



**Looking Ahead:  
Vermonters' Values and Concerns  
Full Report**

**August 11, 2008**

**Prepared by:**

**Michael Moser  
Jessica Hyman**



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The total number of years respondents reported having lived in Vermont, including all earlier periods, ranged from one to 96 years, with an average of 35 years and a mode of 40 years.

Almost all the respondents (96.5 percent) had graduated high school and 55.3 percent had a Bachelor's or higher degree. However, according to the U.S. Census, 89.8 percent of Vermonters aged 25 and older are high school graduates and 32.4 percent have Bachelor's or higher degree.

Table 1  
*Education level*

	Frequency	Percent
<9th grade	4	.6
9-12 grade (no diploma)	20	2.9
High school graduate (incl. GED)	159	23.1
Some college (no degree)	125	18.1
Associates/technical	91	13.2
Bachelor	143	20.8
Post-graduate/professional	147	21.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>689</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Center for Rural Studies (<http://crs.uvm.edu>) (N=699)  
2008 Council on the Future of Vermont Telephone Survey

The majority of respondents (73.9 percent) had household incomes above the median for Vermont; 26.1 percent of respondents had household incomes equal to or lower than the median household income for Vermont.<sup>2</sup>

Table 2  
*Income*

	Frequency	Percent
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Respondents were spread throughout the state, roughly in line with the population. The percent of respondents from each county was within 2.5 percent of the U.S. Census 2006 population estimates.

Table 3  
*Respondent town of residence by county*

County	Frequency	Percent	Percent of Vermont population <sup>3</sup>
Addison	58	8.4	5.9
Bennington	30	4.3	5.9
Caledonia	27	3.9	4.9
Chittenden	155	22.5	24.1
Essex	8	1.2	1.1
Franklin	48	7.0	7.7
Grand Isle	10	1.4	1.2
Lamoille	25	3.6	3.9
Orange	48	7.0	4.7
Orleans	39	5.7	4.4
Rutland	67	9.7	10.2
Washington	73	10.6	9.6
Windham	39	5.7	7.0
Windsor	63	9.1	9.2
Total	690	100.0	100.0

Source: Center for Rural Studies (<http://crs.uvm.edu>)  
2008 Council on the Future of Vermont Telephone Survey

(N=699)

<sup>3</sup> Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 population estimate









Tables 9 to 20 show the total responses for each statement.

Table 9

*I value Vermont's spirit of independence.*

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly agree	442	63.6
Agree	205	29.5
Neutral	31	4.5
Disagree	14	2.0
Strongly disagree	3	.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>695</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Center for Rural Studies (<http://crs.uvm.edu>) (N=699)  
2008 Council on the Future of Vermont Telephone Survey

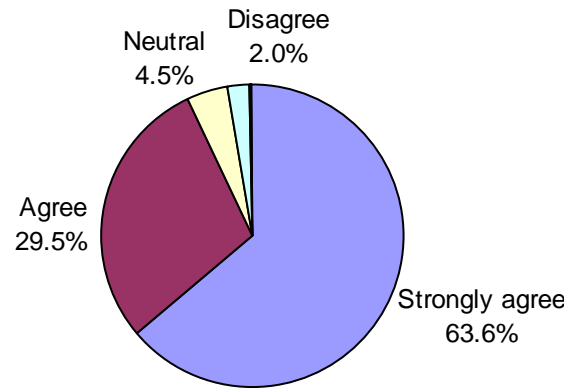


Table 10

*I am proud of being from or living in Vermont.*

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly agree	434	62.4
Agree	217	31.2
Neutral	27	3.9
Disagree	15	2.2
Strongly disagree	3	.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>696</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Center for Rural Studies (<http://crs.uvm.edu>) (N=699)  
2008 Council on the Future of Vermont Telephone Survey

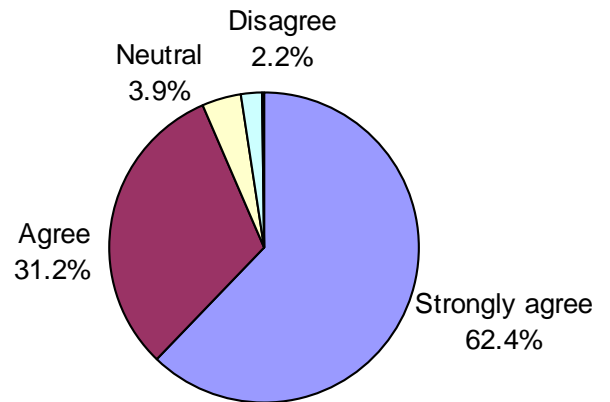
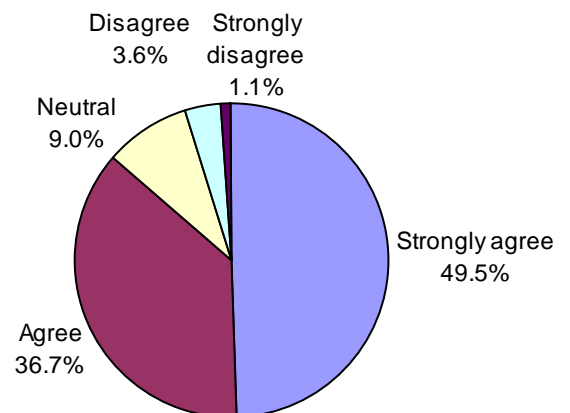


Table 11

*I trust my neighbors.*

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly agree	345	49.5
Agree	256	36.7
Neutral	63	9.0
Disagree	25	3.6
Strongly disagree	8	1.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>697</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Center for Rural Studies (<http://crs.uvm.edu>) (N=699)  
2008 Council on the Future of Vermont Telephone Survey



