



City Council Supplemental Report

CITY OF
**PALO
ALTO**

From: Ed Shikada, City Manager

Meeting Date: April 1, 2024

Item Number: 7

Report #:2403-2828

TITLE

Supplemental Report - Policy and Services Recommendation Regarding Use of Board and Commissions Demographic Data

RECOMMENDATION

Accept this supplemental report which contains the 2024 Boards and Commissions Demographics Data.

ANALYSIS

The attached report includes the initial analysis of the responses to the 2024 Survey of Boards and Commissions Demographics Data. This information is shared as informational material for the City Council. Staff will upload the final report online as well.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Palo Alto Boards, Committees, and Commissions Demographic Data Survey 2024

APPROVED BY:

Ed Shikada, City Manager

Palo Alto Boards, Committees, and Commissions Demographic Data Survey 2024 Conducted Spring 2024

Response Rate: A total of 37 participants responded to the survey. This is an increase from the 2021 survey where 34 respondents participated in the survey. The total number of possible respondents in 2024 was 52 (it was a total of 50 possible respondents in 2021). This equates to a 71% response rate in 2024, up from the 68% response rate in 2021.

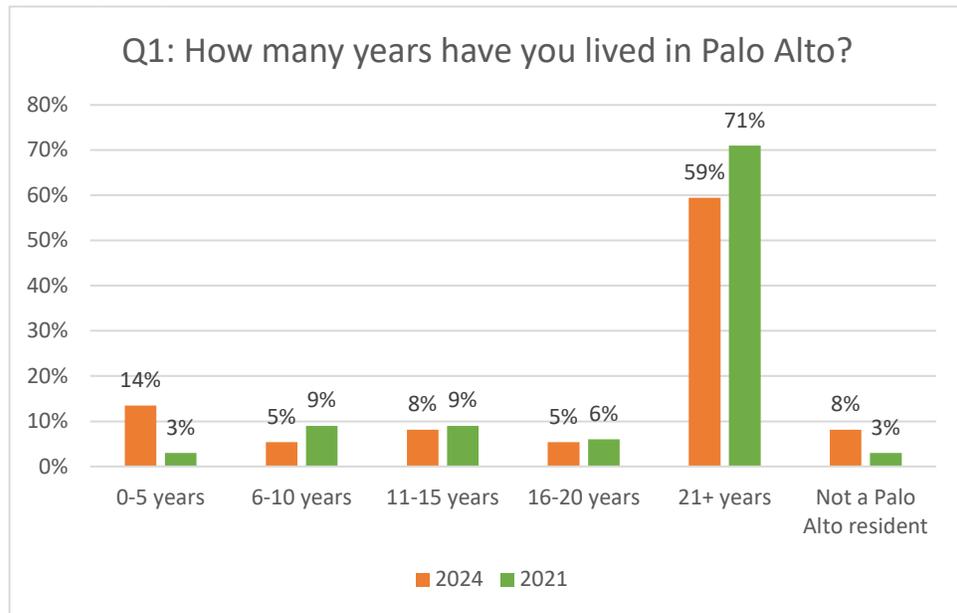
Brief Methodology: The survey was created as a form through the City’s Open Cities web platform. The survey link was shared via email with all members of every Palo Alto Board, Committee, and Commission (BCCs). Staff sent a few reminders throughout the data collection period of February 23-March 20. The results reflect aggregate voluntary information received from BCC members.

Summary of Data Format: Most questions show the table and chart results as percentages. 2021 Data and Palo Alto context are also shared as relevant.

