

JEFFERSON, MADISON AND SALEM TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY OPINION SURVEY

COMBINED RESULTS - ALL TOWNSHIPS

Jefferson, Madison and Salem Townships are preparing a Comprehensive Plan. We need your help! Your name has been chosen at random to receive a community survey being sent to only 10% of all voters and taxpayers. Your participation is, therefore, crucial.

This survey is intended to assess your feelings about your Township and your expectations about the future. Please keep this in mind when answering the survey questions. You should read the entire survey before you begin to answer the questions. Some questions ask for only one response while others ask for multiple answers. Also, if more than one person in your household would like to respond to the opinion questions, please feel free to pick up an additional survey form at the Township Buildings or visit the project website at: www.shepstone.net/JMS.

Please return it in the enclosed pre-addressed, postage paid, envelope as soon as possible. Surveys mailed after April 19 cannot be included in the results. The data will be COMPLETELY CONFIDENTIAL and will be tabulated by our consultants. Public meetings are planned for the near future to present the results.

1) Which of these Townships do you live in or have a 2nd home in? (Check for primary residence)

110	Jefferson Township, Lackawanna County	27.0%
130	Madison Township, Lackawanna County	31.9%
167	Salem Township, Wayne County	41.0%
407	Totals	100.0%

2) How many years in total have you lived in this Township? How many years in total have you lived in this County?

64	Less than 5 years	15.8%	36	Less than 5 years	8.9%
44	5 to 9 years	10.9%	27	5 to 9 years	6.7%
39	10 to 14 years	9.7%	26	10 to 14 years	6.4%
33	15 to 19 years	8.2%	22	15 to 19 years	5.4%
49	20 to 24 years	12.1%	35	20 to 24 years	8.6%
169	25+ years	41.8%	254	25+ years	62.6%
6	None - 2nd home	1.5%	6	None - 2nd home	1.5%
404	Totals	100.0%	406	Totals	100.0%

3) How much land do you own in this Township?

26	None, I rent	6.6%
121	Less than 1 acre	30.6%
22	1 to 2 acres	5.6%
120	2 to 5 acres	30.3%
23	6 to 9 acres	5.8%
18	10 to 19 acres	4.5%
31	20 to 49 acres	7.8%
22	50 to 99 acres	5.6%
5	100 to 149 acres	1.3%
5	150 to 199 acres	1.3%
3	More than 200 acres	0.8%
396	Totals	100.0%

4) What MOST influenced your ORIGINAL decision to live here? (Please check no more than 3) What are the PRIMARY reasons you CONTINUE to live here? (Please check no more than 3)

235	Rural atmosphere	27.5%	260	Rural atmosphere	29.9%
168	Born or raised here	19.7%	167	Friends/relatives	19.2%
127	Friends/relatives	14.9%	135	Born or raised here	15.5%
70	Affordable housing	8.2%	75	Low crime rate	8.6%
68	Low taxes	8.0%	65	Close to work	7.5%
62	Close to work	7.3%	55	Affordable housing	6.3%
62	Quality of schools	7.3%	55	Low taxes	6.3%
56	Low crime rate	6.6%	48	Quality of schools	5.5%
5	Quality of services	0.6%	9	Quality of services	1.0%
853	Totals	100.0%	869	Totals	100.0%

5) Which of the following statements BEST describes your opinion of how the Township you live in has changed since the time you first moved here? (Please check only ONE)

174	The Township has not changed noticeably in its desirability as a place to live.	44.3%
120	The Township has become a less desirable place to live.	30.5%
74	The Township has become a more desirable place to live.	18.8%
25	I have not lived here long enough to form an opinion.	6.4%
393	Totals	100.0%

6) What do you like LEAST about the Township? (Please check no more than 3)	187	Increased density of population	20.8%
	125	Cost of services/taxes	13.9%
	121	Lack of shopping opportunities	13.4%
	103	Lack of cultural/recreation	11.4%
	83	Lack of job opportunities	9.2%
	82	Lack of land use regulation	9.1%
	65	Quality of services	7.2%
	62	Transportation difficulties	6.9%
	59	Too much regulation now	6.5%
	14	Housing costs	1.6%
901	Totals	100.0%	

7) Please rate the importance of each of these aspects of the Township's environment to your personal quality of life: (Circle your rating for each, using the following guide) 1 = Not that important 2 = Slightly important 3 = Moderately important 4 = Very important 5 = Extremely important	Drinking water quality	9	2	13	72	304	1,860
	Air quality	11	5	28	98	260	1,797
	Stream water quality	21	27	50	107	190	1,603
	Wildlife habitat	24	27	78	101	169	1,561
	Mature forests	22	32	91	130	115	1,454
	Scenic views	33	31	82	144	105	1,442
	Farmland	39	37	99	92	126	1,408
	Wetlands	54	58	83	92	109	1,332
	Stream corridors	47	53	96	98	96	1,313
	Historic buildings	80	54	132	76	49	1,133
	River access	97	67	103	58	60	1,072

