



LETTER TO THE COMMISSION

LTC No: 26-187

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Fort Lauderdale City Commission
FROM: Rickelle Williams, City Manager *RW*
DATE: June 10, 2026
SUBJECT: Mid-Year 2026 Neighbor Survey Results and Ongoing Efforts

The purpose of this Letter to the Commission (LTC) is to share the mid-year findings of the 2026 Neighbor Survey, administered by Zencity.

Each year the City conducts a Neighbor Survey to understand satisfaction and sentiment with a variety of City services. Zencity has administered the survey on behalf of the City since 2023 and ensures results are statistically valid and representative of the City of Fort Lauderdale – both demographically and geographically.

The web-based Neighbor Survey was conducted from January 2026 through March 2026, gathering input from 606 verified neighbors who were recruited through targeted digital advertisements via social media, mobile applications, and websites. Participation was limited to adults who provided a valid local zip code and demographic information.

Staff is pleased to report that this cycle's results have shown progress toward many of the City Commission's priorities. Most notably, survey results indicate that neighbors feel increasingly positive about the City's efforts to create a sense of overall safety, address homelessness, and maintain City infrastructure. The following sections of this letter will identify the most notable progression in survey results, regarding these priorities, against the results of the previous survey cycle (July 2025 through September 2025). A full copy of the survey report is attached (Attachment 1).

Public Safety

As compared to survey results from July through September 2025, this survey cycle observed a six percent (6%) increase in the number of respondents that rated their sense of overall safety in Fort Lauderdale positively to forty-nine percent (49%). This cycle's results represent the highest level of satisfaction in the sense of overall safety since the City began administering the Neighbor Survey with Zencity in April 2023. As a follow up to this question, the survey asked those who responded negatively to articulate the most important actions the City can take to improve their sense of overall safety. The top three (3) actions include; increasing the visibility of police officers, reforming police department practices, and developing or improving crime prevention initiatives.

Homelessness Response

The current survey cycle demonstrated improvement, with twenty-five percent (25%) of respondents reporting positively about the City's efforts to address homelessness - an increase from eighteen percent (18%) in the prior survey cycle. Staff have observed seasonality with this specific survey question; results in the July through September cycles tend to come in with lower levels of satisfaction, while January through March results tend to show higher performance. Despite observed seasonal trends, there is continued year-over-year growth in satisfaction with the City's homeless response.

The survey also gives those who responded negatively the opportunity to identify the most important actions the City can take to address homelessness. The top three (3) actions identified include creating more affordable housing for low-income households, providing more shelter beds such as "pallet" shelters or repurposing a hotel, and expanding the homeless outreach team.

Infrastructure and Resilience

There have also been improvements in respondents' satisfaction levels related to the City's maintenance of infrastructure and resilience to flooding. Positive responses related to the City's ability to maintain City streets, sidewalks, and infrastructure have remained stable at forty-one percent (41%) as the previous cycle reported forty percent (40%). Since the first survey administered after the historic floods of April 2023 (April 2023 – May 2023 cycle), neighbor satisfaction with the City's ability to prevent and respond to flooding has increased from twenty percent (20%) to thirty percent (30%). Additionally, respondents are increasingly satisfied with the reliability and quality of their drinking water as the survey reported a five percent (5%) increase in the number of positive responses to forty-one percent (41%).

Public Spaces, Community Initiatives, and Bolstering a Thriving Community

The City remains committed to creating a thriving community through the provision of quality public spaces and events for all neighbors, and this survey's results reflect satisfaction with that commitment. For both the availability of a variety of art and cultural events and the quality of parks and recreational amenities, sixty-seven percent (67%) and sixty-six percent (66%) of respondents, respectively, rated the City positively. Compared to benchmarks, Fort Lauderdale rates fifteen percent (15%) higher than national scores and six percent (6%) higher than the City's comparative cohort (cities that are statistically comparable based upon geography and demographics) for the availability of a variety of art and cultural events.

Fort Lauderdale is also performing two percent (2%) higher than the national benchmark for the quality of parks and recreational amenities. For those that rated the quality of parks and recreational amenities negatively, the top three (3) actions identified for improvement include enhancing current parks, walking/biking trails and paths; enhancing safety with improved security and accessibility measures such as lighting, cameras, or increased patrols; and offering additional types of programs and classes.

Continued Survey Efforts

The City will continue its survey efforts with a second (2nd) cycle of the Neighbor Survey during the period of July 2026 through September 2026. (Attachment 2). The City will also utilize Zencity to administer Business Survey Instrument July 2026 - September 2026 (Attachment 3). The intent of the business survey is to gather feedback on existing economic development programs and initiatives and the perception of the City as a place to do business. Businesses will be invited to participate in the survey through the business tax application process and a Citywide email campaign. Additionally, staff plans to promote the survey at targeted meetings with City advisory boards and other groups that support the City's economic vitality.

Please contact Laura Reece, Director of the Office of Management and Budget, at lreece@fortlauderdale.gov or (954) 828-5894 with any questions.

Attachments:

1. Neighbor Survey Report January 2026 - March 2026
2. Neighbor Survey Instrument July 2026 – September 2026
3. Business Survey Instrument July 2026 - September 2026

c: Shari L. McCartney, City Attorney
David R. Soloman, City Clerk
Patrick Reilly, City Auditor
City Manager's Office
Department Directors



Fort Lauderdale, FL

Community Survey

January - March 2026

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Survey Methodology

The current cycle of the web-based Community Survey collected survey data between January - March 2026. Respondents were digitally recruited (e.g., over social media, mobile apps, websites, and survey panels). These ads are targeted to residents, and responses are only included in the data when a local valid zipcode is provided.

Respondents who self-reported being under 18, who declined to provide any demographic information, or those who provided an invalid zipcode are excluded from the results.

606 valid respondents participated in the web-based Community Survey during this cycle.

Representation

Zencity ensures broad demographic representation in several ways:

Before data collection, Zencity employs national statistical data to establish response targets. These targets are defined based on race/ethnicity, age, and gender.

During data collection, we track the demographic composition of the survey responses in real time, comparing them to the predetermined targets. We fine-tune our distribution and advertising strategies as needed to target all demographic groups.

After data collection, Zencity employs an industry-standard statistical technique called rake weighting. This assigns a unique weight to each respondent based on their demographic characteristics. This method ensures that the distribution of these characteristics in the final weighted sample aligns with the community's overall demographics.

Zencity Community Survey

January - March 2026

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Sample Composition

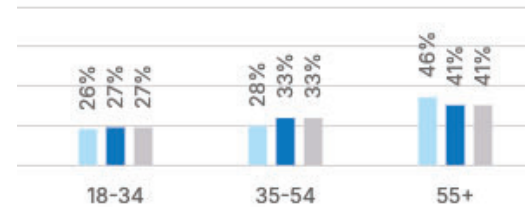
606 valid respondents

Key

- **Unweighted demographics** - What we collected, without adjustments
- **Weighted demographics** - Our sample, adjusted to be representative of the population
- **Population demographics** - The demographics of the 18+ population

* The "Other" category includes missing data, people who selected "prefer not to say", and other groups not defined in the census.

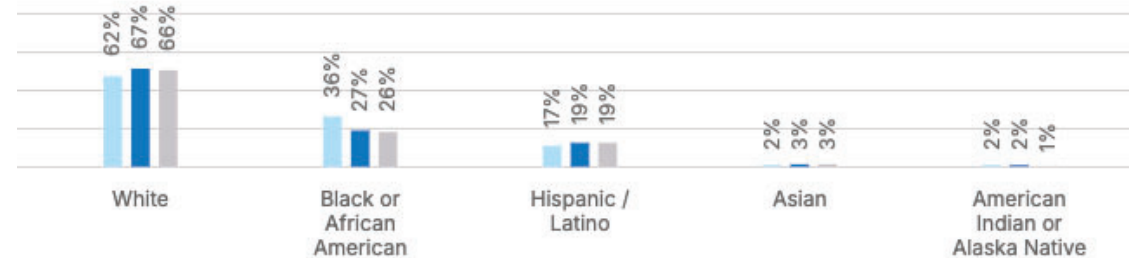
Age



Gender



Ethnicity



Overall Quality of Life

Residents' quality of life is a key metric for local government leaders. Here, we present how Fort Lauderdale residents are feeling about their quality of life, looking at how this changes by demographic group and geography.

We will show the percent of valid respondents who reported either a 4 or a 5 on the 1-5 scale, weighted by age, gender, and race/ethnicity (see page 3 for details).

