

City of Columbus Housing Survey

Section 1: Demographics & Current Housing

This section helps us understand who is responding and ensure we capture a representative sample of Columbus residents.

1. **Do you live or own property within the City of Columbus?**
 - Yes, I am a full-time resident and renter.
 - Yes, I am a full-time resident and homeowner.
 - No, but I own property or a business in Columbus.
 - No, I live outside the city but work, visit frequently, or formerly lived here.
 2. **What type of housing unit do you currently live in?**
 - Single-family detached home
 - Twin home (single family attached)
 - Two-family home (Duplex)
 - Townhouse / Rowhouse
 - Multi-family apartment or condo building (3–4 units)
 - Multi-family apartment or condo building (5+ units)
 - Mobile home / Manufactured home
 - Other (please specify): _____
 3. **How many years have you lived in Columbus?**
 - Less than 2 years
 - 2 to 5 years
 - 6 to 10 years
 - 11 to 20 years
 - More than 20 years
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Section 2: Housing Affordability

Understanding your financial experiences helps the city evaluate the need for cost-stable housing programs.

4. **Approximately what percentage of your gross monthly household income is spent on housing costs (rent or mortgage, plus utilities)?**
 - Less than 20%
 - 20% to 30%
 - 31% to 50% (Considered "cost-burdened")
 - More than 50% (Considered "severely cost-burdened")
 - Prefer not to answer/Don't know

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5. **In your opinion, how affordable is the overall housing market in Columbus for someone looking to buy or rent a home today?**
 - Very affordable
 - Somewhat affordable
 - Modestly unaffordable
 - Highly unaffordable
 6. **Which of the following populations do you believe struggle most to find affordable housing in Columbus? (Select all that apply)**
 - Young adults / First-time homebuyers
 - Senior citizens / Retirees
 - Single-parent households
 - Low- to moderate-income workers (e.g., retail, service industry)
 - Moderate- to high-income professionals
 - None of the above / Housing is accessible to all
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Section 3: Housing Types and Land Mix

These questions guide city leaders on how to allocate local acreage and blend different housing densities. Currently the city's housing mix is approximately 68% single family homes, 11 % two family (duplex), and 25% multi-family.

7. **To what degree do you support or oppose adding more of the following housing types to the City of Columbus over the next 20 years?**
(Options: Strongly Support | Somewhat Support | Neutral | Somewhat Oppose | Strongly Oppose)
 - **Single-family detached homes**
 - **Missing Middle Housing** (Duplexes, Twin Homes, triplexes, fourplexes, courtyard apartments)
 - **Townhomes and rowhouses** (Attached multi-floor units)
 - **Large multi-family complexes** (Apartment buildings with 12+ units)
 - **Senior living options** (Assisted living, independent senior apartments, age-in-place cottages)
 - **Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs)** (Granny flats, backyard cottages, or basement apartments)
8. **A typical square-mile acreage plan balances different housing configurations. Which of the following land-mix models do you think Columbus should prioritize for future residential land allocation?**
 - **Model A (Low Density Focus):** Allocate 75% of new acreage to single-family detached homes, 15% to duplexes/townhomes, and 10% to apartments.
 - **Model B (Balanced Focus):** Allocate 60% of new acreage to single-family detached homes, 20% to townhomes/missing middle units (2 – 4 units per

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- building), and 20% to multi-family apartments (5 units or more per building).
- **Model C (Higher Density Focus):** Allocate 45% of new acreage to single-family detached homes, 25% to townhomes/missing middle units, and 30% to multi-family properties to maximize open park spaces.
- Unsure / No preference

Section 4: City Engagement in Affordable Housing

This section determines the level of government intervention the community supports.

9. **To what degree should the City of Columbus proactively engage in creating or maintaining affordable housing options?**
 - **Highly Active:** The city should use tools like grants with income restrictions, public land donations, and direct partnerships with non-profit developers to build dedicated affordable units.
 - **Moderately Active:** The city should offer flexible zoning rules (e.g., smaller minimum lot sizes and reduced setbacks) to let the private market naturally build cheaper housing options.
 - **Passively Active:** The city should only work with private developers that apply for state or federal housing grants when available but otherwise let standard market conditions guide development.
 - **Not Engaged:** The city should not intervene in the housing market or subsidize development in any capacity.
10. **Would you support the City of Columbus establishing a low to moderate income housing betterment program that would support maintenance of existing homes for weatherization, foundation repair, roof replacement, HVAC, etc?**
 - Yes, strongly support
 - Yes, somewhat support
 - No, somewhat oppose
 - No, strongly oppose
 - I need more information to decide

Section 5: Timing and Growth Rate (Next 20 Years)

This section helps phase development across the 20-year timeline.

11. **Thinking about the city's infrastructure capacity (schools, roads, water, utilities), what is your preferred timing for new housing construction over the next decade?**

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- **Front-loaded Growth (Years 1–5):** Rapidly accelerate building immediately to address current housing shortages and high prices.
- **Steady, Phased Growth (Years 1–20):** Set predictable annual caps or goals to expand housing steadily.
- **Back-loaded Growth (Years 7–20):** Pause major residential approvals for the first few years to upgrade current utility and road infrastructure first, then accelerate building later.
- **No Growth:** Do not expand the city’s residential footprint beyond replacement properties.

12. Where should the city prioritize new residential construction over the next 10 years?

- **Infill Development (within city limits):** Focus on undeveloped land, vacant lots, underutilized land, or redevelopment sites within the existing city limits.
- **Outward Expansion:** Annex and develop agricultural land adjacent to current city boundaries.
- **Balanced.** A balanced combination of both infill development and outward expansion.

Section 6: Open Feedback

13. Please share any additional thoughts, concerns, or ideas you have regarding housing accessibility, character, or development in the City of Columbus.