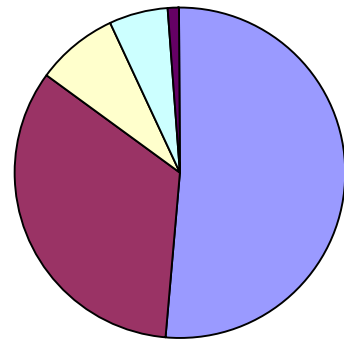


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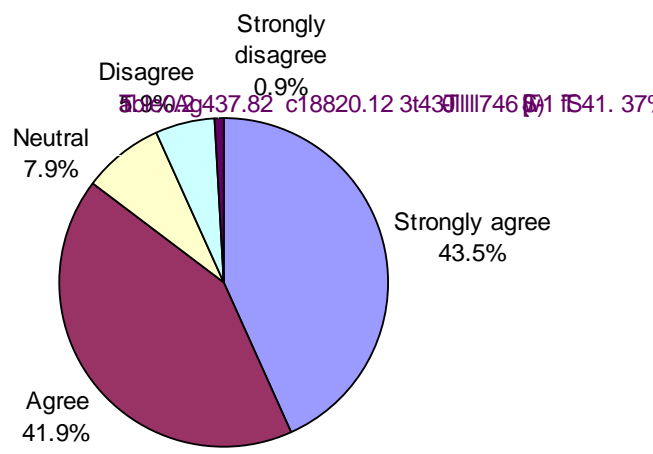
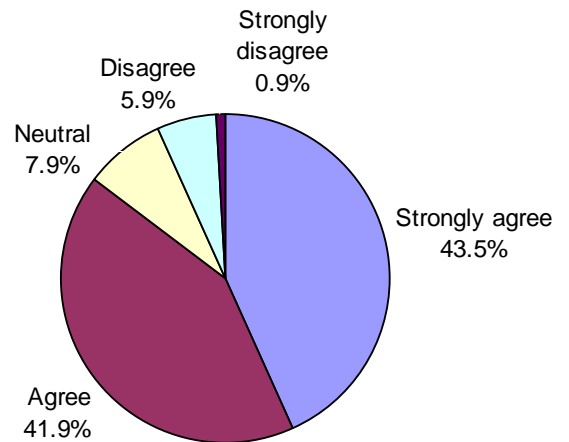
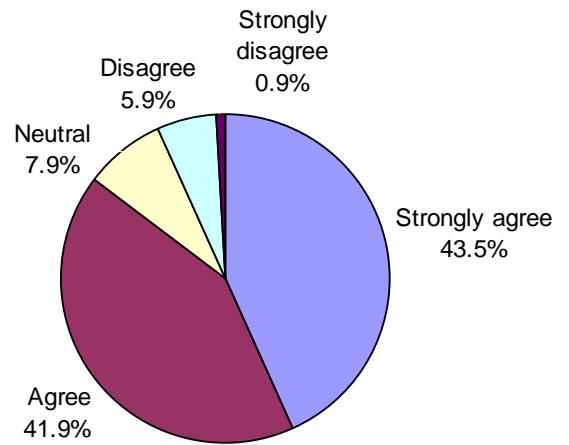
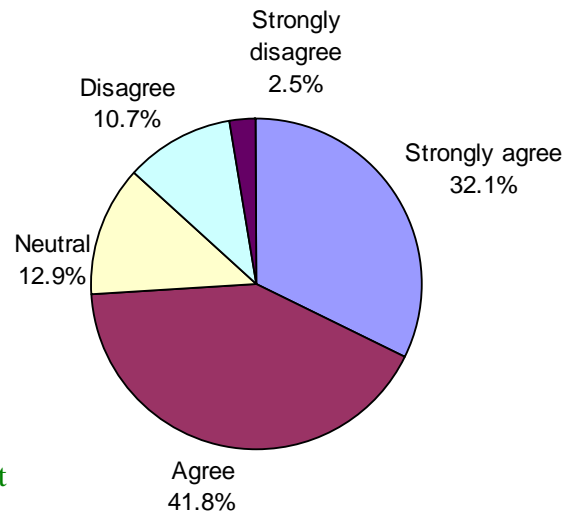




Table 18  
*I value the accessibility of government in Vermont.*

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly agree	222	32.1
Agree	289	41.8
Neutral	89	12.9
Disagree	74	10.7
Strongly disagree	17	2.5
Total	691	100.0



## Challenges

For the next 24 questions, respondents were presented with a range of some of the challenges that Vermonters identified at the Council on the Future of Vermont’s community forums and asked to state their level of concern about them. Respondents were prompted to answer from among the following categories: “Very Concerned”, “Moderately Concerned”, “Neutral”, “Slightly Concerned” and “Not at all Concerned.”

The challenge that generated the highest percentage of “very concerned” responses was “The increasing costs of living, such as transportation, heating and electricity” (82%). The highest percentage of “moderately concerned” responses came from “A shortage of affordable housing” (39.1%), the highest percentage of “slightly concerned” responses came from “An increase in the average age of the Vermont population” (26.9%) and the highest percentage of “not at all concerned” responses came from “The level of engagement of Vermonters in their local government” (32%). See Tables 21 through 24 for the challenges that received the top five percentages for each level of concern.

Table 21  
*Highest percentage of “very concerned” responses*

Statement	Percent
The increasing costs of living, such as transportation, heating and electricity	82.0
The health and viability of Vermont farms and the agricultural sector	69.4
The tax rate in Vermont	62.9
An increasing gap between high-income and low-income populations	58.9
The future of Vermont’s renewable and alternative energy infrastructure	56.7

Source: Center for Rural Studies (<http://crs.uvm.edu>) 2008 Council on the Future of Vermont Telephone Survey (N=699)

Table 22  
*Highest percentage of “moderately concerned” responses*

Statement	Percent
A shortage of available housing	39.1
The state’s existing public infrastructure and its future maintenance	31.8
The level of engagement of Vermonters in their local communities	31.1
The quality of education	30.8
The maintenance of healthy downtowns and village centers in Vermont	29.9

Source: Center for Rural Studies (<http://crs.uvm.edu>) 2008 Council on the Future of Vermont Telephone Survey (N=699)

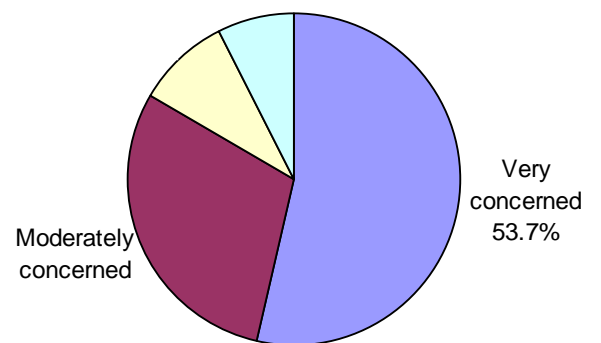




Table 26  
*A shortage of available housing.*

	Frequency	Percent
Very concerned	208	30.8
Moderately concerned	264	39.1
Slightly concerned	113	16.7
Not at all concerned	90	13.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>675</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Center for Rural Studies (<http://crs.uvm.edu>) (N=699)  
 2008 Council on the Future of Vermont Telephone Survey

