

S T A T E O F M I C H I G A N

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF ALLEGAN

**NATIONAL COMMUNITY SURVEY—RELEASE**

**WHEREAS**, on March 10, 2022, the Allegan County Board of Commissioners (Board) authorized the County Administrator to negotiate and sign contract documents, purchasing the services of the Polco National Research Center, Inc., 8001 Terrance Ave. Middleton, WI 53562; and

**WHEREAS**, a workgroup consisting of the individuals listed below developed the final draft National Community Survey with Polco National Research Center:

Jim Storey, Board of Commissioners Chairperson

Frank Baker, Sheriff

Dan Wedge, Executive Director of Services

Angelique Joynes, Health Officer

Sherry Owens, Director Senior and Veterans

Brandy Gildea, Parks Manager

Mark Witte, Director ACCMH (funding)

Lisa Evans, Allegan County Community Action (funding)

Amanda Telgenhof, United Way (funding)

William Brown, Allegan Area Educational Service Agency  
(funding)

Michael Kiella, Community Representative.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the Board approves the release of the survey; as presented.



May 2022

Dear Allegan County Resident:

Please help us shape the future of Allegan County! You have been selected at random to participate in the 2022 Allegan County Community Survey. **If you've already completed the survey online, thank you. Please do not respond twice.**

Please take a few minutes to fill out the enclosed survey. Your participation in this survey is very important—especially since your household is one of only a small number being surveyed. Your feedback will help Allegan County make decisions that affect our County.

**A few things to remember:**

- **Your responses are confidential and no identifying information will be shared.**
- In order to hear from a diverse group of residents, the adult 18 years or older in your household who most recently had a birthday should complete this survey.
- **You may return the survey by mail in the enclosed postage-paid envelope, or you can complete the survey online at:**

**<https://polco.us/xxplaceholder>**

**Please do not share your survey link.** This survey is for randomly selected households only. The County will conduct a separate survey that is open to all residents just a few weeks from now.

If you have any questions about the survey, please call 269-686-5150.

For community updates and additional information, please go to [www.allegancounty.org/Communitysurvey](http://www.allegancounty.org/Communitysurvey)

Thank you for your time and participation!

Sincerely,

Jim Storey  
Board Chairperson

# Allegan County 2022 Community Survey

Please complete this survey if you are the adult (age 18 or older) in the household who most recently had a birthday (the year of birth does not matter). Your responses are confidential and no identifying information will be shared.

## 1. Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in Allegan County.

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
Allegan County as a place to live .....	1	2	3	4	5
Your neighborhood as a place to live .....	1	2	3	4	5
Allegan County as a place to raise children .....	1	2	3	4	5
Allegan County as a place to work.....	1	2	3	4	5
Allegan County as a place to visit.....	1	2	3	4	5
Allegan County as a place to retire.....	1	2	3	4	5
The overall quality of life in Allegan County .....	1	2	3	4	5
Sense of community.....	1	2	3	4	5

## 2. Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Allegan County as a whole.

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
Overall economic health of Allegan County.....	1	2	3	4	5
Overall quality of the transportation system (auto, bicycle, foot, bus) in Allegan County.....	1	2	3	4	5
Overall design or layout of Allegan County's residential and commercial areas (e.g., homes, buildings, streets, parks, etc.) .....	1	2	3	4	5
Overall quality of the utility infrastructure in Allegan County (water, sewer, storm water, electric/gas, broadband).....	1	2	3	4	5
Overall feeling of safety in Allegan County .....	1	2	3	4	5
Overall quality of natural environment in Allegan County .....	1	2	3	4	5
Overall quality of parks and recreation opportunities.....	1	2	3	4	5
Overall health and wellness opportunities in Allegan County .....	1	2	3	4	5
Overall opportunities for education, culture, and the arts.....	1	2	3	4	5
Residents' connection and engagement with their community .....	1	2	3	4	5

## 3. Please indicate how likely or unlikely you are to do each of the following.

	<u>Very likely</u>	<u>Somewhat likely</u>	<u>Somewhat unlikely</u>	<u>Very unlikely</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
Recommend living in Allegan County to someone who asks.....	1	2	3	4	5
Remain in Allegan County for the next five years.....	1	2	3	4	5

