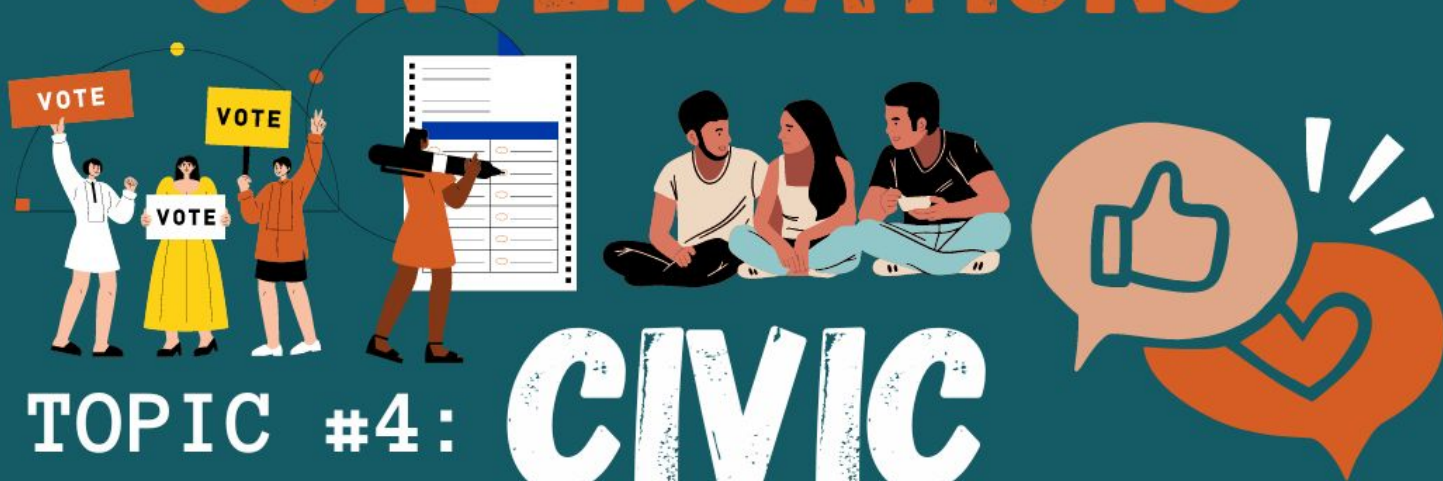


CROWDSOURCED

A forum series curated by the people, for the people.

CONVERSATIONS



TOPIC

#4:

CIVIC

ENGAGEMENT

Some topline stats

- There were a total of **122 responses**:
 - **89.3% CH residents**, 9% UH, 1.6% former/elsewhere
 - **91.8% homeowners**; 8.2% renters
 - **43% have lived in their home for more than 20 years**; 23% for 10-20 years; 16% for 5-10 years; 13.9% for 1-5 years; 4.1% for 0-1 years.
 - **71.9% identified as a woman**; 26.4% as a man; 1.7% preferred not to say
 - **50.4% identified as over the age of 60**; 49.6% as under the age of 60
 - **83.6% identified as White**; 6.6% as Black; 6.6% preferred not to say; 1.6% as multi-racial; 0.8% as Hispanic; 0.8% as Other

VOTING

Respondent Voting Stats & Habits

- 97.5% are eligible to vote in Ohio
- 86.1% are registered to vote in Cleveland Heights; 9% registered in University Heights
- 91% reported voting in every possible election, including primaries
- 53.9% prefer to vote in-person; 24% vote in-person sometimes and absentee sometimes; 21.3% prefer to vote absentee; 0.8% have never voted

Voter awareness & influence

Respondents reported being **VERY AWARE** of:

- Federal candidates (72); Federal issues (56); Local issues (53)

Respondents reported being **AWARE** of:

- State candidates (60); State issues (58); Local candidates (52)

Respondents reported being **VERY INFLUENCED** by:

- Federal candidates (93); voting being a right (80); local issues (79); local candidates (79); federal issues (74); state issues (69); state candidates (64)

Levels of Government

When asked which level of government they perceive to matter the most:

- **58.2% of respondents perceive that all levels of government matter equally;** 20.5% perceive local matters most; 12.3% perceive state matters most; 6.6% perceive federal matters most; 2.4% other

When asked which level of government they perceive to matter the least:

- **67.9% reported all levels matter equally;** 12.3% perceived state mattered least; 9.8% perceived federal mattered least; 4.1% perceived local mattered the least; 1.6% perceived it doesn't matter at any level; 4% other

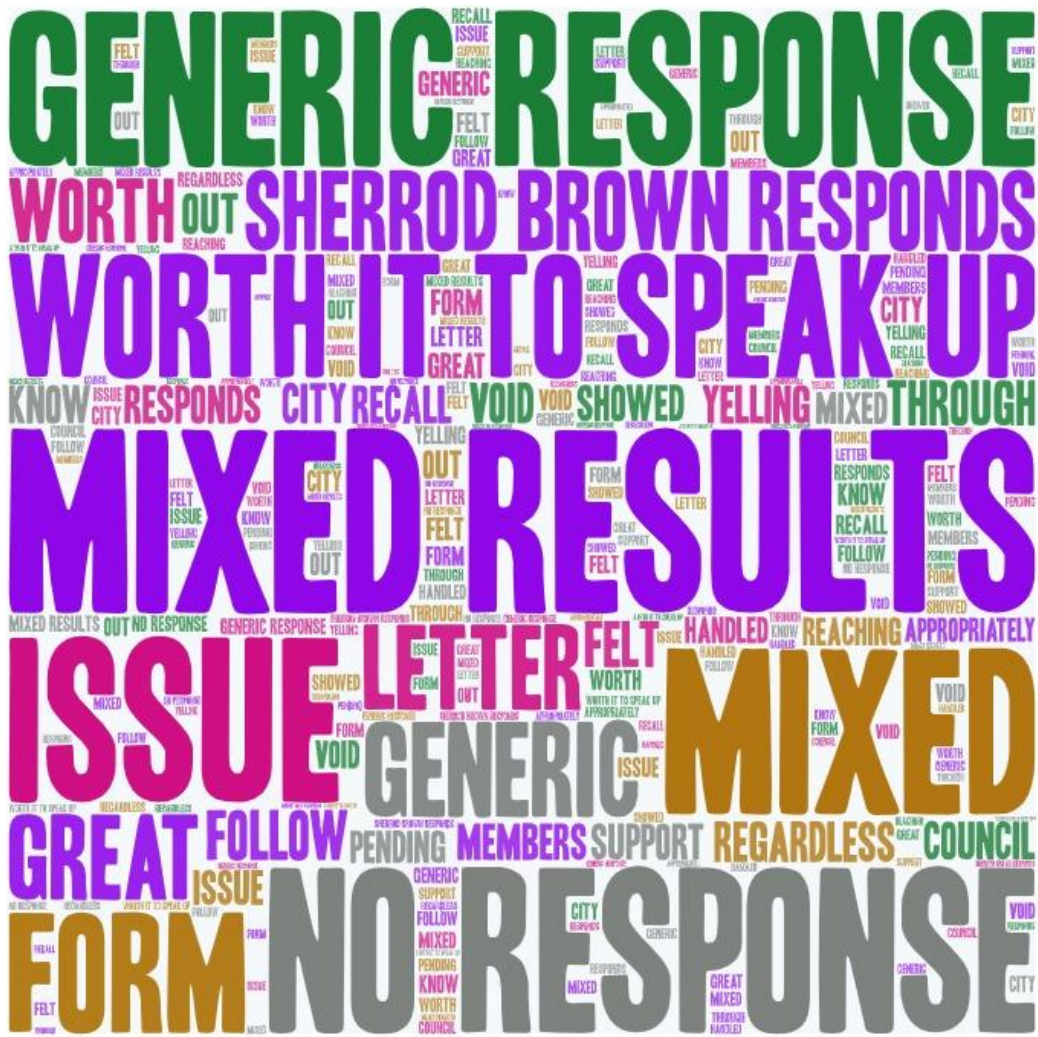
Political Campaigns

Running for office

- **86.9% of respondents have never run for office;** 8.2% have run for office; 4.9% aspire to run for office
- *Reasons for running include:* wanting to give back to the community (7); wanting to make a difference on an important issue (4); having suitable skill set (3); Trump's election (1)

