

Jupiter, FL Community Livability Report

Report of Results
2023

Report by:



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About The NCS™

The National Community Survey™ (The NCS™) report is about the “livability” of Jupiter. A livable community is a place that is not simply habitable, but that is desirable. It is not only where people do live, but where they want to live. The survey was developed by the experts from National Research Center at Polco.

Great communities are partnerships of the government, private sector, community-based organizations and residents, all geographically connected. The NCS 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
- Inclusivity and Engagement



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The report provides the opinions of a representative sample of 441 residents of the Town of Jupiter collected from October 16, 2023 to November 27, 2023. The margin of error around any reported percentage is 5% for all respondents and the response rate for the 2023 survey was 16%. Survey results were weighted so that the demographic profile of respondents was representative of the demographic profile of adults in Jupiter.



How the results are reported

For the most part, the percentages presented in the following tabs represent the “percent positive.” Most commonly, the percent positive is the combination of the top two most positive response options (i.e., excellent/good, very safe/somewhat safe, etc.). On many of the questions in the survey respondents may answer “don’t know.” The proportion of respondents giving this reply is shown in the full set of responses included in the tab “Complete data.” However, these responses have been removed from the analyses presented in most of the tabs. In other words, the tables and graphs display the responses from respondents who had an opinion about a specific item.

Comparisons to benchmarks

NRC’s database of comparative resident opinion is comprised of resident perspectives gathered in surveys from over 500 communities whose residents evaluated the same kinds of topics on The National Community Survey. The comparison evaluations are from the most recent survey completed in each community in the last five years. NRC adds the latest results quickly upon survey completion, keeping the benchmark data fresh and relevant. The communities in the database represent a wide geographic and population range. In each tab, Jupiter’s results are noted as being “higher” than the benchmark, “lower” than the benchmark, or “similar” to the benchmark, meaning that the average rating given by Jupiter residents is statistically similar to or different (greater or lesser) than the benchmark. Being rated as “higher” or “lower” than the benchmark means that Jupiter’s average rating for a particular item was more than 10 points different than the benchmark. If a rating was “much higher” or “much lower,” then Jupiter’s average rating was more than 20 points different when compared to the benchmark.

The survey was administered after the COVID-19 pandemic, a time of challenge for many local governments. While we provide comparisons to national benchmarks, it is important to note that much of the benchmark data was collected prior to or during the pandemic. This may impact how your Town’s 2023 ratings compare to other communities’ ratings from the past five years.

Trends over time

Trend data for Jupiter represent important comparison data and should be examined for improvements or declines.¹ Deviations from stable trends over time represent opportunities for understanding how local policies, programs, or public information may have affected residents’ opinions. Changes between survey years have been noted with an arrow and the percent difference. If the difference is greater than six percentage points between the 2021 and 2023 surveys, the change is statistically significant. Please note that communities across the country experienced fluctuations in ratings during the COVID-19 pandemic. Several items that experienced upticks in 2021 for Jupiter have since reverted back to their pre-pandemic levels, mirroring nationwide trends. Additional monitoring in these areas may help determine how best to address these areas in future years.

1. In 2020, The NCS survey was updated to include new and refreshed items. Consequently, some of the trends may be impacted due to wording modifications that could have potentially altered the meaning of the item for the respondent.

Key Findings

Jupiter residents continue to enjoy a high quality of life and strong sense of safety.

About 95% of residents applauded Jupiter as a place to live, and 9 in 10 respondents planned to remain in the town for the next five years. Virtually all gave excellent or good ratings to the overall quality of life. Jupiter as a place to raise children and as a place to retire were also highly regarded, and both ranked higher than the custom subset of comparison communities (other communities in Florida). A strong sense of safety likely contributes to the high quality of life experienced in Jupiter. Roughly 9 in 10 residents offered favorable marks to the overall feeling of safety in the town. Virtually all residents indicated that they felt very or somewhat safe in their neighborhood during the day, and 9 in 10 also felt safe in Jupiter's downtown/commercial area during the day. About 9 in 10 reported feeling safe from both violent crime, while 8 in 10 felt safe from property crime. All of these ratings held steady with 2021 survey results, indicating consistent approval.

The local economy remains a priority for residents and poses an opportunity for additional focus.

When asked about which general aspects of the community the Town should focus on in the next two years, about 9 in 10 respondents identified overall economic health as an area of priority for the coming years. A strong majority (95%) of respondents gave favorable assessments to Jupiter as a place to visit, higher than both the custom and national benchmarks. A similarly high proportion offered positive reviews for the variety of business and service establishments (89%) and overall quality of business and service establishments (80%), both of which also exceeded the benchmarks.

However, some other economy-related survey items received fewer favorable ratings. The vibrancy of Jupiter's downtown/commercial area was scored positively by only 55%, compared to about 64% in 2021. Employment opportunities were evaluated as excellent or good by less than half, which also decreased since 2021. Additionally, only 2 in 10 respondents felt the economy would have a positive impact on their family income in the next six months. Roughly 17% of respondents offered favorable ratings to the cost of living in Jupiter, down from 31% in previous survey results. The availability of affordable quality food, availability of affordable quality health care, and availability of affordable quality mental health care all trended downward, garnering positive reviews from roughly half. These findings are reflected in ongoing national trends, likely linked to rising affordability concerns and increased cost of living.

Residents appreciate Jupiter's community design and raise concerns about new development.

The overall design or layout of residential and commercial areas was highly regarded by about three-quarters of respondents, higher than both the national and custom benchmarks. The overall appearance of Jupiter also received above-average marks (87% excellent or good). While about half approved of Jupiter's well-planned residential and commercial growth, many ratings related to housing and development declined, including overall quality of new development (from 64% in 2021 to 50% in 2023), well-designed neighborhoods (76% to 67%), variety of housing options (49% to 38%), and preservation of the historical or cultural character of the community (74% to 61%).

In a series of custom questions unique to Jupiter, respondents were asked to rate their level of concern with different aspects of new development or redevelopment in the community. Nearly all respondents indicated that they were very concerned or somewhat concerned about increased traffic due to new development. About 9 in 10 felt similarly apprehensive about increased housing density, while 8 in 10 voiced concerned about allowing increased building heights and allowing changes in zoning/land use (e.g., the type of establishments or businesses allowed). However, respondents indicated they may be more likely to accept these (and other) impacts if the development proposal included public amenities (such as greenspace, public art, or public access to waterways) (81%) or affordable housing (59%). These ratings may merit additional research and consideration, to further explore residents' perceptions and preferences regarding future development.

The community's natural environment remains highly valued by residents.

About 9 in 10 residents applauded Jupiter's natural environment and identified it as an essential or very important area of focus for the community in the next two years, highlighting both its value and importance to residents. A similar proportion praised the town's cleanliness, air quality, and water resources, all of which were higher than the national benchmark. Residents also gave positive marks to the overall quality of the natural environment (89% excellent or good), surpassing counterparts across the nation and peer comparison communities. In a custom question posed by Jupiter, about 70% evaluated the Town's efforts to preserve the land as excellent or good. Additionally, 9 in 10 felt the Town should devote resources to preserving sea grass beds and encouraging new growth (88% essential or very important); preserving, managing, and creating open spaces and natural areas (91%); and managing how runoff and/or other environmental factors affect the water quality of lakes, streams, rivers, inlet waterways and beaches and their habitats (93%).

Facets of livability

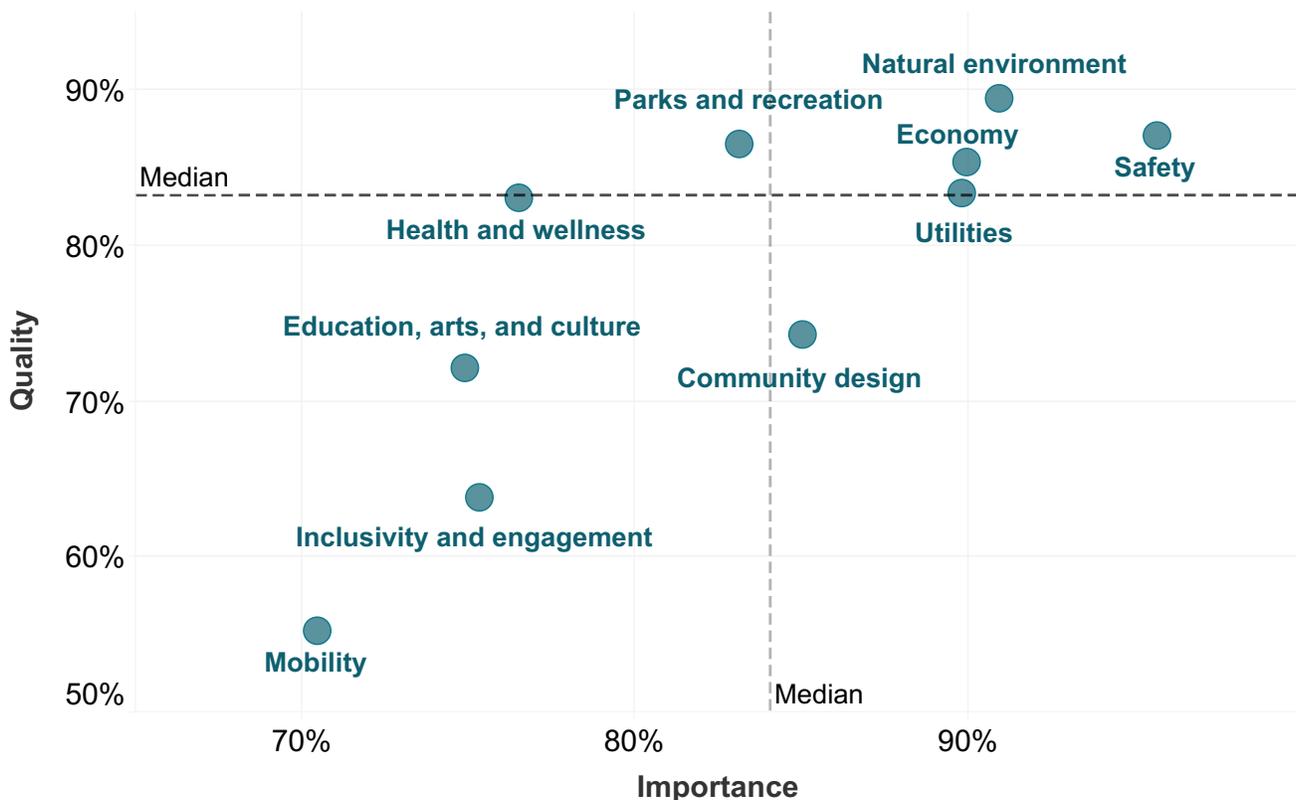
Every jurisdiction must balance limited resources while meeting resident needs and striving to optimize community livability. To this end, it is helpful to know what aspects of the community are most important to residents and which they perceive as being of higher or lower quality. It is especially helpful to know when a facet of livability is considered of high importance but rated as lower quality, as this should be a top priority to address.

Quality-Importance Matrix

To help guide Town staff and officials with decisions on future resource allocation, resident ratings of the *importance* of facets were compared to their ratings of the *quality* of these facets. To identify the services perceived by residents to have relatively lower quality at the same time as relatively higher importance, all facets were ranked from highest perceived quality to lowest perceived quality and from highest perceived importance to lowest perceived importance. Some facets were in the top half of both lists (higher quality and higher importance); some were in the top half of one list but the bottom half of the other (higher quality and lower importance or lower quality and higher importance); and some facets were in the bottom half of both lists.

83% or more of respondents were considered of “higher quality” and those with ratings lower than 83% were considered to be of “lower quality.” Services were classified as “more important” if they were rated as essential or very important by 84% or more of respondents. Services were rated as “less important” if they received a rating of less than 84%. This classification uses the median ratings for quality and importance to divide the services in half.

