

CHAPTER 5

TOWNSHIP QUESTIONNAIRE

Township Questionnaire Results

A basic element of the land use planning process is the consideration and evaluation of the opinions and attitudes expressed by the residents of the affected community. Toward that end, the Newbury Township Trustees and Zoning Commission devised a questionnaire that documented the concerns of the residents with respect to various planning related issues.

The survey contained questions in five separate categories: demographic and land use, recreation, fire and police, tax issues, and the school. The questionnaires were mailed out in April 1999. Approximately eight weeks were given for residents to respond. A notice was placed in the “Knightline” announcing the distribution of the survey and its purpose. A total of 2,448 survey forms were mailed and 846 were returned. This represented a response rate of 34.5%, which is acceptable for a mail survey. The completed questionnaires were tabulated in a joint venture that included the Newbury Township Trustees, the Zoning Commission, the Board of Zoning Appeals, the Recreation Board, and the Newbury Board of Education.

1999 Survey Results

The following represents the survey results.

1. How long have you resided in Newbury Township?

A) 0-5 years	175
B) 6-10 years	109
C) 11-20 years	171
D) Over 20 years	392

2. Where do the wage earners in this household work?

A) Geauga	401
B) Cuyahoga	387
C) Lake	94
D) Portage	25
E) Summit	18
F) Other	138

3. Are you a homeowner or a renter?

A) Own	798
B) Rent	33

4. On what size lot is your home situated?

- | | |
|---------------------|-----|
| A) Less than 1 acre | 129 |
| B) 1 – 1.9 acres | 153 |
| C) 2 – 3.9 acres | 326 |
| D) 4 – 8 acres | 118 |
| E) Over 8 acres | 119 |

5. In your opinion, what is the best lot size for residential development?

- | | |
|---------------------|-----|
| A) Less than 1 acre | 16 |
| B) 1 acre | 69 |
| C) 2 acres | 195 |
| D) 3 acres | 338 |
| E) 4 acres | 30 |
| F) 5 acres | 151 |
| G) More than 5 | 39 |
| H) Other | 21 |

6. What changes would you like to see in your community? (Circle all that apply)

- | | |
|---|-----|
| A) Provision of central water and sewer services | 119 |
| B) More residential development | 91 |
| C) Closer shopping opportunities | 220 |
| D) Closer employment opportunities | 108 |
| E) More open space; parks, outdoor recreation, scenic areas, etc. | 446 |
| F) Preservation of farms | 520 |
| G) More rigorous zoning enforcement | 375 |
| H) Development of town center | 300 |
| I) Establish a historic district | 149 |
| J) Other | 59 |

7. Which characteristics of Newbury do you find most attractive? (Circle all that apply)

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| A) Nearby farming activities | 457 |
| B) Areas of open land | 611 |
| C) Use of water wells | 344 |
| D) Distance between homes | 598 |
| E) Wooded areas | 735 |
| F) Other | 50 |

8. Do you feel that Newbury needs to hire an independent professional planner to develop a land use plan for the township?

- | | |
|--------|-----|
| A) Yes | 285 |
| B) No | 504 |

9. What additional types of housing opportunities, besides single family homes, should be permitted in the township? (Choose all that apply)

- A) Housing for elderly 422
- B) Rental apartments 106
- C) Condominiums 194
- D) Townhouses 144
- E) Single family homes with one attached in-law suite 433
- F) Other 52

10. Rank in importance the types of development that you would like to see in Newbury. (1, 2, 3, 4, 5) One being the most important and five being the least important.