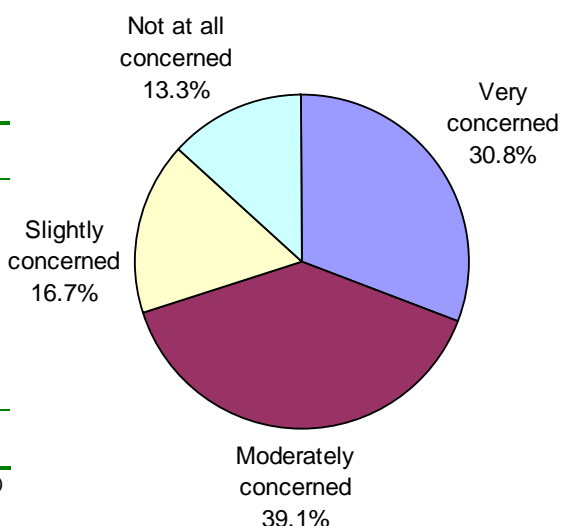


Table 27  
*The accessibility of health care.*

	Frequency	Percent
Very concerned	379	55.2
Moderately concerned	169	24.6
Slightly concerned	63	9.2
Not at all concerned	76	11.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>687</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Center for Rural Studies (<http://crs.uvm.edu>) (N=699)  
 2008 Council on the Future of Vermont Telephone Survey

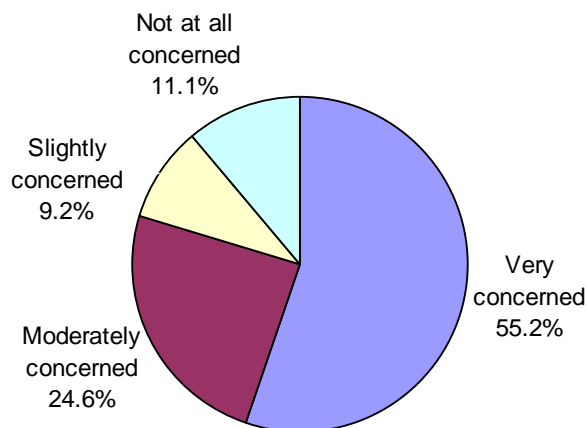
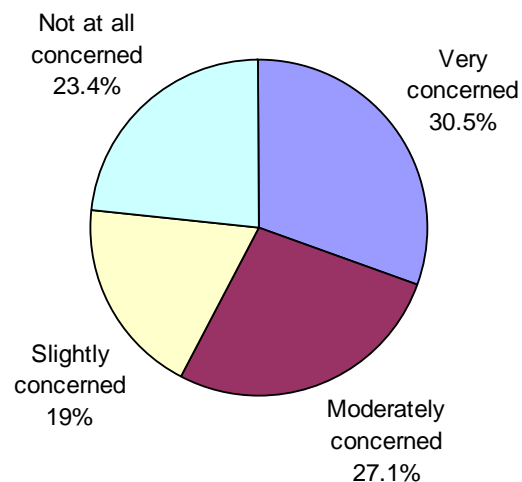


Table 28  
*The quality of health care.*

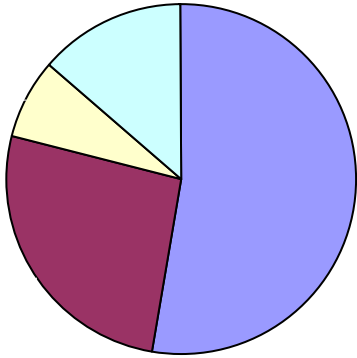
	Frequency	Percent
Very concerned	210	30.5
Moderately concerned	187	27.1
Slightly concerned	131	19.0
Not at all concerned	161	23.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>689</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Center for Rural Studies (<http://crs.uvm.edu>) (N=699)  
 2008 Council on the Future of Vermont Telephone Survey











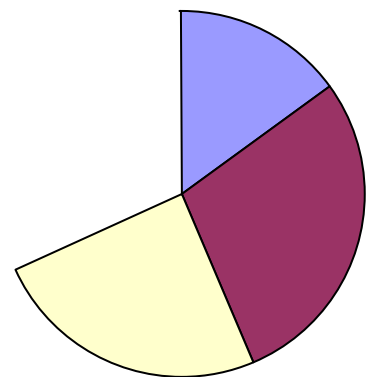
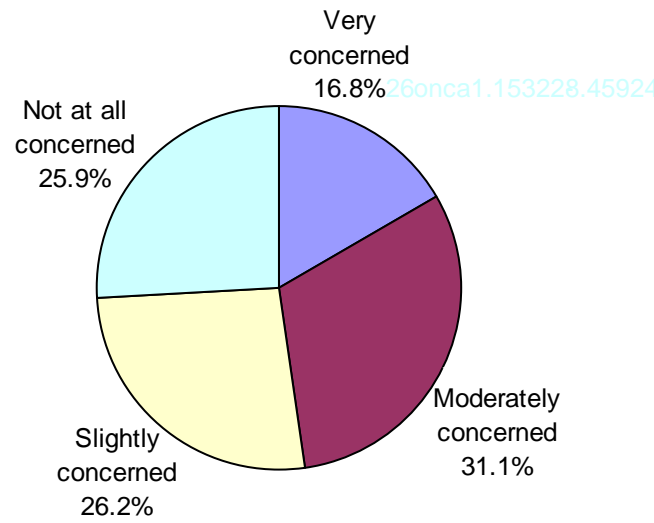
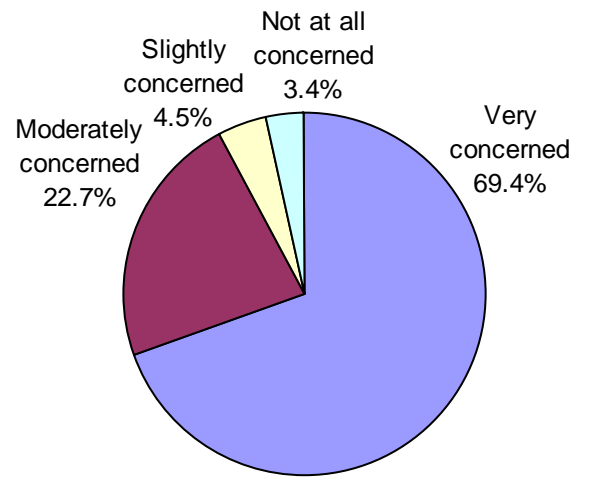


