

STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY AND OWNERSHIP

All of the analyses, findings and recommendations contained within this report are the exclusive property of the City of Alexandria with offices located in the Alexandria, Virginia.

As required by the Code of Ethics of the National Council on Public Polls and the United States Privacy Act of 1974, The Center for Research & Public Policy maintains the anonymity of respondents to surveys the firm conducts. No information will be released that might, in any way, reveal the identity of the respondent.

Moreover, no information regarding these findings will be released without the written consent of an authorized representative of the City of Alexandria, Virginia.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION 1

Introduction.....Page 3

SECTION 2

Methodology.....Page 4

SECTION 3

Highlights.....Page 6

SECTION 4

Summary of Findings.....Page 9

Quality of Life.....9
Local Issues..... 11
Community Services..... 12
Strategic Planning..... 14
Communications..... 17
Demographics..... 20

SECTION 5

Appendix.....Page 23

Crosstabulation Tables
Survey Instrument
Composite Aggregate Data

1 INTRODUCTION

The Center for Research & Public Policy (CRPP) is pleased to present the results of a *2009 Community Survey* conducted among residents of the City of Alexandria, Virginia.

The survey was designed to provide resident input on quality of life, local issues, needs and satisfaction with community services. This survey tracks some of the results from a similar survey conducted in 2004 and 2006.

The research study included a comprehensive telephone survey. Interviews were conducted among 1000 residents of the City of Alexandria by phone. CRPP, working together with City of Alexandria officials, designed the survey instrument to be used when calling City residents.

This report summarizes information collected from telephone surveys conducted September 8 through September 23, 2009.

The survey instrument employed in the *2009 Community Survey* included the following areas for investigation:

- Impressions of quality of life in Alexandria;
- Reasons for living in Alexandria;
- Strengths of Alexandria today;
- Issues of most concern;
- Rating community services;
- The degree City services are meeting resident expectations;
- Impressions of the value of taxes paid;
- Service awareness, use and ratings;
- Use of City communication opportunities;
- Measuring community need;
- Demographics

Section II of this report discusses the Methodology used in the study, while Section III includes Highlights derived from an analysis of the quantitative research. Section IV is a Summary of Findings for the residential telephone surveys - a narrative account of the data.

Section V is an Appendix to the report containing a crosstabulation table, a copy of the survey instrument, and the composite aggregate data.

METHODOLOGY

Using a quantitative research design, CRPP completed 1,000 interviews among residents of the City of Alexandria.

All telephone interviews were conducted September 8 through September 23, 2009. Residents were contacted between 5:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. weekdays and 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on the weekend.

Survey input was provided by City of Alexandria officials.

Survey design at CRPP is a careful, deliberative process to ensure fair, objective and balanced surveys. Staff members, with years of survey design experience, edit out any bias. Further, all scales used by CRPP (either numeric, such as one through ten, or wording such as strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree) are balanced evenly. And, placement of questions is carefully accomplished so that order has minimal impact.

All population-based surveys conducted by CRPP are proportional to population contributions within States, towns, and known census tract, group blocks and blocks. This distribution ensures truly representative results without significant under or over representation of various geographic or demographic groups within a sampling frame.

CRPP utilized a “super random digit” sampling procedure, which derives a working telephone sample of both listed and unlisted telephone numbers. This method of sample selection eliminates any bias toward only listed telephone numbers. Additionally, this process allows randomization of numbers, which equalizes the probability of qualified respondents being included in the sampling frame.

CRPP also purchased sample for “cell phone only” users from *Survey Sampling Incorporated*. Until recently, access to cell phone numbers was limited or not available. After receiving sample frames, CRPP randomly called through and collected data from a total of 23 respondents.

One survey instrument was used to elicit information from City residents. Respondents qualified for the survey if they confirmed being one of the heads of the household, at least eighteen years of age, and a current resident of the City of Alexandria, or lived within the City limits.

Training of telephone researchers and pre-test of the survey instrument occurred September 8, 2009.

