

2021 VLGMA Civic Engagement Results

Out of 133 localities, 16 localities participated in a survey that was administered on November 2020 and remained open until January 2021 to the VLGMA Listerv. The survey focused on how localities engage residents, collect engagement data, and enact DEI efforts.

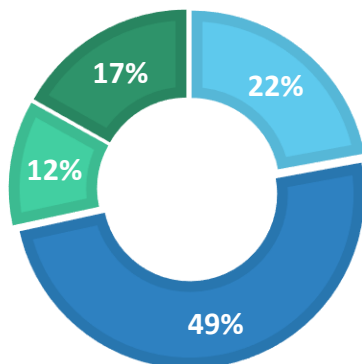
The survey results in their entirety can be found here: <https://icma.org/vlgma/civic-engagement>

HOW CIVIC PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES ARE ADMINISTERED

Survey respondents describe how civic programs and activities are administered:

- Department Directors
- Community Centers
- Community Development Department
- Economic Development Department
- Parks, Recreation, & Tourism Departments
- Fire & Police Departments
- Cooperative Extensions
- Workforce Development Programs
- School Systems
- Student Government
- Libraries
- Churches
- Social Media
- Local Partnerships

HOW LOCALITIES ARE TRACKING CIVIC ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVES



- Council Meeting Attendance
- Social Media/Community Event Interaction
- Community Involvement
- In Need of System

WHAT CIVIC ENGAGEMENT MEANS TO SURVEY RESPONDENTS



YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Survey respondents describe how they are engaging youth in the community:

- Youth commissions, youth councils, internships in local government offices, Chamber of Commerce Leadership Program
- Parks and Recreation, 4-H, library programs, after-school programs, community focused workshops, summer police camps
- Partnering with the school system for:
 - Volunteers, Tobacco/Alcohol prevention activities, field trips

ADULT ENGAGEMENT

Survey respondents describe how they are engaging adults in the community:

- Resident engagement at council meetings, public hearings, neighborhood meetings, listening sessions, online submission forms
- Resident participation on committees, commissions, boards, and volunteer programs
- Public safety programs: Neighborhood watch, Crimestoppers, Project Lifesaver
- Community center usage: Voting and VDOT driver license renewal and testing
- Community activities and festivals like holiday themed block parties, small business Saturdays, health family planning, citizen classes

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION

Survey respondents describe how they are incorporating DEI in their engagement efforts:

- Equity and Inclusion Task Forces; Diversity Commissions
- Diverse appointments to various committees, boards, and commissions
- Multi-faceted communication via website, social media, radio, television, and print and offered in other languages (i.e., Spanish)