



City of Arts & Innovation

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Residents Give Riverside High Marks for Livability and Educational Opportunity

Riverside Community Quality of Life Survey measures perceptions of people who live and work here

RIVERSIDE, Calif. – Riverside residents see their city as a good place to live that offers ample opportunities for getting a quality education, according to the latest Riverside Community Quality of Life Survey.

An overwhelming majority of residents -- 85.5 percent – agreed that Riverside “is a place where I can realize the goals I have for my future,” which is five percent points higher than in 2013, when 80.5 percent of respondents agreed with that statement. An even higher percentage -- 87.6 percent – agreed that there are good schools in their neighborhood.

Riverside residents also have tremendous pride in their community and enjoy a sense of belonging here, according to the survey. They see Riverside as a good place to be active and healthy, and they believe Riverside offers strong access to arts and cultural events.

“Riverside residents enjoy a strong connection to our city, which is one of the things that makes Riverside so special,” Mayor Rusty Bailey said. “I look forward to celebrating the good news of this survey with the City Council and working together to address areas where we can do even better.”

Among the survey’s findings:

- 92.6 percent of Riverside residents who replied to a phone survey agreed or strongly agreed that they are proud to live in Riverside.
- 85.2 percent felt a sense of belonging in their community.
- 90.2 percent agreed or strongly agreed that Riverside is a good place to raise children.
- 89.4 percent agreed or strongly agreed that the city is a good place to be active and healthy.
- 85.3 percent agreed or strongly agreed that Riverside is a good place to enjoy arts and culture.

The survey also indicated areas in which Riverside can improve or, in some cases, improve perceptions.

For example, 83.7 percent of people who responded to the phone survey felt that Riverside is a good place to own or operate a business or non-profit organization (up from 75.9 percent in 2013). That indicates that more can be done to make people aware of the business retention and enhancement efforts underway by local, state, federal and private entities.

In regard to safety, 79.4 percent of respondents to the phone survey said they felt safe to walk in their neighborhood, but perceptions vary across different areas of the city.

Only about half of residents (47.3 percent in the phone survey) felt satisfied with progress being made in addressing homelessness. About the same amount (62.1 percent) agreed or strongly agreed that Riverside is a good place to find a job (up from 51.7 percent in 2013).

The survey was conducted with the Institute of Applied Research and Policy Analysis at California State University, San Bernardino. The survey pulled 523 residents by phone in September, 2015 regarding their views on a variety of aspects of life in Riverside. The results of the phone survey provide a statistically valid random sample of Riverside residents that matches the 2013 American FactFinder demographic profile. The margin of error was 4.3 percent.

A separate survey effort conducted online surveys recorded the opinions of people who both live and work in Riverside. The online survey was not random and therefore is not as reliable as the phone survey, but it did provide an opportunity for community engagement and wider participation in the survey process. The online survey (conducted Oct. 1-31, 2015) garnered 1,711 responses.

The survey results provide a baseline for long-term measurement of progress toward reaching the goals of the “Seizing Our Destiny” community engagement effort. The “Seizing Our Destiny” vision includes four pillars – Intelligent Growth, Catalyst for Innovation, Location of Choice and Unified City.

Survey results can be found at <http://seizingourdestiny.com/survey/>

More information about the Seizing Our Destiny effort can be found at <http://seizingourdestiny.com/>