All facets of the study were completed by CRPP’s senior staff and researchers. These aspects included: survey design, pre-test, computer programming, fielding, coding, editing, data entry, verification, validation and logic checks, computer analysis, analysis, and report writing.

Completion rates are a critical aspect of any telephone survey research. Because one group of people might be easier to reach than another group, it is important that concentrated efforts are made to reach all groups to an equal degree. A high completion rate means that a high percentage of the respondents within the original sample were actually contacted, and the resulting sample is not biased toward one potential audience. CRPP maintained a **79%** completion rate on all calls made during this *2009 Community Survey*. And, a high completion rate, many times indicates an interest in the topic.

Statistically, a sample of 1,000 surveys represents a margin for error of $\pm 3.0\%$ at a 95% confidence level.

In theory, a sample of City of Alexandria residents will differ no more than $\pm 3.0\%$ than if all City of Alexandria residents were contacted and included in the survey. That is, if random probability sampling procedures were reiterated over and over again, sample results may be expected to approximate larger population values within plus or minus 3.0% -- 95 out of 100 times.

Readers of this report should note that any survey is analogous to a snapshot in time and results are only reflective of the time period in which the survey was undertaken. Should concerted public relations or information campaigns be undertaken during or shortly after the fielding of the survey, the results contained herein may be expected to change and should be, therefore, carefully interpreted and extrapolated.

Furthermore, it is important to note that all surveys contain some component of “sampling error.” Error that is attributable to systematic bias has been significantly reduced by utilizing strict random probability procedures. This sample was strictly random in that selection of each potential respondent was an independent event, based on known probabilities.

Each qualified household within the City of Alexandria had an equal chance for participating in the study. Statistical random error, however, can never be eliminated but may be significantly reduced by increasing sample size.

HIGHLIGHTS

QUALITY OF LIFE

- A large majority of respondents, 97.6% (97.3% in 2006 and 97.2% in 2004), suggested overall quality life in Alexandria as being either “very good” (48.4%) or “good” (49.2%). A few, 1.8%, indicated overall quality of life in Alexandria was either “poor” (1.0%) or “very poor” (0.8%). And, 0.6% did not know or were unsure.
- More than four-fifths, 85.6% (82.7% in 2006 and 79.5% in 2004), said their overall quality of life was “better” (16.3%) or “remained good” (69.3%). Less than one-eighth, 10.6%, suggested their overall quality of life “remained poor” (2.8%) or became “worse” (7.8%), than it was 2 years ago.
- Less than one-third of all respondents, 31.6% (56.8% in 2006 and 55.7% in 2004), indicated being better off financially today, than they were two years ago. More than three-fifths, 63.7% said they were not.
- Respondents reported liking the “convenience” of Alexandria the most (20.4%). This was followed by “proximity to D.C.” (9.7%) and “atmosphere of community/good neighborhoods” (7.6%).

LOCAL ISSUES

- The most frequently cited issues of resident concern were “traffic” (17.2%), “taxes” (13.8%) and “education” (8.7%).
- With “don’t know” responses removed from the data, city services continue to have increased ratings in 2009 with the top ratings received for Police Department (92.3% in 2009 from 84.5% in 2006), Fire Department (97.4% in 2009 from 89.9% in 2006) and Reliability of sanitary and storm sewer services (88.7% in 2009 from 74.1% in 2006).
- Impressively, the majority of respondents, 88.6%, reported the services provided by the City meet their expectations either “always” (22.4%) or “most of the time” (66.2%).
- A majority, 85.3%, rated the value of services provided by the City compared to the taxes they pay as “very good” (21.3%) or “good” (64.0%).