## 4. Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel:

	<u>Very safe</u>	<u>Somewhat safe</u>	<u>Neither safe nor unsafe</u>	<u>Somewhat unsafe</u>	<u>Very unsafe</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
In your neighborhood during the day.....	1	2	3	4	5	6
In Allegan County's downtown/commercial area during the day .....	1	2	3	4	5	6
From property crime.....	1	2	3	4	5	6
From violent crime.....	1	2	3	4	5	6
From fire, flood, or other natural disaster .....	1	2	3	4	5	6

## 5. Please rate the job you feel the Allegan County community does at each of the following.

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
Making all residents feel welcome .....	1	2	3	4	5
Attracting people from diverse backgrounds.....	1	2	3	4	5
Valuing/respecting residents from diverse backgrounds.....	1	2	3	4	5
Taking care of vulnerable residents (elderly, disabled, homeless, etc.).....	1	2	3	4	5

## 6. Please rate each of the following in the Allegan County community.

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
Overall quality of business and service establishments in Allegan County....	1	2	3	4	5
Variety of business and service establishments in Allegan County .....	1	2	3	4	5
Vibrancy of downtown/commercial area .....	1	2	3	4	5
Employment opportunities .....	1	2	3	4	5
Shopping opportunities .....	1	2	3	4	5
Cost of living in Allegan County .....	1	2	3	4	5
Overall image or reputation of Allegan County .....	1	2	3	4	5

**7. Please also rate each of the following in the Allegan County community.**

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
Traffic flow on major streets.....	1	2	3	4	5
Ease of public parking.....	1	2	3	4	5
Ease of travel by car in Allegan County.....	1	2	3	4	5
Ease of travel by public transportation in Allegan County.....	1	2	3	4	5
Ease of travel by bicycle in Allegan County.....	1	2	3	4	5
Ease of walking in Allegan County.....	1	2	3	4	5
Well-planned residential growth.....	1	2	3	4	5
Well-planned commercial growth.....	1	2	3	4	5
Well-designed neighborhoods.....	1	2	3	4	5
Preservation of the historical or cultural character of the community.....	1	2	3	4	5
Public places where people want to spend time.....	1	2	3	4	5
Variety of housing options.....	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of affordable quality housing.....	1	2	3	4	5
Overall quality of new development in Allegan County.....	1	2	3	4	5
Overall appearance of Allegan County.....	1	2	3	4	5
Cleanliness of Allegan County.....	1	2	3	4	5
Water resources (beaches, lakes, ponds, riverways, etc.).....	1	2	3	4	5
Air quality.....	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of paths and walking trails.....	1	2	3	4	5
Fitness opportunities (including exercise classes and paths or trails, etc.)...	1	2	3	4	5
Recreational opportunities.....	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of affordable quality food.....	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of affordable quality health care.....	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of preventive health services.....	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of affordable quality mental health care.....	1	2	3	4	5
Opportunities to attend cultural/arts/music activities.....	1	2	3	4	5
Community support for the arts.....	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of affordable quality childcare/preschool.....	1	2	3	4	5
K-12 education.....	1	2	3	4	5
Adult educational opportunities.....	1	2	3	4	5
Sense of civic/community pride.....	1	2	3	4	5
Neighborliness of residents in Allegan County.....	1	2	3	4	5
Opportunities to participate in social events and activities.....	1	2	3	4	5
Opportunities to attend special events and festivals.....	1	2	3	4	5
Opportunities to volunteer.....	1	2	3	4	5
Opportunities to participate in community matters.....	1	2	3	4	5
Openness and acceptance of the community toward people of diverse backgrounds.....	1	2	3	4	5

**8. Please indicate whether or not you have done each of the following in the last 12 months.**

	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>
Contacted Allegan County (in-person, phone, email, or web) for help or information.....	1	2
Contacted Allegan County elected officials (in-person, phone, email, or web) to express your opinion....	1	2
Attended a local public meeting (of local elected officials like City Council or County Commissioners, advisory boards, town halls, HOA, neighborhood watch, etc.).....	1	2
Watched a local public meeting on-line (Zoom or YouTube).....	1	2
Volunteered your time to some group/activity in Allegan County.....	1	2
Campaigned or advocated for a local issue, cause, or candidate.....	1	2
Voted in your most recent local election.....	1	2
Used bus, rail, subway, or other public transportation instead of driving.....	1	2
Carpooled with other adults or children instead of driving alone.....	1	2
Walked or biked instead of driving.....	1	2

