



Results of the 2025 Hartland Community Survey

Prepared by:

Hartland Plan of Conservation and Development
(POCD) Ad Hoc Committee

POCD Committee Members: Kristen Anderson, Fred Jones, Tom Kean, Paul Stoltze, Greg Sottile (Chair)

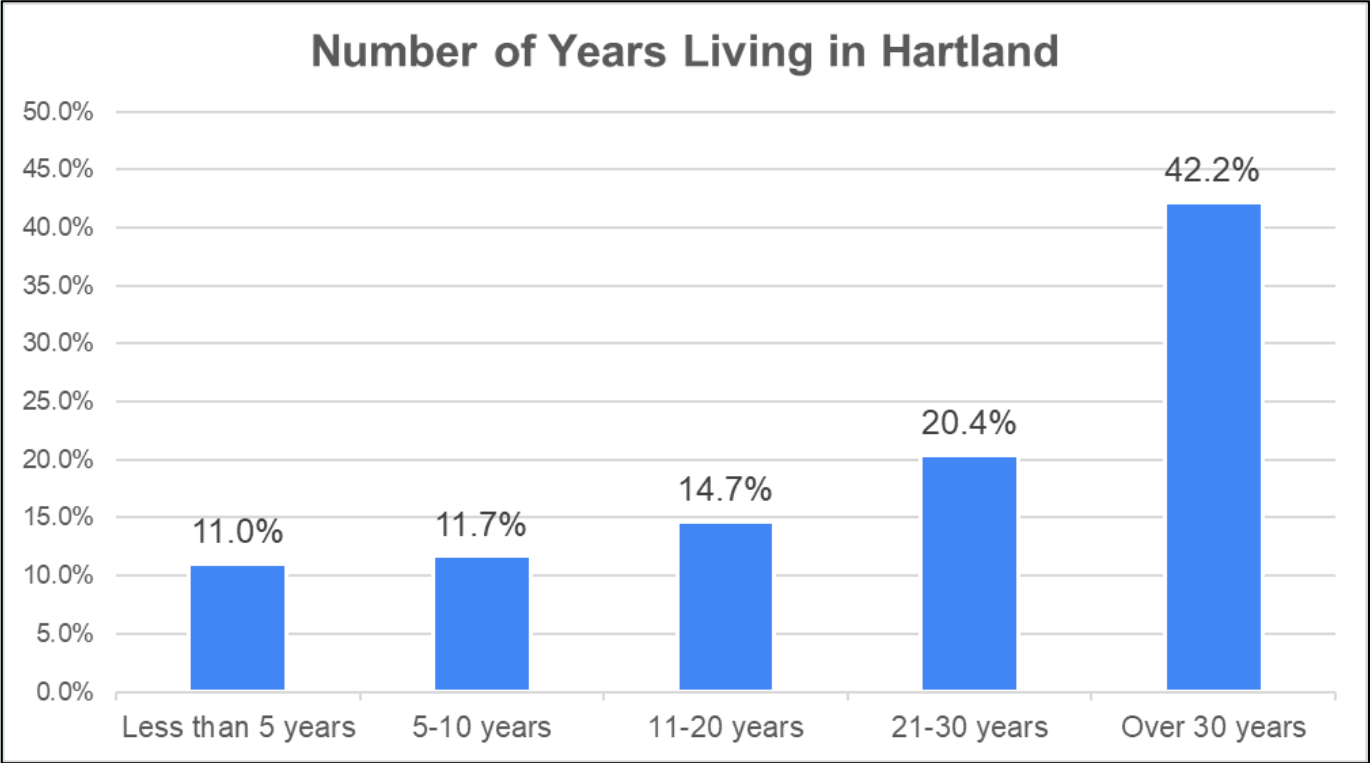
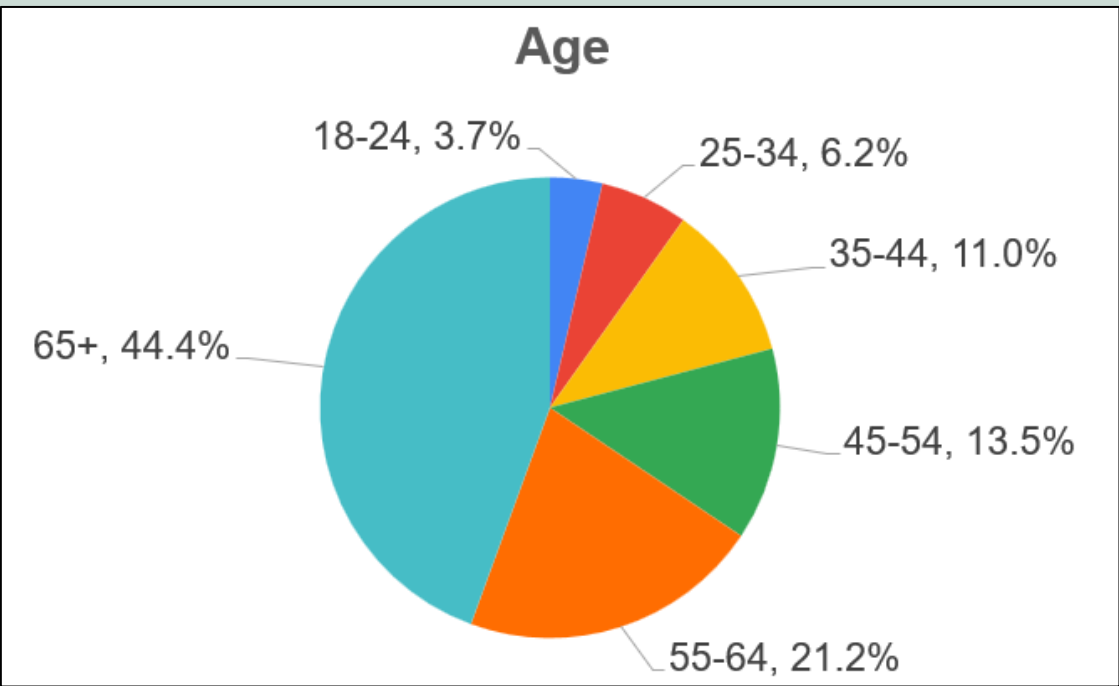
Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD)

