



JURISDICTIONAL BREAKDOWNS FAIRFAX COUNTY

Fairfax County is the largest county by population in both Virginia and the Greater Washington region with more than 1.1 million people, as well as the second-wealthiest county in the nation (after Loudoun County). The home to major IT and defense industries, Fairfax is also home to Tyson’s Corner, the 12th largest central business district in the nation. The VoicesDMV survey results for Fairfax County reflect a community that is among the most positive in our region on its assets, amenities, and infrastructure but also conflicted about perceived growth and change in the community.

HIGHLIGHTS, CHALLENGES, AND OPPORTUNITIES

Fairfax residents report a lot to be proud of in their civic infrastructure and amenities, with 75 percent of respondents saying they are either “likely” or “extremely likely” to recommend Fairfax as a place to live to a friend or co-worker. Eighty-six percent of respondents rated local schools as either “excellent” or “good” and only 2 percent rated them “poor”—on par with Montgomery County and Northern Virginia more broadly. Only 2 percent of Fairfax respondents felt that the County is a “poor” place to raise children, and just 2.7 percent rated the County as “not safe at all”—these were both the lowest reported levels in the region. Only 4.5 percent of Fairfax residents reported feeling that the availability of goods and services were “fair” or “poor”—again.

Many Fairfax residents have long and deep roots in the County, with respondents noting an average of twelve years residency in their current home and 45 percent of residents reporting they’ve lived in their home for more than ten years. And while Fairfax respondents noted they are least likely to move in the next year versus other jurisdictions (only 20 percent say they are likely to move within a year), a larger share of Fairfax residents noted they would move out of the region entirely if they had a choice (30 percent—the highest rating in the DMV).

Among Fairfax’s biggest reported issues was traffic. More than 70 percent of Fairfax respondents noted that they had trouble getting to where they needed to go because of traffic at least monthly—this was the highest reported share of traffic-challenged respondents in the region.

Q20f. IN THE PAST YEAR, HOW OFTEN HAVE YOU HAD TROUBLE GETTING TO WHERE YOU NEED TO GO BECAUSE OF TRAFFIC?

	DC	PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY	MONTGOMERY COUNTY	FAIRFAX COUNTY	OTHER NORTHERN VIRGINIA
NEVER	26%	30%	18%	14%	15%
LESS THAN ONCE PER MONTH	20%	13%	19%	16%	17%
MONTHLY	22%	17%	21%	23%	22%
WEEKLY	18%	17%	24%	24%	26%
DAILY	14%	23%	19%	25%	20%

ISSUE FOCUS: DISCRIMINATION

Just over 22 percent of respondents note they have experienced discrimination in the past year—somewhat lower than the regional average. In terms of discrimination, a low share of respondents in Fairfax note that preventing discrimination should be an “extremely high” priority for local government—just 30 percent. For people experiencing discrimination, racial and ethnic discrimination was the most common experience—68 percent of respondents who said they experience discrimination note this was the cause.

“ There are good schools here which lead to more upward mobility, but income disparities might keep some people from taking advantage of [the schools for their children].

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

Fairfax respondents were also less enthusiastic than some of their neighbors about the leadership of local government officials, with just 9.8 percent reporting they felt such leadership was “excellent.” Fairfax residents also feel less empowered to influence local government, with just 17 percent noting they have “great” or “moderate” influence, again, the lowest in the region along with Montgomery County.

“ [We need to] bridge the gaps [and create] regional solutions across varying economic and demographic populations to address issues like transportation cost and availability, and [low] salaries.

Like other suburban jurisdictions, fewer Fairfax respondents report relying on nonprofits for services—65.7 percent of respondents note they “never” avail themselves of the services nonprofits offer, and 82 percent of those respondents report they simply do not need any services at all.

While the percentage of Fairfax respondents who report their community is undergoing “a lot” of changes is about average for the region (32 percent), Fairfax residents seem to be less positive about the changes that are occurring. Only 15 percent of Fairfax respondents note that the perceived changes are benefiting them, or people like them (the lowest in the region), and more than 7 percent say they benefit no one at all.