



THE CHARLESTON FORUM TRI-COUNTY SURVEY 2021

APRIL - MAY 2021

Prepared for:
The Charleston Forum

Prepared by:
The Center for Research & Public Policy, Inc.

802-882-8173 | info@crpp.com | crpp.com



STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY AND OWNERSHIP

All the analyses, findings and recommendations contained within this report are the exclusive property of The Charleston Forum.

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 and 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 Charleston Forum.

1 Introduction

Page 4

2 Methodology

Page 5



3 Highlights

Page 6

4 Summary of Findings

Quality of Life & Status of Race Relations	Page 10
Policing and Criminal Justice	Page 12
Economic Opportunity / Housing	Page 15
Education / Schools	Page 17
Symbols / Future of the Past	Page 20
Engagement / Dialogue	Page 22
Demographics	Page 25

5 Appendix

Page 27

Survey Instrument
Crosstabulations
Composite Aggregate of Data

1 INTRODUCTION

The Center for Research & Public Policy (CRPP) is pleased to present the results to a residential survey on behalf of The Charleston Forum. The survey was conducted to collect resident input on race relations across topics including policing, the judicial process, education, economic opportunity, housing, public history symbols and willingness to engage in community discussions on race relations.

The research study included 700 completed online surveys among residents in three South Carolina Counties – Charleston, Dorchester, and Berkeley.

The online survey (N=700) was conducted April 16 – May 16, 2021.

The survey included the following areas for investigation:

- Quality of life and standard of living
- Status of current race relations
- Support and opposition of policing / criminal justice conceptual strategies
- Support and opposition of economic / housing conceptual strategies
- Support and opposition of education / school conceptual strategies
- Support and opposition of symbol (monuments, memorials, names buildings, roads, etc) conceptual strategies
- Willingness to pay more in taxes for conceptual programs / strategies
- Opinions on economic opportunities across different races
- Willingness to engage in community efforts / discussions on race relations
- Demographics

Section 2 of this report discusses the Methodology used in the study, while Section 3 includes Highlights derived from an analysis of the quantitative research. Section 4 is a Summary of Findings from the survey.

Section 5 is an Appendix to the report containing the crosstabulations and the survey instrument employed. Crosstabulations display key, core questions by a number of demographic subgroups for further analysis of these results.

METHODOLOGY

Using a quantitative research design, an online survey was completed among 700 residents living within Charleston, Dorchester and Berkeley Counties in South Carolina.

Survey design input was provided during a project initiation meeting and subsequent sessions with CRPP which included The Charleston Forum leadership.

Survey design 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. Additionally, placement of questions is carefully accomplished so that order has minimal impact.

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 online panel member within the three counties 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.

CRPP programmed the online survey instrument. This was followed by a pre-test and soft launch prior to full and random broadcast of the survey to qualified panel members.

Statistically, a sample of 700 completed surveys has an associated margin for error of +/- 3.7% at a 95% confidence level.

Results throughout this report are presented for composite data – all 700 cases.

ON QUALITY OF LIFE & STANDARD OF LIVING

Impressively, 88.4% of all residents surveyed reported a very good (32.6%) or good (55.9%) quality of life living in the Charleston, Dorchester and Berkeley Counties, South Carolina. White survey respondents (89.8%), as well as black respondents (84.4%), reported positive quality of life ratings. Comparatively, in 2020, 89.8% of residents reported a very good or good quality of life.

Overall, almost three-fifths, 57.4%, suggested that race relations over the past 10 years had either improved (20.1%) or was the same but good (37.3%). Comparatively, in 2020, 68.2% of residents indicated that race relations have either improved or is the same but good. Among white and black respondents, those offering “improved or the same and good” was 61.8% and 44.0%, respectively.

Over one-third of all respondents, 35.8%, suggested race relations had either remained the same and poor (22.9%) or declined (12.9%).

ON POLICING AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

When presented with several conceptual strategies related to law enforcement goals, respondents reported strongest support for:

- Requiring continuing education/training for officers on issues of fair/even treatment – 86.9%
- Implementing consequences for officers who fail to use their respective body cameras – 85.4%
- Building and implementing more comprehensive “de-escalation training” along with interpersonal skills training – 84.7%

The lowest support was found for:

- Centralizing an excessive force use (and other complaints) database outside the local police department allowing others to better evaluate an officer applicant/candidate – 72.7%
- A periodic racial bias audit for agencies with publication of results – 65.1%

When presented with several conceptual strategies related to criminal justice system goals, respondents reported strongest support for:

- County funding/financing of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council that brings together leaders from the community, law enforcement, judicial system and behavioral health professionals in an effort to address challenges in the system and make improvements to our criminal justice system – 79.0%
- Bail/bond system reform so non-violent offenders are not held in jail after demonstrating an inability to pay a fine, fee or bail – 74.4%
- Implementing of pre-trial service programs to provide support for individuals least likely to get to court when required and to stay arrest-free while waiting for resolution of charges – 72.4%

The lowest support was found for:

- Decriminalization of certain non-violent criminal offenses – 63.7%
- When disproportionate enforcement occurs against black and brown people, Solicitors should enact policies to balance the prosecution of charges with the overall population proportion – 53.3%

Majorities agreed (strongly or somewhat) with two statements regarding police departments and court decisions.

- Police departments in the tri-county area need to develop programs in collaboration with the black and brown communities within their jurisdictions to build trust and confidence – 84.1%
- Because fines, fees, bail amounts, time away from work impact lower income and some minority families disproportionately, these factors should be considered in any court – 64.6%

Just over one-half of respondents, 55.6%, expressed they would be very (21.6%) or somewhat willing (34.0%) to pay more in local or regional taxes to accomplish new policing and criminal justice programs / strategies. Among white and black respondents, those offering “very or somewhat willing” was 53.9% and 66.7%, respectively.