- Section 8-23 of the Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) requires each municipality to prepare or amend and adopt a POCD.
- The POCD is a non-binding, advisory document used to support the planning efforts of a municipality's various boards and commissions.
- Hartland is updating its 2007 POCD.
- The 2025 Community Survey is an input into Hartland's updated POCD.

Community Survey

- Mailed in mid-August 2025
 - Registered voters
 - Taxpayers on Grand List
 - Surveys distributed: 1705
- Two ways to respond:
 - Mail via postage-paid envelope
 - Online via weblink or QR code
- Surveys completed through mid-October: 617 (36.2% response rate)

Characteristics of Respondents



Age Range	Distribution
18-34	9.8%
35-64	45.7%
65+	44.4%

Average Household Size = 2.6 people

Importance of Various Items – Average Ratings

5 = Highly Important
1 = Not At All Important

Dark Green: Above “Total”
Light Green: Below “Total”

Ranked (by Total)		Item	Total	18-34	35-64	65+
1		Small-town feel and country charm	4.60	4.57	4.64	4.56
2		First responder services (EMS, fire, police)	4.46	4.23	4.33	4.65
3		Public works (road maintenance, snow plowing)	4.37	3.86	4.24	4.55
4		Access to open spaces and natural resources	4.37	4.40	4.43	4.29
5		Affordable cost of living	4.19	4.14	4.10	4.30
6		Public services (library, transfer station)	3.97	3.55	3.90	4.13
7		School and educational system	3.80	3.90	3.71	3.88
8		Municipal services (assessor, tax collector, town clerk)	3.74	3.14	3.56	4.06
9		Recreational facilities (sports fields, swimming ponds)	3.28	3.31	3.30	3.26
10		Community organizations and events	3.21	2.78	3.08	3.44
11		Proximity to shopping areas	2.38	2.00	2.16	2.71

Note: The “Public Works” and “Public Services” items are shown above as they were in the printed survey. A typographical error had these items combined into one variable in the online survey. The responses are generally consistent across both data collection tools.