Table 44  
*The tax rate in Vermont.*

	Frequency	Percent
Very concerned	427	62.9
Moderately concerned	151	22.2
Slightly concerned	62	9.1
Not at all concerned	39	5.7
Total	679	100.0

Source: Center for Rural Studies (<http://crs.uvm.edu>) (N  
 2008 Council on the Future of Vermont Telephone Survey

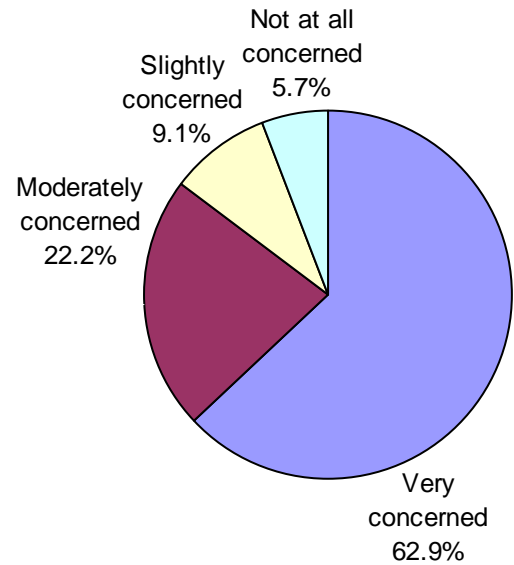


Table 45  
*The state's existing public infrastructure and its future maintenance.*

	Frequency	Percent
Very concerned	353	51.8
Moderately concerned	217	31.8
Slightly concerned	77	11.3
Not at all concerned	35	5.1
Total	682	100.0

Source: Center for Rural Studies (<http://crs.uvm.edu>) (N  
 2008 Council on the Future of Vermont Telephone Survey

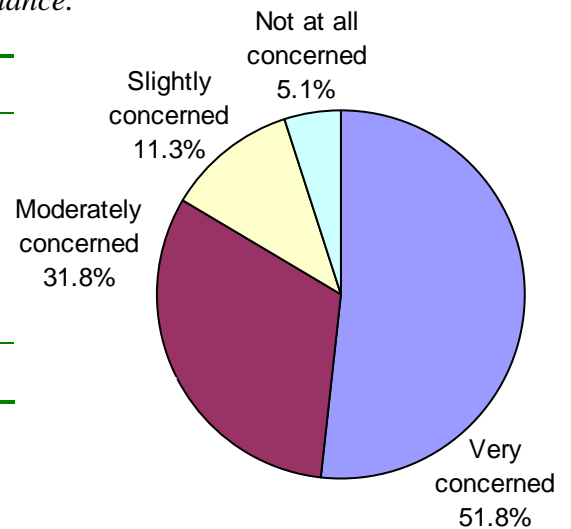
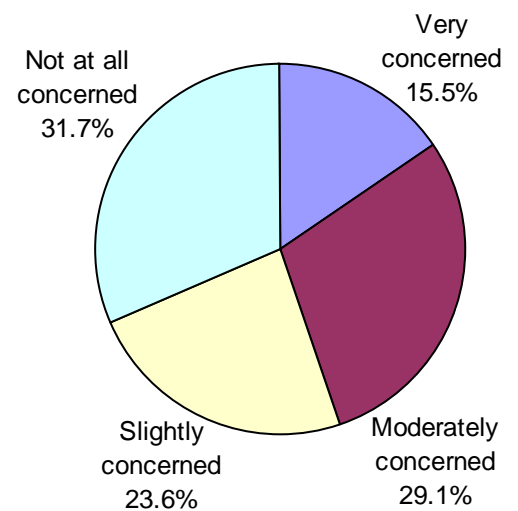
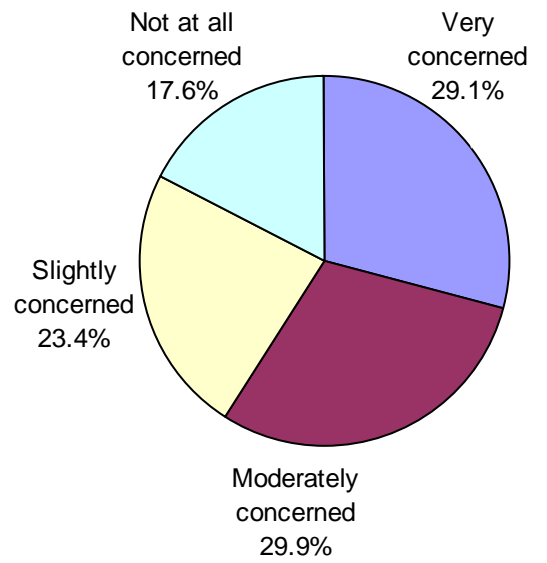
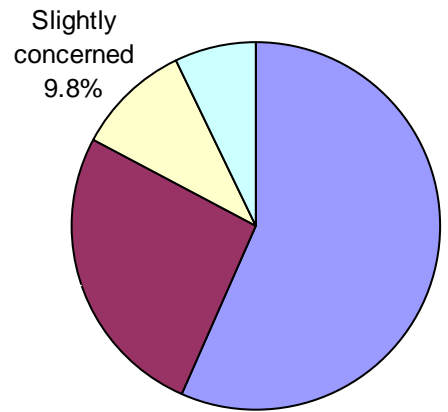


Table 46  
*Public safety in Vermont.*

	Frequency	Percent
Very concerned	107	15.5
Moderately concerned	201	29.1
Slightly concerned	163	23.6
Not at all concerned	219	31.7
Total	690	100.0

Source: Center for Rural Studies (<http://crs.uvm.edu>) (N  
 2008 Council on the Future of Vermont Telephone Survey









**Level of engagement in local government:** Respondents aged 18-24 and those older than 75 were more likely to be concerned than the 25-74-year-olds.





