



County Executive Office

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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

BOARD AGENDA MEMO

MEETING DATE: March 26, 2024
TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Alison Lehman, County Executive Officer
SUBJECT: 2023 National Community Survey Report

RECOMMENDATION: Review and provide feedback on the 2023 National Community Survey Report prepared by Polco.

FUNDING: N/A

BACKGROUND: The County contracted with Polco to conduct the National Community Survey and create a report about the “livability” of Nevada County. The County last conducted this study in 2017.

The report captures residents’ opinions considering ten central facets of a community: Economy; Mobility; Community Design; Utilities; Safety; Natural Environment; Parks and Recreation; Health and Wellness; Education, Arts, and Culture; and Inclusivity and Engagement.

These ten are compared to results in over 600 other communities nationally. In addition, the Nevada County report added custom questions on several Board objectives including Cannabis, Emergency Preparedness, Housing, Homelessness, and Broadband.

The report provides the opinions of a representative sample of 518 residents of Nevada County collected from September 12th, 2023, to October 24th, 2023. The margin of error around any reported percentage is 4% for all respondents and the response rate for the 2023 survey was 18%. Survey results were weighted so that the demographic profile of respondents was representative of the demographic profile of adults in Nevada County.

Summary of Key Findings:

- Nevada County continues to be a highly desirable and engaging community, yet participants emphasize the importance of fostering inclusivity.

- Residents experience a strong sense of safety in Nevada County but indicate concerns about wildfire preparedness.
- The local economy is strong but poses challenges to community affordability.
- The county's natural environment and parks and recreational opportunities remain highly valued by residents.

The complete report will be made available to the public online.

Item Initiated by: Caleb Dardick, Assistant County Executive Officer

Approved by: Alison Lehman, County Executive Officer