Satisfaction with Various Items – Average Ratings

5 = Highly Satisfied
1 = Not At All Satisfied

Dark Green: Above “Total”
Light Green: Below “Total”

Ranked (by Total)	Item	Total	18-34	35-64	65+
1	Small-town feel and country charm	4.56	4.63	4.56	4.55
2	Access to open spaces and natural resources	4.42	4.40	4.37	4.48
3	Public works (road maintenance, snow plowing)	4.33	4.18	4.25	4.40
4	First responder services (EMS, fire, police)	4.29	4.34	4.17	4.40
5	Public services (library, transfer station)	4.14	4.10	4.11	4.17
6	Municipal services (assessor, tax collector, town clerk)	4.08	3.84	3.92	4.30
7	School and educational system	3.99	3.98	3.87	4.11
8	Recreational facilities (sports fields, swimming ponds)	3.93	3.92	3.87	4.00
9	Affordable cost of living	3.80	3.50	3.75	3.91
10	Proximity to shopping areas	3.73	3.92	3.80	3.62
11	Community organizations and events	3.66	3.60	3.53	3.81

Note: The “Public Works” and “Public Services” items are shown above as they were in the printed survey. A typographical error had these items combined into one variable in the online survey. The responses are generally consistent across both data collection tools.

What would you say is the greatest strength of Hartland School and the Town’s educational system overall?

