

envision
LONG ISLAND • ME
2035 
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

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1. Overview

This survey was intended to provide a vehicle to collect input from the broad Long Island community as we plan for the next 15 years. The survey was informed by interviews with the community beforehand and followed by a series of public forums to go deeper into hot topics. It provided the committee with an opportunity to hear from a number of diverse perspectives and different stakeholders. We heard from 348 citizens in the survey and over 150 citizens in the conversations before and after the survey. The quantity and quality of response from community outreach shows an impressive level of commitment to our future. The response rate we saw on the survey was 40%, which far exceeds benchmark rates for municipal surveys like this. In a small community like Long Island, there are often voices who are louder and more consistently involved than others. This survey provided the opportunity for all voices to be heard both equally and anonymously.

In looking at data from both our community survey and the state census, several points stand out. While our overall population has remained steady over the past decade and is expected to decline over the next decade, there has been a shift in the mix of our population. The age breakdown of this survey shows 67% of respondents as over 55, 30% are between 24-54, and only 5% are under 25. Given that the survey did not target people under the age of 15, there may be some bias in these results. This data may indicate an important shift from the 2010 census data. There has been a significant decrease in children, which is offset by an increase in the 55+ segment. The data that we examined tells us that Long Island has an aging population and that we are not gaining more young people.

According to our survey, 75% of respondents still said they spend time on Long Island through the month of October. In April, over 50% of respondents were back on the island. This data shows us that Long Island is more of a seasonally fluctuating island rather than one with a stark divide between year-round and summer people. This could be related to the availability of work from home during the pandemic, but it is also supported by counts done by the citizens of the island. Lorinda Valls and Mark Greene conducted a population survey in 2020 and 2021 and they recorded 362 people living on the island in October 2020 and 239 residents still here in February 2021. It is also interesting to note that over 60% of respondents said that they have been on the island for more than 20 years. Even though the community talks often about growth and new people, our survey shows that this growth may be slower than it appears. These trends must be taken into serious consideration when planning for and sustaining our future.

What we heard from the community was a resounding desire to keep the island the unique and special place that attracted them here and keeps them coming back. Interestingly, this did not translate to ‘no change.’ The overwhelming sentiment was that sustaining the character of the island we know and love will require us to grow responsibly. There was an acknowledgement that the town government and residents have a considerable amount of work to do. Sustaining the island way of life into the future will take a tremendous amount of work and will require some carefully managed and thoughtful change. The two biggest strategic challenges identified in the survey were around dependable broadband which will enable people

to live and work on the island, and an increased focus on the quality of our water supply. In the time since the development of this survey, the broadband committee has succeeded in bringing service to the island, and wiring for broadband internet has already begun. This fall the town also added a water quality committee, which is working on issues related to water quality and supply. It is heartening to know that the community is activating itself already without waiting for the finalized plan.

The next three issues to make up the top five strategic concerns in the survey include protecting and managing natural resources, sufficient emergency services, such as EMTs and fire and rescue, and access to the working waterfront. The working waterfront plays into the identity of the island. At a number of the forums, participants made it clear that they felt the character and culture of the island come largely from its history as a fishing town. Ensuring continued access for those who rely on the working waterfront to make a living must be an even stronger focus for the town in upcoming years.

A topic that came up throughout the community feedback was the availability of year round housing on the island. In the question about strategic concerns, ‘developing more affordable and scalable housing options’ had 109 responses, or 32% of the respondents. Some strategic concerns that involve housing are attracting businesses as well as young families to the island. Attracting new year-round families was consistent as a priority across all age brackets. This suggests that most residents of the island would support multi-generational investments. When people spoke about attracting new businesses and families, it was with the clear message that a lack of available housing contributes to these issues. Housing also plays a part in challenges to the marine economy. A lack of available housing on the island means a lack of new people moving in and bringing their families and their skills and expertise to the island. It also means that young people who grew up on the island are often prevented from having their adult lives on the island. To get the people who are needed on the island to support volunteerism, the economy, and the school, there must be access to housing.

Having available housing to retain and attract people and families who can help do the work and sustain future generations is critical to our future. Our island depends on volunteers to function. The data showed the number of people willing to volunteer in the future is significantly lower than those who have volunteered in the past. We need families with children to sustain the school. The island also needs expertise to help us manage our constrained and valuable natural resources. Skilled tradespeople to help us maintain buildings, vehicles and boats and volunteers to run and manage the town government and publicly owned assets are necessary for the island’s future. 227 people currently volunteer on the island. When asked if they would like to volunteer in the future, 198 participants said yes and 78 said no. It is possible that the volunteer base for the island is part of the population that is aging.

After examining all of the data and speaking extensively with the community, it was clear that islanders have a strong idea of what they envision for the future of Long Island. From all of this work and data, the committee was able to come up with a vision statement founded in five guiding principles. These principles were developed through the careful analysis of survey data

and community input. Those five guiding principles are ‘community spirit,’ ‘equitable,’ ‘livable,’ ‘resilient,’ and ‘resourceful.’ As the committee crafts this plan, these principles will guide the writing of each chapter and ensure that our plan delivers on the community’s collective vision for the future.

2. Methodology

a. Survey Design

To understand the results of this community survey, it is first critical to understand how the survey was created in the first place. The Comprehensive Planning Committee was developed in early 2021 to create a new town plan that would represent the broad interests of islanders as a whole. To do so, it was crucial to create a survey that would allow the community to share their hopes for the town in 2035 as well as their priorities for the plan. A subgroup of the comprehensive planning committee was specifically designated as the survey team. The development of the survey started with pilot conversations. These were held with both committee members and community members. Individual and group conversations were held in the months of March and April, 2021 with stakeholder groups (LICA, Recreation, Historical Society, Wellness Center, fire/rescue workers, etc) as well as with members of the general public at two Covid Vaccine Clinics held on the Island. Input from over 60 Islanders was received.

This input was used to inform the design of the survey, including the strategic concerns that respondents had to prioritize. Some of the takeaways from these conversations included attracting young working families to the island, availability of housing, available services like contractors, and the health of natural resources like the water supply. From there, the committee consulted resources like the city of Portland's comprehensive plan, Chebeague's community survey and experts from Greater Portland Council of Governments (GPCOG).

The survey was purposefully designed to include both qualitative and quantitative questions. The survey team members felt that including diverse ways of asking questions would help the committee get a more holistic view of the community's feelings about the town. The survey design for this project was intentionally designed to allow participants multiple ways to express their feelings about certain topics. Quantitative questions allow the committee to get a snapshot of the community's feeling about something, where the open-response questions allow for a more detailed, specific look at how people would like to address something in the plan. As a result, the committee received a lot of information and feedback in these answers.

The decision was also made to have the survey be distributed digitally. By creating an online survey, the committee felt that they would be able to reach more people than with a paper survey. The completed surveys would not need to be mailed in or dropped somewhere, and people could take the survey without being physically present on the island. Another way to get as many responses as possible was for the committee to make the survey anonymous. By not requiring names, the participants in the survey could answer more freely and give the committee truly valuable and honest feedback. The input previously gathered from the community helped shape the survey questions and the structure of the survey. The survey was administered on Survey Monkey by Greater Portland Council of Governments (GPCOG).

When it came to the data collected from the survey, the committee wanted to have a balance of both quantitative and qualitative data to work with. Quantitative data is typically expressed as multiple choice or a checklist, rather than open-ended. The GPCOG provided support with analysis of these quantitative questions. These questions provided the committee with results that assign numeric explanations or values to the answers provided by respondents.

