future leaders for the select board, fincom, planning board, library, etc.
- The town needs to be bold in its thinking regarding revenue sources. Partnerships with local and national businesses are needed to increase targeted income/expenditures. EXAMPLE: Hold Parks & Rec should partner with a local landscaping company or companies to assist in the upkeep of town fields. Just look at what's happened at Mountview, the brand-new fields are in terrible condition. If the town let a single landscaping company upkeep the fields in exchange for advertising rights it would be a "win-win" situation.
- The Town needs to keep Eagle Lake as a resource
- The town needs to support Eagle Lake.
- The town of Holden can certainly benefit from upgrades to infrastructure and increased tax revenues from new local business. However, we need to be cautious when proceeding. Affordable housing, shopping malls, and other things that will change the scope of the town may do so in a negative way.
- The Town of Holden needs a facebook, twitter, and instagram account to update residents about events, share town successes, and report emergencies.
- The town should also expand sidewalks to within 5 miles away from the center of town to all applicable roads
- The Wachusett towns are only as good as the schools. They are the number one reason why people move here and why housing prices stay up. Please figure out a way to manage the growth to keep our schools from overcrowding. Thanks!
- There are a couple of buildings along main street that have been empty for years. Is there anything that can be done to fill these spaces? It makes Holden look ugly.

RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q74 General comments, questions, or concerns (OPTIONAL)

- There seems to be little thought/planning put into decisions. No consistency. Some committees rubber stamp, others put undo restraint. Personalities rule over law or logic. What was accomplished from the last plan?
- Think before you change and actually evaluate data that provides projections!!
- This is a great town with so much potential. The town has outgrown its infrastructure. A town of this population size (similar to Westborough) needs to have a robust retail and business support system, as well as its own high school. People talk of Holden as a small-town when, relative to the rest of Massachusetts, it isn't anymore. It's larger than Foxborough, Auburn, Duxbury, Hopkinton, Millbury, and Medway, yet it has significantly less commercial business than those towns. We are sitting on a huge market inefficiency in which pent up consumer demand is simply waiting to be supplied (right now Holden residents are pouring money into Shrewsbury business, and indirectly Shrewsbury schools and programs). The town is exploding with housing development and kids, so the demand (for everything, especially schools) is only growing. We need to open the flood gates and get commercial business in here! This town needs a dedicated zone to let the Starbuck's, Trader Joe's, Whole Foods, Chipotle, etc in...
- This survey wasn't given the advance notification and I would have used the electric light bill as a way to increase the notification. Also the short amount of time allowed for this survey makes me wonder how successful this response will be
- This was a great survey, very proactive and forward thinking. A bit long but otherwise great, thank you for providing.
- to place a moratorium on building permits for sub-divisions.. The cost of educating our youth and filling up the schools is something we must address. We are retired and paying all the high taxes for our schools is getting beyond our reach.
- Too long. shorten it.
- Too many houses being built...schools getting overcrowded...traffic becoming crazy
- Too many vacant unused properties on 122A.
- Top heavy government...so many fiefdoms, taxes, traffic flow, road conditions, very little enforcement of traffic laws, especially speed.
- traffic on 122A!
- Traffic planning and changes must be made before any planning of future development is considered. Our predecessors made an enormous mistake by not allowing access to Rt 190. This needs to be addressed for this (and surrounding communities) before any growth/development planning is done. Otherwise you are putting the cart before the horse.
- Water bill is crazy high.
- We came to Holden for what it is, not for what it may grow into in the next xx years. I believe we have reached the carrying capacity of Holden as we know it.
- We like the small businesses, without the big commercial stores. It retains that small town feeling.

RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results



Q74 General comments, questions, or concerns (OPTIONAL)

- We love living here! As we are about to have our first baby, we hope there are plenty of parks and playgrounds for us to take him to. We'd love for there to be more swimming options - for Eagle Lake to have fewer weeds, and Chaffin Pond too. Lower Main St (from Dunkin' south) needs sidewalks, people are always walking/running/biking there and it's not safe. And traffic backed up along Main St through town makes going to downtown very undesirable for us, since it gets so congested. Other than that, we love it and plan to live here for many years!
- We love Seven Saws!
- We love the pool! Our family is starting to enter school system this year and we have heard really great things about it. Thank you for your services.
- We Love this town, but we are super concerned with its population growth. We are losing the small town feel and many forests.
- We moved to Holden from Worcester 10 years ago and love it. Great town services and beautiful area.
- We must do something about the Main Street traffic. It is unbearable.
- We need a walkable attractive area where people can shop and eat and drink a coffee. And we can't let the schools get worse or property values will drop. Old conservative Holden is gone. We need a progressive vision. Have the leaders ever visited other towns to get ideas?? Doesn't seem like it.
- We need growth management
- We need to limit the amount of new houses being built. We don't have the infrastructure to allow any more housing developments and I don't want to see all of our green areas disappear. We can not afford to build another school, but if more houses are added we will need one very quickly as all the schools are almost at capacity.
- we need to stop building, and we need lower taxes
- What is the capacity for the town?? The schools, roads, water and electrical infrastructure can only support so many-lets not forget that
- Why does the "Green strip" have to be residential between Papa Gino's and Sunnyside?
- With the water bans, it is frustrating to see sprinklers left on during rain storms.
- Would like to see LESS growth. Schools are getting too crowded, roads are too busy, taxes keep going up to keep up with necessary resources. I'd like to see us preserve our current size and feel.
- Would love to see empty properties on Main Street renovated and new restaurants invited to town
- Would love to see: wider road to accommodate growing traffic issues and some motorized vehicle trails for snowmobiling in winter and ATVs in the summer!
- You men and women do a good job most of the time. Just keep a balance. FYI.. I get that joke on my job field.

RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS



HOLDEN TODAY

Holden Community Survey Results

FOR MORE INFORMATION: www.holdenmasterplan.com *Town of Holden Master Plan Committee*



What Holden Do You Want To Live In 10 Years? 20 Years? 50 Years From Now?

Activity Description: This is a Holden Master Plan 2019 Outreach activity conducted by the Master Plan Steering Committee. We hope that a diverse community of Holden residents will share their hopes and ideas with us here. Help us by describing the kind of town you'd be proud of and happy to reside in in your future using 250 words or less.

Our town and our lives are constantly evolving. Holden is never the same town year to year just as its residents grow and change as time passes. The population has increased by over 1,402 since 2008, and today the town has approximately 19,000 residents. Holden is growing. What kind of town do you want to live in 10 years? 20 years? 50 years from now? What elements do you hope to still see in the future? What characteristics would you like to see improved or added?

#1

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, November 07, 2018 10:52:45 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, November 07, 2018 10:56:07 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:22
IP Address: 144.121.22.142

Page 1: What Holden Do You Want To Live In 10 Years? 20 Years? 50 Years From Now?

Q1 Our town and our lives are constantly evolving. Holden is never the same town year to year just as its residents grow and change as time passes. The population has increased by over 1,402 since 2008, and today the town has approximately 19,000 residents. Holden is growing. What kind of town do you want to live in 10 years? 20 years? 50 years from now? What elements do you hope to still see in the future? What characteristics would you like to see improved or added?

Down the road, I would like to see Holden begin to resemble Hudson and other towns that have a defined, walkable, developed town center. Much like the small towns in upstate NY or other western Massachusetts communities it would be great to have a downtown that could be parked in and waked through to eliminate drunk driving from restaurants, and also embrace the family atmosphere that the town already had.

#2

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, November 07, 2018 11:21:05 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, November 07, 2018 11:23:14 AM
Time Spent: 00:02:09
IP Address: 66.87.124.188

Page 1: What Holden Do You Want To Live In 10 Years? 20 Years? 50 Years From Now?

Q1 Our town and our lives are constantly evolving. Holden is never the same town year to year just as its residents grow and change as time passes. The population has increased by over 1,402 since 2008, and today the town has approximately 19,000 residents. Holden is growing. What kind of town do you want to live in 10 years? 20 years? 50 years from now? What elements do you hope to still see in the future? What characteristics would you like to see improved or added?

New main roads to improve and accommodate the ever increasing population. Also separate the high school to just Holden.