Survey Results:

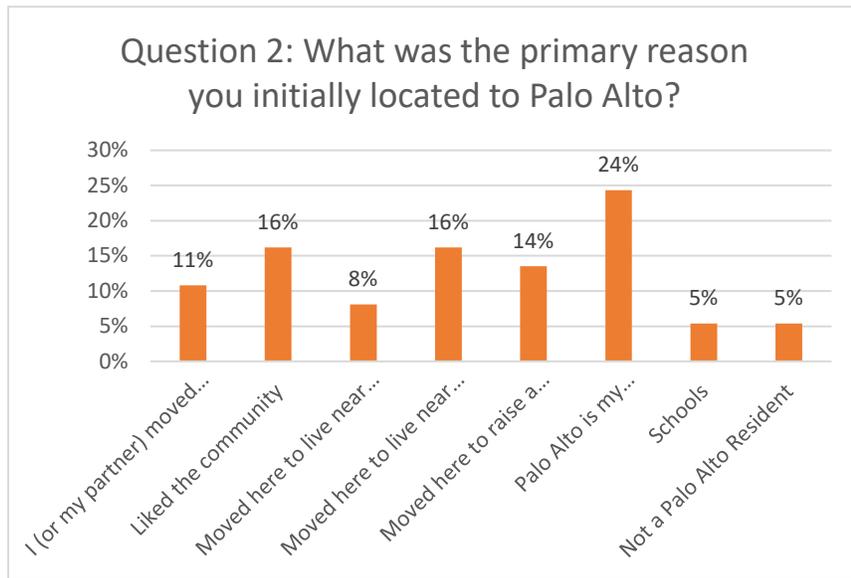
Question 1: How many years have you lived in Palo Alto?

# of Years	Percent	
	2024	2021
0-5 years	14%	3%
6-10 years	5%	9%
11-15 years	8%	9%
16-20 years	5%	6%
21+ years	59%	71%
Not a Palo Alto resident	8%	3%
Grand Total	100%	100%



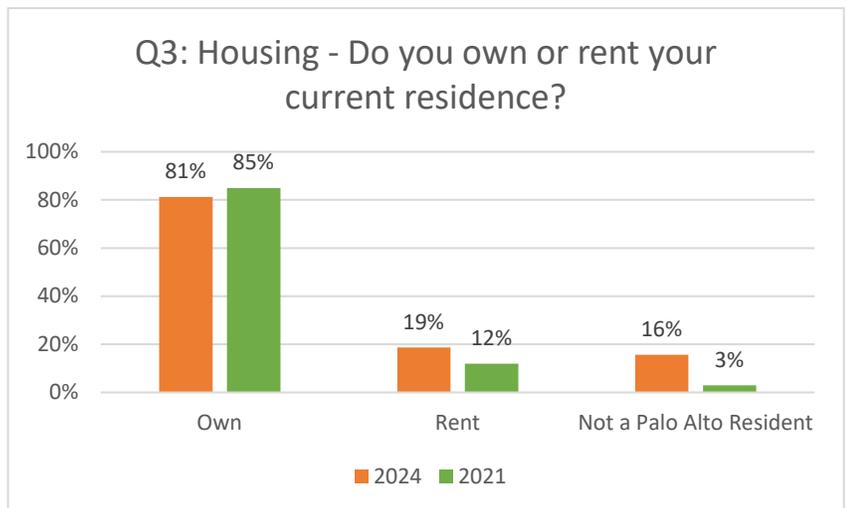
Question 2: What was the primary reason you initially located to Palo Alto?

Reason	Percent
I (or my partner) moved here to attend Stanford	11%
Liked the community	16%
Moved here to live near family	8%
Moved here to live near work	16%
Moved here to raise a family	14%
Palo Alto is my hometown (I was born or raised here as a child)	24%
Schools	5%
Not a Palo Alto Resident	5%
Grand Total	100%