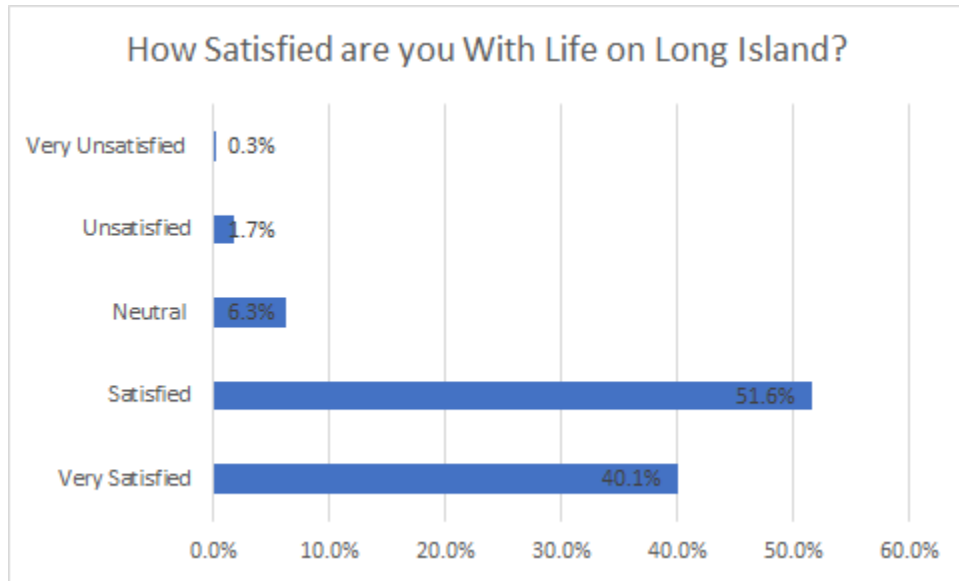
Qualitative data is defined as data which describes the attributes or properties of something. In this survey, qualitative data came from the seven open-ended questions. The survey design for this project was intentionally done to allow participants multiple ways to express their feelings about certain topics. Quantitative questions allow the committee to get a snapshot of the community's feeling about something, where the open-response questions allow for a more detailed, specific look at how people would like to address something in the plan. As a result, the committee received a lot of information and feedback in these answers.

b. Survey Promotion

After the creation of the survey, it was up to the committee to make sure the community knew about the survey and knew how to participate. The survey was made available in paper copies at town hall, but the main promotion focus was to utilize a QR code to take the survey on a smartphone. To promote the survey, the committee members used several strategies both virtual and in-person. The survey was designed to be taken digitally in order to get as many participants as possible, but the committee wanted to ensure that they were able to talk to people in person and encourage them to take the time to participate. There was a promotion of the survey using the Town of Long Island Facebook page, as well as notices posted on the town's website with the link to participate. Members of the comprehensive plan committee also handed out business cards containing the QR code, survey link, and the email for any additional comments to be sent to the committee. The LICA email listserv also sent out periodic notices to 'participate and add your voice' to the survey conversation. All of this outreach was punctuated by events like a float in the Fourth of July parade and an interactive booth at the Wharf Street Festival.

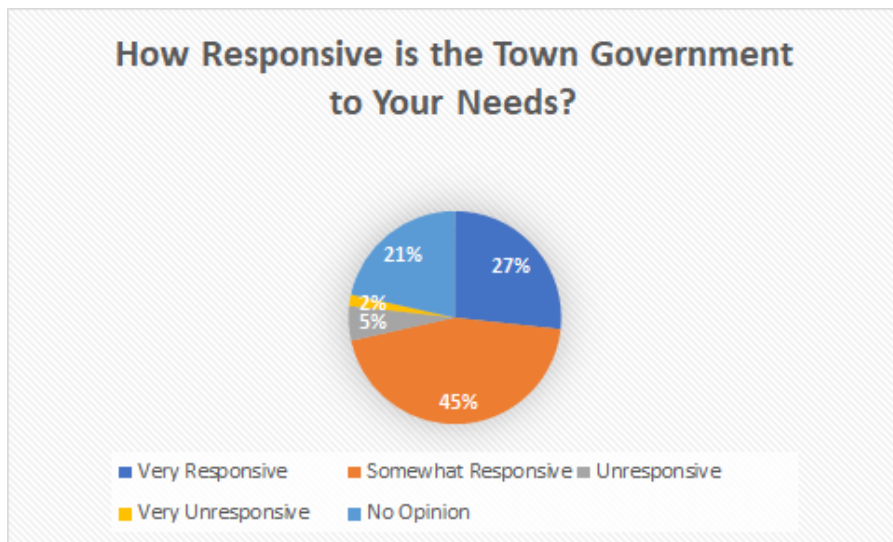
3. Quantitative Data Analysis

Question 1: How satisfied are you with life on Long Island?



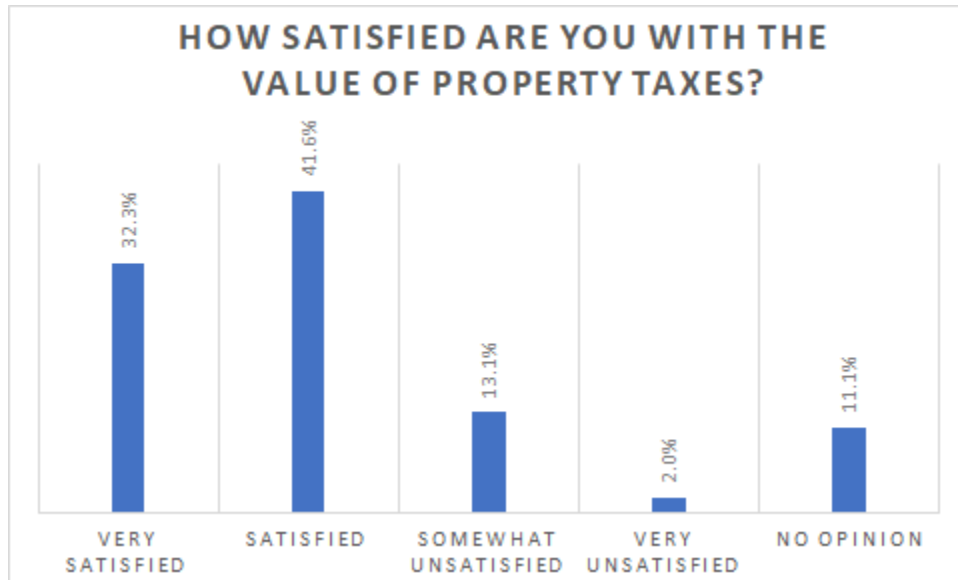
The majority of respondents, 318 or 91.7%, felt satisfied or very satisfied with life on Long Island. That percentage is 318 out of the 347 people who answered this question. One person, representing 0.3% or 1, feels very unsatisfied. Another 22 or 6% had neutral feelings about island life. While the majority of residents are satisfied or very satisfied with life on Long Island, they endorsed concerns about a wide range of strategic issues including the environment and services.

Question 7: How responsive is the town government to your needs?



