



2023 TOWN SURVEY

REPORT ON SURVEY RESPONSES

TOPICS

• Voting • Home Heating • Public Land Improvements

Veterans' Services • Education

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Introduction

Since 1992, Envision Arlington has invited the Arlington Community to share their opinions and experiences about selected issues. Through the guidance of the Planning Department, Envision Arlington works with town departments and committees to open a dialog about the community and how the government works, soliciting suggestions for future improvements and engagements.

The 2023 survey focuses on how we participate and would like to use space in Arlington. We explore who we are, our issues, what spaces to protect, what projects to create, and how to improve our parks and school spaces. It reviews how we perceive the Town of Arlington and its government about what is working and what is not working. Residents' comments help with issues and solutions.

The survey ran online between January 1 and April 1, 2023; Arlington residents had access to paper copies of the survey at Arlington's Robbins Library and the Senior Center. This year, we received 1,944 finished responses, up 20% from 2022 (1537).

Demographics

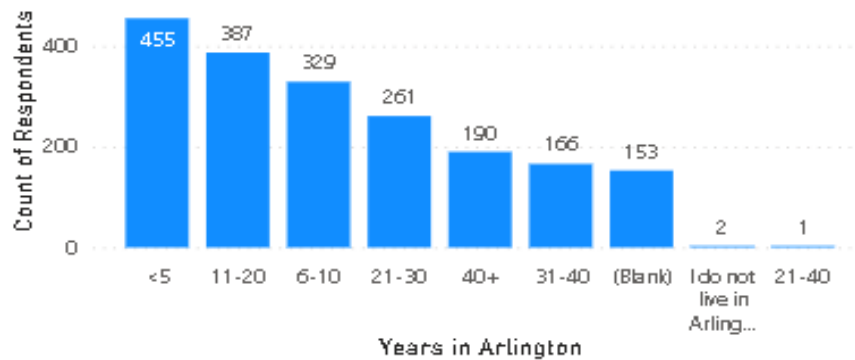
Results revealed a remarkable celebration of ethnic diversity in Arlington. Race, ethnicity, and language responses significantly increased from the previous year's survey. While 86% of the respondents shared that English was the language spoken at home, over 40 other languages were represented in the 3.4% "other" category. Chinese and Spanish were prominent, each representing around 1%. This year's survey aligns more closely than last year's with Arlington's population per Census data, bringing underrepresented populations closer to the 2020 figures. Whites accounted for 81%, with notable increases in Black, Hispanic, and Asian respondents to within 1% of the Census. Notably, identifying as "Arlingtonian," American, or "human" may indicate a desire to move beyond race as a divisive construct. Alternatively, such responses may be better categorized as "prefer not to answer." Our community celebrates diverse backgrounds, including African American, Asian American, European American, Armenian, Jewish, Latino, and more (refer to Race, Ethnicity, and Language graphs on pages 4 and 5).

The input represented a variety of backgrounds, including African American, Asian American, European American, Armenian, Ashkenazi Jew, Biracial, Bolivian, Brown, Eastern European, European descent, Spain and French Hispanic, Hispanic, Hispanidian, Asian/White, Mixed white and South American Mixes, Multi-race, Multiracial white, and other Asian. Race is a social construct meant to divide us, Serbian. Somerville, American and White. Eighty-one percent (81%) of the respondents reported being White; the highest percentage in the study, which is 3% higher than Census information. Double the number of Asian, Black and Hispanic residents responded to this year's survey than last year's, but the number is 1% less than Census percentages.

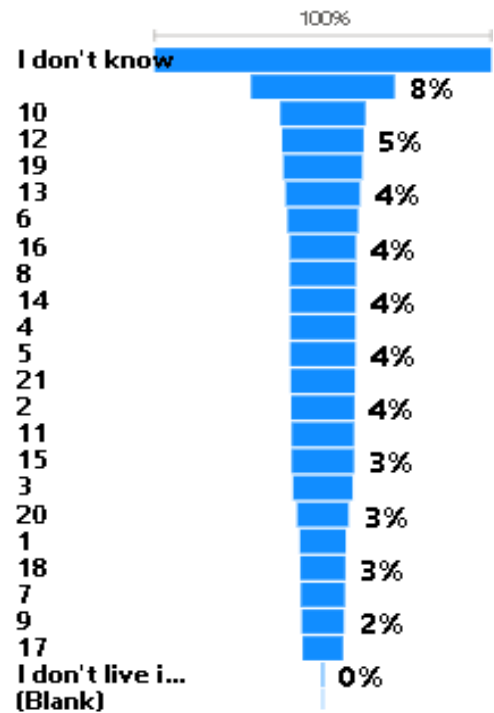
For disability, 78% reported none, 9% disclosed having a disability, and 8% preferred not to answer. With property ownership, 79% stated ownership, higher than 2020 census data at 60%. Age demographics showed the largest group at 35-54 years old (57%), and gender had the majority female (58%). For sexual orientation, 73% were heterosexual, 3% bisexual, and 2% gay/queer. Respondents resided in Arlington for various durations, with 455 reporting less than five years and 387 for 11-20 years. Precinct data showed the top three precincts being 10, 12, and 19. Household demographics indicated an average of two adults (63%), and 17% had only one adult. Income varied, with 32% reporting over **\$200,000/year**, and households spoke multiple

languages. These demographics highlight Arlington's diverse community and the need to gather such information to serve and represent its population effectively.

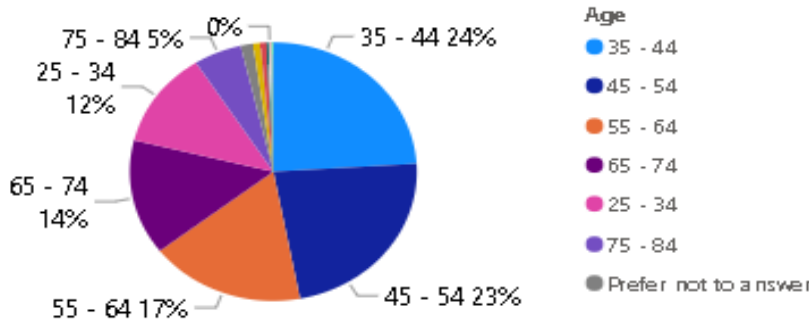
Count of Respondents by Years in Arlington



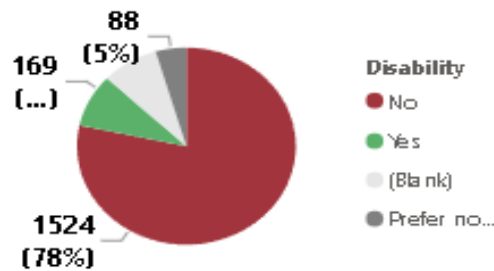
Precinct



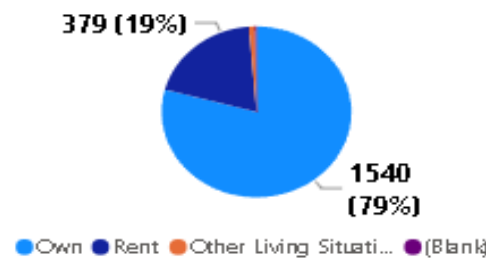
Age



Disability

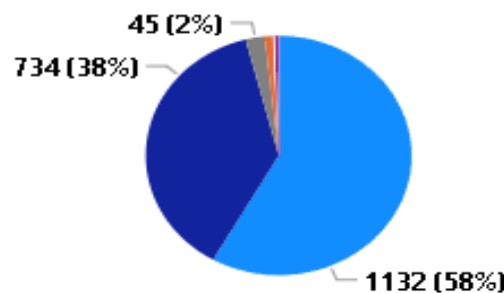


Rent or Own



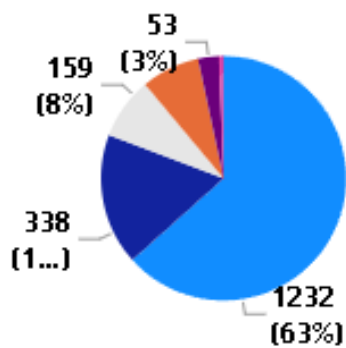
Gender

- Female
- Male
- Gender- Prefer n...
- Non-Binary
- (Blank)
- Another Gender ...
- Transgender

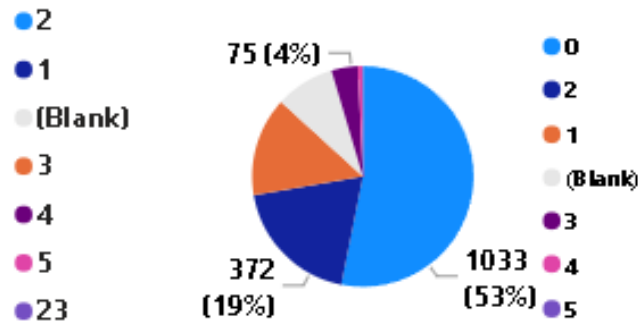


- Other Living
- With family
- Used to rent. Live here occasionally.
- spouse owns home
- Renting until our home's renovation is complete.
- Partner owns
- Parsonage part of salary
- Parsonage
- Other
- Occupy / Share.
- Living with parent who owns
- Living in my family home
- Live with partner who owns our home
- Live with friend who owns
- live with a freind who owns
- Live in parents second house
- Live in a house my mom owns
- House owned by daughter and sil
- Home
- characters

