



RESULTS OF

STRONGSVILLE IN DIALOGUE:  
A SURVEY OF LOCAL RESIDENTS

## NEWS RELEASE

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City of Strongsville

Contact: Mayor Thomas P. Perciak  
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Mayor Thomas Perciak and Councilman Mike Daymut today announced the completion of the City of Strongsville's "Quality of Life" survey.

Working closely with Ohio State University's BR&E Initiative, the purpose of the survey was to determine the value Strongsville residents place on available amenities and services, as well as their satisfaction level in those areas.

In December of 2005, the Strongsville, OH, Economic / Community Development Committee mailed the "Quality of Life" survey to a census of 16,000 Strongsville Households and received 5,841 completed surveys for an amazing 36% return rate (20% is considered very good).

**The survey results indicated that 92% of respondents rated the "Quality of Life" as good to excellent with 89% saying they would recommend Strongsville to others as a place to live. In addition, 84% would still choose to live here if they could make the choice again, a finding many consider to be the acid test.**

The top four reasons given for living in Strongsville were:

- Quality and Diversity of housing
- Safe Environment: Police, Fire, EMS
- Quality of Schools
- Accessibility to Family

The evaluation of services and amenities showed that the subsequent percentages of citizens rated the following as high in quality:

- Health care services (84%)
- Police (83%)
- Fire-paramedic (82%)
- Recreation-cultural-entertainment activities (79%)
- Schools (77%)
- Access to air service (74%)
- Snow-ice removal (73%)
- Senior services (69%)

In contrast, road repairs and transportation thoroughfares were rated as needing improvements.

When asked whether citizens are willing to pay more for improved amenities and services such as police and fire services, 38% of those surveyed unequivocally responded “yes” while 23% responded with a “possibly”. The responses when combined together can be interpreted as positive support for the improved services.

When looking at the profile of the respondents the survey showed that:

- 60% have lived in Strongsville more than 10 years
- 92% own their home
- 19% earn between \$75,000 and \$99,000
- 33% earn \$100,000 or more per year
- 38% have 2 people in the household
- 66% are working,
- 49% are between the ages of 41-60
- 52% were female, 48% male

Greg Davis, Director of Ohio State University’s BR&E Initiative, adds an expert’s insight on Strongsville’s survey process and results: “Strongsville leaders innovatively used the Ohio BR&E to better understand the residents’ sentiments toward community services and amenities. Such information will be very useful to local leaders as they allocate resources to support the services and amenities most desired by residents.”

Copies of survey results will be available to the public at Strongsville’s public library branch, City Hall, the Chamber of Commerce, and at the City’s website ([www.strongsville.org](http://www.strongsville.org)). The results have been presented for review to the City of Strongsville Council and to the Strongsville Board of Education.

### **Quality of Life Survey Task Force**

Thomas P. Perciak, Mayor

Richard L. Pinkerton, Ph.D, Taskforce Chair & Professor Emeritus, Calif St Univ, Fresno

Michael J. Daymut, Co-Chair, Councilman Ward One

Rea Cantwell, Executive Director, Strongsville Chamber of Commerce

Greg Davis, Director, Ohio BR & E Initiative

Theresa Fleming, Director, “Moms for Ohio”

Eugene P. Magocky, Director of Strongsville Economic Development

The Reverend Ron Mowry, Pastor, Strongsville United Methodist Church

Brent T. Painter, Administrative Assistant, Strongsville Economic Development

Marcie Sprosty, President, Palm & Patterson, Inc.

Barry R. Zimmerman, Executive Vice President, Edgerton, Corp.

## Survey Results

The following is a tabular depiction of the responses to each survey question. Additional comments provided by respondents, if any, are included after each table.

### Section - Living in Strongsville

#### 1. How long have you lived in Strongsville?

60.3%	3499	MORE THAN 10 YEARS
18.4%	1068	1-5 YEARS
16.9%	983	6-10 YEARS
4.4%	256	LESS THAN 1 YEAR

#### 2. Do you own or rent your home?

92.3%	5332	OWN
7.7%	442	RENT

#### 3. What are your top three reasons for living in Strongsville?

19.6%	3238	QUALITY OF HOUSING
18.8%	3114	SAFE ENVIRONMENT
13.6%	2246	SCHOOLS
12.4%	2047	ACCESS TO FAMILY
9.5%	1580	ACCESS TO EMPLOYMENT
6.3%	1039	SAFETY SERVICES
6.0%	995	OTHER:
4.7%	783	ACCESS TO FRIENDS
4.4%	727	RECREATION/ENTERTAINMENT
3.3%	545	ACCESS TO BUSINESS SERVICES
1.4%	236	AVAILABLE RESTAURANTS