As shown here, 45% of respondents, or 154, believe the town's government is somewhat responsive to their needs. It is also important to note that a fairly large number of participants, 21% or 74, expressed no opinion. 27%, or 92, the second highest percentage, feel that the town government is very responsive, while 7% or 24 respondents felt that the town government was unresponsive to their needs. This question is an important reflection of peoples' relationship with their town government.

Question 8: How satisfied are you with the value of services you get from your property taxes?



This question asks how satisfied people are with the services they receive from their property taxes. This can mean things like trash collection, road service, recreation, and other public works. The majority of respondents, 73.9% or 254, were either satisfied or very satisfied with the value of their tax dollars. This question seems to reflect a generally favorable opinion of the value of taxes on Long Island, which may be due in part to the town's low tax rate.

Question 9: Which strategies are most important to you for improving the quality of life on Long Island over the next 10-15 years?

This question asks respondents to check all strategic concerns that they believe are important in the coming 10-15 years. Participants were able to check as many or as few of the strategic concerns as they like. This list of strategic concerns was developed by the committee as a result of conversations with over 70 residents of Long Island. Citizens and stakeholder groups were interviewed on their top hopes and dreams and their top challenges, and these responses were what drove the creation of this question.

| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES |
|--|------------|
| Implementing broadband | 67.44% 232 |
| Planning to protect and conserve water supply | 66.57% 229 |
| Protecting and managing open space and natural resources | 63.08% 217 |
| Preserving access to the working waterfront | 52.33% 180 |
| Developing ways to expand the number of EMTs, drivers, and boat captains to continue to provide safe and effective service | 50.29% 173 |
| Building resiliency and self-sufficiency in our capacity to cope with climate change (e.g. moving towards energy independence with alternative power sources) | 47.38% 163 |
| Financial planning to ensure stable tax rate | 47.09% 162 |
| Expanding health and wellness services available on the Island | 46.51% 160 |
| Attracting more businesses and specialty contractors (e.g. electricians, plumbers, mechanics, etc.) | 44.77% 154 |
| Improving existing parks, trails, and recreation opportunities | 43.60% 150 |
| Fostering inclusivity in our community | 41.28% 142 |
| Creating a robust approach to maintain public facilities and community resources (e.g. improving roads, waste management system, local law enforcement) | 40.12% 138 |
| Building new public infrastructure (e.g town marina, town generator, seasonal public restrooms) | 36.63% 126 |
| Attracting new year-round families | 35.76% 123 |
| Expanding environmental sustainability efforts (e.g improving non-vehicle ways to travel such as walking and biking) | 34.30% 118 |
| Expanding strategies to increase the number of volunteers available to serve the community (e.g. improved communication about volunteer opportunities, volunteer training) | 32.56% 112 |
| Creating a school investment strategy for pre-K to grade 12 (including the option of opening up school to draw off-island students) | 31.69% 109 |
| Developing more affordable and scalable housing options | 31.69% 109 |
| Expanding partnerships with other islands or contractors to provide public services | 30.52% 105 |
| Building new community services (e.g childcare center, senior center, welcoming "gateway" down front) | 29.36% 101 |
| Providing new or expanded arts and cultural offerings | 27.03% 93 |
| Other (please specify) or Comments | 15.12% 52 |
| Total Respondents: 344 | |

This question provided a clear picture of the concerns of island residents. The top two concerns were ‘implementing broadband’ and ‘planning to protect and conserve the water supply,’ both of which had approximately 230 responses, or approximately 67%. By Summer 2022, residents are expected to be connected to state-of-the-art gigabit fiber. Citizens have also recently established a water quality committee that was approved by the town, which emerged from some of the conversations at the vision workshops. It is encouraging to see action being taken on the top two strategic concerns that came out of this survey.

The third biggest strategic concern, with 217 responses, or 63%, is ‘protecting and managing open spaces and natural resources.’ People in the community are concerned about how

to preserve the natural beauty and resources of the island, especially because those are things that are valued by those who live here. All of the top three concerns came up frequently in the open-ended responses to the survey.

The fourth strategic concern was preserving access to the working waterfront, which got 180 responses, or 52%. On Long Island, the bulk of the local economy is made up of people who depend on access to the working waterfront to make a living. The working waterfront is made up of not only fisheries, but also aquaculture, seafood processors, marine mechanics, and many other elements that all rely on the waterfront to support themselves.

After the working waterfront, the next large concern was how to expand the number of emergency service workers like EMTs, drivers, and boat captains on the island. The town is already at risk of not having enough of these emergency service workers, and an aging population could make this more of a concern in the next fifteen years. Ensuring that people feel safe on the island and that the town takes public safety seriously were very important to respondents to this survey.

Expanding health and wellness services on the island received 160 responses. It was noted that those in the lowest two income brackets showed much higher support for expanding health and wellness services on the island compared to the highest income bracket. Older populations also showed a higher percentage of support for improving health and wellness services. Again, this showcases a desire for the island to be a safe place for people to live, and that includes the ability to access healthcare and age in place.

The next big concern is the need to build resilience and self-sufficiency to cope with climate change, with 163 responses. This type of resilience echoes the concerns about protecting natural resources, while also highlighting the fact that the island places a lot of value on being able to manage itself and care for itself.

Long Island prides itself for having a very low tax rate. The concern ‘financial planning to ensure a stable tax rate’ received 162 responses from people who answered this survey. According to these results, people feel that it is very important to maintain the affordable tax rate for residents of Long Island. Its financial health also depends on its ability to attract more businesses and contractors. This is highlighted frequently in open-response questions of the survey as well. People identified that a lack of services and contractors made it difficult to get things done on the island, and they expressed a desire for improvement in this area over the next 15 years.

The last three issues with over 40% response all had to do with the community. These last three concerns were improving parks, trails, and recreation, fostering inclusivity in the community, and creating a robust approach to maintain public facilities and community resources. At 150 responses, improving existing parks, trails, and recreation was the first of these final three. When asked what participants like to do on Long Island, they spoke about

spending time outdoors and enjoying the natural beauty of the island. This concern for improving and maintaining outdoor spaces reflects that.

People were also concerned about fostering inclusivity in their community. This concern appeared across the survey with people wanting everyone to feel equally welcome in the Long Island community. Many people expressed hope that over the next 15 years, the island would become a more inclusive place for long timers, newcomers, and seasonal residents. Not only are people thinking about their inclusion in their community, they also want to have an equal voice in the town government. This includes a need for equality in the way that people are expected to respect town laws and ordinances. This concern comes up over and over again in the survey, especially in the open response questions. Participants want to make sure that as the island changes over the next 15 years, it becomes a place that accepts everyone whether they are here for a lifetime or just for a day.