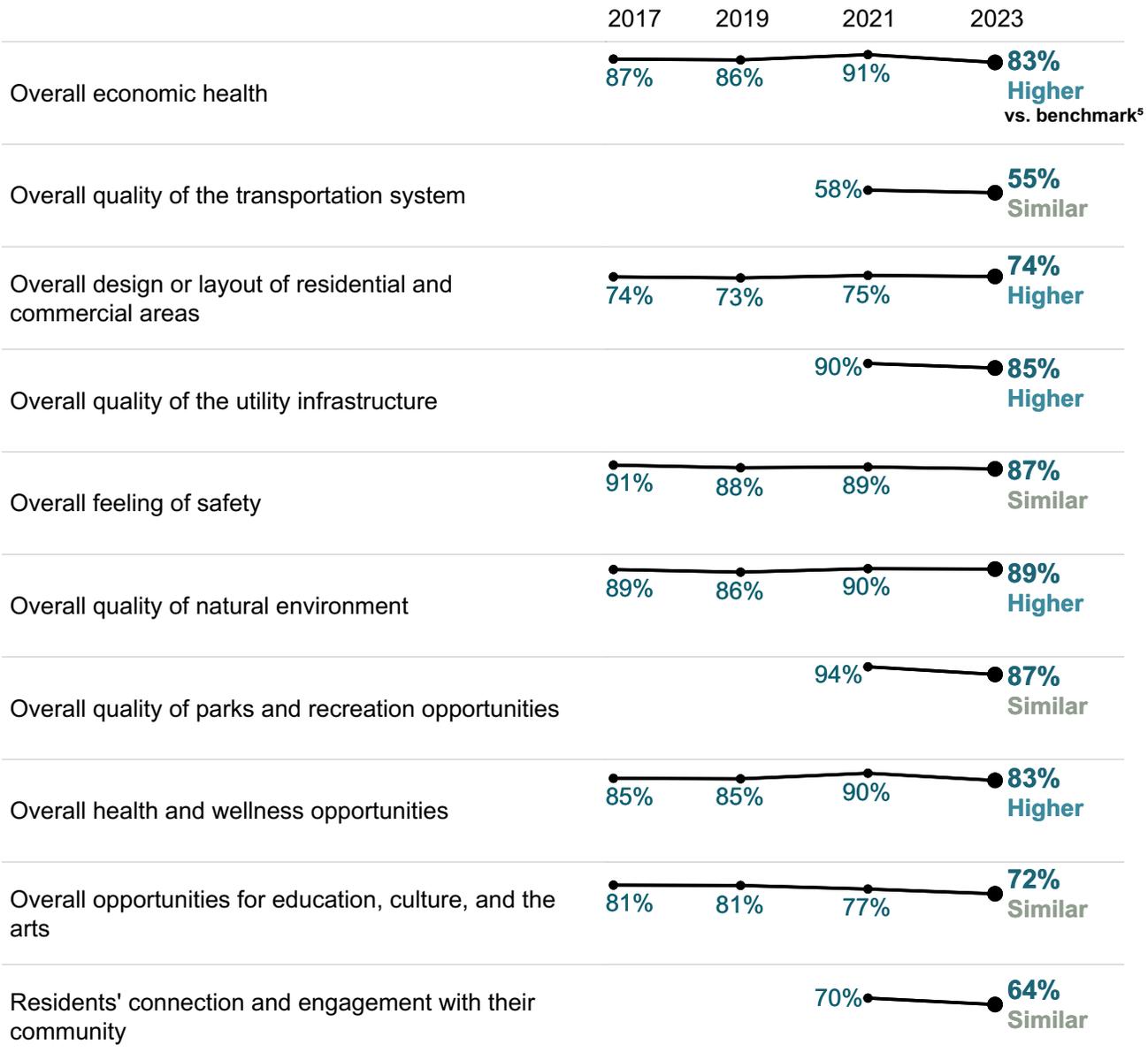
The quadrants in the figure below show which community facets were given higher or lower importance ratings (right-left) and which had higher or lower quality ratings (up-down). Facets of livability falling closer to a diagonal line from the lower left to the upper right are those where performance ratings are more commensurate with resident priorities. Facets scoring closest to the lower right hand corner of the matrix (higher in importance and lower in quality) are those that may warrant further investigation to see if changes to their delivery are necessary to improve their performance. This is the key part of this chart on which to focus. Facets falling in the top left hand corner of the chart (lower in importance but higher in quality) are areas where performance may outscore resident priorities, and may be a consideration for lower resource allocation.



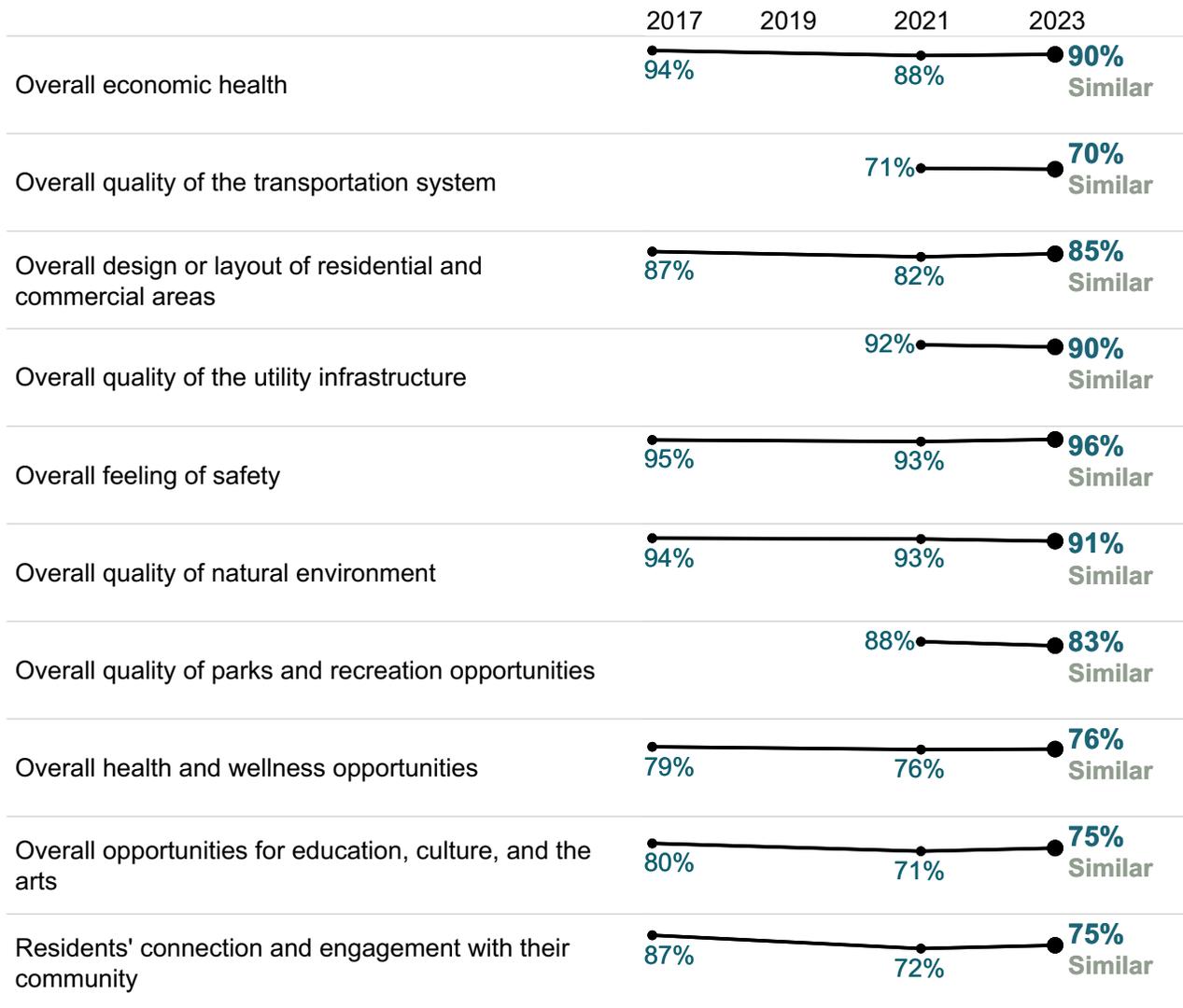
Quality and Importance by the Numbers

The charts below show the proportion of residents who rated the community facets positively for quality and the priority (importance) placed on each. Also displayed is whether local ratings were lower, similar, or higher than communities across the country (the national benchmark).

Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Jupiter as a whole.
 (% excellent or good)



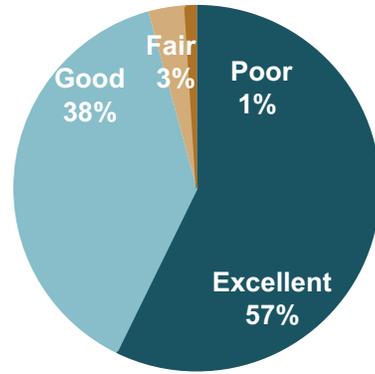
Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the Jupiter community to focus on each of the following in the coming two years.
 (% essential or very important)



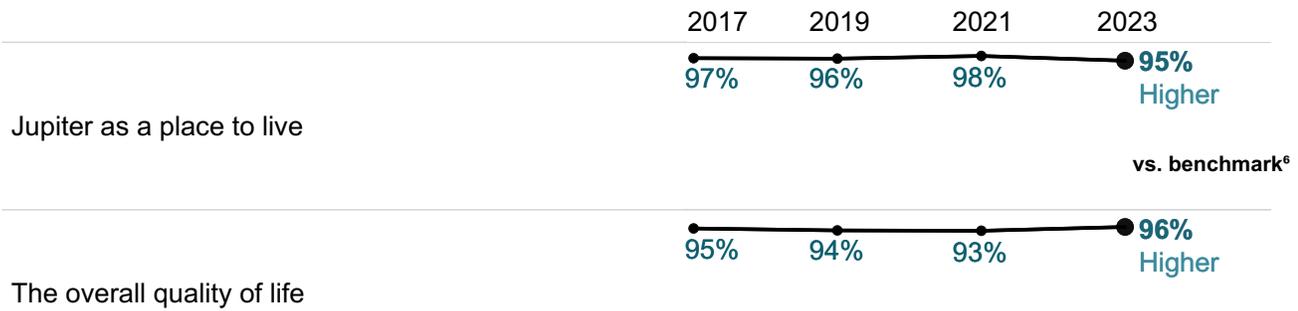
5. Comparison to the national benchmark is shown. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.

Quality of Life

Measuring community livability starts with assessing the quality of life of those who live there, and ensuring that the community is attractive, accessible, and welcoming to all.



Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in Jupiter. (% excellent or good)



Please indicate how likely or unlikely you are to do each of the following. (% very or somewhat likely)



Please rate each of the following in the Jupiter community. (% excellent or good)



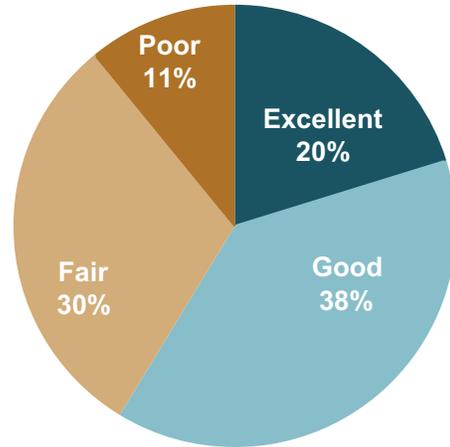
6. Comparison to the national benchmark is shown. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.



Governance

Strong local governments produce results that meet the needs of residents while making the best use of available resources, and are responsive to the present and future needs of the community as a whole.