Scores will be shown only for groups (e.g., for a geographic area or for a demographic group) with at least 30 responses. For groups between 30 and 49 respondents, we highlight the small sample size using an (!). Use these scores with caution.

Zencity Community Survey

January - March 2026

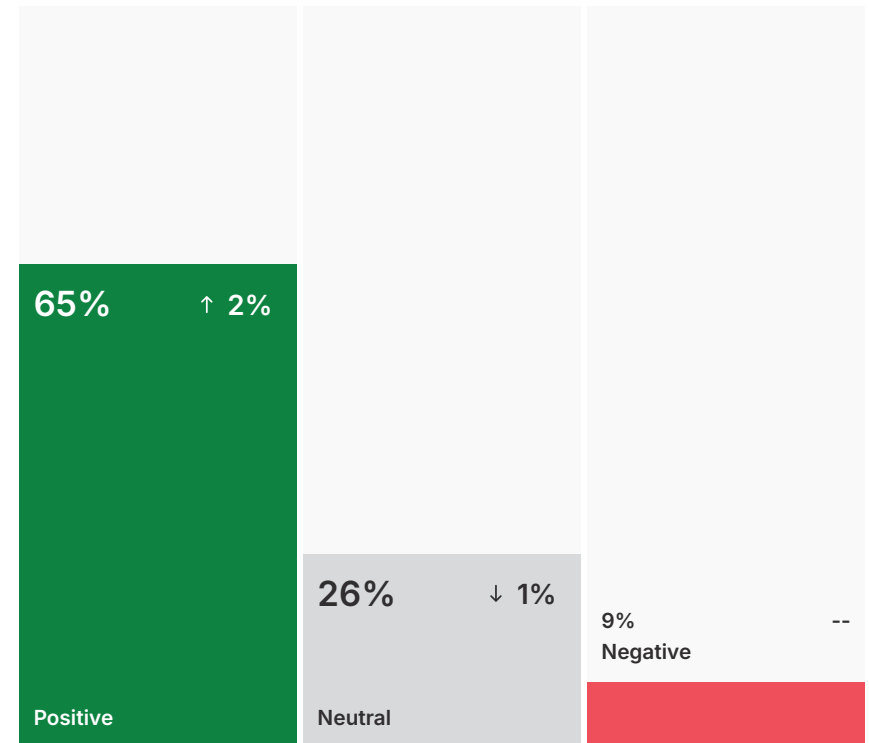
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How is the overall quality of life in Fort Lauderdale?

65%

of 606 surveyed residents are
satisfied with the overall
quality of life in Fort
Lauderdale

↑ 2% vs. previous cycle



Zencity Community Survey

January - March 2026

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How is the overall quality of life
in Fort Lauderdale?

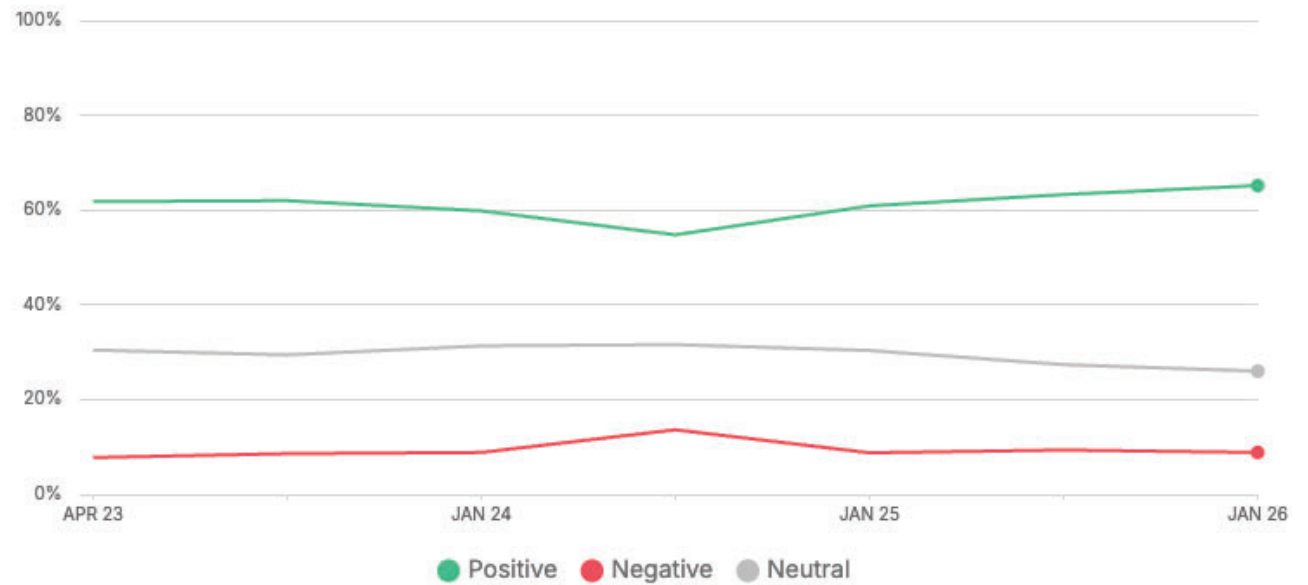
65% ↑ 2%

Neutral

26% • ↓ 1%

Negative

9% • --

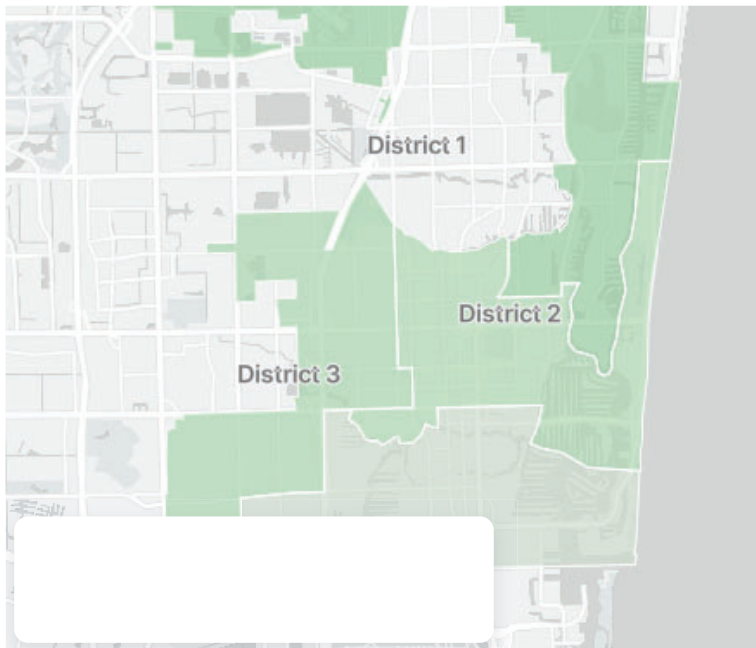


Zencity Community Survey

January - March 2026

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How is the overall quality of life in Fort Lauderdale? | **Geographic Breakdown**



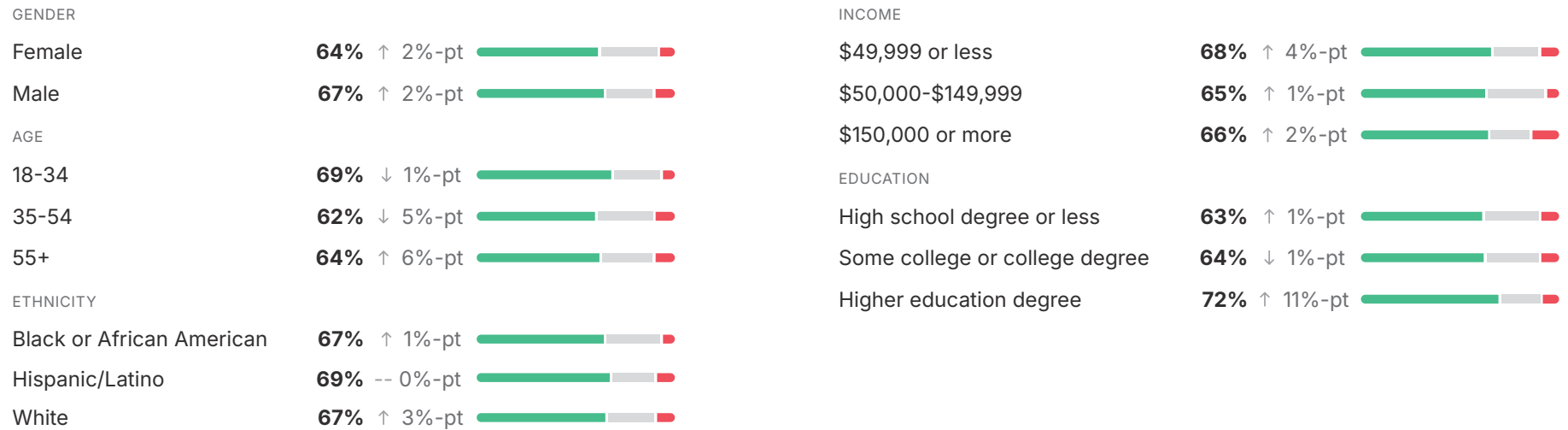
Area	Resident Satisfaction	
District 1	72% • ↓ 1%	
District 2	68% • ↑ 8%	
District 3	68% • ↑ 8%	
District 4	54% • ↓ 11%	