#3

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, November 07, 2018 11:29:31 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, November 07, 2018 11:32:21 AM
Time Spent: 00:02:50
IP Address: 68.184.34.79

Page 1: What Holden Do You Want To Live In 10 Years? 20 Years? 50 Years From Now?

Q1 Our town and our lives are constantly evolving. Holden is never the same town year to year just as its residents grow and change as time passes. The population has increased by over 1,402 since 2008, and today the town has approximately 19,000 residents. Holden is growing. What kind of town do you want to live in 10 years? 20 years? 50 years from now? What elements do you hope to still see in the future? What characteristics would you like to see improved or added?

Change zoning requirements. Too many developments going up. Not enough resources for the children already here. This is one of the reasons we moved here! Slow down so we keep that small town feel!

#4

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, November 07, 2018 11:34:00 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, November 07, 2018 11:42:58 AM
Time Spent: 00:08:58
IP Address: 143.115.159.156

Page 1: What Holden Do You Want To Live In 10 Years? 20 Years? 50 Years From Now?

Q1 Our town and our lives are constantly evolving. Holden is never the same town year to year just as its residents grow and change as time passes. The population has increased by over 1,402 since 2008, and today the town has approximately 19,000 residents. Holden is growing. What kind of town do you want to live in 10 years? 20 years? 50 years from now? What elements do you hope to still see in the future? What characteristics would you like to see improved or added?

I hope the town continues to attract young families with our good school system and safe, friendly neighborhoods. I would like to see more small businesses and restaurants be added as the entire worcester area grows. I would also like to improve the traffic flow at the 31/122A intersection as well as 31 / manning st by goodhiles. Both might benefit with a traffic circle.

#5

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, November 07, 2018 11:35:18 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, November 07, 2018 11:48:17 AM
Time Spent: 00:12:59
IP Address: 66.189.72.37

Page 1: What Holden Do You Want To Live In 10 Years? 20 Years? 50 Years From Now?

Q1 Our town and our lives are constantly evolving. Holden is never the same town year to year just as its residents grow and change as time passes. The population has increased by over 1,402 since 2008, and today the town has approximately 19,000 residents. Holden is growing. What kind of town do you want to live in 10 years? 20 years? 50 years from now? What elements do you hope to still see in the future? What characteristics would you like to see improved or added?

I'd like to see Main St turned into a one way street (Westerly). Another street going easterly should go from the high school to Dunkin Donuts alongside the railroad tracks. Property should be acquired over time via eminent domain. The land between the streets should be pedestrian only and for shopping. The traffic on Main St is currently the biggest problem with town infrastructure.

#6

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, November 07, 2018 10:56:32 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, November 07, 2018 11:50:28 AM
Time Spent: 00:53:56
IP Address: 66.189.27.41

Page 1: What Holden Do You Want To Live In 10 Years? 20 Years? 50 Years From Now?

Q1 Our town and our lives are constantly evolving. Holden is never the same town year to year just as its residents grow and change as time passes. The population has increased by over 1,402 since 2008, and today the town has approximately 19,000 residents. Holden is growing. What kind of town do you want to live in 10 years? 20 years? 50 years from now? What elements do you hope to still see in the future? What characteristics would you like to see improved or added?

With Worcester booming nearby, Holden has a huge opportunity to attract business professionals and their families to town. I think with some strategic growth and revitalization, Holden can be a premier family community and one of the most desirable towns in MA similar to Concord or Lexington outside of Boston. Growth wise, Holden should grow slowly and strategically in a way that will preserve the forestry and natural beauty well also allowing new residences in town. With that growing population I would love to see main street revitalized to improve walkability and be full of shops and restaurants and people walking around. I'd like to see more sidewalks throughout Holden that are well lit to meet the walk/run/biking desirability of younger millennials. I'd love to see a dog park in town. Families love their pets and dogs need space to run off leash. I think a dog park is a great community space for people to meet and engage and would speak highly to Holden as a "family" town. Worcester just opened a dog park as well. My kids are under the age of 2. I want Holden to strive to be ahead of the curve education wise and proactively make improvements in curriculum, educators and school space before a need is apparent. I'd also love to see the recreation department continue to expand its offerings to include kids younger than school age so they are integrated into the community before elementary school. I hope that Worcester's boom will positively impact Holden and spark new growth and business in town. With that, I expect home values to increase as well. I want a town that my little kids will be excited to come home to after college 20 years down the road. I hope that when they go away to school and say they are from "Holden" their peers will recognize the name of the town as a really nice town to come from. Thank you.

