

## 2006 Community Survey - Summary

### Towns of Harrisburg, Martinsburg, Montague & Pinckney

Each of the four towns mailed out surveys in the spring of 2006. Out of 1,530 surveys mailed out, 727 were returned for an overall return rate of 48%. However, return rates for individual towns ranged from 45% in Martinsburg to 52% in Montague.

	Surveys Mailed	Surveys Returned	Return Rate
Harrisburg	250	126	51%
Martinsburg	650	294	45%
Montague	330	170	52%
Pinckney	300	137	46%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1530</b>	<b>727</b>	<b>48%</b>

Of those responding to the survey, 17% were from **Harrisburg**, 40% from **Martinsburg**, 24% from **Montague** and 19% from **Pinckney**. Martinsburg had the highest percentage of **town residents** responding to the survey at 62% and Montague had the highest percentage of **landowners (non-residents)** responding to the survey at 87%.

	Town Resident	Landowner (non-residents)
<b>Overall</b>	45%	55%
Harrisburg	58%	42%
Martinsburg	62%	38%
Montague	13%	87%
Pinckney	38%	63%

Of those indicating the number of years they have resided or owned land in the town, 48% said **over 21 years** and 29% said **less than 10 years**. However, Martinsburg had 74 respondents say they resided/owned land in the town for **26+ years**.

	0-5 Years	6-10 Years	11-15 Years	16-20 Years	21-25 Years	26+ Years
Harrisburg	21	9	6	13	8	28
Martinsburg	28	26	14	27	12	74
Montague	21	24	22	13	13	37
Pinckney	29	7	14	19	6	37
	165=29%		128=23%		269=48%	

Of those responding to the question about their age, 77% are **45 and older**, which is representative of all four towns.

	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
<b>Overall</b>	0%	5%	18%	28%	23%	26%
Harrisburg	1%	6%	19%	24%	25%	25%
Martinsburg	0%	6%	16%	27%	21%	28%
Montague	0%	1%	22%	27%	22%	28%
Pinckney	0%	4%	15%	33%	26%	22%

Of those responding to the question about employment status, it was split between **employed full time** (62%) and **retired** (32%), which is representative of all four towns.

	Employed full time	Employed part time	Unemployed	Retired
<b>Overall</b>	62%	5%	2%	32%
Harrisburg	63%	4%	3%	30%
Martinsburg	63%	5%	1%	31%
Montague	62%	5%	1%	32%
Pinckney	58%	4%	4%	34%

Of those responding to the question regarding the reasons for choosing to live and/or own property in the town, the top four answers included: **recreational opportunities** (65%), **sense of community, small town atmosphere and community pride** (40%), **cost of land** (27%), and **distance to friends and relatives** (25%). This was representative of all four towns; however, 91% of those responding to this question in Montague said **recreational opportunities** was a reason for choosing to live/own land in the town.

	Overall	Harrisburg	Martinsburg	Montague	Pinckney
Recreational opportunities	65%	62%	42%	91%	78%
Sense of community, small town atmosphere and community pride	40%	38%	45%	32%	44%
Cost of land	27%	35%	27%	17%	31%
Distance to friends and relatives	25%	26%	36%	9%	20%

Overall, survey respondents are **very satisfied/satisfied** (92%) with the quality of life in the town.

	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
<b>Overall</b>	21%	71%	6%	2%
<b>Harrisburg</b>	17%	73%	7%	3%
<b>Martinsburg</b>	22%	69%	7%	2%
<b>Montague</b>	26%	66%	7%	1%
<b>Pinckney</b>	17%	78%	4%	2%

Of those responding to the question about **“How satisfied are you with the following Town services?”** the top six answers included: **snow removal** (81%), **town hall facility** (69%), **fire protection** (69%), **recreational and park facilities** (64%), and **road maintenance** (63%). 62% of the respondents had no opinion on senior services.