- A) Commercial 4
- B) Residential 1
- C) Industrial 5
- D) Professional office 3
- E) Agriculture 2

11. Zoning and other land use regulations have many objectives. Please rate the following items according to importance.

- | | 1) Very Important | 2) Somewhat Important | 3) Not Important |
|--|-------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| A) Protect property value | | | 1 |
| B) Protect character of community | | | 2 |
| C) Protect open space and recreational areas | | | 2 |
| D) Protect quality of environment | | | 1 |
| E) Enhance tax base of township | | | 3 |
| F) To control pace of development | | | 3 |
| G) To control types of development | | | 2 |
| H) To maintain a rural atmosphere | | | 2 |

RECREATION BOARD

1. Do you or family members pay for recreational activities outside of Newbury? (health club, racquet ball, tennis, etc.) (Circle one)

- A) Yes 264
- B) No 546

2. Would you like to see the Rec. Board work to provide additional facilities?
(Answer yes or no)

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
A) Adult indoor facility for basketball, tennis, volleyball, etc.	320	371
B) Outdoor tennis courts, fenced and lighted	228	449
C) Public swimming pool/indoor/outdoor	435	338
D) Adult education classes	414	289
E) Children after school activities, tutoring, art activities, etc.	489	222

3. Are you interested in helping promote recreation in Newbury Township? If yes, please call 564-2100.

FIRE AND POLICE

1. In the last five years, have you or any of your immediate family used the Newbury Volunteer Fire Dept.? If yes, how would you rate our services?

A) Excellent	247
B) Good	91
C) Fair	13
D) Poor	5

2. Currently the Fire Department's average weekly (daytime) response is 2 – 3 persons in an average response time of 7 – 9 minutes. Would you be willing to support a small tax increase to provide an on duty crew (fire/medic) to improve daytime responses?

A) Yes	465
B) No	299

3. Would you be interested in serving the community as a volunteer member of the fire department? Call 564-2261 non-emergency number for information.

4. In the last five years, have you or any of your immediate family members used the services of the Newbury Police Department? If yes, how would you rate our services.

A) Excellent	110
B) Good	131
C) Fair	61
D) Poor	49

5. The Newbury Police Department is currently on duty 80 hours per week (average). Do you feel this is sufficient?

A) Yes	538
B) No	235

TAX ISSUES

1. A 1 mill tax levy would cost \$30.62 per year on a home with a market value of \$100,000.00. Would you be willing to support a tax levy to subsidize (Yes or No)

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
A) Additional fire and rescue services	432	302
B) Additional police protection	293	411
C) Recreation facilities	343	390
D) Township park development and/or restoration	327	391

SCHOOL

23.2%	Parent of Newbury Local School District student(s)	*1.
10.8%	Parent of private school student(s)	*2.
66.0%	Resident without school-aged children	*3.

Notes to Respondents Categories

- *1. Including 10 parents with both public and private/parochial school students.
- *2. Including 3 parents with “Home Schooled” students.
- *3. A general category of respondents including parents with children who have graduated already from Newbury Schools. Many respondents including parents with children too young to attend school yet. Also includes parents of students who have graduated already from Newbury Schools. Many respondent indicated that they and/or their spouses were graduates of Newbury Schools, their children were NHS graduates and that now their grandchildren, nieces and nephews were attending Newbury Schools. Also included in this category were responses from local business owners, who may or may not be Newbury Township residents.

1. Students are often given grades of A, B, C, D, and F to denote the quality of their work. What grade would you give the Newbury Schools? (Circle)

A & B	41.0% of Parents of Newbury Local Schools student(s) 15.0% of Parents of private/parochial school student(s) 43.0% of Residents without school-aged children
C	43.3% of Parents of Newbury Local Schools student(s) 49.0% of Parents of private/parochial school student(s) 41.0% of Residents without school-aged children
D & F	15.7% of Parents of Newbury Local Schools student(s) 36.0% of Parents of private/parochial school student(s) 16.0% of Residents without school-aged children

2. In your opinion, how do the Newbury Schools compare with other school systems in the area?

- A) We have the best schools in the area. 5
- B) Our schools are above average. 3
- C) Our schools are about average. 1
- D) Our schools are below average. 2
- E) Our schools are not good. 4

We have the best schools in the area.