#7

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Wednesday, November 07, 2018 12:04:15 PM
Last Modified:	Wednesday, November 07, 2018 12:07:25 PM
Time Spent:	00:03:10
IP Address:	174.83.62.227

Page 1: What Holden Do You Want To Live In 10 Years? 20 Years? 50 Years From Now?

Q1 Our town and our lives are constantly evolving. Holden is never the same town year to year just as its residents grow and change as time passes. The population has increased by over 1,402 since 2008, and today the town has approximately 19,000 residents. Holden is growing. What kind of town do you want to live in 10 years? 20 years? 50 years from now? What elements do you hope to still see in the future? What characteristics would you like to see improved or added?

I'd like to see more restaurants added to the Main Street area, while also keeping the charm. As more millennials start moving in, it would be nice to have a lively town instead of having to go to Worcester or other towns.

#8

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, November 07, 2018 12:15:42 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, November 07, 2018 12:18:02 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:20
IP Address: 96.237.248.151

Page 1: What Holden Do You Want To Live In 10 Years? 20 Years? 50 Years From Now?

Q1 Our town and our lives are constantly evolving. Holden is never the same town year to year just as its residents grow and change as time passes. The population has increased by over 1,402 since 2008, and today the town has approximately 19,000 residents. Holden is growing. What kind of town do you want to live in 10 years? 20 years? 50 years from now? What elements do you hope to still see in the future? What characteristics would you like to see improved or added?

Added amenities and options for retail, groceries, cable/internet but keep the small town country farm feel.

#9

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, November 07, 2018 12:37:47 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, November 07, 2018 12:41:12 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:25
IP Address: 72.93.58.160

Page 1: What Holden Do You Want To Live In 10 Years? 20 Years? 50 Years From Now?

Q1 Our town and our lives are constantly evolving. Holden is never the same town year to year just as its residents grow and change as time passes. The population has increased by over 1,402 since 2008, and today the town has approximately 19,000 residents. Holden is growing. What kind of town do you want to live in 10 years? 20 years? 50 years from now? What elements do you hope to still see in the future? What characteristics would you like to see improved or added?

More affordable housing for 60 plus. Less big building of huge houses. Improve Main street traffic that is now Holden speedway

#10

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, November 07, 2018 2:41:01 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, November 07, 2018 2:42:53 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:52
IP Address: 24.91.63.159

Page 1: What Holden Do You Want To Live In 10 Years? 20 Years? 50 Years From Now?

Q1 Our town and our lives are constantly evolving. Holden is never the same town year to year just as its residents grow and change as time passes. The population has increased by over 1,402 since 2008, and today the town has approximately 19,000 residents. Holden is growing. What kind of town do you want to live in 10 years? 20 years? 50 years from now? What elements do you hope to still see in the future? What characteristics would you like to see improved or added?

Holden has always had the quintessential small town feel. I'd hate to see any huge corporations come into our shopping plazas. Keeping small businesses in the main street shops would be wonderful.

#11

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, November 07, 2018 3:21:40 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, November 07, 2018 4:05:29 PM
Time Spent: 00:43:49
IP Address: 174.192.14.194

Page 1: What Holden Do You Want To Live In 10 Years? 20 Years? 50 Years From Now?

Q1 Our town and our lives are constantly evolving. Holden is never the same town year to year just as its residents grow and change as time passes. The population has increased by over 1,402 since 2008, and today the town has approximately 19,000 residents. Holden is growing. What kind of town do you want to live in 10 years? 20 years? 50 years from now? What elements do you hope to still see in the future? What characteristics would you like to see improved or added?

Excellent education, police/fire/EMS services, lower taxes (oxymoron i know!)

#12

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, November 07, 2018 4:30:24 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, November 07, 2018 4:33:03 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:39
IP Address: 66.189.82.146

Page 1: What Holden Do You Want To Live In 10 Years? 20 Years? 50 Years From Now?

