

Bedford Township Community Survey

February 2004

Methodology

During late February 2004, 300 registered voters residing in Bedford Township, Michigan, selected at random were interviewed by telephone. Respondents were asked a variety of questions about living in the area, where they work and shop, a variety of agree/disagree questions and for demographic information.

A survey among 300 respondents selected at random has a statistical error of +/- 5.7 percent at the 95 percent confidence level.

Results

The vast majority of Bedford Township residents are satisfied with their quality of life in Bedford Township.

The main reasons residents moved to Bedford Township include ...

- Good real estate values
- Employment
- Good schools
- Rural atmosphere
- Previous ties to the area

In their own words, the three things residents believe must be done to make life better in Bedford Township are ...

- Pave/fix roads
- Control area growth (mainly residential)
- Need for new business/make it easier for businesses

Because they cannot purchase the goods and services they need in Bedford Township, the vast majority of residents travel outside of the township to do their shopping. Again, the vast majority go to Toledo to do that shopping.

Slightly more than half of the township's residents approve of the job being done by Bedford Township's elected officials.

On the question of property rights and growth, those surveyed agreed there was too much residential growth in Bedford Township, and people should have the right to control what happens to the property they own.

Those surveyed also agreed the township's elected officials discriminate in favor of residential development and against business and commercial development. They further agreed elected officials should support existing local businesses in their attempt to grow by approving zoning changes.

Township voters surveyed said elected officials should be more open minded about business coming into Bedford Township and should encourage and promote additional business and industry in the township.

Further, those surveyed agreed they would support political candidates who promote additional business growth in Bedford Township.

There was agreement that taxes in the township were too high. Those surveyed felt Bedford Township needs more business and industry to help pay for township services as well as to pay taxes for education.

Those surveyed agreed Bedford residents, especially senior citizens, have the right to purchase goods and services where they live and should not have to travel outside of the township to make those purchases. In much the same vein, the respondents **disagreed** there was too much commercial growth in Bedford Township.

Additionally, the voters surveyed also believed they were voting to expand the Bedford library, not to have the existing building demolished and a new structure erected in its place.

The survey's universe included 55 percent females and 45 percent males. Of the 300 questioned, 57 percent were employed, the majority at full-time jobs. Only 18 percent of those employed worked in Bedford Township, but two-thirds of those working elsewhere said they would rather work in Bedford Township.

Source

This survey was conducted by Stanford H. Odesky and Associates, Toledo, Ohio, for Hart Associates, Maumee, Ohio, consultants to the Bedford Industrial and Commercial Association.