



**Town Council
Special Meeting**
September 17, 2026, 8:00 AM
Council Chambers, La Plata Town Hall
305 Queen Anne St.
La Plata MD

Agenda

1. Call to Order
 - 1.1. Roll Call
 - 1.2. Pledge of Allegiance
 - 1.3. Approval of the Meeting Agenda
2. Zelos Facilitated Agenda
 - 2.1.
 - Welcome, opening remarks, icebreaker
 - Session purpose and agenda review
 - Retreat agreements
 - 2.2.
 - Review the Zelos strategic planning model and evaluation questions
 - Review La Plata's current strategic framework
 - 2.3.
 - Review and discuss results from community survey
 - Town Manager and Assistant Town Manager share operational priorities
 - 2.4.
 - Group visioning activity
 - 2.5.
 - Break
 - 2.6.
 - Review and update strategic goals and brainstorm outcome measures

2.7.

- Create objectives

2.8.

- Review, discuss, and add to list of strategic initiatives

2.9.

- Lunch

2.10.

- Align strategic initiatives to goals and objectives

2.11.

- Prioritize list of initiatives and discuss timing

2.12.

- Wrap-up, next steps, and closing activity

3. Adjourn

3.1. Adjournment

La Plata, MD

The National Community Survey

Report of Results
2026

Report by:



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National Research Center at Polco is a charter member of the AAPOR Transparency Initiative, providing clear disclosure of our sound and ethical survey research practices.

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About The NCS™

The National Community Survey™ (The NCS™) report is about the “livability” of La Plata. 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 NCS was developed by the experts from National Research Center at Polco in partnership with the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) and has been administered in hundreds of communities across the United States.

Great communities are partnerships of the government, private sector, community-based organizations, and residents, all geographically connected. The NCS focuses on the livability of La Plata by categorizing survey questions into the ten main “facets” of community livability shown below, in addition to ratings for quality of life and local governance. These facets have been identified through years of extensive survey research as those that are most impactful to residents’ quality of life.

- Economy
- Mobility
- Community Design
- Utilities
- Safety
- Natural Environment
- Parks and Recreation
- Health and Wellness
- Education, Arts, and Culture
- Community Connection

The report provides the opinions of a representative sample of 374 residents of the Town of La Plata collected from June 30, 2026 to August 25, 2026. The margin of error around any reported percentage is 5% for all respondents. Survey results were weighted so that the demographic profile of respondents was representative of the demographic profile of adults in La Plata.

Reporting Results

For the most part, the percentages presented in this report represent the “percent positive.” Most commonly, the percent positive is the combination of the top two most positive response options (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 a “don’t know” response is shown in the full set of responses included in the “Complete Data” section; however, these responses have been removed from the analyses presented in the main body of the report. Therefore, the tables and graphs display the responses from respondents who had an opinion about a specific item. ...

Benchmark Comparisons

Polco’s database of comparative resident opinion is comprised of resident perspectives gathered in surveys from over 400 communities whose residents evaluated the same kinds of topics on The NCS. The comparison evaluations include surveys from the past five years. If a jurisdiction has conducted multiple efforts in the past five years, only the most recent survey is included in the benchmark database. Polco 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, La Plata'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 La Plata residents. Being rated as “higher” or “lower” than the benchmark means that La Plata'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 La Plata's average rating was more than 20 points different when compared to the benchmark.

In addition to these national benchmarks, comparisons were also made to a smaller cohort of communities that



align more closely to the demographics in La Plata. This cohort included communities with a population between 10k - 15k. Comparisons to these communities can be found throughout the report and in the Custom Benchmarks tab.

Trends over time

Trend data for La Plata 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 7 percentage points between the 2024 and 2026 surveys, the change is statistically significant.

1. In 2020 and 2025, 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.

Methods

Selecting Survey Recipients

All households within the Town of La Plata were eligible to participate in the survey. A list of all households within the zip codes serving La Plata was purchased from Polco's mailing vendor, based on updated listings from the United States Postal Service.

Since some of the zip codes that serve La Plata households may also serve addresses that lie outside of the community, the exact geographic location of each housing unit was compared to community boundaries using the most current municipal boundary file. Addresses located outside of La Plata boundaries were removed from the list of potential households to survey. From that list, addresses were randomly selected as survey recipients, with multi-family housing units sampled at a rate of 5:3 compared to single family housing units.

Conducting the Random Sample Survey

The 4,000 randomly selected households received mailings beginning on June 30, 2026 and data collection for the survey remained open for eight weeks. The first mailing was a postcard inviting the household to participate in the survey online. The final mailing was a reminder postcard giving the household one last opportunity to participate in the survey. All mailings included a web link to give residents the opportunity to respond to the survey online, as well as QR codes to further encourage participation.

About 2% of the 4,000 mailed invitations were returned because the household address was vacant or the postal service was unable to deliver the survey as addressed. Of the remaining 3,938 households that received the invitations to participate, 374 completed the survey, providing an overall response rate of 9%. The response rate was calculated using AAPOR's response rate #2 for mailed surveys of unnamed persons.¹

It is customary to describe the precision of estimates by a "level of confidence" and accompanying "confidence interval" (or margin of error). A traditional level of confidence, and the one used here, is 95%. The 95% confidence interval quantifies the sampling error or imprecision of the survey results based on the total number of responses received. This is because *some* residents' opinions are relied on to estimate *all* residents' opinions. The margin of error for the Town of La Plata survey is no greater than plus or minus 5 percentage points around any given percent reported for all respondents (374 completed surveys).

Conducting the Open Participation Survey

In addition to the randomly selected "probability sample" of households, a link to an online open-participation survey was publicized by the Town of La Plata. The open-participation survey was identical to the random sample survey, with two small updates; it asked a question to confirm the respondent was a resident of La Plata and also a question about whether they received a mailed invitation.

The open-participation survey was open to all town residents and became available on August 4, 2026. The survey remained open for three weeks and 18 responses were received. The data presented in the following report excludes the open participation survey data, but the online report includes a tab which provides the complete open participation results.

Analyzing the Data

Responses from mailed surveys were entered into an electronic dataset using a “key and verify” method, where all responses are entered twice and compared to each other. Any discrepancies were resolved in comparison to the original survey form. Range checks as well as other forms of quality control were also performed. Responses from surveys completed on Polco were downloaded and merged with the mailed survey responses.

The survey datasets were analyzed using all or some of a combination of the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS), R, Python, and Tableau.

The demographics of the survey respondents were compared to those found in the 2020 Census and 2024 American Community Survey estimates for adults in the Town of La Plata. The primary objective of weighting survey data is to make the survey respondents reflective of the larger population of the community. The characteristics used for weighting were age, sex, race, Hispanic origin, housing type, housing tenure, and area. No adjustments were made for design effects. Weights were calculated using an iterative, multiplicative raking model known as the ANES Weighting Algorithm.² The results of the weighting scheme for the probability sample are presented in the following table.

Polco aligns demographic labels with those used by the U.S. Census for reporting purposes, when possible. Some categories (age, race/Hispanic origin, housing type, and length of residency) are combined into smaller subgroups.

		Unweighted	Weighted	Target ⁴
Age	18-34	8%	25%	26%
	35-54	32%	34%	34%
	55+	61%	41%	40%
Hispanic origin	No	98%	96%	96%
	Yes	3%	4%	4%
Housing tenure	Own	87%	80%	80%
	Rent	13%	20%	20%
Housing type	Attached	37%	50%	50%
	Detached	63%	50%	50%
Race & Hispanic origin	Not white alone	38%	49%	49%
	White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	62%	51%	51%
Sex	Man	36%	48%	49%
	Woman	64%	52%	51%
Sex/age	Man 18-34	2%	12%	14%
	Man 35-54	11%	16%	16%
	Man 55+	23%	19%	18%
	Woman 18-34	5%	12%	11%
	Woman 35-54	21%	19%	18%
	Woman 55+	37%	22%	22%

Study Limitations

All public opinion research is subject to unmeasured error. While the methodologies employed for this survey were designed to minimize this error as much as possible, these other sources of potential error should be acknowledged, and can include non-response error, coverage error, recall bias, and social desirability bias.

Non-response error arises when those who were selected to participate in the survey did not do so, and may have different opinions or experiences than survey responders. For general resident surveys, where the results are meant to be generalized to the entire adult population living in households, the mailing lists based on the Delivery Sequence File from the United States Post Office may exclude certain types of housing units, such as those in multi-family buildings where mail is addressed to a named resident at the address rather than to a specific unit or where residents only receive their mail at a post office box and the geographic location of a residence cannot be determined, there may be a *coverage error*, although for most locations, this is minimal. Respondents may not perfectly remember their experiences in the past year (such as participation in social or civic events, for example), and for some survey items, they may answer in ways they think cast their responses in a more favorable light (*recall bias* and *social desirability bias*).

Survey Validity

See the Polco Knowledge Base article on survey validity at <https://blog.polco.us/polco-knowledgebase/margin-of-error-and-confidence-level-in-survey-results>

Contact

The Town of La Plata funded this research. Please contact Kelly Phipps of the Town of La Plata at khipps@townoflaplata.org if you have any questions about the survey.

1. See AAPOR's Standard Definitions for more information at <https://aapor.org/standards-and-ethics/standard-definitions/>
2. Pasek, J. (2014). ANES Weighting Algorithm. Retrieved from <https://surveyinsights.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Full-anesrake-paper.pdf>
3. Targets come from the 2020 Census and 2024 American Community Survey

Key Findings

Community Strengths

Residents feel safe in their neighborhoods and throughout La Plata during the day.

- About 9 in 10 residents reported feeling safe in their neighborhood during the day (92%) and in La Plata's downtown/commercial area during the day (91%).
- About three-quarters felt safe from property crime (75%), while nearly 8 in 10 felt safe from violent crime (79%); both ratings were similar to the national and custom benchmarks.
- Some safety services also received strong ratings, including fire services (83%) and ambulance or emergency medical services (81%).

Residents value their neighborhoods and La Plata as a place to raise children.

- About 8 in 10 residents positively rated their neighborhood as a place to live (80%), a rating similar to both the national and custom benchmarks.
- Nearly three-quarters rated La Plata positively as a place to raise children (73%), also similar to both benchmarks.
- More than half of residents gave positive marks to the community for making all residents feel welcome (57%), attracting people from diverse backgrounds (57%), and valuing/respecting residents from diverse backgrounds (62%).

Residents remain engaged with the Town and make strong use of local information resources.

- About 6 in 10 residents (61%) reported contacting the Town for help or information during the past year, while 36% attended a local public meeting and 37% watched one; each of these participation rates was higher than both the national and custom benchmarks.
- The Town website was used as an information source by 89% of residents, while 90% used the Town newsletter.
- Town social media (82%) scored much higher than the national benchmark as a source of information, while the newsletter and public meetings also scored higher.

Focus Areas

Residents report challenges related to the local economy and affordability.

- Overall economic health declined from 54% positive in 2024 to 40% in 2026 and was lower than the national benchmark.
- Ratings for La Plata as a place to work decreased from 56% to 46% and were lower than both the national and custom benchmarks.
- About 1 in 5 residents positively rated employment opportunities (22%) and the cost of living (19%), with both measures lower than the national and custom benchmarks.
- Economic development received positive ratings from one-quarter of residents (25%) and was also lower than both benchmarks.

Community design and development remain areas of concern.

- Fewer than 2 in 10 residents positively rated well-planned residential growth (17%) or well-planned commercial growth (15%); residential growth scored much lower than both benchmarks, while commercial growth was much lower than the national benchmark.
- About one-quarter positively rated the overall quality of new development (25%), while 28% gave positive marks to public places where people want to spend time.
- Land use, planning, and zoning received positive ratings from just 18% of residents and scored much lower than the national benchmark and lower than the custom benchmark.
- Overall appearance declined from 60% positive in 2024 to 52% in 2026.

Mobility options and transportation continue to present challenges.

- Although the overall quality of the transportation system increased from 23% positive in 2024 to 33% in 2026, it remained lower than both the national and custom benchmarks.
- Just 20% of residents positively rated traffic flow on major streets, which was much lower than both benchmarks.
- Ease of travel by bicycle (22%) was much lower than both benchmarks, while ease of walking (37%) was lower than the national benchmark and much lower than the custom benchmark.
- Ease of travel by car received positive ratings from about half of residents (48%) and was lower than both benchmarks...

Residents express concerns about several aspects of Town governance.

- Overall confidence in La Plata government was rated positively by 31% of residents and was lower than both the national and custom benchmarks.
- About one-quarter positively rated the overall direction La Plata is taking (24%) and the value of services for taxes paid (25%); the overall direction scored much lower than the national benchmark.
- Ratings for the Town being honest declined from 49% positive in 2024 to 32% in 2026, while being open and transparent declined from 40% to 29%. Both measures were lower than the national and custom benchmarks.

Parks, recreation, and natural amenities offer opportunities for improvement.

- Overall parks and recreation opportunities received positive ratings from 56% of residents and scored lower than both the national and custom benchmarks.
- Town parks were rated positively by 64% of residents, while recreation programs or classes received 46% positive ratings and recreation centers or facilities received 39%; all three were lower than both benchmarks.
- Availability of paths and walking trails improved from 39% positive in 2024 to 48% in 2026 but remained lower than both benchmarks.
- The overall quality of La Plata's natural environment received positive ratings from 55% of residents and was lower than both benchmarks, while water resources received just 28% positive ratings and scored much lower than both.

Areas of Greatest Change

Of the evaluative questions included on both the 2024 and 2026 survey iterations, 97 were statistically similar to previous results. Upward trends were seen in 3 items, while 27 ratings decreased since 2024. The most significant of those trends are listed below.

Increases

- Overall quality of the transportation system (auto, bicycle, foot, bus) in La Plata (+9%)
- Availability of paths and walking trails (+9%)
- Adult educational opportunities (+8%)

Decreases

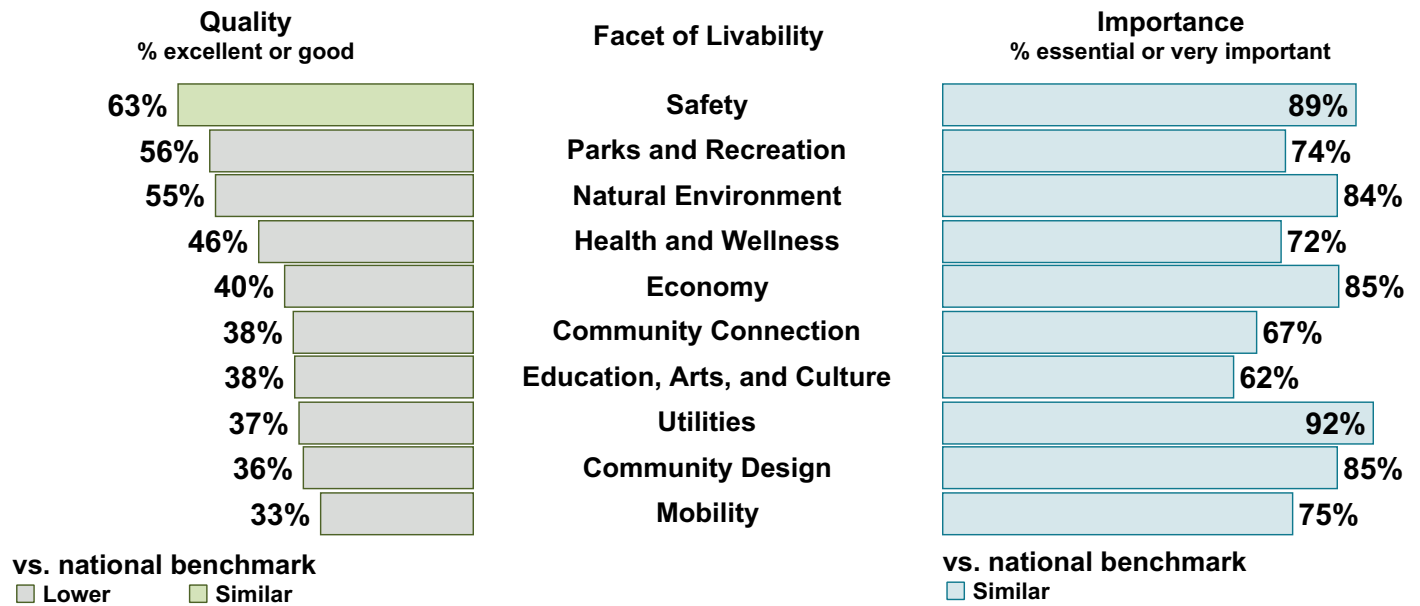
- Overall quality of the utility infrastructure in La Plata (water, sewer, storm water, electric/gas, broadband) (-19%)
- Code enforcement (weeds, abandoned buildings, etc.) (-19%)
- Being honest (-17%)
- Sewer services (-16%)

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.

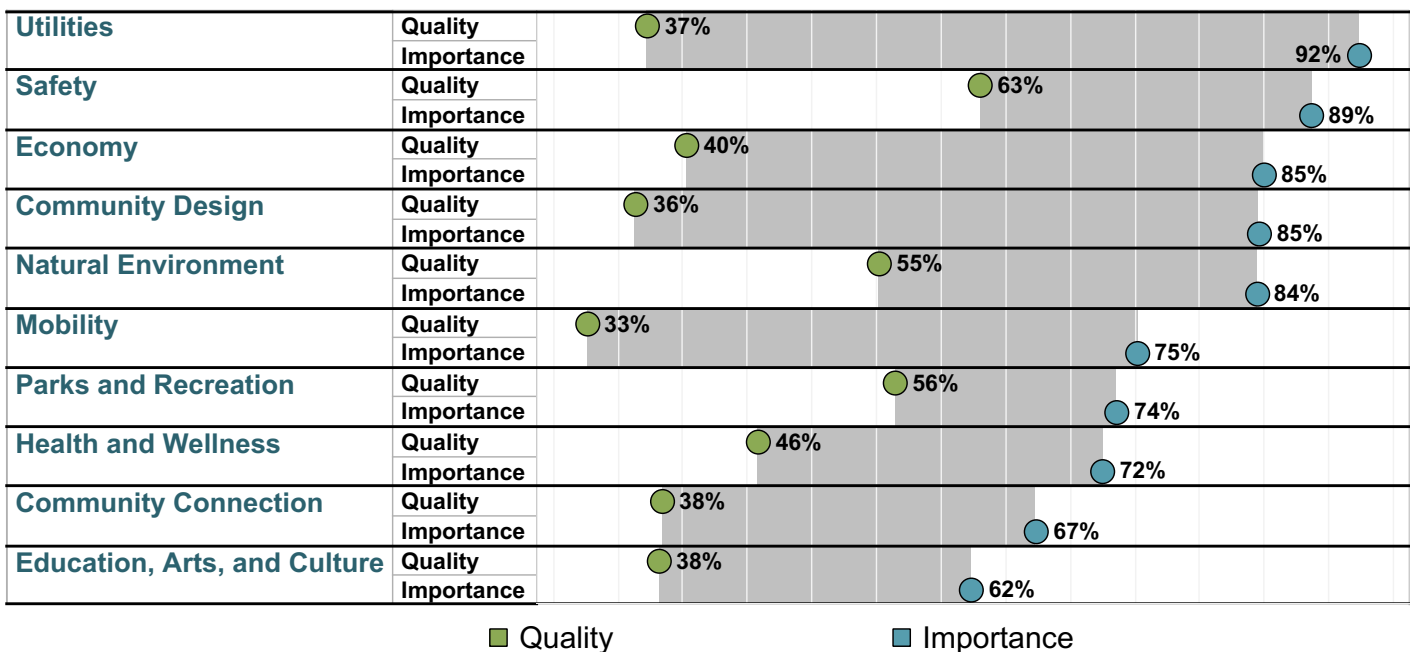
Quality and Importance by the Numbers

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



Quality/Importance Gap Analysis

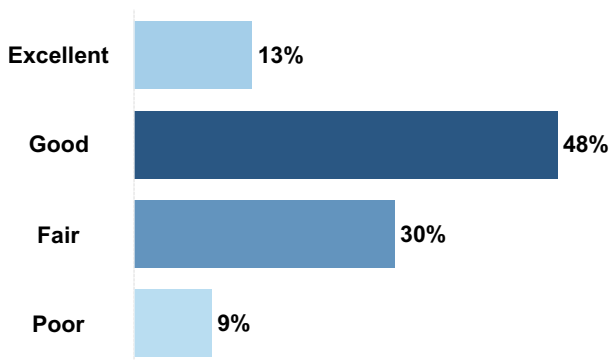
The gap analysis chart below shows the same data as above; however, this chart more clearly illustrates the comparative differences in quality and importance ratings for each facet, as well as the absolute ratings for each.