Representative Write-in Responses

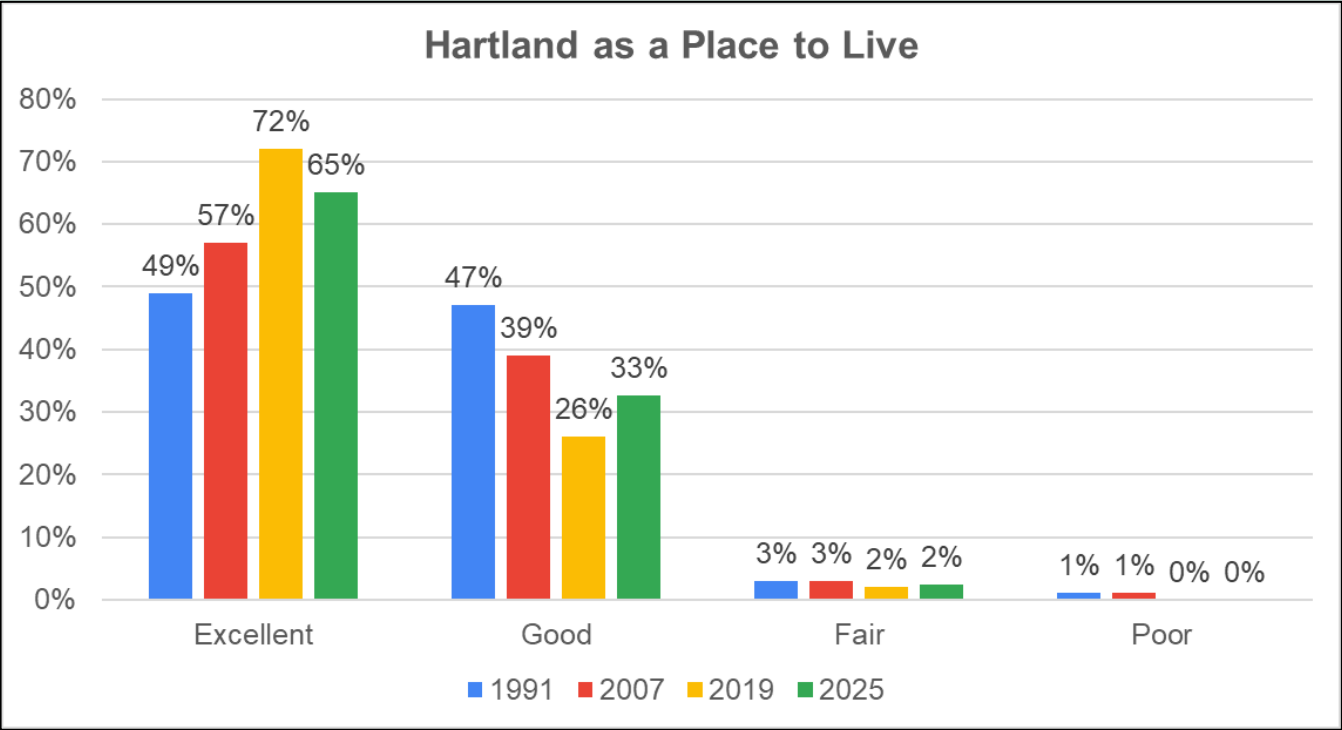
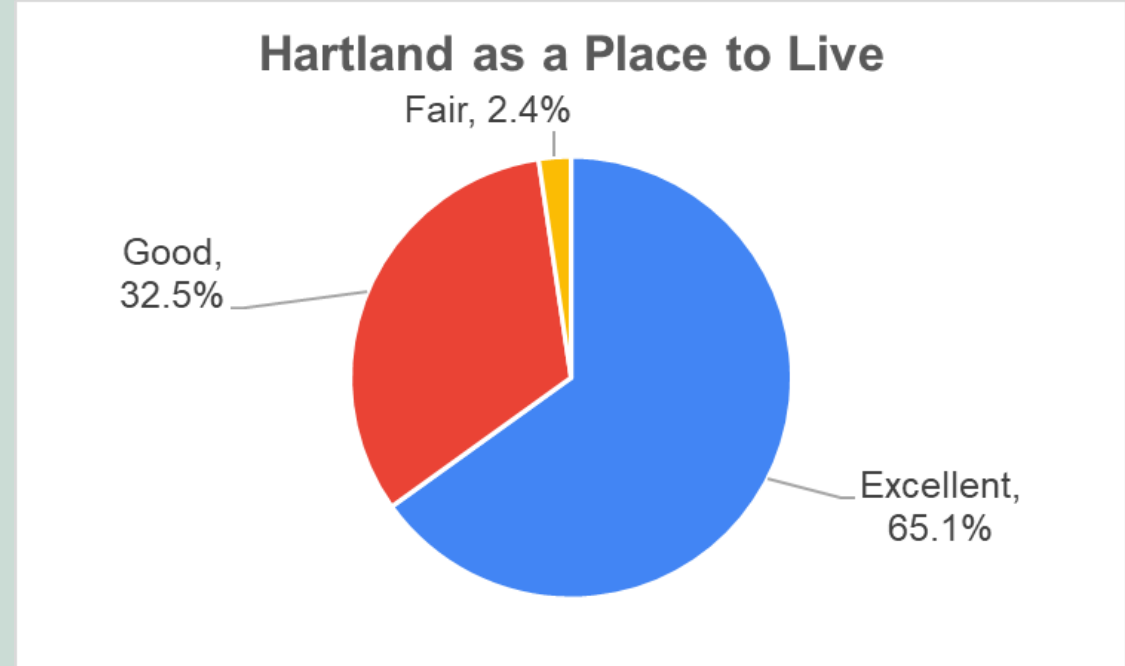
Rank		Total	18-34	35-64	65+
1		Small class sizes support individual attention	Small class sizes help students thrive	Small class sizes support individual attention	Small class sizes benefit students
2		Teachers are caring and dedicated	Teachers care and know students well	Teachers are caring and committed	Teachers are excellent and dedicated
3		Strong sense of community and connection	Strong small-town community feel	Strong community and school connection	Strong community support for education
4		Good student-teacher ratio	Good student-teacher ratio	Good student-teacher ratio	Good student-teacher ratio
5		High-quality education overall	Voucher system provides flexibility	High-quality education and outcomes	High-quality education and performance

If there is one thing you could change about Hartland School and the Town's educational system overall, what would it be?