ON ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES / JOB DISCRIMINATION / HOUSING

When presented with several conceptual strategies related to economic opportunity and lower average incomes in black and brown communities, respondents reported strongest support for:

- State level legislation that provides tax credits/incentives for redevelopment of abandoned structures – 82.3%
- Public funding to establish the infrastructure to ensure broadband internet access is available when/where it is not currently – 77.3%
- Creation of an Affordable Housing Trust Fund (with dedicated annual public revenue) used to develop, rehabilitate, and preserve additional/existing units of affordable housing – 76.4%

The lowest support was found for:

- Provide tax credits/incentives for the creation of, or contribution to, private equity funds dedicated to funding minority-owned business ventures – 65.1%
- Removal of a net worth “ceiling” imposed on minority business owners to participate in incentive programs – helping to create more wealth – 64.3%

Almost three-fifths of respondents, 57.6%, expressed they would be very (21.4%) or somewhat willing (36.1%) to pay more in local or regional taxes to accomplish economic opportunity programs / strategies. Among white and black respondents, those indicating “very or somewhat willing” was 56.8% and 63.1%, respectively.

ON EDUCATION / SCHOOLS

When presented with several conceptual strategies related to education and schools, respondents reported strongest support for:

- A proposal to connect students and their parents/caregivers more closely to their schools with support services to help meet goals and needs – 89.0%
- A proposal to add “Parent Advocates” at the most challenged schools to help connect parents and teachers – 87.4%
- A program for schools, at their option, to align/partner with charitable funding / volunteer groups/businesses to help support educators, children and families achieve educational goals – 86.3%

The lowest support was found for:

- Assigning only experienced teachers and principals to underperforming schools – 72.7%
- Establishing similar “innovative public schools” as private-public partnerships (i.e. Brentwood / Burns Elementary) or as Charter Schools, accountable to the County School Board – 72.7%
- Allowing parents to send their children (transportation provided for those in need) to other county schools of choice – 71.9%

Almost two-thirds of respondents, 63.1%, expressed they would be very (27.4%) or somewhat willing (35.7%) to pay more in local or regional taxes to accomplish education and school programs / strategies. Among white and black respondents, those indicating “very or somewhat willing” was 60.5% and 77.3%, respectively.

ON SYMBOLS / FUTURE OF THE PAST

When presented with several conceptual strategies related to public history in the form of monuments, memorials, and named buildings and roads, respondents reported strongest support for:

- Encouraging local governments to sponsor public opinion surveys on the future of monuments, memorials and named buildings/roads – to help demonstrate the preferences of residents in each community – 67.3%
- Creation of a diverse Public History Commission to study and make recommendations regarding monuments/memorials, to provide biographical sketches of persons honored, to compile a list of notable historical figures not currently honored, and to make recommendations on ways to improve current memorials – 64.9%

The lowest support was found for:

- Encouraging local and state governmental entities to create new memorials that celebrate American diversity and democratic values – 60.6%

Less than one-half of respondents, 46.7%, expressed they would be very (17.6%) or somewhat willing (29.1%) to pay more in local or regional taxes to address public history. Among white and black respondents, those offering “very or somewhat willing” was 42.6% and 63.1%, respectively.

About three-quarters of respondents indicated the following information would be important to them in more confidently forming an opinion on support / opposition to the strategies presented in the survey:

- The criteria used in deciding on the need for the strategy – 76.1%
- The cost of the initiative/strategy to the taxpayer – 74.7%
- Who will implement the initiative/strategy – 72.7%

ON ENGAGEMENT / DIALOGUE

Although slightly down from 2020, there continues to a willingness to engage in constructive dialogue on improving racial relations and building bridges with other races.

Three-quarters of respondents, 74.9%, strongly or somewhat agreed that they would be willing to join others in building bridges to improve racial relations in the tri-county area.

On a composite basis, 77.4% of all respondents noted agreement that the majority of Americans, regardless of race, are interested in having race relations improve. Significantly more white respondents agreed than black respondents at 81.8% and 66.7%, respectively.

Over three-fifths of all respondents, 59.7%, were willing to volunteer or donate to local not-for-profits dedicated to helping minorities and low-income families close gaps in education, economics and health care. Whites and blacks were similarly willing at 56.8% and 70.9%, respectively.

Strong awareness for The Charleston Forum was 7.9% (very aware) – up from 4.5% in 2020. The cumulative total for very and somewhat aware was 22.6%- up from 18.6% in 2020. Awareness (very and somewhat) was stronger among white survey respondents (23.0%) than black respondents (20.6%).

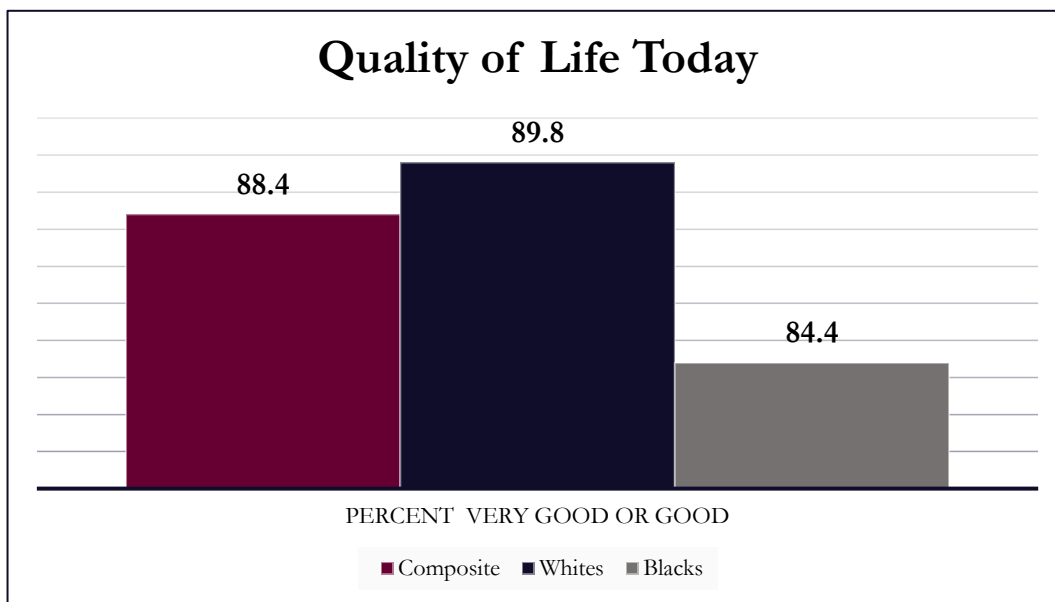
When extrapolated on the total population of the tri-county area, just over one-half of respondents, 53.7%, noted a willingness to attend such a forum or conversation on improving racial relations – slightly down from 60.1% in 2020. Whites were somewhat less willing (51.4%) than blacks (63.8%).