Adults

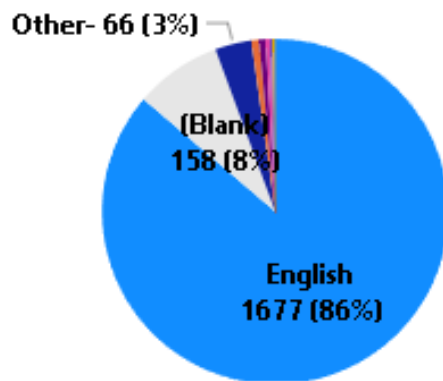


Children

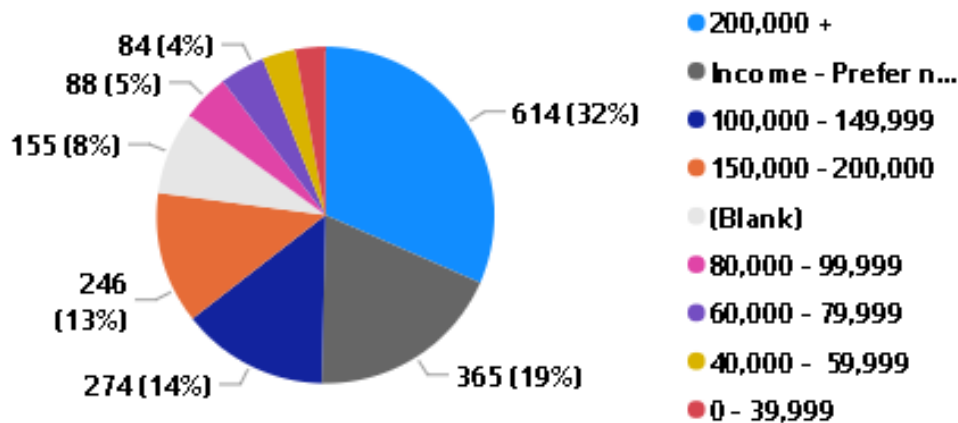


Language

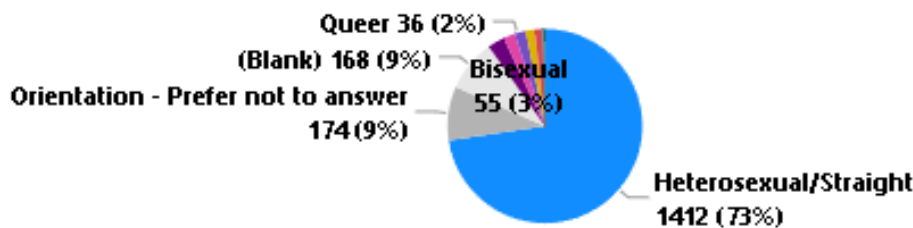
Language English (Blank) Other- Chinese Spanish French Russian Hindi Arabic



Income



Sexual Orientation



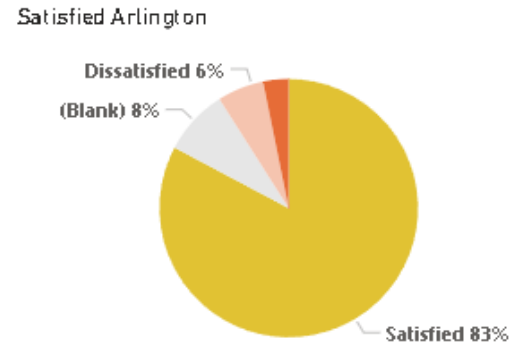
Heterosexual/Straight Orientation - Prefer not to answer (Blank) Bisexual Gay Queer Asexual Lesbian Pansexual

Language Other

Upper Indu
Turkish
Thai
Telugu
Tamil
Swedish
Serbian
Portuguese
Polish
Na
more than one language
Marathi
Japanese, Spanish, English
Japanese
J
Italian
Irish
Hungarian
Hindi& Spanish
Hebrew
Greek & Dutch
Greek
German
Farsi
English, Spanish, French
English, Russian, German
English, Portuguese, Romanian
English & Spanish
English & Portuguese
English & Korean
English & Hindi
English & French
English & Dutch
English & Chinese
English & German
Dutch
Czech
Bulgarian

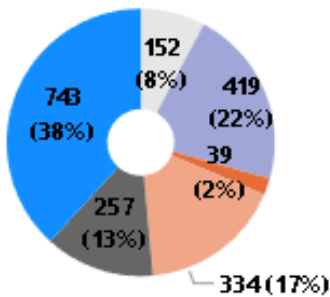
Welcoming-Satisfied Arlington

When asked how satisfied people are living in Arlington, 83% of respondents replied with satisfaction, while 3% were very dissatisfied, 6% dissatisfied and 8% abstained. Respondents also answered about how welcoming Arlington is based on various demographics. Concerning race and ethnicity, 38% found it usually welcoming, while always welcoming got 22%, sometimes welcoming received 17%, and not welcoming was the least at 2%. Based on disability, 17% found it always welcoming, while usually welcoming received 33%, sometimes welcoming got 17%, and only 3% felt it is not welcoming. Based on sexual orientation, always welcoming received 29%, usually welcoming got 40%, while not accommodating and sometimes welcoming tied at 8%. Based on religious views, 24% found it always welcoming, 38% found it usually welcoming, 11% considered it sometimes welcoming, and only 1% responded with not welcoming. Finally, concerning gender identity, 24% found it always welcoming, 37% usually welcoming, 10% sometimes welcoming, and only 1% considered it not welcoming. Each welcoming received 8% in responses left blank, while varying unsure responses numbered highest at disability (23%) followed by gender identity (20%) and dropping to 17% for religious views and sexual orientation.

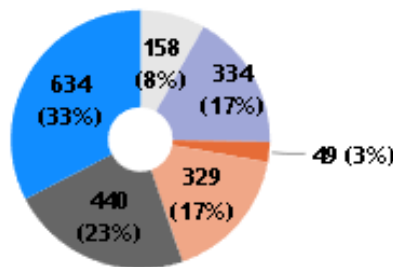


How “Welcoming” do you perceive Arlington to be based on the following?

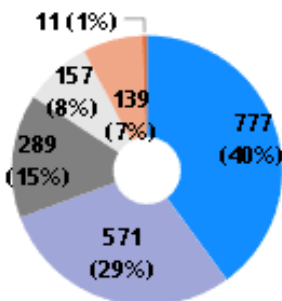
Race Ethnicity



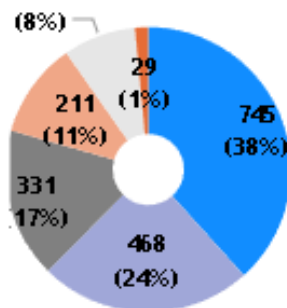
Disability



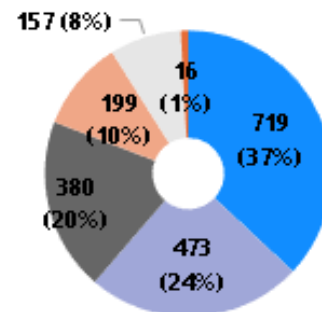
Sexual Orientation



Religious Views

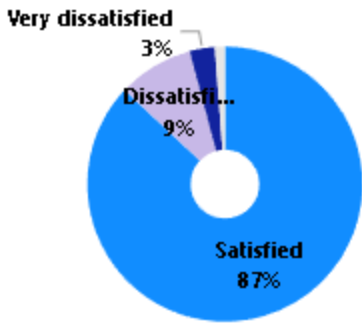


Gender Identity



Welcoming- Disabilities group

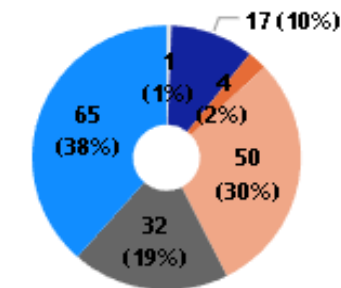
Disabilities group Are you satisfied living in Arlington?



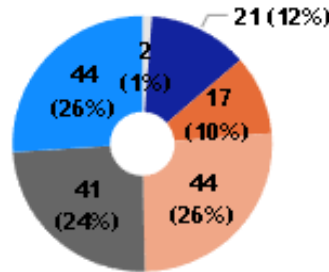
When asked to answer Yes to disabilities if they were satisfied living in Arlington, 87% of respondents replied with satisfaction (up 4% overall). In comparison, 3% were very dissatisfied, and 9% were dissatisfied (up 3%), with 1% abstentions. Respondents also answered about how welcoming Arlington is based on various demographics. Concerning race and ethnicity, 38% found it usually welcoming, while always welcoming got 10% sometimes welcoming got 30%, and not welcoming was the same 2%. Based on disability, 12% found it always welcoming, while usually welcoming received 12%, sometimes welcoming got 26%, and only 10% felt it was not welcoming. Based on sexual orientation, always welcoming received 22%, usually welcoming got 44%, while not welcoming and sometimes welcoming together at 12%. Based on religious views, 28% found it always welcoming, 41% found it usually welcoming, 14% considered it sometimes welcoming, and only 3% responded with not welcoming. Finally, concerning gender identity, 27% found it always welcoming, 40% usually welcoming, 14% sometimes welcoming, and only 2% considered it not welcoming. Each welcoming received about 1% in responses left blank, while varying unsure responses numbered highest at gender ID (27%) followed by religious and disability (24%) and dropping to 19% for race and 21% for sexual orientation.

