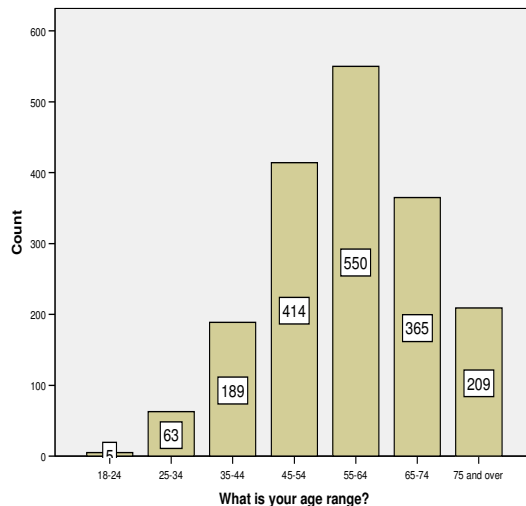


# Rusk County Survey

## Select Highlights

- A total of 9,262 surveys were distributed to property owners within Rusk County.
- 1,843 surveys were returned resulting in a 19.9% response rate.
- 63.3% of respondents are residents of Rusk County (1,133) and 36.7% of respondents are seasonal residents (656) (Q36).
- 66.3% of responses are male (1,175) and 33.7% are female (598).
- 14.3% of responses (257) are 44 years of age and younger, 53.7% of responses (964) are between the age of 45-64, and 33.9% of responses (574) are 65 years of age and older.



### Quality of Life

- Responses to “importance of features” contributing to the quality of life in Rusk County ranged from 52.3% - 97.1% responding as very important and important. **Lakes and Rivers received a combined 97.1% (1,761) response rate and public outdoor motorized recreation trails received a combined 52.3% (935) response rate.**

### Housing

- Types of housing that should be expanded found:
  - Single family housing - 74.3% (1,310) strongly agree or agree
  - Senior housing – 80.5% (1,449) strongly agree or agree
  - Starter (first time buyer) homes - 72.1 % (1,282) strongly agree or agree
  - Mobile home parks – 67.5% (1,190) disagree or strongly disagree

### **Natural Resources**

- Resource protection found: 31.2% (544) responded the protection of “natural resources from invasive species” as inadequate or very inadequate while 85.3% (1,499) responded that air quality protection as very adequate and adequate.

### **Cultural Resources**

- Importance of preserving cultural resources found 87.3% (1,577) responding that “scenic views” as very important and important.

### **Transportation**

- Level of importance to transportation resources found: 97.9% (1,769) responded to “county highways” as very important and important, while air service had the lowest response of only 40.8% (731) responding as very important and important.
- Level of satisfaction to transportation resources found: 86.0% (1,440) responded to “state highways” as very satisfied and satisfied.

### **Economic Development**

- Top 5 job opportunities respondents feel are most suited for development in Rusk Co.
  - Light manufacturing/industrial 62.3% (1,115) of respondents
  - Health care related 41.3% (739) of respondents
  - Forestry related 40.7% (728) of respondents
  - Recreation related 39.7% (710) of respondents
  - Agricultural related 35.2% (629) of respondents
  - Any living wage job 43.3% (775) of respondents

### **Utilities and Community Facilities**

- Level of importance to utilities and community facilities found: 97.4% (1,744) responded to “clean drinking water” as very important and important, while “motorized recreation” had the lowest response of only 45.4% (797) responding as very important and important.
- Level of satisfaction to utilities and community facilities found: 83.7% (1,409) responded to “fire protection” as very satisfied and satisfied, while “industry” had the highest response of unsatisfied or very unsatisfied at 41.9% (696).

**Land Use**

- The adequacy of County land use policies & ordinances found 68.0% (1,195) responding as very adequate or adequate.
- The adequacy of County land use enforcement of policies & ordinances found 64.8% (1,137) responding as very adequate or adequate.
- Level of agreement as to where new housing development should be located found 84.2% (1,488) strongly agree and agree it should occur within or adjacent to villages and cities.
- Steps should be taken to reduce forest fragmentation found 60.1% (1,077) strongly agree or agree and 26.5% (476) disagree or strongly disagree.
- Steps should be taken to reduce farmland fragmentation found 53.7% (962) strongly agree or agree, 30.9% (554) disagree or strongly disagree.
- Appropriate balance between community property rights versus private property rights.

100% Community Property Rights (CPR) | Equal Balance Between Community & Private Property Rights | 100% Private Property Rights (PPR)

100.....80.....60.....40.....20.....0.....20.....40..... 60.....80.....100

100-81 CPR	80 – 61 CPR	60 – 41 CPR	40 – 21 CPR	20 – 1 CPR	1 – 20 PPR	21 – 40 PPR	41 – 60 PPR	61 – 80 PPR	81 – 100 PPR
1.7% 27	2.2% 35	2.7% 43	3.8% 60	22.6% 361	6.1% 97	7.6% 122	10.7% 171	15.7% 250	26.9% 429

- Top three primary issues facing Rusk County found:
  - 1) 64.2% (1,089) Loss of jobs/businesses
  - 2) 42.0% (714) Property taxes
  - 3) 22.4% (381 ) Schools & Education

## Utilities and Community Facilities

1. Suppose your household was to contribute an additional \$100 this year. How would you direct local officials to distribute this additional \$100 given the following choices? For example, would you distribute \$20 to five categories, \$20 to two categories and \$30 to two other categories, \$100 in one, or some other pattern?

	Increase spending for public services (i.e. fire/police)	Increase spending for education	Increase spending for transportation	Increase spending for social services	Increase spending for housing	Increase spending for natural resources	Increase spending for economic development	Reduce Taxes
\$5	7	2	11	10	10	7	11	6
\$10	86	64	87	103	87	116	103	63
\$15	7	2	4	6	6	13	9	2
\$20	324	307	166	192	185	247	313	227
\$25	62	72	22	25	29	72	72	47
\$30	73	105	24	35	37	89	116	90
\$35	2	3		1			2	2
\$40	26	61	10	9	5	39	62	53
\$45						1	1	
\$50	61	101	13	17	16	92	143	202
\$55								
\$60	2	9				6	15	27
\$65								1
\$70		3				4	5	6
\$75	3	1	1			2	3	4
\$80	1	7	1			2	13	27
\$85								
\$90							2	7
\$95								
\$100	8	30	4	6	4	21	55	286

2. Suppose that your household were to contribute \$100 less this year. How would you direct local officials to balance the budget, how would you make up for the lost revenue? For example, would you reduce \$20 to five categories, \$20 to two categories and \$30 to two other categories, \$100 in one, or some other pattern?

	Decrease spending for public services (i.e. fire/police)	Decrease spending for education	Decrease spending for transportation	Decrease spending for social services	Decrease spending for housing	Decrease spending for natural resources	Decrease spending for economic development	Increase Taxes
\$5	16	17	6	7	9	17	13	24
\$10	116	107	101	116	112	93	109	56
\$15	11	6	15	13	13	10	7	4
\$20	197	170	336	289	318	209	189	98
\$25	33	30	65	53	60	41	31	16
\$30	51	49	135	112	123	84	45	34
\$35	2	1	2	2		2	1	
\$40	27	19	54	56	52	50	25	31
\$45				1				
\$50	82	66	101	129	95	85	51	74
\$55								
\$60	6	4	10	7	5	10	7	9
\$65					1	1		
\$70	3	2	1	3	1		1	10
\$75	1	1	3				1	1
\$80	2	7	1	8		7	1	4
\$85								
\$90								
\$95								1
\$100	58	40	21	49	20	40	28	61