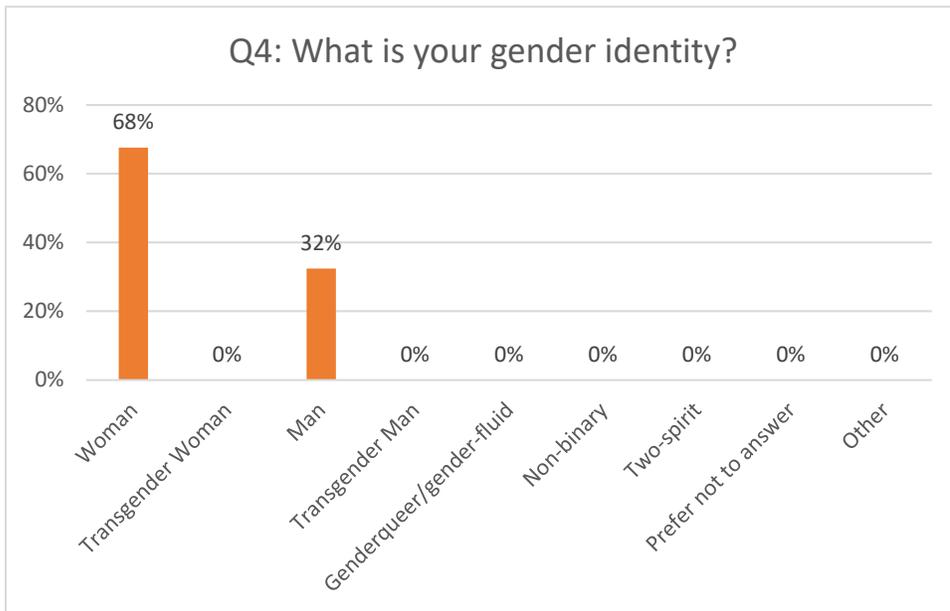
Question 3: Housing - Do you own or rent your current residence? (For the purpose of the survey, you own your home even if you have an outstanding debt that you owe on your mortgage loan).

Own/Rent	Percent	
	2024	2021
Own	81%	85%
Rent	19%	12%
Not a Palo Alto Resident	16%	3%
Grand Total	100%	100%



Palo Alto context: the percentage of homeowners in Palo Alto is 56% and renters in Palo Alto is 44% according to the 2020 US Census Data.

Question 4: What is your gender identity?

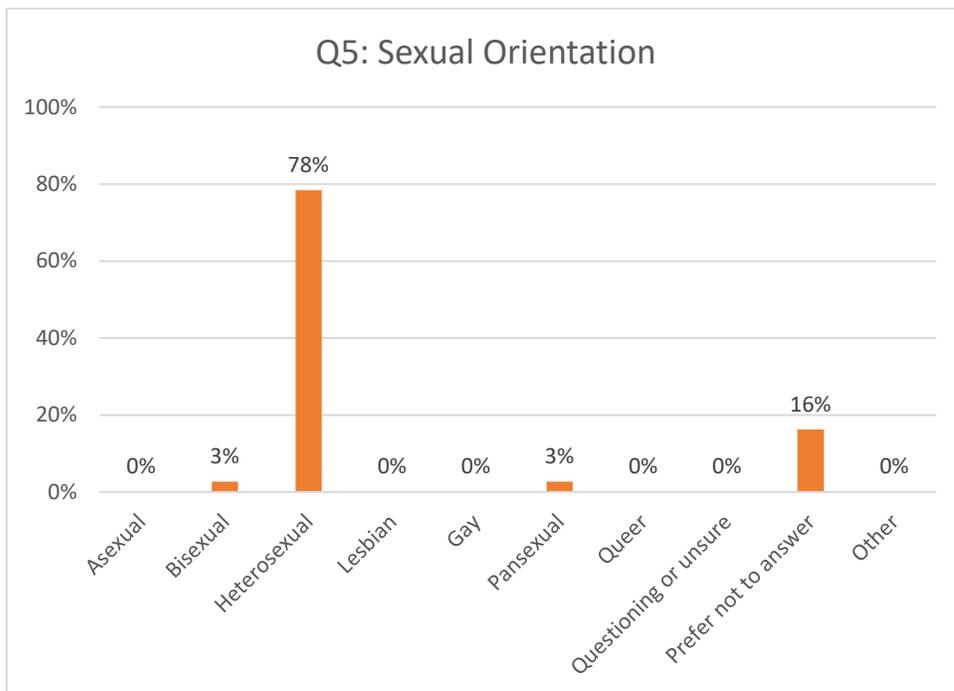


Gender	Percent
Woman	68%
Transgender Woman	0%
Man	32%
Transgender Man	0%
Genderqueer/gender-fluid	0%
Non-binary	0%
Two-spirit	0%
Prefer not to answer	0%
Other	0%
Grand Total	100%

(Note: The 2021 BCC survey had less categories. That survey showed 50% Female and 50% Male).