Representative Write-in Responses

Rank	Total	18-34	35-64	65+
1	Send middle schoolers to regional schools	Strengthen STEM, math, reading fundamentals	Send middle schoolers to regional schools	Reduce costs; consider consolidation/regionalization
2	Reduce costs; consider consolidation/regionalization	Send middle schoolers to regional schools	Reduce costs; consider consolidation/regionalization	Send middle schoolers to regional schools
3	Strengthen STEM, math, reading fundamentals	Add after-school care, clubs, activities	Add after-school care, clubs, activities	Keep politics out; teach core basics
4	Add after-school care, clubs, activities	Satisfied overall; keep as is	Strengthen STEM, math, reading fundamentals	Strengthen STEM, math, reading fundamentals
5	Classes too small; need more socialization	Classes too small; need more socialization	Increase funding, resources, and technology	Add after-school care, clubs, activities

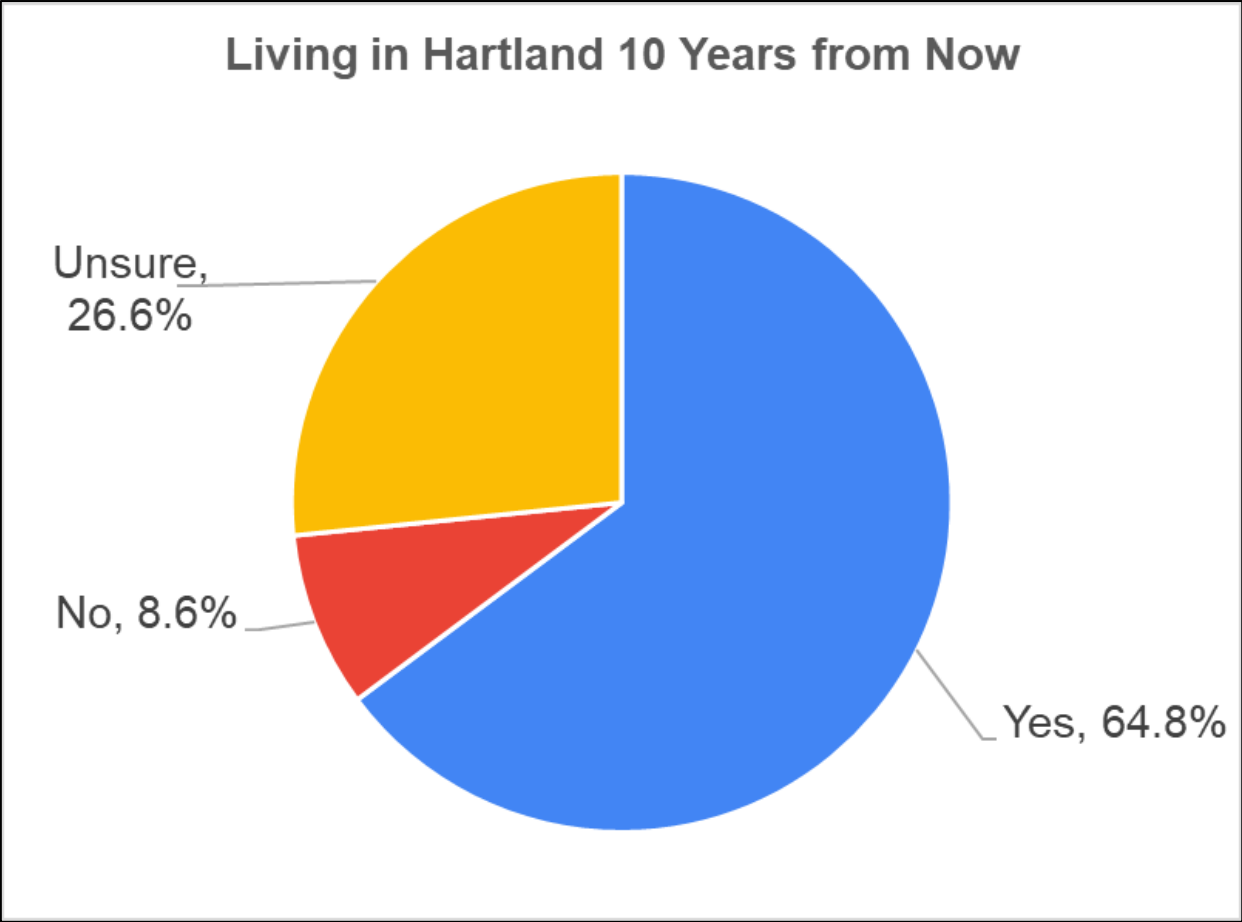
Hartland as a Place to Live



	Total	18-34	35-64	65+
Excellent	65.1%	69.8%	62.2%	67.2%
Good	32.5%	26.4%	33.8%	32.4%
Fair	2.4%	3.8%	4.0%	0.4%
Poor	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