Volunteering on a campaign

- **66.4% have volunteered on a political campaign;** 32.8% have not; 0.8% aspire to.
- *Reasons for volunteering include:* strong support of the candidate or issue (35); civic duty (10); wanting to generate change (6); wanting to educate and the public about a candidate or issue (5); personal relationship with a candidate (3); amplified their voice (2); inspired by hope or fear (2); learn more about the political process (2); had the time (1); it's fun (1)



Connecting with Elected Officials

78.7% of respondents reported that they had contacted an elected official about an issue they cared about.

Results of reaching out:

- Mixed results (21)
- Generic response/form letter (13)
- Worth it to speak up, regardless of the response (7)
- Got a response (7)
- Got a response but saw no change/no action (2)
- Sherrod Brown responds (2)
- Felt like yelling into the void (1)
- Elected official took action (1)

V o t e r E n g a g e m e n t

ACTION

What do you care enough about to act upon?

Respondents reported they are *VERY WILLING* to

- Vote in the next 5 years (109)
- Vote this November (108)
- Motivate others to vote this year // and in the next 5 years (70 for both)
- Contact an elected official about an issue they care about (56)
- Volunteer with a civic engagement-focused group (44)
- Attend/speak at a City Council meeting (37) - answer tied with *willing*
- Volunteer on a campaign in the next 5 years (33)
- Volunteer on a campaign this November (31)

Respondents reported they are *WILLING* to

- Register people to vote (37)
- Attend/speak at a City Council meeting (37) - answer tied with *very willing*

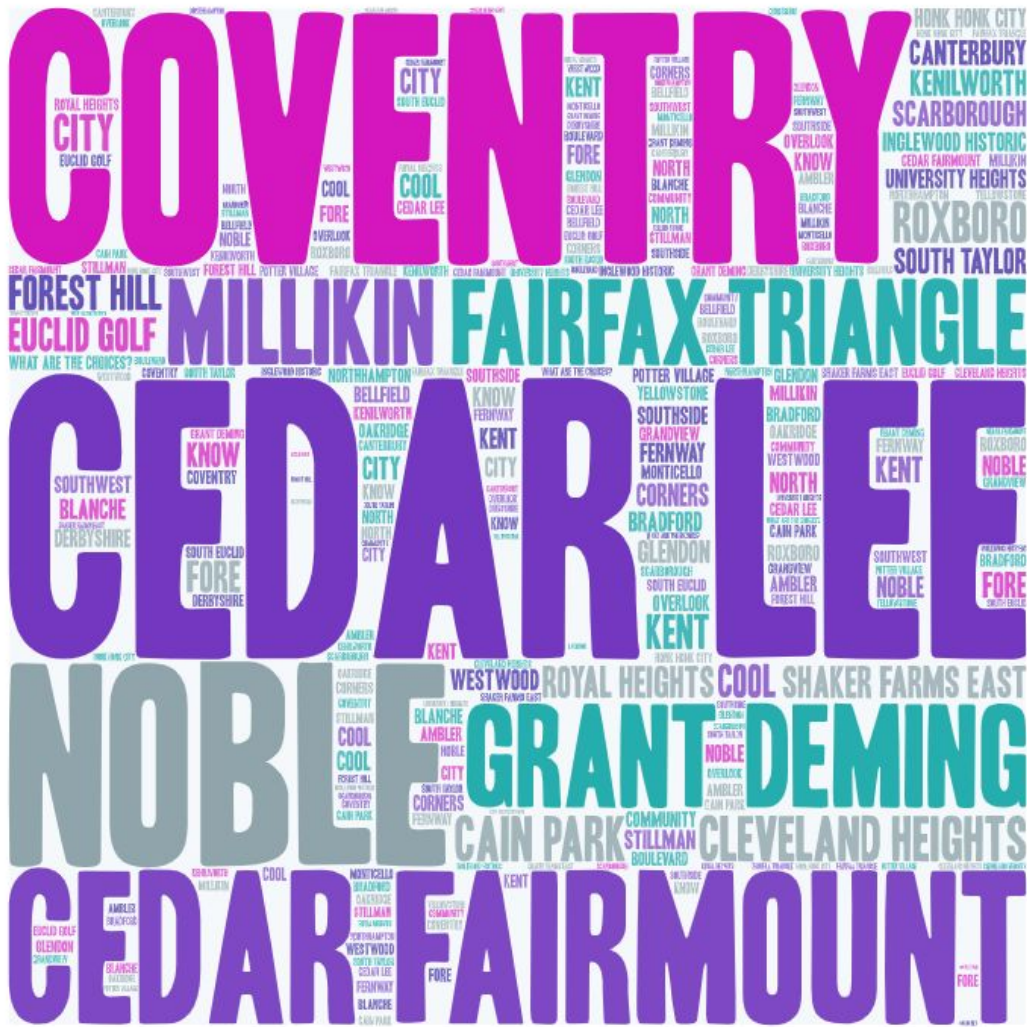
Respondents reported they are *NOT AT ALL WILLING* to