Disability Group- How “welcoming” do you perceive Arlington to be based on the following?

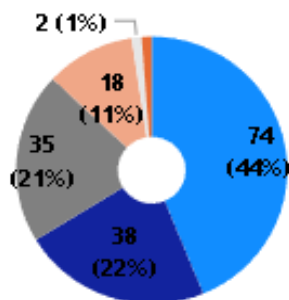
Race Ethnicity



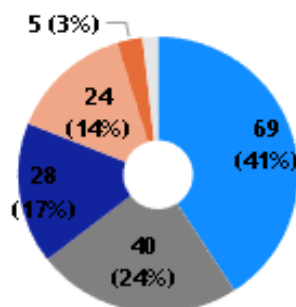
Disability



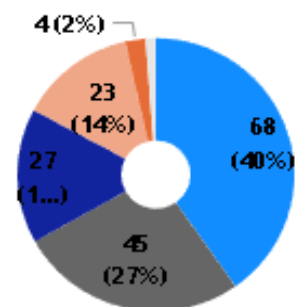
Sexual Orientation



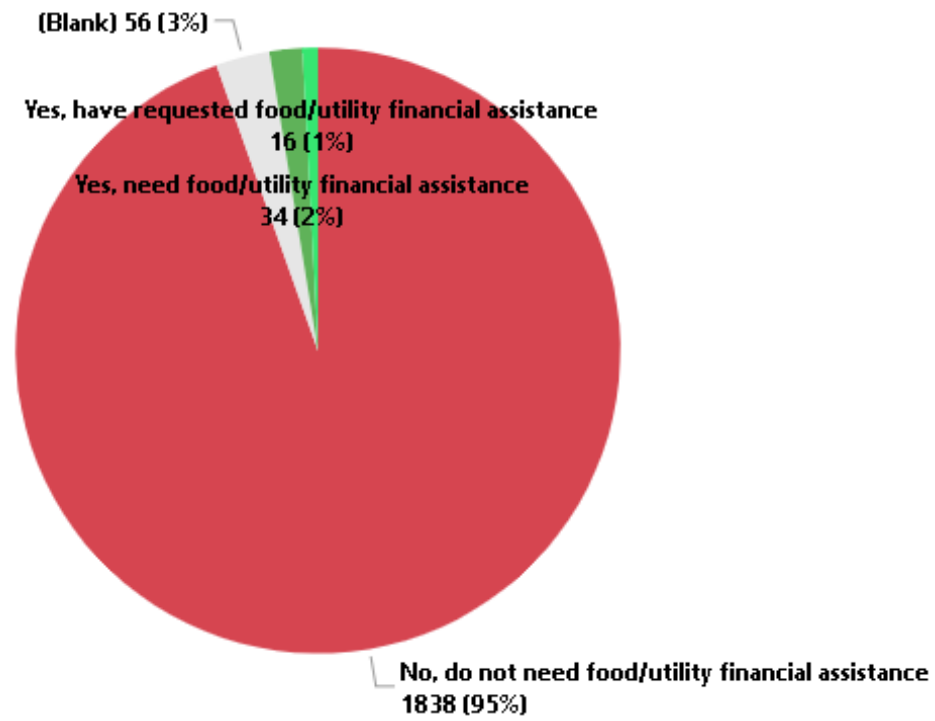
Religious Views



Gender Identity



Have you, or your household needed financial assistance with food and/or utility costs over the past year?

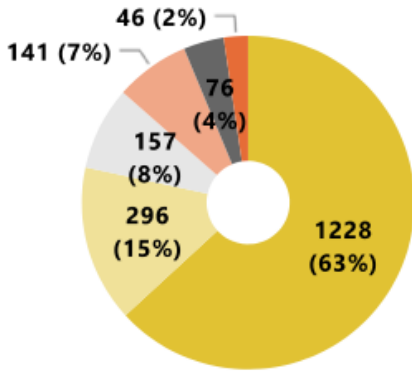


Need financial assistance ● No, do not need food/utility financial ... ● (Blank) ● Yes, need food/utility finan... ● Yes, have requested f...

Town Priorities

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

Discrimination/Unfair treatment

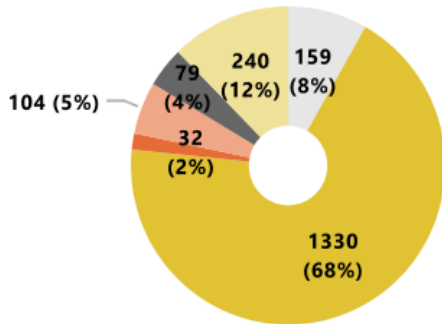


- Always a Priority
- Usually a Priority
- (Blank)
- Sometimes a Priority
- Unsure
- Not a Priority

For Discrimination: Always a Priority accounted for 63.17% of Respondents. Usually a Priority accounted for 15%, with Sometimes and Not a Priority accounting for 9% combined.

For Intimidation: Always a Priority accounted for 68.42% of Respondents. Usually a Priority accounted for 12%, with Sometimes and Not a Priority accounting for 7% combined.

Intimidation/Threats/Coercion

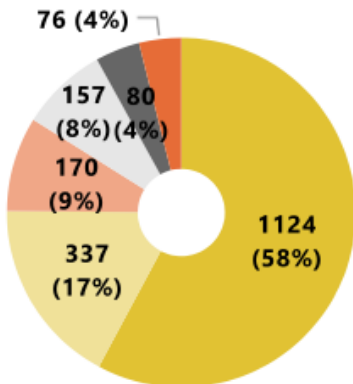


For Prejudice: Always a Priority, accounted for 57.82% of Respondents. Usually a Priority accounted for 17%, with Sometimes and Not a Priority accounting for 13% combined.

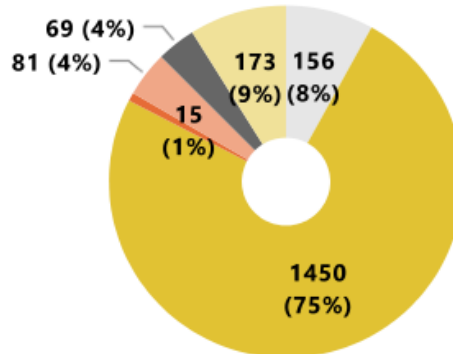
For Violence: Always a Priority accounted for 74.59% of Count of Respondents. Usually, a Priority accounted for 9%, with Sometimes and Not a Priority accounting for 5% combined.

Of all the categories, Violence/Assault was the highest priority, followed by Intimidation/Threats/Coercion, with Prejudice/Intolerance/Bigotry garnering the least.

Prejudice/Intolerance/Bigotry



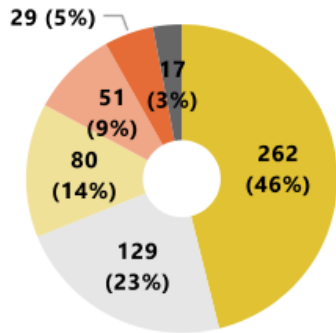
Violence/Assault in home or community



Town Priorities part 2-Not Identifying as White or European group

How much of a priority, if at all, should it be for Arlington Town government to focus on the following? For Subgroups Not identifying primarily as White.

Discrimination/Unfair treatment not identifying as White or European

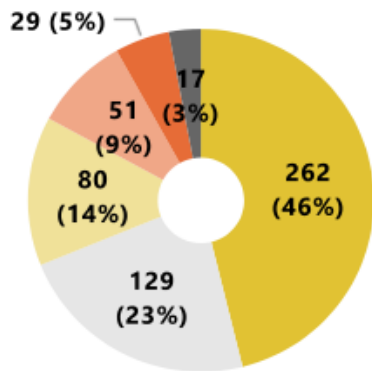


- Always a Priority
- Usually a Priority
- (Blank)
- Sometimes a Priority
- Unsure
- Not a Priority

For Discrimination: Always a Priority accounted for 46.13% of the Count of Respondents, Usually a Priority accounted for 17%, with Sometimes and Not a Priority accounting for 25% combined.

For Intimidation: Always a Priority accounted for 53.52% of Count of Respondents, Usually a Priority accounted for 11%, with Sometimes and Not a Priority accounting for 18% combined.

Intimidation/Threats/Coercion not identifying as White or European

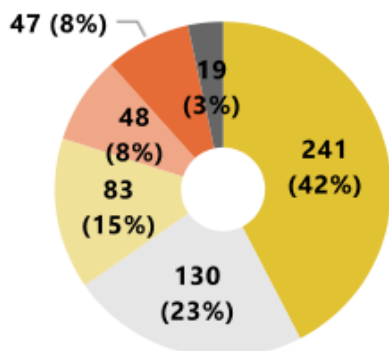


For Prejudice: Always a Priority accounted for 42.43% of Respondents, Usually a Priority accounted for 15%, with Sometimes and Not a Priority accounted for 29% combined.