Generally speaking, survey respondents said that over the past two years, the community has changed in the following ways: **more people on weekends** (59%), **new camps** (43%), **more people** (33%), **less farming** (32%), **recreational development** (21 %) and **abandoned structures** (19%)

	Overall	Harrisburg	Martinsburg	Montague	Pinckney
<b>More people on weekends</b>	59%	48%	52%	75%	65%
<b>New camps</b>	43%	47%	32%	58%	43%
<b>More people</b>	33%	34%	16%	55%	38%
<b>Less farming</b>	32%	41%	36%	18%	34%
<b>Recreational development</b>	21%	11%	19%	29%	24%
<b>Abandoned structures</b>	19%	24%	21%	7%	28%

Of those responding to the question about issues they are concerned with, the number one issue is **property taxes** (74%), followed by **road maintenance** (54%), **ATV’s** (54%), **snowmobiles** (46%), **hunting & fishing** (31%), and **wind farm development** (30%).

	Overall	Harrisburg	Martinsburg	Montague	Pinckney
<b>Property taxes</b>	74%	77%	76%	72%	70%
<b>Road maintenance</b>	54%	61%	54%	49%	57%
<b>ATV’s</b>	54%	52%	46%	58%	66%
<b>Snowmobiles</b>	46%	41%	42%	51%	55%
<b>Hunting &amp; fishing</b>	31%	32%	21%	40%	40%
<b>Wind farm development</b>	30%	43%	31%	22%	23%

Over 85% of survey respondents agree that it is **very important/important** (87%) to preserve the character of their town.

	Very Important	Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important
<b>Overall</b>	47%	40%	10%	3%
<b>Harrisburg</b>	42%	43%	9%	7%
<b>Martinsburg</b>	46%	38%	12%	4%
<b>Montague</b>	52%	39%	9%	1%
<b>Pinckney</b>	49%	41%	7%	3%

The top six types of development survey respondents feel would be compatible with their community include: **ATV trails** (62% overall, although there was 70% in Montague), **snowmobile trails** (59%), **single family homes** (58%), **farms/agricultural uses** (48%), **tourism/recreational uses** (48%), and wind turbine development (46%).

	Overall	Harrisburg	Martinsburg	Montague	Pinckney
<b>ATV trails</b>	62%	62%	52%	70%	74%
<b>Snowmobile trails</b>	59%	65%	46%	66%	69%
<b>Single family homes</b>	58%	69%	58%	48%	62%
<b>Farms/Agricultural uses</b>	48%	57%	51%	37%	47%
<b>Tourism/recreational businesses</b>	48%	39%	48%	47%	60%
<b>Wind turbine development</b>	46%	60%	44%	40%	48%

The top three types of housing development survey respondents said should be encouraged in their town included: **single family homes** (85%, although this response ranged from 94% in Montague to 77% in Martinsburg), **affordable housing** (32%, although this response ranged from 42% in Martinsburg to 19% in Montague), and **senior housing** (25%, although this response ranged from 35% in Martinsburg to 6% in Montague).

	Overall	Harrisburg	Martinsburg	Montague	Pinckney
<b>Single family homes</b>	85%	88%	77%	94%	90%
<b>Affordable housing</b>	32%	26%	42%	19%	27%
<b>Senior housing</b>	25%	30%	35%	6%	19%

The top five areas survey respondents would like to see growth in include: **ATV trails (60%), snowmobiles (54%), hunting & fishing (45%), hiking & skiing trails (41%), and roads (39%).**

	Overall	Harrisburg	Martinsburg	Montague	Pinckney
ATV trails	60%	64%	50%	69%	66%
Snowmobiles	54%	61%	42%	64%	60%
Hunting & fishing	45%	40%	35%	57%	59%
Hiking & skiing trails	41%	42%	39%	40%	47%
Roads	39%	48%	38%	37%	33%

Overall and for each of the four towns, survey respondents think the following areas of their town are worthy of special protection for the future:

	Overall	Harrisburg	Martinsburg	Montague	Pinckney
Streams	79%	73%	76%	83%	84%
Forests	70%	62%	64%	79%	78%
Gorges and waterfalls	67%	63%	66%	66%	71%
Cemeteries	60%	54%	67%	50%	62%
Good farm land	56%	60%	63%	40%	56%
Historic buildings & sites	53%	40%	66%	42%	51%
Wetlands	46%	43%	37%	54%	55%
Open space	39%	33%	32%	48%	48%

In **Harrisburg**, 53% of survey respondents **DO NOT FAVOR** the development of a transfer station or other garbage collection and recycling facility.

In **Martinsburg**, 67% of survey respondents **DO NOT FAVOR** charging for admission to Whitaker Park.

In **Martinsburg**, 61% of survey respondents **FAVOR** extension of water & sewer lines in the town.

In **Martinsburg**, 67% of survey respondents **DO NOT FAVOR** the development of a transfer station or other garbage collection and recycling facility.

In **Montague**, 53% of survey respondents **DO NOT FAVOR** the development of faster internet service.

In **Montague**, 69% of survey respondents **FAVOR** the development of Sears Pond.

In **Pinckney**, 67% of survey respondents **FAVOR** the development of faster internet service.

Overall, more than 50% of survey respondents are in favor of **sharing code enforcement with one or more neighboring towns (53%)**. However, survey response ranged from 60% in Pinckney to 46% in Martinsburg.

	Overall	Harrisburg	Martinsburg	Montague	Pinckney
FOR sharing of code enforcement with	53%	56%	46%	59%	60%
AGAINST sharing of code enforcement	22%	20%	27%	19%	17%

Overall, 44% of survey respondents are in favor of **a joint planning and zoning board**. However, survey response ranged from 55% in Pinckney to 37% in Martinsburg.

	Overall	Harrisburg	Martinsburg	Montague	Pinckney
FOR a joint planning and zoning board	44%	48%	37%	48%	55%
AGAINST a joint planning and zoning board	30%	28%	33%	32%	23%

Survey respondents are split on **shared highway superintendent** with a 36% overall **for** and 40% overall **against**.

	Overall	Harrisburg	Martinsburg	Montague	Pinckney
FOR a shared Highway superintendent	36%	41%	26%	43%	42%
AGAINST a shared Highway superintendent	40%	36%	46%	34%	33%

Survey respondents are split on **consolidation with neighboring town** with a 31% overall **for** and 43% overall **against**.

	Overall	Harrisburg	Martinsburg	Montague	Pinckney
FOR consolidation with neighboring town	31%	38%	21%	39%	35%
AGAINST consolidation with neighboring town	43%	37%	49%	38%	40%

Survey respondents are split on **consolidation of assessing units with neighboring town** with a 41% overall **for** and 34% overall **against**.

	<b>Overall</b>	<b>Harrisburg</b>	<b>Martinsburg</b>	<b>Montague</b>	<b>Pinckney</b>
<b>FOR consolidation of assessing unit</b>	41%	45%	32%	49%	45%
<b>AGAINST consolidation of assessing unit</b>	34%	30%	40%	27%	29%

Overall, survey respondents have the following items in the event of a natural disaster: **alternative heat source such as woodstove** (75%), **generator for backup power** (63%), and a **supply of non-perishable food** (63%). A very small percentage of survey respondents have a **medical condition that needs special attention** (7%).

	<b>Overall</b>	<b>Harrisburg</b>	<b>Martinsburg</b>	<b>Montague</b>	<b>Pinckney</b>
<b>Alternative heat source such as woodstove</b>	75	71	71	87	72
<b>Generator for backup power</b>	63	73	55	66	66
<b>Supply of non-perishable food</b>	63	66	67	52	65
<b>Supply of potable water</b>	47	56	42	46	52
<b>Medical condition that needs special attention</b>	7	7	8	4	11