Zencity Community Survey

January - March 2026

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How is the overall quality of life in Fort Lauderdale? | Demographic Breakdown



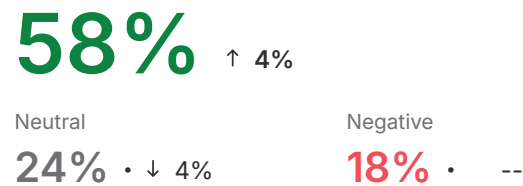
Zencity Community Survey

January - March 2026

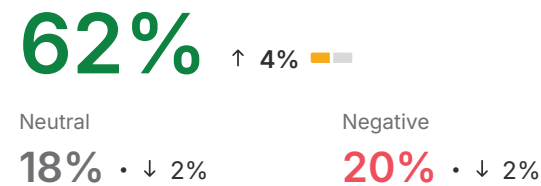
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Other measures of satisfaction with life in Fort Lauderdale

How likely are you to recommend Fort
Lauderdale as a place to live?



How likely are you to be living in Fort
Lauderdale 5 years from now?



 This result is somewhat noteworthy

Community Characteristics

Respondents were asked to rate how satisfied they were with a range of community characteristics on a scale from 1 (Poor) to 5 (Excellent).

Zencity Community Survey

January - March 2026

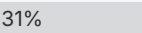
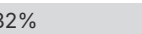
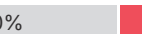
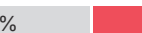
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COMMUNITY CHARACTERISTIC		SATISFACTION SCORE	CHANGE	KEY
Availability of a variety of art and cultural events		67% 	↑ 4% ↓ 2%	
Acceptance of residents of all backgrounds		66% 	↑ 3% - 0%	● POSITIVE ● NEUTRAL ● NEGATIVE ○ NON-SUBSTANTIATIVE ↓ ↑ CHANGE IN POSITIVE SCORE ↓ ↑ CHANGE IN NEGATIVE SCORE  NOTEWORTHY  SOMEWHAT NOTEWORTHY The 'Change' column shows percentage point changes from the previous cycle. Questions with changes above 5% are highlighted.
Quality of parks and recreational amenities		66% 	- 0% ↑ 1%	
Quality of waste and recycling services		53% 	↓ 2% ↑ 2%	
Overall quality of services provided by Fort Lauderdale		52% 	↑ 3% ↓ 1%	
Access to quality education		52% 	↑ 1% - 0%	
Overall cleanliness and maintenance		50% 	↑ 4% ↓ 2%	
Quality of customer service provided by City employees		50% 	↓ 1% ↓ 4%	

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January - March 2026

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COMMUNITY CHARACTERISTIC		SATISFACTION SCORE	CHANGE	KEY
Sense of overall safety		49%  31%  20% 	↑ 6% ↓ 3%	● POSITIVE ● NEUTRAL ● NEGATIVE ○ NON-SUBSTANTIATIVE ↓ ↑ CHANGE IN POSITIVE SCORE ↓ ↑ CHANGE IN NEGATIVE SCORE  NOTEWORTHY  SOMEWHAT NOTEWORTHY The 'Change' column shows percentage point changes from the previous cycle. Questions with changes above 5% are highlighted.
Sense of community among residents		47%  32%  21% 	↑ 4% ↓ 1%	
Ability for residents to give input to the City of Fort Lauderdale		44%  30%  26% 	↑ 3% ↓ 3%	
Ease of getting around by public transportation		43%  25%  32% 	↓ 3% ↑ 3%	
Maintenance of City streets, sidewalks, and infrastructure (e.g., utility pipes, stormwater...)		41%  27%  32% 	↑ 1% ↑ 2%	
Availability of jobs that pay a living wage		34%  31%  35% 	↑ 7% ↓ 7%	
Availability of affordable housing		25%  26%  49% 	↑ 2% ↓ 10%	
Efforts to address homelessness		25%  25%  50% 	↑ 7% ↓ 7%	

Zencity Community Survey

January - March 2026

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Change Matrix Highlights

The Change Matrix showcases the questions with the largest changes from the previous cycle, highlighting the demographic groups and geographic areas contributing to these shifts.

Top Questions	Overall Score	Total Change	Ethnicity	Gender	Age	Geographic Area
Availability of jobs that pay a living wage	34%	↑ +7%	White	Female	18-34	District 3
			↑ +7%	↑ +10%	↑ +7%	↑ +14%
Efforts to address homelessness	25%	↑ +7%	White	Male	55+	District 2
			↑ +7%	↑ +9%	↑ +8%	↑ +9%
Sense of overall safety	49%	↑ +6%	Hispanic/Latino	Male	55+	District 2
			↓ -9%	↑ +6%	↑ +8%	↑ +15%

Priority Matrix

The Priority Matrix helps prioritize community characteristics by plotting them based on resident satisfaction and their impact on quality of life.

X-axis (Satisfaction): How residents rated each community characteristic.

Y-axis (Impact on quality of life): How strongly each characteristic predicts overall quality of life (calculated using statistical analysis, not direct resident input).

The matrix divides all community characteristics into quadrants using median values for both satisfaction and impact scores, ensuring a balanced distribution across all four categories for strategic prioritization purposes.

Learn more [HERE](#)

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High Impact Challenges (Low satisfaction, High impact)

These are lower satisfaction areas that significantly affect residents' lives and community well-being; as such, they are high-impact challenges that should be prioritized.



Community Characteristic

Satisfaction Impact

● Maintenance of City streets, sidewalks, and infrastructure (e.g., utility pipes, stormwater system)	0.41	0.58
● Availability of affordable housing	0.25	0.63
● Sense of overall safety	0.49	0.67
● Sense of community among residents	0.47	0.56

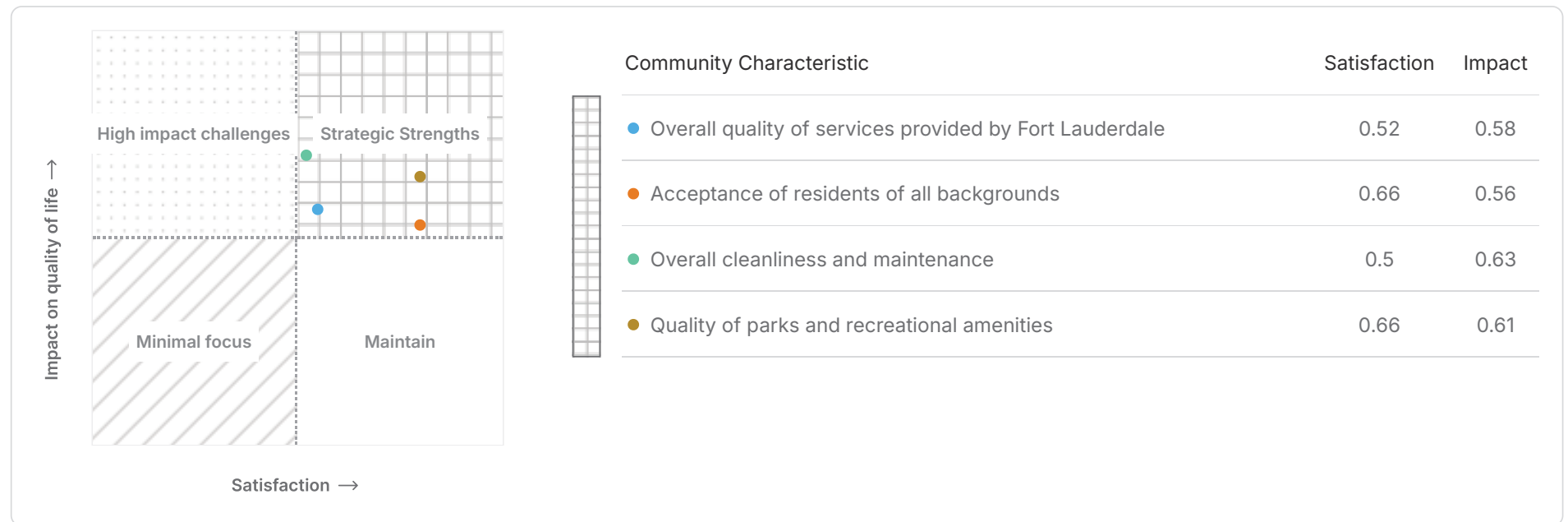
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Strategic Strengths (High satisfaction, High impact)

These are characteristics that residents value highly and are satisfied with. Maintain or leverage these as community strengths.