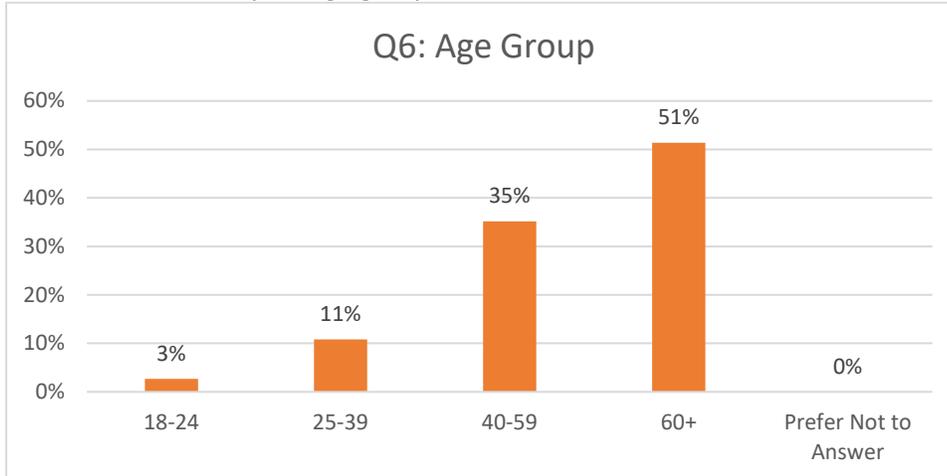
Palo Alto Context: the US Census only shows “Female persons” and lists it as 51.7% of the Palo Alto population.

Question 5: Please identify which of the following describes your sexual orientation.



This is a new question in the 2024 BCC survey regarding sexual orientation.

Question 6: What is your age group?



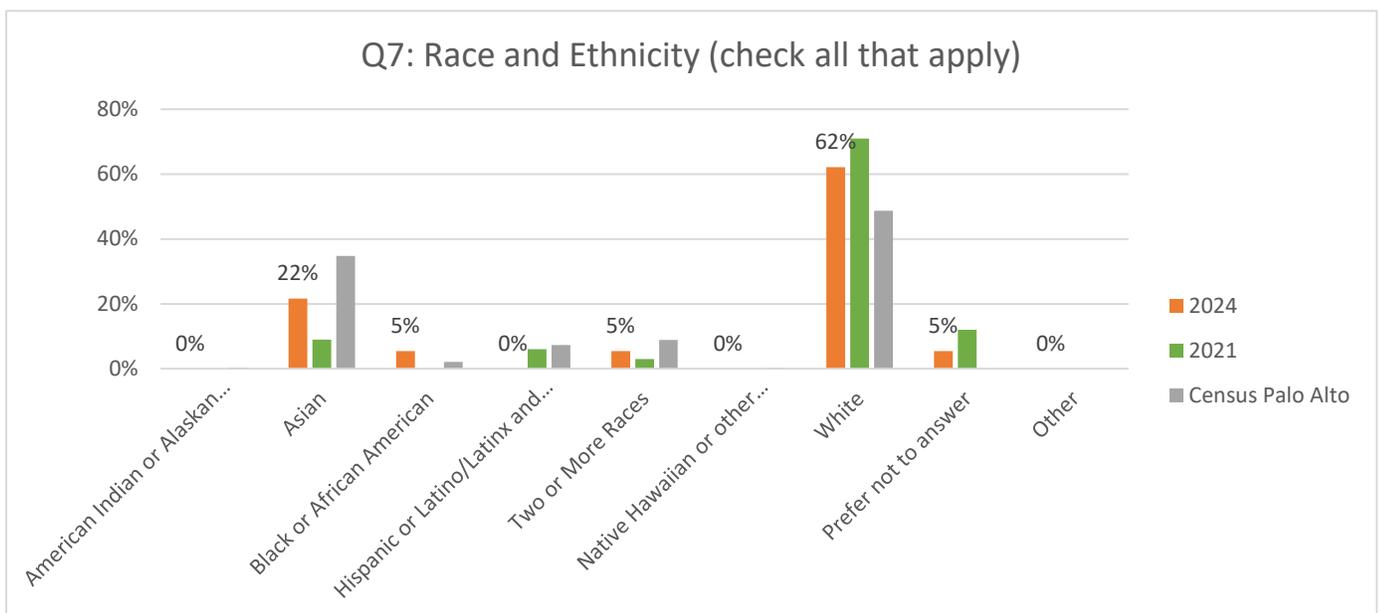
Age Group	Percent
18-24	3%
25-39	11%
40-59	35%
60+	51%
Decline to state	0%
Grand Total	100%