- Run for election this November (104)
- Run for election in the next 5 years (84)
- Serve as a poll worker (31)

NEIGHBORHOOD

& COMMUNITY

GROUPS



Neighborhoods

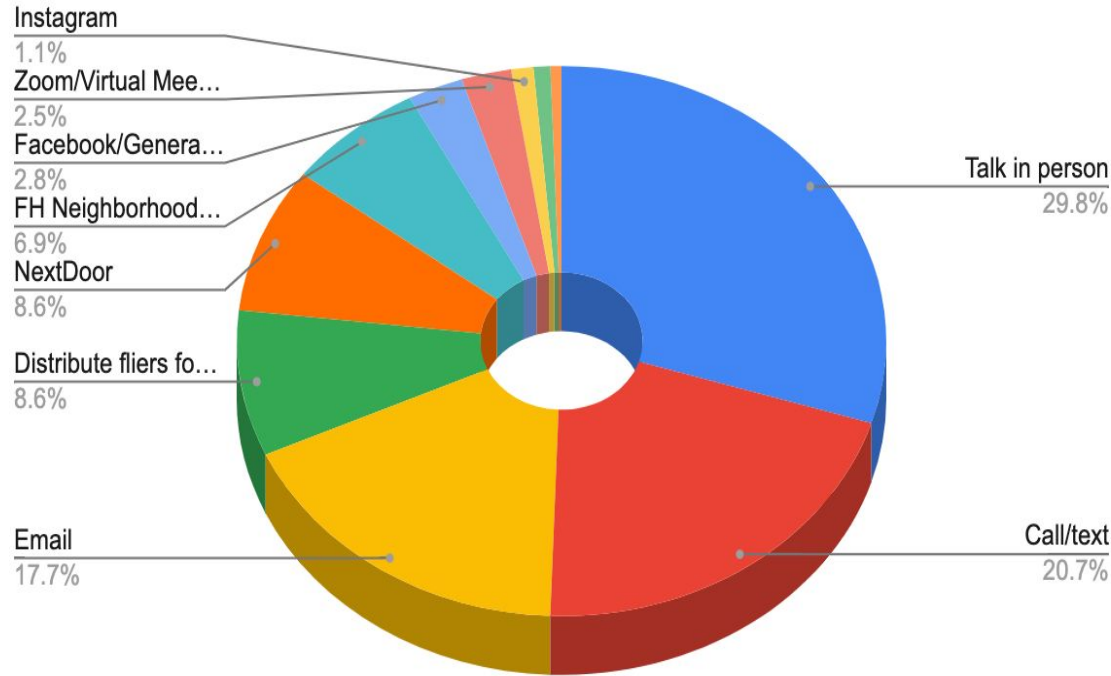
Notable: there were 52 unique neighborhoods identified out of 122 respondents.