Q1 Our town and our lives are constantly evolving. Holden is never the same town year to year just as its residents grow and change as time passes. The population has increased by over 1,402 since 2008, and today the town has approximately 19,000 residents. Holden is growing. What kind of town do you want to live in 10 years? 20 years? 50 years from now? What elements do you hope to still see in the future? What characteristics would you like to see improved or added?

Please stop building. I drove down Bullard this afternoon and saw signs for a builder along this wooded area and thought “more houses?!?” I like that businesses are mostly on main st and I'd like to keep some of the trees we currently have so that in 10, 20 or 50 years the town won't be so overcrowded that we fee we live in a city, instead of a town.

#13

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, November 07, 2018 7:02:21 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, November 07, 2018 7:04:43 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:22
IP Address: 75.136.84.175

Page 1: What Holden Do You Want To Live In 10 Years? 20 Years? 50 Years From Now?

Q1 Our town and our lives are constantly evolving. Holden is never the same town year to year just as its residents grow and change as time passes. The population has increased by over 1,402 since 2008, and today the town has approximately 19,000 residents. Holden is growing. What kind of town do you want to live in 10 years? 20 years? 50 years from now? What elements do you hope to still see in the future? What characteristics would you like to see improved or added?

Holden needs more small businesses, an alternate road in an out (other than Main Street and Quinnapoxet), full day kindergarten, increased lot sizes for new construction, better energy rebates, and improved police culture and community involvement.

#14

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, November 07, 2018 9:05:18 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, November 07, 2018 9:06:37 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:19
IP Address: 66.189.82.73

Page 1: What Holden Do You Want To Live In 10 Years? 20 Years? 50 Years From Now?

Q1 Our town and our lives are constantly evolving. Holden is never the same town year to year just as its residents grow and change as time passes. The population has increased by over 1,402 since 2008, and today the town has approximately 19,000 residents. Holden is growing. What kind of town do you want to live in 10 years? 20 years? 50 years from now? What elements do you hope to still see in the future? What characteristics would you like to see improved or added?

Development on Main Street similar to town such as Hudson. There is very few places to grab a decent meal on the go.

#15

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, November 08, 2018 12:00:24 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 08, 2018 12:16:08 AM
Time Spent: 00:15:44
IP Address: 75.130.248.162

Page 1: What Holden Do You Want To Live In 10 Years? 20 Years? 50 Years From Now?

Q1 Our town and our lives are constantly evolving. Holden is never the same town year to year just as its residents grow and change as time passes. The population has increased by over 1,402 since 2008, and today the town has approximately 19,000 residents. Holden is growing. What kind of town do you want to live in 10 years? 20 years? 50 years from now? What elements do you hope to still see in the future? What characteristics would you like to see improved or added?

I would like to see natural gas distributed to more homes. We are new to the town and I guess I just don't understand why we have a second zip code in Jefferson. Is it really necessary to have that second zip code? I would like to see more department stores like a Target like store. Basically I would like to see stores within a short drive. This is the first town I've lived in where kindergarten was not free and we have to pay for trash pickup. I find that kind of odd. It's nice to have all the walking trails but yet feels kind of scary when you see signs about hunting. According to people I talk to hunting is year-round and on all the trails which makes me nervous to bring my kids on walks. Does hunting have to be allowed everywhere. I like the different town activities I go on I would like to see that continue. Also there are streets like ours on Mason Road that need more lighting at night cars drive by pretty quick and he would be a lot safer if we had street lights.

#16

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, November 08, 2018 3:53:51 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 08, 2018 3:55:43 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:52
IP Address: 66.189.31.110

Page 1: What Holden Do You Want To Live In 10 Years? 20 Years? 50 Years From Now?

Q1 Our town and our lives are constantly evolving. Holden is never the same town year to year just as its residents grow and change as time passes. The population has increased by over 1,402 since 2008, and today the town has approximately 19,000 residents. Holden is growing. What kind of town do you want to live in 10 years? 20 years? 50 years from now? What elements do you hope to still see in the future? What characteristics would you like to see improved or added?