Table 53

*Tolerant of diverse lifestyles by Years lived in Vermont*

The number of respondents who disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement “I aatemen

Table 56

Table 59

*Value participatory government by Age*

Respondents aged 18 to 24 years old were more likely (94.1%) than all other age categories to agree or strongly agree with the statement “I value the participatory government in Vermont.” The over 75 age category followed 18-24 year-olds with 92.4%. (P=0.025).

			Age categories					Total
			18-24	25-44	45-59	60-74	>75	
Value participatory government	Agree	Count	16	103	198	174	73	564
		Percent	94.1%	81.1%	79.2%	84.5%	92.4%	83.1%
	Neutral	Count	1	21	30	20	4	76
		Percent	5.9%	16.5%	12.0%	9.7%	5.1%	11.2%
	Disagree	Count	0	3	22	12	2	39
		Percent	0.0%	2.4%	8.8%	5.8%	2.5%	5.7%
Total		Count	17	127	250	206	79	679
		Percent	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 60

*Value participatory government by Education level*

Table 62

*Value accessibility of government by Age*

The older the respondent, the more likely he/she was to value the accessibility of government in Vermont (P=0.004).

			Age					Total
			18-24	25-44	45-59	60-74	>75	
Value accessibility of government	Agree	Count	11	87	180	156	68	502
		Percent	64.7%	68.5%	72.3%	75.4%	86.1%	73.9%
	Neutral	Count	5	26	31	24	1	87
		Percent	29.4%	20.5%	12.4%	11.6%	1.3%	12.8%
	Disagree	Count	1	14	38	27	10	90
		Percent						



Table 65

*Value accessibility of government by Income*

Respondents at or below median income were more likely than those above median income to value the accessibility of government in Vermont (P=0.109).

			Below and above median income		Total
			At or below median income	Above median income	
Value accessibility of government	Agree	Count	134	342	476
		Percent	79.8%	72.0%	74.0%
	Neutral	Count	19	64	83
		Percent	11.3%	13.5%	12.9%
	Disagree	Count	15	69	84
		Percent	8.9%	14.5%	13.1%
Total		Count	168	475	643
		Percent	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

**Concerns**

The following crosstabulations of concerns and demographics were found to be statistically significant:

- Accessibility of healthcare by Age
- Quality of health care by Gender
- Development of adequate workforce by Age
- Increasing costs of living by Education
- The way Vermont finances public education by Gender
- Pressure to convert open lands by Education
- Changes in the earth's climate by Age
- Changes in the earth's climate by Education
- Increasing price of land by Age
- Increase in average age of population by Age
- Increase in average age of population by Gender
- Increase in average age of population by Education
- Limited availability of high-speed internet and wireless telecommunications by Age
- Limited availability of high speed internet and wireless telecommunications by Gender
- Limited availability of high speed internet and wireless telecommunications by Education
- Limited availability of high-speed internet and wireless telecommunications by Years lived in Vermont
- Level of engagement in local government by Gender
- Tax rate by Education
- Tax rate by Years lived in Vermont
- Public infrastructure and its future maintenance by Gender
- Public safety by Education
- Public safety by Years lived in Vermont
- Maintenance of healthy downtowns and village centers by Gender
- Maintenance of healthy downtowns and village centers by Years lived in Vermont

Table 66

*Accessibility of healthcare by Age*

Respondents aged 25-44 were most concerned about the accessibility of health care and respondents over the age of 75 were least concerned (P=0.014).

		Age					
		18-24	25-44	45-59	60-74	>75	

Table 69

*Increasing costs of living by Education*

Respondents without high school diplomas were slightly less concerned about the increased cost of living than those with high school di

Table 72

*Changes in the earth's climate by Age*

Respondents in the 18-24 and 45-59 age ranges were the most concerned about changes in the earth's climate and their potential impacts on the Vermont landscape and seasons. Those older than 75 were the least concerned (P=0.057).

			Age categories					Total
			18-24	25-44	45-59	60-74	>75	
Changes in the	Moderately to very concerned	Count	14	99	211	157	56	537
		Percent	82.4%	77.3%	84.7%	76.6%	70.9%	79.2%
		Count	3	29	38	48	23	141

Table 75

*Increase in average age of population by Age*

Respondents aged 18-24 were less concerned about the increase in the average age of the population than their older counterparts. Generally, the older a respondent was, the more likely he/she was to be concerned (P=0.095).

			Age categories					Total
			18-24	25-44	45-59	60-74	>75	
Increase in average age of population	Moderately to very concerned	Count	4	49	115	103	39	310
		Percent	23.5%	38.9%	46.6%	50.2%	49.4%	46.0%
	Slightly to not at all concerned	Count	13	77	132	102	40	364
		Percent	76.5%	61.1%	53.4%	49.8%	50.6%	54.0%
Total		Count	17	126	247	205	79	674
		Percent	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 76

*Increase in average age of population by Gender*

Women were slightly more concerned than men about the average age of the population (P=0.031).

			Gender		Total
			Male	Female	
Increase in average age of population	Moderately to very concerned	Count	135	175	310
		Percent	41.4%	49.9%	45.8%
	Slightly to not at all concerned	Count	191	176	367
		Percent	58.6%	50.1%	54.2%
Total		Count	326	351	677
		Percent	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 77

*Increase in average age of population by Education*

Table 78

*Limited availability of high-speed Internet and wireless telecommunications by Age*

Respondents at the higher (<75) and lower (18-24) ranges of the age spectrum were less concerned about the limited availability of high-speed Internet and wireless telecommunications than those aged 25-74 (P=0.003).

			Age					Total
			18-24	25-44	45-59	60-74	>75	
Limited availability of high speed internet and wireless telecommunications	Moderately to very concerned	Count	6	79	136	133	32	386
		Percent	35.3%	61.2%	54.6%	64.3%	42.1%	56.9%
	Slightly to not at all concerned	Count	11	50	113	74	44	292
		Percent	64.7%	38.8%	45.4%	35.7%	57.9%	43.1%
Total		Count	17	129	249	207	76	678
		Percent	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 79

*Limited availability of high speed Internet and wireless telecommunications by Gender*

Men were slightly more concerned about the limited availability of high-speed Internet and wireless telecommunications than women (P=0.072).