- When asked to state which of the following reflects their own view of the relation between taxes and services, respondents reported the following:
 - The City should decrease taxes even if it might have to decrease service as a result (12.6%)
 - The City should increase services even if it might have to increase taxes as a result (12.0%)
 - The City should keep services and taxes at about the level where they are now (69.1%)

STRATEGIC PLANNING

- Two-thirds of respondents, 66.6%, reported being “somewhat unaware” (5.3%) or “not at all aware” (61.3%) that in 2004 the Alexandria City Council adopted a strategic plan for the years 2004-2015. Another 31.7% were “very aware” (9.9%) or “somewhat aware” (21.8%).
- Three-quarters, 75.7%, reported being “somewhat unfamiliar” (6.9%) or “not at all familiar” (68.8%) with the goals within the City’s strategic plan. Another 22.6% reported being “very familiar” (4.0%) or “somewhat familiar” (18.6%) with the goals within the plan.
- Researchers read a list of objectives within the strategic plan’s goals and asked to rate their importance on a scale of one to ten where one was very important and ten was not at all important. The objectives considered most important to respondents were “Providing City services in a cost effective manner” (93.9%), “Protecting trees, air and water in the City” (93.6%) “The City communicates effectively with residents” (91.5%) and “Reducing traffic congestion” (91.2%).
- Following, respondents were asked to rate the job the City of Alexandria is doing in each area using the same scale of one to ten, but one is very good and ten is very poor. Positive ratings with “don’t know” respondents removed from the data were “Providing City services in a cost effective manner” (74.4%), “Protecting trees, air and water in the City” (76.2%) “The City communicates effectively with residents” (75.7%) and “Reducing traffic congestion” (51.0%).
- While slightly more than half of respondents, 55.0%, reported being “very willing” (11.4%) or “somewhat willing” (43.6%) to pay reasonably more in taxes or fees to ensure the City meets the reviewed goals and objectives, 40.6% were “somewhat unwilling” (16.0%) or “not at all willing” (24.6%).

COMMUNICATIONS

- Respondents reported currently getting information about City services in “newspapers” (55.5%), “City’s website” (21.3%), “City pamphlets, notices or flyers” (20.9%) and “internet” (19.0%). Their preferred sources to receive information in the future were “newspapers” (47.9%), “City pamphlets, notices or flyers” (19.4%), the “City’s website” (19.2%) and “internet” (19.0%).
- The top communication vehicles respondents reported use of (with “don’t know” responses removed from the data) included the following: the “City’s website” (66.4%), “community meetings” (36.7%) and “community forums” (23.8%). The positive ratings for each of these were 81.8%, 72.8% and 76.6% respectively.
- Respondents reported a willingness to “communicate through the City’s website,” “attend a public hearing” and “email officials and department leaders. Cumulative totals for respondents who reported to be either “very” or “somewhat willing” were 71.9%, 69.6% and 68.0% respectively.
- When asked what additional ways they would like to communicate with City officials, respondents reported “no other ways” (39.6%), “phone” (21.5%) and “don’t know/unsure” (15.1%).

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

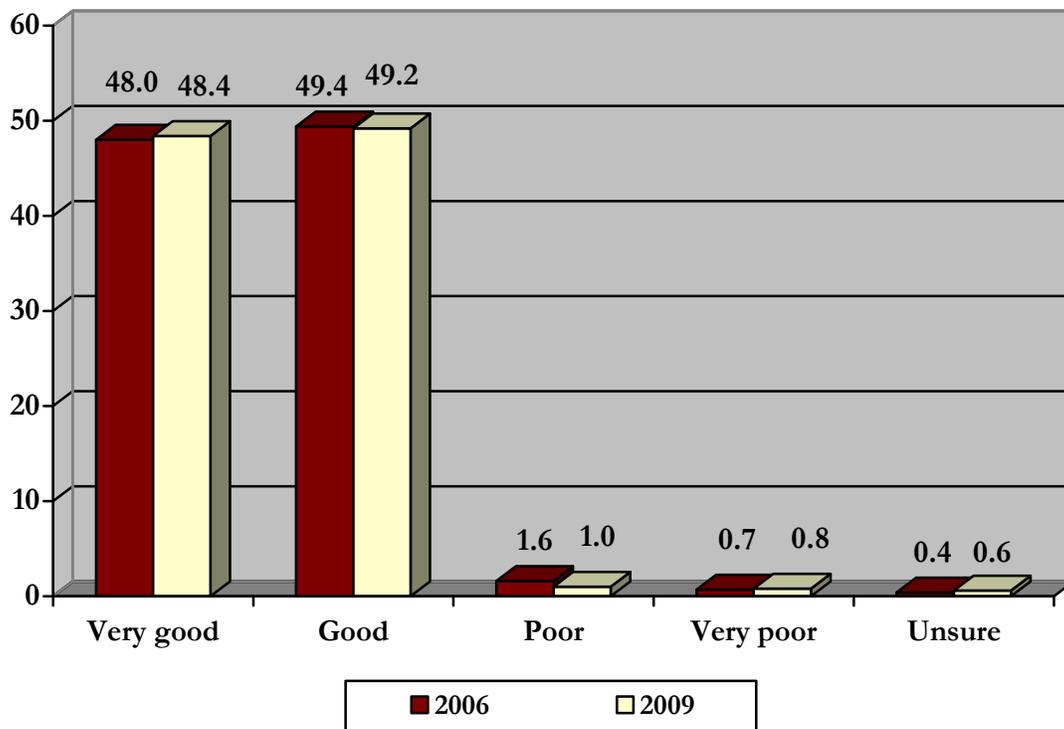
Readers are reminded that the following section summarizes statistics collected from surveys among 1,000 residents of the City of Alexandria, Virginia.