Top Answers:

- Cedar Lee (14)
- Coventry (13)
- Cedar Fairmount (12)
- Noble (9)
- Grant Deming (7)
- Millikin (5)
- Fairfax Triangle (5)
- Cain Park (4)
- Cleveland Heights (4)

Engaging with neighbors

45.9% reported frequently socializing with/interacting with neighbors;
41.8% reported occasionally socializing/interacting with neighbors; 12.3%
reported not knowing/interacting with neighbors at all



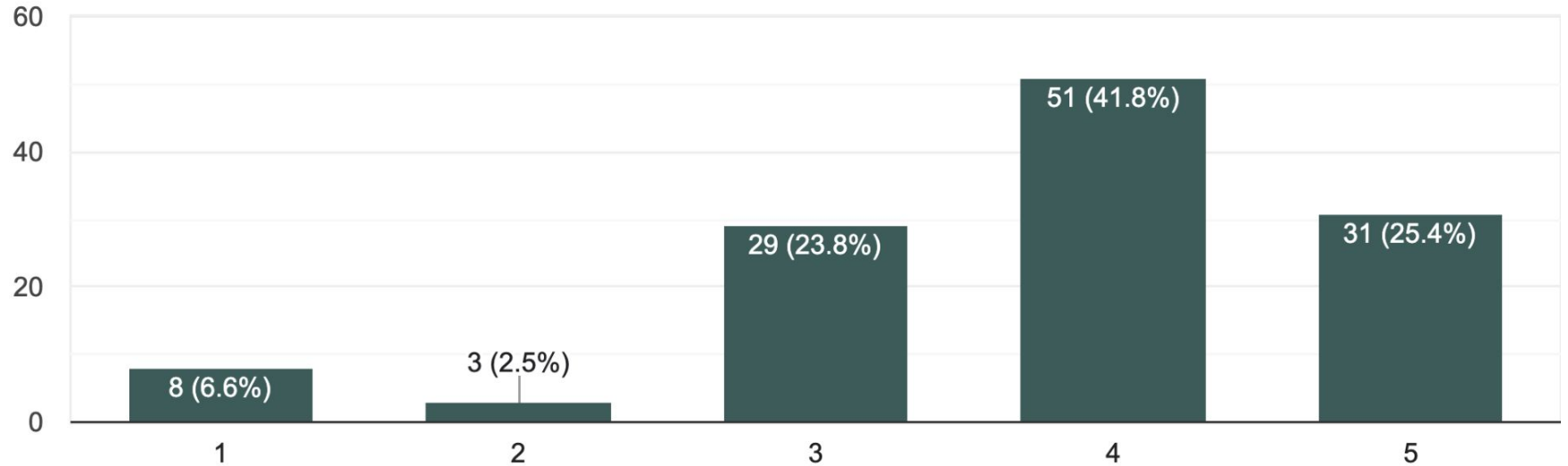
Respondents preferred methods of contacting/keeping in touch with neighbors:

- Talking in person (108)
- Call/text (75)
- Email (64)
- Distribute fliers for a meeting (31)
- NextDoor (31)
- Facebook - Neighborhood Group's Page (25)
- Facebook - general use (10)
- Zoom/Virtual Meeting (9)
- Instagram (4)
- Other (3)
- None of the Above (2)