Quality of Life

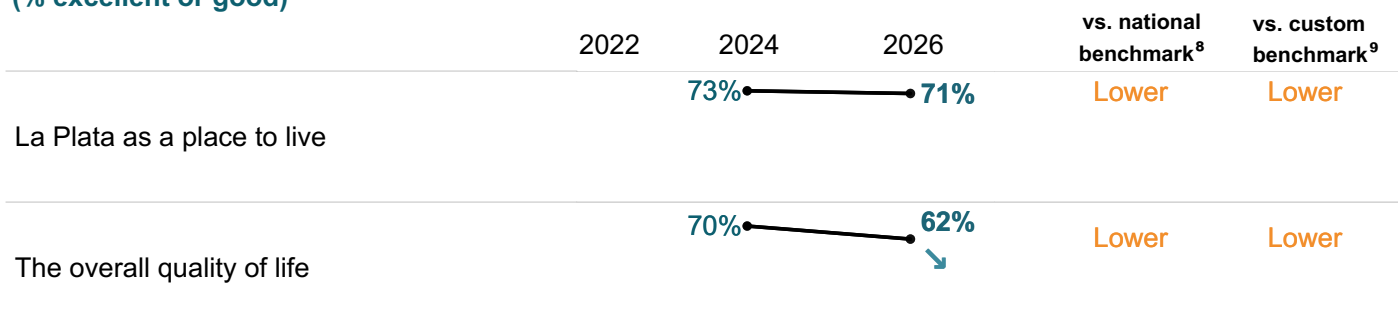
Measuring community livability starts with assessing the quality of life of those who live there, and ensuring that the community is attractive, accessible, and welcoming to all.

The overall quality of life in La Plata



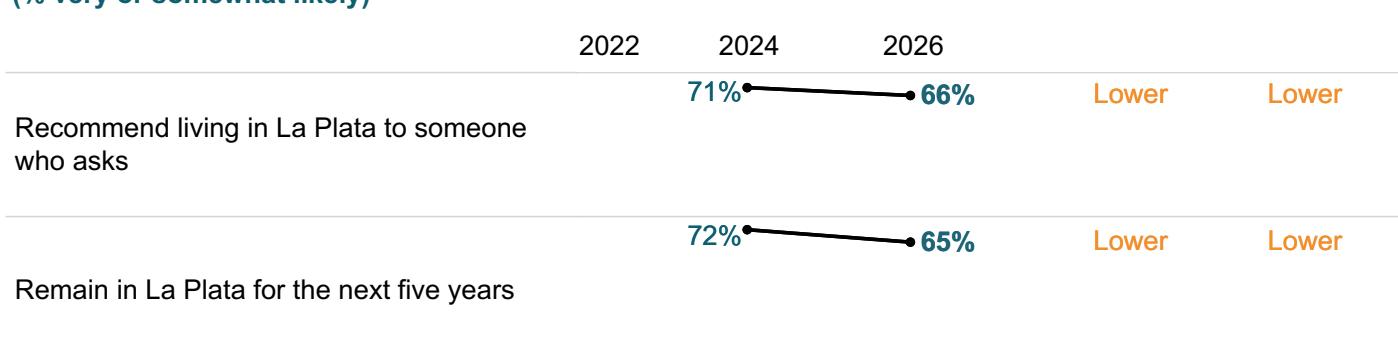
Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in La Plata.

(% excellent or good)



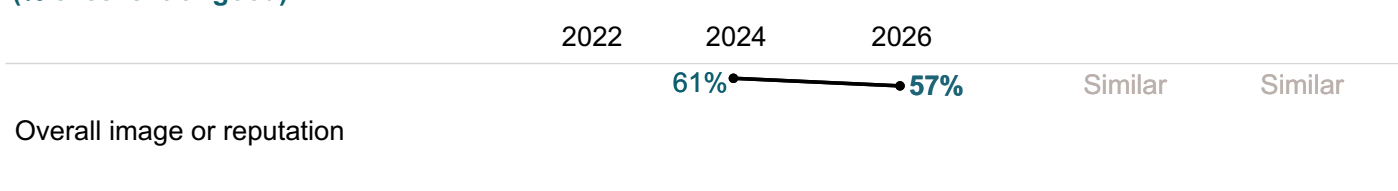
Please indicate how likely or unlikely you are to do each of the following.

(% very or somewhat likely)



Please rate each of the following in the La Plata community.

(% excellent or good)



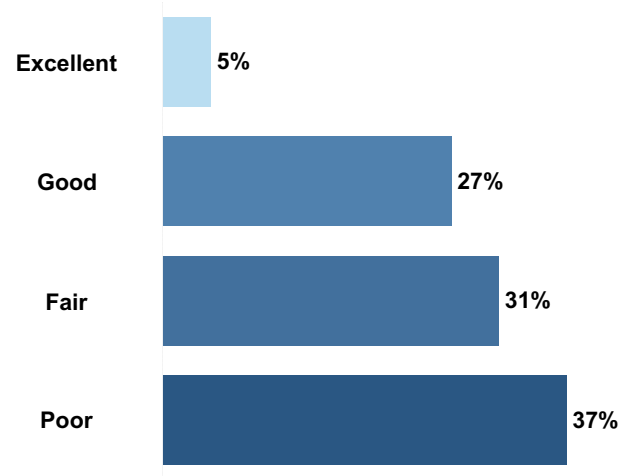
8. Comparison to the national benchmark is shown. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.

9. Comparison to the custom benchmark is shown. A description of the custom benchmark cohort can be found in the About section of the report. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.

Governance

Strong local governments deliver results that meet residents' needs, use resources effectively, and respond to both current and future community priorities.

Overall confidence in La Plata government

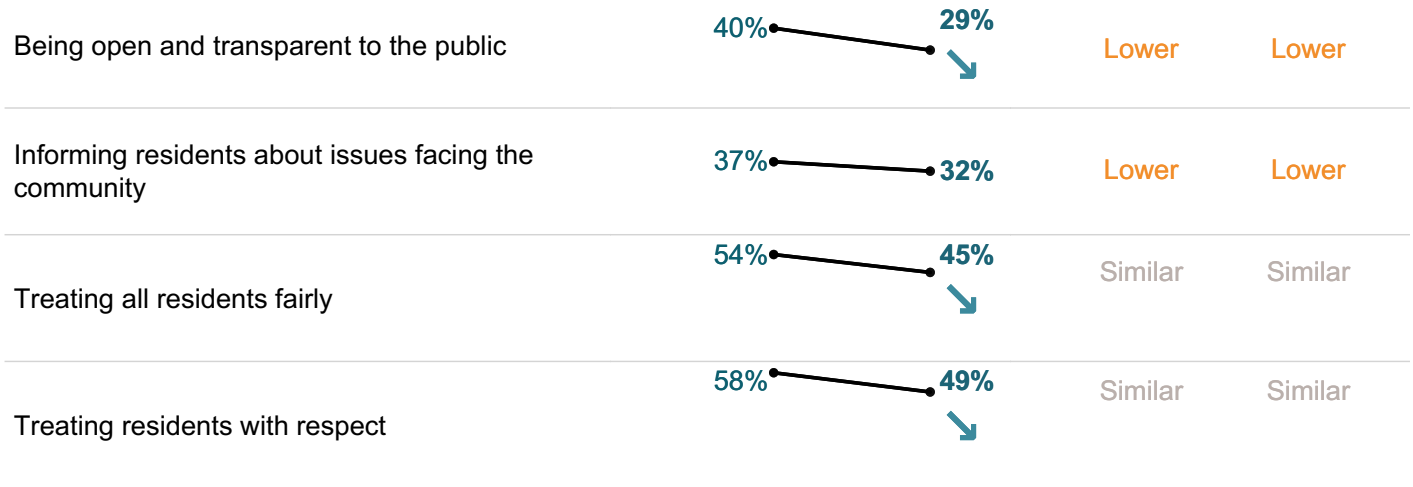


Please rate the quality of each of the following services in La Plata.
(% excellent or good)

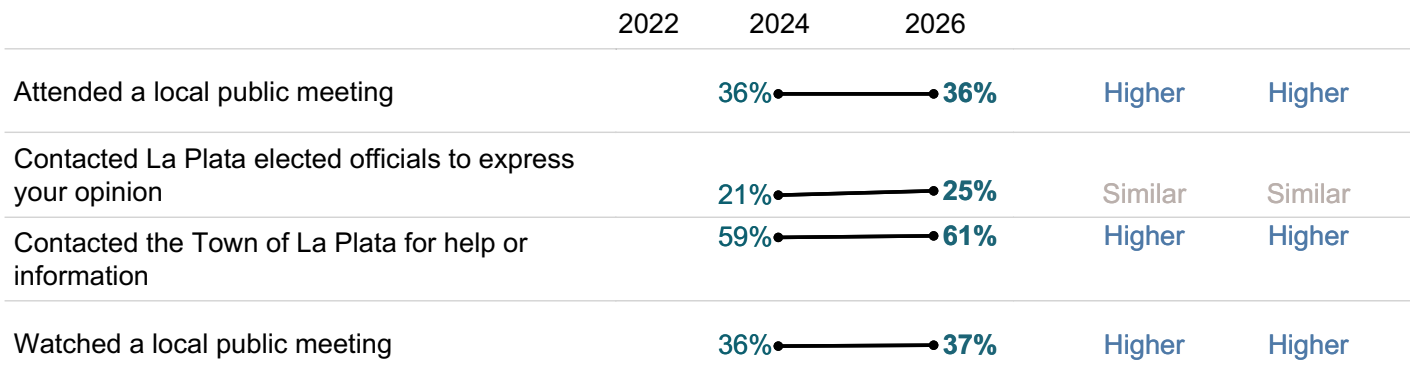
	2022	2024	2026	vs. national benchmark ¹⁰	vs. custom benchmark ¹¹
Public information services		54%	48%	Similar	Similar
Overall customer service by La Plata employees		73%	70%	Similar	Similar

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

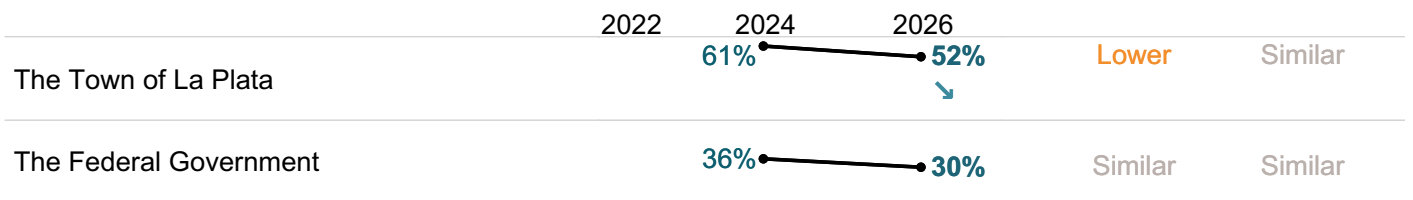
	2022	2024	2026		
The value of services for the taxes paid to La Plata		34%	25%	Lower	Lower
The overall direction that La Plata is taking		27%	24%	Much lower	Lower
The job La Plata government does at welcoming resident involvement		39%	35%	Lower	Lower
Overall confidence in La Plata government		37%	31%	Lower	Lower
Generally acting in the best interest of the community		37%	32%	Lower	Lower
Being honest		49%	32%	Lower	Lower



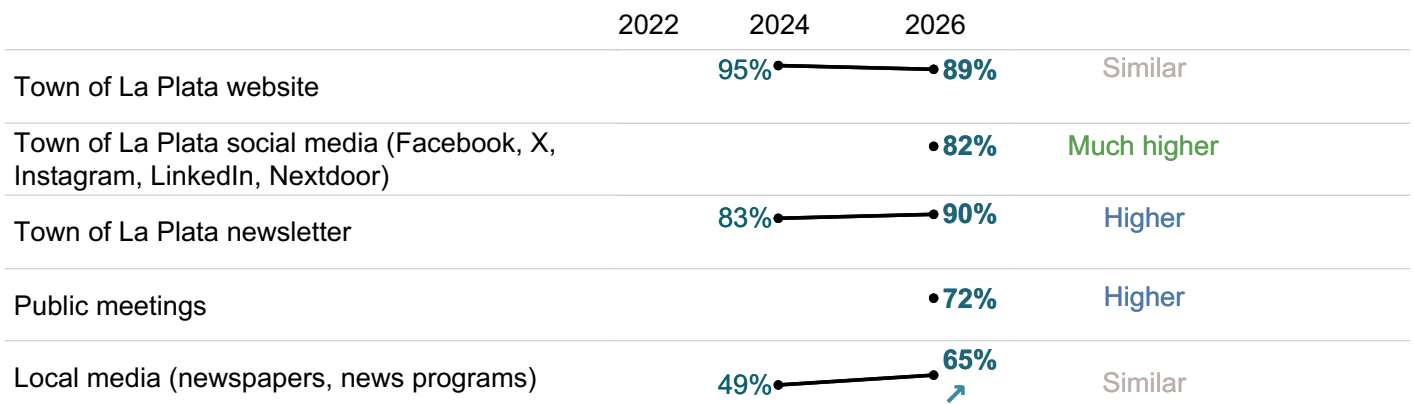
Please indicate whether or not you have done each of the following in the last 12 months.
(% yes)



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



Please indicate how much of a source, if at all, you consider each of the following to be for obtaining information about La Plata activities, events, and services.
(% yes)



Word of mouth



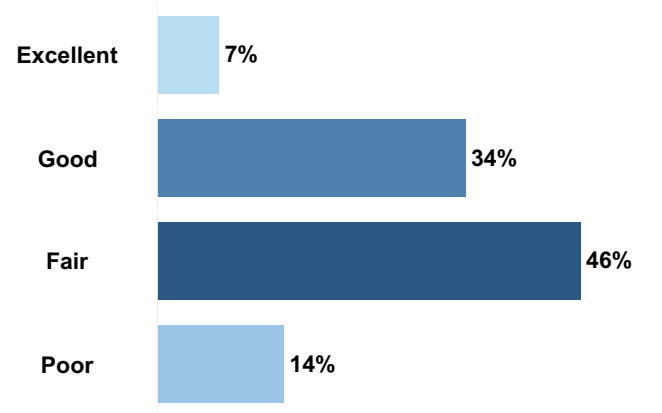
Similar

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

Economy

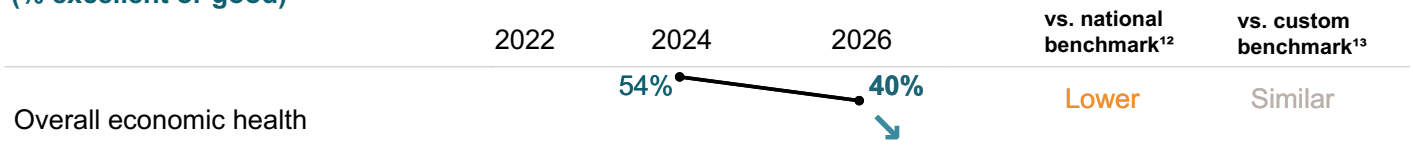
Local governments work together with private and nonprofit businesses, and with the community at large, to foster sustainable growth, create jobs, and promote a thriving local economy.

Overall economic health of La Plata



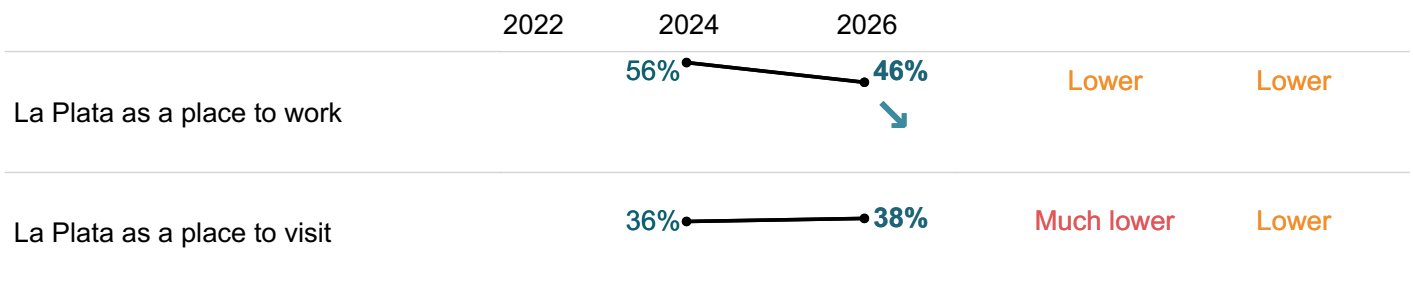
Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to La Plata as a whole.

(% excellent or good)



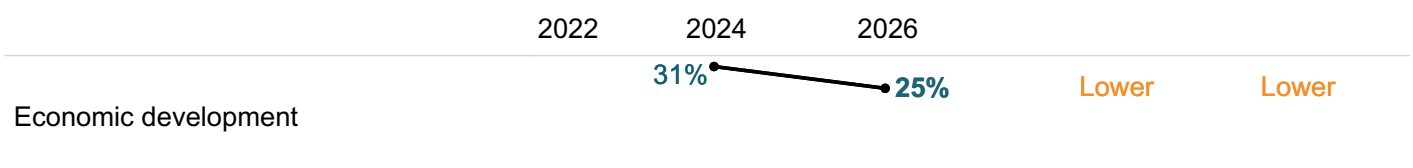
Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in La Plata.

(% excellent or good)



Please rate the quality of each of the following services in La Plata.

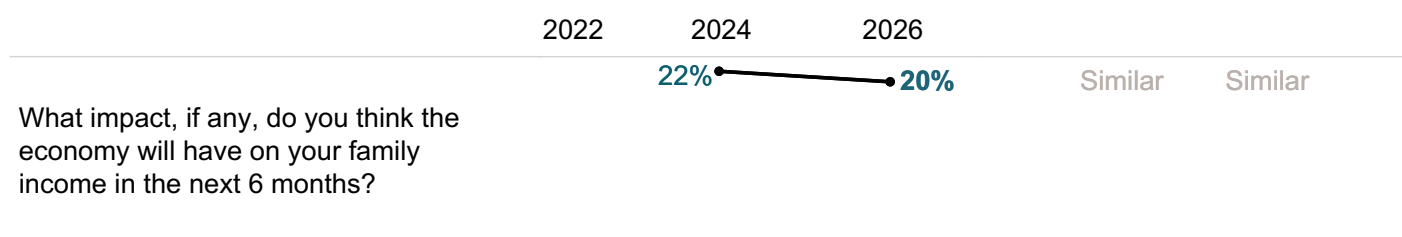
(% excellent or good)



Please rate each of the following in the La Plata 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)



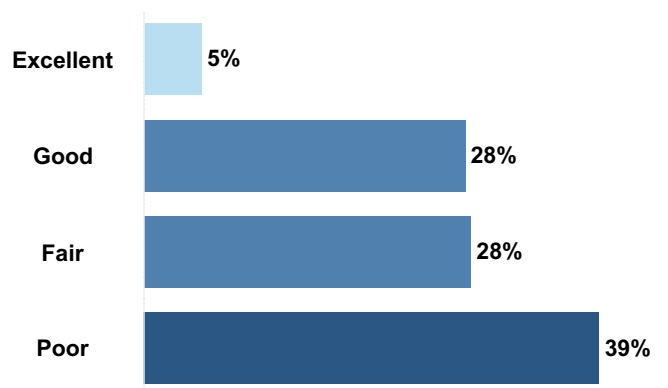
12. Comparison to the national benchmark is shown. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.

13. Comparison to the custom benchmark is shown. A description of the custom benchmark cohort can be found in the About section of the report. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.

Mobility

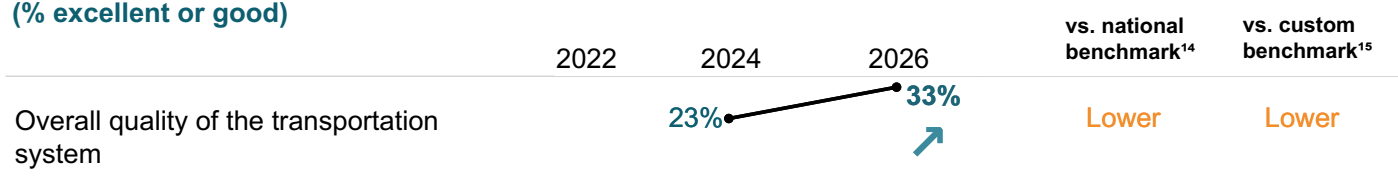
The ability of residents to move about their community with ease plays an important role in the overall quality of life for everyone who lives, works, and spends time there.