# Allegan County 2022 Community Survey

## 9. Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Allegan County.

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
Public information services.....	1	2	3	4	5
Economic development.....	1	2	3	4	5
Traffic enforcement.....	1	2	3	4	5
Traffic signal timing.....	1	2	3	4	5
Street repair.....	1	2	3	4	5
Street cleaning.....	1	2	3	4	5
Street lighting.....	1	2	3	4	5
Snow removal.....	1	2	3	4	5
Sidewalk maintenance.....	1	2	3	4	5
Bus or transit services.....	1	2	3	4	5
Land use, planning, and zoning.....	1	2	3	4	5
Code enforcement (weeds, abandoned buildings, etc.).....	1	2	3	4	5
Affordable high-speed internet access.....	1	2	3	4	5
Garbage collection.....	1	2	3	4	5
Drinking water.....	1	2	3	4	5
Sewer services.....	1	2	3	4	5
Storm water management (storm drainage, dams, levees, etc.).....	1	2	3	4	5
Power (electric and/or gas) utility.....	1	2	3	4	5
Utility billing.....	1	2	3	4	5
Sheriff services.....	1	2	3	4	5
Crime prevention.....	1	2	3	4	5
Animal control.....	1	2	3	4	5
Ambulance or emergency medical services.....	1	2	3	4	5
Fire services.....	1	2	3	4	5
Fire prevention and education.....	1	2	3	4	5
Emergency preparedness (services that prepare the community for natural disasters or other emergency situations).....	1	2	3	4	5
Preservation of natural areas (open space, farmlands, and greenbelts).....	1	2	3	4	5
Allegan County open space.....	1	2	3	4	5
Recycling.....	1	2	3	4	5
Yard waste pick-up.....	1	2	3	4	5
County parks.....	1	2	3	4	5
Recreation programs or classes.....	1	2	3	4	5
Recreation centers or facilities.....	1	2	3	4	5
Health services.....	1	2	3	4	5
Public library services.....	1	2	3	4	5
Overall customer service by Allegan County employees (Sheriff, receptionists, planners, etc.).....	1	2	3	4	5
Allegan County Senior Service.....	1	2	3	4	5
Allegan County Veteran Services.....	1	2	3	4	5

## 10. Please rate the following categories of Allegan County government performance.

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
The value of services for the taxes paid to Allegan County.....	1	2	3	4	5
The overall direction that Allegan County is taking.....	1	2	3	4	5
The job Allegan County government does at welcoming resident involvement.....	1	2	3	4	5
Overall confidence in Allegan County government.....	1	2	3	4	5
Generally acting in the best interest of the community.....	1	2	3	4	5
Being honest.....	1	2	3	4	5
Being open and transparent to the public.....	1	2	3	4	5
Informing residents about issues facing the community.....	1	2	3	4	5
Treating all residents fairly.....	1	2	3	4	5
Treating residents with respect.....	1	2	3	4	5

**11. Overall, how would you rate the quality of the services provided by each of the following?**

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
Allegan County .....	1	2	3	4	5
The Federal Government.....	1	2	3	4	5
Your local government (City, Village, or Township).....	1	2	3	4	5
The State Government .....	1	2	3	4	5

**12. Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the Allegan County community to focus on each of the following in the coming two years.**

	<u>Essential</u>	<u>Very important</u>	<u>Somewhat important</u>	<u>Not at all important</u>
Overall economic health of Allegan County.....	1	2	3	4
Overall quality of the transportation system (auto, bicycle, foot, bus) in Allegan County.....	1	2	3	4
Overall design or layout of Allegan County's residential and commercial areas (e.g., homes, buildings, streets, parks, etc.).....	1	2	3	4
Overall quality of the utility infrastructure in Allegan County (water, sewer, storm water, electric/gas, broadband) .....	1	2	3	4
Overall feeling of safety in Allegan County .....	1	2	3	4
Overall quality of natural environment in Allegan County .....	1	2	3	4
Overall quality of parks and recreation opportunities.....	1	2	3	4
Overall health and wellness opportunities in Allegan County .....	1	2	3	4
Overall opportunities for education, culture, and the arts.....	1	2	3	4
Residents' connection and engagement with their community .....	1	2	3	4