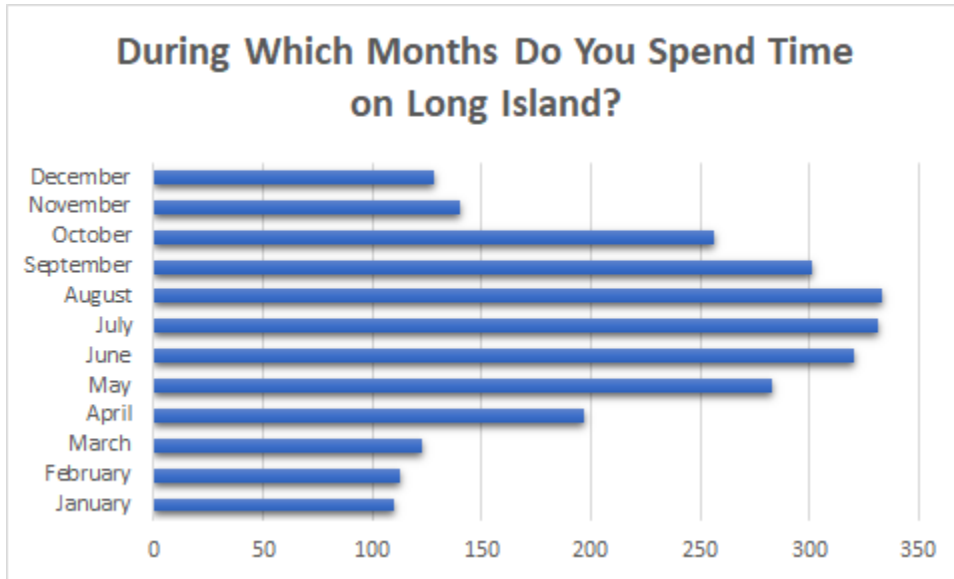
The last strategic concern with a greater than 40% response rate was creating a robust approach to maintain public facilities and community resources, like improving roads and law enforcement. This concern encompasses a lot of the values that have already been mentioned, and highlights again that Long Islanders want to take care of each other and the island as well. The fact that people have highlighted the town's role in maintaining its facilities and services as something to keep up and improve over the next 15 years shows that residents and taxpayers expect the town to take action.

Across the board we saw strong concern. We provided 20 strategic concerns expecting to see a cluster of highly-rated issues that came to the top. Each of the 12 highest ranked strategic concerns had over 138 responses, or at least 40%. We saw that the lowest number of people who responded to a specific strategic concern were 93, or 27%. Overall, responses were similar across demographic factors. For example, households with or without children shared similar priorities. Strategies for the future would receive similar support across demographics. According to best practices for municipal planning, all 20 strategic concerns received enough support to merit being captured in the comprehensive plan.

Question 10: During which months of the year do you spend time on Long Island?

On Long Island, there has long been an assumption that there is a distinct difference between the summer and year-round populations. This survey data presents a picture of the island with more people staying for six or more months of the year, rather than the traditional

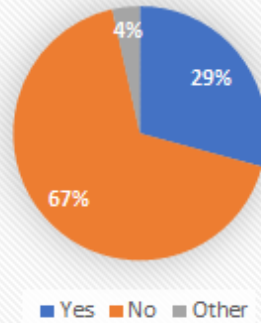
June through August timeframe.



This bar chart shows the distribution of time respondents to this survey spend on the island. Most respondents spend time on the island during the summer, with 320 (94%) responding for June, 331 for July (97%), and 333 for August (98%). This drops off to just 301 (88%) in September and 256 in October (75%). According to this data, the lines between summer people and year-rounders are blurring. This question shows that even in October, the respondents are staying longer than they might have in the past. As early as April, 197 or 58% of respondents said they were on the island. This shift could potentially impact how the town thinks about its year round population and the services that exist to support them. This data may also be impacted by the fact that the Covid-19 pandemic allowed for more work from home options. Therefore, more people are using their seasonal homes for longer during the year.

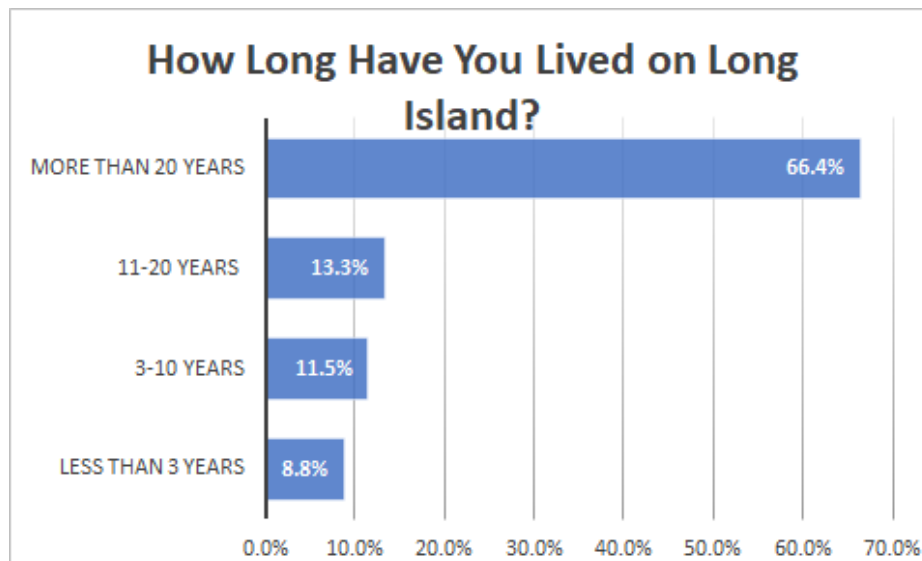
Question 11: Do you consider Long Island to be your primary residence?

Do You Consider Long Island Your Primary Residence?



There were 67%, or 230 respondents who do not consider Long Island to be their primary place of residence. Another 29%, or 100, do consider it their primary home, and 4% or 12 responded with 'other.' According to this data, the survey did an admirable job of reaching those who consider Long Island their primary residence and therefore depend on the town for resources and services. This proportion aligns with the Decennial Census and counts done by citizens of the island Lorinda Valls and Mark Greene who conducted a population survey in 2018 showing the highest population between 845 and 958 during the summer. The Decennial Census shows 238 year-round full time residents.

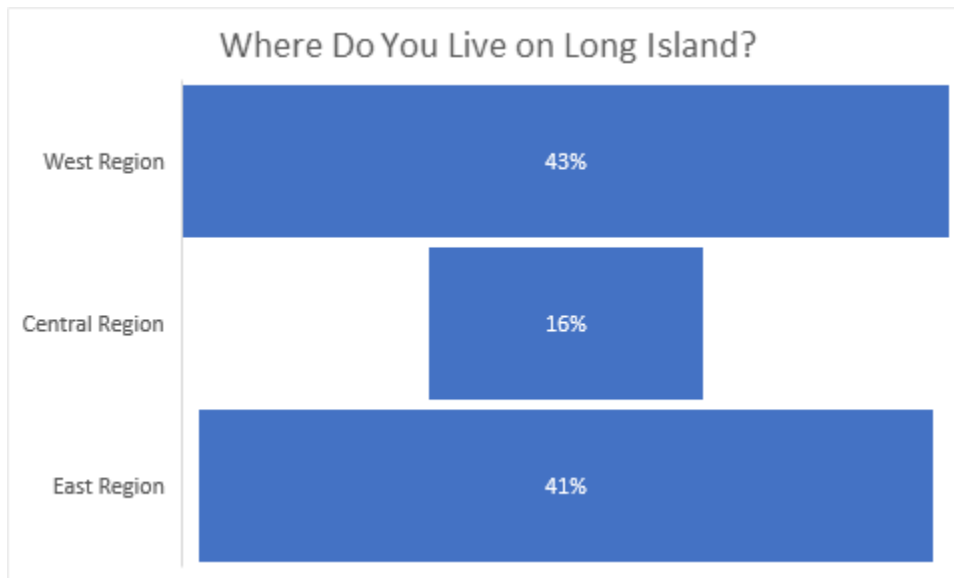
Question 12: How long have you lived on Long Island?