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Readers are reminded that the narrative throughout this report refers to composite aggregate online survey data – 700 residents of Charleston, Dorchester and Berkeley Counties in South Carolina. Text, tables and graphs throughout this report present these composite results alongside results among both white (N=479) and black (N=141) respondents.

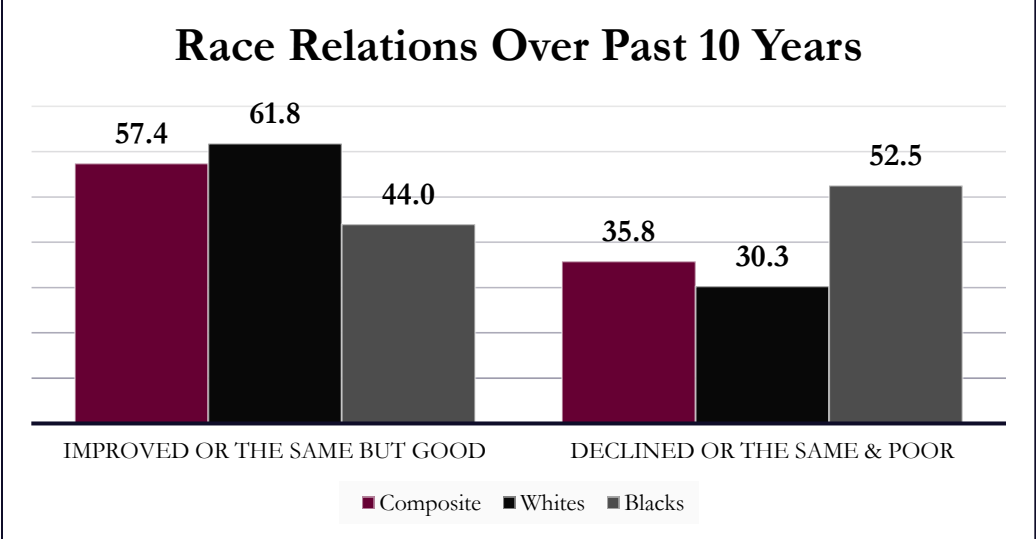
QUALITY OF LIFE / STANDARD OF LIVING

All survey respondents were asked to think about and report on their own quality of life today. A large majority, 88.4%, reported their overall quality of life as very good (32.6%) or good (55.9%). Results are displayed in the following graph and table.



Quality of Life	2021			2020		
	Composite	Whites	Blacks	Composite	Whites	Blacks
Very good	32.6	34.7	22.7	28.5	30.8	24.7
Good	55.9	55.1	61.7	61.3	61.4	61.4
Cumulative: Very good and Good	88.4	89.8	84.4	89.8	92.2	86.1
Poor	8.3	7.7	12.1	6.2	5.3	6.6
Very poor	2.4	1.7	2.8	2.4	1.5	4.8
Unsure	0.9	0.8	0.7	1.6	1.1	2.4

Respondents were asked about race relations in their own community/neighborhood over the past 10 years. Almost three-fifths of respondents, 57.4%, indicated relations have improved (20.1%) or were the same but good (37.3%) Each was asked if relations had improved, remained the same and good, remained the same and poor or declined. Results are presented in the following graph and table.



Race Relations Over Past 10 Years	2021			2020		
	Composite	Whites	Blacks	Composite	Whites	Blacks
Improved	20.1	23.2	9.2	23.7	26.5	13.9
The same but good	37.3	38.6	34.8	44.5	45.4	42.8
Cumulative: Improved or The same but good	57.4	61.8	44.0	68.2	71.9	56.7
The same but poor	22.9	18.2	38.3	17.9	15.7	24.7
Declined	12.9	12.1	14.2	7.7	6.6	12.0
Unsure	6.9	7.9	3.5	6.2	6.7	6.6

POLICING AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Respondents were asked whether they supported or opposed conceptual strategies related to **law enforcement** that, if implemented, may help achieve goals for police officers to treat everyone fairly and evenly. The following table holds the cumulative totals, in declining order, for those strongly or somewhat supporting each statement.

Law Enforcement Conceptual Strategies	Composite [Strongly or Somewhat Support]	Whites [Strongly or Somewhat Support]	Blacks [Strongly or Somewhat Support]
Requiring continuing education/training for officers on issues of fair/even treatment	86.9	88.3	80.9
Implementing consequences for officers who fail to use their respective body cameras	85.4	88.5	80.9
Building and implementing more comprehensive “de-escalation training” along with interpersonal skills training	84.7	88.5	75.2
Hosting community gatherings, during non-emergent times, for officers and residents	81.1	85.6	70.9
Creation of a regional training center focused on issues of fair/even treatment in our community	80.9	83.7	72.3
Centralizing an excessive force use (and other complaints) database outside the local police department allowing others to better evaluate an officer applicant/candidate	72.7	72.7	78.0
A periodic racial bias audit for agencies with publication of results	65.1	64.3	73.0