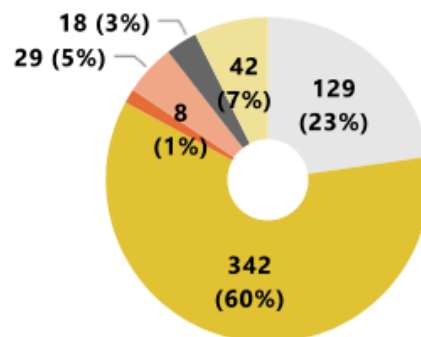
For Violence: Always a Priority accounted for 60.21% of Respondents. Usually, a Priority accounted for 8%, with Sometimes and Not a Priority accounted for 14% combined.

This subgroup follows the majority in its priorities. Violence/Assault was the highest priority followed by Intimidation/Threats/Coercion. Prejudice/Intolerance/Bigotry garnered 42% and Discrimination at 46% on Always a Priority. The Sometimes and Not a Priority garnered a more significant percentage than the overall group.

Prejudice/Intolerance/Bigotry not identifying as White or European



Violence/Assault in home or community not identifying as White or European



Energy

Heating homes is one of the biggest sources of climate-changing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Arlington, and the Town is committed to a goal of net zero GHG emissions by 2050, so the Town Survey asked three questions related to home heating.

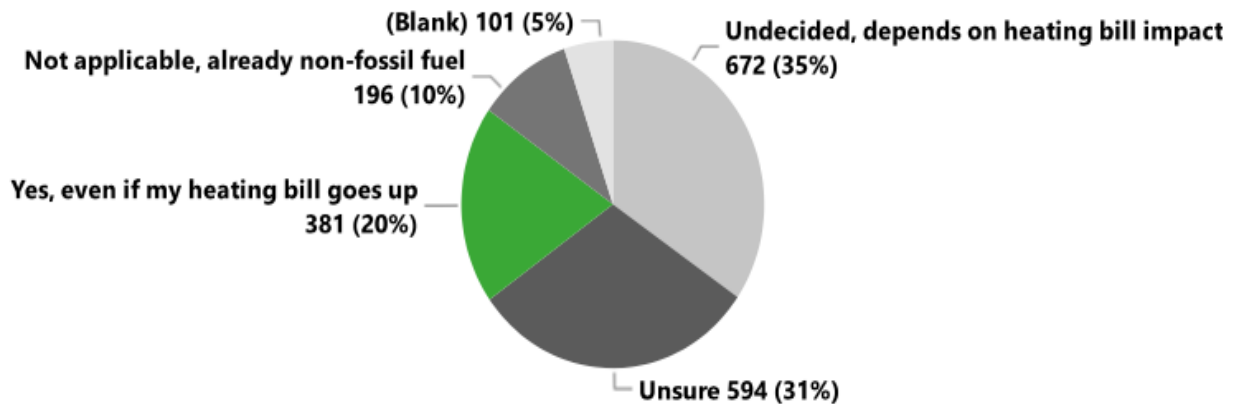
One question asked whether residents would consider heating their homes with heat pumps, which significantly reduce GHG emissions.

Ten percent of respondents said they already don't use fossil fuels. Twenty percent said they would be willing to convert to heat pumps even if their annual heating bills increased, while another 35% said their interest would depend on how heat pumps would affect their heating bills. Nearly a third were unsure.

(Converting to heat pumps reduces annual heating costs by 50% or more for households currently heating with electric resistance. Heat pumps are also expected to reduce annual heating costs for households heating with oil or propane – though that depends on what energy markets do in the future.)

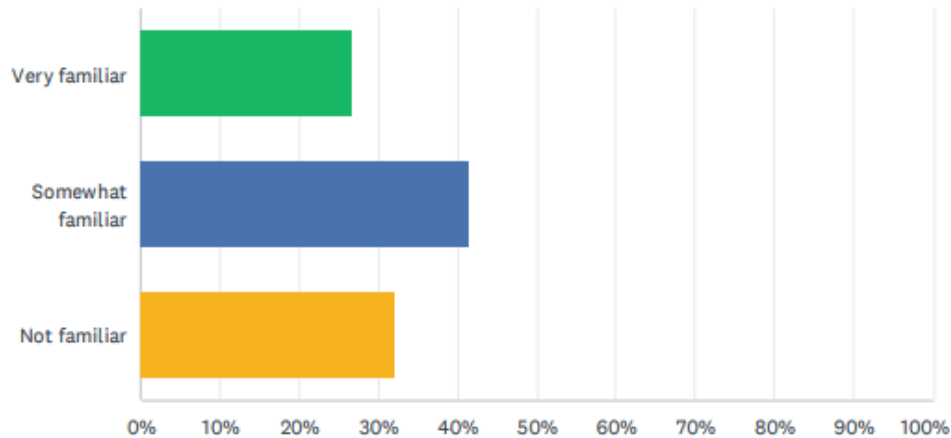
To learn more about heat pumps, go to the Electrify Arlington website at www.arlingtonma.gov/electrify. This Town-sponsored website provides information about heat pump and related technologies, financial incentives, and how to find local installers (we recommend getting at least three quotes). You can also ask to be matched with one of Electrify Arlington's volunteer heat pump coaches.

Would you convert your fossil fuel heating system to a cleaner heating system like electric heat pumps?



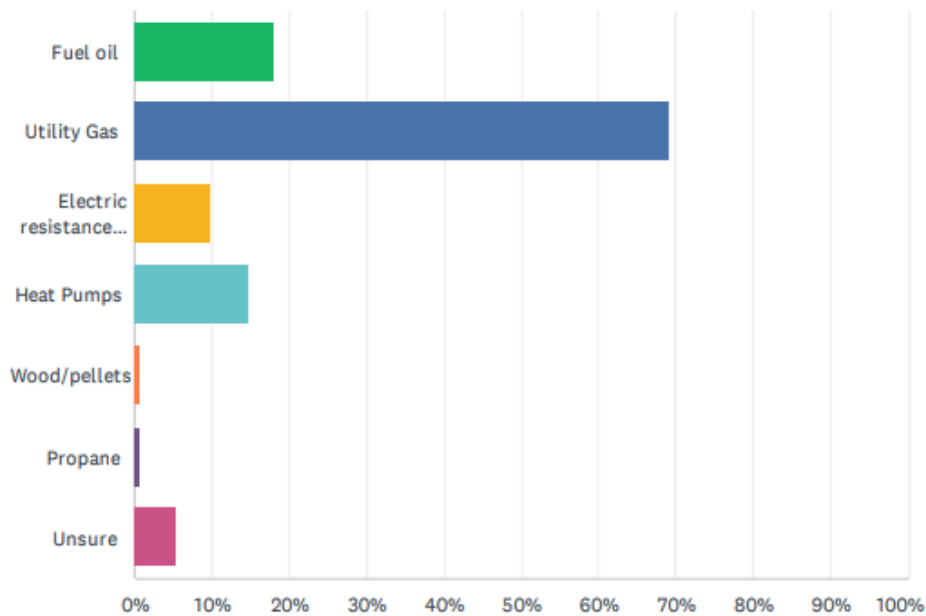
In a related question, more than a quarter of respondents said they are very familiar with heat pumps, a third of respondents said they are not familiar with them, and about 40% are somewhere in between.

How familiar are you with heat pumps?



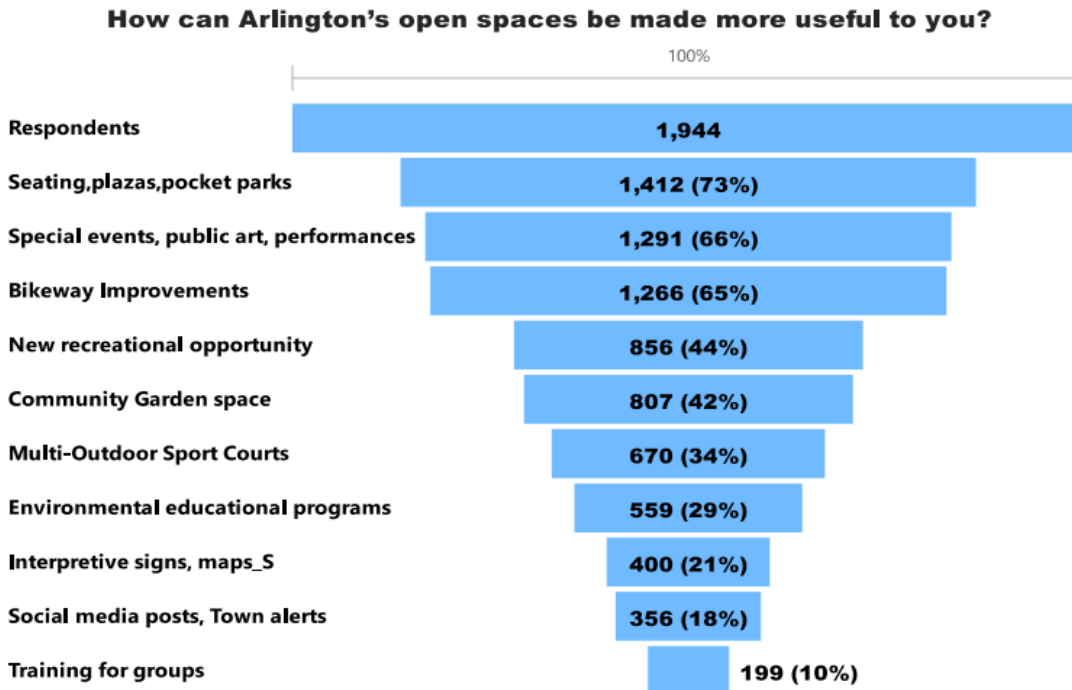
The third energy-related question asked residents how they currently heat their homes. Utility gas was the most common answer. A little more than half of the households (56%) reported that they use only utility gas, while another one in eight (12%) use both gas and another source of heat (most often heat pumps). One in seven (14%) heat exclusively with fuel oil, while another 4% use both oil and another heat source. Only 5% of respondents heat exclusively with heat pumps, but another 8% report that they use both heat pumps and another heat source (most often gas). Electric resistance (the most expensive way to heat) is used exclusively by 3% of respondents, while another 5% reported that they use both electric resistance and another heat source.