**Section - Please rate the following AMENITIES and SERVICES in Strongsville.**

**4. Health care services (hospitals, clinics, etc)**

48.3%	2727	GOOD
36.1%	2040	EXCELLENT
9.8%	554	AVERAGE
5.0%	284	NO OPINION
0.7%	39	POOR

**5. School system**

45.8%	2540	GOOD
30.9%	1717	EXCELLENT
15.0%	830	NO OPINION
7.3%	404	AVERAGE
1.0%	57	POOR

**6. Recreation/cultural activities/entertainment**

49.6%	2773	GOOD
29.4%	1644	EXCELLENT
14.1%	790	AVERAGE
5.1%	285	NO OPINION
1.8%	100	POOR

**7. Senior services**

38.3%	2141	NO OPINION
30.7%	1716	GOOD
22.9%	1276	EXCELLENT
6.9%	387	AVERAGE
1.1%	64	POOR

**8. Arts**

33.0%	1772	NO OPINION
28.3%	1519	AVERAGE
25.4%	1366	GOOD
8.2%	439	POOR
5.1%	272	EXCELLENT

**9. Snow and ice removal**

46.9%	2658	GOOD
26.0%	1472	AVERAGE
18.3%	1039	EXCELLENT
7.5%	426	POOR
1.3%	71	NO OPINION

#### 10. Street repairs

37.9%	2120	AVERAGE
35.8%	2004	GOOD
16.0%	898	POOR
8.7%	485	EXCELLENT
1.7%	94	NO OPINION

#### 11. Fire/paramedic services

41.6%	2346	GOOD
40.3%	2276	EXCELLENT
11.8%	664	NO OPINION
6.1%	345	AVERAGE
0.2%	11	POOR

#### 12. Police safety services

45.4%	2556	GOOD
37.7%	2124	EXCELLENT
9.2%	521	AVERAGE
6.6%	369	NO OPINION
1.1%	63	POOR

#### 13. Transportation thoroughfares

38.9%	2154	GOOD
27.8%	1540	AVERAGE
13.6%	756	POOR
11.8%	655	EXCELLENT
7.9%	436	NO OPINION

#### 14. Water and sewers

44.2%	2472	GOOD
30.8%	1723	AVERAGE
11.4%	635	EXCELLENT
8.6%	479	POOR
5.0%	278	NO OPINION

#### 15. Public transportation

32.0%	1758	NO OPINION
26.9%	1481	GOOD
24.4%	1340	AVERAGE
10.5%	576	POOR
6.3%	346	EXCELLENT

#### 16. Access to air service

46.7%	2614	GOOD
27.5%	1539	EXCELLENT
13.6%	760	AVERAGE
11.1%	620	NO OPINION
1.1%	60	POOR

**Section - Please rate the importance of the following AMENITIES and SERVICES in Strongsville.**

**17. Health care services (hospitals, clinics, etc)**

58.2%	3286	VERY IMPORTANT
37.6%	2126	IMPORTANT
2.4%	134	NOT IMPORTANT
1.8%	101	NO OPINION

**18. School system**

59.9%	3342	VERY IMPORTANT
23.5%	1312	IMPORTANT
8.7%	487	NO OPINION
7.9%	438	NOT IMPORTANT

**19. Recreation/cultural activities/entertainment**

56.7%	3154	IMPORTANT
28.8%	1603	VERY IMPORTANT
10.4%	578	NOT IMPORTANT
4.0%	224	NO OPINION

**20. Senior services**

44.2%	2478	IMPORTANT
24.0%	1344	VERY IMPORTANT
20.7%	1161	NO OPINION
11.1%	624	NOT IMPORTANT

**21. Arts**

41.6%	2270	IMPORTANT
29.5%	1611	NOT IMPORTANT
19.5%	1066	NO OPINION
9.3%	508	VERY IMPORTANT

**22. Snow and ice removal**

64.4%	3637	VERY IMPORTANT
34.0%	1919	IMPORTANT
0.9%	49	NOT IMPORTANT
0.8%	46	NO OPINION

**23. Street repairs**

61.8%	3476	VERY IMPORTANT
36.9%	2077	IMPORTANT
0.8%	43	NO OPINION
0.6%	33	NOT IMPORTANT

**24. Fire/paramedic services**

78.7%	4455	VERY IMPORTANT
20.3%	1146	IMPORTANT
0.7%	39	NO OPINION
0.3%	19	NOT IMPORTANT

**25. Police safety services**

78.6%	4429	VERY IMPORTANT
20.0%	1128	IMPORTANT
0.7%	39	NOT IMPORTANT
0.7%	38	NO OPINION

**26. Transportation thoroughfares**

49.7%	2764	IMPORTANT