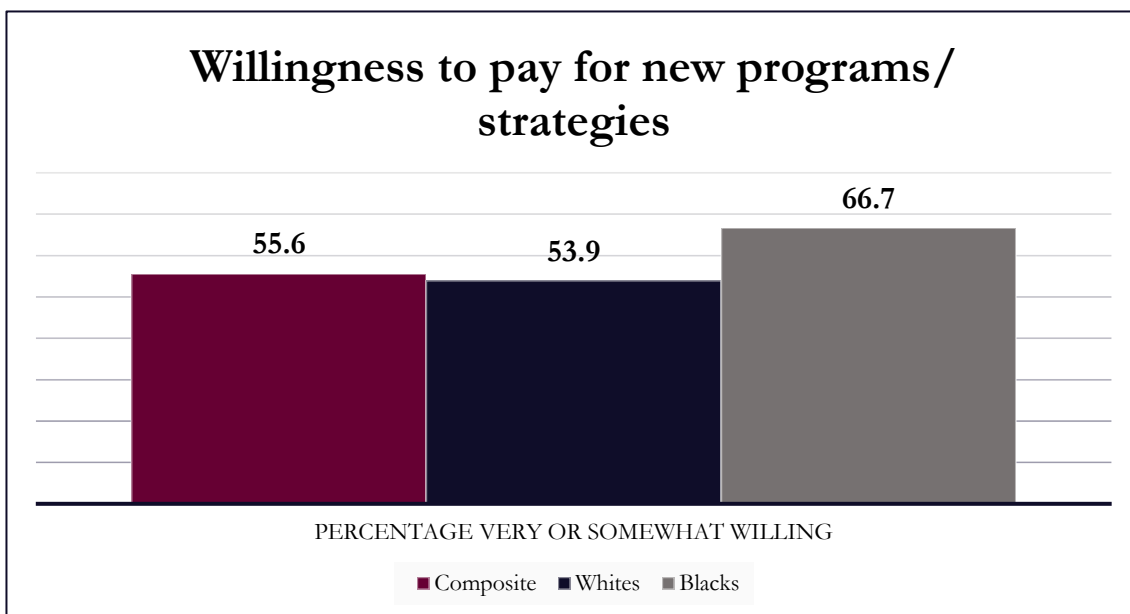
Respondents were asked whether they supported or opposed conceptual strategies related to the **criminal justice system** that, if implemented, may help achieve goals for the justice system to treat everyone fairly and evenly. The following table holds the cumulative totals, in declining order, for those strongly or somewhat supporting each statement.

Criminal Justice System Conceptual Strategies	Composite [Strongly or Somewhat Support]	Whites [Strongly or Somewhat Support]	Blacks [Strongly or Somewhat Support]
County funding/financing of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council that brings together leaders from the community, law enforcement, judicial system and behavioral health professionals in an effort to address challenges in the system and make improvements to our criminal justice system	79.0	80.6	81.6
Bail/bond system reform so non-violent offenders are not held in jail after demonstrating an inability to pay a fine, fee or bail	74.4	72.0	85.8
Implementation of pre-trial service programs to provide support for individuals least likely to get to court when required and to stay arrest-free while waiting for resolution of charges	72.4	71.2	78.7
Public/taxpayer funding of re-entry programs that have demonstrated success at reducing recidivism for people who had been incarcerated	67.9	69.3	68.8
Periodic racial bias audit for offices of prosecutors/solicitors with publication of results	67.1	66.0	75.2
Decriminalization of certain non-violent criminal offenses	63.7	62.8	69.5
When disproportionate enforcement occurs against black and brown people, Solicitors should enact policies to balance the prosecution of charges with the overall population proportion	53.3	46.1	77.3

Respondents were asked how strongly they agreed or disagreed with two statements relating to **police departments and court decisions**. The following table holds the cumulative totals for those strongly and somewhat agreeing with each statement.

Statements	Composite: Strongly & Somewhat Agree	Whites: Strongly & Somewhat Agree	Blacks: Strongly & Somewhat Agree
Police departments in the tri-county area need to develop programs in collaboration with the black and brown communities within their jurisdictions to build trust and confidence	84.1	82.5	90.1
Because fines, fees, bail amounts, time away from work impact lower income and some minority families disproportionately, these factors should be considered in any court decision	64.6	61.4	75.9

Respondents were asked how willing they were to pay an increase in local or regional taxes to accomplish **policing and criminal justice programs / strategies**. Just over one-half of respondents, 55.6%, indicated they would be very (21.6%) or somewhat willing (34.0%) to pay more to accomplish the programs / strategies. Results are displayed in the chart below for those very or somewhat willing to pay.

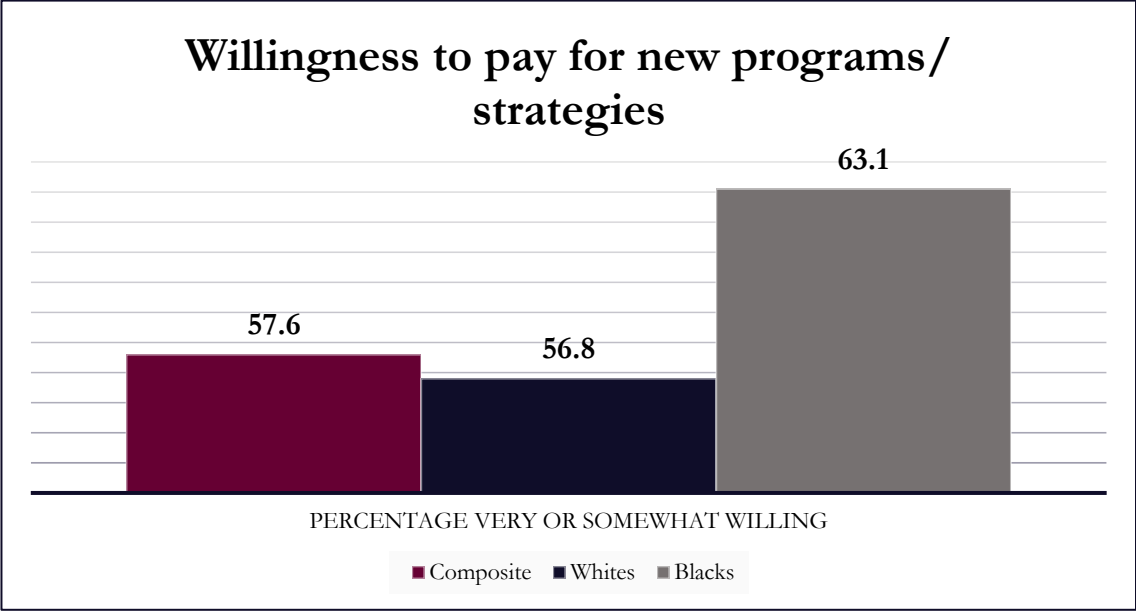


ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES / HOUSING

Respondents were asked whether they supported or opposed conceptual strategies that, if implemented, may help achieve goals related to **economic opportunity and lower average incomes** in black and brown communities. The following table holds the cumulative totals, in declining order, for those strongly or somewhat supporting each statement.