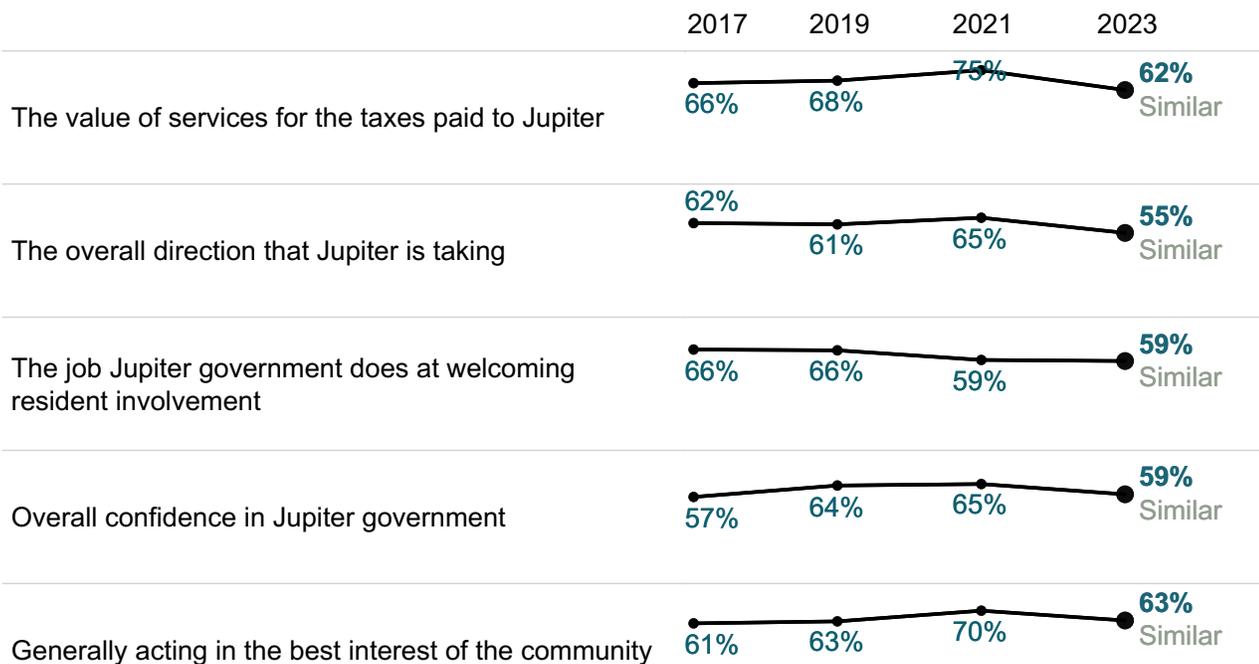
Overall confidence in Jupiter government, 2023

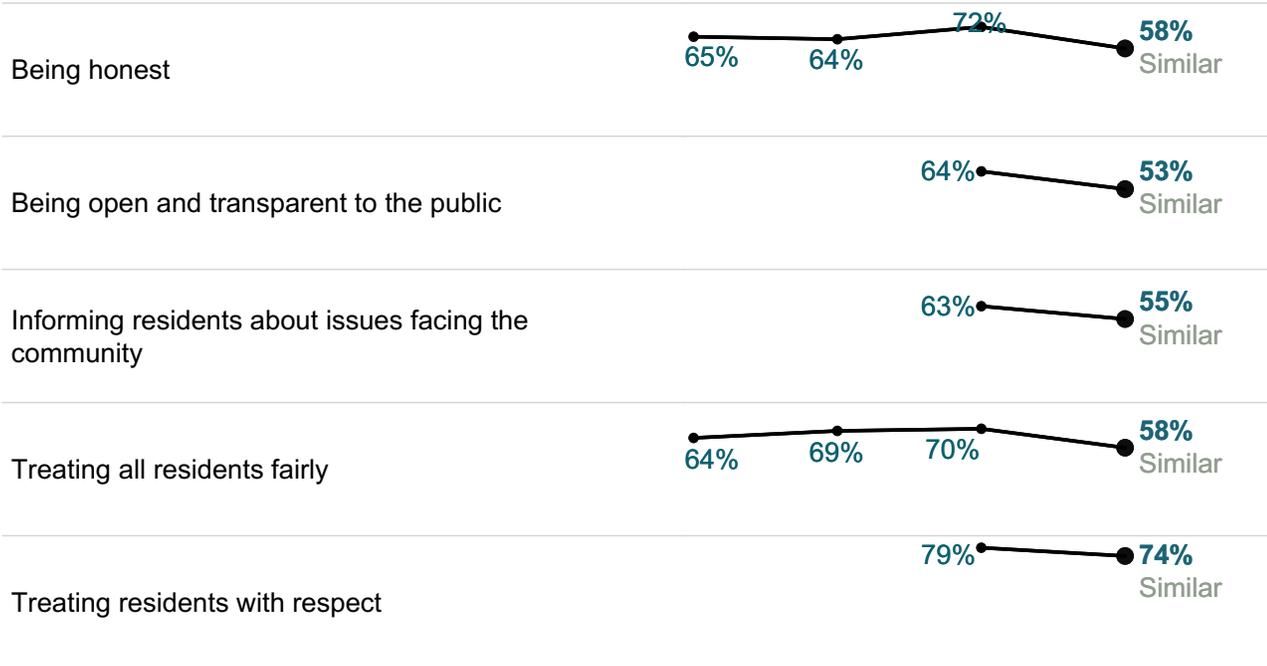


Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Jupiter.
(% excellent or good)



Please rate the following categories of Jupiter government performance.
(% excellent or good)





**Overall, how would you rate the quality of the services provided by each of the following?
(% excellent or good)**



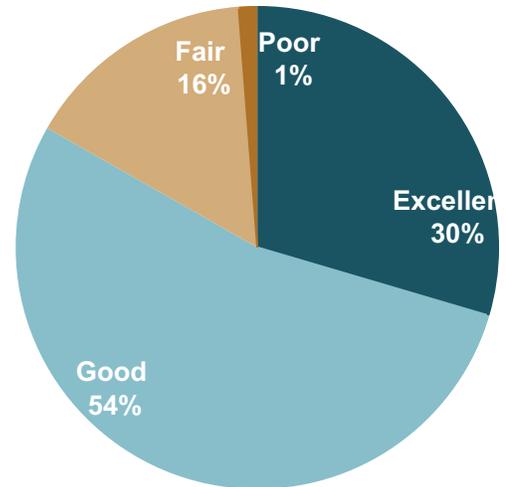
7. Comparison to the national benchmark is shown. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.



Overall economic health of Jupiter, 2023

Economy

Local governments work together with private and nonprofit businesses, and with the community at large, to foster sustainable growth, create jobs, and promote a thriving local economy.



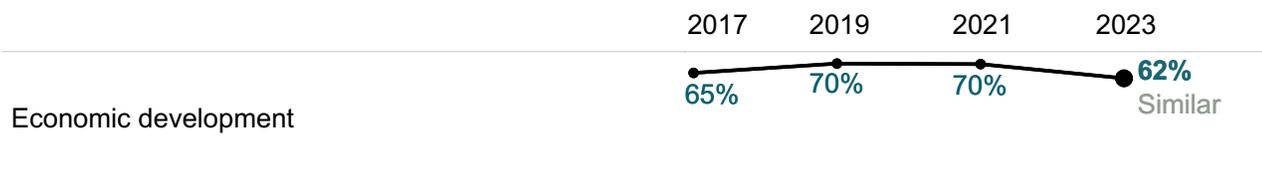
Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Jupiter as a whole.
(% excellent or good)



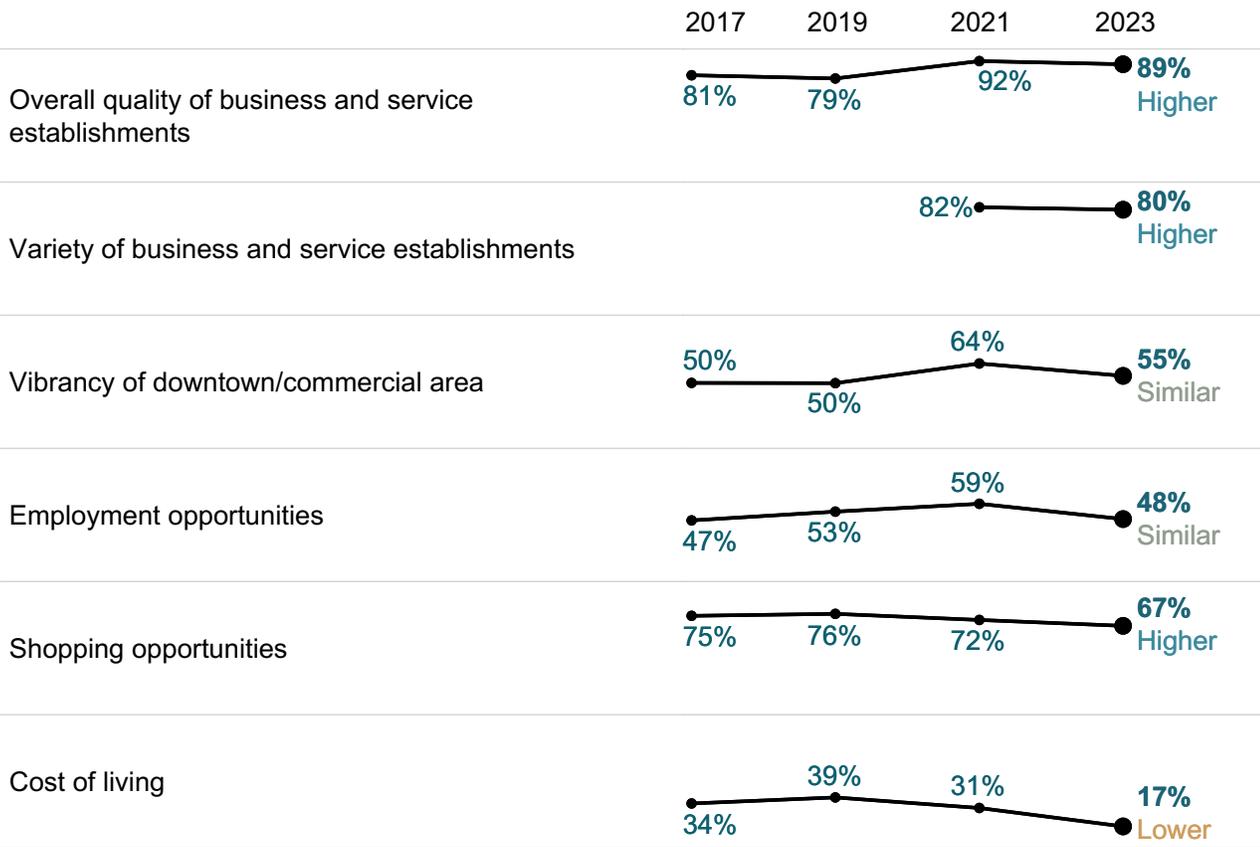
Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in Jupiter.
(% excellent or good)



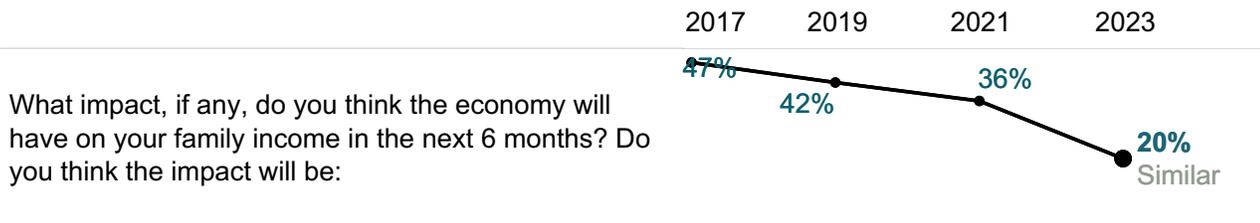
Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Jupiter.
(% excellent or good)



Please rate each of the following in the Jupiter community.
 (% excellent or good)



What impact, if any, do you think the economy will have on your family income in the next 6 months? Do you think the impact will be:
 (% very or somewhat positive)

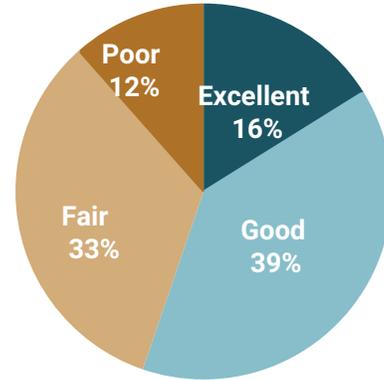


8. Comparison to the national benchmark is shown. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.

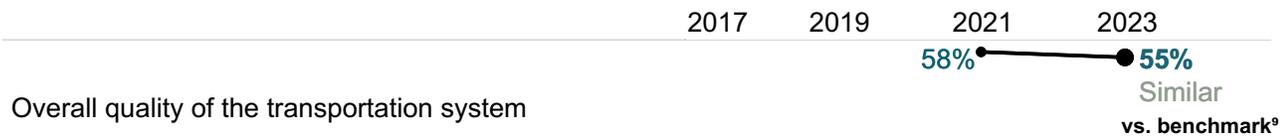
Overall quality of the transportation system in Jupiter, 2023