40.7%	2260	VERY IMPORTANT
4.9%	275	NO OPINION
4.7%	260	NOT IMPORTANT

**27. Water and sewers**

48.8%	2728	IMPORTANT
47.0%	2629	VERY IMPORTANT
2.3%	127	NO OPINION
1.9%	109	NOT IMPORTANT

**28. Public transportation**

44.1%	2448	IMPORTANT
25.9%	1437	NOT IMPORTANT
16.2%	898	VERY IMPORTANT
13.9%	769	NO OPINION

**29. Access to air service**

51.9%	2887	IMPORTANT
20.4%	1134	NOT IMPORTANT
18.4%	1025	VERY IMPORTANT
9.3%	517	NO OPINION

**Section - Would you pay more to improve any of the following AMENITIES and SERVICES in Strongsville?**

**30. Health care services (hospitals, clinics, etc)**

57.9%	3178	NO
25.5%	1401	POSSIBLY
16.6%	912	YES

**31. School system**

46.7%	2581	NO
31.0%	1712	YES
22.3%	1230	POSSIBLY

**32. Recreation/cultural activities/entertainment**

61.9%	3399	NO
23.7%	1300	POSSIBLY
14.5%	795	YES

**33. Senior services**

60.6%	3345	NO
25.2%	1389	POSSIBLY
14.2%	782	YES

**34. Arts**

73.3%	3994	NO
19.3%	1052	POSSIBLY
7.3%	400	YES

**35. Snow and ice removal**

52.4%	2883	NO
24.9%	1369	POSSIBLY
22.7%	1249	YES

**36. Street repairs**

47.2%	2592	NO
27.1%	1485	YES
25.7%	1412	POSSIBLY

**37. Fire/paramedic services**

38.2%	2104	NO
37.9%	2091	YES
23.9%	1315	POSSIBLY

**38. Police safety services**

38.3%	2112	NO
38.2%	2109	YES
23.5%	1295	POSSIBLY

**39. Transportation thoroughfares**

60.2%	3271	NO
25.0%	1358	POSSIBLY
14.9%	808	YES

**40. Water and sewers**

59.6%	3249	NO
25.4%	1386	POSSIBLY
14.9%	812	YES

**41. Public transportation**

77.2%	4212	NO
17.2%	938	POSSIBLY
5.6%	308	YES

**42. Access to air service**

82.9%	4505	NO
13.6%	737	POSSIBLY
3.5%	189	YES

**45. Overall, the quality of life in Strongsville is:**

57.6%	3319	GOOD
34.1%	1964	EXCELLENT
7.7%	446	AVERAGE
0.6%	36	POOR

**46. Would you recommend others live in Strongsville?**

88.7%	4998	YES
11.3%	638	NO

**47. Given the choice to make again, would you still choose to live in Strongsville?**

83.6%	4639	YES
16.4%	909	NO

**48. What was your approximate gross household income from all sources, before taxes, for 2005?**

33.5%	1746	\$100,000 OR MORE
19.5%	1014	\$50,000-74,999
18.9%	984	\$75,000-99,999
11.2%	583	\$35,000-49,999
11.0%	573	\$20,000-34,999
5.9%	309	LESS THAN \$20,000

**49. How many people comprise this household?**

38.3%	2200	2
19.3%	1108	4
17.1%	984	1
13.6%	779	3
8.5%	487	5
2.7%	156	6
0.5%	30	MORE THAN 6

**50. Do you have children in Strongsville Schools?**

72.3%	4146	NO
27.7%	1589	YES

**51. Are you retired?**

66.3%	3796	NO
28.3%	1619	YES
5.4%	311	SEMI-RETIRED

**52. If NEITHER Retired or Semi-Retired, what is the occupation of the main household provider?**

List omitted from this report

**53. What is your age?**

25.0%	1430	41-50
23.8%	1360	51-60
16.4%	934	61-70
15.1%	864	31-40
10.9%	625	71-80
4.8%	275	OVER 80
3.9%	221	20-30

**54. What is your gender?**

51.7%	2913	FEMALE
48.3%	2720	MALE

**55. Street Address? (optional)**

List omitted from this report