QUALITY OF LIFE

Initially, all resident respondents were asked how they would rate their overall quality of life in Alexandria.

The large majority, 97.6% (97.3% in 2006 and 97.2% in 2004), suggested overall quality life in Alexandria was either “very good” (48.4%) or “good” (49.2%). A few, 1.8%, indicated overall quality of life in Alexandria was either “poor” (1.0%) or “very poor” (0.8%). And, 0.6% did not know or were unsure.

Quality of Life



Respondents were asked how they would describe their overall quality of life in Alexandria today, compared to two years ago.

More than four-fifths, 85.6% (82.7% in 2006 and 79.5% in 2004), said their overall quality of life was “better” (16.3%) or “remained good” (69.3%). Less than one-eighth, 10.6%, suggested their overall quality of life “remained poor” (2.8%) or was “worse” (7.8%), than it was 2 years ago.

Less than one-third of all respondents, 31.6% (56.8% in 2006 and 55.7% in 2004), indicated being better off financially today, than they were two years ago. More than three-fifths, 63.7% said they were not.

In an open-ended format question, researchers asked respondents to mention what they liked most about Alexandria today. The following table presents results to the most frequently cited responses.

<i>Things liked about Alexandria today</i>	<i>2004</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2009</i>
Convenient in general	10.2%	26.3	20.4
Proximity to D.C.	6.1	---	9.7
Friendly people	5.4	---	4.9
Cultural diversity	5.1	5.6	1.5
Town has personality/atmosphere of community/good neighborhoods	5.1	---	7.6
Convenient for work	4.6	---	---
Size of the community	4.0	8.1	---
Feels like a small town	3.8	---	6.6
Everything within walking distance/pedestrian community	3.4	---	3.1
Town is wonderful	3.4	---	---
Clean environment	---	9.5	1.2
Old Town Alexandria	---	13.2	7.3
Safe environment	---	10.6	3.1
Peaceful/quiet	---	5.4	1.7
Overall quality of life/everything	---	5.0	4.1
Cultural events	---	5.9	---
Farmers market	---	5.7	---
City Services	---	---	4.0

Other less-frequently cited responses included: King Street Development, Shopping, Parks, Community activities/entertainment/recreation, unique, beautiful city/nature/trees/flowers, Police, bike trails/paths, public transportation, medical services, it’s a modern city, city government, zoning, waterfront, growing city, school system, housing, restaurants, birthplace/hometown/family here, programs for handicapped, Del Ray, businesses, charities for the poor, church, Goodwin House, dog-friendly, weather, senior friendly and free childcare.

LOCAL ISSUES

Researchers asked respondents, in an open-end format question, to name the issues they were most concerned about, on a local level, within Alexandria.

The table below presents 2004, 2006 and 2009 results to the most frequently cited responses. Multiple responses were accepted.