Dark Green: Above “Total”
Light Green: Below “Total”

See Yourself Living in Hartland 10 Years from Now



Dark Green: Above “Total”
Light Green: Below “Total”

	Total	18-34	35-64	65+
Yes	64.8%	54.7%	70.0%	61.3%
No	8.6%	15.1%	6.4%	9.6%
Unsure	26.6%	30.2%	23.6%	29.1%

Main Reasons for Considering Moving Out of Hartland

% Yes

Dark Green: Above “Total”
Light Green: Below “Total”

Ranked (by Total)		Reason	Total	18-34	35-64	65+
1		Other (please specify)	31.5%	20.8%	35.6%	29.3%
2		Lower cost of living in another place	27.3%	39.6%	29.2%	22.9%
3		Move closer to family	22.2%	15.1%	20.3%	25.6%
4		Move closer to health care services	18.7%	5.7%	13.9%	26.3%
5		Lack of housing options in Hartland	11.7%	24.5%	12.8%	7.9%
6		Desire for a different type of community life	11.5%	5.7%	14.2%	9.8%
7		Move closer to job opportunities	11.0%	51.7%	16.1%	1.5%
8		Move close to shopping areas	8.8%	13.2%	8.9%	7.9%
9		Lack of public transportation system in Hartland	8.7%	3.8%	5.0%	13.5%

Main Reasons for Considering Moving Out of Hartland – Other (please specify)

Representative Write-in Responses

Rank		Total	18-34	35-64	65+
1		High taxes or cost of living	School system too small or weak	High taxes or cost of living	Aging and need to downsize
2		Desire for warmer climate	Move for jobs or career needs	School system too small for kids	Warmer climate or easier winters
3		School system too small or limited	Move out of state for taxes	Desire for warmer climate	High taxes or rising costs
4		Overdevelopment harming small-town character	Desire for more land or space	Overdevelopment threatening rural character	Loss of small-town feel
5		Aging and difficulty maintaining property	Warmer climate or lifestyle change	Limited housing or zoning restrictions	Health or ability to maintain property

Areas of Priority for the Town – Next 5 Years

Dark Green: Above “Total”
Light Green: Below “Total”

% “High Priority”

Ranked (by Total)		Area	Total	18-34	35-64	65+
1		Preserve residential neighborhoods	73.9%	63.8%	73.2%	76.5%
2		Adopt zoning regulation revisions to allow homeowners to make changes to their property more easily	26.2%	32.7%	29.8%	20.5%
3		Support the expansion of housing options for seniors	25.1%	10.2%	19.1%	34.7%
4		Support the expansion of housing options for first-time homeowners and young families	16.2%	22.4%	17.0%	14.1%
5		Expand areas zoned for commercial use	4.4%	0.0%	4.9%	4.7%

Concerns About Potential Development in Hartland

% Yes

Dark Green: Above “Total”
Light Green: Below “Total”

Ranked (by Total)		Reason	Total	18-34	35-64	65+
1		Changes to the small town feel and country charm	77.0%	84.9%	75.4%	77.1%
2		More traffic	50.5%	56.6%	49.8%	50.0%
3		Increased demand for services (e.g., municipal services, first responders, road maintenance)	48.5%	47.2%	42.3%	56.4%
4		Impact on the environment	47.5%	54.7%	46.3%	47.4%
5		Infrastructure limitations (e.g., water quality, removal of solid waste)	29.5%	26.4%	27.8%	32.0%
6		Other	12.0%	13.7%	16.7%	6.9%

Concerns About Potential Development in Hartland (Other)

Representative Write-in Responses

Rank		Total	18-34	35-64	65+
1		Higher taxes from new development	Development will ruin small-town character	Opposition to low-income housing	Higher taxes or rising costs
2		Loss of small-town rural character	Opposition to low-income housing	Higher taxes from development	Loss of small-town feel
3		Opposition to low-income housing	Concern about rising living costs	Loss of small-town rural character	Crime or vandalism concerns
4		Increased crime or safety concerns	Fear of town changing culturally	Crime or safety concerns increasing	Opposition to low-income housing
5		Environmental or wildlife impacts	Need development that attracts young families	Environmental and privacy impacts	Noise, traffic, and land loss