			Gender		Total
			Male	Female	
Limited availability of high speed internet and wireless telecommunications	Moderately to very concerned	Count	200	190	390
		Percent	60.8%	54.0%	57.3%
	Slightly to not at all concerned	Count	129	162	291
		Percent	39.2%	46.0%	42.7%

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Table 84

*Tax rate by Years lived in Vermont*

Respondents who had lived in Vermont for more than 21 years were most concerned about the tax rate (P=0.001).

			Years lived in Vermont					Total
			<2 years	2-5 years	6-10 years	11-20 years	>21 years	
Tax rate	Moderately to very concerned	Count	3	23	41	67	437	571
		Percent	50.0%	82.1%	85.4%	73.6%	87.9%	85.2%
	Slightly to not at all concerned	Count	3	5	7	24	60	99
		Percent	50.0%	17.9%	14.6%	26.4%	12.1%	14.8%
Total		Count	6	28	48	91	497	670
		Percent	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 85

*Public infrastructure and its future maintenance by Gender*

Men were more concerned about the state’s public infrastructure and its future maintenance than women (P=0.022).

			Gender		Total
			Male	Female	
Public infrastructure and its future maintenance	Moderately to very concerned	Count	287	280	567
		Percent	87.0%	80.5%	83.6%
	Slightly to not at all concerned	Count	43	68	111
		Percent	13.0%	19.5%	16.4%
Total		Count	330	348	678
		Percent	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 86

*Public safety by Education*

The lower a respondent’s level of education, the more likely he/she was to be concerned about public safety in Vermont (P=0.004).

			Education level			Total
			No high school diploma	High school grad, some college	Degree	
Moderately to very concerned	Count	13	145	148	306	
	Percent	4.2%	47.4%	48.4%	100.0%	





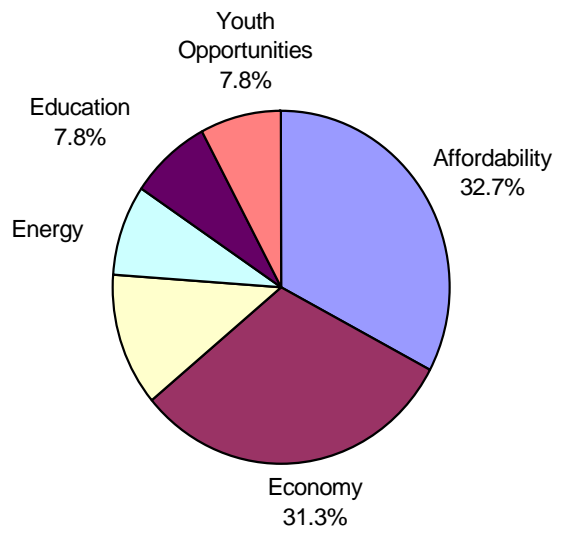


Table 90

What do you see as the most important goal for Vermont in the next generation?

Top Six Response Categories		Frequency	Percent within Category	Percent within all Responses
<b>Total Affordability</b>		<b>164</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>32.7</b>
	Affordable/Accessible Healthcare	47	28.7	9.4
	Lower/Change Taxes	31	18.9	6.2
	Cost of Living	30	18.3	6.0
	Affordable/Accessible Education	27	16.5	5.4
	Livable Wage	15	9.1	3.0
	Affordable Housing/Land	14	8.5	2.8
<b>Total Economy</b>		<b>157</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>31.3</b>
	Attract Businesses and Jobs	80	51.0	16.0
	Create Jobs for Youth	38	24.2	7.6
	Be Business Friendly/Less Restrictions	19	12.1	3.8
	Green Economy/Industry	10	6.4	2.0
	Economy/Stability	10	6.4	2.0
<b>Total Environment</b>		<b>60</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>12.0</b>
	Environment	21	35.0	4.2
	(Maintain) Rural Character	13	21.7	2.6
	Smart Growth/Control Sprawl	11	18.3	2.2
	Open Space/Recreation	6	10.0	1.2
	Reduce Pollution	5	8.3	1.0
	Land Conservation	4	6.7	0.8
<b>Total Energy</b>		<b>42</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>8.4</b>
	Develop Alternative/Renewable Energy	29	69.0	5.8
	Increase Efficiency/Lower Consumption	6	14.3	1.2
	Independence	4	9.5	0.8
	Energy	3	7.1	0.6
<b>Total Education</b>		<b>39</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>7.8</b>
	Increase the Quality of Education	34	87.2	6.8
	Increase Education Funding	5	12.8	1.0
<b>Total Youth Opportunities*</b>		<b>39</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>7.8</b>
	Youth Opportunities	39	100.0	7.8
<b>Total for all Responses</b>		<b>501</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Center for Rural Studies (<http://crs.uvm.edu>) 2008 Council on the Future of Vermont Telephone Survey (N=699)

\*Youth Opportunities does not include job opportunities for youth as a response. This response is included under economy.

About a third (32.7%) of respondents specifically referred to topics of affordability as the most important goals for Vermont in the next generation. Among these, affordable healthcare ranked highest beating out lower/change taxes. Nearly an additional third (31.3%) of respondents listed topics relating

Table 91

What would be the first step in achieving that goal?

Top Six Response Categories		Frequency	Percent within Category	Percent within all Responses
<b>Total Business and Jobs</b>			<b>100.0</b>	<b>30.5</b>
	Become more business friendly, remove business constraints	85	66.4	20.2
	Increase the number of well-paid jobs	36	28.1	8.6

Increase small businesfl.t 2.8 refG.t ortul.t ities



10,000 rock ribbed, square miles, 45<sup>th</sup> of 50 states<sup>11</sup>). Here too, action compensates for size. Our citizenry routinely self-govern and vote in numbers which rank us among the highest performing populations of all the states. Local community participation is the venue of preference for both action and local allegiance. The 246 towns and cities each self-govern, mirroring national processes with judicial (Board of Civil Authority), legislative (town meeting) and administrative (selectboard and mayor or town managers) branches, complimented, in most places, by planning commissions and natural resource committees. The primacy of place – an allegiance to town of residence – is reflected in the value placed on community by Council on the Future study participants.

This Council on the Future of Vermont survey shows that Vermonters place a great deal of value on the working landscape, independence and community. However, these respondents are clearly aware of a number of forces that lie beyond local control. The results from this survey seem to reflect looming external factors include climate change and the price and availability of critical resources. Affordability and economy together made up nearly 60 percent of the responses to the open-ended questions in the telephone poll. It also seems that the very values that respondents hold may be the source of the challenges they see in the future.