<i>Issue of most concern</i>	<i>2004</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2009</i>
Traffic	15.4%	30.0	17.2
Taxes	12.1	16.0	13.8
Poor school systems	8.4	9.3	8.7
Crime problems	8.1	10.0	7.9
Over-development/over-population	8.9	7.2	5.6
Parking	5.0	---	2.7
Limited affordable housing	4.6	8.5	2.5
Poor government efficiency	2.4	---	2.5
Open space diminishing	2.0	---	1.6
None/nothing/don't know	9.3	17.5	26.6
Inadequate political representation	---	2.7	---
HOT lanes/I-395	---	---	2.4
Property values/real estate	---	---	2.4
Economy/cost of living	---	---	4.3
Transportation/funding/availability	---	---	3.7
Road conditions	---	---	2.3

COMMUNITY SERVICES

All respondents were presented with a number of city services and asked to rate each based on all they knew or had heard. Respondents were asked to use a scale of one to ten, where one meant the service was very good and ten meant the service was very poor.

Positive ratings (one through four) are presented for 2004, 2006 and 2009 in the following table.

<i>Community Service</i>	<i>2004</i>		<i>2006</i>		<i>2009</i>	
	<i>With DKs</i>	<i>W/o DKs</i>	<i>With DKs</i>	<i>W/o DKs</i>	<i>With DKs</i>	<i>W/o DKs</i>
Police Department	77.0	84.9	78.9	84.5	83.4	92.3
Fire Department	78.5	91.5	80.6	89.9	82.0	97.4
Emergency medical services	68.8	89.9	70.3	87.3	70.6	96.4
Reliability of sanitary and storm sewer services	52.2	66.0	61.2	74.1	76.3	88.7
Courtesy of City government staff and employees	72.4	81.6	64.9	74.1	75.6	86.9
Availability of transportation alternatives such as Dash, the subway and Metro bus	---	---	---	---	80.9	90.3
Parks and recreation programming	---	---	---	---	78.6	91.3
City parks and open space	---	---	---	---	81.5	87.9
Overall City services	---	---	---	---	88.5	91.3

Researchers read respondents the following statement: “*Most everyone has expectations of service organizations and companies they do business with. Please think about the services provided by the City of Alexandria and tell me if the City meets your service expectations always; most of the time; sometimes; seldom; or never.*”

A majority of respondents, 88.6%, reported the services provided by the City meet their expectations “always” (22.4%) or “most of the time” (66.2%).

<i>How often do services meet your expectations?</i>	<i>2004</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2009</i>
Always	17.0%	20.1	22.4
Most of the time	66.3	59.2	66.2
Sometimes	10.4	14.4	8.3
Seldom	2.3	2.0	0.8
Never	0.8	0.9	0.2
Don't know/unsure	3.2	3.4	2.1
<i>Total: Always and Most of the Time</i>	<i>83.3</i>	<i>79.3</i>	<i>88.6</i>

Respondents were then asked to consider and then rate the services provided by the City of Alexandria and the taxes they pay to the City.

A majority, 85.3%, rated the value of the services provided by the City compared to the taxes they pay as “very good” (21.3%) or “good” (64.0%).

<i>Services provided</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2009</i>
Very good	19.9%	21.3
Good	64.9	64.0
Poor	7.7	6.0
Very poor	3.0	1.5
Don't know/unsure	4.5	7.2
<i>Total good</i>	<i>84.8</i>	<i>85.3</i>
<i>Total poor</i>	<i>10.7</i>	<i>7.5</i>

When asked to state which of the following best reflects their own view of the relation between taxes and services, respondents reported the following:

<i>Which best reflects your own view...</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2009</i>
The City should decrease taxes even if it might have to decrease services as a result	17.3%	12.6
The City should increase services even if it might have to increase taxes as a result	15.2	12.0
The City should keep services and taxes at about the level where they are now	56.8	69.1
Don't know/unsure	10.7	6.3

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Two-thirds of respondents, 66.6%, reported being “somewhat unaware” (5.3%) or “not at all aware” (61.3%) that in 2004 the Alexandria City Council adopted a strategic plan for the years 2004-2015. Another 31.7% were “very aware” (9.9%) or “somewhat aware” (21.8%) of the strategic plan.

