

MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE FACING CARY

An open-ended question asked respondents what they feel is the most important issue facing the Town of Cary (Appendix J). The responses show that problems related to growth were again perceived as the key issue. This year there were 116 comments concerning controlling growth/overdevelopment. In addition, there was also the growth-related issue of overpopulation with 31 comments. This resulted in 147 total comments directly related to concerns about growth. The key issues besides growth were traffic (75 comments), schools (32 comments), streets/roads (19 comments), crime/safety (18 comments), infrastructure concerns (18 comments) and affordable housing (14 comments). In addition, there were 51 none/no issues/can't think of any issues comments and 12 not sure comments. These responses have a positive component considering that major issues did not come to mind immediately. There were also 10 comments for satisfied with Cary/doing a good job. Finally, it should also be noted there was a somewhat large number of comments (13 total comments) concerning issues with recycling, including seven of them focusing on the need to increase the frequency of recycling collection. Other recycling comments included the need to accept cardboard, adding recycling bins, recycling at apartment complexes and accepting batteries.

For a comparison basis, the most important issues in 2016 were growth issues (126 comments), traffic (64 comments), crime/safety (34 comments), schools (31 comments) and infrastructure concerns (17 comments).

In summary, growth continued to be the most important issue, and it has increased somewhat in importance since 2016. The number of comments rose from 126 to 147. Traffic remained second, but it has also increased in importance as well (64 to 75 comments). Schools now rank third (fourth in 2016) with approximately the same number of comments from 31 to 32. Streets/roads ranked fourth this year. Perhaps the biggest change was the decline for crime/safety moving from third to fifth with the number of comments declining from 34 to 18.

HOW SAFE RESIDENTS FEEL IN CARY

The survey included a set of two questions that examine the respondent's perceptions of safety in Cary overall and around public places in Town. The respondents were first asked how safe they feel in the Town of Cary overall. A 9-point scale that ranged from extremely unsafe (1) to extremely safe (9) was utilized. The results indicate the respondents perceived a very high level of safety in the Town overall (Table 37). The mean was 8.22 with an impressive 97.7% responding on the "safe" side (above 5) of the scale, including 48.6% who answered they felt "extremely safe." There were no responses on the "unsafe" side

of the scale (Figure 9). The mean increased from 8.06 in 2016, and the increase was statistically significant. This is tied for the third highest mean earned to date and this increase breaks a three-year decline for feeling safe in Cary overall.

Figure 9. Safe in Cary Overall

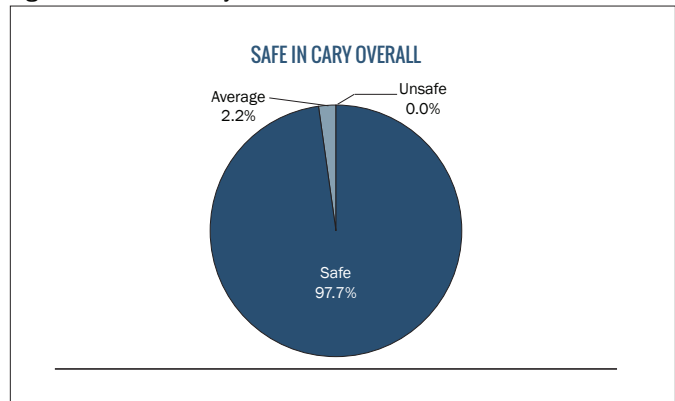


Table 37. How Safe Do You Feel in Cary Overall

YEAR	MEAN	GRADE
18	8.22*	97.7
16	8.06	96.0
14	8.15	96.8
12	8.22	98.7
10	8.29	98.7
08	8.09	98.2
06	8.10	97.5
04	8.23	97.5
02	7.99	94.8
00	7.93	97.5

The respondents were asked about how safe they feel in public places around Cary. This would include such activities as shopping, eating out or going to the movies (Table 38). This year, the mean was 8.19 with 97.8% responding on the "safe" side of the scale, including 48.5% in the "extremely safe" category. There were only 1.0% on the "unsafe" side of the scale (Figure 10). The mean has increased from 7.89 in 2016, and this level of increase was statistically significant. In addition, the mean this year is tied for the highest mean earned for safe in public places.