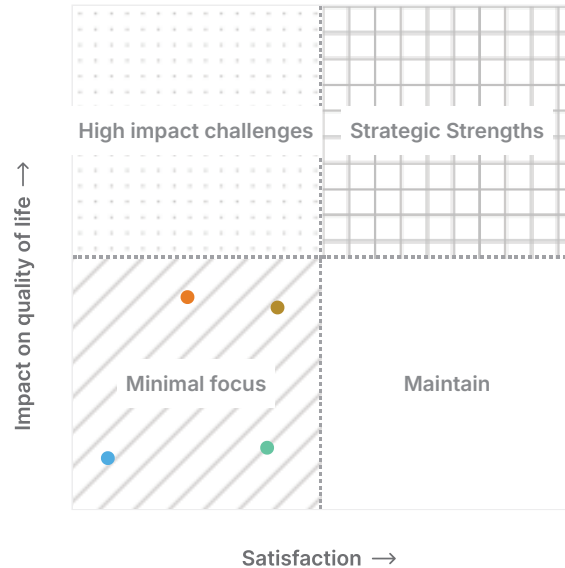
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Minimal Focus (Low satisfaction, Low impact)

These are lower satisfaction areas that do not strongly influence quality of life, suggesting a lower priority for investment unless specific strategic goals apply.



Community Characteristic

Community Characteristic	Satisfaction	Impact
● Efforts to address homelessness	0.25	0.39
● Availability of jobs that pay a living wage	0.34	0.52
● Ease of getting around by public transportation	0.43	0.4
● Ability for residents to give input to the City of Fort Lauderdale	0.44	0.51

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January - March 2026

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Maintain (High satisfaction, Low impact)

These are well-regarded characteristics with a smaller influence on the overall quality of life. While they can be maintained efficiently, they may warrant attention if they align with specific strategic goals.



Community Characteristic

Satisfaction

Impact

● Quality of customer service provided by City employees	0.5	0.54
● Access to quality education	0.52	0.52
● Quality of waste and recycling services	0.53	0.4
● Availability of a variety of art and cultural events	0.67	0.54

Focus Areas

The next pages highlight community characteristics of interest and provide insights into these characteristics, along with breakdowns by relevant groups for further analysis.

These insights are designed to support targeted strategic planning and deeper analysis. Where applicable, follow-up questions were included, focusing on responses that highlighted challenges (e.g., low ratings).

Follow-up questions in Zencity surveys gather detailed feedback, clarify responses, or provide context triggered by prior answers to help address issues or improve services.

Zencity Community Survey

January - March 2026

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Efforts to address homelessness

25%

↑ 7% 

Neutral

25% • ↑ 1%

Negative

50% • ↓ 7%

 This result is noteworthy

GENDER

Female

23% ↑ 4%-pt 

Male

27% ↑ 9%-pt 

AGE

18-34

33% ↑ 4%-pt 

35-54

27% ↑ 6%-pt 

55+

17% ↑ 8%-pt 

ETHNICITY

Black or African American

36% ↑ 5%-pt 

Hispanic/Latino

25% ↑ 1%-pt 

White

20% ↑ 7%-pt 

INCOME

\$49,999 or less

34% ↑ 10%-pt 

\$50,000-\$149,999

23% ↑ 6%-pt 

\$150,000 or more

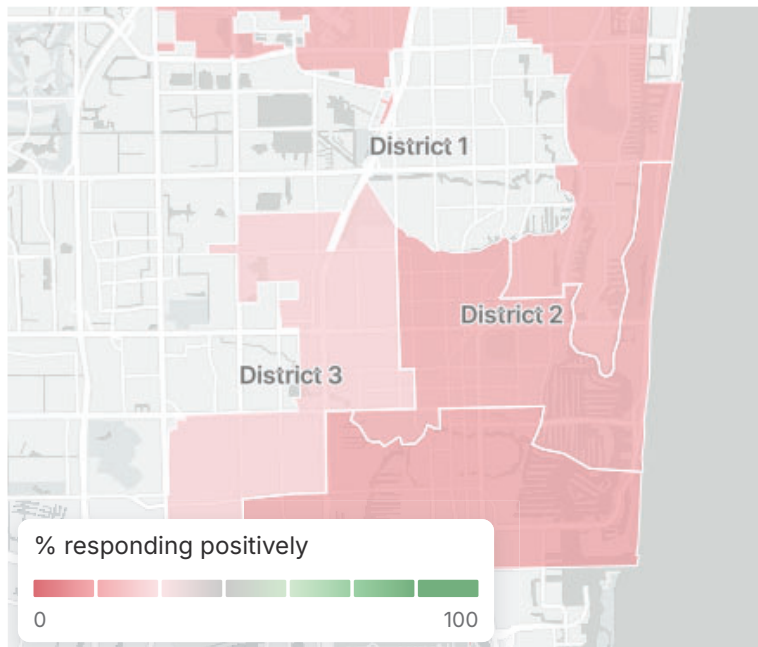
19% ↓ 2%-pt 

Zencity Community Survey

January - March 2026

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Efforts to address homelessness | Geographic Breakdown



AREA

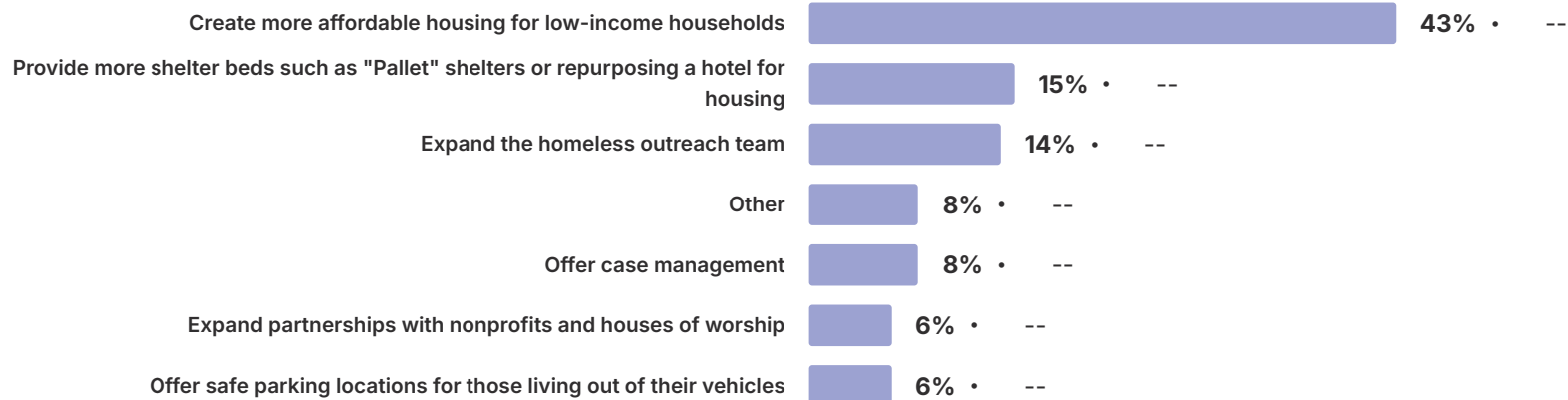
District 1	26%	↑ 6%-pt	
District 2	22%	↑ 9%-pt	
District 3	32%	↑ 6%-pt	
District 4	18%	↑ 3%-pt	

Zencity Community Survey

January - March 2026

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What is the most important thing you think Fort Lauderdale can do to address homelessness?



