

Town of Tainter Year 2020 Survey Report



January 4, 2021

Introduction

The Town of Tainter conducted a community survey to gather information and opinions from residents and property owners on a wide range of topics. The survey was conducted so that the results can be incorporated into a future update of the Town's Comprehensive Plan.

A total of 1,244 surveys were mailed to residents and property owners on November 9, 2020. The survey included a self-addressed stamped envelope so completed surveys could be returned to Cedar Corporation to be tabulated. The surveys were anonymous. Households were asked to fill out and return the surveys by November 23, 2020. Based on the number of surveys sent out, 294 returned surveys were needed for a 5.00% margin of error. Of the surveys sent out:

- 4 additional surveys were requested
- 18 surveys were returned as undeliverable
- 21 surveys were received after the return date and the survey was tabulated
- 614 responses received for a 50% return rate when factoring in undelivered and additional requested surveys
- The number of returned surveys resulted in a 2.82% margin of error/97.18% confidence level

People responding to the survey did not have to provide an answer for each question. There was an opportunity to provide comments.

This Town of Tainter Year 2020 Survey Report summarizes the highest responses for each question.

Question Responses

Question 1: What are the most important reasons you and your family chose to live in the Town of Tainter? (Choose up to **four** reasons)

Survey results show the top four responses were:

1. Natural Beauty (46.27%)
2. Waterfront Property (43.78%)
3. Rural Character (32.50%)
4. Recreational Opportunities (28.86%)

Question 2: I would encourage other people to live in the Town of Tainter.

Survey results show that 72.17% of responses agreed or strongly agreed with this statement.

Question 3: What statement best fits the high-speed internet service at your location:

Survey results show that 43.9% of responses indicated that service is available at a cost I consider average for similar service elsewhere. 14.92% indicated high speed internet service was not available at my location.

Question 4: The Town should support increased development of these forms of recreation:

The top four survey responses indicated that they agreed or strongly agreed supporting the following.

1. Hiking Trails 67.81%
2. Boating and River Facilities Access 67.53%
3. Parks and Recreation Facilities 67.34%
4. Biking Trails 63.08%

55.70% of responses indicated they had no opinion about Horseback Riding Trails and 41.93% indicated they had no opinion about Cross Country Skiing Trails.

More responses disagree or strongly disagreed (25.18%) with Horseback Riding Trails than agreed or strongly agreed (19.12%).

Question 5: I support the following housing options in the Town of Tainter:

The top four survey responses indicated that they agreed or strongly agreed supporting the following.

1. Single Family Homes (95.93%)
2. Second/Vacation Homes (70.09%)
3. Twin Homes/Duplexes (57.06%)
4. Elderly/Assisted Living (51.26%)

67.96% of survey responses indicated they disagreed or strongly disagreed with Multiplex Homes as a housing option they would support.

Question 6: Housing options are generally affordable in the Town of Tainter?

56.49% of responses agreed with this statement.

Question 7: What does the term “affordable housing” mean to you?

63.58% of responses indicated that homes between \$100,000 and \$200,000 were considered affordable housing.

Question 8: What does the term “affordable rent” mean to you?

79.27% of responses indicated that rentals between \$500/month and \$1,000/month were considered affordable rent.

Question 9: With knowledge that all improvements in the Town of Tainter are done through taxation, I would be willing to pay more property taxes for the following:

The top three survey responses indicated that they agreed or strongly agreed paying more property taxes for:

1. Road Improvements (73.54%)
2. Snowplowing (57.71%)
3. Recreation Areas in Question 4 (50.90%)

Question 10: Indicate the importance of the following resources to you:

65.66% of survey responses indicated Groundwater/Well Water was essential, 51.01% indicated Air Quality was essential, and 50.84% indicated Rivers/Streams was essential. Over 50% of responses indicated all choices were important, very important or essential.

Question 11: How would you describe your thoughts towards future growth and development in the following areas in the Town of Tainter?

1. 53.49% of survey responses indicated that the Town of Tainter is going to grow, but we need to manage it related to Residential growth.
2. For all types of development, high percentages indicated that the Town of Tainter is going to grow, but we need to manage it
3. For all types of development, high percentages indicated that they would like to see the Town of Tainter stay the way it is.

Question 12: How would you rate current efforts by the Town of Tainter to regulate and guide development?

49.74% of survey responses indicated they did not know or had no opinion.

Question 13: Productive agricultural land should be allowed to be used for:

1. 92.66% agreed or strongly agreed with the response "Agricultural Use".
2. 65.19% disagreed or strongly disagreed with the response "Commercial Use".
3. 65.13% disagreed or strongly disagreed with the response "Any Use".

Question 14: Large scale farms (Controlled Animal Feed Operations of 500 or more animal units) should be allowed to expand.

65.81% of survey responses disagreed or strongly disagreed with this statement.

Question 15: The visual impacts (view of the landscape) of development is an important consideration when evaluating proposed development.

90.39% of survey responses agreed or strongly agreed with this statement.

Question 16: I feel informed and properly noticed of what's happening in the Town of Tainter?

1. 47.7% of survey responses disagreed or strongly disagreed with this statement.
2. 22.83% of survey responses had no opinion.

Question 17: Choose two preferred ways for the Town of Tainter to communicate with residents

The top three responses were:

1. Town Newsletters (57.31%)
2. Town Website (53.87%)
3. Email Announcements (53.70%)

Question 18: Do you know who the Town Board members are?

73.79% indicated "no".

Question 19: How many times in the last 12 months have you personally contacted a Town Board member outside of a regular meeting?

78.55% indicated "0".

Question 20: Do you think town ordinances are properly enforced?

66.09% of survey responses indicated "No experience with".

Question 21: Do you feel safe and adequately protected by the County Sheriff's Department?

82.41% of survey responses indicated "Yes".

Question 22: Are you satisfied with the ambulance, fire, and law enforcement in the Town of Tainter?

65.12% of survey responses indicated "Yes".

Question 23: The Town should regulate driveway requirements for the needs of emergency services.

38.93% of survey responses agreed with this statement. 35.81% of survey responses had no opinion about this statement.

Question 24: Gender:

62.83% indicated they are male.

Question 25: Age demographics of household: The response represents the highest percentage indicated per age group.

1. 46.73% indicated "0" children under 18.
2. 46.77% indicated there are "0" adults between 18 to 35.
3. 45.19% indicated there are "2" adults 35 to 55
4. 65.40% indicated there are "2" adults 55 and over.

Question 26: Place of Residence:

98.81% of survey responses indicated "Own:

Question 27: Household income:

1. 29.10% indicated \$100,000 or more
2. 26.90% indicated "Prefer Not to Answer".

Question 28: How long have you lived in the Town of Tainter:

1. 33.33% of survey responses indicated "10-24 years".
2. 33.00% of survey responses indicated 25+ years".

Question 29: Addition Comments:

These are common themes identified in the comments.

- Many survey comments mentioned cleaning up Tainter Lake, improving water quality, and/or dredging areas where the rivers flow into the Lake.
- Many surveys indicated a lack of high-speed internet in the Town of Tainter.

- Survey responses showed concern about the loss of the transfer station and had questions about future solid waste services.
- Many comments indicated a need for a noise ordinance.
- Numerous surveys wanted to improve lake access.
- Many surveys indicated a desire to have no wake areas.
- Increased trails and routes were often mentioned with most pertaining to ATV's and hiking.