In response to Question 12, respondents quantified what is well known- that Long Island is made up of people who have been here for decades. There are 66%, or 219, respondents who have lived on the island for more than twenty years. On the other end of the spectrum, there are 9% or 29 respondents who have lived on the island for fewer than three years.

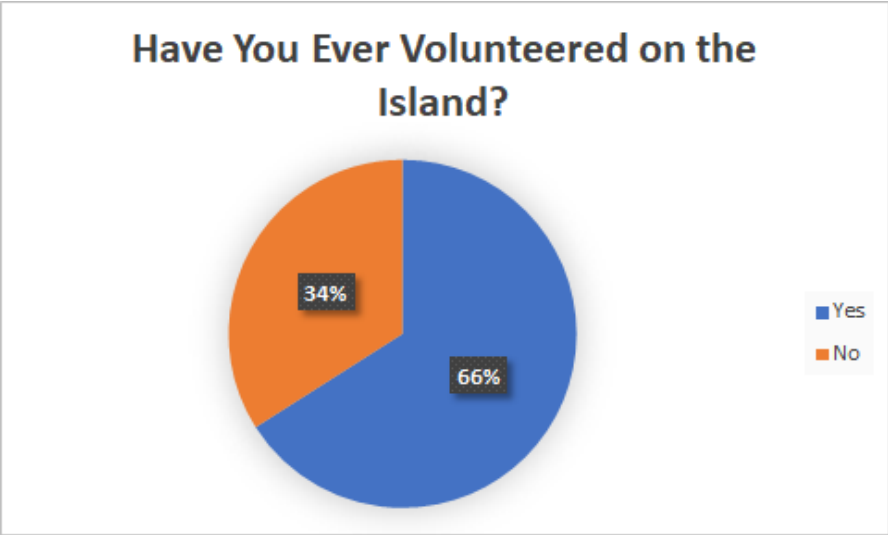
Question 14: Where do you live on Long Island?

Another way to analyze the pool of survey respondents is learning where on the island they live. The following graph shows the percentage of respondents who live in each of the three designated regions; the West Region, the Central Region, and the East Region.



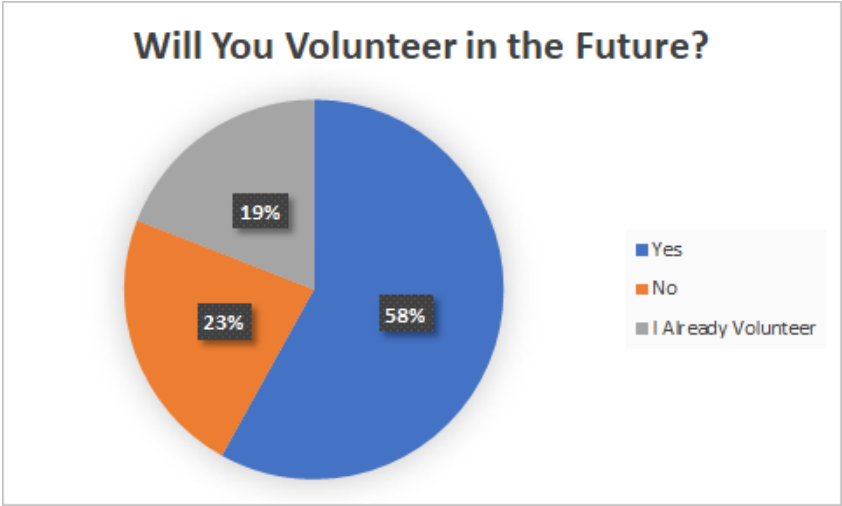
These percentages broke down into 147 (43%) people living in the West Region, 53 Central (15%), and 141 East (41%). It is important to note that, as many islanders have pointed out, the reason for such a small number of respondents in the Central Region may have to do with the fact that a good portion of that land is conservation land, known as ‘The Area.’ Overall this question reflects not only the geographic spread of people who answered this survey, but also how strongly residents of the island identify themselves with their neighborhood and their location on the island.

Question 15: Have you ever volunteered on Long Island?



One concern we heard in every part of the survey was the importance of volunteers to the island. Long Island relies on volunteers, some of whom receive small stipends from the town government, to do everything from governing the town to running committees like finance, planning, and the school board. The town’s emergency services and wellness council and all community organizations that we depend upon for social engagement like the library, historical society, and civic association are all volunteer-run. Those who consider Long Island their primary residence are more likely to support investment in the school, as well as more likely to have volunteered. This data shows that 66% of respondents (227) do currently volunteer on the island, and approximately 34% (117) do not. This confirms that the vast majority of citizens volunteer in some capacity in order to run the town.

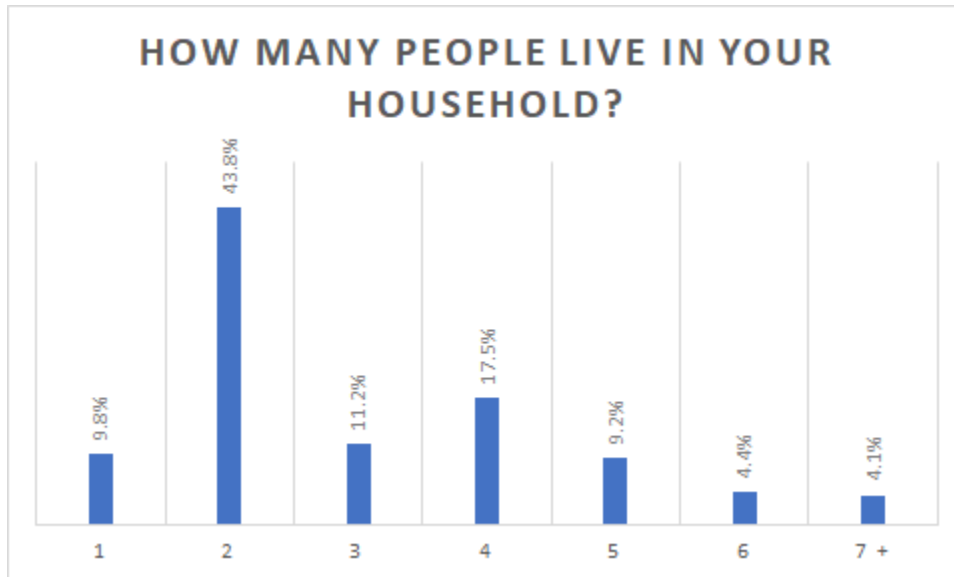
Question 16: Are you interested in volunteering on the island in the future?