To view the full question breakdown, visit your Zencity [dashboard](#)

Zencity Community Survey

January - March 2026

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Quality of parks and recreational amenities

66% --

Neutral

21% • --

Negative

13% • ↑ 1%

AGE

18-34 **66%** ↓ 7%-pt 

35-54 **61%** ↓ 9%-pt 

55+ **69%** ↑ 7%-pt 

INCOME

\$49,999 or less **66%** ↓ 3%-pt 

\$50,000-\$149,999 **67%** -- 0%-pt 

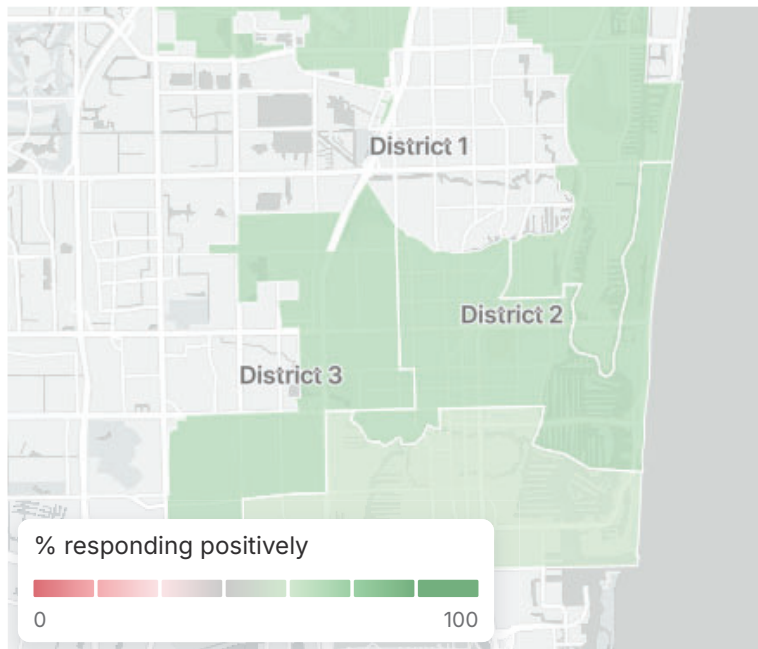
\$150,000 or more **64%** -- 0%-pt 

Zencity Community Survey

January - March 2026

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Quality of parks and recreational amenities | Geographic Breakdown



AREA

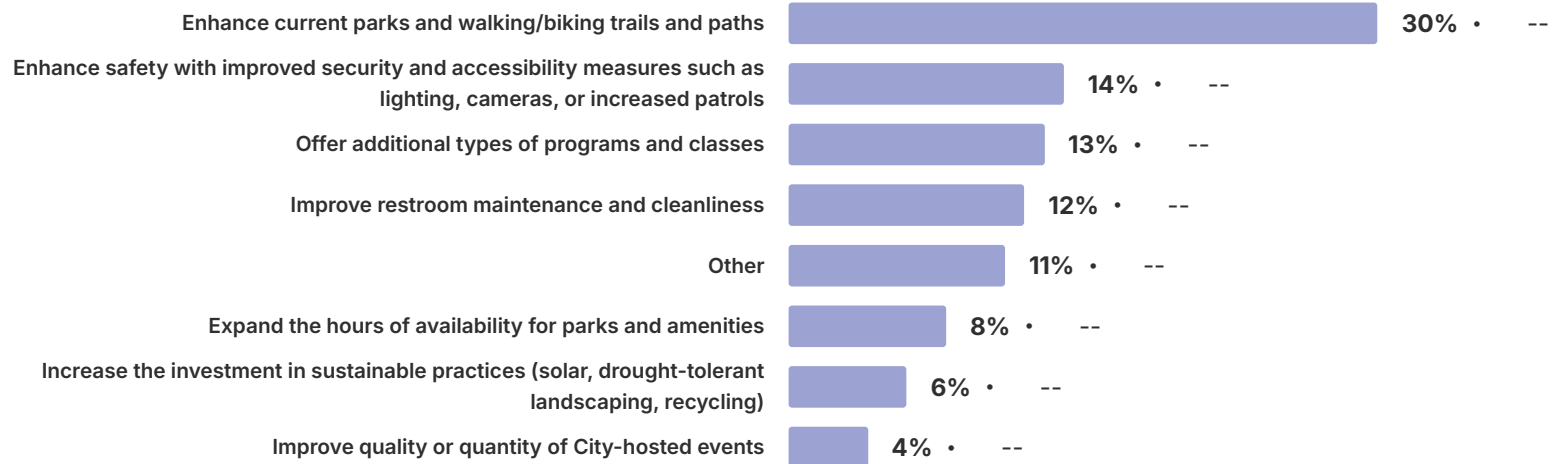
District 1	66%	↓ 3%-pt	
District 2	67%	↑ 3%-pt	
District 3	67%	↓ 7%-pt	
District 4	60%	↓ 12%-pt	

Zencity Community Survey

January - March 2026

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What is the most important thing you think Fort Lauderdale can do to improve the quality of parks and recreational amenities?



To view the full question breakdown, visit your Zencity [dashboard](#)

Zencity Community Survey

January - March 2026

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Sense of overall safety

49% ↑ 6% 

Neutral **31%** • ↓ 3% Negative **20%** • ↓ 3%

 This result is noteworthy

GENDER

Female **46%** ↑ 5%-pt 

Male **51%** ↑ 6%-pt 

AGE

18-34 **56%** ↑ 2%-pt 

35-54 **48%** ↑ 4%-pt 

55+ **44%** ↑ 8%-pt 

ETHNICITY

Black or African American **54%** ↑ 2%-pt 

Hispanic/Latino **46%** ↓ 9%-pt 

White **48%** ↑ 8%-pt 

INCOME

\$49,999 or less **53%** ↑ 8%-pt 

\$50,000-\$149,999 **51%** ↑ 8%-pt 

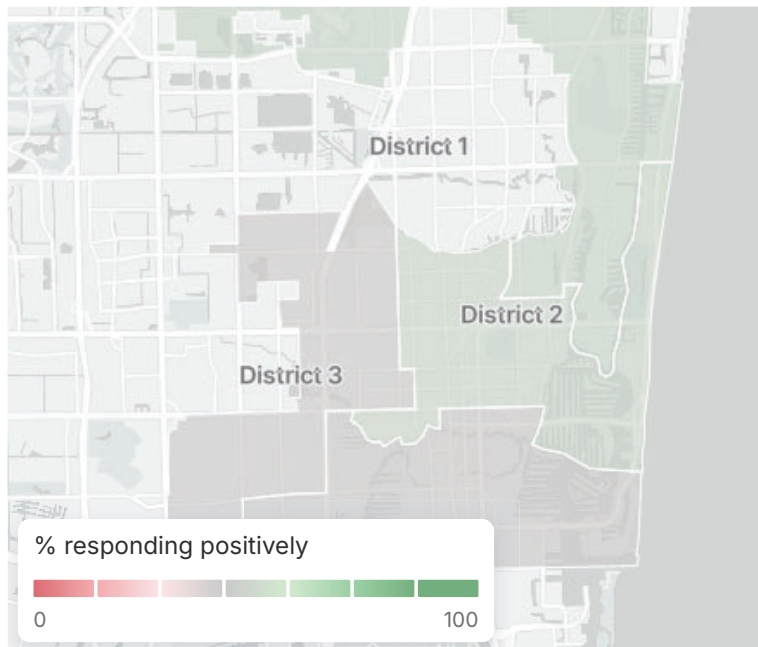
\$150,000 or more **44%** ↓ 1%-pt 

Zencity Community Survey

January - March 2026

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Sense of overall safety | Geographic Breakdown



AREA

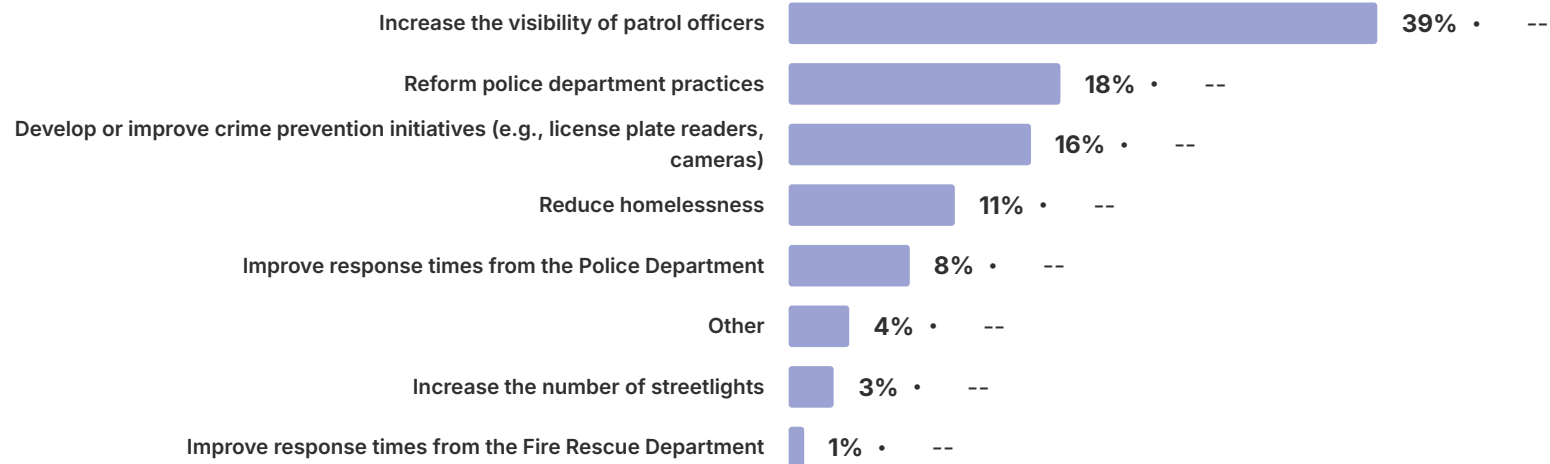
District 1	52%	↑ 6%-pt	
District 2	52%	↑ 15%-pt	
District 3	45%	↑ 4%-pt	
District 4	45%	↓ 2%-pt	

Zencity Community Survey

January - March 2026

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What is the most important thing you think Fort Lauderdale can do to improve your sense of overall safety?