<i>Awareness that the Alexandria City Council adopted a strategic plan?</i>	<i>2009</i>
Very aware	9.9%
Somewhat aware	21.8
Somewhat unaware	5.3
Not at all aware	61.3
Don't know/unsure	1.7
<i>Total aware</i>	<i>31.7</i>
<i>Total unaware</i>	<i>66.6</i>

While three-quarters, 75.7%, reported being “somewhat unfamiliar” (6.9%) or “not at all familiar” (68.8%) with the goals documented within this strategic plan, another 22.6% reported being “very familiar” (4.0%) or “somewhat familiar” (18.6%) with the goals in the plan.

<i>How familiar are you with the goals?</i>	<i>2009</i>
Very familiar	4.0%
Somewhat familiar	18.6
Somewhat unfamiliar	6.9
Not at all familiar	68.8
Don't know/unsure	1.7
<i>Total familiar</i>	<i>22.6</i>
<i>Total unfamiliar</i>	<i>75.7</i>

Researchers read respondents a number of objectives within the strategic plan’s goals and asked respondents how important each is to them today using a scale of one to ten where one was very important and ten was not at all important.

Following, they were asked to rate the job the City of Alexandria is doing in each area using the same scale of one to ten, where one was very good and ten was very poor. The following table shows the results as collected.

<i>Objectives</i>	<i>Important (1-4) W/o DKs</i>	<i>Positive Ratings (1-4) With DKs</i>	<i>Positive Ratings (1-4) W/o DKs</i>
Providing City services in a cost effective manner	93.9%	59.3	74.4
Protecting trees, air and water in the City	93.6	65.1	76.2
The City communicates effectively with residents	91.5	67.6	75.7
Reducing traffic congestion	91.2	45.7	51.0
Contributing to the quality of public schools	90.0	54.5	75.5
Creating pedestrian friendly areas	89.6	60.9	69.9
Maintaining natural environment and historic resources during City development	89.5	65.8	77.2
Providing convenient mass transit opportunities	88.6	67.1	78.5
Increasing parental involvement in the children’s education	88.0	43.7	74.7
Enhancing the vitality if City neighborhoods	87.8	61.0	75.1
Providing walking and biking opportunities	87.8	72.4	82.0
Orienting development toward available transportation	87.0	60.9	76.3
Providing social services to residents in need including those uninsured	85.7	48.4	70.8
Creating jobs within the City of Alexandria	83.2	45.6	65.3
Providing sufficient elderly housing	82.6	41.9	68.5
Increasing open space and recreational opportunities	81.5	58.1	69.1
Providing housing opportunities for a mix of income ranges	80.2	50.3	65.1
Increasing tourism to Alexandria	60.8	59.5	74.0

Researchers read the following: *“You’ve expressed, to varying degrees, some of the strategic plan objectives are important to you. If necessary, how willing would you be to pay reasonably more in taxes or fees to ensure the City meets the goals and objectives we’ve reviewed together? Would you say...”*

While slightly more than half of respondents, 55.0%, reported being “very willing” (11.4%) or “somewhat willing” (43.6%) to pay reasonably more in taxes or fees to ensure the City meets the reviewed goals and objectives, 40.6% were “somewhat unwilling” (16.0%) or “not at all willing” (24.6%).

<i>Willingness to pay more in taxes to meet goals</i>	<i>2009</i>
Very willing	11.4%
Somewhat willing	43.6
Somewhat unwilling	16.0
Not at all willing	24.6
Don’t know/unsure	4.4
<i>Total willing</i>	<i>55.0</i>
<i>Total unwilling</i>	<i>40.6</i>

COMMUNICATIONS

Respondents were asked how they usually received information about City services.

The following table summarizes results. Multiple responses were accepted.