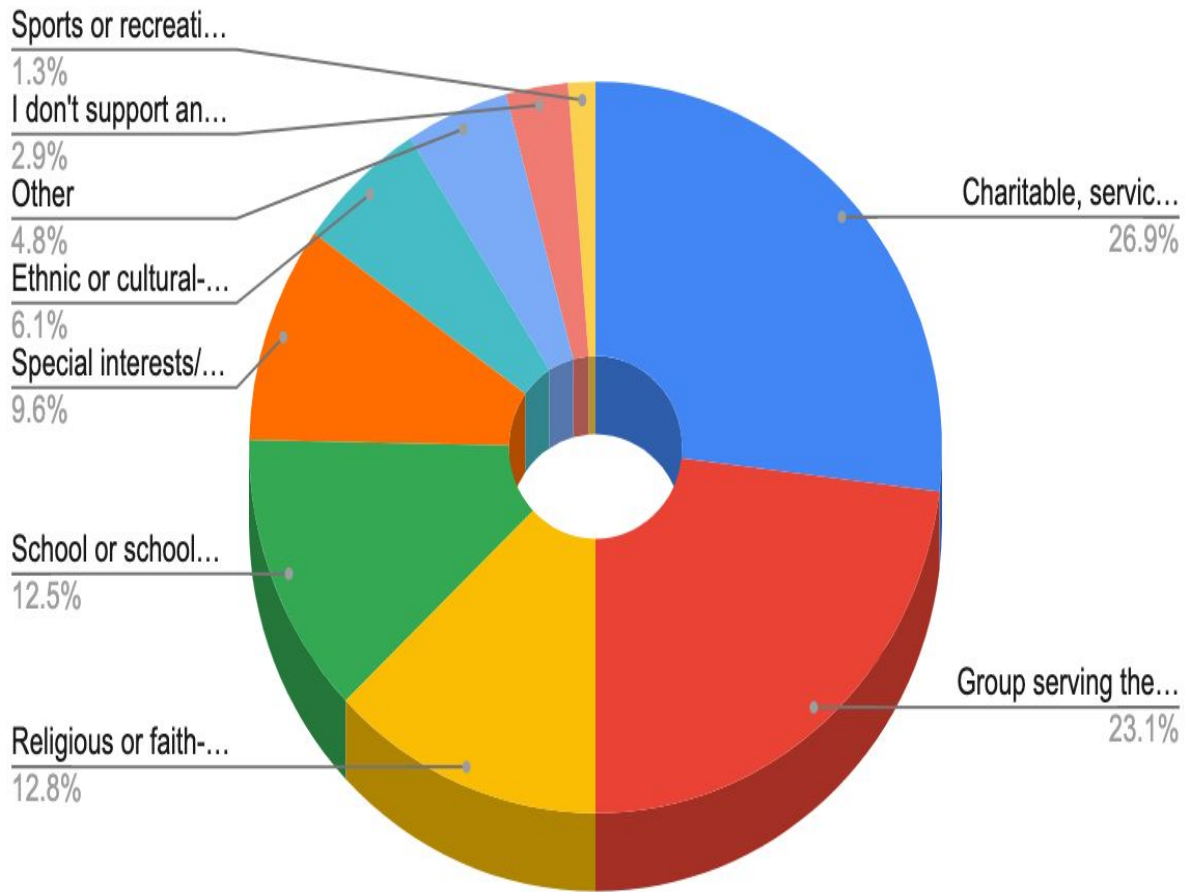
Engaging with neighbors (cont'd.)

On a scale of 1-5 (one being not at all, 5 being extremely), how satisfied are you with your level of connection to your neighbors?