Overall quality of the transportation system in La Plata



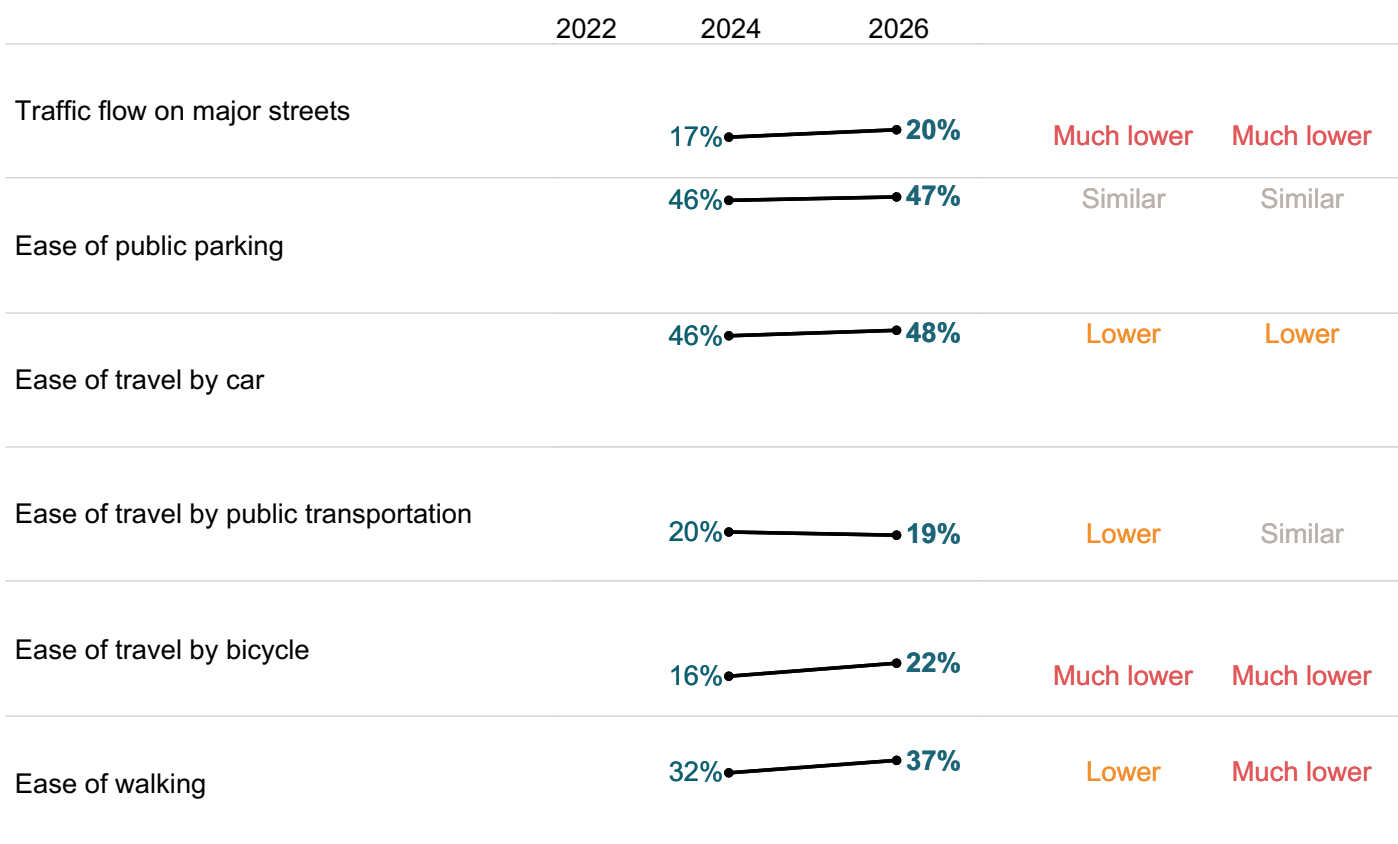
Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to La Plata as a whole.

(% excellent or good)

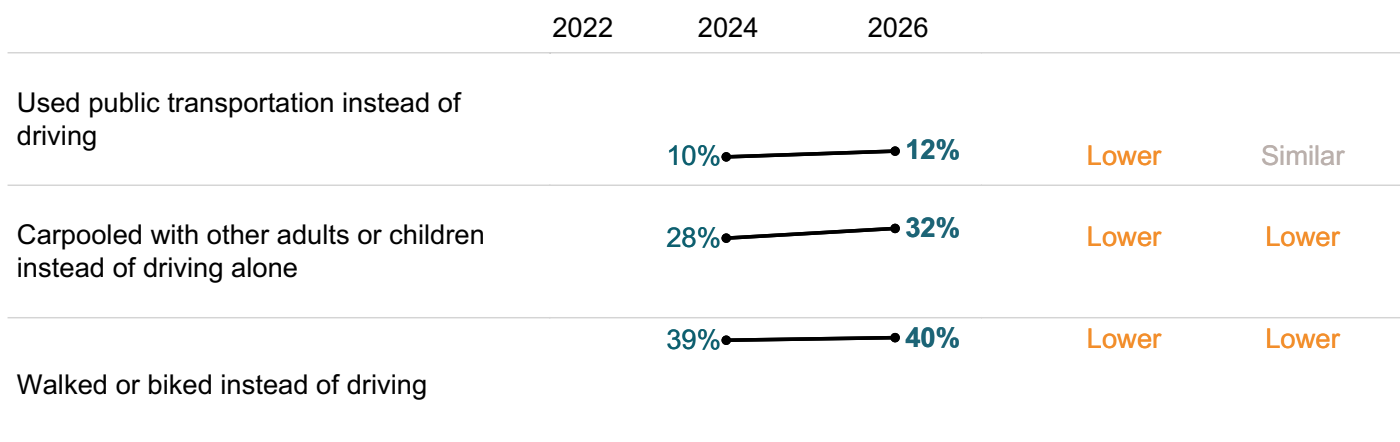


Please also rate each of the following in the La Plata community.

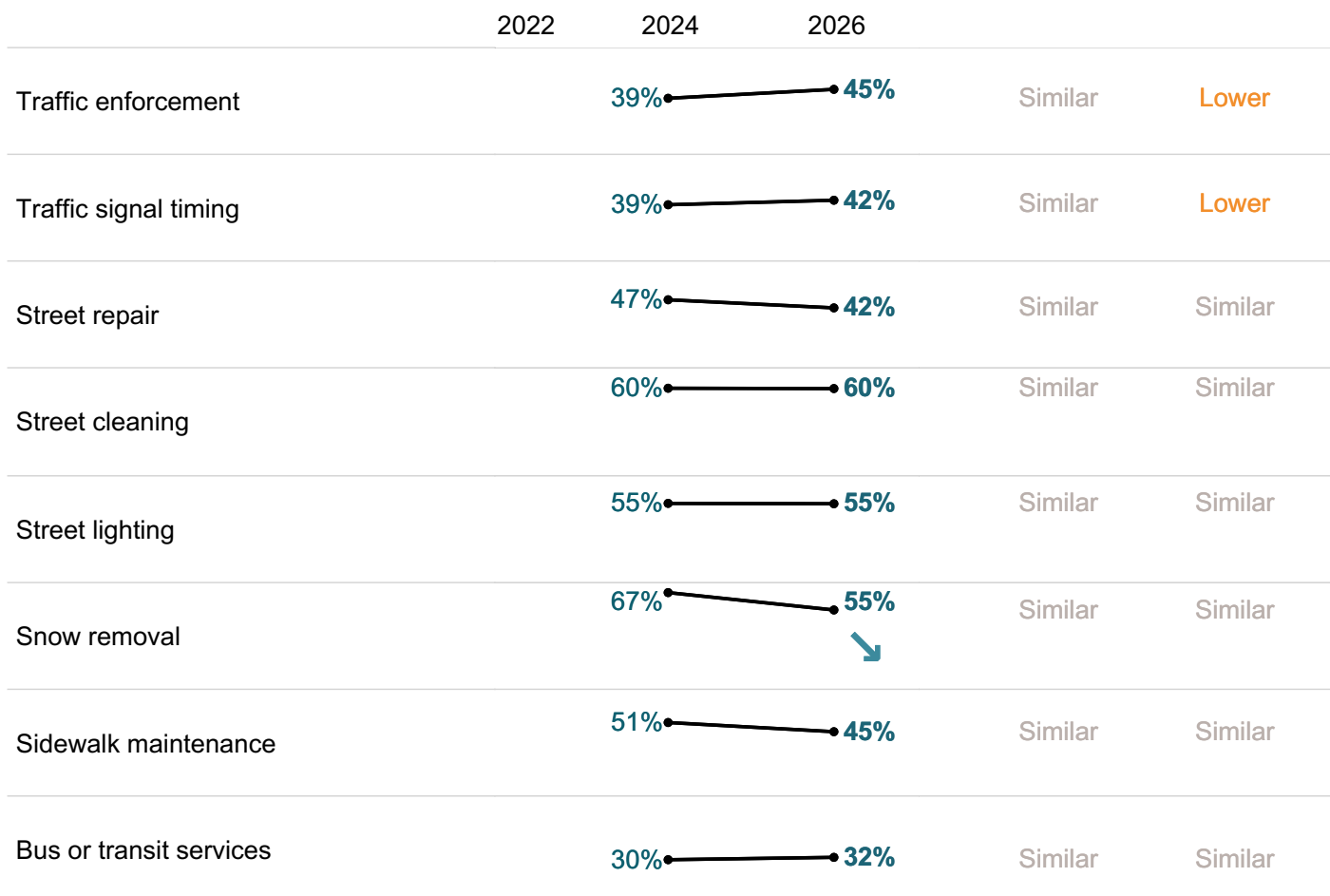
(% excellent or good)



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 La Plata.
(% excellent or good)



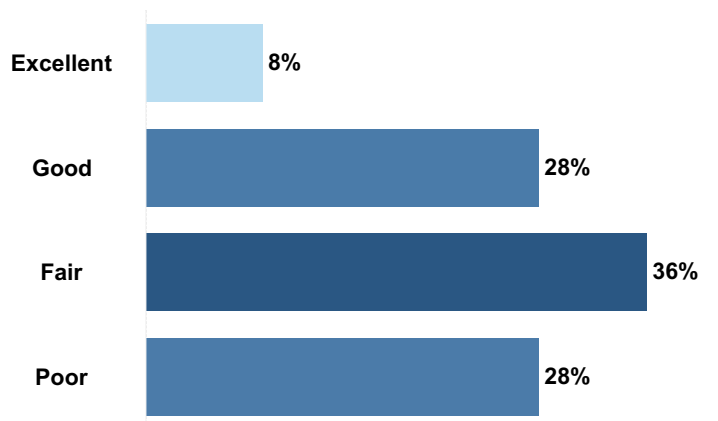
14. Comparison to the national benchmark is shown. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.

15. Comparison to the custom benchmark is shown. A description of the custom benchmark cohort can be found in the About section of the report. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.

Community Design

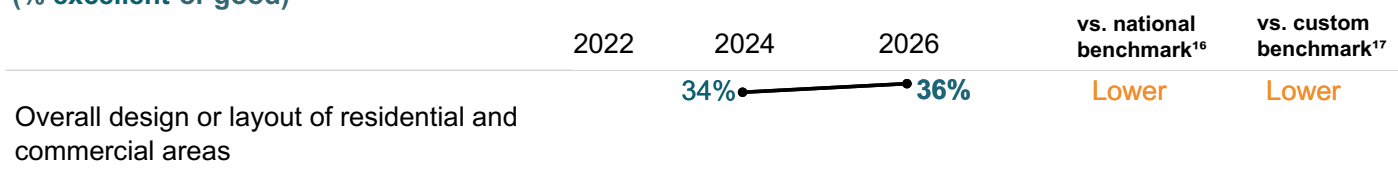
A well-designed community enhances the quality of life for its residents by encouraging smart land use and zoning, ensuring that affordable housing is accessible to all, and supporting development that suits residents' needs.

Overall design or layout of La Plata's residential and commercial areas



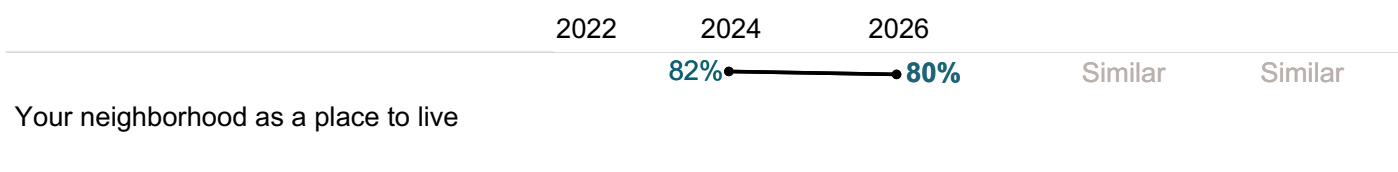
Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to La Plata as a whole.

(% excellent or good)



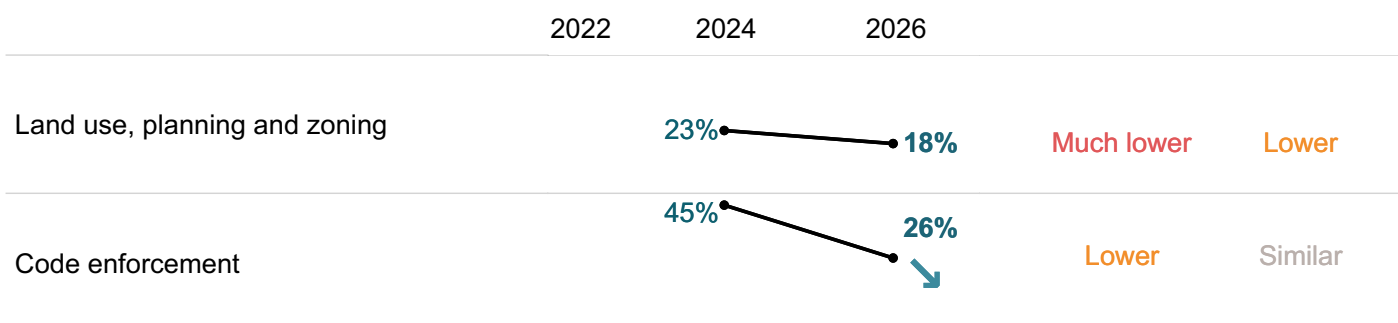
Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in La Plata.

(% excellent or good)

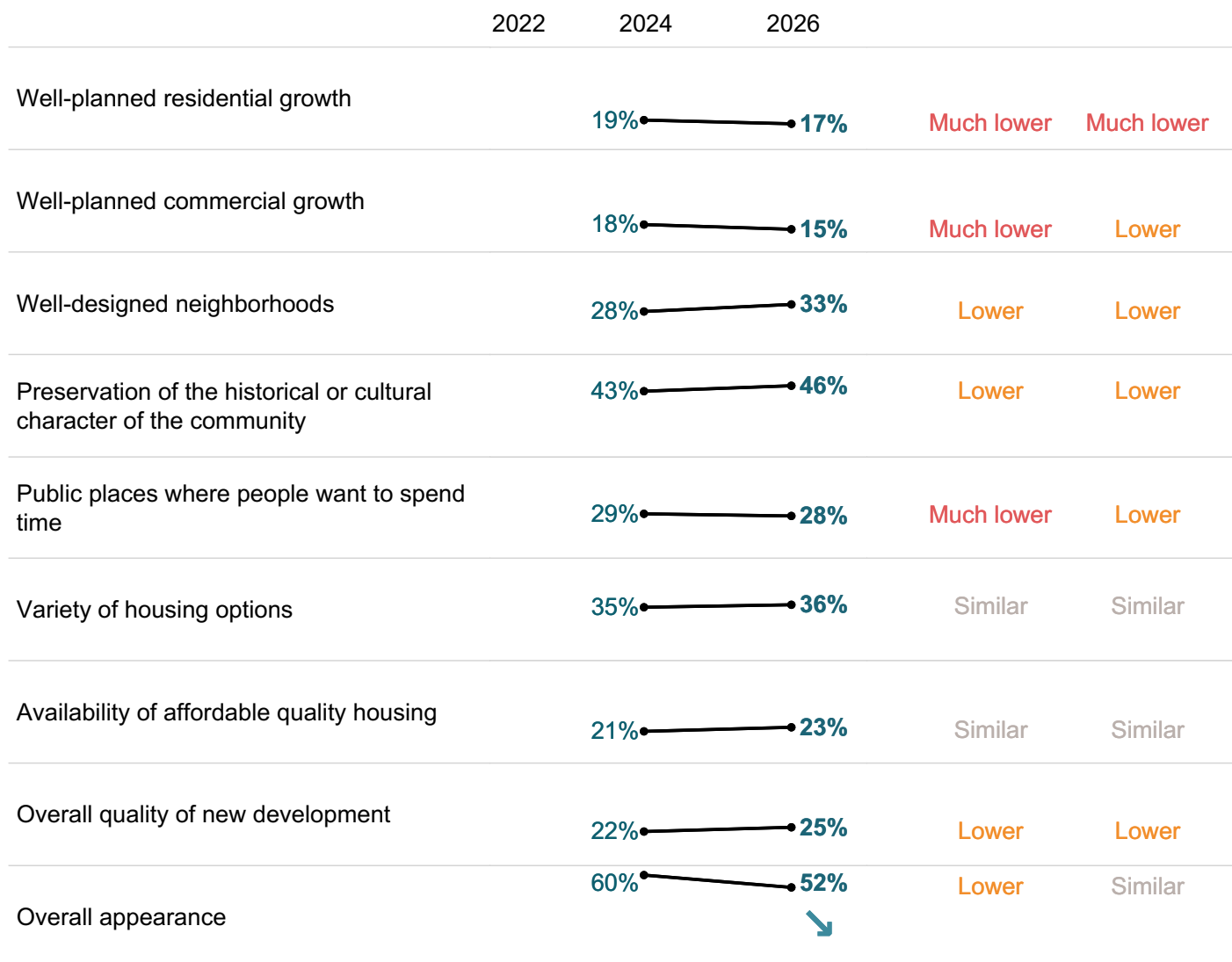


Please rate the quality of each of the following services in La Plata.

(% excellent or good)



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



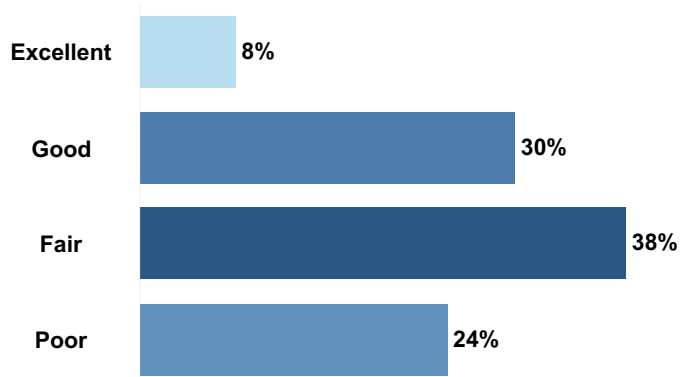
16. Comparison to the national benchmark is shown. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.

17. Comparison to the custom benchmark is shown. A description of the custom benchmark cohort can be found in the About section of the report. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.

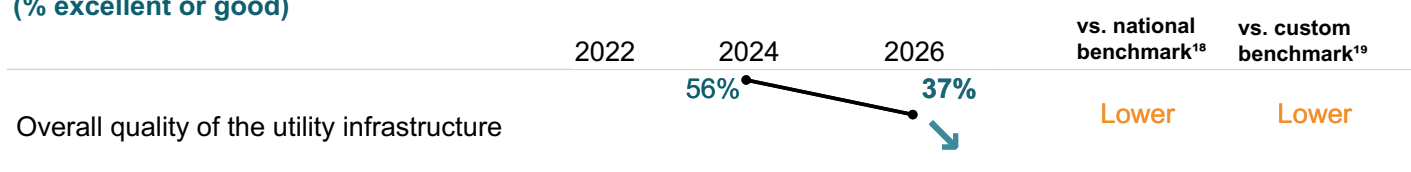
Utilities

Access to essential services like water, gas, electricity, and internet is crucial for safeguarding the physical health, economic stability, and overall well-being of the communities they support.