- 0.6% of Parents of Newbury Local Schools student(s)
- 0.0% of Parents of private/parochial school student(s)
- 2.6% of Residents without school-aged children

Our schools are above average.

- 18.0% of Parents of Newbury Local Schools students(s)
- 4.5% of Parents of private/parochial school student(s)
- 19.7% of Residents without school-aged children

Our schools are about average.

- 54.0% of Parents of Newbury Local Schools student(s)
- 43.3% of Parents of private/parochial school students(s)
- 54.4% of Residents without school-aged children

Our schools are below average.

- 23.3% of Parents of Newbury Local Schools student(s)
- 44.7% of Parents of private/parochial school student(s)
- 18.5% of Residents without school-aged children

Our schools are not good.

- 4.1% of Parents of Newbury Local Schools student(s)
- 7.5% of Parents of private/parochial school student(s)
- 4.8% of Residents without school-aged children

3. Below are various sources of information about the Newbury Schools. Please rank them from 1 through 8 according to how important you think they are with 1 being most important, 2 being the second most important, etc.

- A) School children 1
- B) Friends and neighbors 2
- C) Teachers 3
- D) School board & administration 5
- E) School district publications 4
- F) News-Herald, Maple Leaf, Chagrin Times 7
- G) Cleveland Plain Dealer 7
- H) Radio and television station 8

<u>Parent of Newbury Local School District Student(s)</u>	<u>Parent of Private School Student(s)</u>	<u>Resident Without School-aged Children</u>
1. School children	1. School children	1. School children
2. Teachers	2. Friends & neighbors	2. School district publications
3. Friends & neighbors	3. School dist. publications	3. Friends & neighbors
4. School bd. & admin.	4. School bd. & admin.	4. Teachers
5. School district publications	5. News Herald, Maple Leaf, Chagrin Times	5. School bd. & admin.
6. News Herald, Maple Leaf, Chagrin Times	6. Teachers	6. News Herald, Maple Leaf, Chagrin Times
7. Cleveland Plain Dealer	7. Cleveland Plain Dealer	7. Cleveland Plain Dealer
8. Radio & TV station	8. Radio & TV station	8. Radio & TV station

4. In recent years, has your overall attitude toward the Newbury Schools become more favorable, less favorable or no change?

_____ More favorable _____ Less favorable _____ No change

More Favorable: 36.2% of Parents of Newbury Local School student(s)
 1.5% of Parents of private/parochial school student(s)
 4.0% of Residents without school-aged children

Less Favorable: 31.0% of Parents of Newbury Local School student(s)
 34.3% of Parents of private/parochial school student(s)
 27.0% of Residents without school-aged children

No Change: 32.8% of Parents of Newbury Local School Student(s)
 45.7% of Parents of private/parochial school student(s)
 52.0% of Residents without school aged children

5. How would you rate the condition of the school building and facilities in the Newbury School District?

_____ Excellent _____ Good _____ Below average _____ Not Good

Excellent: 1.0% of Parents of Newbury Local School Student(s)
 1.5% of Parents of private/parochial school student(s)
 4.0% of Residents without school-aged children

Good/Avg.: 37.0% of Parents of Newbury Local School student(s)
 41.0% of Parents of private/parochial school student(s)
 64.0% of Residents without school-aged children

Below Avg.: 47.0% of Parents of Newbury Local School student(s)
48.0% of Private/parochial school-aged student(s)
26.0% of Residents without school-aged children

Not Good: 15.0% of Parents of Newbury Local School student(s)
9.5% of Parents of private/parochial school-aged students
6.0% of Residents without school-aged children

Township Questionnaire Analysis

The following is an analysis of the total results of the 1999 Newbury Township survey and a comparison, where applicable, with the results of the previous 1992 survey.