Mobility

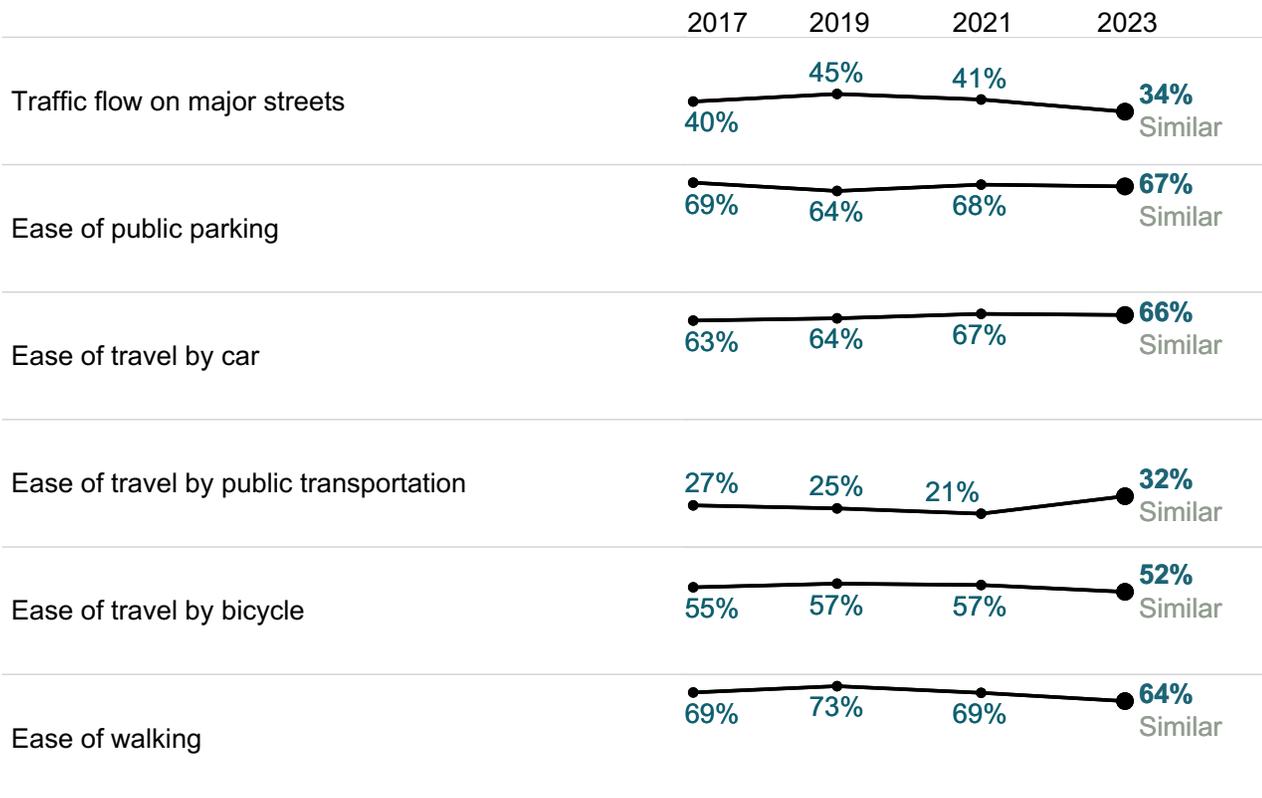
The ease with which residents can move about their communities, whether for commuting, leisure, or recreation, plays a major role in the quality of life for all who live, work, and play in the community.



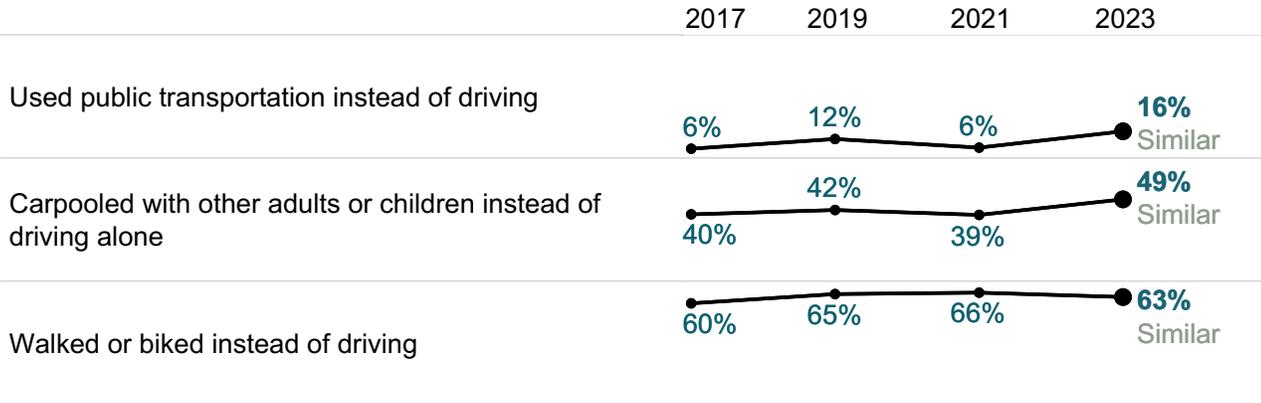
Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Jupiter as a whole.
(% excellent or good)



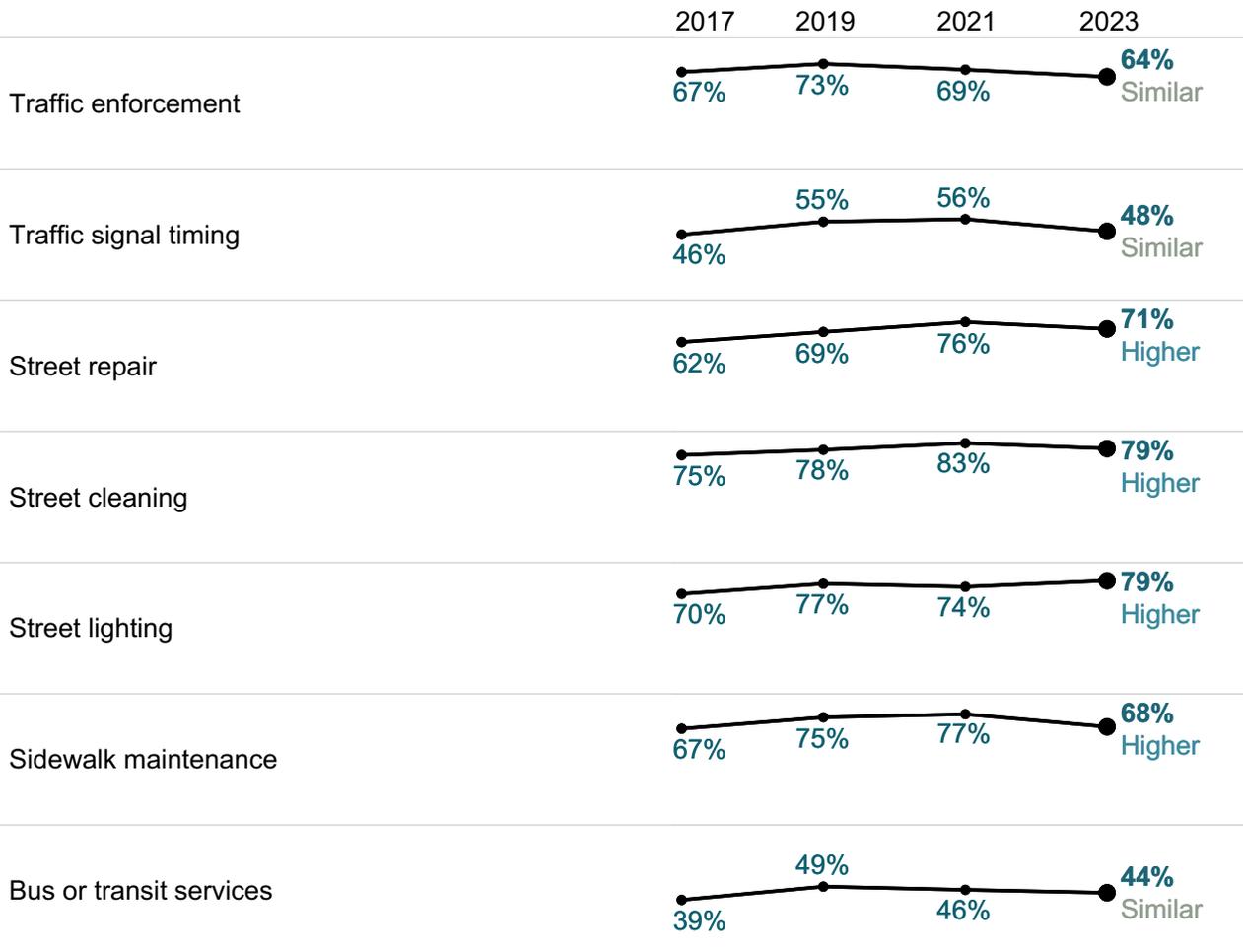
Please also rate each of the following in the Jupiter community.
(% excellent or good)



Please indicate whether or not you have done each of the following in the last 12 months.
 (% yes)



Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Jupiter.
 (% excellent or good)

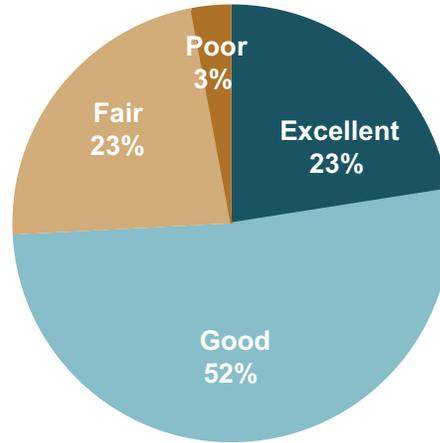


9. Comparison to the national benchmark is shown. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.

Overall design or layout of Jupiter's residential and commercial areas, 2023

Community Design

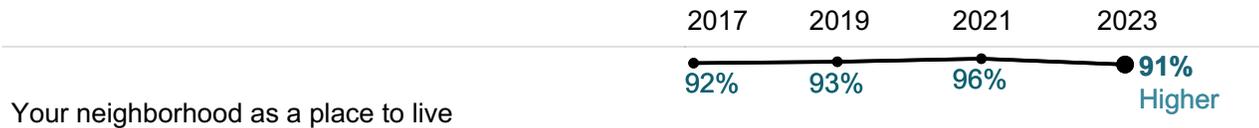
A well-designed community enhances the quality of life for its residents by encouraging smart land use and zoning, ensuring that affordable housing is accessible to all, and providing access to parks and other green spaces.



Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Jupiter as a whole.
(% excellent or good)

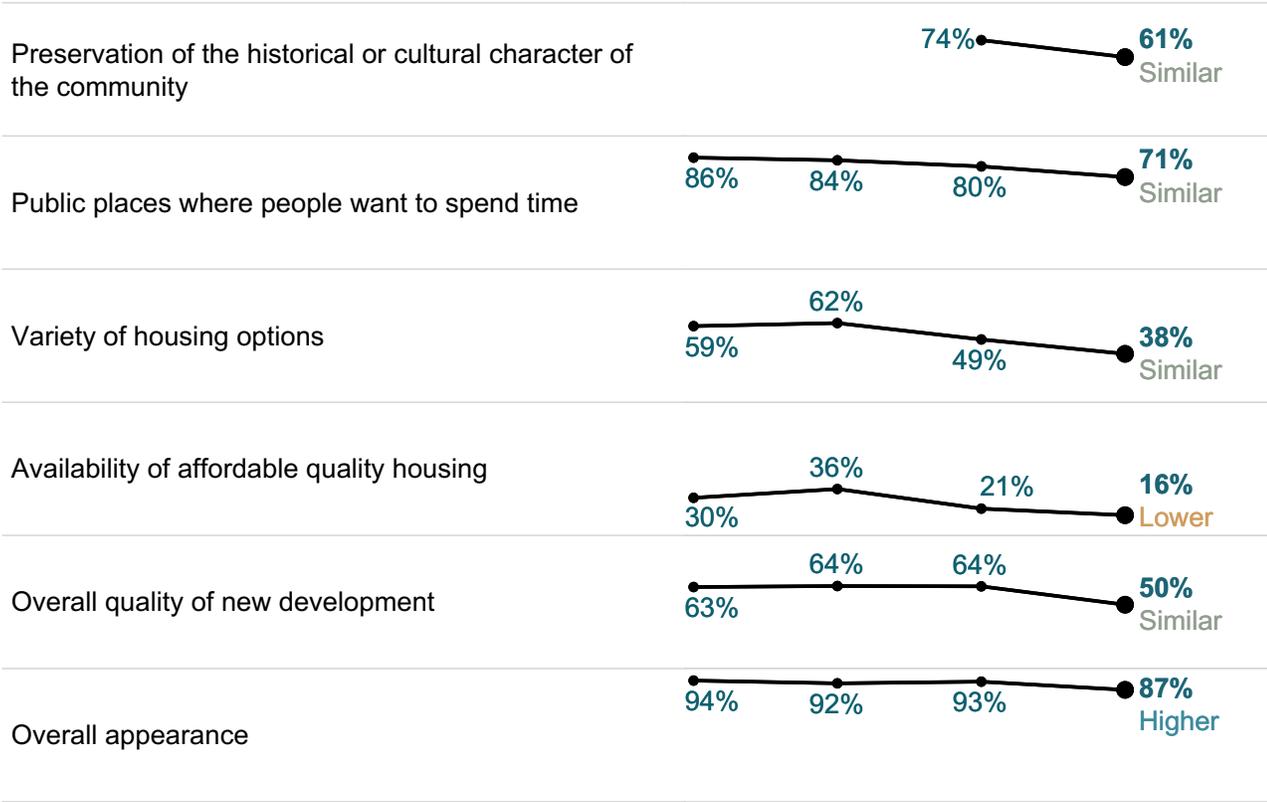


Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in Jupiter.
(% excellent or good)



Please also rate each of the following in the Jupiter community.
(% excellent or good)





Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Jupiter.
 (% excellent or good)

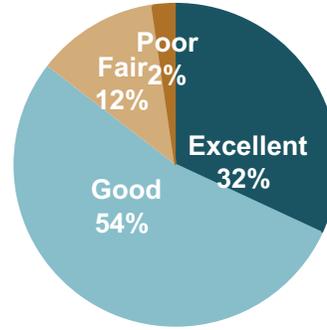


10. Comparison to the national benchmark is shown. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.

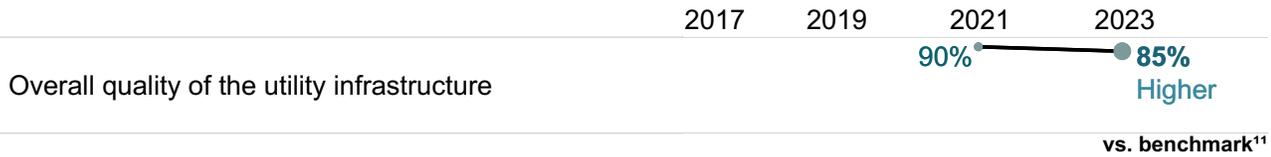
Overall quality of the utility infrastructure in Jupiter, 2023

Utilities

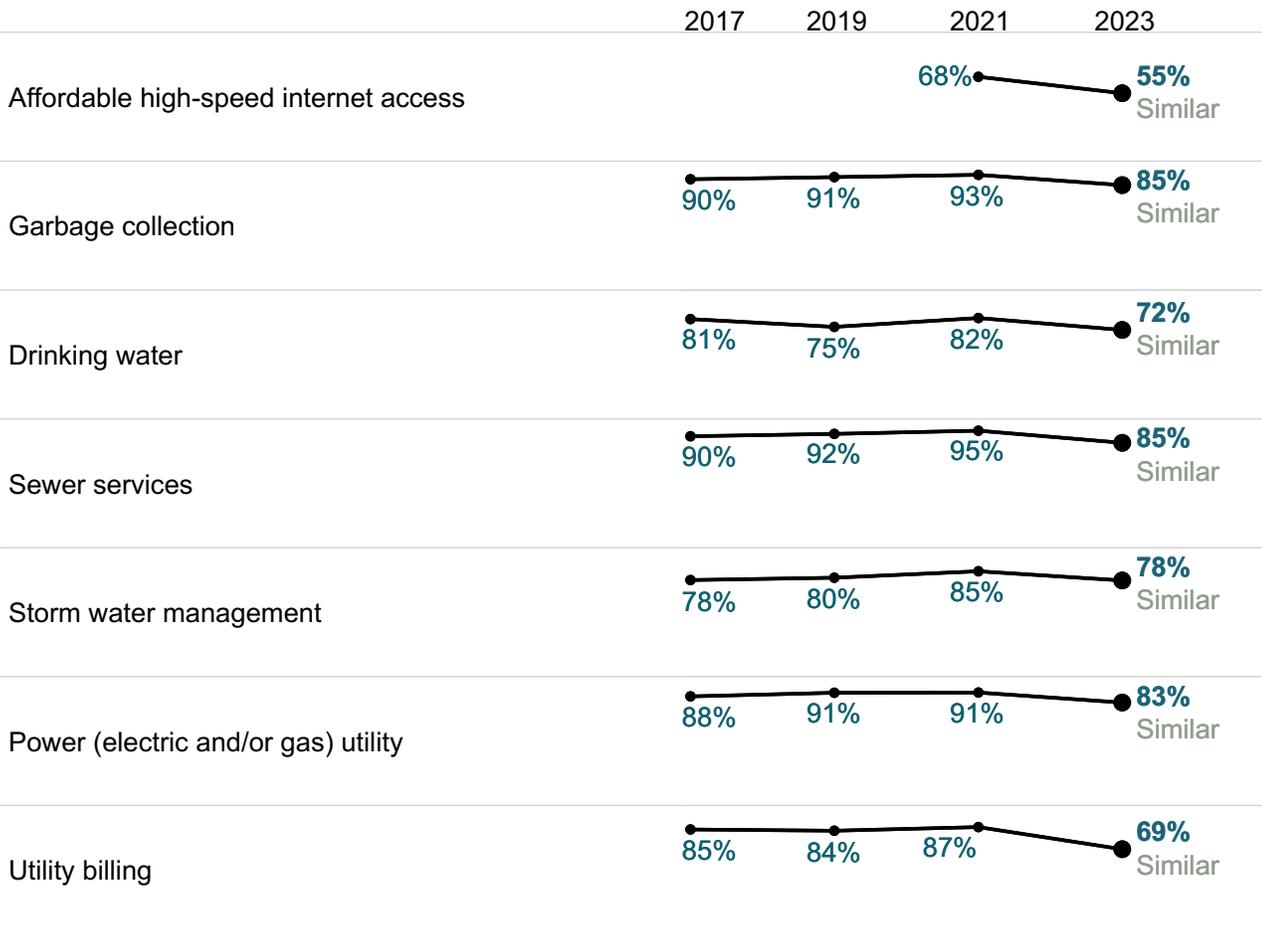
Services such as water, gas, electricity, and internet access play a vital role in ensuring the physical and economic health and well-being of the communities they serve.



Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Jupiter as a whole. (% excellent or good)



Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Jupiter. (% excellent or good)

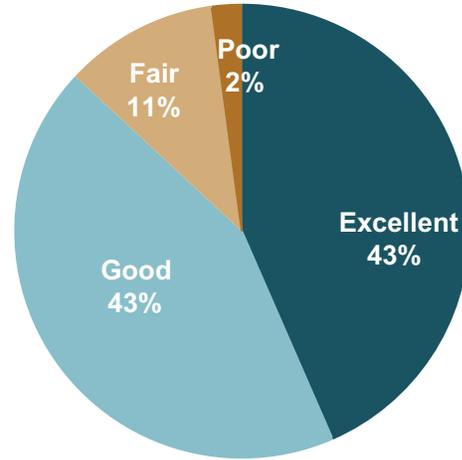


11. Comparison to the national benchmark is shown. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.

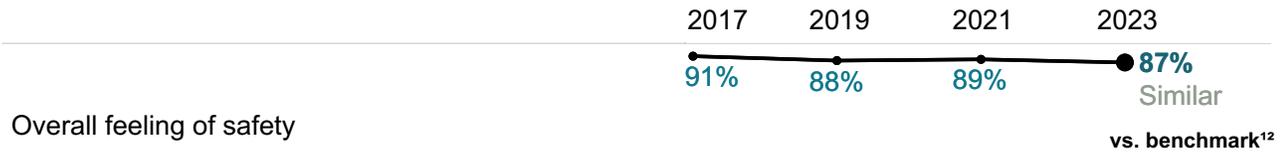
Overall feeling of safety in Jupiter, 2023

Safety

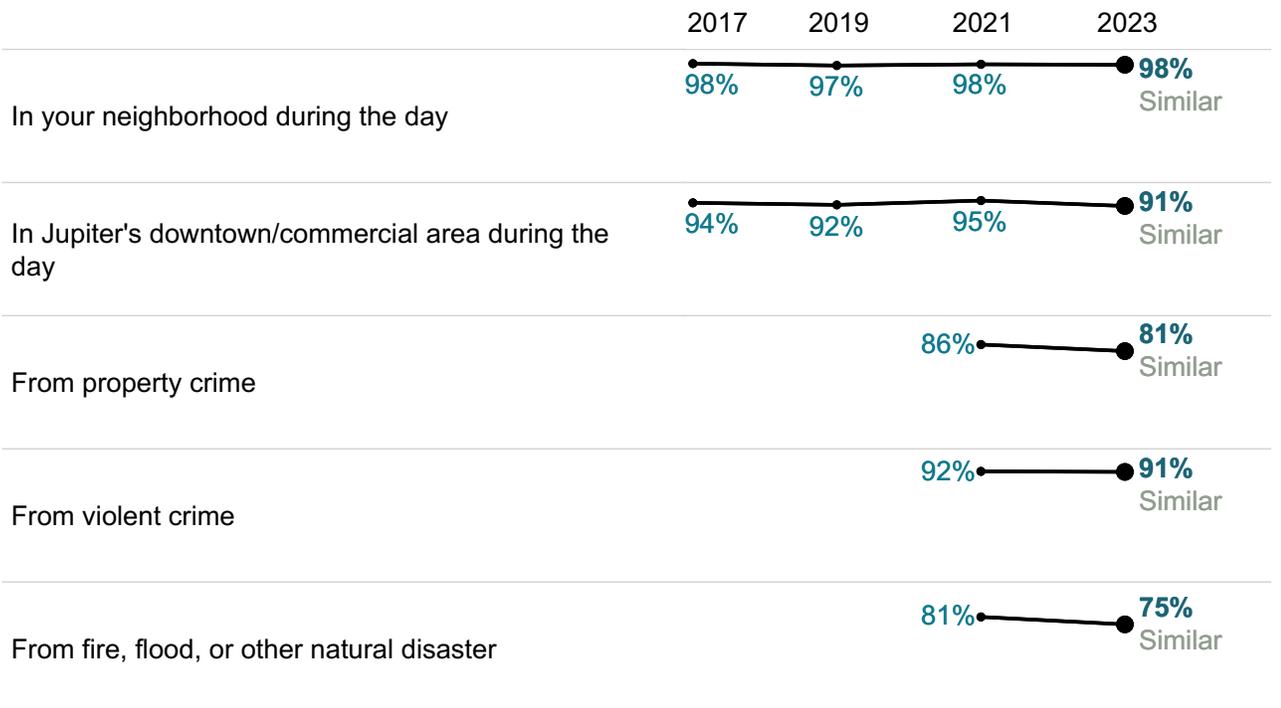
Public safety is often the most important task facing local governments. All residents should feel safe and secure in their neighborhoods and in the greater community, and providing robust safety-related services is essential to residents' quality of life.