These challenges (affordability and economy) have been identified by respondents in Vermonter Poll results over the past decade. Each year, one of the questions on the Vermonter Poll is “What do you feel is the most important problem facing Vermont in the coming decade?” Table 19 also shows that in 2008, the economy, healthcare, employment, taxes and affordability were the top five issues.

Table 19  
*Top five most important problems facing Vermont in the coming decade, 2004-2008*

<b>Rank</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>
<b>1</b>	Jobs	Health care	Health care	Health care	Economy
<b>2</b>	Health care	Jobs	Jobs	Jobs	Health care
<b>3</b>	Environment	Development/ sprawl	Government/ politics	General taxes	Jobs
<b>4</b>	Economy/ economic development	Taxes	Economy/ economic development	Property taxes	Taxes
<b>5</b>	Development/ sprawl	Economy/ economic development	Development/ sprawl	Education	Affordability

Source: Center for Rural Studies (<http://crs.uvm.edu>)

The concern for affordability and the economy reflected by two thirds of the Council on the Future of Vermont is consistent with the findings of the 2008 survey. In addition to the most dramatic demographic change afoot in Vermont as those changes in the so-called “dependent population” – those too young and too old

proportion of our population and in absolute numbers. It would appear that this message has resonated with participants in the Council on the Future of Vermont and is reflected in concerns for affordability, as well as employment opportunities.

Demographic trends have significant ramifications for all services, especially health care, issues of infrastructure such as transportation and housing, and audiences for both formal and informal education. Although the younger age cohort (those under 18) will grow over time in absolute numbers by 2030, there will be 15,000 fewer under 18 in 2010 than in 2000; a loss of just over 10 percent. These trends portend significant changes in the coming decade. By 2030, for example the median age of Vermonters (44) is expected to exceed the national median age by some 5 years.<sup>13</sup> Consensus regarding the full implications of these demographic changes has not been found yet across the state. Debate has focused, for example, on the implications for housing, health costs, transportation and the quality, availability and quantity of work for youth as well as elders.<sup>14</sup> While respondents to the Council for the Future of Vermont survey were not overly concerned with population growth and dynamics, they identified youth activities, job opportunities and retention of youth as a great concern for the future.

In terms of those economic issues best measured by income or wages, a persistent concern for Vermonters has been income levels. Household income level in Vermont has traditionally trailed U.S. and regional averages. This gap has steadily closed over the decades, moving Vermont from one of the very poorest rural states toward the middle.<sup>15</sup> To a degree, a legacy of isolation and frugality (“the use it up, wear it out” mentality) underpins our celebration of independence and self-sufficiency. Baring major national economic collapse, incomes are anticipated to continue a slow but steady increase here.<sup>16</sup> Of great concern, however, are the large number of households with incomes under \$35,000 and especially those headed by elders<sup>17</sup>. Declining household size is expected to level off at approximately 2.3 inhabitants, small compared to other states and with implications for both housing and transportation.<sup>18</sup>

In addition to demographic shifts and the slow growth of household income, yet another force in Vermont may help us to understand respondents marked concern for affordability and its counterpart, economic opportunity. As the state has grown, so too has the population spread evenly throughout our cherished 246 towns and cities. The communities of the Lake Champlain basin have witnessed the most dramatic growth, but this has been followed in the Connecticut River Valley, central Vermont and Rutland County. In similar fashion, southern Vermont, anchored east by Brattleboro and west by Bennington, has grown slowly but surely. Between 1960 and 2000 it was rare to have more than a dozen (5%) of our 246 towns experience actual decline<sup>19</sup>. The urban areas have been stable (occasional small declines), with growth most dramatic in the towns adjacent to urban population hubs.<sup>20</sup> However, as Vermont's population continues to disperse geographically, commuting has increased between both towns and counties and Vermonters are spending more time driving to and from work. More than 3 in 4

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<sup>13</sup> 2007 VTrans, Long Term Business Plan, Working Paper 4.

<sup>14</sup> See for example, Vermont Housing Finance Agency, “Housing and the Needs of Vermont’s Aging Population, Summer, 2007; Wolf, Art and Richard Heaps, Northern Economic Consulting,

Vermont towns have a net export of day workers in recent decades, a pattern likely to fall in the face of rising fuel prices.<sup>21</sup>

Polling results reflecting Vermonters' concerns for affordability and economic opportunity may be in direct response to the current fuel situation and to the trend of residents moving into that cherished landscape which Vermonters value for its own sake. The expression of concern from an active citizenry around the cost of services, of transportation or of energy reflect the strong ties to communities of residence, a pride in living here and a valued working landscape in a time when outside forces are putting pressure on their preferred way of life.

The summary and complete results of this survey, as well as the notes from public forums, are available online at the Council on the Future of Vermont's website: [www.futureofvermont.org](http://www.futureofvermont.org).

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<sup>21</sup> 2007 VTrans, Long Term Business Plan, Working Paper 4



## **Appendix 1: Full Telephone Survey**

Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I'm calling from the Center for Rural Studies at the University of Vermont on behalf of the Council on the Future of Vermont. The council is hosting conversations across the state to ask Vermonters about challenges



Q: q10 \*\*\*\*\*

I value the participatory government in Vermont.

- 1.Strongly Agree
- 2.Agree
- 3.Neutral
- 4.Disagree
- 5.Strongly Disagree
- 6.Don't know [DO NOT READ]
- 7.Refused [DO NOT READ]

Q: q11 \*\*\*\*\*

I value the accessibility of government in Vermont.

- 1.Strongly Agree
- 2.Agree
- 3.Neutral
- 4.Disagree
- 5.Strongly Disagree
- 6.Don't know [DO NOT READ]
- 7.Refused [DO NOT READ]

Q: q12 \*\*\*\*\*

I value the small size and scale of the state.

- 1.Strongly Agree
- 2.Agree
- 3.Neutral
- 4.Disagree
- 5.Strongly Disagree
- 6.Don't know [DO NOT READ]
- 7.Refused [DO NOT READ]

Q: q13 \*\*\*\*\*

I believe that private property rights are well respected in Vermont.