DEMOGRAPHICS

1. From 1992 to 1999, the percentage of respondents living in Newbury over 20 years increased from over one-third (36%) to nearly one-half (46%). In addition, a total of 41% of the respondents to the 1999 survey indicated that they lived in the township for either 11 to 20 years (20%) or 0 to 5 years (21%).
2. According to the 1999 survey, over 37% of the wage earners work in Geauga County and about 36% work in Cuyahoga County. The 1992 survey results indicated that 36% of the wage earners worked in Geauga County and 39% in Cuyahoga County.
3. According to the 1999 survey results, 96% of the respondents own the home they occupy.
4. The 1999 survey results indicated that 15% of the respondents are living on a lot less than 1 acre, 18% on 1 – 1.9 acres, 39% on 2 – 3.9 acres, and 28% have a lot over 4 acres. The 1992 survey results indicated that 33% of the respondents were living on lots over 4 acres and 32% of the respondents were living on lots from 2 - 3.9 acres.
5. About 39% of the 1999 survey respondents felt that the best lot size for residential development was 3 acres. This was followed by 23% and 18% for 2 and 5 acre lots respectively. In the 1992 survey results, 35% of respondents felt that the best lot size for residential development was 2 acres. This was followed by 26% and 16% for 3 and 5 acre lots respectively (see Table 5.1).

Table 5.1

Preferred Residential Lot Sizes
Newbury Township Questionnaires: 1992 and 1999

<u>Lot Sizes</u>	<u>1992 Percent of Responses</u>	<u>1999 Percent of Responses</u>
< 1 acre	3.8%	1.9%
1 acre	9.6%	8.0%
2 acres	35.0%	22.7%
3 acres	25.8%	39.3%
4 acres	3.2%	3.5%
5 acres	15.8%	17.6%
> 5 acres	4.1%	4.6%
Other	2.7%	2.4%
Total	100.0%	100.0%

Source: Newbury Township Questionnaires, 1992 and 1999

6. The primary change in the community that the 1999 survey respondents would like to see is the preservation of farms (22%), followed by more open space (19%), and more rigorous zoning enforcement (16%). These changes were also the top three choices of the respondents in the 1992 survey results.
7. The characteristic of Newbury listed as most attractive in both the 1999 and 1992 surveys was wooded areas 26% (26% in 1992), followed by areas of open land 22% (22% in 1992), and distances between homes 21% (22% in 1992).
8. The majority (64%) of the 1999 respondents indicated that there was no need to hire an independent land use planner.
9. In regard to permitted additional types of housing (aside from single family dwellings) that should be permitted, 32% of the 1999 respondents indicated that single family homes with one attached in-law suite should be allowed, followed by 31% supporting housing for the elderly, and 14% favoring condominiums.
10. The types of development that the 1999 respondents would like to see in Newbury were ranked in the following order of importance: 1) residential, 2) agriculture, 3) professional office, 4) commercial, and 5) industrial.
11. The objectives of land use and zoning were rated by the 1999 survey respondents with respect to a number of variables. The following were rated “very important” by those responding: to protect property values and to protect the quality of the environment. The following were rated “somewhat important”: to protect open space and recreational areas, to protect character of community, to maintain a rural atmosphere, and to control the type of development. The variables rated “not important” included control the pace of development and enhance the tax base of the township. The 1992 survey responses

were very similar: 88% of the respondents indicated that protection of the environment was “very important” as well as the protection of property values (87%). Only 37% of the respondents indicated that it was “very important” to enhance the tax base.

RECREATION BOARD

1. The majority (67%) of the 1999 respondents indicated that they do not pay for recreational activities outside of Newbury.
2. The majority of the 1999 respondents indicated that they would like to see the Recreation Board provide the following additional facilities: outdoor tennis courts fenced and lighted (66%), adult indoor facility for basketball, tennis, volleyball, etc. (54%).

FIRE AND POLICE

1. The majority of the 1999 respondents rated the Newbury Volunteer Fire Department as excellent (69%).
2. The majority (61%) of those answering in 1999 indicated that they would be willing to support a small tax increase in order to provide an on duty crew member to improve daytime responses.
3. Any immediate family members of the 1999 respondents who had used the services of the Newbury Police Department during the last five years rated it excellent (31%) to good (37%).
4. The majority (62%) of the respondents in 1999 indicated that the current on duty time of 80 hours per week for the Newbury Police Department is sufficient.