What are your primary heating source(s)? Select all that apply.



Open Space

How can Arlington's open spaces be made more useful to you?



Out of the 1944 respondents, an overwhelming 73% deemed pocket parks and plazas as the most valuable spaces. Following closely behind were special events and public art, with 66% of respondents acknowledging their significance. Bikeway improvement trailed slightly at 65%. Additionally, 44% of participants expressed interest in new recreational opportunities, while 42% highlighted the

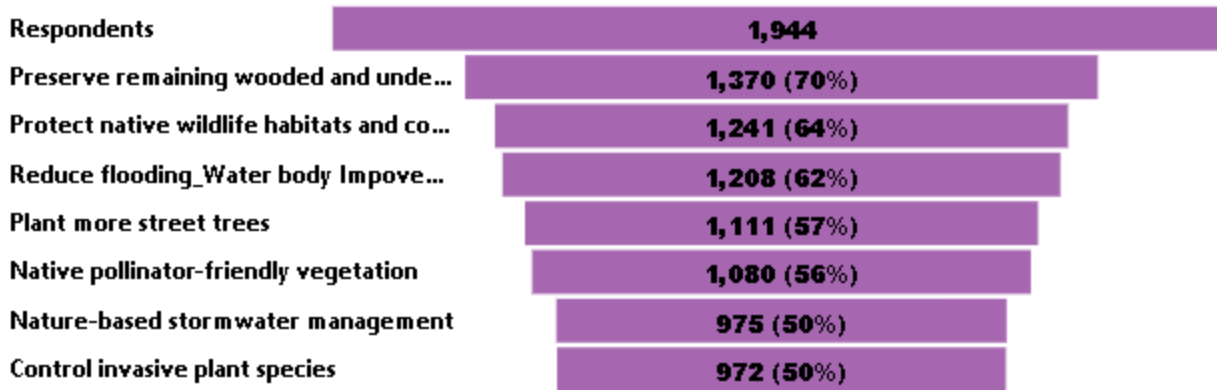
importance of community gardens. Lastly, group training for committees and neighborhood groups garnered 10% of the votes.

How can open space be improved or better utilized?

High level summary of those open-ended questions.

- Lighting of playgrounds extended until 7 pm.
- Install upper body play equipment.
- Introduction of mini splash pads at parks.
- Planting of shade trees near tennis courts and wildflower meadows.
- Stadium seating repairs at Spy Pond park.
- Two well-maintained dedicated dog parks with agility obstacles and a covered area for people in poor weather.
- Installation of disc golf course in wooded natural spaces.
- Establishment of paved walking paths along the Mystic river.
- A program for HS teens to pick up litter and earn service hours.
- Variety of recreational options including a mountain bike facility and another dog park for dog walkers.
- Access to public drinking water and accessible bathrooms/port-a-potty units.
- More community events, Arlington night market, arts initiatives for kids/teens/youths; benches, clear paths in woods; better disabled access; additional off-leash dog times; more seating areas in parks; better signage and enforcement of leash laws; concerts/occasions to gather; beer gardens; bikes lanes & infrastructure; burying phone & electrical wires; pocket gardens showcasing pollinator plants

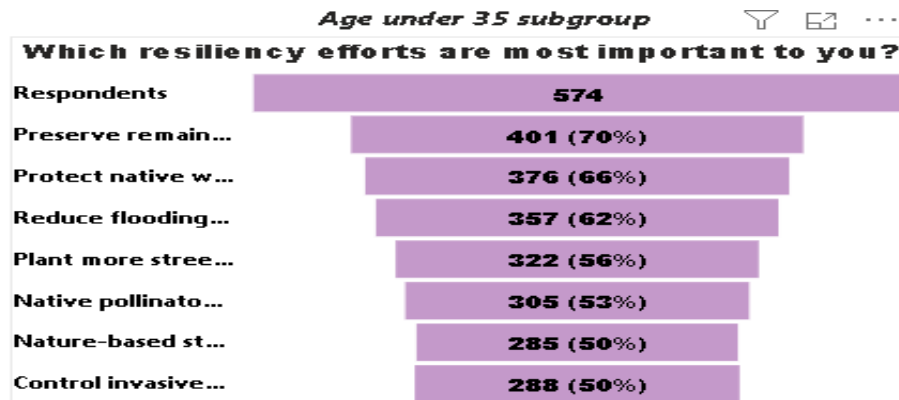
Which resiliency efforts are most important to you?



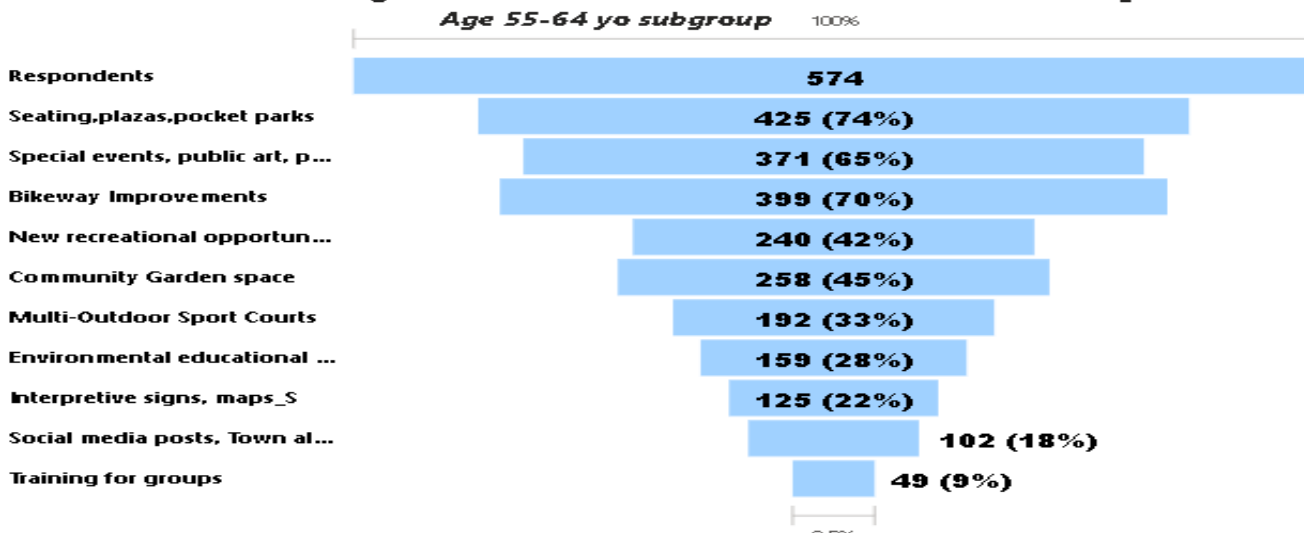
About 70% chose preserving wooded and undeveloped areas followed by 64% choosing to protect native wildlife habitats. In 3rd place comes reducing flooding at 62%. A few of the less popular solutions include nature based stormwater management solutions and controlling invasive species but still important to 50% of the respondents.

Open Space - Age groups

With 25-35 year old (yo) aged respondents (67%) and 55-64 yo group (66%) Bikeway improvement rises to second place after pocket parks. Community gardens also rise to 42% with the 55-64 yo and 47% for the 25-35yo. When examining by age groups under 35, bikeway improvements increased in importance. The only two answers that changed rank by age group were the bikeway improvements and the community gardens.



How can Arlington's open spaces be made more useful to you?



While most of the individual age groups followed the majority in their choices. When reviewing the Resiliency graphs for 55-64yo, there is a significant rise in the importance of controlling invasive plants. When reviewing for age groups up to 45yo favored Tennis courts, and basketball over pickle ball.

So while preserving and protecting our current open space for native habitats were the two highest choices, so too were the pocket parks, bikeway improvements and special exhibits/events for our land improvements. With suggestions like “Planting of shade trees near tennis courts and wildflower meadows”, “Installation of disc golf course in wooded natural spaces” and “pocket gardens showcasing pollinator plants” allowing for both natural environment enhancements for residential use.

Parks and Recreation

When the community was asked

What new recreational programs would you like the Arlington Recreation Department to offer?