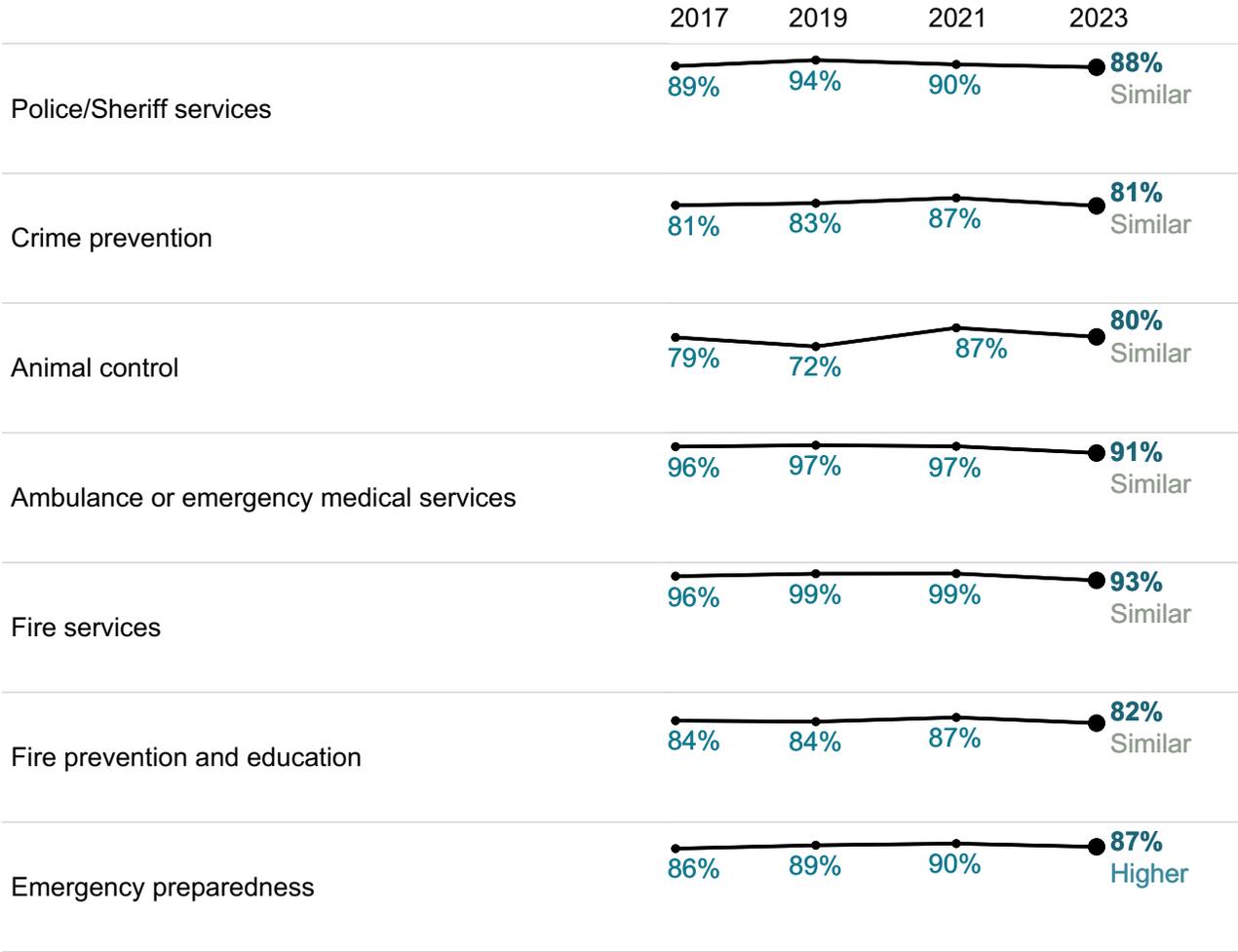
Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Jupiter as a whole.
(% excellent or good)



Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel:
(% very or somewhat safe)



Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Jupiter.
 (% excellent or good)

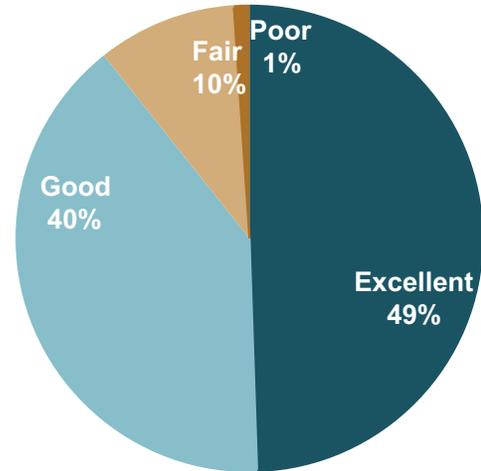


12. Comparison to the national benchmark is shown. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.

Overall quality of natural environment in Jupiter, 2023

Natural Environment

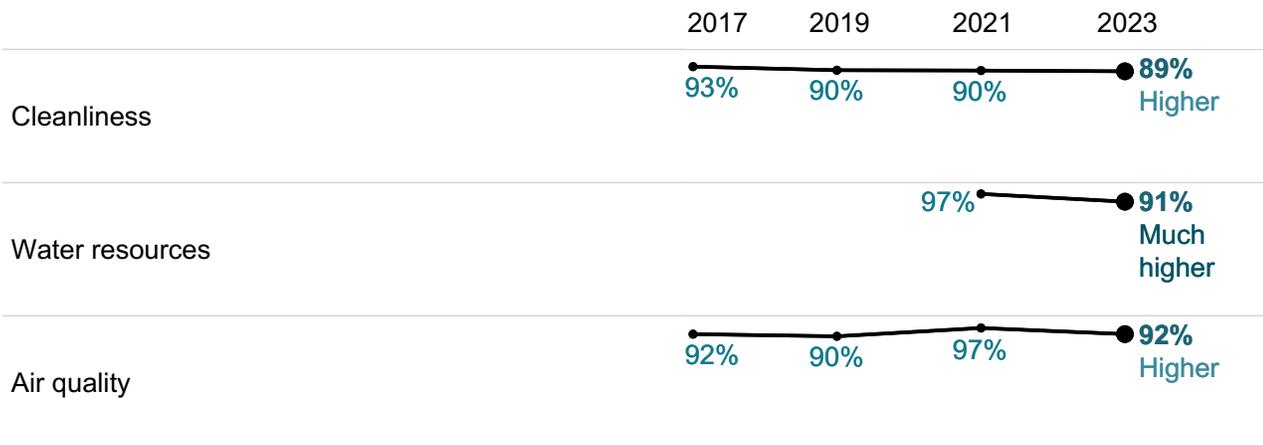
The natural environment plays a vital role in the health and well-being of residents. The natural spaces in which residents live and experience their communities has a direct and profound effect on quality of life.



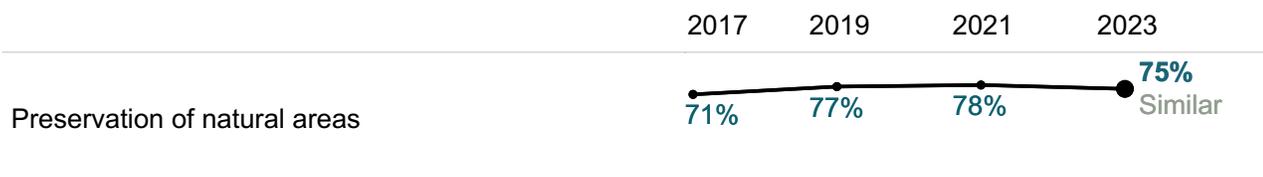
Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Jupiter as a whole. (% excellent or good)

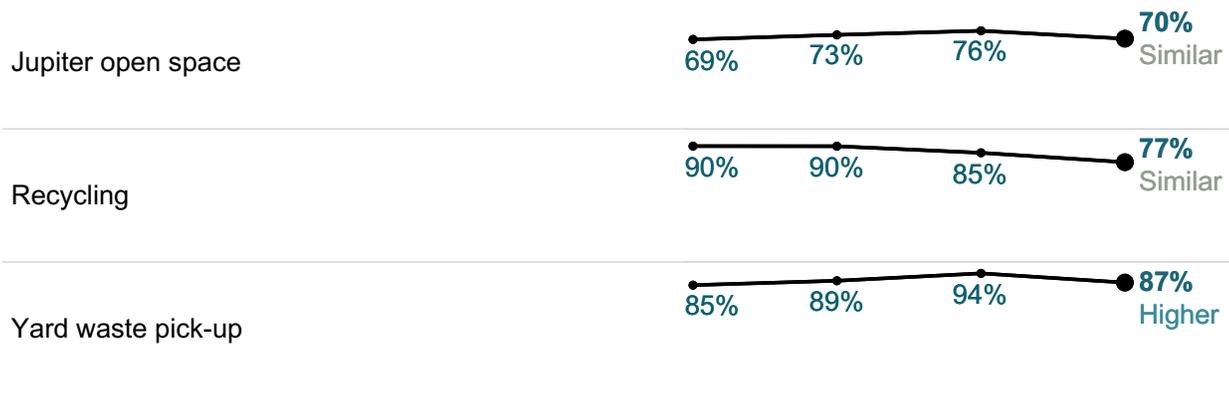


Please also rate each of the following in the Jupiter community. (% excellent or good)



Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Jupiter. (% excellent or good)





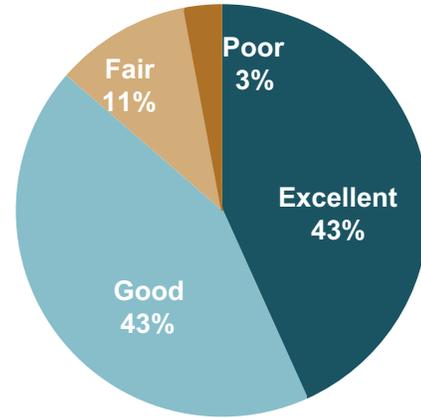
13. Comparison to the national benchmark is shown. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.

Overall quality of parks and recreation opportunities, 2023

Parks and Recreation

"There are no communities that pride themselves on their quality of life, promote themselves as a desirable location for businesses to relocate, or maintain that they are environmental stewards of their natural resources, without such communities having a robust, active system of parks and recreation programs for public use and enjoyment."

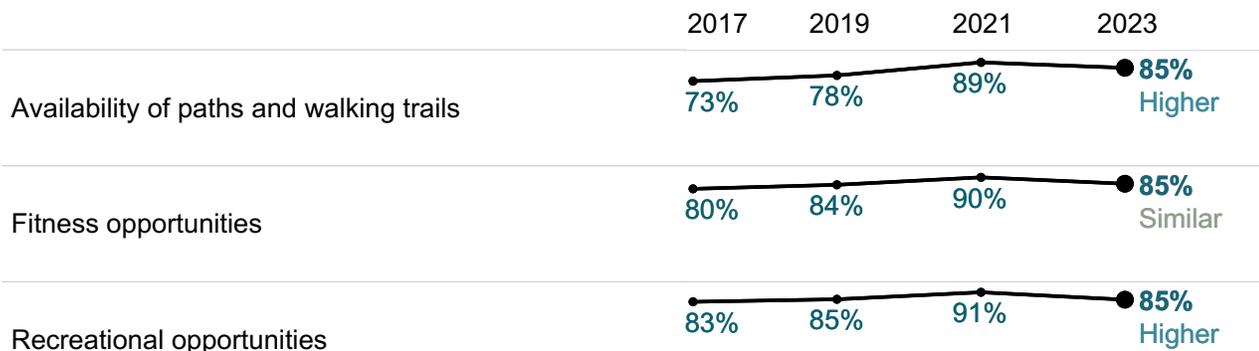
- National Recreation and Park Association



Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Jupiter as a whole. (% excellent or good)

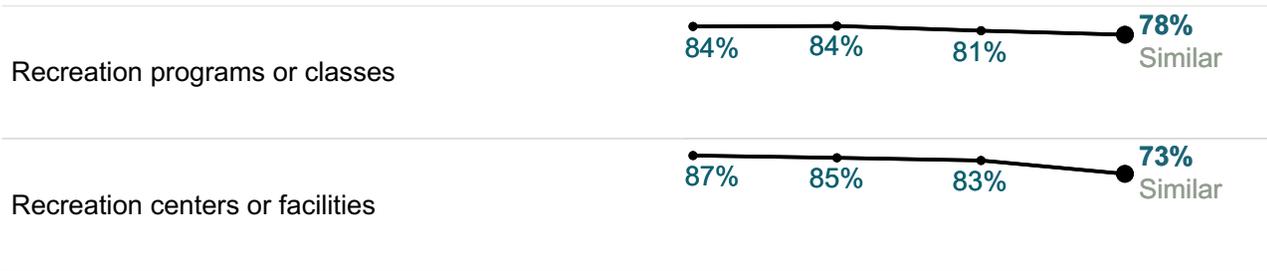


Please also rate each of the following in the Jupiter community. (% excellent or good)



Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Jupiter. (% excellent or good)





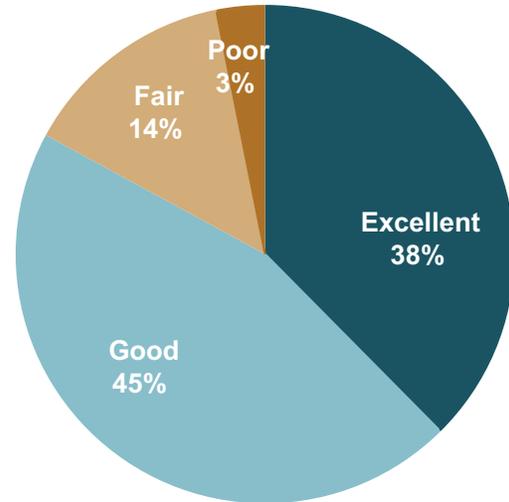
14. Comparison to the national benchmark is shown. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.