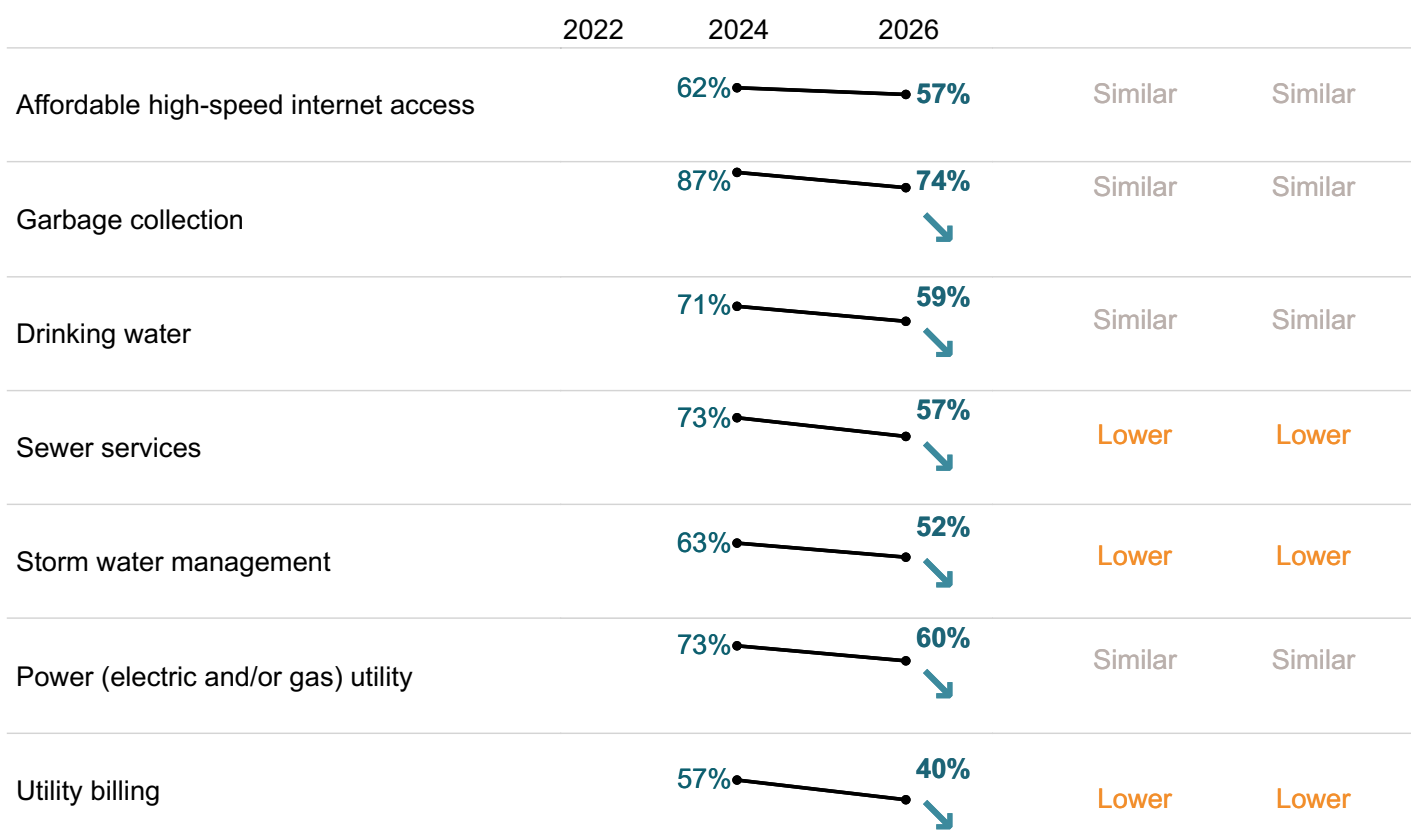
Overall quality of the utility infrastructure in La Plata



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



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



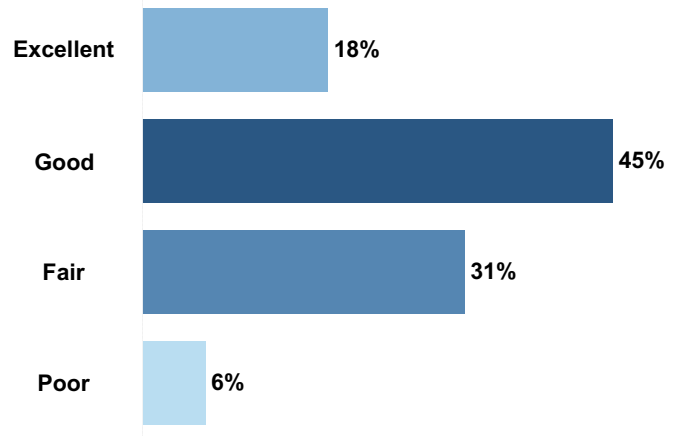
¹⁸. Comparison to the national benchmark is shown. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.

¹⁹. Comparison to the custom benchmark is shown. A description of the custom benchmark cohort can be found in the About section of the report. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.

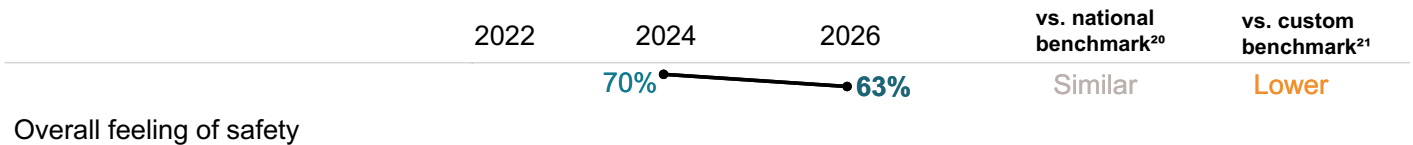
Safety

Public safety is one of the most important responsibilities of local governments, as every resident deserves to feel safe and secure both in their neighborhoods and across the wider community. The provision of strong, reliable safety services is essential to ensuring a high quality of life.

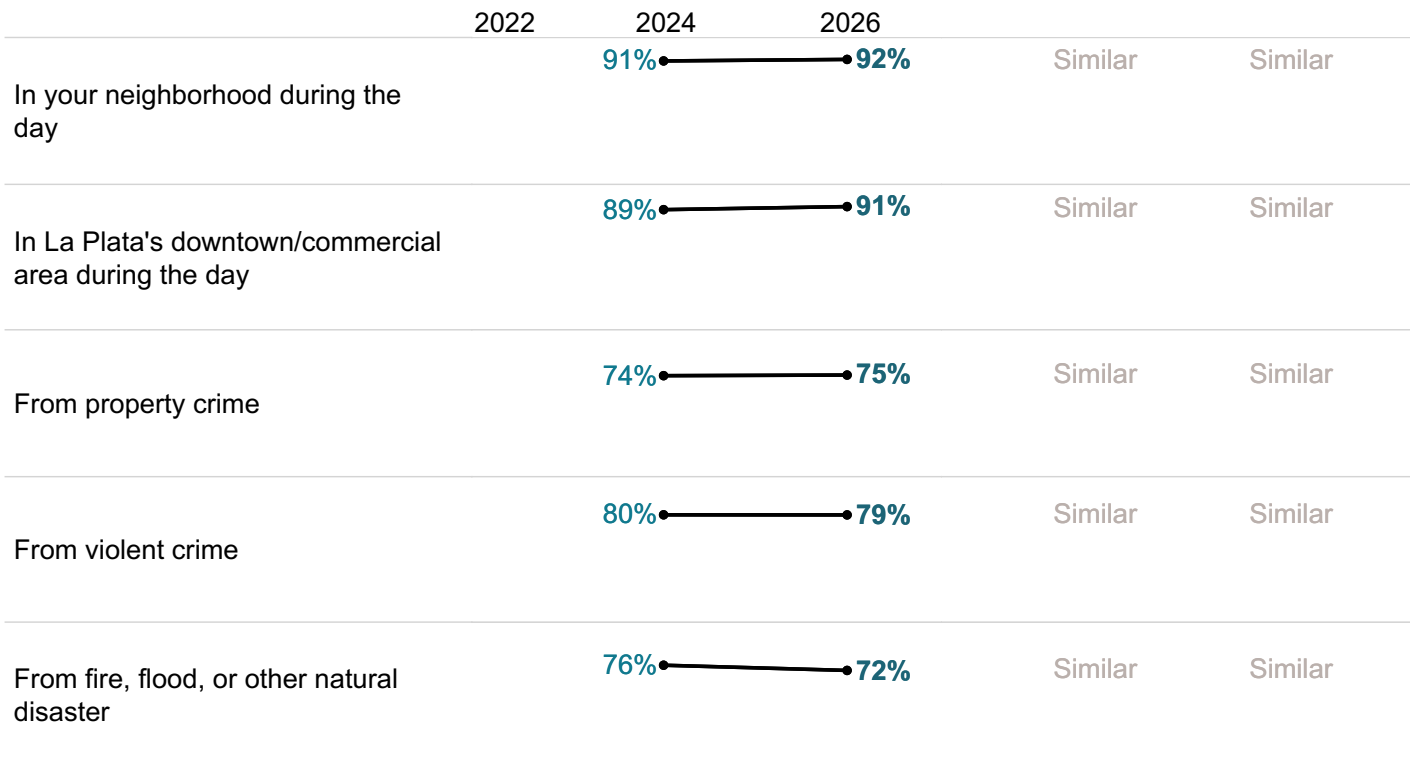
Overall feeling of safety in La Plata



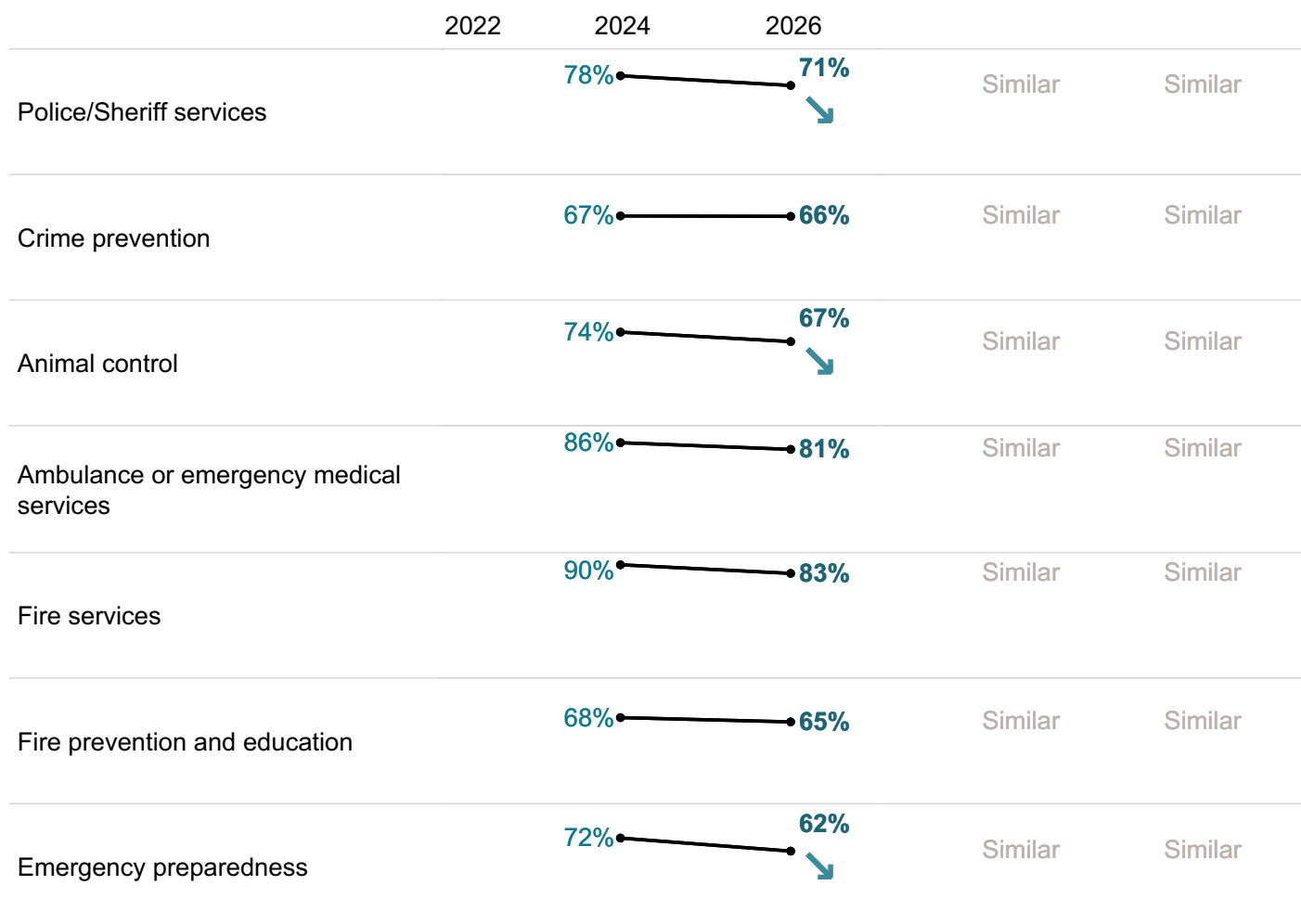
Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to La Plata as a whole.
(% excellent or good)



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



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



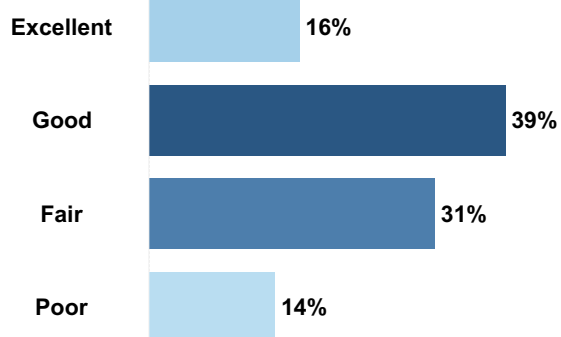
20. Comparison to the national benchmark is shown. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.

21. Comparison to the custom benchmark is shown. A description of the custom benchmark cohort can be found in the About section of the report. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.

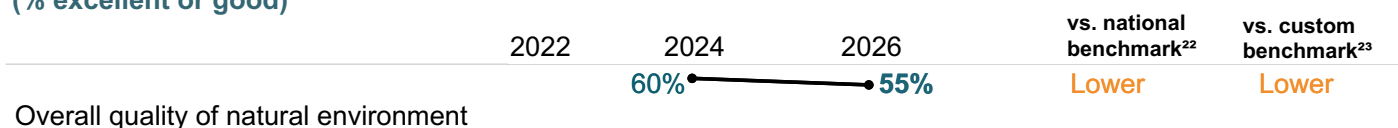
Natural Environment

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

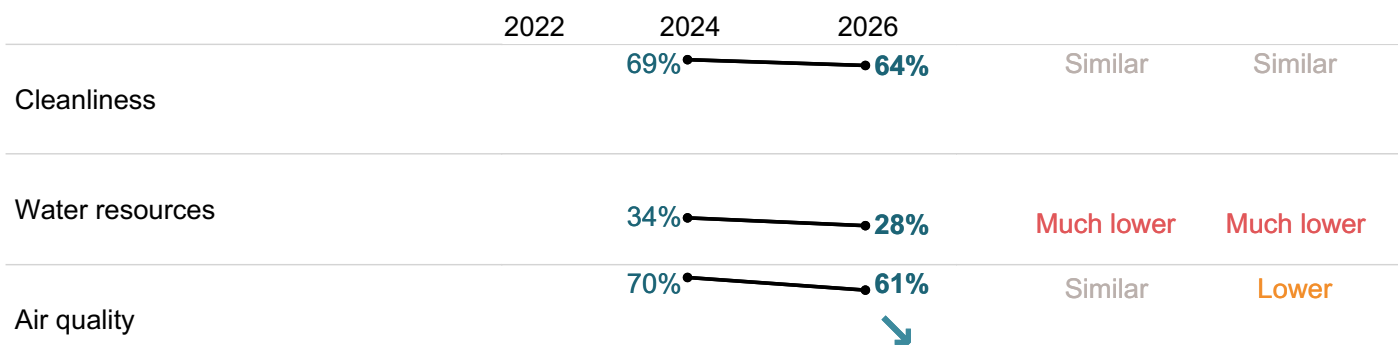
Overall quality of natural environment in La Plata



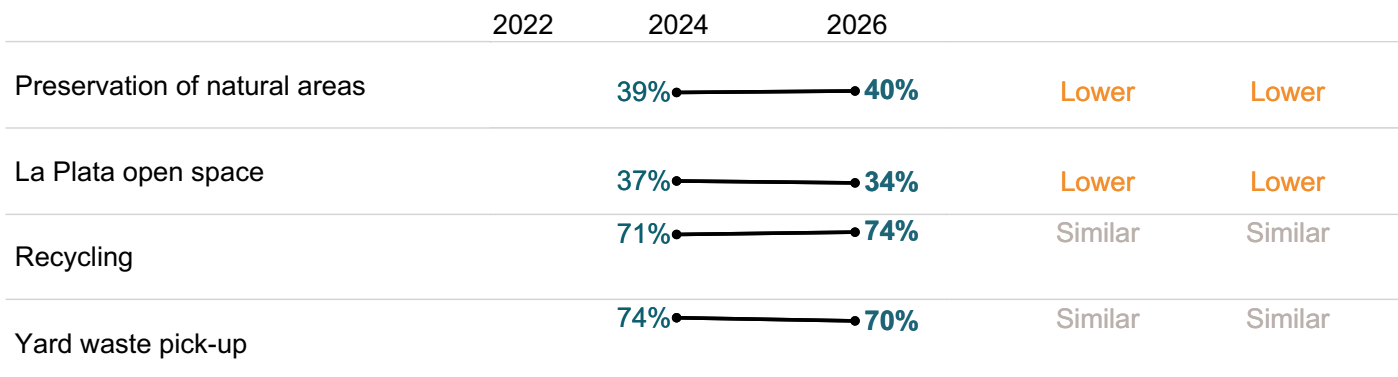
Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to La Plata as a whole.
(% excellent or good)



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



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



²². Comparison to the national benchmark is shown. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.

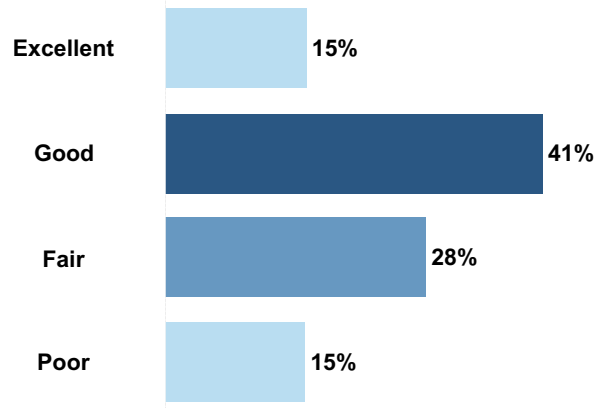
²³. Comparison to the custom benchmark is shown. A description of the custom benchmark cohort can be found in the About section of the report.