Note: in the 2021 BCC Survey, this age question did not include the age 18-24 category. The US Census Bureau does not separate age groups in the same way as the BCC Survey. But shows 27.2% of age 18 and under; 53.5% of ages 19-64; and 19.3% of age 65 and older.

Question 7: Please specify your race and ethnicity (check all that apply)

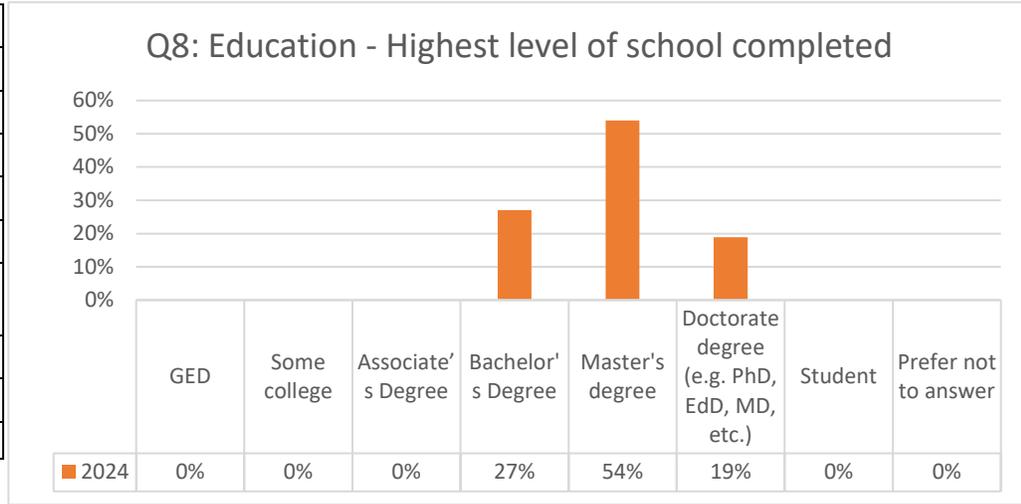
	2024	2021	Palo Alto*
American Indian or Alaskan Native	0%	0%	0.3%
Asian	22%	9%	34.8%
Black or African American	5%	0%	2.1%
Hispanic or Latino/Latinx and White	0%	6%	7.3%
Two or More Races	5%	3%	8.9%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0%	0%	0.2%
White	62%	71%	48.7%
Prefer not to answer	5%	12%	0.0%
Other	0%	0%	0.0%

* Source: US Census Bureau



Question 8: Education - What is your highest level of school completed? If currently enrolled, mark "Student."