To view the full question breakdown, visit your Zencity [dashboard](#)

Community Benchmark

January - March 2026

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Community Benchmark

We aim to help Zencity clients understand their results and put them into context. To that end, we will compare Fort Lauderdale's results to the United States as a whole and against communities with similar characteristics such as size, population density, and region (their "cohort").

These cohorts help to distinguish patterns unique to each client from those that are common in similar communities.

Community Benchmark

January - March 2026

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How we compare Fort Lauderdale to other similar communities

Creating the cohorts

First, all cities, towns, and counties in the US--not just Zencity clients--are put into cohorts based on geography and demographics using a method known as cluster analysis. This method balances a range of different characteristics to put communities into cohorts that are statistically similar to one another. The result of this step is one set of cohorts for cities and towns and a second set for counties.

We chose this method to create objectively similar groups of communities with respect to characteristics that are likely to be correlated with answers to the survey questions. By creating cohorts of larger sets of communities we have found that our benchmark baselines tend to be more reliable than they would be if we had direct comparisons of a small number of communities. See our Help Site for more information on cohorts, including the full list of communities in your cohort.

Creating cohort scores and national benchmark scores

The Zencity National Benchmark Survey is conducted semiannually, collecting about 5000 responses across the country. The cohort scores are the weighted average of scores for respondents in each cohort. These weights are calculated to match the client's own demographics, to make them directly comparable to the clients' scores. National scores are calculated in a similar manner.

Community Benchmark

January - March 2026

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The overall quality of life in Fort Lauderdale is lower than its cohort and lower than the national score.

65% Fort Lauderdale
69% Cohort
67% National

● Fort Lauderdale

■ Cohort

▲ National

Question	National	Cohort	Your Score	Satisfaction Comparison
How is the overall quality of life in Fort Lauderdale?	67%	69%	65%	
How likely are you to recommend Fort Lauderdale as a place to live?	64%	65%	58%	
How likely are you to be living in Fort Lauderdale 5 years from now?	64%	64%	62%	

0% 25% 50% 75% 100%

Community Benchmark

January - March 2026

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Satisfaction with Life in Fort Lauderdale

Breakdown by characteristic

● Fort Lauderdale

■ Cohort

▲ National

Question

National

Cohort

Your Score

Satisfaction Comparison

0% 25% 50% 75% 100%

Community Benchmark

January - March 2026

Powered by  Zencity

Satisfaction with Life in Fort Lauderdale

Breakdown by characteristic

● Fort Lauderdale

■ Cohort

▲ National

Question	National	Cohort	Your Score	Satisfaction Comparison
Ease of getting around by public transportation				
Sense of overall safety				
Overall cleanliness and maintenance				
Quality of waste and recycling services				
				0% 25% 50% 75% 100%

Rotating Survey Section

The rotating survey section focuses on areas of interest each cycle and can be updated as new areas of interest emerge.

Zencity Community Survey

January - March 2026

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How would you rate traffic flow in Fort Lauderdale?

24%

Neutral

25%

Negative

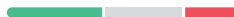
52%

GENDER

Female **26%** 

Male **21%** 

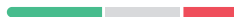
AGE

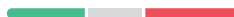
18-34 **42%** 

35-54 **27%** 

55+ **8%** 

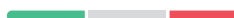
ETHNICITY

Black or African American **42%** 

Hispanic/Latino **34%** 

White **16%** 

INCOME

\$49,999 or less **34%** 

\$50,000-\$149,999 **24%** 

\$150,000 or more **17%** 

Zencity Community Survey

January - March 2026

Powered by  Zencity

How would you rate the reliability and quality of drinking water in Fort Lauderdale?

41% ↑ 5% 

Neutral

28% • ↓ 1%

Negative

31% • ↓ 4%

 This result is noteworthy

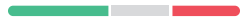
GENDER

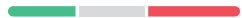
Female **39%** ↑ 8%-pt 

Male **43%** ↑ 3%-pt 

AGE

18-34 **54%** ↑ 2%-pt 

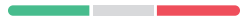
35-54 **44%** ↑ 10%-pt 

55+ **30%** ↑ 2%-pt 

ETHNICITY

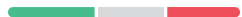
Black or African American **55%** ↑ 2%-pt 

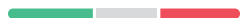
Hispanic/Latino **49%** ↑ 4%-pt 

White **36%** ↑ 4%-pt 

INCOME

\$49,999 or less **54%** ↑ 16%-pt 

\$50,000-\$149,999 **38%** ↑ 2%-pt 

\$150,000 or more **37%** ↑ 4%-pt 

Zencity Community Survey

January - March 2026

Powered by  Zencity

How would you rate Fort Lauderdale's prevention of and resilience to flooding?

30% ↑ 3%

Neutral

28% • ↑ 1%

Negative

42% • ↓ 4%

GENDER

Female

28% ↑ 3%-pt 

Male

32% ↑ 3%-pt 

AGE

18-34

54% ↑ 12%-pt 

35-54

28% -- 0%-pt 

55+

16% -- 0%-pt 

ETHNICITY

Black or African American

45% ↑ 6%-pt 

Hispanic/Latino

37% ↓ 6%-pt 

White

22% ↓ 1%-pt 

INCOME

\$49,999 or less

43% ↑ 5%-pt 

\$50,000-\$149,999

29% ↑ 2%-pt 

\$150,000 or more

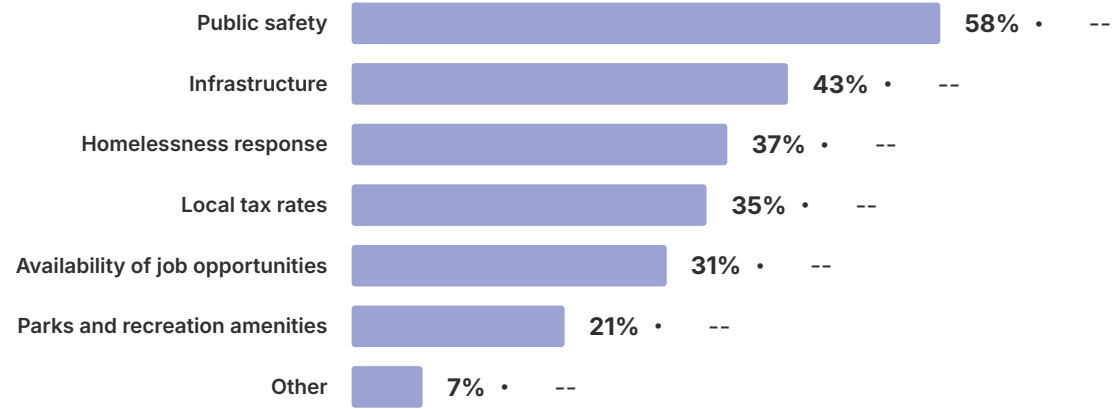
21% ↓ 1%-pt 

Zencity Community Survey

January - March 2026

Powered by  Zencity

Which of the following elements of life in Fort Lauderdale are most important to you?