<i>Source used to get information about City services</i>	<i>2004</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2009</i>
Newspapers	39.9%	40.1	55.5
City pamphlets, notices, flyers	32.9	20.0	20.9
Word of mouth	19.6	9.5	8.2
City newsletter: <i>FYI Alexandria</i>	18.4	21.1	9.4
Internet	18.1	23.2	19.0
Cable TV	12.4	10.1	11.4
Phonebook	9.7	8.2	0.9
City website	6.5	11.1	21.3
Neighborhood associations	3.2	5.1	4.7
Churches	0.3	0.7	0.5
Social networking	---	---	1.0
E-news alerts (on your cell phone or other device)	---	---	4.9

Respondents were asked how they **prefer** to get information about City services and City sponsored events and activities. The table below presents the results as collected.

<i>Preferred way to get information</i>	<i>2009</i>
Newspapers	47.9%
City pamphlets, notices, flyers	19.4
City website	19.2
Internet	19.0
City newsletter: <i>FYI Alexandria</i>	10.5
Cable TV	8.8
E-news alerts (on your cell phone or other device)	6.5
Word of mouth	5.9
Don't know/unsure	5.5
Neighborhood associations	3.2
Social networking	0.8
Phonebook	0.7
Churches	0.7

Respondents were read a list of ways the City of Alexandria communicates with residents and asked if they use each and, if they have, to rate each using scale of one to ten where one was very good and ten was very poor.

The following table presents the data as collected.

<i>Communication Vehicles</i>	<i>Use (Yes) W/o DKs</i>	<i>Positive Ratings (1-4) W/o DKs</i>
The City's website	66.4%	81.8
The City's electronic newsletter called <i>FYI</i>	22.2	84.4
Community meetings	36.7	72.8
Community forums	23.8	76.6
The City's e-News notification service	16.7	90.8
Other City Social Media	8.8	78.0

Researchers read the following to respondents: “*And, the following are a number of existing and new ways residents can communicate with City officials and department leaders. As the need arises, please tell me how willing you might be to use each of the following. For each, please tell me if you would be very willing, somewhat willing, somewhat unwilling or not at all willing.*”

The table presents the results collected.

<i>Communication Opportunities</i>	<i>Very and somewhat willing</i>	<i>Somewhat unwilling and Not at all willing</i>
Communicate through the City's website	71.9%	23.3
Attend a public hearing or meeting	69.6	25.3
Email officials and department leaders	68.0	26.8
Through social media such as Facebook or Twitter	15.9	79.1
Blogs	14.0	80.9

When asked to report any other ways they may want to communicate with City officials and staff respondents reported “nothing/none/no other ways” (39.6%), “phone” (21.5%) and “don’t know/unsure” (15.1%) as their top responses.

<i>Additional ways you want to communicate with City officials and staff</i>	<i>2009</i>
Nothing/none/no other ways	39.6%
Phone	21.5
Don’t know/unsure	15.1
Mail/letters/direct mail	6.9
Face-to-face/go to City Hall/direct contact	6.5
Email	5.7
Town meetings/forums	2.7
Website/internet	0.7
By voting/polls	0.5
Newspapers/news	0.3
Community groups	0.2
Through homeowner’s association	0.1
Emergency notifications through cell phones	0.1
Web conferences	0.1

DEMOGRAPHICS

<i>Currently have ready access to internet</i>	<i>2009</i>
Yes	85.0%
No	14.8
Don't know/unsure	0.2

<i>Children under 18 living at home</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2009</i>
None	76.1%	76.4
One	10.2	10.1
Two	7.0	9.6
Three	2.1	1.9
Four	0.6	0.5
Six or more	0.1	0.3
Don't know	0.9	0.1
Refused	3.0	1.1

<i>Years lived in Alexandria</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2009</i>
Less than 10 years	39.5%	31.4
10 or more years	58.4	68.0
Refused	2.1	3.5

<i>Rent or own</i>	<i>2004</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2009</i>
Own	59.9%	52.7	67.2
Rent	37.0	44.7	30.3
Neither	1.2	0.6	1.4
Don't know	---	0.1	0.2
Refused	1.9	1.9	0.9