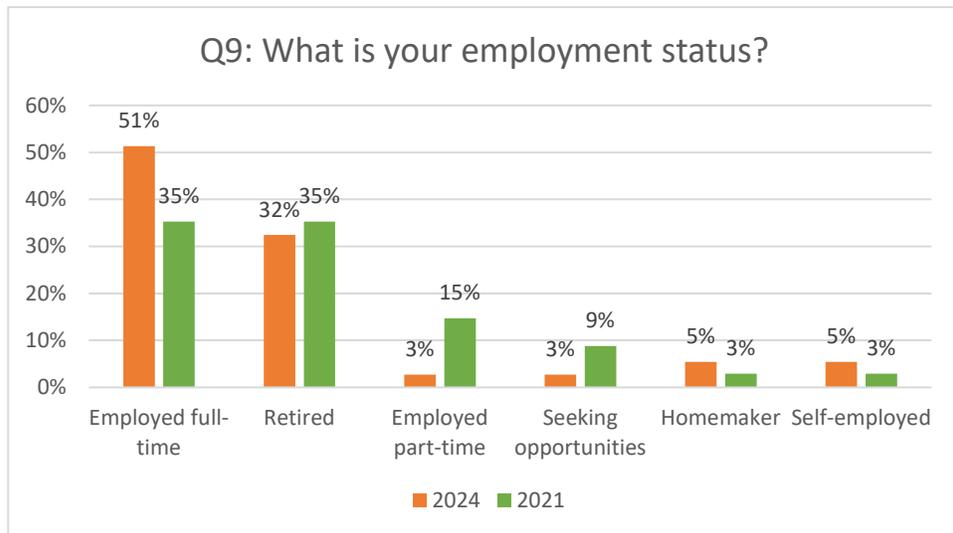
Education	Percent
GED	0%
Some college	0%
Associate's Degree	0%
Bachelor's Degree	27%
Master's degree	54%
Doctorate degree (e.g., PhD, EdD, MD, etc.)	19%
Student	0%
Prefer not to answer	0%
Grand Total	100%



Note: There were less categories in the 2021 BCC survey. That survey showed that 21% had a Bachelor's degree; 44% had a Master's degree; 32% had a Doctorate degree; 0% student; and 3% declined to state.

Question 9: What is your Employment Status

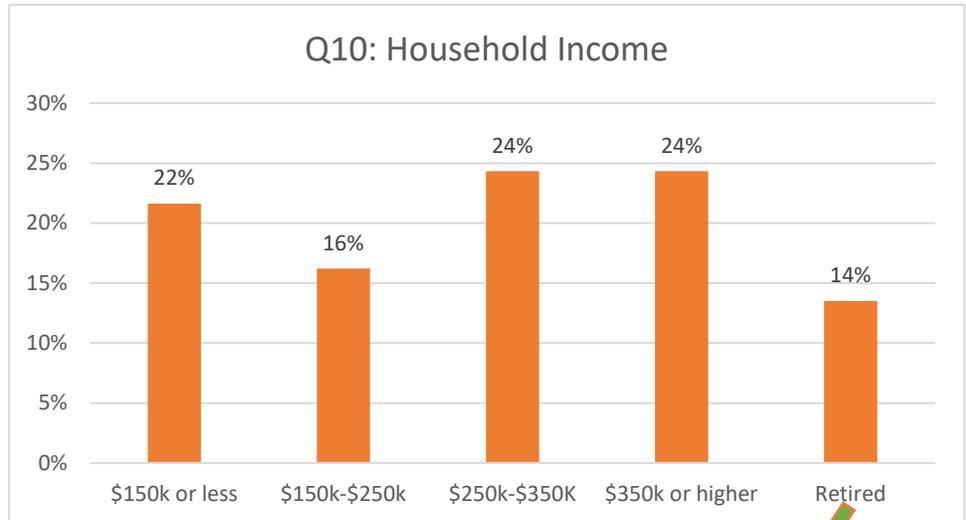
Status	Percent	
	2024	2021
Employed full-time	51%	35%
Retired	32%	35%
Employed part-time	3%	15%
Seeking opportunities	3%	9%
A homemaker	5%	3%
Self-employed	5%	3%
Grand Total	100%	100%



Question 10: What is your household income?