Parks and Recreation

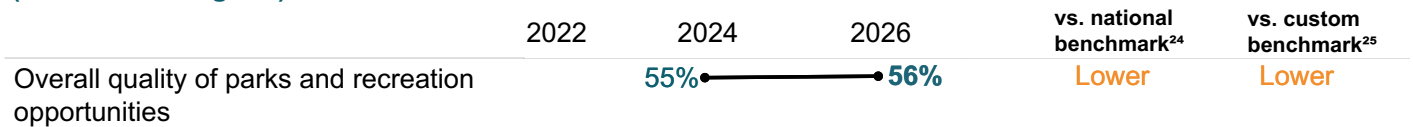
"There are no communities that pride themselves on their quality of life, promote themselves as a desirable location for businesses to relocate, or maintain that they are environmental stewards of their natural resources, without such communities having a robust, active system of parks and recreation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

- National Recreation and Park Association

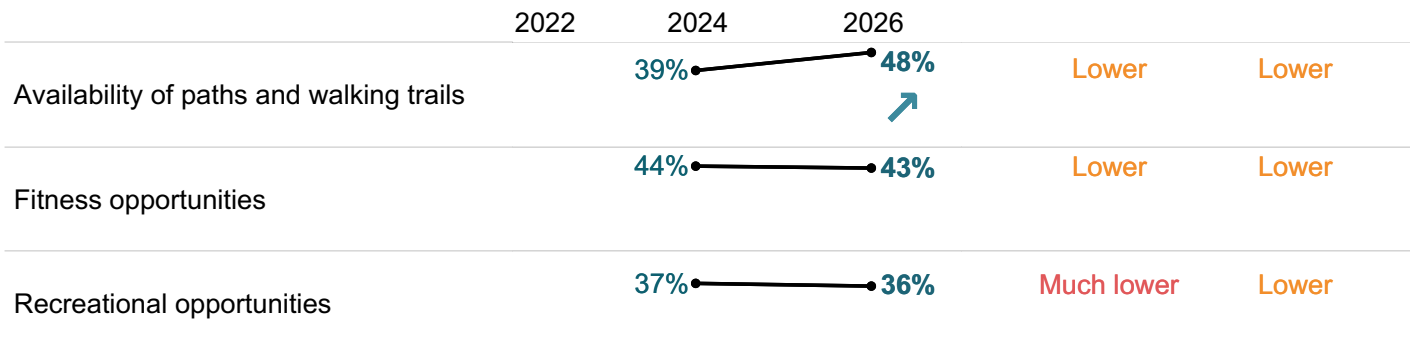
Overall quality of parks and recreation opportunities



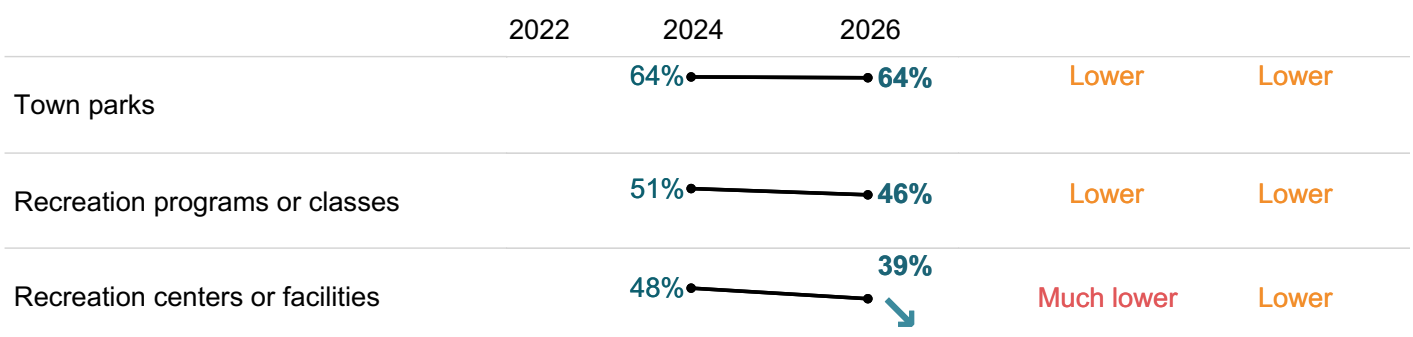
Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to La Plata as a whole.
(% excellent or good)



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



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



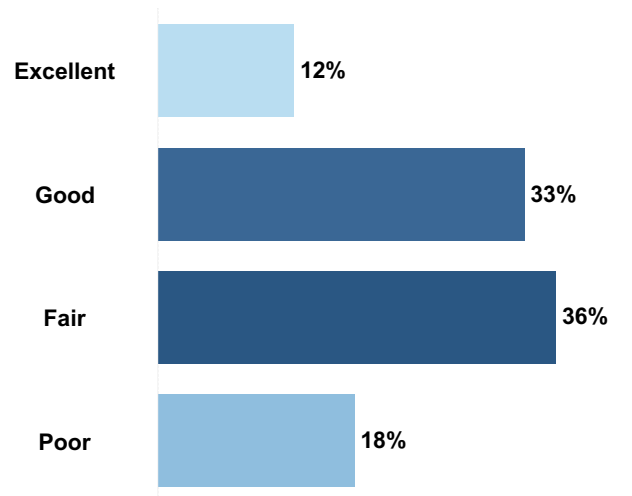
²⁴. Comparison to the national benchmark is shown. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.

²⁵. Comparison to the custom benchmark is shown. A description of the custom benchmark cohort can be found in the About section of the report.

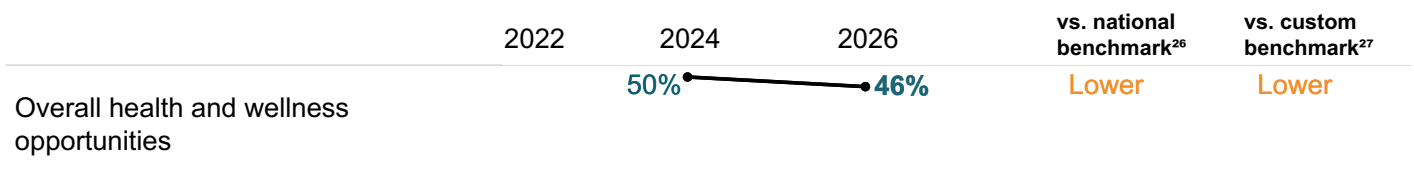
Health and Wellness

The features and amenities of a community directly influence residents' health and well-being, shaping their overall quality of life.

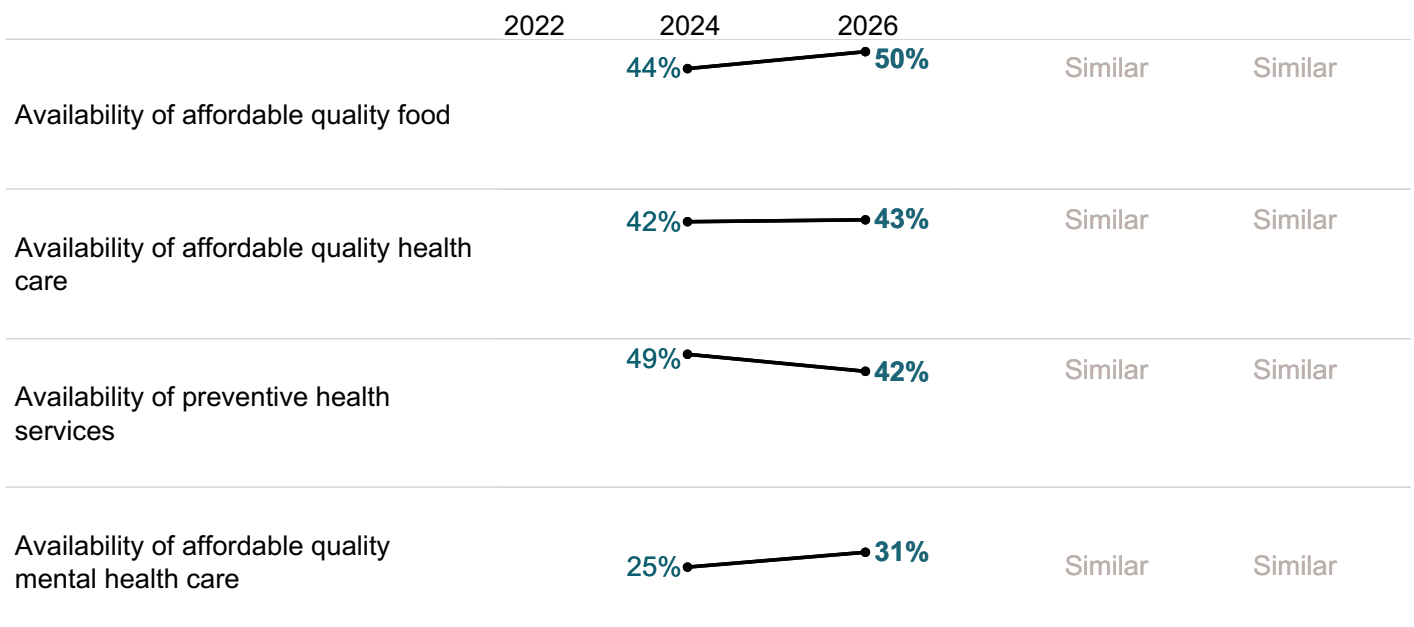
Overall health and wellness opportunities in La Plata



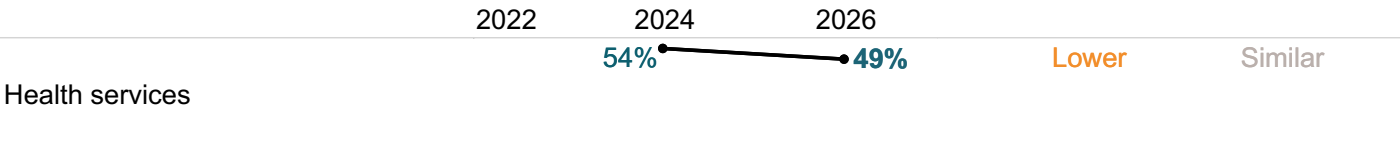
Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to La Plata as a whole.
(% excellent or good)



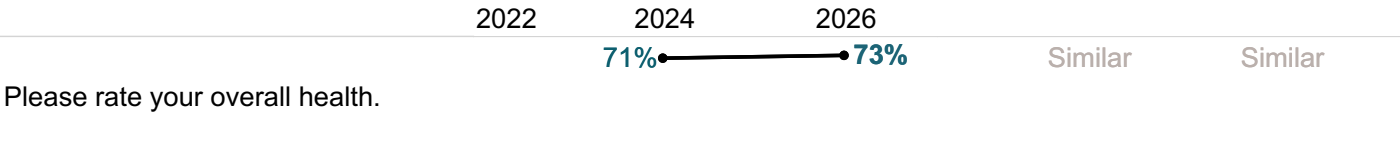
Please also rate each of the following in the La Plata community.
(% excellent or good)



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



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

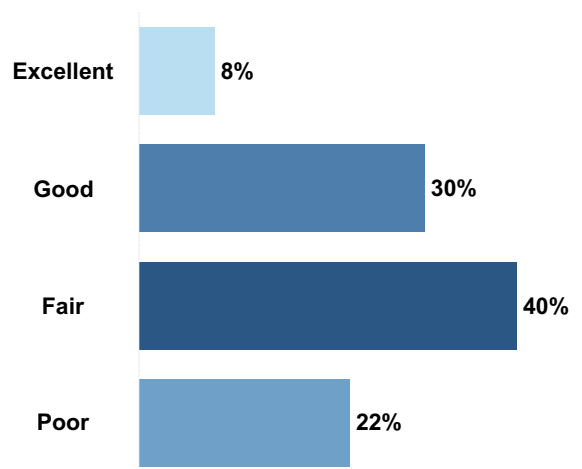


26. Comparison to the national benchmark is shown. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.
27. Comparison to the custom benchmark is shown. A description of the custom benchmark cohort can be found in the About section of the report.
If no comparison is available, this is left blank.

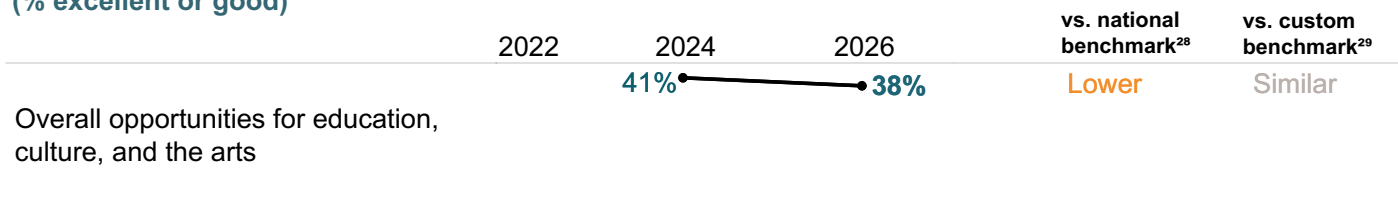
Education, Arts, and Culture

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.

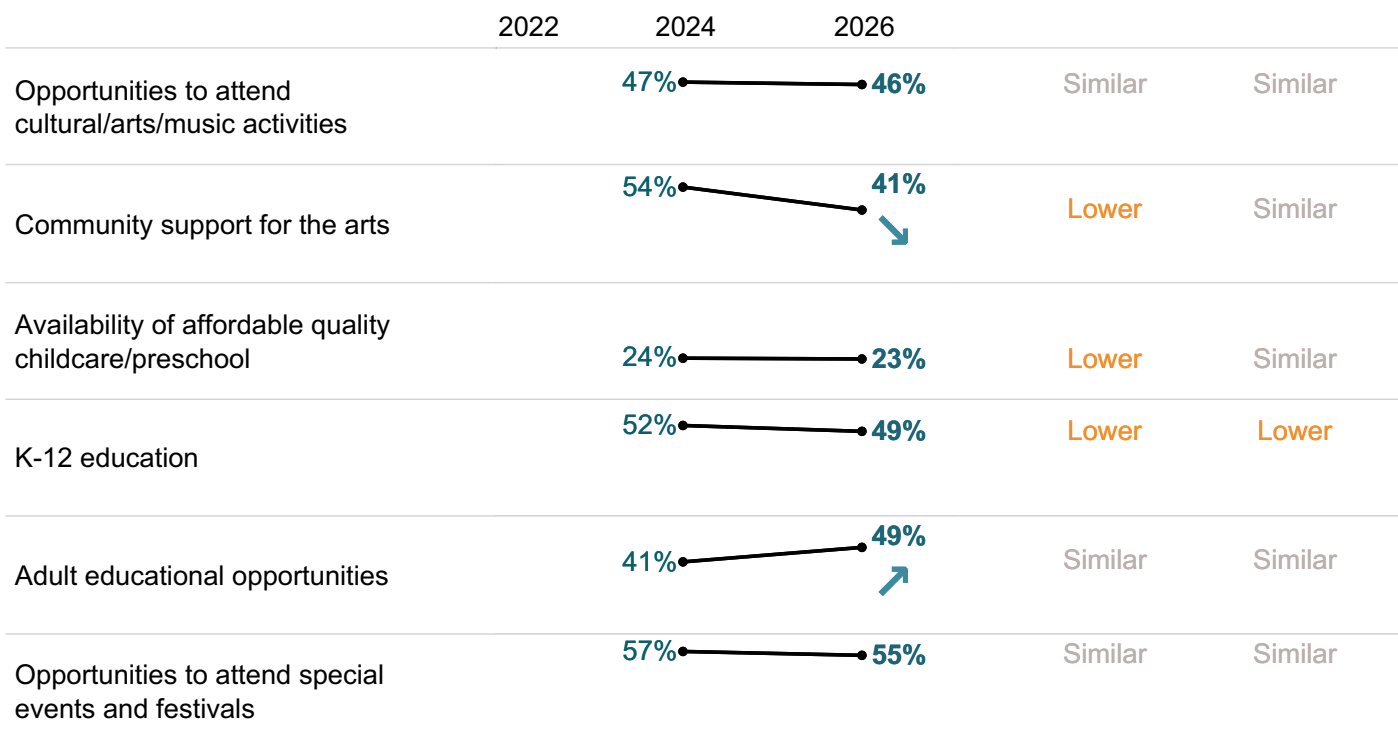
Overall opportunities for education, culture and the arts



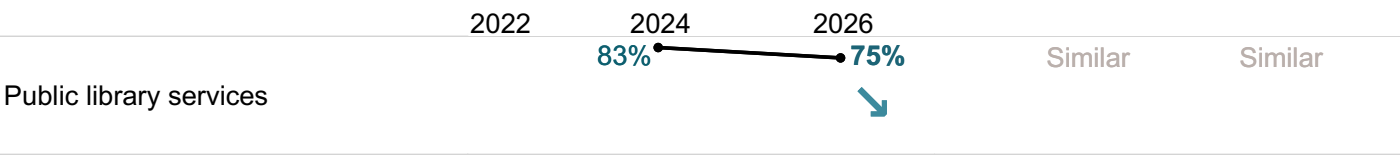
Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to La Plata as a whole.
(% excellent or good)



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



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

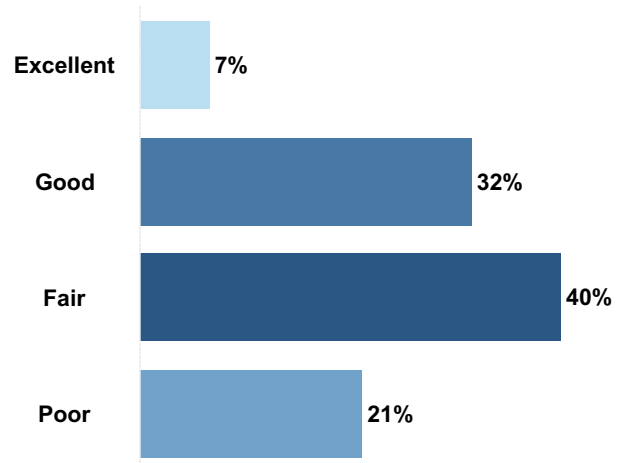


28. Comparison to the national benchmark is shown. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.
29. Comparison to the custom benchmark is shown. A description of the custom benchmark cohort can be found in the About section of the report.
If no comparison is available, this is left blank.

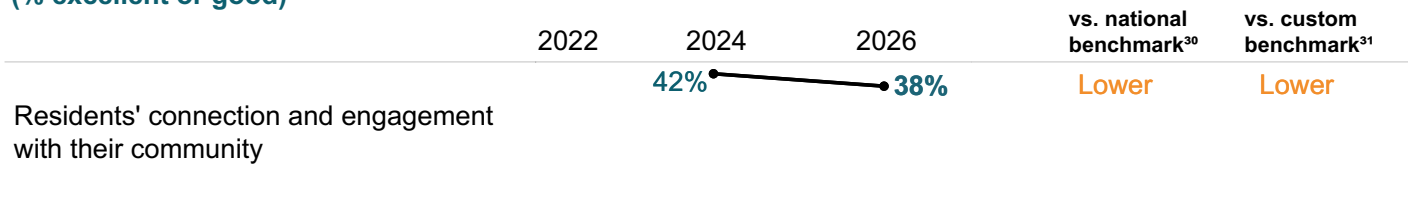
Community Connection

Community connection reflects residents' sense of belonging. When residents feel welcomed and encouraged to participate, they are more likely to feel engaged and connected to their community.