**13. How much of a problem, if at all, do you think the following issues are in Allegan County?**

	<u>Major problem</u>	<u>Moderate problem</u>	<u>Minor problem</u>	<u>Not a problem</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
Animal problems (animals running at large, barking dogs).....	1	2	3	4	5
Traffic problems (e.g., residential speeding, aggressive drivers) .....	1	2	3	4	5
School safety (e.g., bullying, fighting, or weapons) .....	1	2	3	4	5
Domestic violence (adult) .....	1	2	3	4	5
Sexual assault/rape (adult) .....	1	2	3	4	5
Elder abuse and financial crimes against the elderly.....	1	2	3	4	5
Driving under the influence (i.e., alcohol or drugs) .....	1	2	3	4	5
Underage drinking.....	1	2	3	4	5
Drug abuse (e.g., manufacture, sale, or use of illegal/prescription drugs) .....	1	2	3	4	5

**14. Overall, how would you rate each of the following in Allegan County?**

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
High quality, affordable infant care .....	1	2	3	4	5
High quality, affordable toddler care .....	1	2	3	4	5
High quality, affordable preschool care .....	1	2	3	4	5
Available childcare that meets my regular scheduling needs.....	1	2	3	4	5
Available childcare that meets my irregular scheduling needs (e.g., during school breaks or evenings/weekends).....	1	2	3	4	5
Assistance available to meet families with young children basic needs 0-5 years old for those who need it (e.g., diapers, formula, etc.) .....	1	2	3	4	5
Services available to support families with young children 0-5 years old (e.g. Early On, Head Start, 20 Hands, WIC, Mental Health) 1	2	3	4	5	

# Allegan County 2022 Community Survey

15. Please indicate how much of a source, if at all, you consider each of the following to be for obtaining information about the County government and its activities, events and services:

	Major source	Minor source	Not a source
County Meeting online (Zoom or YouTube).....	1	2	3
Local newspapers .....	1	2	3
County website (allegancounty.org) .....	1	2	3
County email notifications .....	1	2	3
Social media (e.g., Facebook, Twitter).....	1	2	3
County communications via U.S. mail.....	1	2	3
Talking with County officials or County staff, or attending public meetings .....	1	2	3
Word of mouth.....	1	2	3

16. If you had a choice, which housing option would you prefer? Then, please tell us which is your current housing situation.

	Strongly prefer	Somewhat prefer	Do not prefer	Current situation
Own a house.....	1	2	3	<input type="radio"/>
Rent a house.....	1	2	3	<input type="radio"/>
Own a condominium .....	1	2	3	<input type="radio"/>
Rent an apartment .....	1	2	3	<input type="radio"/>
Own a mobile home .....	1	2	3	<input type="radio"/>
Rent a mobile home.....	1	2	3	<input type="radio"/>

17. If you had a choice, would you prefer to keep your current housing situation?

- No                       Yes                       Don't know

18. If you were considering a move within Allegan County, how much a barrier, if any, would each of the following be in your decision to move?

	Major barrier	Somewhat of barrier	Not a barrier	N/A
I can't find housing that is affordable in Allegan County .....	1	2	3	4
I can't find housing that is large enough/meets my sizing needs in Allegan County .....	1	2	3	4
Cost of moving (hiring movers, transport, etc.) .....	1	2	3	4
I can't get out of my lease .....	1	2	3	4
I can't sell my house.....	1	2	3	4

19. In general, when considering recycling:

	Very	Somewhat	Not very	Not at all	Don't know
Is recycling and materials management important to you?.....	1	2	3	4	5
Are you satisfied with the recycling services available to you? .....	1	2	3	4	5
How convenient is it for you to dispose of household hazardous waste? .....	1	2	3	4	5
Are you willing to pay more for increased recycling services (e.g., the ability to recycle a wider variety of materials, more frequent pickups, etc.)?.....	1	2	3	4	5

Our last questions are about you and your household.

Again, all of your responses to this survey are confidential and no identifying information will be shared.