I would not like to live in a town that feels like a giant suburb. I hope that we have preserved forests, farmland, and other green space. I would love more sidewalks as well.

#17

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, November 11, 2018 11:29:51 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, November 11, 2018 11:34:29 AM
Time Spent: 00:04:38
IP Address: 68.116.170.61

Page 1: What Holden Do You Want To Live In 10 Years? 20 Years? 50 Years From Now?

Q1 Our town and our lives are constantly evolving. Holden is never the same town year to year just as its residents grow and change as time passes. The population has increased by over 1,402 since 2008, and today the town has approximately 19,000 residents. Holden is growing. What kind of town do you want to live in 10 years? 20 years? 50 years from now? What elements do you hope to still see in the future? What characteristics would you like to see improved or added?

More of a charming, walkable downtown with more small businesses. Save our natural resources like Eagle Lake and hiking trails and add to them with expanded facilities and town events. Have excellent schools to keep property values high but have more Town events for community spirit. Think Hallmark Christmas movie towns!

#18

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, November 11, 2018 8:31:09 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, November 11, 2018 8:53:16 PM
Time Spent: 00:22:07
IP Address: 66.189.24.147

Page 1: What Holden Do You Want To Live In 10 Years? 20 Years? 50 Years From Now?

Q1 Our town and our lives are constantly evolving. Holden is never the same town year to year just as its residents grow and change as time passes. The population has increased by over 1,402 since 2008, and today the town has approximately 19,000 residents. Holden is growing. What kind of town do you want to live in 10 years? 20 years? 50 years from now? What elements do you hope to still see in the future? What characteristics would you like to see improved or added?

Ensure that our Eagle Lake continues to be an asset in good condition by:

- 1) Accepting ownership of the infrastructure (dam) that maintains it, but negotiating a good deal. The transfer deal should include funding from present owners to bring the dam up to good condition this one final time.);
 - 2) (Re)Negotiating with Worcester to ensure Holden (and thereby Wachusett Reservoir) receives its natural and fair share of fresh water throughout the year. (The excessive bypass to Kendall Reservoir is degrading our Town assets and natural resources.)
-

#19

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 12, 2018 2:04:46 PM
Last Modified: Monday, November 12, 2018 2:07:31 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:45
IP Address: 66.189.80.149

Page 1: What Holden Do You Want To Live In 10 Years? 20 Years? 50 Years From Now?

Q1 Our town and our lives are constantly evolving. Holden is never the same town year to year just as its residents grow and change as time passes. The population has increased by over 1,402 since 2008, and today the town has approximately 19,000 residents. Holden is growing. What kind of town do you want to live in 10 years? 20 years? 50 years from now? What elements do you hope to still see in the future? What characteristics would you like to see improved or added?

Keep small town feel
Improve traffic flow in and out of town
Increase small business presence
Increase police officers
Control expansion rate

#20

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 12, 2018 5:18:58 PM
Last Modified: Monday, November 12, 2018 5:23:54 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:56
IP Address: 130.215.194.244

Page 1: What Holden Do You Want To Live In 10 Years? 20 Years? 50 Years From Now?

Q1 Our town and our lives are constantly evolving. Holden is never the same town year to year just as its residents grow and change as time passes. The population has increased by over 1,402 since 2008, and today the town has approximately 19,000 residents. Holden is growing. What kind of town do you want to live in 10 years? 20 years? 50 years from now? What elements do you hope to still see in the future? What characteristics would you like to see improved or added?

I would like to see Holden be more livable for its citizens. I have lived in other towns and I feel there are many amenities that could be added. Walking parks, dog parks, recreation and picnic areas. Lately it seems all we care about is building schools. There are many families without school age children, please build facilities they can use.

#21

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, November 14, 2018 10:03:55 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, November 14, 2018 10:08:08 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:13
IP Address: 66.189.105.40

Page 1: What Holden Do You Want To Live In 10 Years? 20 Years? 50 Years From Now?

Q1 Our town and our lives are constantly evolving. Holden is never the same town year to year just as its residents grow and change as time passes. The population has increased by over 1,402 since 2008, and today the town has approximately 19,000 residents. Holden is growing. What kind of town do you want to live in 10 years? 20 years? 50 years from now? What elements do you hope to still see in the future? What characteristics would you like to see improved or added?