Overview of these suggestions include

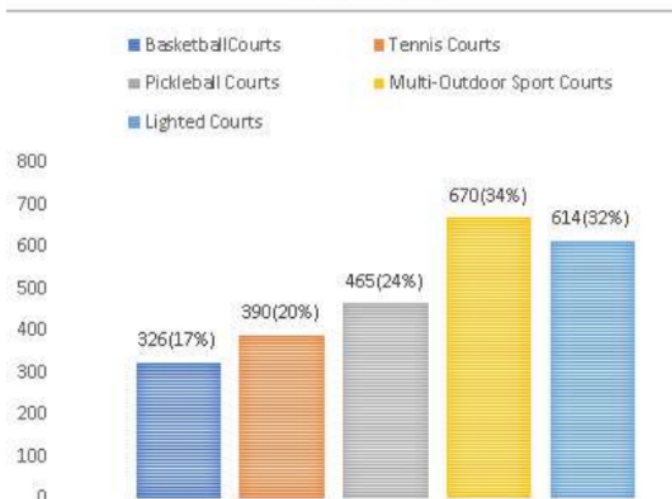
- Non-competitive multi-generational games include Rock Climbing, Track & Field, Hiking, Making Public Art and Community Service.
- Facilities such as a bouldering height rock wall, swimming pool and decking space for outdoor classrooms could be added.
- Recreation activities such as adult board game night, adult co-ed recreational volleyball and adult exercise in evenings or weekends could be offered.
- Adult programs such as women’s soccer and recreational softball leagues could be organized.
- Adventure obstacle, parkour or challenge type courses. After school activities, calisthenics /exercise stations and a community garden could also be built.
- Suggestions of activities include badminton, pickleball, volleyball, disc golf, archery, bike pump track and canoe/kayak rentals on Spy Pond.

What type of Arlington Park and recreation hard-court surfaces would you like to see more of?

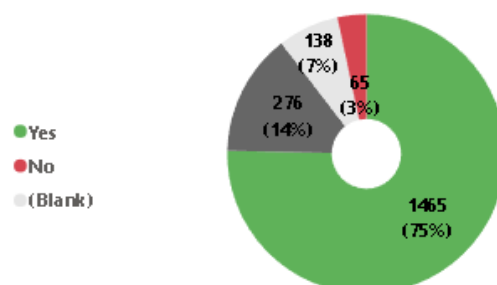
Of the 1944 respondents 34% responded that multiple outdoor sports courts were the most desirable aspect for the courts. It is followed by 32% seeking lighted courts, 24% responding pickleball courts, 20% responding to more tennis courts and 17% recommending more basketball courts.

The data seems to indicate that improving the recreational aspects of Arlington involve the development of more programming and courses for youth and adults.

COURTS



Do you plan to vote in this year's Town elections on April 1st?



Voting

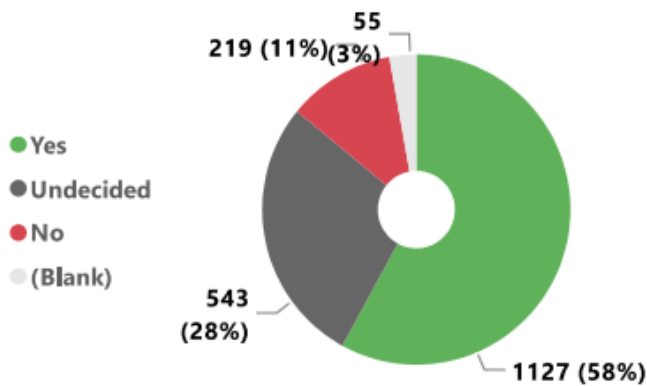
The Commonwealth made changes to election laws to provide more options for voters. The Town has taken every opportunity to allow more voting options for local

elections with a goal of encouraging higher turnout. Local elections are often decided by 25% of registered voters.

This year, 94% of survey respondents indicated they were registered voters, however only 75% of them indicated they were planning to vote in the upcoming Town Election.

Traditionally, turnout is lower for Town Elections compared to State Elections and Presidential Elections. This figure will serve as a benchmark to assess whether changes to voting procedures and communication over time can improve local turnout.

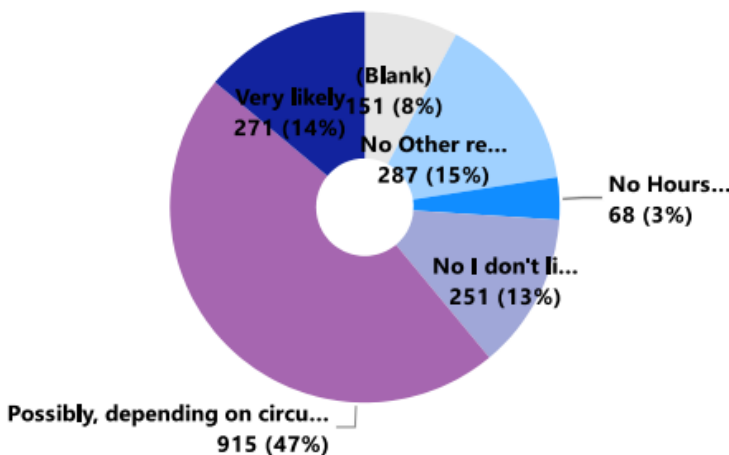
If possible, would you prefer the annual Town election be held in November at the same time as state and national elections instead of in April?



This is a popular idea and is regularly suggested to improve turnout by holding elections at a time that people associate with elections. With 58% of respondents interested in the idea, it should be explored. Undecided accounted for 28% of responses, so it will be important to consider the broader impacts on Town Meeting elections, which would be held far in advance of the actual Meeting in late April.

The most significant change to election laws since 2020 has been allowing early voting by mail and in-person for all local elections. The Select Board or similar governing body of each community can choose how or whether to offer those options during local elections. The Arlington Select Board approved a proposal for in-person early voting leading up to the Town Election in April and residents were asked in the survey how likely they were to take advantage of the early voting options.

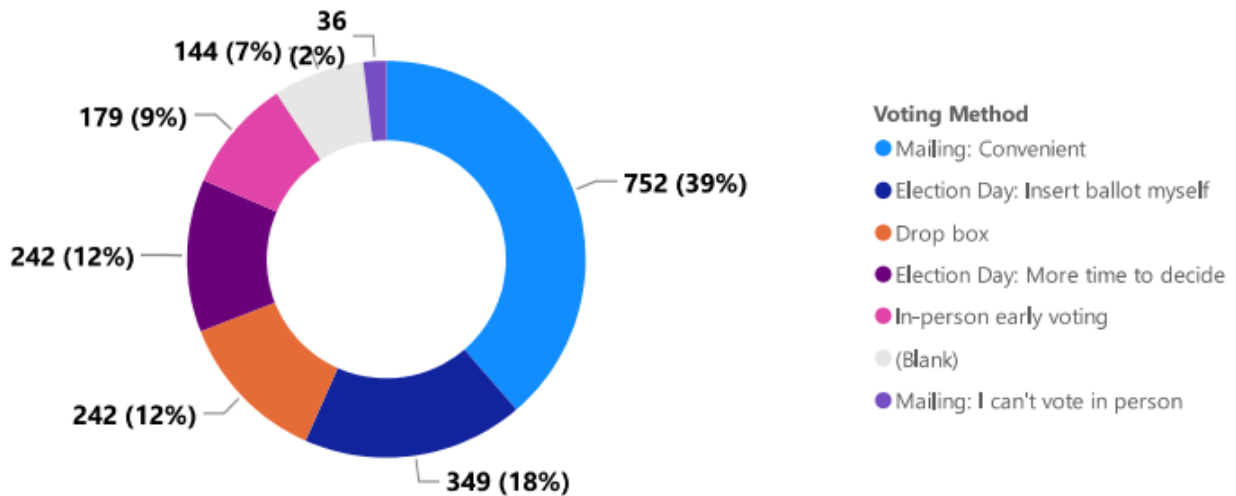
**Would you vote early in person at Town Hall for the Saturday April 1st election based on this proposed schedule?
Sat 10 - 3, Mon 8 - 5, Wed 8 - 7**



- 47% Possibly, depending on circumstances
- 14% Very likely
- 15% No, other reason
- 13% No, I don't like early voting
- 3% No, Hours are not convenient
- 8% Blank

Overall, 61% of respondents were either very likely or possibly likely to vote early for that election. 31% responded No for various reasons and 8% left the question blank. The Clerk’s Office will track turnout for in person voting hours to determine if the schedule can be improved. The option to vote early in person has not obviously increased turnout outside of presidential years, but the convenience remains an important factor to consider.

Which method of voting or returning a ballot is most convenient for you?



When asked which voting method was convenient, mailing, in person election day or drop box etc. Mailing came in first followed by Election day and early voting options.

Election day 30%

Voting by Mail 53%

Early Voting Hours 9%

- Return by mail 39%
- Return to drop box 12%
- Necessary to vote 2%

The Clerk’s Office will continue to collect data on voting methods to compare to these preferences and whether the patterns for turnout and voting method are consistent for all elections or if we find different patterns for local elections.

Arlington Burial Options

Because space is limited, the Arlington government sought input from residents.

Should Arlington obtain public burial space in another municipality or recommend private cemetery options?

- Unsure 75%
- Private Cemetery 11%
- Municipal Burial Space 8%

How important is it to you to be buried/have your final resting place be in Arlington?