The survey also asked if people would be interested in volunteering on the island in the future. While 19% or 58 respondents answered that they already volunteer, 58% (198) said that

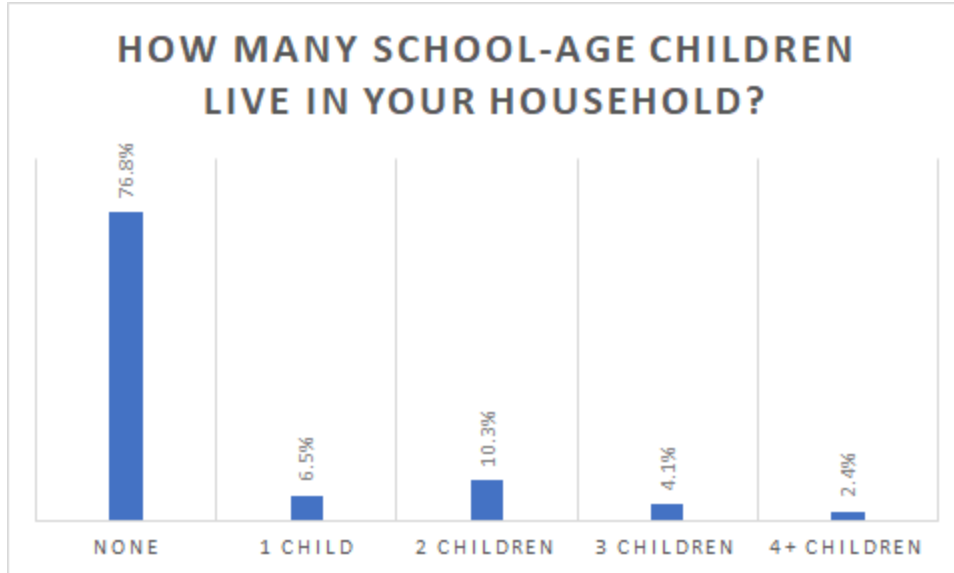
yes, they would like to volunteer in the future. 23% of respondents (78) were not interested in volunteering. With fewer people planning to volunteer in the future than are volunteering now (see responses to Question 15) the town faces a potential critical shortage of volunteers to run its fire and rescue team, town boards and civic groups.

Question 17: How many people, including yourself, live in your household?



To learn more about the size of families and groups on the island, the survey asked how many people lived in each respondent's household. 44%, or 148, responded that there were two people in the household. The rest of the responses were relatively evenly distributed among other choices: 10% or (33) of the respondents had one person in the house, 11% (38) had three people, 18% (59) live with four people in the house, 9% (31) had five, 4% (15) had six, and 4% (14) had seven or more. This data tells us that the vast majority of Long Islanders live in two person households, which validates data extracted from other sources that shows a decrease in families living on the island.

Question 18: How many school-age children live in your household?

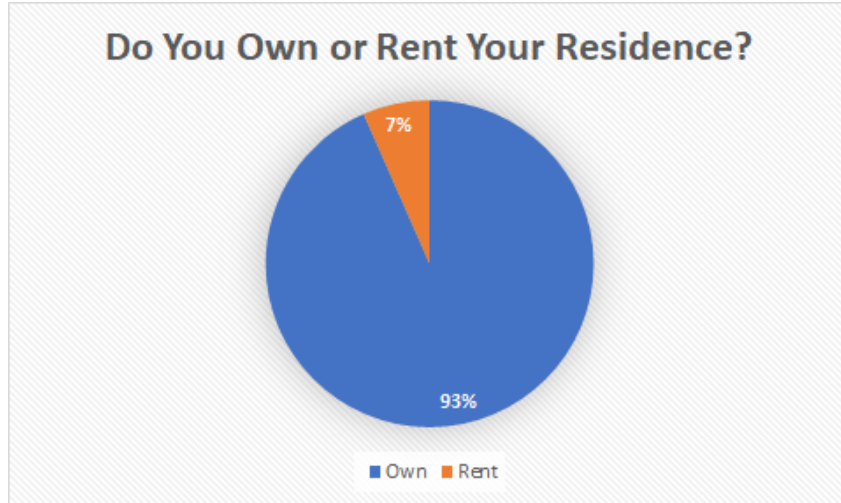


With the large number of two-person households, it is not surprising that 261 or nearly 77% report having no children. School-age children are defined in this survey as those eighteen years old or younger. In total, 23% or 79 respondents have some school age children in their households. Broken down, 10% (35) had two children, and respondents with one, three, or four or more children all fell below 10% of respondents.

In the 2010 census, the island had 59 year-round residents under the age of 24. According to the survey data, there are 19 year round-families with children under the age of 18. This survey did allow for multiple responses from each household, which may create some bias in these results. There are 60 families with children under 18 who do not consider Long Island their primary residence.

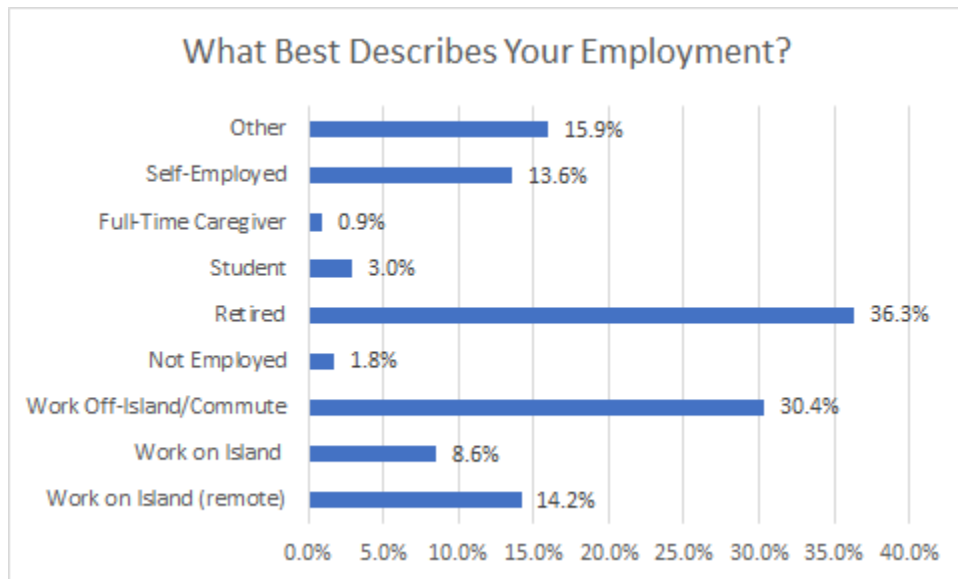
Question 19: Do you own or rent your residence on Long Island?

To get a better understanding of the participants' relationship to the island, the survey also asked whether they rented or owned their property or residence on the island. The results from that question are shown in the pie chart below.



This graphic shows that the overwhelming majority of people who answered our survey own their homes on Long Island. When broken down into percentages, 93.41% or 312 respondents own their homes while 6.59% or 22 rent. The high percentage of homeowners helps point to a gap in availability of rental properties on Long Island. It also points to the fact that the vast majority of respondents pay taxes to the Town of Long Island and likely have a financial and emotional investment in Long Island’s future.

Question 20: Which of the following best describes your employment status?

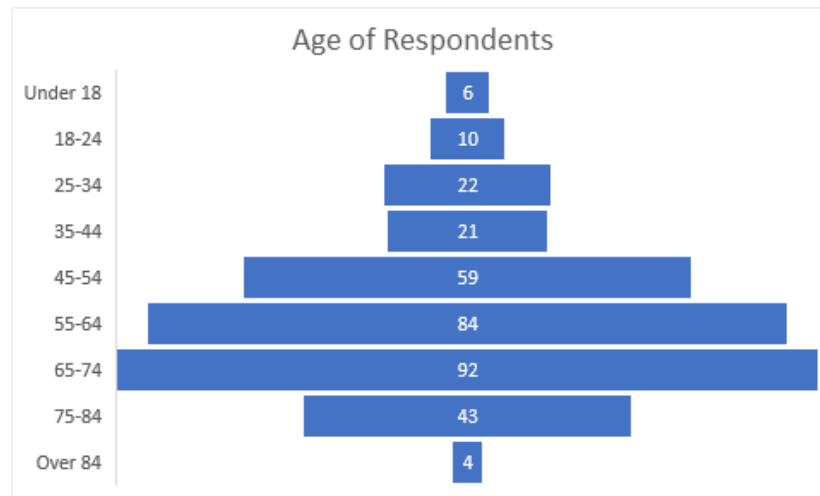


The survey also asked respondents to select an option that best described their current employment status. More than one-third of respondents, 36%, or 123, selected ‘Retired.’ Nearly one third, 103 or 30% said they commuted to work off island. The next largest category of respondents listed their employment as “Other,” closely followed by 48 or 14% who work on the island remotely. Another 29 or 9% work on the island. Students, the unemployed and full-time

caregivers comprise 19 or nearly 6% of the responses. The lowest number of employed people represented in this survey are those who work on the island, which suggests that the town's economy could benefit from the creation of more on-island job opportunities. The small number of island workers can also reasonably be expected to grow smaller as the island's working population ages, which raises even more concerns for the future economy of the island.