8) Please rate the importance of regulating each of these aspects of land development in your Township: (Circle your rating for each, using the following guide) 1 = Not that important 2 = Slightly important 3 = Moderately important 4 = Very important 5 = Extremely important	Protection of farmland	14	17	58	108	200	1,654
	Impact on streams	9	16	73	116	179	1,619
	Commercial dev. near homes	35	25	40	91	208	1,609
	Density of development	24	12	69	95	192	1,595
	Preserving trees at commercial	22	26	83	114	154	1,549
	Scenic impact	24	25	77	125	143	1,520
	Site design and layout	28	28	84	126	128	1,480
	Landscaping	28	27	89	133	111	1,436
	Business signs	51	39	95	85	127	1,389
	Hillside development	40	29	101	114	103	1,372
	Historic character	46	51	114	100	80	1,290

9) Modern technology and ease of travel has made it possible than ever to conduct businesses from residential locations.	Do you have an existing home occupation?		Would you like to have a home occupation?			
	59	Yes	14.8%	86	Yes	24.2%
	340	No	85.2%	270	No	75.8%
	399	Totals	100.0%	356	Totals	100.0%

		Reduce		Continue		Increase	
10) Please tell us to what extent you would generally favor spending your tax money adding, expanding or improving each of these: (Circle your position on each, using the following guide) Reduce = Reduce Spending Continue = Continue Current Level Increase = Increase Spending	Road maintenance	6	1.5%	166	42.3%	220	56.1%
	Special clean-up days	8	2.0%	206	52.7%	177	45.3%
	Police protection	24	6.2%	199	51.6%	163	42.2%
	Other youth-based activities	31	8.1%	212	55.5%	139	36.4%
	More playground facilities	49	12.8%	216	56.4%	118	30.8%
	Fire Protection	6	1.5%	301	76.4%	87	22.1%
	Ambulance services	7	1.8%	297	76.7%	83	21.4%
	Picnic facilities	74	19.5%	235	61.8%	71	18.7%
	Senior activities center	21	5.5%	301	78.8%	60	15.7%

11) How old are you?

8	<25 yrs	2.0%
12	25-29 yrs	3.0%
20	30-34 yrs	5.0%
36	35-39 yrs	9.0%
41	40-44 yrs	10.2%
47	45-49 yrs	11.7%
47	50-54 yrs	11.7%
50	55-59 yrs	12.5%
36	60-64 yrs	9.0%
34	65-69 yrs	8.5%
25	70-74 yrs	6.2%
23	75-79 yrs	5.7%
22	80+ yrs	5.5%
401	Totals	100.0%

12) Where is the last place you lived prior to moving to your current address?

135	Elsewhere in the County	33.4%
84	Elsewhere in Pennsylvania	20.8%
62	Always lived where I do now	15.3%
60	New York City/New Jersey Metropolitan Area	14.9%
33	Elsewhere in U.S. or outside U.S.	8.2%
30	Elsewhere in Township	7.4%
404	Totals	100.0%

13) Are there any children under age 18 years living at home with you?

119	Yes	29.7%
282	No	70.3%
401	Totals	100.0%

14) Which of the following choices describe your current employment status? (You may choose more than one category)

Householder No. 1:

168	Employed by others full-time	42.1%
22	Employed by others part-time	5.5%
126	Retired	31.6%
55	Self-employed full-time	13.8%
8	Self-employed part-time	2.0%
2	Student	0.5%
13	Unable to work	3.3%
5	Unemployed, seeking work	1.3%
399	Totals	100.0%

Householder No. 2:

103	Employed by others full-time	35.8%
42	Employed by others part-time	14.6%
90	Retired	31.3%
26	Self-employed full-time	9.0%
8	Self-employed part-time	2.8%
0	Student	0.0%
13	Unable to work	4.5%
6	Unemployed, seeking work	2.1%
288	Totals	100.0%

15) Please indicate where you work.

Householder No. 1:

33	The Township	13.5%
71	Elsewhere in County	29.0%
12	Luzerne County	4.9%
19	Monroe County	7.8%
6	Pike County	2.4%
92	Lackawanna/Wayne County	37.6%
6	New Jersey	2.4%
6	New York	2.4%
245	Totals	100.0%

Householder No. 2:

22	The Township	12.2%
62	Elsewhere in County	34.4%
8	Luzerne County	4.4%
8	Monroe County	4.4%
3	Pike County	1.7%
71	Lackawanna/Wayne County	39.4%
4	New Jersey	2.2%
2	New York	1.1%
180	Totals	100.0%

16) How would you describe your present occupation?

Householder No. 1:		
16	Administration support occupation	4.1%
25	Contractor, self-employed	6.5%
43	Executive/administrative/managerial	11.1%
10	Farming, forestry or mining	2.6%
15	Handler, cleaner, helper or laborer	3.9%
9	Homemaker	2.3%
10	Machine operator/assembler/inspector	2.6%
4	Precision production, craft or repair	1.0%
1	Private household occupation	0.3%
55	Professional occupation	14.2%
126	Retired	32.6%
17	Sales occupation	4.4%
24	Service occupation	6.2%
18	Technician or support occupation	4.7%
13	Transportation or material moving	3.4%
386	Totals	100.0%

Householder No. 2:		
19	Administration support occupation	6.8%
7	Contractor, self-employed	2.5%
20	Executive/administrative/managerial	7.2%
3	Farming, forestry or mining	1.1%
15	Handler, cleaner, helper or laborer	5.4%
25	Homemaker	9.0%
3	Machine operator/assembler/inspector	1.1%
0	Precision production, craft or repair	0.0%
2	Private household occupation	0.7%
53	Professional occupation	19.1%
82	Retired	29.5%
16	Sales occupation	5.8%
20	Service occupation	7.2%
6	Technician or support occupation	2.2%
7	Transportation or material moving	2.5%
278	Totals	100.0%

17) How would you rate the quality of the following public and semi-public services?