Figure 10. Safe in Public Places

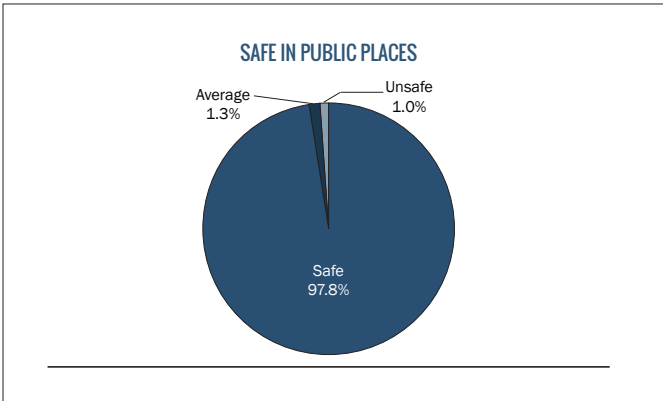


Table 38. How Safe Do You Feel in Public Places Around Cary (Shopping, Out to Eat, Movies)

YEAR	MEAN	GRADE
18	8.19*	97.8
16	7.89	93.5
14	7.87	94.7
12	8.19	99.0
10	8.18	97.3
08	8.04	97.8
06	7.90	96.1

In summary, the respondents felt very safe in Cary overall and in public places around Cary. This coincides with the decline in crime/safety when respondents were asked the most important issue facing Cary. See Appendix B for selected safe in Cary overall and safe in public places around Cary crosstabulations (B285-B298).

Table 37. How Safe Do You Feel in Cary Overall

YEAR	MEAN	EXTREMELY UNSAFE 1	2	3	4	AVERAGE 5	6	7	8	EXTREMELY SAFE 9	GRADE
18	8.22*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.2	3.0	14.2	31.9	48.6	97.7
16	8.06	0.5	0.0	0.3	0.3	3.0	5.0	14.8	31.1	45.1	96.0
14	8.15	0.3	0.0	0.5	0.0	2.5	2.0	12.6	39.2	43.0	96.8
12	8.22	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.8	2.5	15.9	32.7	47.6	98.7
10	8.29	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.2	0.7	12.0	39.4	46.6	98.7
08	8.09	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.2	1.2	1.7	19.5	38.5	38.5	98.2
06	8.10	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	2.0	2.2	17.3	38.6	39.4	97.5
04	8.23	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2	2.0	2.2	12.2	34.0	49.1	97.5
02	7.99	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.0	4.7	2.7	17.0	37.3	37.8	94.8
00	7.93	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.3	2.0	4.0	22.5	39.0	32.0	97.5
98	7.55	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.8	2.5	8.8	30.7	37.5	18.6	95.6

Table 38. How Safe Do You Feel in Public Places Around Cary (Shopping, Out to Eat, Movies)

YEAR	MEAN	EXTREMELY UNSAFE 1	2	3	4	AVERAGE 5	6	7	8	EXTREMELY SAFE 9	GRADE
18	8.19*	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.5	1.3	3.0	15.8	30.5	48.5	97.8
16	7.89	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.3	5.8	6.8	16.4	29.2	41.1	93.5
14	7.87	0.0	0.3	0.5	0.3	4.3	5.3	19.6	34.9	34.9	94.7
12	8.19	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.5	2.5	17.1	34.3	45.1	99.0
10	8.18	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	2.5	1.0	17.0	34.4	44.9	97.3
08	8.04	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.2	1.7	2.2	20.5	38.3	36.8	97.8
06	7.90	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.5	3.0	4.8	21.5	35.5	34.3	96.1