Full-time Kindergarden should be free in the next 5 years.

Focus on additional restaurants coming into town, not just the 5 we have.

Attract one large corporation who can supplement the taxes instead of mini small ones. See if there is room near the Holden/ Worcester line. Check out how EMC has changed Franklin, MA. Keep the town growing and affluent. Do not build apartment complexes or section 8. Aim high.

#22

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, November 16, 2018 12:34:06 PM
Last Modified: Friday, November 16, 2018 12:35:39 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:33
IP Address: 172.56.3.124

Page 1: What Holden Do You Want To Live In 10 Years? 20 Years? 50 Years From Now?

Q1 Our town and our lives are constantly evolving. Holden is never the same town year to year just as its residents grow and change as time passes. The population has increased by over 1,402 since 2008, and today the town has approximately 19,000 residents. Holden is growing. What kind of town do you want to live in 10 years? 20 years? 50 years from now? What elements do you hope to still see in the future? What characteristics would you like to see improved or added?

Less development more of a rural feel

#23

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 20, 2018 11:51:43 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 20, 2018 12:00:29 PM
Time Spent: 00:08:46
IP Address: 71.184.14.143

Page 1: What Holden Do You Want To Live In 10 Years? 20 Years? 50 Years From Now?

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Main Street traffic during most daylight hours continues to increase each year. Plans must be made to improve the flow or sometime in the future traffic will cease to flow. Someone should look into the effect that Self Driving Vehicles (SDV) will have on Main Street. The problem should diminish dramatically with SDVs. They will be here soon so they should be planned on now.

#24

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, November 21, 2018 11:54:35 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, November 21, 2018 11:56:37 AM
Time Spent: 00:02:02
IP Address: 68.184.33.53

Page 1: What Holden Do You Want To Live In 10 Years? 20 Years? 50 Years From Now?

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Lower taxes by cutting non essential services, stop new construction, reclaim land/increase open space by 25% over the next 20 years through land /property repurchasing

#25

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, November 21, 2018 2:06:19 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, November 21, 2018 2:08:57 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:38
IP Address: 73.68.130.2

Page 1: What Holden Do You Want To Live In 10 Years? 20 Years? 50 Years From Now?

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Safe Routes to Schools (Sidewalks from Mayo on Bullard heading NW)
Increased Conservation Property with Trail Access

#26

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, November 22, 2018 12:22:30 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 22, 2018 12:25:06 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:36
IP Address: 66.168.118.245

Page 1: What Holden Do You Want To Live In 10 Years? 20 Years? 50 Years From Now?

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Physical infrastructure needs to keep pace with all growth. We need the proposed new DPW facility at the Holden Industrial Park.

#27

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, November 28, 2018 9:25:10 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, November 28, 2018 9:30:40 AM
Time Spent: 00:05:30
IP Address: 71.88.99.154

Page 1: What Holden Do You Want To Live In 10 Years? 20 Years? 50 Years From Now?

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I feel the library should stay and evolve with technology. The traffic lights at the intersection of the gas station, cemetery and church needs to be improved upon. A movie/play theater would be a nice addition to an evening with friends, family and for the kids of the community to remain in closer proximity to home.

#28

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, November 30, 2018 12:51:58 PM
Last Modified: Friday, November 30, 2018 12:53:58 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:00
IP Address: 66.189.122.146

Page 1: What Holden Do You Want To Live In 10 Years? 20 Years? 50 Years From Now?

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Expansion of commercial tax base with local or regional business and services. Maintenance of a diverse population with respect to age, occupation, and income. Stable home prices with a diversity of housing stock from starter home to larger homes to apartments and senior living facilities. Maintenance of services including quality schools, library, recreation, and social services. Growth management plan and limits on new home growth. Well run town balancing fiscal responsibility and delivery of services.

#29

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, December 01, 2018 5:55:47 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, December 01, 2018 5:57:16 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:29
IP Address: 97.95.188.48

Page 1: What Holden Do You Want To Live In 10 Years? 20 Years? 50 Years From Now?

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Less development and more of a forested landscape.
