



2022 Annual Town Survey

Since 1991 Envision Arlington has included a survey in the Town's Annual Census mailing to ask residents about their opinions on aspects of life in Arlington. Survey results are used by Town programs to set goals or evaluate results. Your participation is vital!

COMPLETING THE SURVEY IS EASY

The survey may be completed by every resident 15 years old or older. The survey takes approximately 15 minutes to complete. Please complete the survey once. Please **return the completed survey by April 1, 2022** to the survey drop-box in the lobby of the Fox Library or deliver the survey to:

Envision Arlington Town Survey, Department of Planning and Community Development
Town Hall Annex, 730 Massachusetts Avenue, Arlington, MA 02476

If you prefer, an online version of the survey can be found at arlingtonma.gov/survey.

This year's Envision Arlington Annual Town Survey is focused on several key issues in 2022: COVID-19, Community Engagement, and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. We want to hear from residents how these issues have affected you, the support you need, and the types of changes the Town can make to better respond to the needs of the community in the future.

Responses to this survey will be kept anonymous; no names are requested as part of this survey. If you want to follow-up about a specific question, it will be your choice if you want to share your email address, and your information will remain confidential.

SURVEY PARTICIPANT BACKGROUND

The following questions will be used to compare the responses of different groups of survey participants. Again, all responses to this survey are confidential and will be reported anonymously as a group.

What is your age? *(Select one option.)*

15 - 17

18 - 24

25 - 34

35 - 44

45 - 54

55 - 64

65 - 74

75 - 84

85+

Prefer not to answer

Which best describes your living situation? Do you... *(Select one option.)*

- Rent
- Own
- Other (please specify): _____

What precinct do you live in? _____

If you do not know your precinct or you do not live in Arlington, please select that below.

- I do not know my precinct number
- I do not currently live in Arlington

Which category best describes your household's annual income in 2020? *(Select one option.)*

- \$0 - \$19,999
- \$20,000 - \$39,999
- \$40,000 - \$59,999
- \$60,000 - \$79,999
- \$80,000 - \$99,999
- \$100,000 - \$149,999
- \$150,000 - \$200,000
- Over \$200,000
- Prefer not to answer

What is your current gender identity? *(Select one option.)*

- Female
- Male
- Agender
- GenderQueer
- NonBinary
- Transgender Man
- Transgender Woman
- Choose not to Disclose
- Another gender identity (please specify):

- Prefer not to answer

How would you describe your race or ethnicity? *(Select all that apply.)*

- Native American or Alaska Native
- Asian, Asian Indian, or Pacific Islander
- Black or African American
- Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin
- Middle Eastern, Arabic, or North African
- White
- Some other race, ethnicity, or origin
(please specify):

- Prefer not to answer

What is your current sexual orientation?

- Asexual
- Bisexual
- Gay
- Heterosexual/Straight
- Lesbian
- Pansexual
- Queer

Choose not to Disclose

Do you have a physical, mental, or emotional disability or condition?

Yes

No

How long have you lived in Arlington? (*Select one option.*)

Less than 1 year

1-5 years

6-10 years

11-15 years

16-20 years

21-30 years

31-40 years

more than 40 years

I do not live in Arlington

Community Engagement

Envision Arlington is interested in learning about how residents engage with their community.

How many hours on average do you spend volunteering with Arlington-based community organizations?

- None
- 1- 2 hours monthly
- 3-5 hours monthly
- 6-10 hours monthly
- 11 -20 hours monthly
- 21 or more hours monthly

Do you have a formal role in an Arlington-based community organization?

- Yes (appointed)
- Yes (elected)
- No
- Does Not Apply

What would encourage you to engage more with the community? Check all that apply.

- Information about community organizations and opportunities
- Somebody to help me get started
- Clear understanding how the community benefits from my involvement
- Other

Do you plan to vote in this year's town elections in April?

- Yes
- Undecided
- No

In the past, have you run for a local government office in Arlington? (i.e.,Town Meeting, School Committee, Select Board, Assessor)?

- Yes
- No

Would you consider running for local government office in Arlington (i.e.,Town Meeting, School Committee, Select Board, Assessor)?

- Yes
- No

If you would consider running in the future, what would be the single most useful thing be to encourage you to run?

- Educational/ informational materials on the election process
- Coaching from another, experienced resident
- Other _____

Which areas or topics are particularly important to you in community life? Check all that apply.

- Housing
- Schools
- Active transportation and mobility (e.g., advocacy for biking, walking, public transportation)
- Parks and recreation
- Senior living
- Libraries
- Cultural events
- Religious institutions
- Youth services
- Neighborhood groups
- Town committees and boards
- Sports
- Civic participation, e.g. participation in town elections and knowledge/discussion of local issues
- Other _____

If you're interested in being contacted about opportunities to participate/engage in your areas of interest indicated in your answers to the previous question, please provide your name and contact info:

Name _____

Contact info (phone number or email address): _____

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

The charter of the Arlington Human Rights Commission states that Arlington values equity, diversity, and inclusion. We are committed to building a community where everyone is heard, respected, and protected. The following questions will help us assess progress on our goals.

How “welcoming” do you perceive Arlington to be?

- Not Welcoming
- Sometimes welcoming
- Usually welcoming
- Always Welcoming
- Unsure

How safe do you, personally, feel in Arlington

- Not Safe
- Sometimes Safe
- Usually Safe
- Always
- Unsure

In the past year, have you personally experienced discrimination, intimidation, or violence in Arlington?

Experienced Discrimination?

- Yes
- No

Experienced Intimidation?

- Yes
- No

Experienced Violence?

- Yes
- No

Anyone experiencing discrimination, intimidation, or violence in Arlington is encouraged to report the incident to the Arlington Police Department (781-643-1212) and the Arlington Human Rights Commission (781-316-3250).