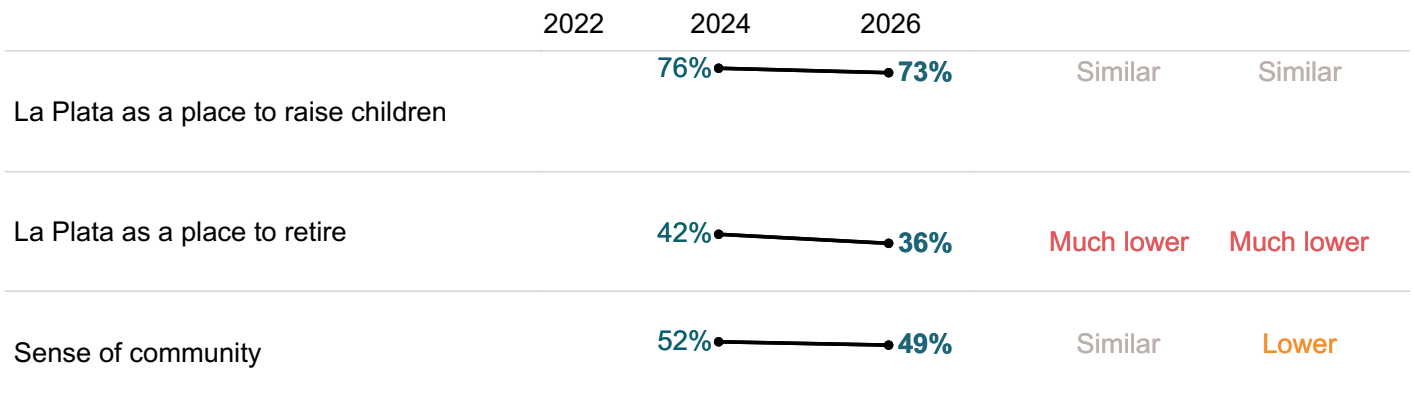
Residents' connection and engagement with their community



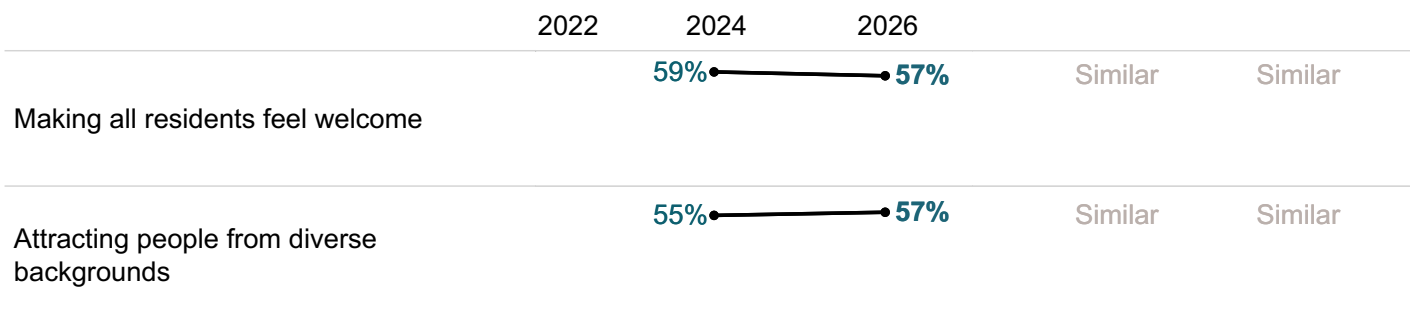
Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to La Plata as a whole.
(% excellent or good)



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



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



Valuing/respecting residents from diverse backgrounds	59%	62%	Similar	Similar
Taking care of vulnerable residents	41%	47%	Similar	Similar

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

	2022	2024	2026		
Sense of civic/community pride		47%	41%	Lower	Lower
Neighborhoodliness of residents		51%	48%	Similar	Lower
Opportunities to participate in social events and activities		51%	48%	Similar	Similar
Opportunities to volunteer		58%	49%	Lower	Similar
Opportunities to participate in community matters		51%	45%	Similar	Similar
Openness and acceptance of the community toward people of diverse backgrounds		50%	52%	Similar	Similar

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

	2022	2024	2026		
Campaigned or advocated for a local issue, cause, or candidate		15%	20%	Similar	Similar

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

31. Comparison to the custom benchmark is shown. A description of the custom benchmark cohort can be found in the About section of the report. If no comparison is available, this is left blank.

The Town of La Plata 2026 Community Survey

Please complete this survey if you are an adult (age 18 or older). Your responses are confidential and no identifying information will be shared.

1. Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in La Plata.

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

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
Overall economic health of La Plata.....	1	2	3	4	5
Overall quality of the transportation system (auto, bicycle, foot, bus) in La Plata.....	1	2	3	4	5
Overall design or layout of La Plata's residential and commercial areas (e.g., homes, buildings, streets, parks, etc.)	1	2	3	4	5
Overall quality of the utility infrastructure in La Plata..... (water, sewer, storm water, electric/gas, broadband)	1	2	3	4	5
Overall feeling of safety in La Plata	1	2	3	4	5
Overall quality of natural environment in La Plata.....	1	2	3	4	5
Overall quality of parks and recreation opportunities.....	1	2	3	4	5
Overall health and wellness opportunities in La Plata.....	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 La Plata to someone who asks.....	1	2	3	4	5
Remain in La Plata 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 La Plata'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 La Plata 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 La Plata 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 La Plata.....	1	2	3	4	5
Variety of business and service establishments in La Plata	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 La Plata.....	1	2	3	4	5
Overall image or reputation of La Plata	1	2	3	4	5

7. Please also rate each of the following in the La Plata 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 La Plata.....	1	2	3	4	5
Ease of travel by public transportation in La Plata.....	1	2	3	4	5
Ease of travel by bicycle in La Plata.....	1	2	3	4	5
Ease of walking in La Plata.....	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 La Plata.....	1	2	3	4	5
Overall appearance of La Plata.....	1	2	3	4	5
Cleanliness of La Plata.....	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 La Plata.....	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 the Town of La Plata (in-person, phone, email, or web) for help or information.....	1	2
Contacted La Plata elected officials (in-person, phone, email, or web) to express your opinion.....	1	2
Attended a local public meeting (of local elected officials like Town Council or County Commissioners, advisory boards, town halls, HOA, neighborhood watch, etc.).....	1	2
Watched (online or on television) a local public meeting.....	1	2
Volunteered your time to some group/activity in La Plata.....	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

The Town of La Plata 2026 Community Survey

9. Please rate the quality of each of the following services in La Plata.

	<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
Police/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
La Plata open space.....	1	2	3	4	5
Recycling.....	1	2	3	4	5
Yard waste pick-up.....	1	2	3	4	5
Town 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 La Plata employees (police, receptionists, planners, etc.)	1	2	3	4	5

10. Please rate the following categories of La Plata 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 La Plata	1	2	3	4	5
The overall direction that La Plata is taking.....	1	2	3	4	5
The job La Plata government does at welcoming resident involvement	1	2	3	4	5
Overall confidence in La Plata 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>
The Town of La Plata.....	1	2	3	4	5
The Federal Government.....	1	2	3	4	5

12. Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the La Plata 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 La Plata.....	1	2	3	4
Overall quality of the transportation system (auto, bicycle, foot, bus) in La Plata.....	1	2	3	4
Overall design or layout of La Plata's residential and commercial areas (e.g., homes, buildings, streets, parks, etc.)	1	2	3	4
Overall quality of the utility infrastructure in La Plata (water, sewer, storm water, electric/gas, broadband)	1	2	3	4
Overall feeling of safety in La Plata	1	2	3	4
Overall quality of natural environment in La Plata	1	2	3	4
Overall quality of parks and recreation opportunities.....	1	2	3	4
Overall health and wellness opportunities in La Plata	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

The Town of La Plata 2026 Community Survey

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. Please indicate how much of a source, if at all, you consider each of the following to be for obtaining information about La Plata activities, events, and services.

	<u>Major source</u>	<u>Minor source</u>	<u>Not a source</u>
Town of La Plata website.....	1	2	3
Town of La Plata social media (Facebook, X, Instagram, LinkedIn, Nextdoor)	1	2	3
Town of La Plata newsletter.....	1	2	3
Public meetings.....	1	2	3
Local media (newspapers, news programs)	1	2	3
Word of mouth.....	1	2	3

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 La Plata?

☐ 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?

☐ Single-family detached home
☐ Townhouse or duplex (may share walls but no units above or below you)
☐ Condominium or apartment (have units above or below you)
☐ 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 \$300 ☐ \$2,500 to \$3,999
☐ \$300 to \$599 ☐ \$4,000 to \$6,999
☐ \$600 to \$999 ☐ \$7,000 to \$9,999
☐ \$1,000 to \$1,499 ☐ \$10,000 or more
☐ \$1,500 to \$2,499

D8. Do any children 17 or under live in your household?

☐ No ☐ Yes

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 ☐ \$100,000 to \$149,999
☐ \$25,000 to \$49,999 ☐ \$150,000 to \$199,999
☐ \$50,000 to \$74,999 ☐ \$200,000 to \$299,999
☐ \$75,000 to \$99,999 ☐ \$300,000 or more

D11. Are you of Hispanic, Latino/a/x, or Spanish origin?

☐ No ☐ Yes

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
☐ Black or African American
☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
☐ White
☐ A race not listed

D13. In which category is your age?

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

D14. What is your gender?

☐ Woman
☐ Man
☐ Identify in another way → go to D14a

D14a. If you identify in another way, how would you describe your gender?

☐ Agender/I don't identify with any gender
☐ Genderqueer/gender fluid
☐ Non-binary
☐ Transgender man
☐ Transgender woman
☐ Two-spirit
☐ Identify in another way

La Plata, MD

The National Community Survey

Supplemental Report of Results - Benchmarks and Trends
2026

Report by:



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About

This supplemental report provides additional context to help interpret The National Community Survey™ results for the Town of La Plata. While the main report presents key findings and an overview of the 10 facets of community livability, this supplemental report expands on those results by offering multiple layers of comparison. It is designed to provide a clearer sense of how local perceptions and experiences fit within a broader landscape, and to highlight patterns that may not be immediately apparent in the main report. Comparisons to national/custom benchmarks and changes across survey years can influence how findings should be interpreted.

This report brings those elements together in a structured way, making it easier to identify where Town of La Plata is performing well, where perceptions may be shifting, and where results differ from similar communities or national patterns.

There are four sections included in this report. Use the links below to access the interactive online version of the following reports:

- [National Benchmarks](#)
- [Custom Benchmarks](#)
- [Full Trends](#)
- [Trend Benchmarks](#)

Together, this report supports informed decision-making by illustrating where the Town of La Plata currently stands, how the results compare to other communities, how those results have changed over time, and how those changes align with broader national trends.

Additional Online Reporting

In addition to the information presented in both the main report and this supplemental report, the online version offers a range of interactive elements designed to support deeper analysis, including:

- [Interactive Dashboards](#)
- [Demographic & Geographic Comparisons](#)

National Benchmarks

This table contains the comparisons of La Plata's results to those from communities nationwide. The first column shows La Plata's rating compared to the benchmark: results are noted as "higher" or "lower" if the average rating given by La Plata residents is at least 10 points above or below the benchmark, and "similar" if it is within 10 points. The second column shows La Plata's "percent positive", which is the combination of the most positive response options (e.g., excellent/good). The third column shows La Plata's ranking in comparison to other communities where a similar question was asked, and the fourth column shows the number of communities that asked that question. The fifth column shows the percentile for La Plata's result (the percent of communities that had a lower rating).

				% positive	Rank	Number of communities	Percentile
Quality of Life	Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in La Plata.	La Plata as a place to live	Lower	71%	300	373	18%
		The overall quality of life in La Plata	Lower	62%	312	379	16%
	Please indicate how likely or unlikely you are to do each of the following.	Recommend living in La Plata to someone who asks	Lower	66%	287	335	14%
		Remain in La Plata for the next five years	Lower	65%	328	337	2%
	Please rate each of the following in the La Plata community.	Overall image or reputation of La Plata	Similar	57%	272	363	23%
Governance	Please indicate whether or not you have done each of the following in the last 12 months.	Contacted the Town of La Plata (in-person, phone, email, or web) for help or information	Higher	61%	25	341	92%
		Contacted La Plata elected officials (in-person, phone, email, or web) to express your opinion	Similar	25%	37	324	88%
		Attended a local public meeting (of local elected officials like City Council or County Commissioners, advisory boards, town halls, HOA, neighborhood watch, etc.)	Higher	36%	17	326	95%
		Watched (online or on television) a local public meeting	Higher	37%	33	320	90%
	Please rate the quality of each of the following services in La Plata.	Public information services	Similar	48%	284	344	17%
		Overall customer service by La Plata employees (police, receptionists, planners, etc.)	Similar	70%	278	367	22%

Governance

Please rate the following categories of La Plata government performance.

The value of services for the taxes paid to La Plata	Lower	25%	355	378	4%
The overall direction that La Plata is taking	Much lower	24%	346	353	1%
The job La Plata government does at welcoming resident involvement	Lower	35%	327	353	7%
Overall confidence in La Plata government	Lower	31%	301	327	8%
Generally acting in the best interest of the community	Lower	32%	314	330	5%
Being honest	Lower	32%	303	323	6%
Being open and transparent to the public	Lower	29%	304	332	8%
Informing residents about issues facing the community	Lower	32%	307	329	6%
Treating all residents fairly	Similar	45%	254	331	23%
Treating residents with respect	Similar	49%	276	324	15%
Overall, how would you rate the quality of the services provided by each of the following?					
The Town of La Plata	Lower	52%	302	370	17%
The Federal Government	Similar	30%	217	308	29%
Please indicate how much of a source, if at all, you consider each of the following to be for obtaining information about La Plata activities, events, and services.					
Town of La Plata website	Similar	89%	40	103	62%
Town of La Plata social media (Facebook, X, Instagram, LinkedIn, Nextdoor)	Much higher	82%	3	84	97%

Governance	Please indicate how much of a source, if at all, you consider each of the following to be for obtaining information about La Plata activities, events, and services.	Town of La Plata newsletter	Higher	90%	14	77	83%
		Public meetings	Higher	72%	3	57	96%
		Local media (newspapers, news programs)	Similar	65%	53	90	42%
		Word of mouth	Similar	85%	16	32	53%
Economy	Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in La Plata.	La Plata as a place to work	Lower	46%	329	371	9%
		La Plata as a place to visit	Much lower	38%	310	342	8%
	Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to La Plata as a whole.	Overall economic health of La Plata	Lower	40%	269	336	20%
	Please rate each of the following in the La Plata community.	Overall quality of business and service establishments in La Plata	Similar	56%	274	332	17%
		Variety of business and service establishments in La Plata	Lower	42%	266	324	18%
		Vibrancy of downtown/commercial area	Lower	30%	269	318	15%
		Employment opportunities	Lower	22%	320	349	8%
		Shopping opportunities	Lower	36%	253	336	24%
		Cost of living in La Plata	Lower	19%	282	331	15%
	Please rate the quality of each of the following services in La Plata.	Economic development	Lower	25%	325	331	1%

Economy	Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the La Plata community to focus on each of the following in the coming two years.	Overall economic health of La Plata	Similar	85%	247	322	23%
		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:	Similar	20%	176	321	45%
Mobility	Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to La Plata as a whole.	Overall quality of the transportation system (auto, bicycle, foot, bus) in La Plata	Lower	33%	299	332	9%
	Please also rate each of the following in the La Plata community.	Traffic flow on major streets	Much lower	20%	330	350	4%
		Ease of public parking	Similar	47%	253	322	21%
		Ease of travel by car in La Plata	Lower	48%	321	347	7%
		Ease of travel by public transportation in La Plata	Lower	19%	270	323	16%
		Ease of travel by bicycle in La Plata	Much lower	22%	326	347	5%
		Ease of walking in La Plata	Lower	37%	324	352	7%
	Please indicate whether or not you have done each of the following in the last 12 months.	Used bus, rail, subway, or other public transportation instead of driving	Lower	12%	197	311	36%
		Carpooled with other adults or children instead of driving alone	Lower	32%	312	320	2%
		Walked or biked instead of driving	Lower	40%	291	323	10%
	Please rate the quality of each of the following services in La Plata.	Traffic enforcement	Similar	45%	302	359	14%
		Traffic signal timing	Similar	42%	273	324	16%

Mobility	Please rate the quality of each of the following services in La Plata.	Street repair	Similar	42%	198	360	45%
		Street cleaning	Similar	60%	216	338	35%
		Street lighting	Similar	55%	245	352	28%
		Snow removal	Similar	55%	208	285	25%
		Sidewalk maintenance	Similar	45%	246	331	25%
		Bus or transit services	Similar	32%	240	315	24%
	Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the La Plata community to focus on each of the following in the coming two years.	Overall quality of the transportation system (auto, bicycle, foot, bus) in La Plata	Similar	75%	117	321	63%
Community Design	Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in La Plata.	Your neighborhood as a place to live	Similar	80%	222	348	36%
	Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to La Plata as a whole.	Overall design or layout of La Plata's residential and commercial areas (e.g., homes, buildings, streets, parks, etc.)	Lower	36%	316	330	4%
	Please also rate each of the following in the La Plata community.	Well-planned residential growth	Much lower	17%	319	321	0%
		Well-planned commercial growth	Much lower	15%	319	321	0%
		Well-designed neighborhoods	Lower	33%	311	321	2%
		Preservation of the historical or cultural character of the community	Lower	46%	300	319	6%
		Public places where people want to spend time	Much lower	28%	316	324	2%

Community Design	Please also rate each of the following in the La Plata community.	Variety of housing options	Similar	36%	228	338	32%	
		Availability of affordable quality housing	Similar	23%	213	351	39%	
		Overall quality of new development in La Plata	Lower	25%	332	336	1%	
		Overall appearance of La Plata	Lower	52%	272	346	20%	
	Please rate the quality of each of the following services in La Plata.	Land use, planning, and zoning	Much lower	18%	338	340	0%	
		Code enforcement (weeds, abandoned buildings, etc.)	Lower	26%	293	358	17%	
	Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the La Plata community to focus on each of the following in the coming two years.	Overall design or layout of La Plata's residential and commercial areas (e.g., homes, buildings, streets, parks, etc.)	Similar	85%	14	322	95%	
	Utilities	Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to La Plata as a whole.	Overall quality of the utility infrastructure in La Plata (water, sewer, storm water, electric/gas, broadband)	Lower	37%	309	325	5%
		Please rate the quality of each of the following services in La Plata.	Affordable high-speed internet access	Similar	57%	143	318	55%
			Garbage collection	Similar	74%	252	345	26%
Drinking water			Similar	59%	258	345	24%	
Sewer services			Lower	57%	309	335	7%	
Storm water management (storm drainage, dams, levees, etc.)			Lower	52%	300	353	13%	
Power (electric and/or gas) utility			Similar	60%	256	305	16%	

Utilities	Please rate the quality of each of the following services in La Plata.	Utility billing	Lower	40%	306	323	4%
	Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the La Plata community to focus on each of the following in the coming two years.	Overall quality of the utility infrastructure in La Plata (water, sewer, storm water, electric/gas, broadband)	Similar	92%	25	321	92%
Safety	Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to La Plata as a whole.	Overall feeling of safety in La Plata	Similar	63%	258	359	27%
	Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel:	In your neighborhood during the day	Similar	92%	223	341	34%
		In La Plata's downtown/commercial area during the day	Similar	91%	201	330	39%
		From property crime	Similar	75%	212	330	36%
		From violent crime	Similar	79%	235	330	29%
		From fire, flood, or other natural disaster	Similar	72%	251	322	22%
	Please rate the quality of each of the following services in La Plata.	Police/Sheriff services	Similar	71%	244	376	33%
		Crime prevention	Similar	66%	211	353	39%
		Animal control	Similar	67%	227	345	33%
		Ambulance or emergency medical services	Similar	81%	232	354	33%
		Fire services	Similar	83%	282	360	20%
		Fire prevention and education	Similar	65%	287	335	14%

Safety	Please rate the quality of each of the following services in La Plata.	Emergency preparedness (services that prepare the community for natural disasters or other emergency situations)	Similar	62%	187	336	44%
	Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the La Plata community to focus on each of the following in the coming two years.	Overall feeling of safety in La Plata	Similar	89%	180	322	44%
Parks and Recreation	Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to La Plata as a whole.	Overall quality of parks and recreation opportunities	Lower	56%	299	329	9%
	Please also rate each of the following in the La Plata community.	Availability of paths and walking trails	Lower	48%	313	342	7%
		Fitness opportunities (including exercise classes and paths or trails, etc.)	Lower	43%	304	326	7%
		Recreational opportunities	Much lower	36%	326	338	3%
	Please rate the quality of each of the following services in La Plata.	Town parks	Lower	64%	301	345	13%
		Recreation programs or classes	Lower	46%	311	335	7%
		Recreation centers or facilities	Much lower	39%	314	329	4%
	Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the La Plata community to focus on each of the following in the coming two years.	Overall quality of parks and recreation opportunities	Similar	74%	227	322	29%
Community Connection	Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in La Plata.	La Plata as a place to raise children	Similar	73%	249	375	32%
		La Plata as a place to retire	Much lower	36%	357	370	2%
		Sense of community	Similar	49%	285	351	18%
	Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to La Plata as a whole.	Residents' connection and engagement with their community	Lower	38%	277	327	15%

Community Connection	Please rate the job you feel the La Plata community does at each of the following.	Making all residents feel welcome	Similar	57%	253	328	23%
		Attracting people from diverse backgrounds	Similar	57%	189	323	41%
		Valuing/respecting residents from diverse backgrounds	Similar	62%	178	323	45%
		Taking care of vulnerable residents (elderly, disabled, homeless, etc.)	Similar	47%	217	321	32%
	Please also rate each of the following in the La Plata community.	Sense of civic/community pride	Lower	41%	276	321	14%
		Neighborliness of residents in La Plata	Similar	48%	273	324	16%
		Opportunities to participate in social events and activities	Similar	48%	270	331	18%
		Opportunities to volunteer	Lower	49%	302	333	9%
		Opportunities to participate in community matters	Similar	45%	274	329	17%
		Openness and acceptance of the community toward people of diverse backgrounds	Similar	52%	236	342	31%
	Please indicate whether or not you have done each of the following in the last 12 months.	Volunteered your time to some group/activity in La Plata	Similar	25%	250	328	24%
		Campaigned or advocated for a local issue, cause, or candidate	Similar	20%	126	319	60%
	Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the La Plata community to focus on each of the following in the coming two years.	Residents' connection and engagement with their community	Similar	67%	114	322	64%
Education, Arts, and Culture	Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to La Plata as a whole.	Overall opportunities for education, culture, and the arts	Lower	38%	284	332	14%