<i>Age</i>	<i>2004</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2009</i>
18 to 25	3.3%	2.7	2.3
26 to 35	16.3	11.6	10.1
36 to 45	22.6	16.8	18.4
46 to 55	18.2	22.7	19.6
56 to 65	17.7	24.0	21.4
66 to 75	10.8	9.9	14.9
76 or older	7.4	8.0	11.3
Refused	3.8	4.4	2.0

<i>Education</i>	<i>2004</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2009</i>
8 th grade or less	0.5%	0.3	0.1
Some high school	1.9	2.3	0.9
High school graduate	11.9	9.9	9.0
Some technical school	---	0.4	0.2
Technical school graduate	1.0	0.6	0.5
Some college	10.8	13.4	8.5
Associate degree	---	---	2.1
College graduate	37.0	33.7	34.6
Post graduate	35.6	35.2	36.5
Refused	2.1	4.3	7.6

<i>Income</i>	<i>2004</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2009</i>
Under \$25,000	7.8%	2.9	2.6
\$25,000 to less than \$50,000	11.2	9.4	4.5
\$50,000 to less than \$100,000	22.0	21.0	10.3
\$100,000 to less than \$150,000	14.3	13.8	8.3
\$150,000 to less than \$250,000	7.8	12.6	6.0
\$250,000 or more	2.4	5.3	4.5
Don't know	1.5	2.7	2.5
Refused	32.9	32.4	61.3

<i>Hispanic</i>	<i>2004</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2009</i>
Yes	12.0%	10.1	7.8
No	85.6	89.0	89.9
Don't know	---	0.4	0.1
Refused	2.4	0.5	2.2

<i>Race</i>	<i>2004</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2009</i>
White	69.2%	73.6	82.1
African-American	23.4	19.6	14.3
Asian	1.5	1.9	1.5
Aleutian	0.2	0.2	0.1
Other	2.6	1.1	1.1
Don't know	---	0.1	0.1
Refused	3.2	3.5	0.8

<i>Primary language spoken in your household</i>	<i>2009</i>
English	95.8%
Spanish	2.3
Arabic	0.2
Other	0.6
Refused	1.0
Don't know/unsure	0.1

<i>Gender</i>	<i>2004</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2009</i>
Male	42.5%	45.2	43.4
Female	57.5	54.8	56.6

<i>Sample</i>	<i>2009</i>
Land line	97.7%
Cell phone	2.3

5 APPENDIX

INTERPRETATION OF AGGREGATE RESULTS

The computer processed data for this survey is presented in the following frequency distributions. It is important to note that the wordings of the variable labels and value labels in the computer-processed data are largely abbreviated descriptions of the Questionnaire items and available response categories.

The frequency distributions include the category or response for the question items. Responses deemed not appropriate for classification have been grouped together under the “Other” code.

The “NA” category label refers to “No Answer” or “Not Applicable”. This code is also used to classify ambiguous responses. In addition, the “DK/RF” category includes those respondents who did not know their answer to a question or declined to answer it. In many of the tables, a group of responses may be tagged as “Missing” – occasionally, certain individual’s responses may not be required to specific questions and thus are excluded. Although when this category of response is used, the computations of percentages are presented in two (2) ways in the frequency distributions: 1) with their inclusion (as a proportion of the total sample), and 2) their exclusion (as a proportion of a sample sub-group).

Each frequency distribution includes the absolute observed occurrence of each response (i.e. the total number of cases in each category). Immediately adjacent to the right of the column of absolute frequencies is the column of relative frequencies. These are the percentages of cases falling in each category response, including those cases designated as missing data. To the right of the relative frequency column is the adjusted frequency distribution column that contains the relative frequencies based on the legitimate (i.e. non-missing) cases. That is, the total base for the adjusted frequency distribution excludes the missing data. For many Questionnaire items, the relative frequencies and the adjusted frequencies will be nearly the same. However, some items that elicit a sizable number of missing data will produce quite substantial percentage differences between the two columns of frequencies. The careful analyst will cautiously consider both distributions.

The last column of data within the frequency distribution is the cumulative frequency distribution (Cum Freq.). This column is simply an adjusted frequency distribution of the sum of all previous categories of response and the current category of response. Its primary usefulness is to gauge some ordered or ranked meaning.