

Summary of Findings

Jurisdiction	Mailed	Received	Percent
City	2,119	347	16%
County	691	90	13%
	2,810	437	16%

General Questions

The first group of questions were about how well the City and County were doing. According to the responses there is tremendous **pride** in the community. Most people would recommend Ulysses and Grant County to someone thinking of moving here, and people were satisfied with the level of their taxes, and the value received from those taxes.

Safety was the most important guiding principal for our community, receiving nearly 70% of the votes. Only one in five people said they were dissatisfied with our effort to keep the community clean, safe, progressive and healthy. Only 6% of the responses expressed dissatisfaction with this as a place to live.

On the subject of **fiscal management**, about 1 in 4 people were dissatisfied with the accountability of our spending and the availability of our spending information to the public. Seven percent of the people think the County is more accountable with their money than the City, but nine percent think the City's expenses are more available than the County's.

The next group of questions was about **specific programs and services**, the level of satisfaction with them, and identification of which ones need additional resources. As a group, the programs scored very well. As is common the fire department, parks, the library and trash collection received high scores, while enforcement programs such as the police, sheriff, code enforcement, and animal control caused the most dissatisfaction. Mixed in with enforcement type services was Economic Development and Golf. They scored as the third and tenth most unsatisfying services of the twenty-six listed.

Sewer Treatment received the sixth best score at 2.4, half-way between satisfied and extremely satisfied. Recreation Facilities/Programs and Long-term care were also in the top ten.

For those same twenty-six services, we asked what **level of attention** was needed by the governing bodies. The attention would be in the form of increased funding, or improvements to the way the program is delivered. Eight of the top ten least satisfying programs were also identified as needing the most attention, with the exception of two - Golf and Parking/Traffic Management, which did not appear high on the needs list. Parking/Traffic Management is a service with a lot of dissatisfaction, but people do not want to spend tax money to improve it.

Included is a short page summarizing the **demographics** of who responded to the survey. The majority of responses came from people 55 and over, who worked full-time and owned their own home. 5% said they would be willing to serve on a board or commission.

Summary of Findings

When asked about the **most important issues** we face as a community, the economy was of the most concern. Ranging from Wal-mart, Ethanol, and developing retail in downtown the concerns were many. Second was the tax rate, the use of those taxes, and controlling spending through the City and County budgets. A concern for safety, specifically drug control and traffic laws, was equally as concerning as water conservation.

The second and third most important issues listed were similar. Education, which is not the responsibility of the County or the City, is worth mentioning. It was listed quite often, from safety at the schools, to the need for a new lunch plan, and the overall value of an education received.

Unification was the final subject in the survey. Of the 2,811 surveys sent out, 227 people responded to these questions. If there are 7,395 people in Grant County that means 3% provided feedback on the subject.

The most popular reasons given for unifying is to save money or improve efficiencies. Next was to increase accountability and finally to better promote the community.

When we asked about the level of unification which is right for Ulysses and Grant County, the majority said to consolidate a little, meaning **some programs and services where it makes sense**. 121 people said we should continue the earlier effort to have a committee look into it. One out of five people said we should look at consolidating into one governing body, and that governing body would then oversee the two separate government entities. The majority said we should not replace elected positions with appointed ones.

82 people did not support unification at all, in any form.

To summarize the Unification responses, not many people understand it. There were a lot of comments saying they would like to know more. Numerous people said they like things just the way they are, and don't want to see even one person lose their job.

There are a handful of people who think it would be best. My thoughts, after reading all the responses, is that we should provide the committee members with the results of the survey, and pull together a final comprehensive list of services which should be reviewed for consolidation. I do not think the community is ready to make any major decisions about consolidation – like combining the taxing authorities into one, and weighing city services against county services.

Summary of Findings

Satisfaction with Non-specific Services

- A. 21% of the people thought the City and County are headed in the wrong direction.
- B. 21% said they were *not* satisfied with the job the City is doing
- C. 16% said they were *not* satisfied with the job the County is doing
- D. 18% said they were *not* satisfied with the overall services the City provides
- E. 16% said they were *not* satisfied with the overall services the County provides
- F. 30% said they were *not* satisfied with the current level of City taxes
- G. 27% said they were *not* satisfied with the current level of County taxes
- H. 83% said they would recommend friends to move to our City and County
- I. 92% said they were proud of our City and County
- J. 16% said they were *not* satisfied that we are working to make the City and County a clean place to live
- K. 22% said they were *not* satisfied that we are working to make the City and County a safe place to live
- L. 22% said they were *not* satisfied that we are working to make the City and County a progressive place to live
- M. 16% said they were *not* satisfied that we are working to make the City and County a healthy place to live
- N. 67% said that safety is their most important guiding principle
- O. 6% said they were dissatisfied with this as a place to live
- P. 30% said they were *not* satisfied with the City's accountability of it's spending
- Q. 23% said they were *not* satisfied with the County's accountability of it's spending
- R. 23% said they were *not* satisfied that the City's spending was publicly available
- S. 32% said they were *not* satisfied that the County's spending was publicly available

83% said they thought they received good services for the level of taxes paid in the City and the County.