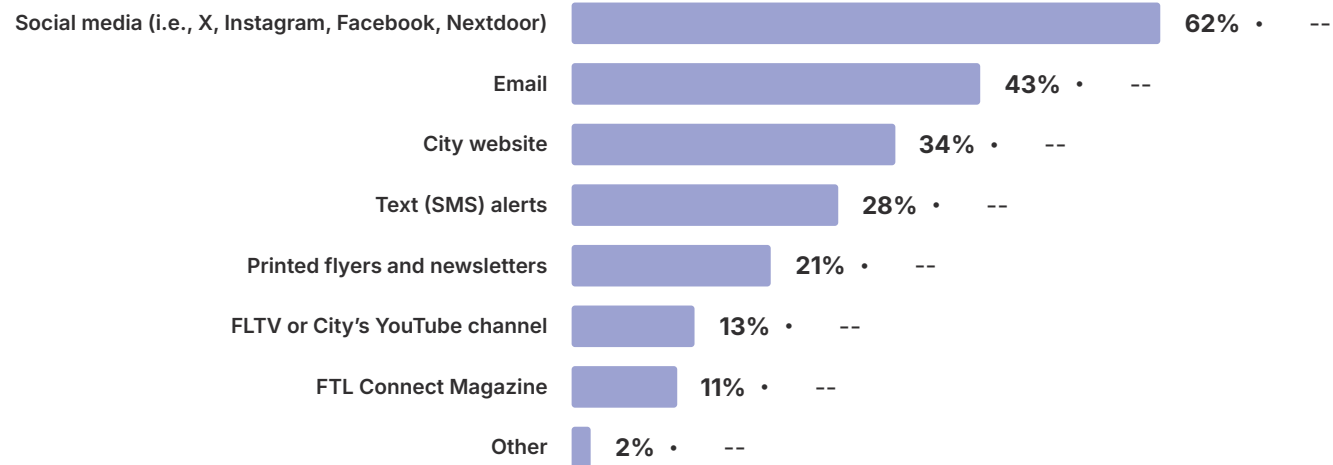
To view the full question breakdown, visit your Zencity [dashboard](#)

Zencity Community Survey

January - March 2026

Powered by  Zencity

How do you prefer to receive information and news from the City?



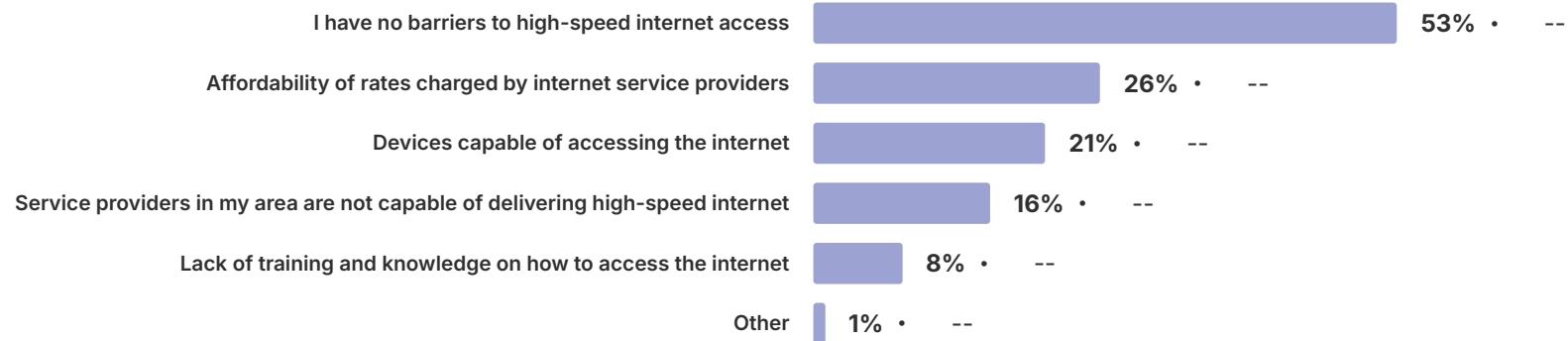
To view the full question breakdown, visit your Zencity [dashboard](#)

Zencity Community Survey

January - March 2026

Powered by  Zencity

What barrier(s), if any, do you have to high-speed internet access?



To view the full question breakdown, visit your Zencity [dashboard](#)



Published on April 9th, 2026 by Zencity
support@zencity.io

Introduction

Hi there! Thank you for choosing to share your thoughts with us.

Fort Lauderdale is running this survey to hear from residents like you about quality of life in the City. Your answers help us know where to focus and how to plan for the future.

Thank you for taking the time to share what you think.

1. Do you live or work within the limits of Fort Lauderdale?

- a. I live here
- b. I work here
- c. None of the above

General Satisfaction

Let's start with some questions about the quality of life in Fort Lauderdale. For each question, please choose the rating that best matches your answer.

2. How is the overall quality of life in Fort Lauderdale?

(1) Poor to (5) Excellent

3. How likely are you to recommend Fort Lauderdale as a place to live?

(1) Very Unlikely to (5) Very Likely

4. How likely are you to be living in Fort Lauderdale 5 years from now?

(1) Very Unlikely to (5) Very Likely

Community Characteristics

First section down! The following questions will cover different parts of life in Fort Lauderdale. For each question, please choose the rating that best matches your experience.

(1) Poor to (5) Excellent

5. Sense of community among residents

6. Acceptance of residents of all backgrounds

7. Ability for residents to give input to the City of Fort Lauderdale

8. Overall quality of services provided by Fort Lauderdale

9. Quality of customer service provided by City employees

10. Availability of affordable housing

11. Efforts to address homelessness

If the response is rated as (1) Poor or (2) Below Average, the following question will be provided.

11.1 What is the most important thing you think Fort Lauderdale can do to address homelessness?

- a. Create more affordable housing for low-income households
- b. Offer case management
- c. Offer safe parking locations for those living out of their vehicles
- d. Provide more shelter beds such as "Pallet" shelters or repurposing a hotel for housing

- e. Expand partnerships with nonprofits and houses of worship
- f. Expand the homeless outreach team
- g. Other: _____

12. Access to quality education

13. Availability of a variety of art and cultural events

14. Quality of parks and recreational amenities

If the response is rated as (1) Poor or (2) Below Average, the following question will be provided.

14.1 What is the most important thing you think Fort Lauderdale can do to improve the quality of parks and recreational amenities?

- a. Offer additional types of programs and classes
- b. Improve maintenance and cleanliness of parks and restrooms
- c. Expand the hours of availability for parks and amenities
- d. Increase the investment in sustainable practices (e.g., solar, drought-tolerant landscaping, recycling)
- e. Enhance safety with improved security and accessibility measures such as lighting, cameras, or increased patrols
- f. Enhance current parks and walking/biking trails and paths
- g. Improve quality or quantity of City-hosted events
- h. Other: _____

15. Ease of getting around by public transportation

16. Sense of overall safety

If the response is rated as (1) Poor or (2) Below Average, the following question will be provided.

16.1 What is the most important thing you think Fort Lauderdale can do to improve your sense of overall safety?

- a. Develop or improve crime prevention initiatives (e.g., license plate readers, cameras)
- b. Increase the visibility of police officers
- c. Increase the number of streetlights
- d. Reform police department practices
- e. Reduce homelessness
- f. Improve response times from the Police Department
- g. Improve response times from the Fire Rescue Department
- h. Other: _____

17. Overall appearance and upkeep of medians, beaches, parks, and other public spaces

18. Maintenance of City streets, sidewalks, and infrastructure (e.g., utility pipes, stormwater system)

19. Quality of residential waste, recycling, and bulk services

20. How would you rate traffic in Fort Lauderdale?

Poor to (5) Excellent

21. How would you rate the reliability and quality of drinking water in Fort Lauderdale?

Poor to (5) Excellent

22. How would you rate Fort Lauderdale's prevention of and resilience to flooding?

(1) Poor to (5) Excellent

23. Which of the following elements of life in Fort Lauderdale are most important to you?

Select top three (3)

- a. Homelessness response
- b. Infrastructure
- c. Local tax rates
- d. Public safety
- e. Availability of job opportunities
- f. Parks and recreation amenities
- g. Other: _____

24. How do you prefer to receive information and news from the City?

Select all that apply

- a. Social media (i.e., X, Instagram, Facebook, Nextdoor)
- b. City website
- c. FLTV or City's YouTube channel
- d. FTL Connect Magazine
- e. Printed flyers and newsletters
- f. Email
- g. Text (SMS) alerts
- h. Other: _____

25. What barrier(s), if any, do you have to high-speed internet access?

- a. Devices capable of accessing the internet
- b. Service providers in my area are not capable of delivering high-speed internet
- c. Lack of training and knowledge on how to access the internet
- d. Affordability of rates charged by internet service providers
- e. I have no barriers to high-speed internet access
- f. Other: _____

About You

A few final questions!

