

Public Opinion on Metro-York Issues and Ideas



The following figures come from public opinion research undertaken during the **late spring of 2006** by the Marttila Communications Group. They're based on a statistically valid survey of 403 York County residents. Reporters, producers, editors: these were only some of the questions. For full results, plus methodology and more information, contact YorkCounts at 717/815-6430.

How useful do you believe the following proposal would be? (remainders = don't know/refuse)

1

To increase efficiency and provide better police protection, smaller communities should work together to create regional police forces.

	REPUB	DEMO	URBAN	OLDER SUB- URBAN	SUB- URBAN	RURAL	
Net: Useful	90	90	89	89	91	89	%
Net: Not Useful	8	9	9	10	7	11	%

2

To better coordinate economic development including transportation plans and the protection of open space, local governments should be required to work together on planning and development issues.

	REPUB	DEMO	URBAN	OLDER SUB- URBAN	SUB- URBAN	RURAL	
Net: Useful	93	97	89	93	96	92	%
Net: Not Useful	6	3	11	7	3	7	%

At a time of limited state resources, please tell me which statement you agree with more (remainders = don't know/refuse):

3

(A) In an effort to make Pennsylvania more economically competitive, the state should **CONCENTRATE** its investment dollars on helping to redevelop the **STATE'S OLDER AREAS** rather than on the newly developing suburban and rural parts of the state. **OR**

(B) In an effort to make Pennsylvania more economically competitive, the state should continue to fund infrastructure costs and related expenses in the newer and less developed parts of the state where the growth is occurring and where people are choosing to live – **EVEN** if that means the state's older communities will receive less investment dollars.

	REPUB	DEMO	URBAN	OLDER SUB- URBAN	SUB- URBAN	RURAL	
Statement A	66	75	65	76	64	67	%
Statement B	25	28	26	15	33	21	%

4

(A) I am much more likely to support local elected officials who work toward bringing local governments together to share the delivery of police, fire and regional planning as a way to reduce costs and improve services. **OR**

(B) I am much more likely to support local officials who oppose the sharing of services with neighboring communities and who support the continued independence of these local governments.

	REPUB	DEMO	URBAN	OLDER SUB- URBAN	SUB- URBAN	RURAL	
Statement A	79	85	76	77	82	80	%
Statement B	15	12	16	21	14	13	%

(continued)

Public Opinion (continued)



5 (A) Local communities in Pennsylvania should be given the legal right to pool resources with neighboring communities to provide MORE EFFECTIVE shared governmental services.

As long as local communities decide to pool resources on a COMPLETELY VOLUNTARY basis, they should have every legal right to do so. The state should eliminate all legal restrictions that prevent local communities from sharing government services on a voluntary basis. **OR** (B) The pooling of resources by local communities to share government would be the first step to the loss of local control and local decision making. Further, it would be unfair to the residents of more prosperous communities who should not be burdened with paying for a share of the services in less prosperous communities. The state should maintain all legal restrictions that prevent local communities in Pennsylvania from pooling resources with neighboring communities to provide shared governmental services.

	REPUB	DEMO	URBAN	OLDER SUB- URBAN	SUB- URBAN	RURAL	
Statement A	49	61	59	64	48	48	%
Statement B	42	37	18	21	46	46	%

6 (A) Pennsylvania's system of 2500 separate and independent local governments has created a system of overlapping, confusing and competing government agencies that complicates smart economic planning and business development for the state. Too often, neighboring communities compete for the same economic developments when they should be working together to create better economic results for the entire region. Pennsylvania's economy needs more cooperation between local communities rather than competition between them. **OR** (B) Pennsylvania's system of 2500 independent local governments has created the best possible environment for business growth and development for the state. The free market and healthy competition between local communities is the best way to grow Pennsylvania's economy. Further, this system maximizes the judgment of local leaders who should be making the key decisions about the economic development for their communities.

	REPUB	DEMO	URBAN	OLDER SUB- URBAN	SUB- URBAN	RURAL	
Statement A	60	74	65	85	66	63	%
Statement B	35	22	30	12	31	33	%

I am going to read you a list of issues that people in the state tell us they are concerned about. After I read each item, please tell me if that is one of the things that worries or concerns you on a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 meaning it does not concern you at all and 10 meaning it concerns you a great deal. You can obviously name any number in between. (remainders = don't know/refuse)

7 Too much haphazard and unplanned growth when it comes to building new housing and commercial developments.

	REPUB	DEMO	URBAN	OLDER SUB- URBAN	SUB- URBAN	RURAL	
1-4	14	9	8	8	15	15	%
5-7	33	40	20	39	37	33	%
8-10	52	50	54	53	47	53	%

8 Public schools that are not providing a quality education.

	REPUB	DEMO	URBAN	OLDER SUB- URBAN	SUB- URBAN	RURAL	
1-4	18	12	15	19	19	12	%
5-7	28	25	27	36	20	26	%
8-10	53	60	58	45	61	60	%

9 An increase in violent crime.

	REPUB	DEMO	URBAN	OLDER SUB- URBAN	SUB- URBAN	RURAL	
1-4	12	13	10	11	11	17	%
5-7	32	30	29	29	30	31	%
8-10	55	53	60	60	57	52	%