Economic Opportunity Strategies	Composite [Strongly or Somewhat Support]	Whites [Strongly or Somewhat Support]	Blacks [Strongly or Somewhat Support]
State level legislation that provides tax credits/incentives for redevelopment of abandoned structures	82.3	85.2	77.3
Public funding to establish the infrastructure to ensure broadband internet access is available when/where it is not currently	77.3	78.7	75.2
Creation of an Affordable Housing Trust Fund (with dedicated annual public revenue) used to develop, rehabilitate, and preserve additional/existing units of affordable housing	76.4	76.8	78.0
State level opportunity-zone legislation designed to provide tax credits/incentives to developers who work to prevent displacement of current residents	76.0	77.5	75.2
State level inclusionary zoning legislation and municipal policies requiring developers of more than 50 housing units to include a percentage that are affordable	69.6	70.8	73.0
Public funding for a business incubator to assist new minority owned businesses get their start	66.9	66.0	76.6
Provide tax credits/incentives for the creation of, or contribution to, private equity funds dedicated to funding minority-owned business ventures	65.1	63.9	73.0
Removal of a net worth “ceiling” imposed on minority business owners to participate in incentive programs – helping to create more wealth	64.3	63.7	75.2

Respondents were asked how willing they were to pay an increase in local or regional taxes to accomplish **economic opportunity programs / strategies**. Almost three-fifths of respondents, 57.6%, indicated they would be very (21.4%) or somewhat willing (36.1%) to pay more to accomplish the programs / strategies. Results are displayed in the chart below for those very or somewhat willing to pay.



EDUCATION / SCHOOLS

Respondents were asked whether they supported or opposed conceptual strategies related to **education and schools** that, if implemented, may help children, regardless of color, have the opportunity to earn a quality education and receive extra support if needed. The following tables hold the cumulative totals, in declining order, for those strongly or somewhat supporting each statement.

Administrative Proposals

Administrative Conceptual Strategies	Composite [Strongly or Somewhat Support]	Whites [Strongly or Somewhat Support]	Blacks [Strongly or Somewhat Support]
In addition to a pay increase for all teachers and principals in line with regional and national pay benchmarks, merit pay based in part on student academic growth	79.0	79.5	84.4
While holding principals accountable for academic results, giving each more support/autonomy over personnel hiring/firing	76.4	79.7	70.2
With accountability to the school board, establishing “innovative public schools” in high poverty neighborhoods that serve all children in the respective neighborhood which have experienced principals who have autonomy over personnel hiring and firing	76.4	78.5	74.5
Assigning only experienced teachers and principals to underperforming schools	72.7	72.0	78.7
Establishing similar “innovative public schools” as private-public partnerships (i.e. Brentwood / Burns Elementary) or as Charter Schools, accountable to the County School Board	72.7	72.9	75.9
Allowing parents to send their children (transportation provided for those in need) to other county schools of choice	71.9	72.7	72.3

Parental Support

Parental Support Conceptual Strategies	Composite [Strongly or Somewhat Support]	Whites [Strongly or Somewhat Support]	Blacks [Strongly or Somewhat Support]
A proposal to connect students and their parents/caregivers more closely to their schools with support services to help meet goals and needs	89.0	90.8	86.5
A proposal to add “Parent Advocates” at the most challenged schools to help connect parents and teachers	87.4	90.4	80.9