- 84% Not so important
- 8% Somewhat important
- 5% Very important

The majority, 75%, seemed uncertain how to expand burial spaces.

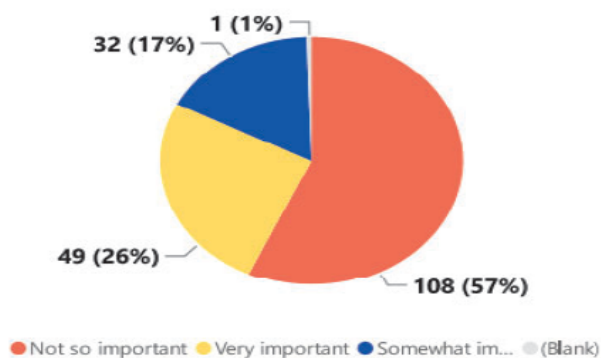
How could Arlington expand its cemetery options within the confines of the town?

We received over 400 open responses. In a nutshell, amidst these responses, some individuals prioritized more pressing land use matters, such as housing and environmental enhancements. Numerous space-saving approaches were proposed to accommodate limited cemetery space, such as vertical burials, specialized family plots, cremation, natural burials, and the development of columbariums. In addition, the discussion explored environmentally friendly burial alternatives, including composting, green burial systems, Viking-style burning boats, and burial-at-sea in Mystic Lakes or Spy Pond. Moreover, suggestions were made to address the issue by tunneling under public property, akin to catacombs, or constructing burial sites within local hillsides. Certain respondents advocated investing in these space-responsible methods rather than allocating more land for cemeteries. Encouraging incentives for businesses, expanding recycling efforts, and utilizing existing cemeteries for innovative burial methods were also proposed as viable alternatives to traditional burials.

When reviewing the data by the over 40 years of age subgroup, the Private cemetery choice rose to 15% and Municipal Burial to 14%. As our population ages, municipal burial options and Arlington as the final resting place become significantly more appealing.

Arlington Burial Options-Years in Arlington 40+ subgroup

How important is it to you to be buried/have your final resting place be in Arlington?



Supporting municipal burial drops by 4% to 14% support and private cemetery picks up the 4%, while the majority drops to 68% for unsure, in the the forty plus years living in Arlington subgroup.

In how important is it to you to be buried in Arlington, with this subgroup Not So Important drops 25% to 57% while Very Important rises to 26% from 5% and Somewhat Important also gains ground at 17% up from 4%. Other age subgroups general followed the majority, those with living longer Arlington having a significantly higher importance level for being buried in Arlington.

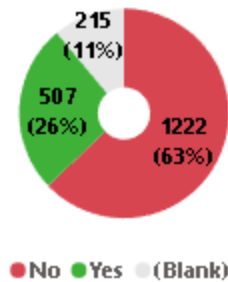
Veterans Office

Arlington's Office of Veterans' Service helps veterans and their families access services. Only 2% of the survey responses were from veterans; nearly all had contacted the office.

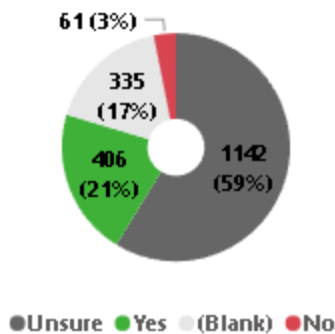
When the survey asked more generally if respondents had visited the office, 26% out of that roughly 500 people who had seen the office, 400 of them said they would recommend the office as a resource for others.

The influence of age on respondents' likelihood to visit and recommend the vet office was examined, and older residents have had more contact with the office. Respondents aged 55-64 had the highest percentage of vet office visits and recommendations at 33% and 27%, respectively. Individuals over 75 revealed that 44% had visited the office, and 38% would recommend it.

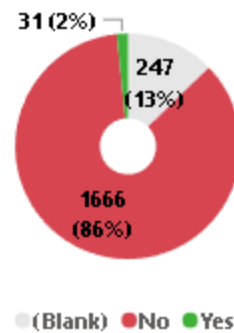
Were you aware that Arlington has a Veteran Services' Office that provides information and assistance to veterans and their immediate families, in obtaining benefits and services?



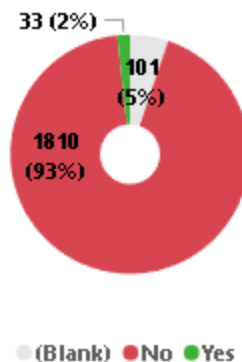
Would you recommend the services this office provides to veterans or military families?



Have you contacted the Veteran Services' Office for assistance in the past?



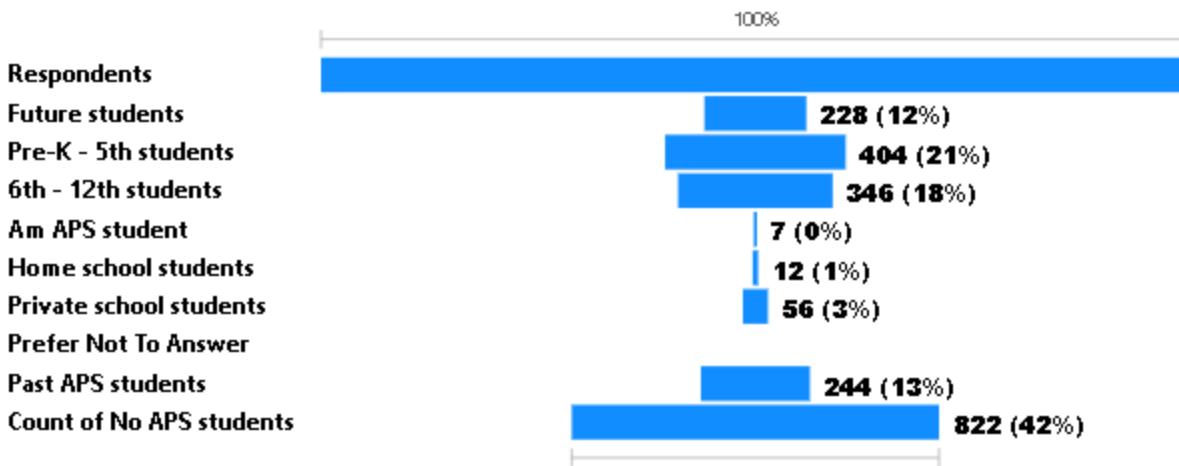
Are you a veteran?



Education

When examining students in Arlington households, the survey finds that 42% of respondents have no APS students, 21% have pre-K to 5th grade, 18% have 6th to 12th grade, 12% have future students, and 13% have past students. Three percent (3%) of respondents had home-school students, and 1% were home-schooled. Compared to last year, there is a 5% increase in respondents of K-5th graders and a 3% increase in respondents with 6th to 12th graders. This year also has 2% fewer private school students and 4% fewer respondents who are previous APS students.

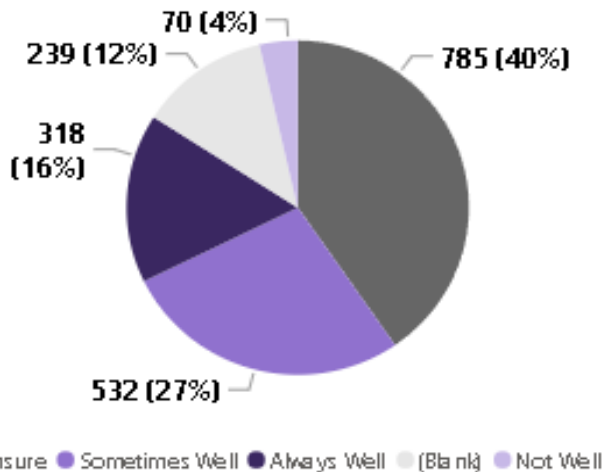
Students



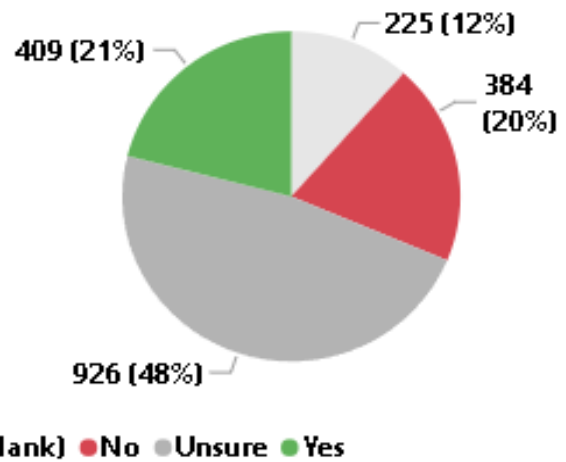
How well maintained are APS facilities, classrooms, and community spaces?

Facilities are Always well maintained garnered 16% and Sometimes Well received 27% with Not Well at 4%

How well maintained are APS facilities, classrooms, and community spaces?



Do you think APS are sufficiently funded to support the success of all learners?



