

Responses from the Experiencing Woodbridge Survey

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

What was the goal of the Experiencing Woodbridge survey?

- To ensure that Woodbridge is an inviting and affirming community for all current and future residents, the Town of Woodbridge Ad Hoc Committee on Diversity, Equity & Inclusion conducted the “Experiencing Woodbridge Survey” in Spring 2022. The anonymous survey was designed to help the Committee identify opportunities to better engage and serve all residents of our increasingly diverse community. All Woodbridge households received a mailed survey invitation, including a link to the online survey.
- The Experiencing Woodbridge Survey offers a “temperature check” of how well we as a community are creating a welcoming environment and how our experiences may mirror or differ from those of our neighbors. *It is not a representative sample. Findings should be interpreted as being suggestive of Woodbridge community perspectives but not definitive.*

What was the composition of responding Woodbridge households?¹

- A total of 634 Woodbridge households provided responses, or 22% of our Town’s 2,935 households. Both longtime and newer Woodbridge households responded to the survey, and these households spanned all income levels.
- Almost one-third (32%) of responding households are home to at least one person of color. Over two-thirds (68%) of responding households are home exclusively to white community members. By comparison, 28% of Woodbridge residents are people of color and 72% are non-Hispanic white.

¹ All questions on the Experiencing Woodbridge Survey, including demographic questions, were optional. Percentages are

- Close to one-quarter (23%) of responding households have at least one member who is an immigrant to the United States. By comparison, 20% of Woodbridge community members are immigrants.
- One-third (33%) of responding households have at least one member who is a person with disabilities.

What did we learn?

LIVING IN WOODBRIDGE

- Woodbridge residents in general feel comfortable living here and engaging in most activities in the community. In most cases, a majority of responding households reported feeling “very comfortable” engaging with Town employees, participating in Town events, and engaging in day-to-day activities around Woodbridge. Moreover, the vast majority of responding households reported feeling at least “somewhat comfortable.”
- Woodbridge residents are most likely to report feeling *uncomfortable* when engaging with Town leadership and Amity school leadership. And households with at least one person of color, an immigrant member, and/or lower household income are most likely to report feeling uncomfortable.

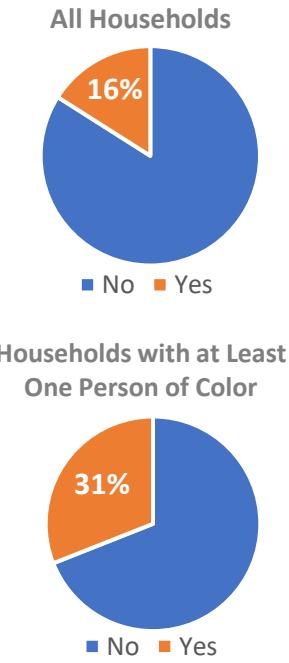
EXPERIENCING DISCRIMINATION IN WOODBRIDGE

- Despite having a general sense of comfort in the community, nearly one out of six responding households (16%) reported having experienced discrimination in Woodbridge. Among households with at least one person of color, close to one-third (31%) reported having experienced discrimination. Among households with at least one immigrant member, just over

calculated as a share of the number of households that did respond to each question.

one-quarter (26%) reported having experienced discrimination.

Do you or any members of your household feel that you have ever experienced discrimination when engaging with town or school employees, participating in town-sponsored events, and/or in day-to-day activities around the Town of Woodbridge?



- **Among the types of discrimination experienced by at least one household member, close to half (47%) of those reporting discrimination believe it was based on ethnic or racial identity.** Households reporting this type of discrimination tend to be newer to the community and have higher household incomes than Woodbridge survey respondents overall.
- **Bias based on socioeconomic status ranked as the second most commonly cited form of discrimination.** Almost one-fifth (19%) of those reporting discrimination indicated this as the factor.
- **Discrimination based on religious affiliation, disability status, and gender/gender identity were each cited by roughly one-in-seven responding households that reported ever having experienced discrimination in the community.**

- **Among “Other” forms of discrimination referenced by survey respondents, political affiliation was frequently cited.**

ADVANCING DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION IN WOODBRIDGE

- **A majority of responding households see Town employees as being at least “somewhat effective” in highlighting the value and benefits of our increasingly diverse community—but only a minority of respondents see them as being “very effective.”**
- **More than two-thirds (69%) of responding households are interested in deepening connections in our increasingly diverse community.** A majority of respondents expressed support for participating in community events, such as the annual Woodbridge Like Me Day, that celebrate our Town’s diversity. Woodbridge households that have resided in the community for five or fewer years were most likely to want to help establish and deepen connections (76%).
- **Respondents endorse a range of ways Woodbridge can adapt to greater socioeconomic diversity.** At the same time, a number of respondents expressed concerns about how increasing socioeconomic diversity will impact the community.

What's next?

- The Town of Woodbridge Ad Hoc Committee on Diversity, Equity & Inclusion will be drawing upon learnings from the Experiencing Woodbridge Survey to identify and develop opportunities for greater community engagement across our many types of diversity.
- If you have questions about the survey, ideas for activities to increase community engagement, and/or would like to become involved, please email the Committee at woodbridgeDEI@gmail.com.