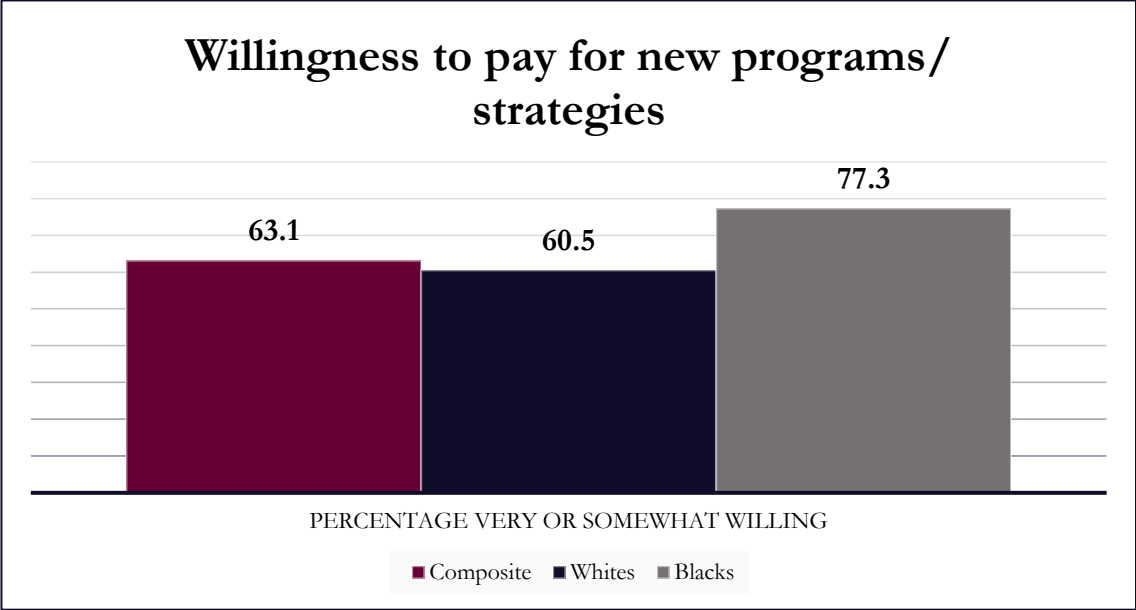
Instruction and Support

Instruction and Support Conceptual Strategies	Composite [Strongly or Somewhat Support]	Whites [Strongly or Somewhat Support]	Blacks [Strongly or Somewhat Support]
A program for schools, at their option, to align/partner with charitable funding / volunteer groups/businesses to help support educators, children and families achieve educational goals	86.3	87.7	85.8
Ensure the availability of universal instructional pre-school for three-year-old and four-year-old children in our community with financial support based on need	80.9	80.6	81.6
Providing two teachers in every early grade classroom (K-3 rd) where significant differences in readiness occur	80.3	82.0	74.5

Funding

Funding Conceptual Strategies	Composite [Strongly or Somewhat Support]	Whites [Strongly or Somewhat Support]	Blacks [Strongly or Somewhat Support]
Establish within each school district a team of experts representing all major differing points of view to make recommendations on the resources needed to improve the performance of students at challenging and distressed schools	80.6	83.5	74.5
Establish within each school district a team of experts representing all major differing points of view to determine and publish actual per pupil expenditure, by school, categorized by academic, administration, support, and any other purposes	78.9	78.9	83.0
Establish within each school district a team of experts representing all major differing points of view to identify any disparities in per pupil funding	73.6	73.7	76.6

Respondents were asked how willing they were to pay an increase in local or regional taxes to accomplish **education and school programs / strategies**. Almost two-thirds of respondents, 63.1%, indicated they would be very (27.4%) or somewhat willing (35.7%) to pay more to accomplish the programs / strategies. Results are displayed in the chart below for those very or somewhat willing to pay.

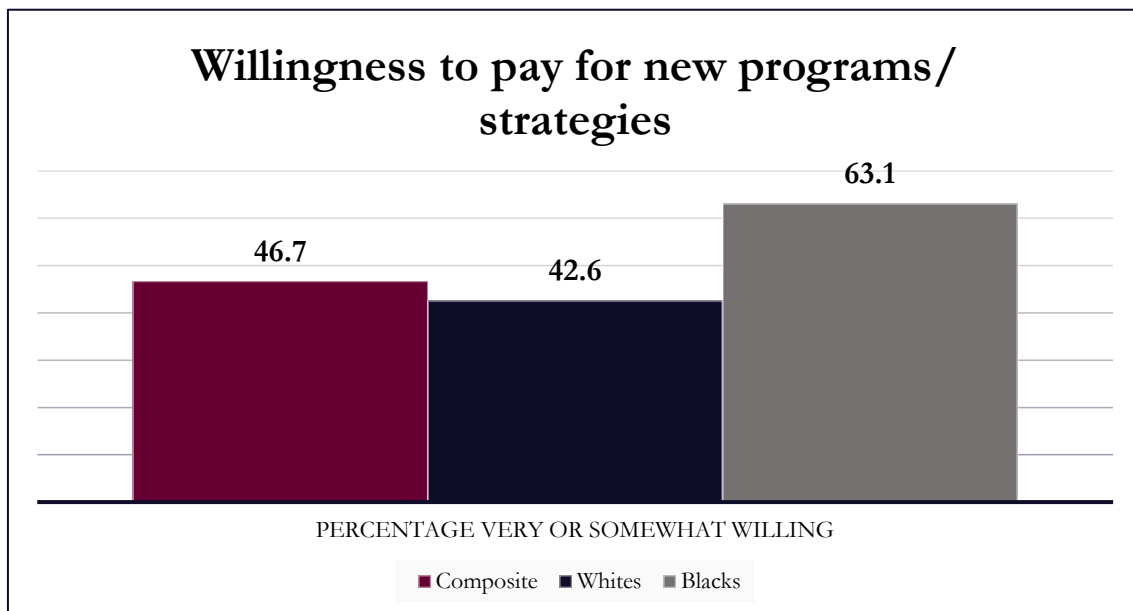


SYMBOLS / FUTURE OF THE PAST

Respondents were asked whether they supported or opposed conceptual strategies related to addressing the tri-county’s **public history** in the form of monuments, memorials, and named buildings and roads. The following table holds the cumulative totals, in declining order, for those strongly or somewhat supporting each statement.

Public History Conceptual Strategies	Composite [Strongly or Somewhat Support]	Whites [Strongly or Somewhat Support]	Blacks [Strongly or Somewhat Support]
Encouraging local governments to sponsor public opinion surveys on the future of monuments, memorials and named buildings/roads – to help demonstrate the preferences of residents in each community	67.3	66.4	76.6
Creation of a diverse Public History Commission to study and make recommendations regarding monuments/memorials, to provide biographical sketches of persons honored, to compile a list of notable historical figures not currently honored, and to make recommendations on ways to improve current memorials	64.9	60.3	81.6
Encouraging local and state governmental entities to create new memorials that celebrate American diversity and democratic values	60.6	58.5	68.8

Respondents were asked how willing they were to pay an increase in local or regional taxes to accomplish **symbols and history programs / strategies**. Almost two-thirds of respondents, 46.7%, indicated they would be very (17.6%) or somewhat willing (29.1%) to pay more to accomplish the programs / strategies. Results are displayed in the chart below for those very or somewhat willing to pay.



Respondents were asked how important the following information would be to them to more confidently form an opinion on support / opposition to many previously stated strategies on a scale of 1-10 where 1 is very important and 10 is not at all important. The following table holds the cumulative totals, in declining order, by high importance (1-4 rating).

