



MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE FACING CARY

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An open-ended question asked respondents what they feel is the most important issue facing Cary (Appendix I). The responses show that problems related to growth were again perceived as the key issue in 2020 (Table 40). There were 104 comments concerning controlling growth/overdevelopment. In addition, there was also the growth-related issue of overpopulation with 28 comments. This resulted in 132 total comments directly related to concerns about growth.

The key issues besides growth were traffic (61 comments), affordable housing (23 comments), schools (21 comments), infrastructure concerns (17 comments), and cutting down trees/losing greenspace (14 comments). There were also 64 can't think of any issues/none comments and 13 not sure comments. These responses have a positive component considering that major issues did not come to mind immediately.

For a comparison basis, the most important issues in 2018 were growth issues/overpopulation (147 comments), traffic (75 comments), schools (32 comments), streets/roads (19 comments), crime/safety (18 comments), infrastructure concerns (18 comments), and affordable housing (14 comments). Table 40 shows the issues with five or more comments.

In terms of changes, growth/overpopulation continued to be the most important issue and it has decreased somewhat in importance since 2018 as the number of comments fell from 147 to 132 (Table 40). Traffic remained 2nd but it has fewer comments as well (75 to 61 comments). Schools now rank 5th (3rd in 2018) as the comments fell from 32 to 21. Streets/roads ranked 5th in 2018 but dropped to 8th this year (19 to 13 comments) and crime/safety declined from 6th to 13th (18 to 7 comments). There were increases for affordable housing which moved from 8th to 4th (14 to 23 comments) and cutting down trees/losing greenspace moving from 12th to 7th (6 to 14 comments).

Table 40. Most Important Issues Facing Cary 2020-2018

| 2020 Most Important Issue | # |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Growth | 104 |
| Traffic | 61 |
| Overpopulation | 28 |
| Affordable Housing | 23 |
| Schools | 21 |
| Infrastructure | 17 |
| Cutting Down Trees/Greenspace | 14 |
| Street/Roads | 13 |
| High Taxes | 13 |
| Cost of Living | 11 |
| Lack of Public Transportation | 8 |
| High-density Housing | 7 |
| Crime/Safety | 7 |
| Construction | 5 |
| 2018 Most Important Issue | # |
| Growth | 147 |
| Traffic | 75 |
| Overpopulation | 32 |
| Affordable Housing | 14 |
| Schools | 32 |
| Infrastructure | 18 |
| Cutting Down Trees/Greenspace | 6 |
| Street/Roads | 19 |
| High Taxes | 11 |
| Cost of Living | 10 |
| Lack of Public Transportation | 7 |
| High-density Housing | 6 |
| Crime/Safety | 18 |
| Construction | 5 |

HOW SAFE RESIDENTS FEEL IN CARY

The survey included a question that examined the respondent’s perceptions of safety in Town. The respondents were asked how safe they feel in Cary overall. A 9-point scale that ranged from extremely unsafe (1) to extremely safe (9) was utilized. The results indicate the respondents perceived an exceptionally high level of safety overall (Table 41). The mean was 8.35 with an impressive 99.0% responding on the “safe” side (above 5) of the scale including 50.9% who answered they felt “extremely safe”. There were only 0.6% responses on the “unsafe” side of the scale (Figure 9). The mean increased from 8.22 in 2018 and this increase was statistically significant. This also represents the highest mean earned by the Town for feeling safe in Cary overall. See Appendix B for selected safe in Cary overall cross-tabulations (B289-B297).

Table 41. How Safe Do You Feel in Cary Overall

| YEAR | MEAN | % Above 5 |
|------|------|-----------|
| 20 | 8.35 | 99.9 |
| 18 | 8.22 | 97.7 |
| 16 | 8.06 | 96.0 |
| 14 | 8.15 | 96.8 |
| 12 | 8.22 | 98.7 |
| 10 | 8.29 | 98.7 |
| 08 | 8.09 | 98.2 |
| 06 | 8.10 | 97.5 |
| 04 | 8.23 | 97.5 |
| 02 | 7.99 | 94.8 |
| 00 | 7.93 | 97.5 |
| 98 | 7.55 | 95.6 |

Figure 9. Safe in Cary Overall

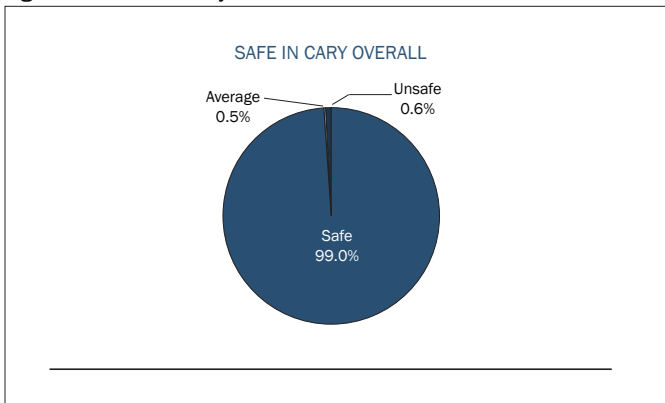


Table 41. How Safe Do You Feel in Cary Overall

| YEAR | MEAN | EXTREME- LY UNSAFE 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | AVERAGE 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | EXTREME- LY SAFE 9 | % Above 5 |
|------|-------|----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|--------------|-----|------|------|--------------------------|-----------|
| 20 | 8.35* | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.5 | 1.5 | 9.5 | 37.1 | 50.9 | 99.0 |
| 18 | 8.22 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 2.2 | 3.0 | 14.2 | 31.9 | 48.6 | 97.7 |
| 16 | 8.06 | 0.5 | 0.0 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 3.0 | 5.0 | 14.8 | 31.1 | 45.1 | 96.0 |
| 14 | 8.15 | 0.3 | 0.0 | 0.5 | 0.0 | 2.5 | 2.0 | 12.6 | 39.2 | 43.0 | 96.8 |
| 12 | 8.22 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.8 | 2.5 | 15.9 | 32.7 | 47.6 | 98.7 |
| 10 | 8.29 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 1.2 | 0.7 | 12.0 | 39.4 | 46.6 | 98.7 |
| 08 | 8.09 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 1.2 | 1.7 | 19.5 | 38.5 | 38.5 | 98.2 |
| 06 | 8.10 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.5 | 2.0 | 2.2 | 17.3 | 38.6 | 39.4 | 97.5 |
| 04 | 8.23 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 2.0 | 2.2 | 12.2 | 34.0 | 49.1 | 97.5 |
| 02 | 7.99 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 4.7 | 2.7 | 17.0 | 37.3 | 37.8 | 94.8 |
| 00 | 7.93 | 0.3 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.3 | 2.0 | 4.0 | 22.5 | 39.0 | 32.0 | 97.5 |
| 98 | 7.55 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 1.0 | 0.8 | 2.5 | 8.8 | 30.7 | 37.5 | 18.6 | 95.6 |