Question 21: What is your age?

The following chart shows the number of respondents who fit into each age category.

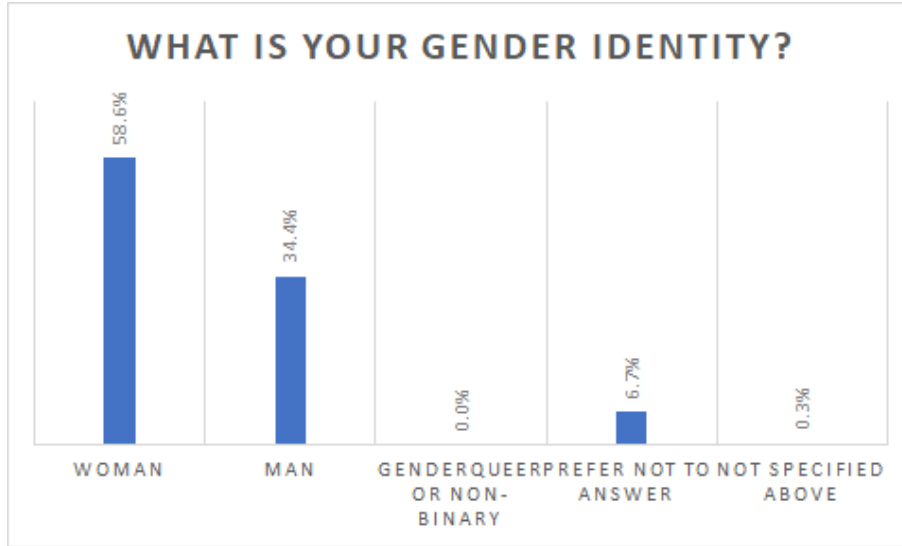


When taking all age categories into consideration, 67% of respondents are over the age of 55. This chart shows that the two largest age categories represented in the survey are 55-64 at 25%, with 84 respondents, and 65-74, with 92 respondents at 27%. It is also important to consider that even though this response data shows that the vast majority of respondents are over the age of 55, that is a fairly representative view of the island population. The most recently available data breaking down age groups on Long Island from the 2010 Decennial Census shows that upwards of 44% of the island's population is over the age of 55. The over 55 demographic has significantly increased over the past 10 years.

Comparing 2010 census data to the Long Island survey data set we see the under 24 age category has decreased from 26% of the census population contrasted with 5% of the 2020 community survey population. Alternatively, the over 55 age group has increased from 44% of the census population to 67% of the 2020 survey population.

It appears that the 2020 Decennial Census figure for Long Island, 234, comports well with a carefully executed island count performed by knowledgeable island residents. This data paints a picture of an island that may be shifting to a larger older population while losing much of its younger people.

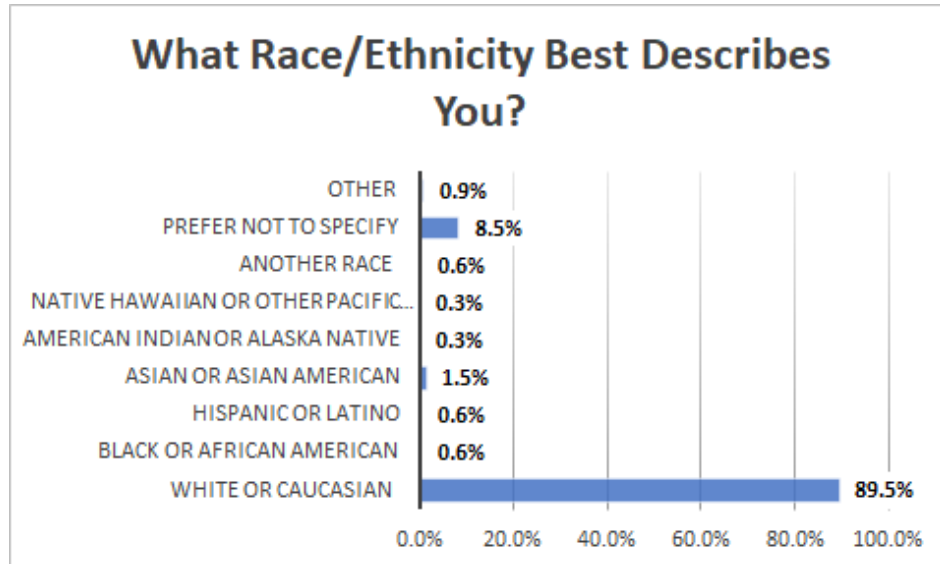
Question 22: What is your gender identity?



Gender identity of respondents was heavily skewed towards women, with 59%, or 201 respondents identifying as female. Approximately 34% (118) identified as male. 7% of respondents elected not to answer the question. In the 2021 survey, genderqueer and not specified are included as potential answers as well, although only one person (0.3%) chose ‘not specified’ and nobody selected genderqueer.

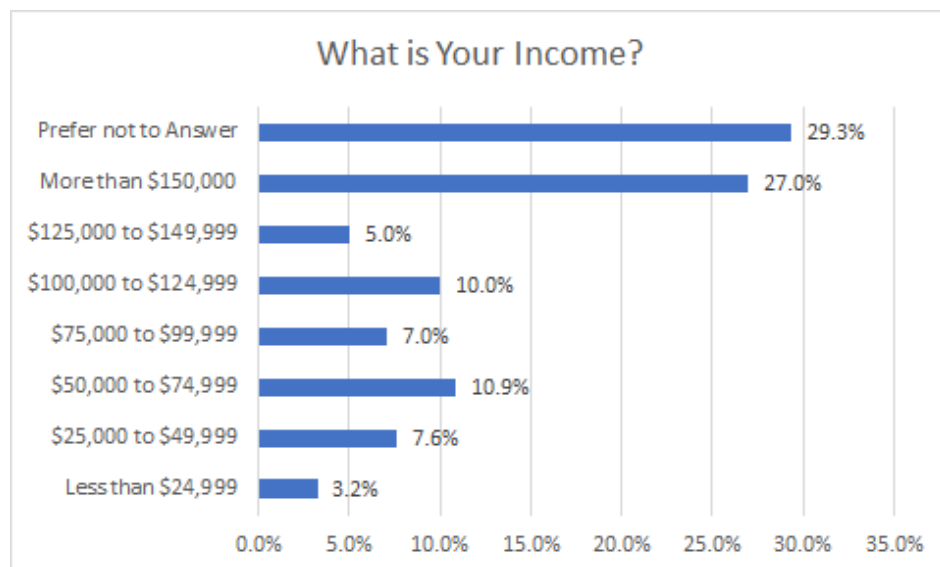
Data from the state of Maine census of 2010 shows 49.6% of the town was male and 50.4% was female. Although those numbers are outdated, it should be noted that the survey results present a less even picture of male and female responses. This is the question that does not appear to be demographically representative of the town unless there has been an extremely dramatic change. The state of Maine census data shows that the total population has been steady, but the survey data would indicate there has been a shift from an even split between men and women to a demographic more heavily weighted towards women. It may be that the population dynamic has changed, but we do not yet have data from the census to show this.