Data Importance	Composite Important [1-4 Rating]	Whites Important [1-4 Rating]	Blacks Important [1-4 Rating]
The criteria used in deciding on the need for the strategy	76.1	78.7	67.4
The cost of the initiative/strategy to the taxpayer	74.7	78.3	67.4
Who will implement the initiative/strategy	72.7	76.2	61.7

OVERALL WILLINGNESS TO PAY

Throughout previous sections of the survey, respondents were asked to express their willingness to pay an increase in local or regional taxes to accomplish different program and strategy goals. The following table is a combined list of the questions and results for comparison of the cumulative totals, in declining order, by very or somewhat willing to pay.

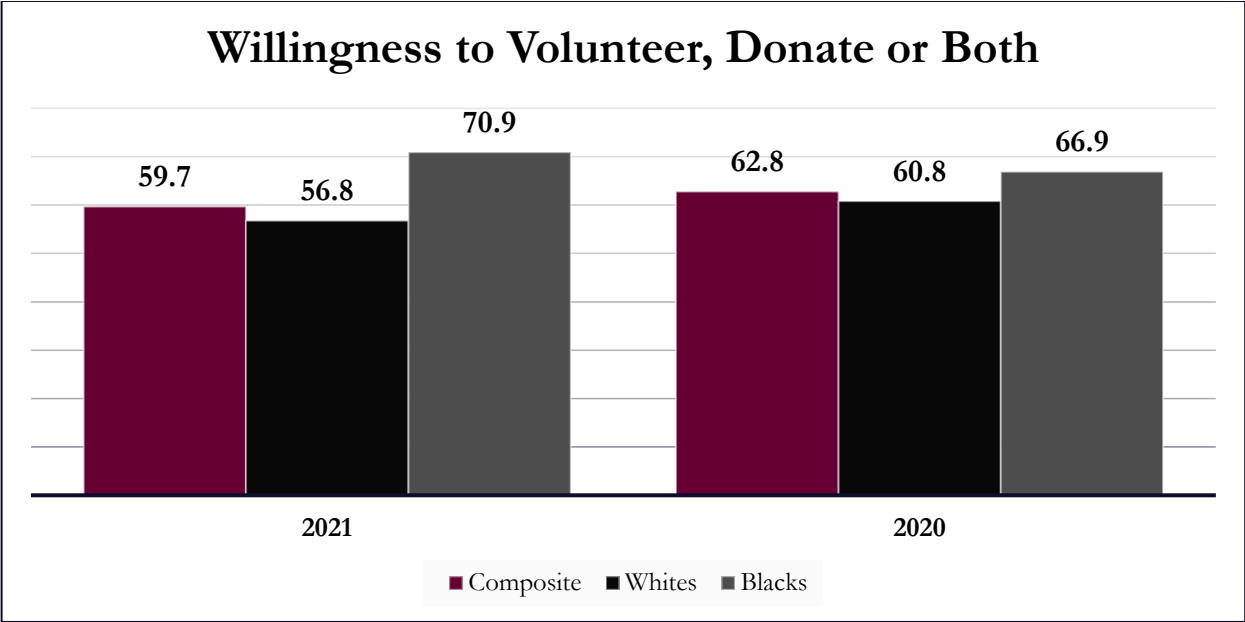
Willingness to pay an increase in local or regional taxes to accomplish....	Composite [Very or somewhat willing]	Whites [Very or somewhat willing]	Blacks [Very or somewhat willing]
... Education and school programs / strategies	63.1	60.5	77.3
... Economic opportunity programs / strategies	57.6	56.8	63.1
... Policing and criminal justice programs / strategies	55.6	53.9	66.7
... Symbols and history programs / strategies	46.7	42.6	63.1

ENGAGEMENT / DIALOGUE

The survey explored each respondents' willingness to engage in constructive dialogue on improving racial relations. A few statements were offered. Respondents were asked if they strongly agreed, somewhat agreed, somewhat disagreed or strongly disagreed with each. The cumulative totals for those strongly or somewhat agreeing are presented in the following table.

Statements	2021			2020		
	Composite: Strongly & Somewhat Agree	Whites: Strongly & Somewhat Agree	Blacks: Strongly & Somewhat Agree	Composite: Strongly & Somewhat Agree	Whites: Strongly & Somewhat Agree	Blacks: Strongly & Somewhat Agree
The majority of Americans, regardless of race, are interested in having race relations improve	77.4	81.8	66.7	79.6	82.6	68.7
I would be willing to join others in building bridges with other races and improve racial relations in our tri-county area	74.9	74.3	75.2	84.5	84.7	84.3

Respondents were asked if they would be willing to volunteer for or donate to local not-for-profits dedicated to helping minorities and low-income families close gaps in education, economics and healthcare. About three-fifths of all respondents, 59.7%, noted a willingness to volunteer or donate or both. Results are displayed in the following graph and table.