122 responses



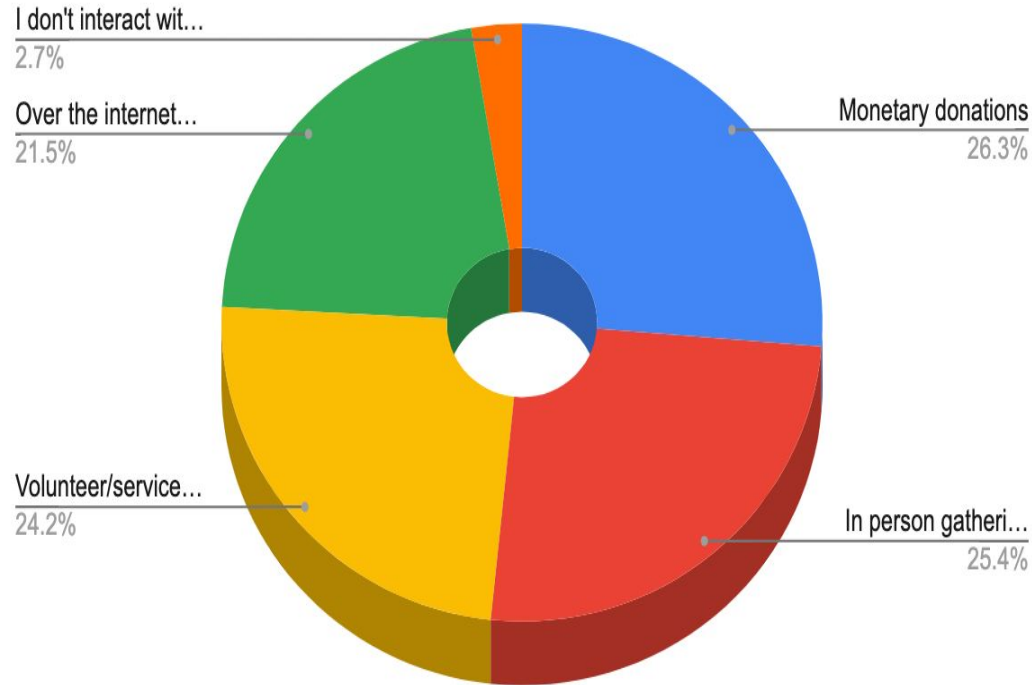
Engaging with community/charitable groups



Community/charitable groups respondents support with time or donations:

- Charitable/civic/service organizations (84)
- Groups serving my neighborhood/community (72)
- Religious/faith based groups or organizations (40)
- School/alumni group (39)
- Special interest/special needs/hobby group (30)
- Ethnic/cultural-based groups (19)
- Other (15)
- I don't support any groups (9)
- Sports/recreation-based groups (4)

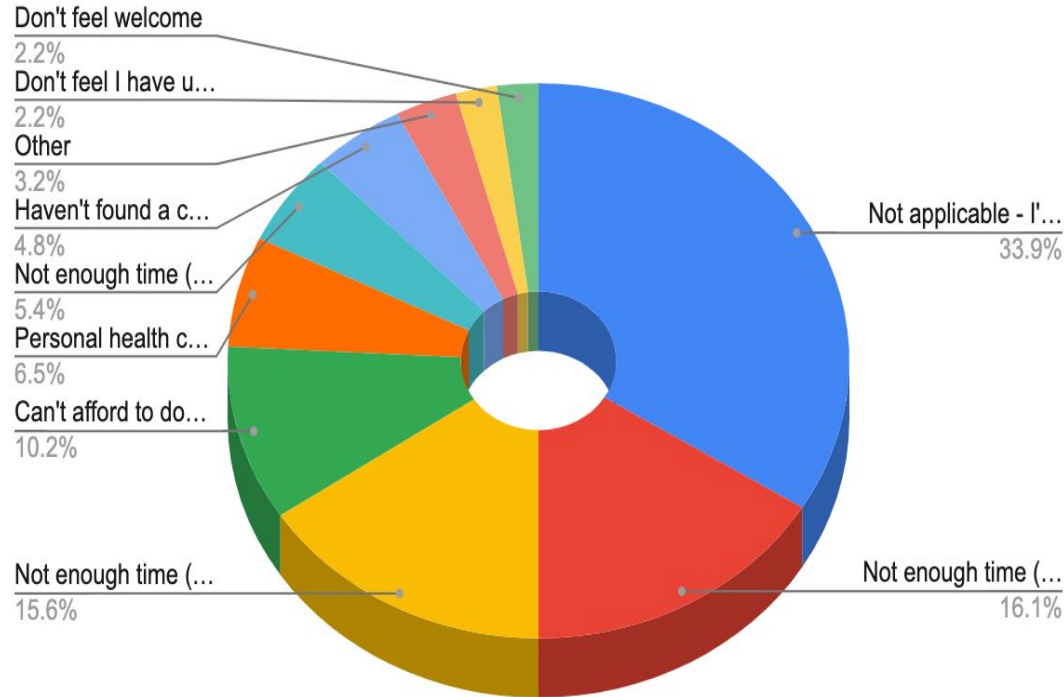
Engaging with community/charitable groups (cont'd.)



