



CITY OF SEDALIA

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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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2015 ANNUAL CITIZEN SURVEY RESULTS ARE TABULATED

(SEDALIA, MISSOURI): The results of Sedalia's annual citizen survey are in and tabulated. The purpose of the survey is to measure people's opinions of the various city services. Because this is the third year for doing the poll, we are able to compare this year to the surveys from 2013 and 2014. The survey is sent to most households in Sedalia. Just under 800 were returned. This number is comparable to previous years.

The number of citizens who believe Sedalia is a good place to live is up slightly from the previous two years. This year, the people who say Sedalia is excellent to good is at 71% compared to 69% during the previous two years. At the same time, those saying it is a poor place to live is at 4%. That is down slightly from the previous two years. Similarly, 67% of those responding to the survey believe Sedalia is a safe place to live. This number has been consistent for the past three years and is a very favorable reflection on the Police and Fire Departments. Those registering excellent to good for the quality of city services are at 69%. This is up about 5% from the previous two years.

Last year 69% of those responding said the city should inspect rental properties while 23% said no. This year, that number is up. 74% say the inspections should occur for health and safety reasons and 18% said no. 85% of Sedalia's citizens say they were treated courteously in their last contact with the City. Last year, that number was 81% and in 2013 it was 77%. Interestingly, the number of Sedalians who say they would financially support a community center is up, while those saying they would not support it financially is down. The yes votes are at 51% and the no's are at 33%. Last year, the yes's were at 43% and in

2013, they were at 45%.

When looking at specific departments, Public Works continues to show improved public approval. Residents were asked if the department was excellent, good, fair, poor or no opinion. In the case of Streets, the number of citizens who say street maintenance is good to excellent has gone from 29% in 2013 to 33% in 2014 and 37% in 2015. Those saying the streets are poor have gone from 30% in 2013 to 18% in 2015. Likewise, city sidewalks reflect better public perception. In 2013, 25% said sidewalks were good to excellent. In 2014 that number went to 27% and is now at 36% in 2015. Those classifying sidewalks as poor have come down from 27% in 2013 to 20% in 2015. Both sidewalks and streets have received increased funding in recent years. Yard waste disposal remains high with 57% saying it is good to excellent. That number has been consistent over the three year period. Those saying the yard waste disposal is poor is down slightly from 9% to 7%. Once again, regular trash pick-up has the highest citizen approval numbers of all departments. This year 84% agree that trash pick-up is good to excellent. Since 2013, approval numbers have been above 80%.

City Parks and Recreation continues to be ranked high by citizens. 75% say this service is good to excellent. In 2013 that number also was 75%. In 2014 it was 76%. Citizen perception of downtown Sedalia seems to be improving. In 2013, 49% said downtown was good to excellent. In 2014, that number went to 53%. This year it is 56%. Those saying Sedalia's downtown is poor has gone from 14% in 2013 down to 8% in 2015. Finally, the Animal Shelter has been losing public support during the past three years. In 2013, 44% said this service was excellent to good. That figure went down to 34% in 2014 and only 25% said it was excellent to good in 2015. The Sedalia Police Department began managing the Animal Shelter several weeks ago, and after the survey is completed. The survey had an approximately 10% return rate.