Overall health and wellness opportunities in Jupiter, 2023



Health and Wellness

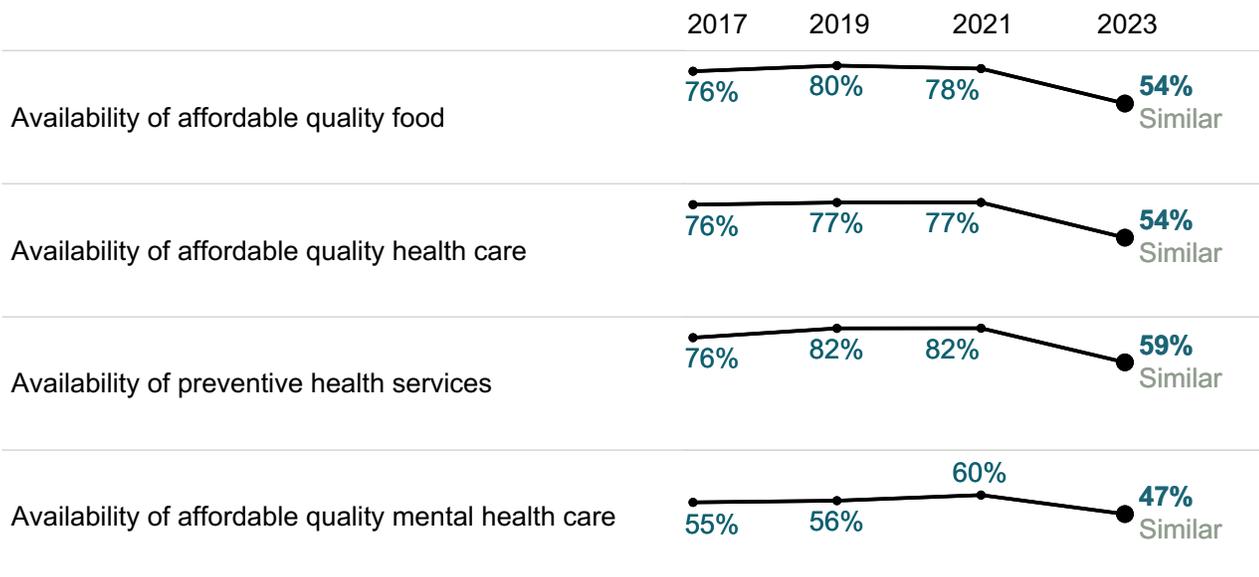
The characteristics of and amenities available in the communities in which people live has a direct impact on the health and wellness of residents, and thus, on their quality of life overall.



Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Jupiter as a whole.
(% excellent or good)



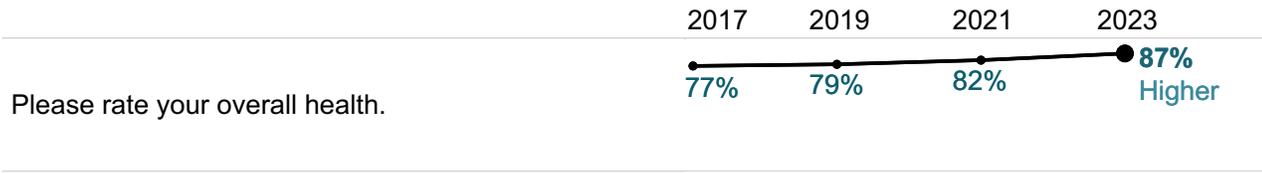
Please also rate each of the following in the Jupiter community.
(% excellent or good)



Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Jupiter.
(% excellent or good)



Please rate your overall health.
(% excellent or very good)



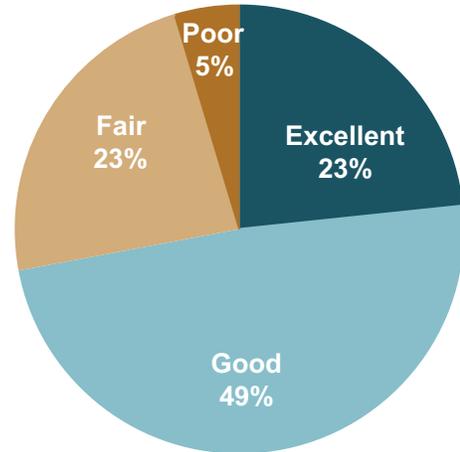
15. Comparison to the national benchmark is shown. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.



Overall opportunities for education, culture and the arts, 2023

Education, Arts, and Culture

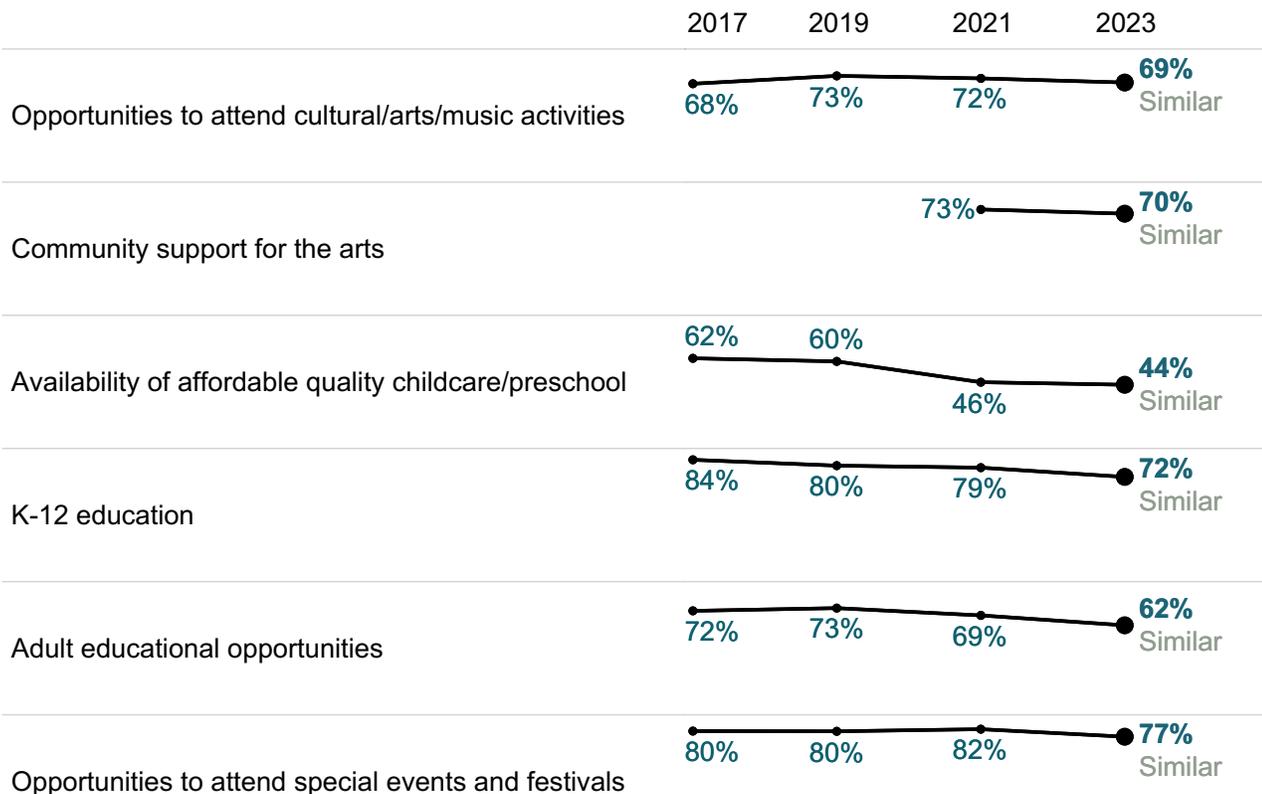
Participation in the arts, in educational opportunities, and in cultural activities is linked to increased civic engagement, greater social tolerance, and enhanced enjoyment of the local community.



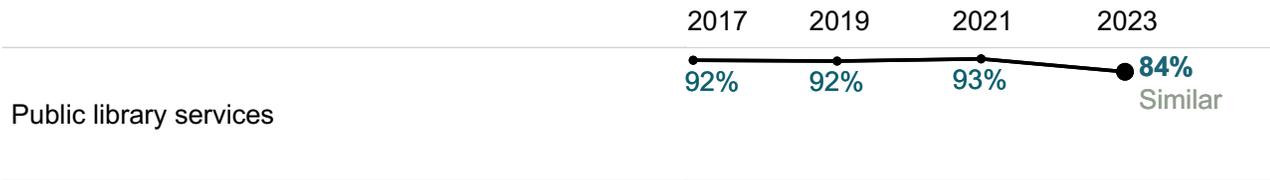
Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Jupiter as a whole.
(% excellent or good)



Please also rate each of the following in the Jupiter community.
(% excellent or good)



Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Jupiter.
(% excellent or good)

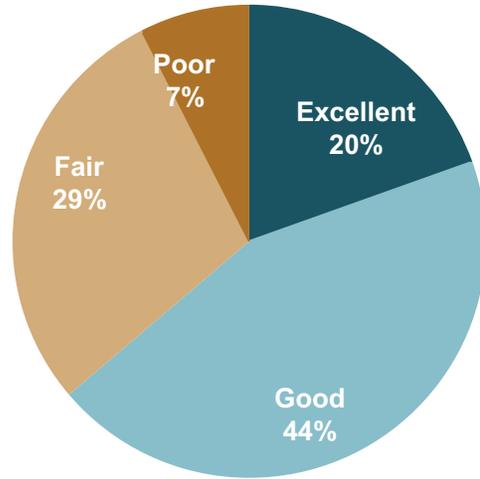


10. Comparison to the national benchmark is shown. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.

Residents' connection and engagement with their community, 2023

Inclusivity and Engagement

Inclusivity refers to a cultural and environmental feeling of belonging; residents who feel invited to participate within their communities feel more included, involved, and engaged than those who do not.