Please rate the quality of these public and semi-public services: (Circle your rating for each, using the following guide) 1 = Poor Quality 2 = Fair Quality 3 = Neutral/Undecided 4 = Good Quality 5 = High Quality	Fire protection	5	23	86	181	100	1,533
		Ambulance services	10	25	87	176	94
	Utilities (e.g. electric)	11	44	102	166	70	1,419
	Public meeting space	25	57	166	100	33	1,202
	Road maintenance	74	95	73	114	34	1,109
	Health care services	39	74	146	92	21	1,098
	Police protection	71	78	108	97	28	1,079
	Township code enforcement	77	62	133	86	23	1,059
	Land use regulation	78	67	157	58	19	1,010

18) Should the Township establish or improve local land use or other regulations with respect to the following:

(Please answer for each issue)						
Protecting the right to farm?	370	Yes	92.5%	30	No	7.5%
Regulating junk vehicle storage?	355	Yes	88.8%	46	No	11.5%
Regulating mobile home parks?	354	Yes	88.5%	42	No	10.5%
Protecting the right to timber using sound management practices?	351	Yes	87.8%	46	No	11.5%
Addressing the compatibility of adjacent uses?	315	Yes	78.8%	66	No	16.5%
Regulating the construction of cellular communications towers?	295	Yes	73.8%	103	No	25.8%
Regulating wind power generation facilities?	278	Yes	69.5%	118	No	29.5%

19) Please compare the importance of each of these development issues: (Circle your rating for each, using the following guide, and comparing the choices) 1 = Not that important 2 = Slightly important 3 = Moderately important 4 = Very important 5 = Extremely important	Land Development Issue No.1						
	Protecting property rights	5	11	46	90	245	1,750
	COMPARED TO:						
	Managing impact of development	16	19	62	118	175	1,587
	Land Development Issue No.2						
	Developing commercial tax base	37	44	101	87	108	1,316
	COMPARED TO:						
	Developing bedroom community	71	46	111	70	63	1,091

NOTE: Rankings from left to right, from "not that important" to "extremely important." The number to the far right represents a total ranking. The total ranking gives relative weights to each ranking (from 1 for "Not that important" up to 5 for "Extremely Important.") and add the results.

20) Which of the following statements BEST describes your view of zoning as a method of dealing with land use issues? (Please answer based on the experience or need of your own Township)		
179	I support zoning but favor a limited approach that balances property rights and development regulation.	46.3%
81	I view zoning as an infringement on my private property rights and, therefore, favor other approaches.	20.9%
72	I want to see a very strong zoning ordinance that addresses all the major land development issues.	18.6%
55	I don't know enough about it and I am unsure about the costs and benefits of zoning for my Township.	14.2%
387	Totals	100.0%

21) Where would you like to see the Township in the next 10-20 years? Please indicate how important each possible goal is to you. (Circle your rating for each, using the following guide) 1 = Not that important 2 = Slightly important 3 = Moderately important 4 = Very important 5 = Extremely important	Clean and green environment	4	6	41	117	228	1,747
	Preservation of remaining farms	10	21	47	92	227	1,696
	More local shopping	86	58	83	76	94	1,225
	More recreation for residents	68	54	106	95	70	1,224
	Higher quality development	73	48	132	76	59	1,164
	More small-scale industrial jobs	91	49	106	89	55	1,138
	More high valued housing	96	64	121	59	51	1,078
	Extended sewer and water	129	56	87	57	64	1,050
	More affordable housing	101	64	116	63	44	1,049
	Development of tourism industry	162	76	103	22	27	846
	More 2nd-home development	220	80	73	7	12	687

NOTE: Rankings from left to right, from "not that important" to "extremely important." The number to the far right represents a total ranking. The total ranking gives relative weights to each ranking (from 1 for "Not that important" up to 5 for "Extremely Important.") and add the results.

22) Is there anything else you would like to tell us for use in our Comprehensive Plan or any question where you wished you could offer an answer we didn't offer as a choice? If so, please provide your thoughts below or as attachment.

Development, regulate	23	Spring clean-up day, important	8
Junkyards, clean-up	20	Development, needed	7
Taxes, don't increase	19	Zoning, needed	7
Policing, more needed	12	Recreational facilities, needed	6
Code enforcement, needed	9	Jobs, needed	3
Roads, improve	9	Property clean-up, more needed	3
Regulations, reduce	8	Dog leash law, needed	1
Rural beauty, protect	8		

THANK YOU FOR COMPLETING THIS SURVEY