Question 23: What race or ethnicity best describes you?



The majority of respondents identified as ‘White or Caucasian,’ which made up 307 or 89.5% of respondents. The second largest response was 29 or 8.5% of respondents elected not to specify, while the third largest was 5 or 1.5% who identified as ‘Asian or Asian American.’ The rest of the races/ethnicities each made up less than 1% of respondents. As a state, Maine is one of the whitest states in the nation. According to the 2020 census data, the state’s population is 90.8% white. Therefore, according to this survey data Long Island’s racial makeup is very slightly more diverse than the state at large.

Question 24: What is your approximate annual household income?



When asked about their household income, the majority of respondents, 100 or 29.3%, chose not to respond. The second largest category with 92 or 27% of responses had an income of

‘More than \$150,000.’ The smallest group had an income of ‘Less than \$24,999’ with 11 or 3% of respondents. While it is hard to draw meaningful conclusions from this data, an analysis of responses from those who chose not to answer this question showed those respondents were generally women in one- and two-person households for whom Long Island was not their primary home. Meanwhile, the U.S. Census 2019 American Community Survey estimates Long Island’s median household annual income to be \$80,556, which is above the state’s median of \$58,924 and the national average of \$65,712.

As a contrast to people's favorite parts of life on Long Island, this question allowed people to remark on things that they wish would change on the island. Here, the largest word that came up was 'lack.' In the context of this data, 'lack' was used in phrases to describe things that people on the island felt were missing. Some respondents went into great detail to describe the lack of contractors. One respondent said that "It is very difficult to maintain our cottage because there are few contractors and professionals to call upon when things need to be fixed and improved." Another response expressed a similar sentiment, saying "It is difficult to find good "services" ie; plumbers, carpenters, roofers, appliance repair, car repair, etc."

In this word cloud, the word 'summer' is also prominent, and many of the responses relate to issues that come up with the influx of people to the island in the summer. Some examples here that you can see evidence for in the word cloud include a lack of consistent enforcement of rules. Residents are troubled by the fact that some rules are enforced differently depending on who you are, and some rules aren't enforced at all. One participant commented that they do not like "The sad fact that sometimes rules apply based on who you are or who you know. It's no different than anywhere else but more pronounced here because we're such a small community."

Responses also mention issues like the large deer tick infestation caused by the island's large deer population. The tick population in particular worries people because it limits their access to the natural beauty of the island and is a threat to health and wellness. Eleven of the responses to this question specifically mention ticks, and other responses talk about invasive species in the Conservation Area. In these responses, people were focused on explaining what they feel is lacking on Long Island, and they expressed a want for these things to change.

Another issue that participants felt was a lack of internet access. Many responses talked about a lack of available internet or feeling like there was a slow connection. Participants were worried about the lack of internet not only because they want the access at home, but also because a lack of internet connectivity means a lack of work from home opportunities. This issue is such a focus for the island that even as this report is written, broadband internet service is being installed on the island.

A number of participants also commented that an issue related to the seasonal population is a feeling of 'us vs. them' between year-round and newcomers and summer residents. For example, one participant said that "There seems to be an increasing divide between year round property owners and property owners who visit seasonally."

In these responses, people were focused on explaining what they feel is lacking on Long Island. They also expressed a desire for change. These responses align with respondents' selections in response to Question 9, which asked respondents to select strategic issues they were most concerned about.

families to continue to live here in the future. One participant said “I would like to see more long term planning for the infrastructure of the town, more effort to preserve what we have and make it a little nicer, and efforts to attract people to the island.” This means a focus on maintenance, internet service, and affordability among other things.

Another facet of livability that came up in this question was the working waterfront. There were numerous responses about preserving access to the working waterfront. One person said “Real attention needs to be given to the infrastructure or lack thereof, concerning our marine related industry. We have but one town owned dock that is in need of serious, expensive "love". Lobstering is still a living made by many full time residents, and as aquaculture expands, access will be key to the chance for real on island marine related industry.” Comments continued to express similar sentiments, with people identifying that the working waterfront and lobster fishing are a big part of the character of Long Island. Participants wanted to be sure that the interests of these groups are highlighted in this survey and in the comprehensive plan.

People also had concerns about natural resources on the island such as the water supply. One person was fairly blunt and said “I think understanding our water supply and conservation of that water is our greatest issue.” Participants worried over how climate change may impact the island, and this came up both in terms of maintaining a healthy water supply and preparing for changes in the future. One response said “We can't go back to how life used to be on Long Island 30-50 years ago, thus the trick will be achieving small-town living that is... progressive on important matters such as climate change, pollution, water and energy sustainability.”

Conclusion

Overall, the people who responded to this survey put time and thought into their responses because they care about the island. It is obvious when reading through this information that people are passionate about Long Island because they love their home. This community feels very strongly about being able to govern and care for the island themselves, and this means not only maintenance of the status quo, but careful and planful growth. One person wrote “I don't want the overall character of the island to change, but I think we need to do more to entice people to move here year round.” This comprehensive plan will strive to ensure that the careful responses people gave to this survey are heard, and that we can plan to support the island in the upcoming fifteen years in the best way possible.

The word clouds and the responses allowed for the creation of five guiding principles, which are ‘Resilient,’ ‘Resourceful,’ ‘Equitable,’ ‘Livable,’ and ‘Community Spirit.’ The community worked together to create these terms and to brainstorm how each applies to the future of Long Island. These guiding principles were crafted through analysis of this survey data, and they will guide the writing of the comprehensive plan.

5. Next Steps

The input from this survey allowed the committee to lead eight community forums about targeted topics; housing, wellness, youth, the vision forums, land stewardship, contractors, and the working waterfront. In total, these forums had over 160 community participants that provided us with feedback. Some of the key findings that wove their way through each forum were the importance of available housing, the critical nature of volunteers on Long Island, and how there is a real need to attract young working families. Regardless of the topic under discussion, the community was focused on solutions that can make the island livable for its residents throughout the whole year. Each of these forums allowed people to talk in person with members of the comprehensive planning committee and share their specific concerns and suggestions.

This data and feedback from the survey and subsequent public forums will be instrumental to the development of the comprehensive plan. The community's response to this survey and all of the valuable information included here will allow for the 2035 comprehensive plan to be an extremely representative and inclusive picture of the interests of the community. As we create the plan, we will be sure to integrate challenges and potential solutions suggested by community members along the way. The feedback from this survey along with this report will provide the foundation for the plan as we write it.

This survey report provides valuable information to our community right now and can be used to inform decisions and actions as we move forward. There were 247 respondents to the 2006 survey, and the 2021 survey had 348 participants. The response rate to this survey is exceptionally high, which means that it is both statistically valid and an important compilation of concerns among people with a stake in the future of the island. The report will be available to the public on the town website and copies will be available at the library and town hall.