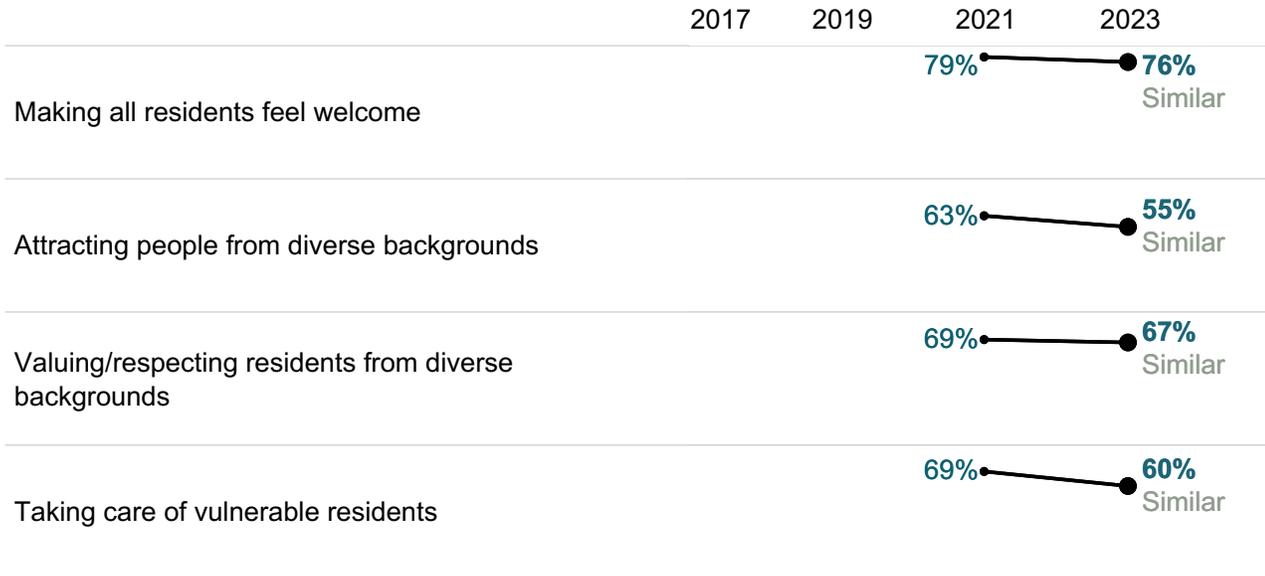
Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Jupiter as a whole. (% excellent or good)



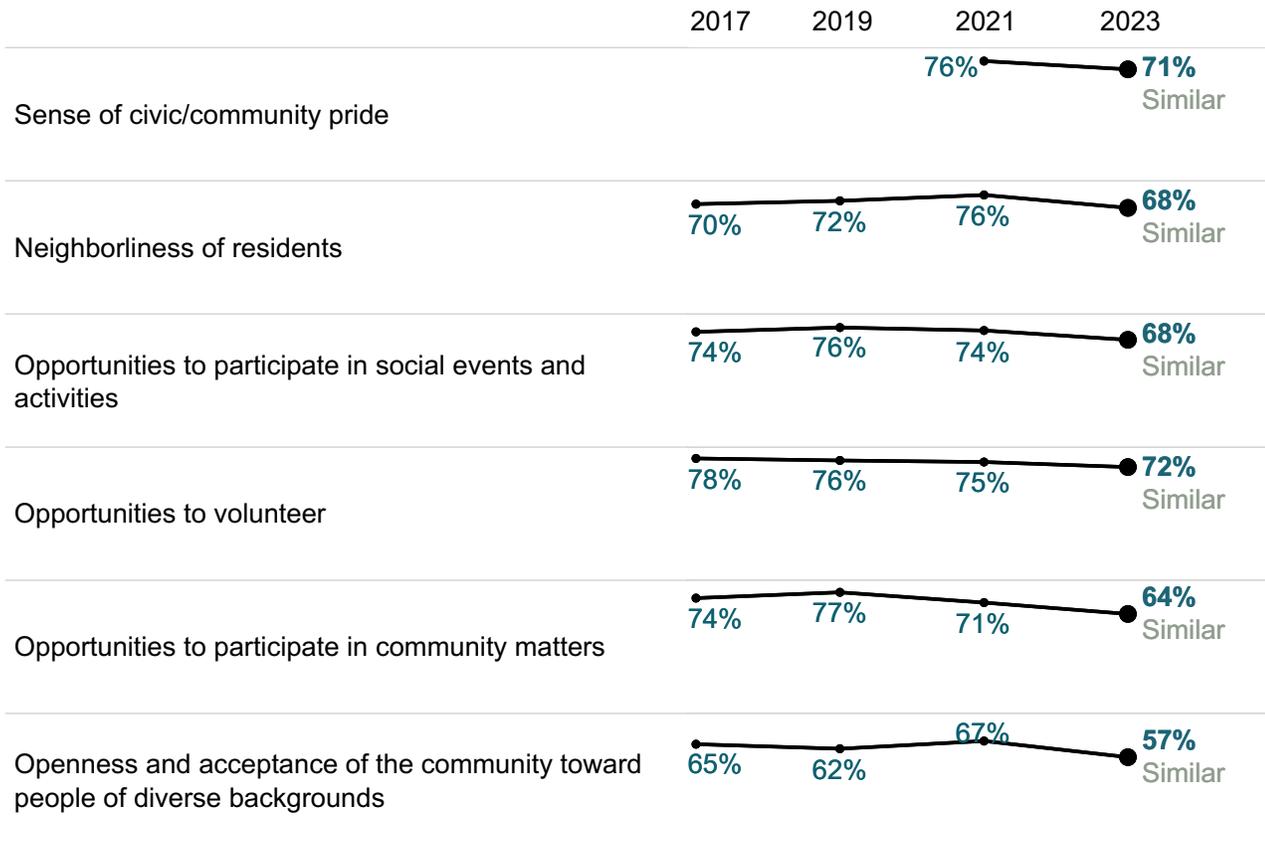
Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in Jupiter. (% excellent or good)



Please rate the job you feel the Jupiter community does at each of the following.
 (% excellent or good)



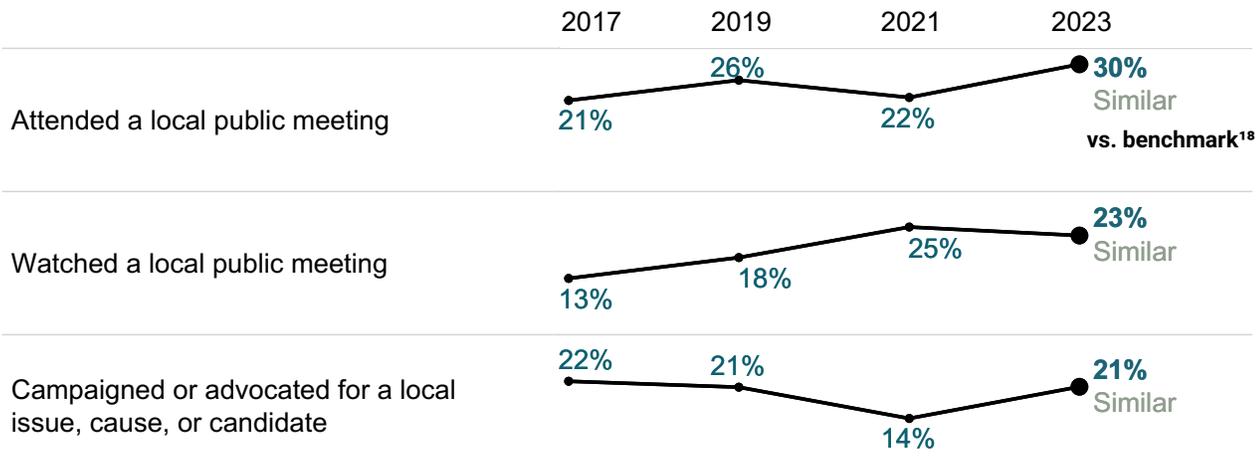
Please also rate each of the following in the Jupiter community.
 (% excellent or good)



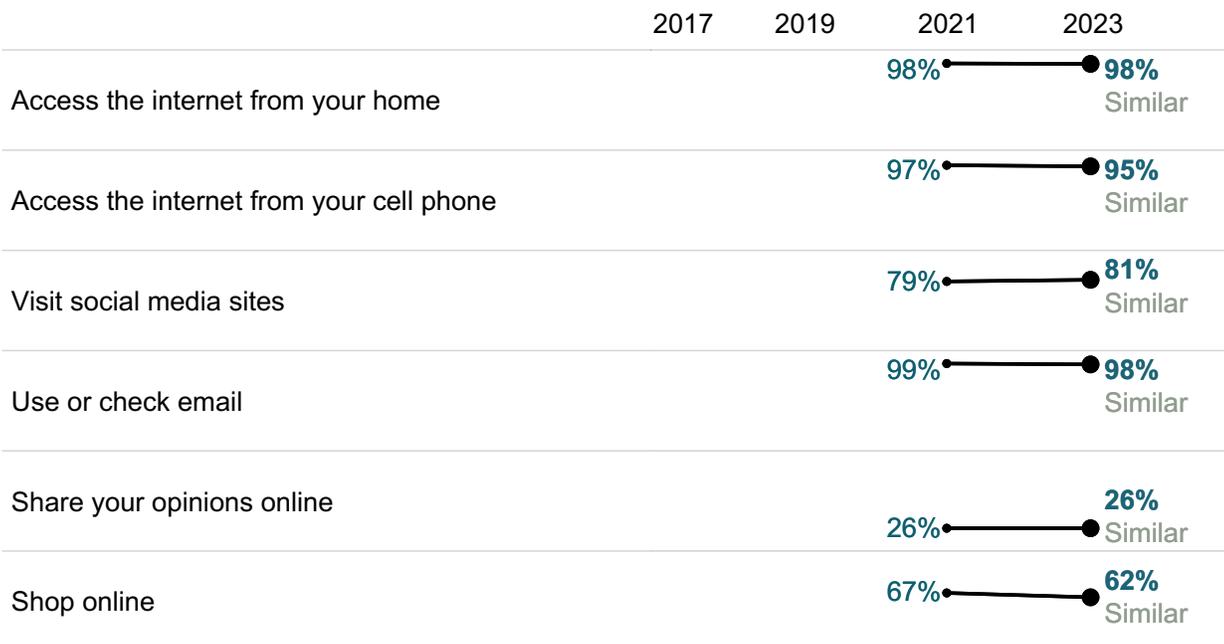
17. Comparison to the national benchmark is shown. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.

Residents' Participation Levels

Please indicate whether or not you have done each of the following in the last 12 months.
(% yes)



In general, how many times do you:
(% a few times a week or more)



18. Comparison to the national benchmark is shown. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.

Custom questions

Below are the complete set of responses to each custom question on the survey. By default, “don’t know” responses are excluded, but may be added to the table using the response filter below.

			Include "don't know" No
How concerned, if at all, are you about each of the following aspects of new development or redevelopment in Jupiter?	Increased traffic due to new development	Very concerned	 67%
		Somewhat concerned	 28%
		Not at all concerned	 5%
	Increased housing density (number of units allowed per acre)	Very concerned	 61%
		Somewhat concerned	 30%
		Not at all concerned	 9%
	Allowing increased building heights	Very concerned	 57%
		Somewhat concerned	 26%
		Not at all concerned	 17%
	Allowing changes in zoning/land use (e.g., the types of establishments or businesses allowed)	Very concerned	 53%
		Somewhat concerned	 29%
		Not at all concerned	 18%
	Permitting less stringent parking and zoning requirements for historic structures that are being preserved and redeveloped for new use	Very concerned	 38%
		Somewhat concerned	 31%
		Not at all concerned	 30%
	Combining new residential development with existing residential development	Very concerned	 31%
		Somewhat concerned	 46%
		Not at all concerned	 22%

	Combining new residential development with existing commercial or retail developments to create mixed-use areas	Very concerned		30%
		Somewhat concerned		42%
		Not at all concerned		28%
Are you more likely to be accepting of the items listed in the question above if the proposal included:	Workforce housing	No		52%
		Yes		48%
	Affordable housing	No		41%
		Yes		59%
	Public amenities (e.g., greenspace, public art, public access to waterways)	No		19%
		Yes		81%
Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the Town of Jupiter to devote resources to each of the following:	Managing how runoff and/or other environmental factors affect water quality of lakes, streams, rivers, inlet waterways and beaches and their habitats	Essential		59%
		Very important		34%
		Somewhat important		7%
		Not at all important		0%
	Reducing use of single-use plastics and styrofoam	Essential		30%
		Very important		37%
		Somewhat important		22%
		Not at all important		11%
	Encouraging proper recycling	Essential		36%
		Very important		40%
		Somewhat important		20%
		Not at all important		4%
Taking steps to mitigate sea level rise and the impacts of climate change	Essential		36%	
	Very important		31%	