Interest in Various Communication Items

5 = Highly Interested
1 = Not At All Interested

Dark Green: Above "Total"
Light Green: Below "Total"

Ranked (by Total)	Item	Total	18-34	35-64	65+
1	A mobile text messaging or telephone alert application that shares time-sensitive information	3.86	3.67	3.94	3.83
2	A calendar of Hartland events, meetings and activities on the Town's website	3.75	3.60	3.81	3.70
3	The ability to pay taxes online from the Town's website	3.45	3.98	3.84	2.91
4	The ability to access property records from the Town's website	3.34	3.38	3.51	3.14
5	An email newsletter prepared by the Town and shared weekly or monthly	3.05	2.58	3.01	3.20
6	The ability to register children for youth recreation programs (e.g., soccer)	2.62	3.51	2.86	2.13

Support for Various Items

5 = Highly Support
1 = Do Not Support Not At All

Dark Green: Above “Total”
Light Green: Below “Total”

Ranked (by Total)		Item	Total	18-34	35-64	65+
1		Expanding the hours of the Town's Clerk's Office (e.g., during the noon hour or one evening per week)	3.12	2.92	3.20	3.08
2		The Town's acquiring land for future use (e.g., open space, recreation, communications tower)	3.05	2.76	3.15	3.00
3		Establishing a Meals-on-Wheels program partly subsidized by the Town	2.95	2.55	2.86	3.12
4		Creation of a recreation/community center owned and operated by the Town	2.80	2.96	2.84	2.71
5		Establishing a consistent law enforcement presence	2.78	2.04	2.66	3.07
6		Hiring contract firefighters to support the Town's volunteer fire departments	2.72	2.70	2.68	2.77
7		The Town's establishing incentives to attract a convenience store in Hartland	2.67	2.76	2.70	2.62
8		Establishing a transportation service (for shopping and health care visits) partly subsidized by the Town	2.66	2.06	2.45	2.99

One Thing You'd Like to See Stay the Same

Representative Write-in Responses

Rank		Total	18-34	35-64	65+
1		Preserve small town rural character	Small town feel, no development	Small town feel and community	Keep small town rural character
2		Keep Hartland the way it is	Keep town rural and quiet	Preserve open space and nature	No change, stay the same
3		Protect open space and forests	No stores or commercial growth	No large-scale development	Low taxes, limited development
4		Avoid commercial and housing development	Protect open land and space	Low taxes, limited government	Protect open space and forests
5		Low taxes and quiet living	Low taxes, simple living	Quiet, rural lifestyle	Quiet, peaceful community

One Thing You'd Like to See Changed

Representative Write-in Responses

Rank		Total	18-34	35-64	65+
1		Add a general store or convenience store	Add a general store or convenience store	Add a general store or small businesses	Improve communication and town website
2		Improve communication and town website	More activities and programs for youth	Lower taxes or reduce spending	Increase services and support for seniors
3		Increase services for seniors and families	Improve town hall hours and services	Improve communication and online services	Strengthen enforcement (speeding, blight, zoning)
4		Lower taxes or reduce costs	Increase housing availability and affordability	More activities, recreation, and youth programs	Lower taxes or reduce financial burden
5		Improve emergency services and response times	Move middle school to larger districts	Strengthen emergency services and enforcement	Add a general store or basic amenities

Additional Comments

Representative Write-in Responses

Rank	Total	18-34	35-64	65+
1	Add a general store or convenience store	Add a general store or convenience store	Add a general store or small businesses	Improve communication and town website
2	Improve communication and town website	More activities and programs for youth	Lower taxes or reduce spending	Increase services and support for seniors
3	Increase services for seniors and families	Improve town hall hours and services	Improve communication and online services	Strengthen enforcement (speeding, blight, zoning)
4	Lower taxes or reduce spending	Increase housing availability and affordability	More recreation, youth programs, and community events	Lower taxes or reduce financial burden
5	Strengthen emergency services and enforcement	Move middle school to larger districts	Strengthen emergency services and enforcement	Add a general store or basic amenities