How comfortable would you be calling direct to the Arlington Police Department or 911 if you or a member of your household were a victim or witness to each of the following? *(Select one option for each row.)*

	Not comfortable	Somewhat comfortable	Very comfortable	Unsure
Non-violent crime (e.g., theft, burglary, property damage)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A violent crime (e.g., assault, rape)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A hate-crime (e.g., harassment, hate speech)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A medical emergency (e.g., heart attack, stroke)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A mental health emergency (e.g., suicide risk, violent behavior)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please rate Arlington on each of the following:

[Poor, Fair, Good, Excellent, Don't know]

- Making all residents feel welcome
- Helping new residents feel connected and integrated
- Attracting people from diverse backgrounds
- Valuing residents from diverse backgrounds
- Demonstrating respect for residents of different cultures and belief systems
- Treating all residents fairly
- Providing a safe and secure environment for residents of all backgrounds
- Respecting individual cultural beliefs and values
- Providing equal employment opportunities to residents of all backgrounds
- Providing equal access to housing for residents of all backgrounds
- Making all residents feel welcome in business establishments
- Welcoming residents from all backgrounds to participate in local government and community decision-making

Please rate Arlington Town government on each of the following:

- Creating a community welcoming to residents of all backgrounds
- Treating all residents with respect
- Treating all residents fairly
- Providing opportunities for residents with different opinions to voice their concerns
- Helping to resolve resident conflicts in nonviolent ways

How much of a priority, if at all, should it be for Arlington Town government to focus on the following?

- Creating a diverse, inclusive, and fair community
- Addressing social, economic, and racial equity differences in jobs and housing
- Addressing social, economic, and racial equity differences in health and education
- Addressing social, economic, and racial equity differences in the criminal justice system
- Hiring more diverse staff
- Recruiting diverse people into positions of local government leadership

COMMUNITY WELLNESS CHECK

The questions below are intended to help the Town gain perspective into the challenges faced by the Arlington community during the pandemic.

How would you rate your well-being during the pandemic? *(Select one for each row.)*

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Unsure
Overall physical health	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Overall emotional health	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Overall financial health	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

What impact, if any, has there been on your household's financial situation over the course of the pandemic? *(Select one option.)*

- Major negative impact
- Some negative impact
- No impact
- Some positive impact
- Major positive impact

Have you or anyone in your household experienced any of the following because of the pandemic?

(Select all that apply.)

- A permanent loss of job
- A temporary loss of job (furlough) or reduced salary or hours
- Inability to continue job because of the risk of contracting COVID-19
- An eviction from your home
- None of the above

Education

The following questions pertain to the Arlington Public Schools

How, if at all, are you connected to the Arlington Public Schools (APS)? *(Select all that apply.)*

- I am a current APS High School Student
- I am a parent or guardian of current APS secondary student(s) - Grades 6-12
- I am a parent or guardian of current APS elementary student(s) - Grades PreK-5
- I am a parent or guardian of future APS student(s)
- None of the above (SKIP TO END)

Arlington Public Schools prepare all students to succeed in finding a job, college/university, internship, apprenticeship, military, gap year program acceptance when they graduate.

- Strongly Disagree
- Disagree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Neither Disagree nor Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Agree
- Strongly Agree

The Arlington Public Schools have a clear vision, mission, and strategic priorities that guide planning and initiatives to support the Town of Arlington.

- Strongly Disagree
- Disagree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Neither Disagree nor Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Agree
- Strongly Agree

Arlington Public Schools effectively collaborates with Town departments, and community organizations, committees, and commissions to support the values and mission of the Town of Arlington.

- Strongly Disagree
- Disagree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Neither Disagree nor Agree
- Somewhat Agree

- Agree
- Strongly Agree

The Arlington Public Schools provide a safe and welcoming environment for all students and families, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, religion, or culture.

- Strongly Disagree
- Disagree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Neither Disagree nor Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Agree
- Strongly Agree

What should the Arlington Public Schools prioritize in the future?

Open Ended

Business Districts

How visually attractive are the shopping districts in Arlington?

- Very attractive
- Somewhat attractive
- Neither attractive nor unattractive
- Somewhat unattractive
- Very unattractive
- No opinion

What do you think would best improve the attractiveness of the shopping districts in Arlington?

- Plantings, hanging baskets and greenery
- Holiday decorations (i.e., lights or flags)
- Increased garbage pickup/removal
- Public art
- Sidewalk improvements
- Storefront upgrades
- Other

Would you donate to a Town Beautification Fund for the shopping districts if one were to be established?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

SUMMARY QUESTIONS

With regards to Arlington Town government and its departments, what do you find meets or exceeds your expectations?

With regards to Arlington Town government and its departments, what could be improved?

Currently, how satisfied are you living in Arlington? *(Select one option.)*

- Very satisfied
- Satisfied
- Somewhat Satisfied
- Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied

- Somewhat Dissatisfied
- Dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied

Please provide some information to help us understand your level of satisfaction with living in Arlington.

If you have any suggestions regarding ways Arlington can build a stronger community and provide enhanced services, please provide them here. Note: We are particularly interested in the needs and concerns of underrepresented groups.

Thank you for taking the 2021 Envision Arlington Annual Town Survey! Please **return the completed survey by April 1, 2021** to the drop box in the lobby of the Fox Library or deliver the survey to:

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About Envision Arlington

Envision Arlington is a Committee of the Town that builds partnerships so residents, Town employees and Town leaders can develop ideas that bring us closer to our shared vision. Our work is organized around nine vision statements adopted by Town Meeting in 1993.

To learn more about Envision Arlington, our upcoming meetings and events, and how to participate, visit www.arlingtonma.gov/Envision.