TAX ISSUES

1. The majority of those answering the 1999 survey indicated that they would not support a tax levy to subsidize additional police protection (58%), recreation facilities (53%), and township park development and/or restoration (54%).

SCHOOL

1. With regard to rating the school system, a grade of ‘C’ was given by 43% of the parents of Newbury Local School students responding in 1999, 41% gave the school system an ‘A’ or ‘B’ and 16% gave it a ‘D’ or ‘F’. Almost half (49%) of the parents of private/parochial school students gave the Newbury school system a grade of ‘C’, 36% a ‘D’ or ‘F’, and 15% an ‘A’ or ‘B’. Residents without school age children (43%) gave a grade of ‘A’ or ‘B’, ‘C’ by 41%, and 16% a ‘D’ or ‘F’.

2. The 1999 respondents of parents of Newbury Local Schools compared the Newbury Schools with other school systems in the area and ranked them in the following manner: 1) Our schools are about average (54%), 2) Our schools are below average (23%), 3) Our schools are above average (18%), 4) Our schools are not good (4%), and 5) We have the best schools in the area (0.6%).

The respondents of parents of private/parochial school students compared the Newbury Schools with other school systems in the area and ranked them in the following manner: 1) The school system is below average (45%), 2) The school system is about average (43%), 3) The school system is not good (8%), and 4) The school system is above average (5%).

The respondents of residents without school-aged children compared the Newbury Schools with other school systems and ranked them in the following manner: 1) The school system is about average (54%), 2) The school system is above average (20%), 3) The school system is below average (19%), 4) The school system is not good (5%), and 5) The school system is the best in the area (3%).

3. The 1999 respondents of parents of Newbury Local Schools ranked in the order of importance the various available sources of information about the Newbury Schools: 1) School children, 2) Teachers, 3) Friends and neighbors, 4) School Board and Administrative School District publications, 6) News Herald, Maple Leaf, Chagrin Valley Times, 7) Cleveland Plain Dealer, and 8) Radio and television stations.

The respondents of parents of private/parochial school students ranked in order the various available sources of information about the Newbury Schools: 1 and 2) School children and friends and neighbors, 3) School district publications, 4 and 5) School Board and Administration, News Herald, Maple Leaf, and Chagrin Valley Times, 6) Teachers, 7) Cleveland Plain Dealer, and 8) Radio and Television stations.

The respondents of residents without school-aged children ranked in order of importance available sources of information about the Newbury Schools: 1) School children, 2) School district publications, 3) Friends and neighbors, 4) Teachers, 5) School Board and Administration, News Herald, Maple Leaf, Chagrin Valley Times, 7) Cleveland Plain Dealer, and 8) Radio and television stations.

4. Parents of Newbury Local Schools overall attitude toward Newbury Schools has become more favorable for 36% of the 1999 respondents, has not changed for 33% of the respondents, and has become less favorable for 31% of the respondents.

Parents of private/parochial school students overall attitude toward Newbury Schools has not changed for 46% of the respondents, is less favorable for 34% of the respondents, and is more favorable for 20% of the respondents.

Residents without school-aged children overall attitude toward Newbury Schools has not changed for 52% of the respondents, is less favorable for 27% of the respondents, and more favorable for 21% of the respondents.

5. Respondents in 1999 of parents of Newbury Local School students rated the school buildings and facilities in Newbury as below average (47%), good/average (37%), not good (15%), and excellent (1%).

Respondents of parents of private/parochial school students rated the school buildings and facilities in Newbury as below average (48%), good/average (41%), not good (10%), and excellent (2%).

Respondents of residents without school-aged children rated the school buildings and facilities in Newbury as good/average (64%), below average (26%), not good (6%), and excellent (4%).