D1. In general, how many times do you:

	Several times a day	Once a day	A few times a week	Every few weeks	Less often or never	Don't know
Access the internet from your home using a computer, laptop, or tablet computer .....	1	2	3	4	5	6
Access the internet from your cell phone .....	1	2	3	4	5	6
Visit social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Nextdoor, etc. ....	1	2	3	4	5	6
Use or check email.....	1	2	3	4	5	6
Share your opinions online.....	1	2	3	4	5	6
Shop online .....	1	2	3	4	5	6

**D2. Please rate your overall health.**

- Excellent     Very good     Good     Fair     Poor

**D3. 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 positive     Somewhat positive     Neutral     Somewhat negative     Very negative

**D4. How many years have you lived in Allegan County?**

- Less than 2 years  
 2-5 years  
 6-10 years  
 11-20 years  
 More than 20 years

**D5. Which best describes the building you live in?**

- One family house detached from any other houses  
 Building with two or more homes (duplex, townhome, apartment, or condominium)  
 Mobile home  
 Other

**D6. Do you rent or own your home?**

- Rent  
 Own

**D7. About how much is your monthly housing cost for the place you live (including rent, mortgage payment, property tax, property insurance, and homeowners' association (HOA) fees)?**

- Less than \$500     \$2,000 to \$2,499  
 \$500 to \$999     \$2,500 to \$2,999  
 \$1,000 to \$1,499     \$3,000 to \$3,499  
 \$1,500 to \$1,999     \$3,500 or more

**D8. Please indicate how many people in each age range live in your household**

Number of children age 0-5: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of children age 6-17: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of adults age 18 or over: \_\_\_\_\_

**D9. Are you or any other members of your household aged 65 or older?**

- No     Yes

**D10. How much do you anticipate your household's total income before taxes will be for the current year? (Please include in your total income money from all sources for all persons living in your household.)**

- Less than \$25,000     \$65,000 to \$99,999  
 \$25,000 to \$49,999     \$100,000 to \$149,999  
 \$50,000 to \$64,999     \$150,000 or more

**D11. Are you Spanish, Hispanic or Latino?**

- No, not Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino  
 Yes, I consider myself to be Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino

**D12. What is your race? (Mark one or more races to indicate what race you consider yourself to be.)**

- American Indian or Alaskan Native  
 Asian, Asian Indian, or Pacific Islander  
 Black or African American  
 White  
 Other

**D13. In which category is your age?**

- 18-24 years     55-59 years  
 25-34 years     60-64 years  
 35-44 years     65-74 years  
 45-54 years     75 years or older

**D14. What is your gender?**

- Female  
 Male  
 Identify in another way

**D15. What is your employment status?**

- Working full time for pay  
 Working part time for pay  
 Unemployed, looking for paid work  
 Unemployed, not looking for paid work  
 Fully retired

**D16. Do you work inside the boundaries of Allegan County?**

- Yes, outside the home  
 Yes, from home  
 No

**D17. What is the highest grade of school or year of college that you have completed?**

- Grade school  
 High school degree or GED  
 Some college/Associate's degree  
 Bachelor's degree  
 Post-bachelor's degree/Graduate degree

**Thank you!** Please return the completed survey in the postage-paid envelope to:  
**National Research Center, Inc., PO Box 549, Belle Mead, NJ 08502**



Dear Allegan County Resident,

It won't take much of your time to make a big difference!

Your household has been randomly selected to participate in Allegan County's 2022 Community Survey. You can go online and complete the **confidential survey** at:

**<https://polco.us/xxplaceholder>**

**Please do not share your survey link.** This survey is for randomly selected households only. The County will conduct a separate survey that is open to all residents just a few weeks from now. You can also wait a few days for the survey to arrive in the mail.

If you have any questions about the survey, please call 269-686-5150.

For community updates and additional information, please go to

[www.allegancounty.org/Communitysurvey](http://www.allegancounty.org/Communitysurvey)

Thank you for helping create a better County!

Sincerely,



Jim Storey  
Board Chairperson

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Thank you for helping create a better County!

Sincerely,



Jim Storey  
Board Chairperson



Allegan County Administration  
3283 122nd Ave  
Allegan, MI 49010

Presorted  
First Class Mail  
US Postage  
PAID  
Boulder, CO  
Permit NO. 94



Allegan County Administration  
3283 122nd Ave  
Allegan, MI 49010

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