How do respondents typically interact with their chosen community/charitable groups:

- Monetary donations (87)
- In-person gatherings (84)
- Volunteer/service events (80)
- Over the internet (email, social media, web-based activities) (71)
- I don't interact with these types of groups or organizations (9)

Engaging with community/charitable groups (cont'd.)



Barriers to engagement/getting involved:

- N/A - I'm as involved as I'd like to be (63)
- Not enough time/caring for family (30)
- Not enough time/work obligations (29)
- Can't afford to donate money (19)
- Health constraints (12)
- Not enough time/school obligations (10)
- Haven't found a cause or a group I want to invest in/engage with (9)
- Other (6)
- I don't feel I have useful skills to contribute (4)
- I don't feel welcome (4)

Neighborhoods & Community Groups

ACTION

What do you care enough about to act upon?

Respondents identified these as what they'd be *WILLING* to take action on:

- Participate in a neighborhood cleanup (50)
- Contact the city about a neighborhood issue (49)
- Advocate for racial/social equity (45)
- Create activities for kids/families (39)
- Participate in a neighborhood activity, like holiday decorating contest (37)

Respondents identified these as what they'd be *SOMEWHAT WILLING* to take action on:

- Create Neighbor-to-Neighbor support for tasks like snow removal (38)

Respondents identified these as what they'd be *NOT AT ALL WILLING* to take action on:

- Create a carpool/ride-share with neighbors (57)

TAKEAWAYS

Topline Takeaways:

- Respondents to this survey are primarily homeowners who have lived in the Heights for more than 20 years and are over the age of 60.
- Respondents overwhelmingly are voters even though some question the effectiveness of our current system.
- Respondents reported that they felt all levels of government had equal importance but also reported greater knowledge of federal candidates than state or local.
- While most respondents had never run for political office, most had volunteered on a campaign.
- Respondents tend to be engaged with neighbors at a rate that feels satisfactory.
- Respondents participate in community organizations by volunteering as well as contributing financially.
- Respondents reported being *very willing* to take a number of actions related to voting but when it came to the action questions related to neighborhood/community groups, there were no actions that received the most responses at the *very willing* level.

What is noteworthy:

- Respondents reported being only “somewhat willing” to create a Neighbor-to-Neighbor system to support things like snow removal, despite reporting being close with neighbors and more than 50% of respondents reported being over the age of 60.

FACTS ABOUT

Who what when where why how

OUR STATS

About this survey:

This survey was created and distributed as part of the [Crowdsourced Conversations Forum Series](#), being conducted in partnership with FutureHeights, Cleveland Heights Green Team, Home Repair Resource Center, City of Cleveland Heights Racial Justice Task Force, Racial Inequity Repair Committee of Forest Hill Church, representatives of Cleveland Heights City Council, and more.

Survey data was collected from September 7th through September 28th, 2022. Respondents completed an online-only Google Form that was distributed via email, on social media, through the media, via fliers, and through word of mouth.

This survey data analysis was completed by FutureHeights and shared with forum series partners, including elected officials, and is available for the community to review.

Any questions, please contact Sarah - swolf@futureheights.org.