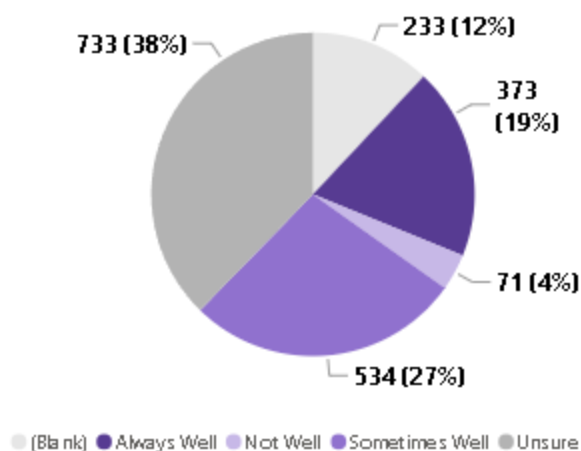
Do you think APS are sufficiently funded to support the success of all learners?

Unsure had the highest Count of Respondents at 926(48%), followed by Yes(21%), No(20%), and Blank.

How well is the school district serving students and families?

Respondents replied with 46% choosing Always or sometimes well while 38% were unsure.

How well is the school district serving students and families?



High Level Overview of

What programs or projects would you like to see funded by the schools that currently are not?

- Increased focus on environmental programs, healthy eating lifestyles, specialized reading programs (e.g., whole language and Wilson/Orton-Gillingham training), body and brain BE program, cooperative and collaborative special education department, accelerated programs and better support for high potential students/advanced learners, mental health/social work support, vocational program opportunities, public speaking/debate programs, differentiated instruction (clean air in classrooms/outdoor learning spaces), bi-lingual education for all students, community gardens, school lunch options, driver's ed opportunities and more funding for math instruction/computer science and engineering study subjects are desired.
- Encouraging academic and athletic achievements while avoiding controversial political ideologies; implementing foreign language and programming (coding) for younger kids with swim lessons and foreign language training; offering free meals; arts funding; adult education classes; full-day pre-k; overhauling special education services at APS; including a gifted & talented program in K-8; high school marching band; smaller class sizes & more support IEP/504 plans; facilitating hands-on workshop learning spaces & makerspaces; boosting teacher pay to be competitive with neighboring towns is suggested.
- Include a more cooperative and collaborative special education department, accelerated programs for high potential students, better support for advanced learners, mental health and social work support, vocational program opportunities, public speaking, and debate programs, more differentiated instruction, a growth mindset for vulnerable children with clean air in classrooms and outdoor learning spaces, bi-lingual education for all students,
- Have community gardens, school lunch options, driver's ed opportunities, increased funding for math instruction and computer science and engineering study subjects, American civics without "woke" bias, and arts integration. Invest in social workers, school psychologists, nurses, aides, special ed specialists, art and music teachers & instruments, and language immersions.
- Focus on offering wilderness survival/appreciation, nature interpretation, community outreach, and service opportunities in the curriculum.

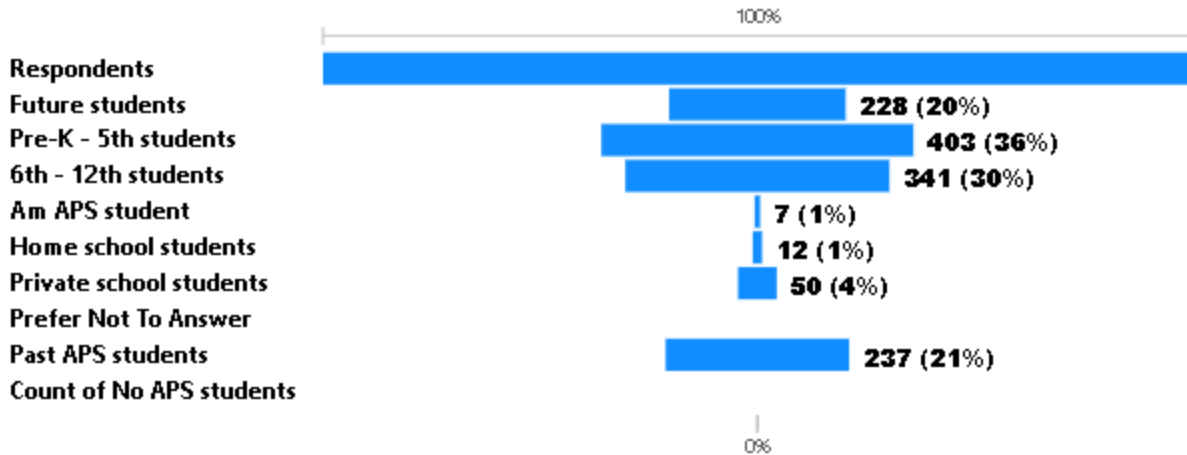
- Mandatory masking, weekly pool testing, improved air filtration and ventilation at events like concerts.
- Improve lunch quality and quantity for teens; enhance diversity awareness; offer more alternatives than college prep i.e., trades in the high school such as carpentry, electric, plumbing.

Education - Student Families group

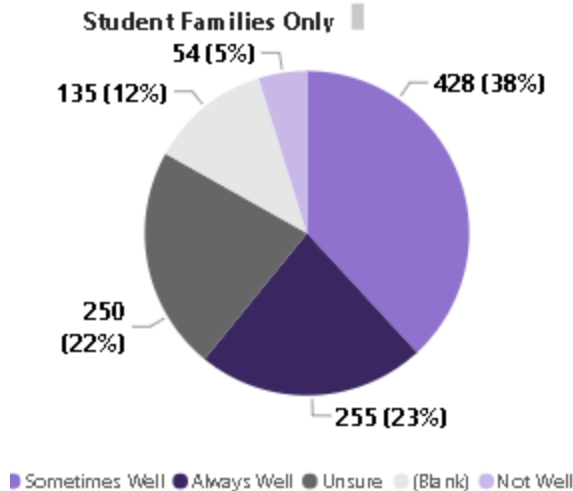
For this survey question, only responses with students or potential students are considered.

Of these respondents, Always and Sometimes was 61% with Not Well Maintained getting 5% and Unsure and blank at 22% and 12% respectively. APS Sufficiently Funded is 28% answering No or Not Sufficiently Funded is 25%. The most popular response was 36% Unsure and an additional 12% left the question blank. Always and Sometimes Well Maintained at 61% is an increase from the overall response of 43%.

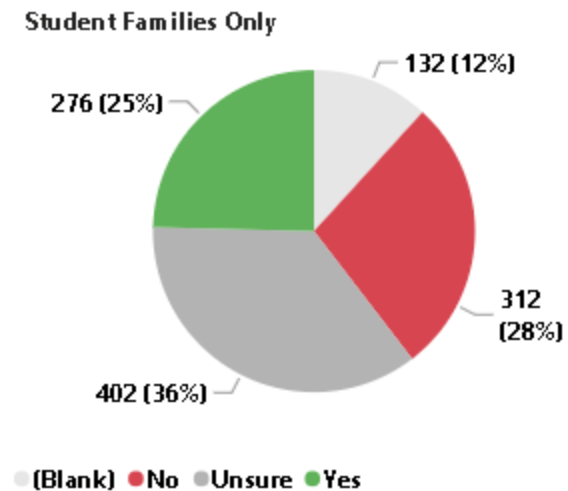
Students Student Families Only



Facilities Well Maintained



Sufficiently Funded



Sometimes Well accounted for 38.15% of Count of Respondents. Always Well garnered 23% up 7% and Sometimes Well received 38% up 10% with Not Well at 5% only up 1%.

Unsure had the highest Count of Respondents at 402, followed by No, Yes, and Blank. Yes got 25% up 5% and No garnered 28% up 8%. Unsure accounted for 35.83% of Count of Respondents. This is down 10%.

Conclusion

Arlington: Celebrating Diversity and Addressing Key Challenges

In Arlington, 83% of residents are satisfied with their lives, highlighting this diverse community's positive living experience. However, the pressing land use issue demands our attention as we strive to protect our remaining spaces. We aim to protect these areas with pocket parks, enhancing the environment and combating climate change while addressing the urgent need for affordable housing.

To tackle these challenges, we are making significant progress. At least 20% of our community is committed to finding alternatives to fossil fuels, paving the way for a greener future. Furthermore, 73% of residents believe preserving wooded and undeveloped areas is critical to optimizing open spaces.

In line with our commitment to maintaining an active and healthy population, the Arlington Recreation Department has been reviewing new recreational programs. The community suggestions include non-competitive multi-generational games like rock climbing, track & field, hiking, and outdoor classroom spaces. Additionally, various recreational activities and leagues will be suggested for adults and youth, such as board game nights, co-ed recreational volleyball, and exercise classes. Engaging our community in these activities will contribute to their well-being.

Efforts to encourage civic engagement are also underway. We have changed election laws, allowing for early voting by mail and in-person for local elections. However, despite these efforts, voting and survey participation have not significantly increased in recent years. We hope to change this trend and further engage our residents.

Addressing the limited cemetery space available, residents have proposed innovative solutions. These include vertical burials, specialized family plots, and cremation options, providing alternatives for those who wish to be buried within the town. The Office of Veterans' Services has witnessed the highest engagement from individuals aged 55-64 (33%) or over 75 (44%). This office provides invaluable assistance to veterans and their families in accessing services.

Overall, this survey highlights the potential for protecting and enhancing land use through preserving habitat and adding environmentally integrated recreational initiatives. Yet, growing concerns about affordable housing will need to be addressed. With the dedication and support of our community, we can address these challenges and continue to make Arlington a thriving and inclusive place to live.