Summary of Findings

Specific Programs/Services Satisfaction

These results reflect the overall satisfaction given to each of the listed programs or services. *The lower the score the more satisfied the people are with this program.*

Question	Program/Service	Avg Score	Rank
6O	Library	2.00	1
6N	Fire Services	2.06	2
6F	Parks and Green Spaces Mgmt	2.11	3
6Q	Emergency Medical	2.04	4
6R	Public Health	2.26	5
6I	Sewer Treatment and Services	2.42	6
6C	Garbage and Recycling	2.32	7
6S	Recreation Facilities and Programs	2.31	8
6P	Long-term care	2.37	9
6 B	Customer Service - City	2.40	10
6 J	Social Housing	2.72	11
6M	Customer Service - County	2.37	12
6T	Road and Bridge	2.34	13
6V	Vehicle Registration and Licensing	2.33	14
6K	Water Treatment and Distribution	2.47	15
6W	Chamber of Commerce	2.47	16
6D	Golf	2.90	17
6L	Arts and Cultural Programs	2.71	18
6E	Parking and Traffic Mgmt	2.60	19
6U	Sheriff	2.51	20
6H	Road, Sidewalk, Snow Maintenance	2.61	21
6G	Police	2.78	22
6Y	Planning Zoning and Building	2.93	23
6X	Economic Development	3.13	24
6A	Animal Control	3.08	25
6Z	Property Code Enforcement	3.30	26

Average 2.52

Scale

- 1 - Extremely Satisfied
- 2 - Satisfied
- 3 - Neither
- 4 - Dissatisfied
- 5 - Extremely Dissatisfied

Summary of Findings

Level of Attention Needed

These results reflect the communities desire for us to put more or less resources into a program or service. *The lower the score, the more needs to be done for this program.*

Question	Program/Service	Score	Rank
15A	Animal Control	2.06	1
15Z	Property Code Enforcement	2.11	2
15H	Road, Sidewalk, Snow Maintenance	2.23	3
15G	Police	2.24	4
15X	Economic Development	2.30	5
15Y	Planning Zoning and Building	2.31	6
15U	Sheriff	2.34	7
15C	Garbage and Recycling	2.36	8
15L	Arts and Cultural Programs	2.38	9
15K	Water Treatment and Distribution	2.39	10
15B	Customer Service - City	2.40	11
15R	Public Health	2.42	12
15W	Chamber of Commerce	2.43	13
15J	Social Housing	2.43	14
15I	Sewer Treatment and Services	2.44	15
15Q	Emergency Medical	2.44	16
15M	Customer Service – County	2.45	17
15T	Road and Bridge	2.46	18
15P	Long-term care	2.48	19
15E	Parking and Traffic Mgmt	2.50	20
15V	Vehicle Registration and Licensing	2.54	21
15N	Fire Services	2.55	22
15S	Recreation Facilities and Programs	2.62	23
15O	Library	2.71	24
15F	Parks and Green Spaces Mgmt	2.72	25
15D	Golf	3.03	26
Average		2.44	

Scale

- 1 - A Lot More
- 2 - A Little More
- 3 - The Same
- 4 - A Little Less
- 5 - A Lot Less

Summary of Findings

Demographics

- A. Over 50% were over the age of 55
- B. 75% were over the age of 45
- C. 55% were male
- D. 48% were employed full-time
- E. 24% were retired
- F. 84% lived in single family homes
- G. 94% owned their own home
- H. 77% reported a household income over \$40,000/annually
- I. 5% said they were willing to serve on a board or commission

Summary of Findings

Most Important Issues Facing our Community

- A. 65% (286 people) identified their **most important** issue
 - a. 27% (116 people) listed the Economy/Economic Development, with a focus on the Walmart, Ethanol Plant or Downtown
 - b. 5% (24 people) listed taxes
 - c. 7% (29 people) listed budget concerns, mostly around excessive spending
 - d. 5% (22 people) listed safety
 - e. 4% (17 people) listed water conservation
 - f. 11% (46 people) listed other items

- B. 46% (200 people) identified their **second most important** issue
 - a. 18% (80 people) listed the Economy/Economic Development, with a focus on job retention
 - b. 7% (30 people) listed other items, including education
 - c. 5% (23 people) listed safety, specifically drugs

- C. 26% (112 people) identified their **third most important** issue
 - a. 7% (32 people) listed Economy/Economic Development
 - b. 5% (23 people) listed other items, including housing and education
 - c. 3% (15 people) listed safety

Summary of Findings

Unification

- A. 52% (227 people) said two reasons to Unify would be to save money or improve efficiencies
- B. 37% (160 people) said a reason to Unify was to increase accountability
- C. 32% (140 people) said a reason to Unify was to Promote the Community

- D. 39% (169 people) said we should look at consolidating some programs and services
- E. 28% (121 people) said we should continue the current effort to unify
- F. 24% (103 people) said we should consolidate all City and County programs and services under one Governing Body, and eliminate all duplicated jobs and services
- G. 21% (93 people) said we should consolidate the two governing bodies into one board who oversees both separate entities
- H. 21% (82 people) do not support unification
- I. 18% (77 people) support creating a new taxing authority
- J. 6% (27 people) support getting rid of the remaining elected officials and making appointments that report to a Unified Governing Body

Alternate Reasons to Unify

When asked for alternate reason to unify, other than the ones listed, 62% (52 people out of 84 who answered the question) said they did not want to unify.

Comments/Questions about Unification for the Committee to Consider

- 18% (77 people) provided comments about unification for the Committee
- 5% (22 people) said it was bad
- 5% (21 people) said they needed to know more
- 2% (8 people) said it was good
- 2% (10 people) commented about something other than unification