To make sure we're hearing from all resident groups that make up Fort Lauderdale, we have a few questions about who you are.

26. In what year were you born? _____

27. Which of the following do you identify as?

- a. Male
- b. Female
- c. Prefer to self-describe

If "c. Prefer to self-describe" is selected, the following question will be provided.

31.1 Please state the gender you identify as: _____

28. Which one of these statements best describes your current situation?

- a. Full-time employed
- b. Part-time employed
- c. Unemployed

- d. Student
- e. Apprentice/intern
- f. In retirement or early retirement
- g. Permanently disabled
- h. Fulfilling domestic tasks or looking after children/family
- i. Prefer not to say
- j. Other: _____

29. How long have you lived in the City of Fort Lauderdale? _____

30. What is your race?

Select all that apply

- a. White
- b. Black or African American
- c. American Indian or Alaska Native
- d. Asian
- e. Native Hawaiian, Samoan, Chamorro, or other Pacific Islander
- f. Other: _____
- g. Prefer not to say

31. Is your home:

- a. Owned by you or someone in your household, with or without a mortgage or loan
- b. Rented
- c. Occupied without payment of rent
- d. Prefer not to say

32. What is your home zip code? _____

33. What is the highest level of school you have completed or the highest degree you have received?

- a. Less than a high school diploma
- b. High school graduate or GED
- c. Some college but no degree
- d. Associate's degree in college
- e. Bachelor's degree (for example: BA, AB, BS)
- f. Master's degree (for example: MA, MS, MBA)
- g. Professional School Degree (for example: MD, DDS, DVM, LLB, JD)
- h. Doctorate degree (for example: PhD, EdD)
- i. Prefer not to say

34. Do any children under the age of 18 live in your household at least half of the time?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Prefer not to say

35. Which category best represents your household's total income over the past year?

- a. \$14,999 or less
- b. \$15,000-\$29,999
- c. \$30,000-\$49,999
- d. \$50,000-\$74,999
- e. \$75,000-\$99,999
- f. \$100,000-\$124,999
- g. \$125,000-\$149,999
- h. \$150,000-\$199,999
- i. \$200,000-\$299,999
- j. \$300,000 or more
- k. Prefer not to say

36. What is the primary language spoken in your home?

Select all that apply

- a. English
- b. Spanish
- c. Creole
- d. Other: _____

37. Can we count on you for regular feedback?

If so, please enter your email below. We'll use it to send you surveys in the future but never to identify your survey submission. If not, go ahead and submit.

38. If you have any additional comments that you would like to share with the City of Fort Lauderdale, please write them in the space below.

Open ended response

You're all done!

Thank you so much for taking the time to fill out this survey. We value your thoughts and look forward to reviewing your feedback.

If you have any questions about this survey and would like to reach out to the City's Office of Management and Budget, please email strategyandinnovation@fortlauderdale.gov.

Fort Lauderdale 2026 Business Survey

Introduction

Hi there! Thank you for choosing to share your thoughts with us.

Fort Lauderdale is running this survey to hear from business owners like you about your satisfaction with the City as a place to do business. Your answers help us know where to focus and how to plan for the future.

Thank you for taking the time to share what you think.

1. Which of the following best describes your position within your company?

- a. Owner
- b. Executive
- c. Manager
- d. Employee

General Satisfaction

For each question, please choose the rating that best matches your answer.

2. Overall, how would you rate the City of Fort Lauderdale as a place to do business?

(1) Poor to (5) Excellent

Business Environment

3. How satisfied are you with each of the following?

(1) Completely Unsatisfied to (5) Completely Satisfied

- a. Local tax rates
- b. Regulatory environment
- c. Availability of a skilled workforce
- d. Infrastructure (e.g., roads, utilities)
- e. Cost of doing business (e.g., inflation, local supply chain)
- f. Quality of life for employees (e.g., affordable housing, cost of living, education, healthcare)

4. Which of the following elements of Fort Lauderdale's business climate are most important to you?

Select the top three (3)

- a. Local tax rates
- b. Regulatory environment
- c. Availability of a skilled workforce
- d. Infrastructure (e.g., roads, utilities)
- e. Cost of doing business (e.g., inflation, local supply chain)
- f. Quality of life for employees (e.g., affordable housing, cost of living, education, healthcare)

5. Are you aware of the of the programs and services provided by the City to support local businesses? (e.g., SizeUp FTL, StartUp FTL, Impact FTL Microgrants)

- a. Yes
- b. No

Fort Lauderdale 2026 Business Survey

6. Which of the following City business support services do you use?

Select all that apply

- a. Business licensing assistance
- b. Zoning and permit guidance
- c. Small business development programs
- d. Networking events
- e. Training workshops
- f. Financial assistance programs
- g. Municipal workforce development programs
- h. None of the above

7. How satisfied are you with Fort Lauderdale's business-related support services?

(1) Very Dissatisfied to (5) Very Satisfied

8. What additional business support services would you like to see offered?

Open-ended response

Expansion and Retention Motivators

9. In the next year, is your business considering any of the following?

- a. Expanding within Fort Lauderdale
- b. Relocating to another location in Fort Lauderdale
- c. Relocating to another location outside Fort Lauderdale
- d. Downsizing
- e. Closing
- f. Maintaining current operations
- g. None of the above

10. Which of the following are the most important factors for keeping/expanding your business in Fort Lauderdale?

Select the top three (3)

- a. Access to customers/markets
- b. Availability of suitable office or commercial space
- c. Cost of real estate or rent
- d. Local government support
- e. Skilled workforce
- f. Improved infrastructure
- g. Financial incentives (e.g., local tax rates, tax credits, abatements)
- h. Other: _____

If "g. Financial incentives" is selected, the following question will be provided.

10.1 What specific financial incentives would most motivate your business to expand in Fort Lauderdale?

- a. Grants for facility improvements and business equipment
- b. Facilitate access to low-interest loans
- c. Workforce training subsidies
- d. Other: _____

Fort Lauderdale 2026 Business Survey

11. What specific areas of communication with the City of Fort Lauderdale do you believe need improvement?

Select all that apply

- a. Timeliness of response
- b. Methods of communication (e.g., email, newsletter, text, social media)
- c. Clarity of information provided
- d. Accessibility of contact points
- e. Frequency of updates
- f. Other: _____
- g. Not applicable

12. How does your business prefer to receive communication from the City?

- a. Text (SMS) alerts/updates
- b. Newsletters/magazines
- c. City social media pages
- d. Email
- e. Flyers/printed notices

13. What are your biggest workforce challenges?

Select all that apply

- a. Finding qualified candidates
- b. Retaining employees
- c. Training and development
- d. Competitive wages
- e. Other: _____

14. What skills do you anticipate will be most in-demand for your business in the next 3-5 years?

Open-ended response

About You

A few final questions!

To make sure we're hearing from all business groups in Fort Lauderdale, we have a few questions about your business.

15. What is your business' name? _____

16. What is the zip code of your business? _____

17. How long has your business been operating in Fort Lauderdale?

- a. Less than 1 year
- b. 1-5 years
- c. 6-10 years
- d. More than 10 years

18. How many employees does your business have?

- a. 1-10
- b. 11-50
- c. 51-100
- d. 101-250
- e. More than 250

Fort Lauderdale 2026 Business Survey

19. What is your business's primary industry sector?

- a. Retail
- b. Manufacturing
- c. Professional Services and Finance
- d. Technology
- e. Healthcare
- f. Construction
- g. Food and Hospitality
- h. Real Estate
- i. Marine
- j. Aviation
- k. Other: _____

20. What is your business's annual revenue?

Response optional

- a. Less than \$100,000
- b. \$100,000 - \$500,000
- c. \$500,001 - \$1 million
- d. \$1 million - \$5 million
- e. More than \$5 million

21. Does your business operate in a physical "brick and mortar" location in Fort Lauderdale or is it operated online?

- a. Physical location
- b. Online only
- c. Both

22. Where is your business operated?

- a. In Fort Lauderdale exclusively
- b. Multiple locations, including one or more locations in Fort Lauderdale

If "b. Multiple locations, including one or more locations in Fort Lauderdale" is selected, the following question will be provided.

22.1 Is your businesses' headquarters located in Fort Lauderdale?

- c. Yes
- d. No

23. If you have any additional comments that you would like to share with the City of Fort Lauderdale, please write them in the space below.

Open-ended response

You're all done!

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. Your feedback is invaluable in helping us improve our business support services and create a thriving local economy.

If you have any questions about this survey and would like to reach out to the City's Office of Management and Budget, please email strategyandinnovation@fortlauderdale.gov.