



CARY OVERALL AS A PLACE TO LIVE

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The respondents were asked to rate Cary overall as a place to live using a 9-point scale from very undesirable (1) to very desirable (9). Table 36 indicates the Town of Cary was perceived as a very desirable place to live. The mean has increased from 8.15 to 8.30 this year. Although not in a traditional grading scale format, if the mean (8.30) were converted to a grade, then the rating would remain a very strong A-. This year, 98.7% were on the “desirable” side of the scale (above 5). More telling was the fact that only 0.3% of the responses were on the “undesirable” side. In addition, this mean improvement was statistically significant. To gather more insight into any lower ratings, the respondents who answered with a rating below 5 were asked the reason for the low rating (Appendix F). There were only six respondents who made comments with two comments focusing on traffic concerns. See Appendix B for selected Cary overall as a place to live crosstabulations (B244-B252).

Table 36. Cary Overall as a Place to Live

YEAR	MEAN	GRADE
20	8.30*	A-
18	8.15	A-
16	8.11	A-
14	8.23	A-
12	8.25	A-
10	8.28	A-
08	8.10	A-
06	8.09	A-
04	8.31	A-
02	7.79	B+
00	7.63	B
98	7.61	B

QUALITY OF LIFE IN CARY

The perception of the quality of life in Cary over the past two years was assessed with a 5-point scale. The response categories for this question were much worse (1), somewhat worse (2), the same (3), somewhat better (4), and much better (5).

Overall, a large proportion of the respondents (52.3%) perceived the quality of life in Cary as the “same” over the past two years (Table 37). However, the overall mean has increased this year from 3.21 to 3.38 which would indicate a perception the quality of life is “better” this year. Keep in mind, higher means (above 3.00) indicate perceptions of an improvement in the quality of life. This mean increase was statistically significant and it also represents the second highest mean earned by the Town (3.44 in 2004). This year, the percentage on the “better” side (above the midpoint of 3) of the scale exceeded the percentage on the “worse” side (below 3) by 39.8% versus 7.9% (Figure 7). This better/worse percentage in 2018 was 30.2% versus 12.9% illustrating the level of improvement this year. The 39.8% represents the second highest “better” percentage earned by the Town to date. This percentage was only exceeded by 41.6% in 2004. See Appendix B for selected quality of life crosstabulations (B253-B261).

To gain more insight into those giving lower ratings, the respondents who answered with a rating below 3 were asked the reason for the low rating (Appendix G). There were 53 total comments and the primary reasons for lower quality of life ratings were traffic (14 comments), overcrowded (11 comments), overdevelopment (7 comments), crime (3 comments), cost of living (3 comments), high-density housing (2 comments), and construction (2 comments). The top four concerns given in 2018 were traffic, overdeveloped, crime, and overcrowded.

Figure 7. Quality of Life

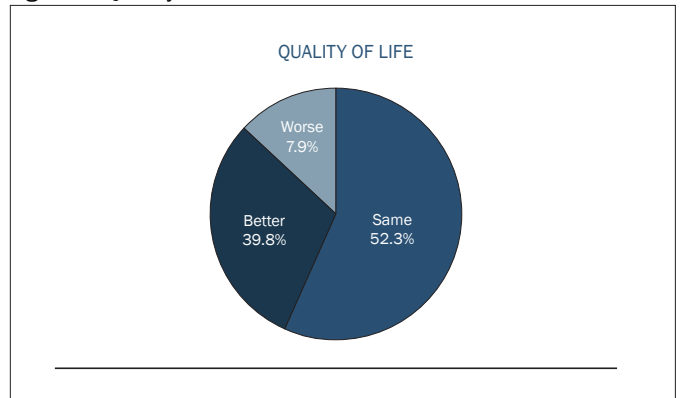


Table 37. Quality of Life in Cary

YEAR	MEAN	% BELOW 3	% ABOVE 3
20	3.38*	7.9	39.8
18	3.21	12.9	30.2
16	3.16	8.9	22.9
14	3.23	7.9	25.7
12	3.22	5.3	23.9
10	3.11	7.5	15.3
08	3.01	26.1	22.9
06	3.24	12.1	30.6
04	3.44	8.4	41.6
02	3.18	19.6	31.4
00	3.05	24.4	26.4

QUALITY AND VALUE OF SERVICES PROVIDED

The quality of the services provided by the Town of Cary Government and the overall value of the services provided by the Town of Cary Government for the taxes paid were rated using the 9-point scale from very poor (1) to excellent (9).

As for the overall quality of the services provided, the Town improved from B to B+ as the mean increased from 7.71 to 7.94 (Table 38). There were 94.7% above the midpoint (5) versus only 0.8% below it this year. This level of mean increase was statistically significant.

Table 38. Overall Quality of the Services Provided by Cary

YEAR	MEAN	GRADE
20	7.94*	B+
18	7.71	B

Table 39 indicates the overall value of the services provided for the taxes paid saw a decrease in the grade from B- in 2018 to C+ this year. The mean was 7.07 with 79.8% above 5 versus only 7.3% below 5. The mean has fallen from 7.34 in 2018 and this decrease was statistically significant. See Appendix B for selected quality and value of services provided crosstabulations (B262-B279).