- 1.Strongly Agree
- 2.Agree
- 3.Neutral
- 4.Disagree
- 5.Strongly Disagree
- 6.Don't know [DO NOT READ]
- 7.Refused [DO NOT READ]

Q: q14 \*\*\*\*\*

During our conversations around the state,oo1 s410.2((u)2(n4.2(nv)-4-4(e2( th4.2(a3( conv) res) idconv)n.9( )12 035902 497 TD-0.0014 T



- 5. Don't know [DO NOT READ]
- 6. Refused [DO NOT READ]

Q: q20 \*\*\*\*\*

[READ ONLY IF NEEDED FOR PROMPT]

State your level of concern, from very concerned to not at all concerned, about:

The increasing costs of living, such as transportation, heating and electricity.

- 1. Very concerned
- 2. Moderately concerned
- 3. Slightly concerned
- 4. Not at all concerned
- 5. Don't know [DO NOT READ]
- 6. Refused [DO NOT READ]

Q: q21 \*\*\*\*\*

[READ ONLY IF NEEDED FOR PROMPT]

State your level of concern, from very concerned to not at all concerned, about:

The quality of education.

- 1. Very concerned
- 2. Moderately concerned
- 3. Slightly concerned
- 4. Not at all concerned
- 5. Don't know [DO NOT READ]
- 6. Refused [DO NOT READ]

Q: q22 \*\*\*\*\*

[READ ONLY IF NEEDED FOR PROMPT]

State your level of concern, from very concerned to not at all concerned, about:

The way Vermont finances public education.

- 1. Very concerned
- 2. Moderately concerned
- 3. Slightly concerned
- 4. Not at all concerned
- 5. Don't know [DO NOT READ]
- 6. Refused [DO NOT READ]

Q: q23 \*\*\*\*\*

[READ ONLY IF NEEDED FOR PROMPT]

State your level of concern, from very concerned to not at all concerned, about:

Pressure to convert open lands to residential, commercial, or other development.

- 1. Very concerned
- 2. Moderately concerned
- 3. Slightly concerned
- 4. Not at all concerned
- 5. Don't know [DO NOT READ]
- 6. Refused [DO NOT READ]

Q: q24 \*\*\*\*\*

[READ ONLY IF NEEDED FOR PROMPT]

State your level of concern, from very concerned to not at all concerned, about:

The changes in the earth's climate and their potential impacts on the Vermont landscape and seasons.



State your level of concern, from very concerned to not at all concerned, about:

An increasing gap between high-income and low-income populations.

- 1. Very concerned
- 2. Moderately concerned
- 3. Slightly concerned
- 4. Not at all concerned
- 5. Don't know [DO NOT READ]
- 6. Refused [DO NOT READ]

Q: q30 \*\*\*\*\*

[READ ONLY IF NEEDED FOR PROMPT]

State your level of concern, from very concerned to not at all concerned, about:

The health and viability of Vermont farms and the agricultural sector.

- 1. Very concerned
- 2. Moderately concerned
- 3. Slightly concerned
- 4. Not at all concerned
- 5. Don't know [DO NOT READ]
- 6. Refused [DO NOT READ]

Q: q31 \*\*\*\*\*

[READ ONLY IF NEEDED FOR PROMPT]

State your level of concern, from very concerned to not at all concerned, about:

The level of engagement of Vermonters in their local communities.

- 1. Very concerned
- 2. Moderately concerned
- 3. Slightly concerned
- 4. Not at all concerned
- 5. Don't know [DO NOT READ]
- 6. Refused [DO NOT READ]

Q: q32 \*\*\*\*\*

[READ ONLY IF NEEDED FOR PROMPT]

State your level of concern, from very concerned to not at all concerned, about:

The level of engagement of Vermonters in their local governments.

- 1. Very concerned
- 2. Moderately concerned
- 3. Slightly concerned
- 4. Not at all concerned
- 5. Don't know [DO NOT READ]
- 6. Refused [DO NOT READ]

Q: q33 \*\*\*\*\*

[READ ONLY IF NEEDED FOR PROMPT]

State your level of concern, from very concerned to not at all concerned, about:

The tax rate in Vermont.

- 1. Very concerned
- 2. Moderately concerned
- 3. Slightly concerned
- 4. Not at all concerned
- 5. Don't know [DO NOT READ]

6.Refused [DO NOT READ]

Q: q34 \*\*\*\*\*

[READ ONLY IF NEEDED FOR PROMPT]

State your level of concern, from very concerned to not at all concerned, about:

The state's existing public infrastructure and its future maintenance.

[READ FOR CLARIFICATION, IF NEEDED: For example, sewer, water, bridges, roads, transportation, etc.]

- 1.Very concerned
- 2.Moderately concerned
- 3.Slightly concerned
- 4.Not at all concerned
- 5.Don't know [DO NOT READ]
- 6.Refused [DO NOT READ]

Q: q35 \*\*\*\*\*

[READ ONLY IF NEEDED FOR PROMPT]

State your level of concern, from very concerned to not at all concerned, about:

Public safety in Vermont.

- 1.Very concerned
- 2.Moderately concerned
- 3.Slightly concerned
- 4.Not at all concerned
- 5.Don't know [DO NOT READ]
- 6.Refused [DO NOT READ]

Q: q36 \*\*\*\*\*

[READ ONLY IF NEEDED FOR PROMPT]

State your level of concern, from very concerned to not at all concerned, about:

The future of Vermont's renewable and alternative energy infrastructure.

[READ FOR CLARIFICATION, IF NEEDED: For example, water, wind, biomass]

- 1.Very concerned
- 2.Moderately concerned
- 3.Slightly concerned
- 4.Not at all concerned
- 5.Don't know [DO NOT READ]
- 6.Refused [DO NOT READ]

Q: q37 \*\*\*\*\*

[READ ONLY IF NEEDED FOR PROMPT]

State your level of concern, from very concerned to not at all concerned, about:

The maintenance of healthy downtowns and village centers in Vermont.

- 1.Very concerned
- 2.Moderately concerned
- 3.Slightly concerned
- 4.Not at all concerned
- 5.Don't know [DO NOT READ]
- 6.Refused [DO NOT READ]

Q: q38 \*\*\*\*\*

What do you see as the most important goal for Vermont in the next generation?

Q: q39 \*\*\*\*\*

What would be the first step in achieving that goal?