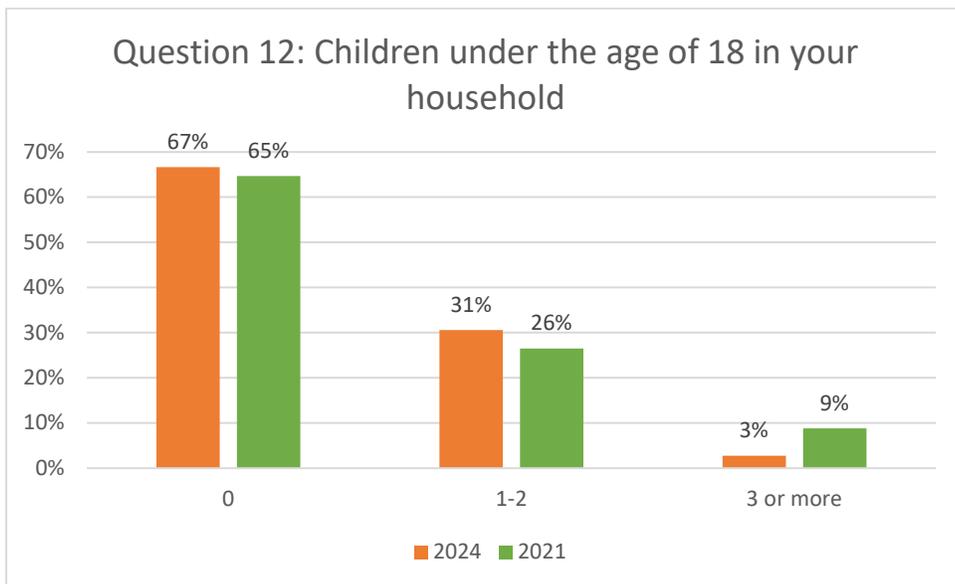
Income	Percent
\$150k or less	22%
\$150k-\$250k	16%
\$250k-\$350K	24%
\$350k or higher	24%
Retired	14%
Grand Total	100%

Note: The 2021 BCC survey did not record household income. Questions 10 and question 11 seek to assess socio-economic status of BCC members.

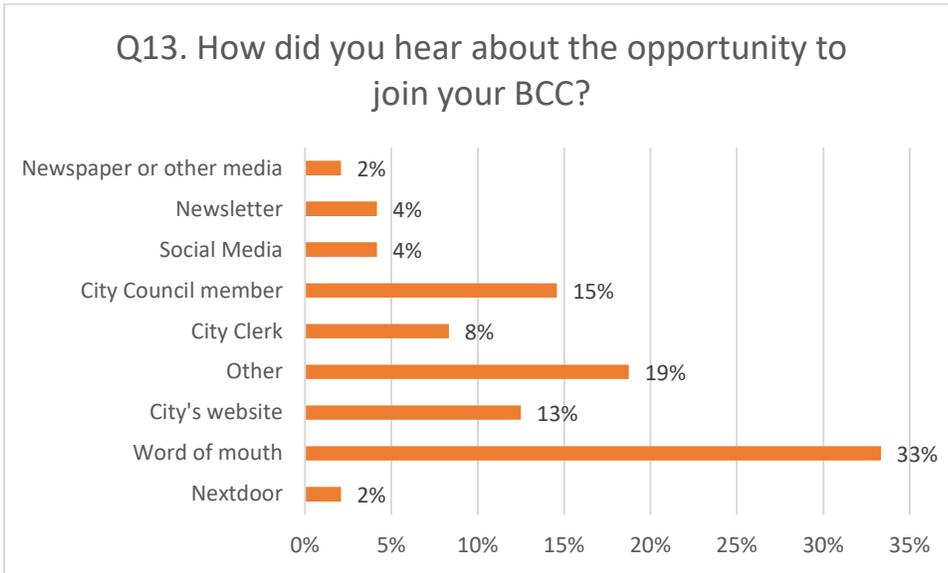


Question 11 further assessed the retired BCC members and responses show that 100% of the retired respondents do not own properties other than their primary residence and 0% of retired respondents do own properties other than your primary residence. This is additional contextual socioeconomic information.

Question 12: How many children (if any) under the age of 18 live in your household?



Question 13: How did you hear about the opportunity to join your current Board/Commission/ Committee?
(Check all that apply)



Question 14: Are you a member of a Board/Commission/Committee that conducts quasi-judicial hearings (Architectural Review Board, Historic Resources Board, or Planning Transportation Commission)?

No	51%
Yes	49%
Grand Total	100%

Question 15: Do you have any additional comments? [Open-ended responses are provided below]

It'd be interesting to collect neighborhood information (to make sure neighborhoods are well-represented) and whether people live in multi-family housing.
Jewish
I would love to see more board business conducted after core business hours. I think the city may be missing out on candidates for boards that meet during the day who do not have flexibility during business hours.
Will the Commissions learn the results of this survey?