

**City Council Agenda Item 3.A  
Meeting of May 11, 2026**



**Title:** 2026 community survey results

**Report from:** Sarissa Seracki, Senior Management Coordinator

**Submitted through:** Erik Nilsson, City Attorney  
Moranda Dammann, Assistant City Manager  
Mike Funk, City Manager

**Presenter:** Sarissa Seracki Senior Management Coordinator and Peter Leatherman, Morris Leatherman Company

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**Action Requested:** Informational.

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**Summary Statement**

The purpose of this agenda item is to inform the city council of the 2026 community survey results. Peter Leatherman, from the Morris Leatherman Company, will present the findings and conclusions from the 2026 community survey.

**Strategic Plan Relatability**

Community Inclusiveness

The community survey results align with desired outcome 6.1 "all people feel welcome and engaged" under Community Inclusiveness. The city surveys residents on quality of life, creating a welcoming community, treating residents with respect and fairly and providing services to those of all backgrounds.

**Background**

Each year the city contracts with a professional survey firm to conduct a statistically valid telephone survey of residents on a variety of topics of interest. These topics range from demographics, quality of life, city services, public safety, natural environment, development and redevelopment, city parks and recreational facilities, public transit issues, city government and staff, local authority and communication.

Survey results are used to inform strategic planning and budgeting decisions, help set performance targets and strengthen community engagement. It is important for residents to have the opportunity to share their opinions. It is equally important for them to feel confident that their voices are being heard.

Conducting a survey is a proactive approach to initiating and completing the communication loop with the community.

The City of Minnetonka is evaluated according to how well they are achieving the strategic goals. Measuring ongoing progress ensures that they are responsive to the priorities of the community they serve. By receiving ongoing feedback from residents, the city can observe trends and track progress to guide policy-making and budgeting. Finally, it is anticipated these results will play a significant role in the upcoming budgeting process.

Specific examples of actions taken in recent years in response to these annual evaluations include a more aggressive funding approach to new trail construction, adjustments in the city's economic development program, adaptation of the public transit offerings, expanded recreational program offerings for youth, additional street renewal programs and technology enhancements for the use of mobile electronics and social media.

In preparation for the 2026 annual community survey, at the Feb. 9, 2026 study session the Minnetonka City Council weighed in on themes to be included. Below is a list of the themes suggested and the specific question listed in the community survey.

| Theme              | Questions |
|--------------------|-----------|
| Property tax levy  | 28        |
| Local sales tax    | 31-36     |
| E-bikes            | 51-53     |
| Short-term rentals | 82        |
| Teen programming   | 100       |

The annual community survey also provides the necessary data to determine the results of the MERIT program evaluation, particularly the organizational component.

Peter Leatherman, from the Morris Leatherman Company, will present a high level of the findings and conclusions from the 2026 community survey.

#### **Discussion Questions**

1. Does the city council have any questions?
2. Are there any results that the council wishes to further discuss/consider for a future study session?
3. Are there any budget impacts that should be considered?

#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

[2026 City of Minnetonka Survey Results](#)