Education, Arts, and Culture	Please also rate each of the following in the La Plata community.	Opportunities to attend cultural/arts/music activities	Similar	46%	249	348	28%	
		Community support for the arts	Lower	41%	252	320	21%	
		Availability of affordable quality childcare/preschool	Lower	23%	283	334	15%	
		K-12 education	Lower	49%	268	342	21%	
		Adult educational opportunities	Similar	49%	206	326	36%	
		Opportunities to attend special events and festivals	Similar	55%	257	332	22%	
	Please rate the quality of each of the following services in La Plata.	Public library services	Similar	75%	285	340	16%	
	Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the La Plata community to focus on each of the following in the coming two years.	Overall opportunities for education, culture, and the arts	Similar	62%	254	322	21%	
	Health and Wellness	Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to La Plata as a whole.	Overall health and wellness opportunities in La Plata	Lower	46%	290	332	12%
		Please also rate each of the following in the La Plata community.	Availability of affordable quality food	Similar	50%	249	325	23%
Availability of affordable quality health care			Similar	43%	250	334	25%	
Availability of preventive health services			Similar	42%	223	319	30%	
Availability of affordable quality mental health care			Similar	31%	230	325	29%	
Please rate the quality of each of the following services in La Plata.		Health services	Lower	49%	258	316	18%	

Health and Wellness	Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the La Plata community to focus on each of the following in the coming two years.	Overall health and wellness opportunities in La Plata	Similar	72%	184	322	43%
		Please rate your overall health.	Similar	73%	126	318	60%
Natural Environment	Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to La Plata as a whole.	Overall quality of natural environment in La Plata	Lower	55%	301	339	11%
	Please also rate each of the following in the La Plata community.	Cleanliness of La Plata	Similar	64%	234	344	32%
		Water resources (beaches, lakes, ponds, riverways, etc.)	Much lower	28%	283	305	7%
		Air quality	Similar	61%	270	331	18%
	Please rate the quality of each of the following services in La Plata.	Preservation of natural areas (open space, farmlands, and greenbelts)	Lower	40%	313	324	3%
		La Plata open space	Lower	34%	316	320	1%
		Recycling	Similar	74%	118	350	66%
		Yard waste pick-up	Similar	70%	158	320	50%
	Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the La Plata community to focus on each of the following in the coming two years.	Overall quality of natural environment in La Plata	Similar	84%	119	322	63%

Custom Benchmarks

This table contains the comparisons of La Plata's results to communities with a population between 10k - 15k. The first column shows La Plata's rating compared to the benchmark: results are noted as "higher" or "lower" if the average rating given by La Plata residents is at least 10 points above or below the benchmark, and "similar" if it is within 10 points. The second column shows La Plata's "percent positive", which is the combination of the most positive response options (e.g., excellent/good). The third column shows La Plata's ranking in comparison to other communities where a similar question was asked, and the fourth column shows the number of communities that asked that question. The fifth column shows the percentile for La Plata's result (the percent of communities that had a lower rating).

				% positive	Rank	Number of communities	Percentile
Quality of Life	Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in La Plata.	La Plata as a place to live	Lower	71%	15	21	26%
		The overall quality of life in La Plata	Lower	62%	16	21	21%
	Please indicate how likely or unlikely you are to do each of the following.	Recommend living in La Plata to someone who asks	Lower	66%	14	18	27%
		Remain in La Plata for the next five years	Lower	65%	18	18	5%
	Please rate each of the following in the La Plata community.	Overall image or reputation of La Plata	Similar	57%	15	22	26%
Governance	Please indicate whether or not you have done each of the following in the last 12 months.	Contacted the Town of La Plata (in-person, phone, email, or web) for help or information	Higher	61%	1	18	100%
		Contacted La Plata elected officials (in-person, phone, email, or web) to express your opinion	Similar	25%	3	18	88%
		Attended a local public meeting (of local elected officials like City Council or County Commissioners, advisory boards, town halls, HOA, neighborhood watch, etc.)	Higher	36%	3	18	88%
		Watched (online or on television) a local public meeting	Higher	37%	2	18	94%
	Please rate the quality of each of the following services in La Plata.	Public information services	Similar	48%	15	19	26%
		Overall customer service by La Plata employees (police, receptionists, planners, etc.)	Similar	70%	15	21	26%
	Please rate the following categories of La Plata government performance.	The value of services for the taxes paid to La Plata	Lower	25%	19	21	5%
		The overall direction that La Plata is taking	Lower	24%	19	19	5%

Governance	Please rate the following categories of La Plata government performance.	The job La Plata government does at welcoming resident involvement	Lower	35%	17	19	15%
		Overall confidence in La Plata government	Lower	31%	17	18	11%
		Generally acting in the best interest of the community	Lower	32%	17	18	11%
		Being honest	Lower	32%	16	18	16%
		Being open and transparent to the public	Lower	29%	17	19	15%
		Informing residents about issues facing the community	Lower	32%	16	18	16%
		Treating all residents fairly	Similar	45%	15	19	26%
		Treating residents with respect	Similar	49%	16	18	16%
	Overall, how would you rate the quality of the services provided by each of the following?	The Town of La Plata	Similar	52%	17	21	15%
		The Federal Government	Similar	30%	10	18	50%
	Please indicate how much of a source, if at all, you consider each of the following to be for obtaining information about La Plata activities, events, and services.	Town of La Plata website	Null	89%			
		Town of La Plata social media (Facebook, X, Instagram, LinkedIn, Nextdoor)	Null	82%			
		Town of La Plata newsletter	Null	90%			
		Public meetings	Null	72%			
		Local media (newspapers, news programs)	Null	65%			
		Word of mouth	Null	85%			
Economy	Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in La Plata	La Plata as a place to work	Lower	46%	16	21	21%

Economy	Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in La Plata.	La Plata as a place to visit	Lower	38%	15	19	22%
	Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to La Plata as a whole.	Overall economic health of La Plata	Similar	40%	16	19	21%
	Please rate each of the following in the La Plata community.	Overall quality of business and service establishments in La Plata	Similar	56%	15	19	26%
		Variety of business and service establishments in La Plata	Similar	42%	12	18	38%
		Vibrancy of downtown/commercial area	Lower	30%	14	19	31%
		Employment opportunities	Lower	22%	16	19	21%
		Shopping opportunities	Similar	36%	10	19	52%
		Cost of living in La Plata	Lower	19%	16	19	21%
	Please rate the quality of each of the following services in La Plata.	Economic development	Lower	25%	17	19	15%
	Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the La Plata community to focus on each of the following in the coming two..	Overall economic health of La Plata	Similar	85%	15	18	22%
		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:	Similar	20%	9	18	55%
Mobility	Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to La Plata as a whole.	Overall quality of the transportation system (auto, bicycle, foot, bus) in La Plata	Lower	33%	15	19	26%
	Please also rate each of the following in the La Plata community.	Traffic flow on major streets	Much lower	20%	17	19	11%
		Ease of public parking	Similar	47%	16	19	21%
		Ease of travel by car in La Plata	Lower	48%	16	19	16%
		Ease of travel by public transportation in La Plata	Similar	19%	12	18	38%
		Ease of travel by bicycle in La Plata	Much lower	22%	18	19	5%

Mobility	Please also rate each of the following in the La Plata community.	Ease of walking in La Plata	Much lower	37%	19	19	5%
	Please indicate whether or not you have done each of the following in the last 12 months.	Used bus, rail, subway, or other public transportation instead of driving	Similar	12%	6	18	72%
		Carpooled with other adults or children instead of driving alone	Lower	32%	18	18	5%
		Walked or biked instead of driving	Lower	40%	17	19	15%
	Please rate the quality of each of the following services in La Plata.	Traffic enforcement	Lower	45%	16	19	21%
		Traffic signal timing	Lower	42%	16	18	16%
		Street repair	Similar	42%	12	19	42%
		Street cleaning	Similar	60%	14	20	31%
		Street lighting	Similar	55%	14	21	31%
		Snow removal	Similar	55%	13	19	25%
		Sidewalk maintenance	Similar	45%	12	19	38%
		Bus or transit services	Similar	32%	9	17	52%
	Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the La Plata community to focus on each of the following in the coming two..	Overall quality of the transportation system (auto, bicycle, foot, bus) in La Plata	Similar	75%	4	18	83%
Community Design	Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in La Plata.	Your neighborhood as a place to live	Similar	80%	12	18	38%
	Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to La Plata as a whole.	Overall design or layout of La Plata's residential and commercial areas (e.g., homes, buildings, streets, parks, etc.)	Lower	36%	18	19	10%
	Please also rate each of the following in the La Plata community.	Well-planned residential growth	Much lower	17%	18	18	5%
		Well-planned commercial growth	Lower	15%	17	18	11%

Community Design	Please also rate each of the following in the La Plata community.	Well-designed neighborhoods	Lower	33%	18	18	5%
		Preservation of the historical or cultural character of the community	Lower	46%	16	18	16%
		Public places where people want to spend time	Lower	28%	18	18	5%
		Variety of housing options	Similar	36%	9	18	55%
		Availability of affordable quality housing	Similar	23%	13	19	36%
		Overall quality of new development in La Plata	Lower	25%	19	19	5%
		Overall appearance of La Plata	Similar	52%	14	21	27%
Utilities	Please rate the quality of each of the following services in La Plata.	Land use, planning, and zoning	Lower	18%	19	19	5%
		Code enforcement (weeds, abandoned buildings, etc.)	Similar	26%	15	20	26%
	Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the La Plata community to focus on each of the following in the coming two..	Overall design or layout of La Plata's residential and commercial areas (e.g., homes, buildings, streets, parks, etc.)	Similar	85%	1	18	100%
	Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to La Plata as a whole.	Overall quality of the utility infrastructure in La Plata (water, sewer, storm water, electric/gas, broadband)	Lower	37%	17	18	11%
	Please rate the quality of each of the following services in La Plata.	Affordable high-speed internet access	Similar	57%	8	18	61%
		Garbage collection	Similar	74%	12	18	38%
		Drinking water	Similar	59%	13	19	36%
		Sewer services	Lower	57%	18	19	10%
		Storm water management (storm drainage, dams, levees, etc.)	Lower	52%	18	20	10%
		Power (electric and/or gas) utility	Similar	60%	14	17	23%

Utilities	Please rate the quality of each of the following services in La Plata.	Utility billing	Lower	40%	15	17	17%
	Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the La Plata community to focus on each of the following in the coming two..	Overall quality of the utility infrastructure in La Plata (water, sewer, storm water, electric/gas, broadband)	Similar	92%	2	18	94%
Safety	Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to La Plata as a whole.	Overall feeling of safety in La Plata	Lower	63%	15	22	26%
	Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel:	In your neighborhood during the day	Similar	92%	14	18	27%
		In La Plata's downtown/commercial area during the day	Similar	91%	15	18	22%
		From property crime	Similar	75%	12	18	38%
		From violent crime	Similar	79%	15	18	22%
		From fire, flood, or other natural disaster	Similar	72%	13	18	33%
	Please rate the quality of each of the following services in La Plata.	Police/Sheriff services	Similar	71%	14	21	31%
		Crime prevention	Similar	66%	13	22	36%
		Animal control	Similar	67%	10	19	52%
		Ambulance or emergency medical services	Similar	81%	14	18	27%
		Fire services	Similar	83%	16	20	21%
		Fire prevention and education	Similar	65%	16	18	16%
		Emergency preparedness (services that prepare the community for natural disasters or other emergency situations)	Similar	62%	9	18	55%
	Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the La Plata community to focus on each of the following in the coming two..	Overall feeling of safety in La Plata	Similar	89%	7	18	66%
Natural Environment	Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to La Plata as a whole.	Overall quality of natural environment in La Plata	Lower	55%	16	19	21%

Natural Environment	Please also rate each of the following in the La Plata community.	Cleanliness of La Plata	Similar	64%	15	19	26%	
		Water resources (beaches, lakes, ponds, riverways, etc.)	Much lower	28%	15	17	17%	
		Air quality	Lower	61%	15	18	22%	
	Please rate the quality of each of the following services in La Plata.	Preservation of natural areas (open space, farmlands, and greenbelts)	Lower	40%	18	19	10%	
		La Plata open space	Lower	34%	17	18	11%	
		Recycling	Similar	74%	7	18	66%	
		Yard waste pick-up	Similar	70%	8	17	58%	
	Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the La Plata community to focus on each of the following in the coming two..	Overall quality of natural environment in La Plata	Similar	84%	9	18	55%	
	Parks and Recreation	Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to La Plata as a whole.	Overall quality of parks and recreation opportunities	Lower	56%	15	18	22%
Please also rate each of the following in the La Plata community.		Availability of paths and walking trails	Lower	48%	15	20	26%	
		Fitness opportunities (including exercise classes and paths or trails, etc.)	Lower	43%	13	18	33%	
		Recreational opportunities	Lower	36%	17	19	15%	
Please rate the quality of each of the following services in La Plata.		Town parks	Lower	64%	16	19	21%	
		Recreation programs or classes	Lower	46%	15	19	26%	
		Recreation centers or facilities	Lower	39%	15	19	26%	
Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the La Plata community to focus on each of the following in the coming two..		Overall quality of parks and recreation opportunities	Similar	74%	12	18	38%	
Health and Wellness	Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to La Plata as a whole.	Overall health and wellness opportunities in La Plata	Lower	46%	15	19	26%	

Health and Wellness	Please also rate each of the following in the La Plata community.	Availability of affordable quality food	Similar	50%	10	18	50%
		Availability of affordable quality health care	Similar	43%	14	19	31%
		Availability of preventive health services	Similar	42%	10	18	50%
		Availability of affordable quality mental health care	Similar	31%	10	19	52%
	Please rate the quality of each of the following services in La Plata.	Health services	Similar	49%	13	18	33%
	Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the La Plata community to focus on each of the following in the coming two..	Overall health and wellness opportunities in La Plata	Similar	72%	11	18	44%
		Please rate your overall health.	Similar	73%	9	18	55%
Education, Arts, and Culture	Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to La Plata as a whole.	Overall opportunities for education, culture, and the arts	Similar	38%	14	19	31%
	Please also rate each of the following in the La Plata community.	Opportunities to attend cultural/arts/music activities	Similar	46%	12	19	42%
		Community support for the arts	Similar	41%	13	18	33%
		Availability of affordable quality childcare/preschool	Similar	23%	13	19	36%
		K-12 education	Lower	49%	15	18	22%
		Adult educational opportunities	Similar	49%	9	18	55%
		Opportunities to attend special events and festivals	Similar	55%	14	18	27%
	Please rate the quality of each of the following services in La Plata.	Public library services	Similar	75%	14	18	27%
	Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the La Plata community to focus on each of the following in the coming two..	Overall opportunities for education, culture, and the arts	Similar	62%	13	18	33%
Community Connection	Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in La Plata	La Plata as a place to raise children	Similar	73%	13	21	36%

**Community
Connection**

Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in La Plata.	La Plata as a place to retire	Much lower	36%	19	21	5%
	Sense of community	Lower	49%	15	19	26%
Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to La Plata as a whole.	Residents' connection and engagement with their community	Lower	38%	15	18	22%
Please rate the job you feel the La Plata community does at each of the following.	Making all residents feel welcome	Similar	57%	14	18	27%
	Attracting people from diverse backgrounds	Similar	57%	8	18	61%
	Valuing/respecting residents from diverse backgrounds	Similar	62%	6	18	72%
	Taking care of vulnerable residents (elderly, disabled, homeless, etc.)	Similar	47%	12	18	38%
Please also rate each of the following in the La Plata community.	Sense of civic/community pride	Lower	41%	15	18	22%
	Neighborliness of residents in La Plata	Lower	48%	17	19	15%
	Opportunities to participate in social events and activities	Similar	48%	15	19	26%
	Opportunities to volunteer	Similar	49%	15	18	22%
	Opportunities to participate in community matters	Similar	45%	14	18	27%
	Openness and acceptance of the community toward people of diverse backgrounds	Similar	52%	10	19	52%
Please indicate whether or not you have done each of the following in the last 12 months.	Volunteered your time to some group/activity in La Plata	Lower	25%	13	19	36%
	Campaigned or advocated for a local issue, cause, or candidate	Similar	20%	8	18	61%
Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the La Plata community to focus on each of the following in the coming two..	Residents' connection and engagement with their community	Similar	67%	9	18	55%

Full Trends

This table contains the trends over time for the Town of La Plata. The combined "percent positive" responses for each survey year are presented (e.g., excellent/good or yes). If an item was not included during an administration of the survey, no percentage will be shown in the table. If the difference between the 2024 and 2026 surveys is greater than 7 percentage points, the change is statistically significant.

It is important to note that in 2020 and 2025, 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.

			2007	2008	2009	2010	2012	2014	2016	2024	2026
Quality of Life	Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in La Plata.	La Plata as a place to live	85%	87%	88%	89%	86%	85%	86%	73%	71%
		The overall quality of life	75%	81%	81%	82%	81%	76%	76%	70%	62% L
	Please indicate how likely or unlikely you are to do each of the following.	Recommend living in La Plata to someone who asks		85%	88%	92%	89%	82%	84%	71%	66%
		Remain in La Plata for the next five years		81%	80%	80%	83%	76%	73%	72%	65%
		Please rate each of the following in the La Plata community.	Overall image or reputation	70%	79%	76%	77%	76%	65%	77%	61%
Governance	Please indicate whether or not you have done each of the following in the last 12 months.	Contacted the Town of La Plata for help or information	58%	61%	55%	46%	52%	59%	48%	59%	61%
		Contacted La Plata elected officials to express your opinion						21%	14%	21%	25%
		Attended a local public meeting	37%	29%	26%	27%	26%	23%	27%	36%	36%
		Watched a local public meeting	52%	47%	43%	41%	38%	28%	25%	36%	37%
	Please rate the quality of each of the following services in La Plata.	Public information services			74%		75%	69%	68%	54%	48%
		Overall customer service by La Plata employees	81%	80%	88%	87%	79%	78%	74%	73%	70%
	Please rate the following categories of La Plata government performance.	The value of services for the taxes paid to La Plata	50%	50%	47%	48%	49%	36%	46%	34%	25% L
		The overall direction that La Plata is taking	51%	51%	57%	52%	53%	48%	53%	27%	24%
		The job La Plata government does at welcoming resident involvement	64%	56%	58%	57%	60%	46%	51%	39%	35%
		Overall confidence in La Plata government						43%	53%	37%	31%
		Generally acting in the best interest of the community						48%	58%	37%	32%
		Being honest						43%	61%	49%	32% L

Governance	Please rate the following categories of La Plata government performance.	Being open and transparent to the public								40%	29% L		
		Informing residents about issues facing the community								37%	32%		
		Treating all residents fairly	45%58%54%							45% L			
		Treating residents with respect								58%	49% L		
	Overall, how would you rate the quality of the services provided by each of the following?	The Town of La Plata	73%	77%	79%	81%	79%	71%	75%	61%	52% L		
The Federal Government		49%	50%	44%	56%	49%	33%	52%	36%	30%			
Economy	Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in La Plata.	La Plata as a place to work	51%	57%	50%	52%	59%	51%	60%	56%	46% L		
		La Plata as a place to visit								46%	50%	36%	38%
	Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to La Plata as a whole.	Overall economic health								55%	62%	54%	40% L
		Please rate each of the following in the La Plata community.	Overall quality of business and service establishments		72%	69%	63%	75%	54%	60%	58%	56%	
	Variety of business and service establishments										44%	42%	
	Vibrancy of downtown/commercial area									34%	39%	30%	30%
	Employment opportunities		26%	29%	25%	26%	27%	18%	37%	23%	22%		
	Shopping opportunities		56%	62%	56%	58%	59%	44%	50%	35%	36%		
	Cost of living									28%	35%	23%	19%
	Please rate the quality of each of the following services in La Plata.	Economic development	47%	51%	53%						31%	25%	
		Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the La Plata community to focus on each of the following in the coming two years.	Overall economic health								88%	90%	86%
			What impact, if any, do you think the economy will have on your family income in the next 6 months?	15%	13%	16%	16%	24%	20%	19%	22%	20%	
	Mobility	Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to La Plata as a whole.	Overall quality of the transportation system								23%	33% H	