Table 39. Overall Value of the Services Provided by Cary

YEAR	MEAN	GRADE
20	7.07*	C+
18	7.34	B-

RECOMMEND CARY AS A PLACE TO RELOCATE

The respondents were next asked if they would recommend Cary as a place to relocate. There was overwhelming support for recommending Cary with 90.0% of the respondents answering “yes” and 6.8% answering “maybe” (Figure 8). More impressive was the fact that only 3.3% of the respondents answered “no”. These percentages virtually mirror the 2018 numbers (90.0% “yes,” 3.5% “no,” and 6.5% “maybe”). Overall, there is a continuing level of strong support for Cary as a place to relocate. See Appendix B for selected crosstabulations for recommending relocation in Cary (B280-B288).

Those who responded “no” were subsequently asked the reason they would not recommend Cary as a place to relocate (Appendix H). There were 40 total comments and the primary reasons were overcrowded (14 comments), cost of living (4 comments), affordable housing (3 comments), and high taxes (3 comments). These comments were very similar to 2018 when the top four were overcrowded, growth issues, cost of living, and affordable housing.

Figure 8. Recommend Cary as a Place to Relocate

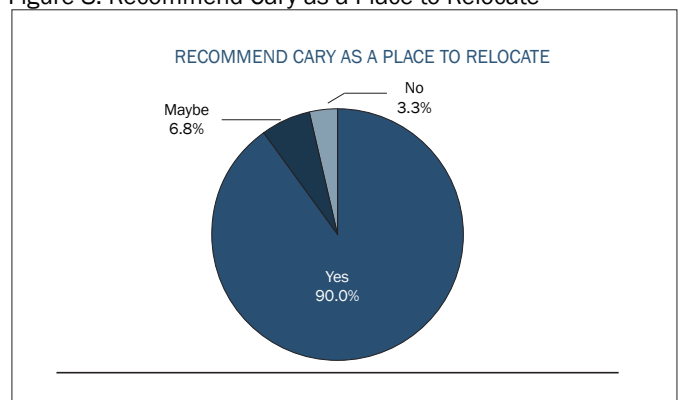


Table 36. Cary Overall as a Place to Live

YEAR	MEAN	VERY POOR 1	2	3	4	AVERAGE 5	6	7	8	EXCELLENT 9	GRADE
20	8.30*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	1.0	2.0	12.5	33.8	50.4	A-
18	8.15	0.0	0.0	0.2	1.0	1.5	2.7	15.5	33.7	45.4	A-
16	8.11	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.3	2.0	2.8	19.3	31.0	44.5	A-
14	8.23	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.0	2.0	1.5	15.7	30.1	50.2	A-
12	8.25	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	1.3	2.0	14.0	35.3	47.3	A-
10	8.28	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.5	2.8	0.8	12.5	30.1	53.1	A-
08	8.10	0.0	0.0	0.5	1.0	4.0	4.2	12.1	29.6	48.6	A-
06	8.09	0.5	0.0	0.7	0.5	2.5	2.7	12.7	37.1	43.3	A-
04	8.31	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.2	2.2	2.2	10.3	22.6	61.2	A-
02	7.79	0.2	0.2	0.7	1.0	5.7	4.4	22.1	27.8	37.8	B+
00	7.63	1.3	0.3	0.5	2.5	3.8	9.0	20.1	27.6	34.9	B
98	7.61	0.0	0.3	0.8	1.0	3.0	8.0	30.6	30.3	26.1	B

Table 37. Quality of Life in Cary

YEAR	MEAN	MUCH WORSE 1	SOMEWHAT WORSE 2	THE SAME 3	SOMEWHAT BETTER 4	MUCH BETTER 5	% BELOW 3	% ABOVE 3
20	3.38*	0.3	7.6	52.3	33.2	6.6	7.9	39.8
18	3.21	0.5	12.4	56.9	25.6	4.6	12.9	30.2
16	3.16	0.7	8.2	68.1	20.2	2.7	8.9	22.9
14	3.23	0.7	7.2	66.4	19.2	6.5	7.9	25.7
12	3.22	0.0	5.3	70.9	20.9	3.0	5.3	23.9
10	3.11	0.0	7.5	77.1	12.3	3.0	7.5	15.3
08	3.01	0.8	25.3	51.0	18.1	4.8	26.1	22.9
06	3.24	1.9	10.2	57.3	22.9	7.7	12.1	30.6
04	3.44	0.5	7.9	50.0	30.6	11.0	8.4	41.6
02	3.18	1.0	18.6	49.0	23.9	7.5	19.6	31.4
00	3.05	1.6	22.8	49.2	22.0	4.4	24.4	26.4

Table 38. Overall Quality of Services Provided by Cary

YEAR	MEAN	VERY POOR 1	2	3	4	AVERAGE 5	6	7	8	EXCELLENT 9	GRADE
20	7.94*	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.5	4.6	3.5	17.0	38.5	35.7	B+
18	7.71	0.5	0.0	0.3	0.8	7.1	5.6	21.8	30.6	33.4	B

Table 39. Overall Value of the Services Provided by Cary

YEAR	MEAN	VERY POOR 1	2	3	4	AVERAGE 5	6	7	8	EXCELLENT 9	GRADE
20	7.07*	0.8	0.5	2.1	3.9	13.0	8.3	24.1	26.9	20.5	C+
18	7.34	0.8	0.8	1.0	1.5	10.2	8.6	25.9	22.8	28.4	B-