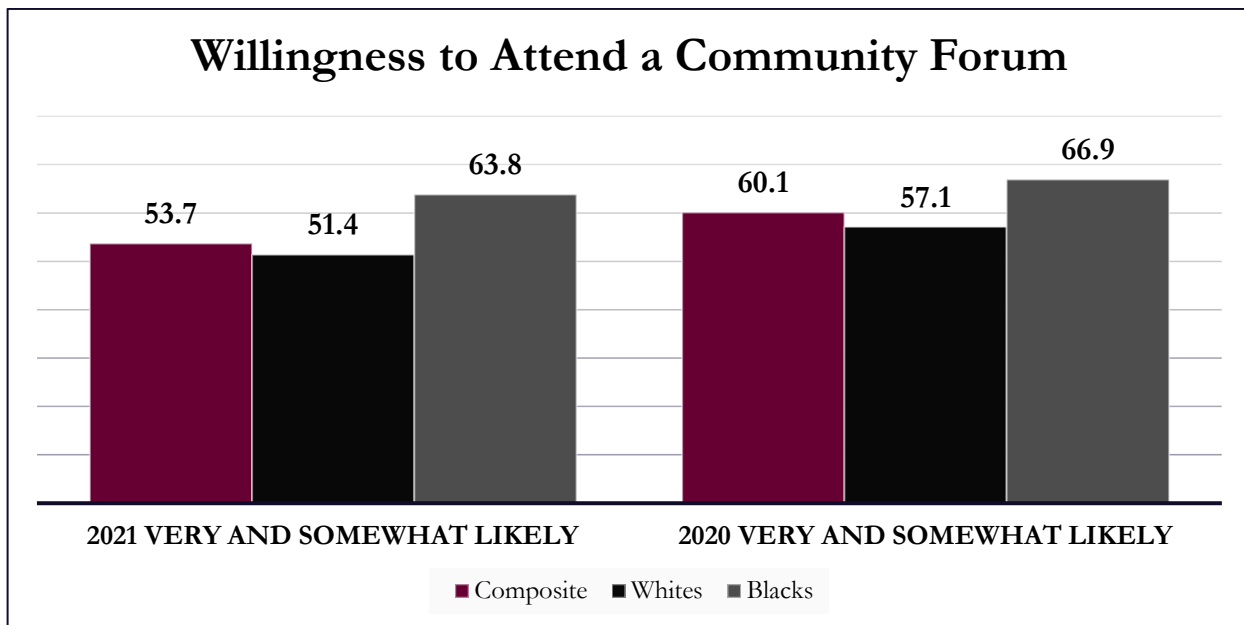


Willing to Volunteer or Donate?	2021			2020		
	Composite	Whites	Blacks	Composite	Whites	Blacks
Yes, willing to volunteer	32.1	28.6	39.7	37.2	36.3	36.6
Yes, willing to donate	14.7	14.4	17.7	14.0	13.0	15.1
Yes, willing to volunteer and donate	12.9	13.8	13.5	11.6	11.5	13.3
No	17.1	18.8	12.1	12.9	13.2	10.8
Unsure	23.1	24.4	17.0	24.3	26.1	22.3

Awareness of The Charleston Forum was measured. Overall, while “strong awareness” was 7.9%, the cumulative total for very and somewhat aware was 22.6%. Results are displayed in the following table.

Awareness of The Charleston Forum?	2021			2020		
	Composite	Whites	Blacks	Composite	Whites	Blacks
Very aware	7.9	6.1	11.3	4.5	3.4	6.0
Somewhat aware	14.7	16.9	9.2	14.0	11.0	22.3
Cumulative: Very & Somewhat Aware	22.6	23.0	20.6	18.6	14.4	28.3
Somewhat unaware	19.4	17.7	28.4	13.3	13.2	13.9
Not at all aware	52.7	54.9	45.4	64.3	69.6	52.4
Unsure	5.3	5.0	5.7	3.8	2.8	5.4

Majorities of respondents reported a willingness to attend a forum or conversation in or near their own community designed to engage residents in constructive dialogue on improving racial relations. Results are displayed in the following graph for the cumulative total of those strongly and somewhat likely to attend such a forum.



DEMOGRAPHICS

The following are demographics collected among survey respondents. Demographic information allows a view of survey results by various subgroups.

GENDER	COMPOSITE PERCENT	WHITE PERCENT	BLACK PERCENT
Male	42.3	42.0	45.4
Female	56.9	57.8	53.9
Other	0.9	0.2	0.7

AGE	COMPOSITE PERCENT	WHITE PERCENT	BLACK PERCENT
18 to 25	11.0	7.9	19.1
26 to 35	15.7	12.9	21.3
36 to 45	14.7	11.7	24.8
46 to 55	17.4	18.4	18.4
56 to 65	18.4	20.3	7.8
66 or older	22.0	28.4	8.5
Prefer not to answer	0.7	0.4	0.0

HISPANIC OR LATINO	COMPOSITE PERCENT	WHITE PERCENT	BLACK PERCENT
Yes	6.1	--	--
No	93.3	100.0	100.0
Unsure	0.6	--	--

RACE	COMPOSITE PERCENT	WHITE PERCENT	BLACK PERCENT
White	68.4	100.0	--
Black or African American	20.1	--	100.0
Asian	0.7	--	--
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0.1	--	--
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.4	--	--
Other	1.1	--	--
Prefer not to answer	2.9	--	--

EDUCATION	COMPOSITE PERCENT	WHITE PERCENT	BLACK PERCENT
Did not graduate from high school	2.9	2.7	3.5
High school graduate or GED	17.4	14.8	26.2
Career credential or apprenticeship	5.9	5.6	2.8
Associates degree	9.9	10.9	8.5
Some college	18.6	17.7	21.3
College graduate	27.4	29.2	22.7
Postgraduate or professional degree	18.0	19.0	14.9

INCOME	COMPOSITE PERCENT	WHITE PERCENT	BLACK PERCENT
Less than \$20,000	10.9	7.3	26.2
\$20,000 to less than \$30,000	9.1	8.4	12.1
\$30,000 to less than \$40,000	10.4	11.3	7.8
\$40,000 to less than \$50,000	7.9	7.7	7.8
\$50,000 to less than \$60,000	10.1	9.0	14.2
\$60,000 to less than \$75,000	8.7	9.4	7.1
\$75,000 to less than \$100,000	13.7	13.6	7.8
\$100,000 to less than \$200,000	16.1	19.4	8.5
\$200,000 or more	4.0	5.6	0.7
Unsure	1.0	.2	3.5
Prefer not to answer	8.0	8.1	4.3

CHILDREN LIVING AT HOME UNDER 18	COMPOSITE PERCENT	WHITE PERCENT	BLACK PERCENT
Yes	26.9	23.4	34.0
No	71.0	75.8	61.0
Unsure	2.1	0.8	5.0

PARTY AFFILIATION	COMPOSITE PERCENT	WHITE PERCENT	BLACK PERCENT
Republican	30.3	39.0	8.5
Democrat	33.6	26.5	59.6
Unaffiliated or independent	22.1	24.0	14.9
Member of some other party	1.1	.6	2.1
Prefer not to answer	7.9	6.3	9.2
Unsure	5.0	3.5	5.7

INTERPRETATION OF AGGREGATE RESULTS

The computer processed data for this survey are 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.

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.