Mobility	Please also rate each of the following in the La Plata community.	Traffic flow on major streets	26%	29%	28%	27%	30%	38%	40%	17%	20%
		Ease of public parking						57%	61%	46%	47%
		Ease of travel by car	41%	52%	52%	49%	54%	57%	59%	46%	48%
		Ease of travel by public transportation						28%		20%	19%
		Ease of travel by bicycle	30%	39%	29%	30%	34%	23%	42%	16%	22%
		Ease of walking	42%	47%	41%	44%	40%	47%	54%	32%	37%
	Please indicate whether or not you have done each of the following in the last 12 months.	Used public transportation instead of driving								10%	12%
		Carpooled with other adults or children instead of driving alone						39%	37%	28%	32%
		Walked or biked instead of driving						43%	48%	39%	40%
	Please rate the quality of each of the following services in La Plata.	Traffic enforcement	63%	66%	68%	64%	72%	59%	65%	39%	45%
		Traffic signal timing		60%	58%	66%	64%		56%	39%	42%
		Street repair	49%	50%	55%	49%	55%	40%	41%	47%	42%
		Street cleaning	56%	68%	66%	67%	70%	62%	53%	60%	60%
		Street lighting	55%	64%	63%	63%	64%	55%	52%	55%	55%
		Snow removal	71%	81%	74%	65%	76%	66%	66%	67%	55% L
		Sidewalk maintenance	51%	62%	58%	49%	53%	52%	51%	51%	45%
		Bus or transit services		62%	53%					30%	32%
	Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the La Plata community to focus on each of the following in the coming two years.	Overall quality of the transportation system								76%	75%
Community Design	Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in La Plata.	Your neighborhood as a place to live	75%	84%	79%	80%	77%	83%	82%	82%	80%

Community Design	Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to La Plata as a whole.	Overall design or layout of residential and commercial areas					59%	65%	34%	36%	
	Please also rate each of the following in the La Plata community.	Well-planned residential growth							19%	17%	
		Well-planned commercial growth							18%	15%	
		Well-designed neighborhoods							28%	33%	
		Preservation of the historical or cultural character of the community							43%	46%	
		Public places where people want to spend time					50%	58%	29%	28%	
		Variety of housing options	56%	61%	59%	63%	53%	54%	35%	36%	
		Availability of affordable quality housing	26%	34%	33%	36%	44%	36%	44%	21%	23%
		Overall quality of new development	58%	68%	68%	64%	64%	37%	45%	22%	25%
Overall appearance	73%	80%	80%	80%	78%	79%	80%	60%	52% L		
Please rate the quality of each of the following services in La Plata.	Land use, planning and zoning	36%	43%	40%	43%	35%	45%	44%	23%	18%	
	Code enforcement	54%	57%	57%	56%	51%	48%	49%	45%	26% L	
Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the La Plata community to focus on each of the following in the coming two years.	Overall design or layout of residential and commercial areas					77%	79%	89%	85%		
Utilities	Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to La Plata as a whole.	Overall quality of the utility infrastructure							56%	37% L	
	Please rate the quality of each of the following services in La Plata.	Affordable high-speed internet access							62%	57% L	
		Garbage collection	86%	87%	82%	86%	85%	88%	77%	87%	74% L
		Drinking water	57%	65%	59%	64%	70%	72%	75%	71%	59% L
		Sewer services	63%	76%	72%	70%	73%	72%	72%	73%	57% L
Storm water management	55%	70%	65%	71%	69%	64%	66%	63%	52% L		

Utilities	Please rate the quality of each of the following services in La Plata.	Power (electric and/or gas) utility								73%	60% L		
		Utility billing						56%	61%	57%	40% L		
	Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the La Plata community to focus on each of the following in the coming two years.	Overall quality of the utility infrastructure								91%	92%		
Safety	Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to La Plata as a whole.	Overall feeling of safety								75%	82%	70%	63%
	Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel:	In your neighborhood during the day		93%	92%	95%	93%	94%	91%	92%	91%	92%	
		In La Plata's downtown/commercial area during the day		92%	90%	93%	94%	93%	88%	94%	89%	91%	
		From property crime		65%	69%	69%	72%	75%			74%	75%	
		From violent crime		74%	84%	81%	78%	82%			80%	79%	
		From fire, flood, or other natural disaster									76%	72%	
	Please rate the quality of each of the following services in La Plata.	Police/Sheriff services		78%	76%	82%	82%	87%	79%	79%	78%	71% L	
		Crime prevention		70%	75%	74%	81%	79%	68%	69%	67%	66%	
		Animal control				74%					74%	67% L	
		Ambulance or emergency medical services			84%				87%	92%	86%	81%	
		Fire services									90%	83%	
		Fire prevention and education							78%	80%	68%	65%	
		Emergency preparedness			81%	81%		84%	66%	72%	72%	62% L	
	Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the La Plata community to focus on each of the following in the coming two years.	Overall feeling of safety							94%	94%	89%	89%	
	Parks and Recreation	Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to La Plata as a whole.	Overall quality of parks and recreation opportunities									55%	56%
	Please also rate each of the following in the La Plata community.	Availability of paths and walking trails			35%	32%	32%	32%	39%	46%	39%	48% H	

Parks and Recreation	Please also rate each of the following in the La Plata community.	Fitness opportunities						53%	61%	44%	43%
		Recreational opportunities	40%	51%	50%	47%	49%	50%	50%	37%	36%
	Please rate the quality of each of the following services in La Plata.	Town parks	65%	72%	80%	78%	83%	79%	70%	64%	64%
		Recreation programs or classes		60%			67%			51%	46%
		Recreation centers or facilities		60%	74%	71%	65%			48%	39% L
	Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the La Plata community to focus on each of the following in the coming two years.	Overall quality of parks and recreation opportunities								75%	74%
	Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in La Plata.	La Plata as a place to raise children	74%	82%	79%	82%	80%	82%	79%	76%	73%
		La Plata as a place to retire	42%	53%	55%	50%	50%	44%	44%	42%	36%
		Sense of community	67%	68%	75%	70%	73%	55%	65%	52%	49%
Community Connection	Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to La Plata as a whole.	Residents' connection and engagement with their community								42%	38%
	Please rate the job you feel the La Plata community does at each of the following.	Making all residents feel welcome								59%	57%
		Attracting people from diverse backgrounds								55%	57%
		Valuing/respecting residents from diverse backgrounds								59%	62%
		Taking care of vulnerable residents								41%	47%
	Please also rate each of the following in the La Plata community.	Sense of civic/community pride								47%	41%
		Neighborliness of residents						56%	62%	51%	48%
		Opportunities to participate in social events and activities		62%	62%	61%	61%	50%	57%	51%	48%
		Opportunities to volunteer		81%	74%	70%	75%	62%	66%	58%	49% L
		Opportunities to participate in community matters		70%	65%	59%	62%	59%	63%	51%	45%

Community Connection	Please also rate each of the following in the La Plata community.	Openness and acceptance of the community toward people of diverse backgrounds	61%	62%	65%	68%		45%	62%	50%	52%
	Please indicate whether or not you have done each of the following in the last 12 months.	Volunteered your time to some group/activity	46%	48%	49%	43%	41%	38%	37%	30%	25%
		Campaigned or advocated for a local issue, cause, or candidate						30%	19%	15%	20%
	Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the La Plata community to focus on each of the following in the coming two years.	Residents' connection and engagement with their community						81%	83%	64%	67%
Custom	Please indicate how much of a source, if at all, you consider each of the following to be for obtaining information about La Plata activities, events, and services.	Town of La Plata website								95%	89%
		Town of La Plata social media (Facebook, X, Instagram, LinkedIn, Nextdoor)									82%
		Town of La Plata newsletter								83%	90%
		Public meetings									72%
		Local media (newspapers, news programs)								49%	65% H
		Word of mouth								85%	85%
Education, Arts, and Culture	Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to La Plata as a whole.	Overall opportunities for education, culture, and the arts						66%	70%	41%	38%
	Please also rate each of the following in the La Plata community.	Opportunities to attend cultural/arts/music activities	42%	46%	44%	47%	53%	51%	53%	47%	46%
		Community support for the arts								54%	41% L
		Availability of affordable quality childcare/preschool	34%	34%	40%	43%	45%	48%	57%	24%	23%
		K-12 education			82%		85%	79%	75%	52%	49%
		Adult educational opportunities						61%	63%	41%	49% H
		Opportunities to attend special events and festivals						73%	75%	57%	55%
	Please rate the quality of each of the following services in La Plata.	Public library services		83%	86%		85%			83%	75% L
	Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the La Plata community to focus on each of the following in the coming two years.	Overall opportunities for education, culture, and the arts						79%	77%	66%	62%

Health and Wellness	Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to La Plata as a whole.	Overall health and wellness opportunities						62%	76%	50%	46%
	Please also rate each of the following in the La Plata community.	Availability of affordable quality food	63%	65%	63%	65%	68%	60%	65%	44%	50%
		Availability of affordable quality health care	50%	50%	50%	49%	51%	56%	67%	42%	43%
		Availability of preventive health services		59%	50%	55%	61%	55%	67%	49%	42%
		Availability of affordable quality mental health care						42%	46%	25%	31%
	Please rate the quality of each of the following services in La Plata.	Health services								54%	49%
	Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the La Plata community to focus on each of the following in the coming two years.	Overall health and wellness opportunities						71%	74%	71%	72%
		Please rate your overall health.						59%	71%	71%	73%
Natural Environment	Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to La Plata as a whole.	Overall quality of natural environment		64%	68%	69%	71%	72%	76%	60%	55%
	Please also rate each of the following in the La Plata community.	Cleanliness		84%	82%	86%	83%	79%	81%	69%	64%
		Water resources								34%	28%
		Air quality	70%	75%	75%	72%	75%	73%	80%	70%	61% L
	Please rate the quality of each of the following services in La Plata.	Preservation of natural areas		52%	63%			52%	56%	39%	40%
		La Plata open space						48%	53%	37%	34%
		Recycling	79%	85%	86%	84%	88%	85%	69%	71%	74%
		Yard waste pick-up	73%	77%	79%	80%	76%	80%	77%	74%	70%
	Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the La Plata community to focus on each of the following in the coming two years.	Overall quality of natural environment						75%	80%	81%	84%

Trend Benchmarks

This table shows trends over time for the Town of La Plata alongside broader national trends. If an item was not included in a given survey administration, no comparison is shown.

The community trend is the difference between the 2024 and 2026 surveys. If the difference is greater than or equal to 7 percentage points, the change is considered statistically significant for the Town of La Plata.

National trends over the same period reflect meaningful shifts based on historical variation across all communities that conducted a community-wide survey in 2024 and 2026. While the exact differences between the Town of La Plata and national results are not presented here, the direction of these trends should be considered a reliable indicator of whether La Plata's results align with broader national patterns.

			Percent Positive	Community Trend	National Trend
Quality of Life	Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in La Plata.	The overall quality of life	62%	Downward Trend	No Change
	Please rate each of the following in the La Plata community.	Overall image or reputation	57%	No Change	No Change
Governance	Please indicate whether or not you have done each of the following in the last 12 months.	Attended a local public meeting	36%	No Change	No Change
		Watched a local public meeting	37%	No Change	Upward Trend
	Please rate the quality of each of the following services in La Plata.	Public information services	48%	No Change	No Change
	Please rate the following categories of La Plata government performance.	Generally acting in the best interest of the community	32%	No Change	Downward Trend
		Being honest	32%	Downward Trend	Downward Trend
		Being open and transparent to the public	28%	Downward	No Change

Governance	Please rate the following categories of La Plata government performance.	Being open and transparent to the public	43%	Trend	No Change
		Informing residents about issues facing the community	32%	No Change	No Change
		Treating all residents fairly	45%	Downward Trend	No Change
		Treating residents with respect	49%	Downward Trend	No Change
	Overall, how would you rate the quality of the services provided by each of the following?	The Federal Government	30%	No Change	Downward Trend
Economy	Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to La Plata as a whole.	Overall economic health	40%	Downward Trend	Downward Trend
	Please rate each of the following in the La Plata community.	Overall quality of business and service establishments	56%	No Change	No Change
		Variety of business and service establishments	42%	No Change	No Change
		Vibrancy of downtown/commercial area	30%	No Change	No Change
		Employment opportunities	22%	No Change	Downward Trend
		Shopping opportunities	36%	No Change	No Change
		Cost of living	18%	No Change	No Change

Economy	Please rate each of the following in the La Plata community.	Cost of living	15%	No Change	No Change
	Please rate the quality of each of the following services in La Plata.	Economic development	25%	No Change	Downward Trend
	Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the La Plata community to focus on each of the following in the coming two years.	Overall economic health	85%	No Change	No Change
Mobility	Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to La Plata as a whole.	Overall quality of the transportation system	33%	Upward Trend	No Change
	Please also rate each of the following in the La Plata community.	Traffic flow on major streets	20%	No Change	No Change
		Ease of public parking	47%	No Change	Downward Trend
		Ease of travel by car	48%	No Change	No Change
		Ease of travel by public transportation	19%	No Change	No Change
		Ease of travel by bicycle	22%	No Change	No Change
		Ease of walking	37%	No Change	No Change
	Please indicate whether or not you have done each of the following in the last 12 months.	Used public transportation instead of driving	12%	No Change	No Change
		Carpooled with other adults or children instead of driving alone	32%	No Change	No Change

Mobility	Please indicate whether or not you have done each of the following in the last 12 months.	Carpooled with other adults or children instead of driving alone	52%	No Change	No Change
		Walked or biked instead of driving	40%	No Change	No Change
	Please rate the quality of each of the following services in La Plata.	Traffic enforcement	45%	No Change	No Change
		Street repair	42%	No Change	No Change
		Street cleaning	60%	No Change	No Change
		Street lighting	55%	No Change	No Change
		Snow removal	55%	Downward Trend	No Change
		Sidewalk maintenance	45%	No Change	No Change
		Bus or transit services	32%	No Change	No Change
	Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the La Plata community to focus on each of the following in the coming two years.	Overall quality of the transportation system	75%	No Change	No Change
Community Design	Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in La Plata.	Your neighborhood as a place to live	80%	No Change	No Change
	Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to La Plata as a	Overall design or layout of residential and commercial areas	36%	No Change	No Change

Community Design	following characteristics as they relate to La Plata as a whole.	Overall design or layout of residential and commercial areas	55%	No Change	No Change
	Please also rate each of the following in the La Plata community.	Preservation of the historical or cultural character of the community	46%	No Change	No Change
		Public places where people want to spend time	28%	No Change	No Change
		Variety of housing options	36%	No Change	No Change
		Availability of affordable quality housing	23%	No Change	No Change
		Overall quality of new development	25%	No Change	Downward Trend
		Overall appearance	52%	Downward Trend	No Change
	Please rate the quality of each of the following services in La Plata.	Land use, planning and zoning	18%	No Change	No Change
		Code enforcement	26%	Downward Trend	No Change
	Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the La Plata community to focus on each of the following in the coming two years.	Overall design or layout of residential and commercial areas	85%	No Change	No Change
Utilities	Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to La Plata as a whole.	Overall quality of the utility infrastructure	37%	Downward Trend	Downward Trend
	Please rate the quality of each	Affordable high-speed internet access	57%	No Change	Upward

Utilities	Please rate the quality of each of the following services in La Plata.	Affordable high-speed internet access	57%	No Change	Trend
		Garbage collection	74%	Downward Trend	No Change
		Drinking water	59%	Downward Trend	No Change
		Sewer services	57%	Downward Trend	No Change
		Storm water management	52%	Downward Trend	No Change
		Power (electric and/or gas) utility	60%	Downward Trend	No Change
		Utility billing	40%	Downward Trend	Downward Trend
		Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the La Plata community to focus on each of the following in the coming two years.	Overall quality of the utility infrastructure	92%	No Change
Safety	Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to La Plata as a whole.	Overall feeling of safety	63%	No Change	No Change
	Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel:	In your neighborhood during the day	92%	No Change	No Change
		From property crime	75%	No Change	Upward Trend
		From violent crime	70%	No Change	No Change

Safety	Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel:	From violent crime	75%	No Change	No Change
		From fire, flood, or other natural disaster	72%	No Change	No Change
	Please rate the quality of each of the following services in La Plata.	Police/Sheriff services	71%	Downward Trend	No Change
		Crime prevention	66%	No Change	No Change
		Animal control	67%	Downward Trend	No Change
		Ambulance or emergency medical services	81%	No Change	No Change
		Fire services	83%	No Change	No Change
		Fire prevention and education	65%	No Change	No Change
		Emergency preparedness	62%	Downward Trend	No Change
	Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the La Plata community to focus on each of the following in the coming two years.	Overall feeling of safety	89%	No Change	No Change
Parks and Recreation	Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to La Plata as a whole.	Overall quality of parks and recreation opportunities	56%	No Change	No Change
		Availability of paths and walking trails	48%	Upward	No Change
	Please also rate each of the				

Parks and Recreation	Please also rate each of the following in the La Plata community.	Availability of paths and walking trails	70%	Trend	No Change
		Fitness opportunities	43%	No Change	No Change
		Recreational opportunities	36%	No Change	No Change
	Please rate the quality of each of the following services in La Plata.	Recreation programs or classes	46%	No Change	No Change
		Recreation centers or facilities	39%	Downward Trend	No Change
	Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the La Plata community to focus on each of the following in the coming two years.	Overall quality of parks and recreation opportunities	74%	No Change	No Change
Community Connection	Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in La Plata.	Sense of community	49%	No Change	No Change
	Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to La Plata as a whole.	Residents' connection and engagement with their community	38%	No Change	No Change
	Please rate the job you feel the La Plata community does at each of the following.	Making all residents feel welcome	57%	No Change	No Change
		Attracting people from diverse backgrounds	57%	No Change	Downward Trend
Valuing/respecting residents from diverse backgrounds		62%	No Change	Downward Trend	
Taking care of vulnerable residents		47%	No Change	No Change	

Community Connection	Please rate the job you feel the La Plata community does at each of the following.	Taking care of vulnerable residents	77%	No Change	No Change
	Please also rate each of the following in the La Plata community.	Sense of civic/community pride	41%	No Change	No Change
		Neighborliness of residents	48%	No Change	No Change
		Opportunities to volunteer	49%	Downward Trend	No Change
		Opportunities to participate in community matters	45%	No Change	No Change
		Openness and acceptance of the community toward people of diverse backgrounds	52%	No Change	No Change
	Please indicate whether or not you have done each of the following in the last 12 months.	Volunteered your time to some group/activity	25%	No Change	No Change
		Campaigned or advocated for a local issue, cause, or candidate	20%	No Change	Upward Trend
	Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the La Plata community to focus on each of the following in the coming two years.	Residents' connection and engagement with their community	67%	No Change	No Change
Education, Arts, and Culture	Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to La Plata as a whole.	Overall opportunities for education, culture, and the arts	38%	No Change	No Change
	Please also rate each of the following in the La Plata community.	Opportunities to attend cultural/arts/music activities	46%	No Change	No Change
		Community support for the arts	41%	Downward	No Change

Education, Arts, and Culture	Please also rate each of the following in the La Plata community.	Community support for the arts	71%	Trend	No Change
		Availability of affordable quality childcare/preschool	23%	No Change	No Change
		K-12 education	49%	No Change	No Change
		Adult educational opportunities	49%	Upward Trend	No Change
		Opportunities to attend special events and festivals	55%	No Change	No Change
	Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the La Plata community to focus on each of the following in the coming two years.	Overall opportunities for education, culture, and the arts	62%	No Change	No Change
Health and Wellness	Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to La Plata as a whole.	Overall health and wellness opportunities	46%	No Change	No Change
	Please also rate each of the following in the La Plata community.	Availability of affordable quality health care	43%	No Change	No Change
		Availability of affordable quality mental health care	31%	No Change	No Change
	Please rate the quality of each of the following services in La Plata.	Health services	49%	No Change	No Change
	Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the La Plata community to focus on each of the following in the coming two years.	Overall health and wellness opportunities	72%	No Change	No Change
Natural Environment	Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to La Plata as a whole.	Overall quality of natural environment	55%	No Change	No Change

Natural Environment	following characteristics as they relate to La Plata as a whole.	Overall quality of natural environment	55%	No Change	No Change
	Please also rate each of the following in the La Plata community.	Cleanliness	64%	No Change	No Change
		Water resources	28%	No Change	Upward Trend
	Please rate the quality of each of the following services in La Plata.	Recycling	74%	No Change	No Change
		Yard waste pick-up	70%	No Change	No Change
	Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the La Plata community to focus on each of the following in the coming two years.	Overall quality of natural environment	84%	No Change	No Change