

THE NCSTM
The National Citizen SurveyTM

Athens-Clarke County, GA

Dashboard Summary of Findings

2018



NRC
National Research Center Inc.

2955 Valmont Road Suite 300
Boulder, Colorado 80301
n-r-c.com • 303-444-7863

ICMA

Leaders at the Core of Better Communities

777 North Capitol Street NE Suite 500
Washington, DC 20002
icma.org • 800-745-8780

Summary

The National Citizen Survey™ (The NCS™) is a collaborative effort between National Research Center, Inc. (NRC) and the International City/County Management Association (ICMA). The survey and its administration are standardized to assure high quality research methods and directly comparable results across The NCS communities. The NCS captures residents’ opinions within the three pillars of a community (Community Characteristics, Governance and Participation) across eight central facets of community (Safety, Mobility, Natural Environment, Built Environment, Economy, Recreation and Wellness, Education and Enrichment and Community Engagement). This report summarizes Athens-Clarke County’s performance in the eight facets of community livability with the “General” rating as a summary of results from the overarching questions not shown within any of the eight facets. The “Overall” represents the community pillar in its entirety (the eight facets and general).

By summarizing resident ratings across the eight facets and three pillars of a livable community, a picture of Athens-Clarke County’s community livability emerges. Below, the color of each community facet summarizes how residents rated each of the pillars that support it – Community Characteristics, Governance and Participation. When most ratings were higher than the benchmark, the color is the darkest shade; when most ratings were lower than the benchmark, the color is the lightest shade. A mix of ratings (higher and lower than the benchmark) results in a color between the extremes.

Broadly, ratings for almost all facets of community livability were positive and similar to the national benchmark. Levels of participation in the facet of Mobility were higher than those seen in other communities. This information can be helpful in identifying the areas of strength and areas that merit more attention.

Figure 1: Dashboard Summary

	Community Characteristics			Governance			Participation		
	Higher	Similar	Lower	Higher	Similar	Lower	Higher	Similar	Lower
Overall	8	37	7	1	42	1	4	27	5
General	0	6	1	0	3	0	0	2	1
Safety	0	2	1	0	7	0	0	3	0
Mobility	0	6	2	1	6	0	2	1	0
Natural Environment	0	2	1	0	5	1	0	2	1
Built Environment	0	5	0	0	6	0	0	2	0
Economy	4	3	1	0	1	0	1	2	0
Recreation and Wellness	0	7	0	0	4	0	0	5	0
Education and Enrichment	2	3	1	0	2	0	1	2	0
Community Engagement	2	3	0	0	8	0	0	8	3

National Benchmark	
	Higher
	Similar
	Lower

The National Citizen Survey™

Figure 2: Detailed Dashboard

	Community Characteristics	Trend	Benchmark	Percent positive	Governance	Trend	Benchmark	Percent positive	Participation	Trend	Benchmark	Percent positive
General	Overall appearance	↔	↔	69%	Customer service	↔	↔	67%	Recommend Athens-Clarke County	↔	↔	86%
	Overall quality of life	↔	↔	81%	Services provided by Athens-Clarke County	↑	↔	75%	Remain in Athens-Clarke County	↓	↓↓	60%
	Place to retire	↔	↔	72%	Services provided by the Federal Government	↔	↔	39%	Contacted Athens-Clarke County employees	↑	↔	51%
	Place to raise children	↔	↓	62%								
	Place to live	↔	↔	88%								
	Neighborhood	↔	↔	76%								
	Overall image	↔	↔	71%								
Safety	Overall feeling of safety	↑	↓	68%	Police	↔	↔	81%	Was NOT the victim of a crime	↔	↔	90%
	Safe in neighborhood	↔	↔	95%	Crime prevention	↔	↔	55%	Did NOT report a crime	↔	↔	79%
	Safe downtown/commercial area	↔	↔	87%	Fire	↔	↔	93%	Stocked supplies for an emergency	↔	↔	35%
					Fire prevention	↔	↔	71%				
					Ambulance/EMS	↔	↔	84%				
					Emergency preparedness	↔	↔	54%				
Mobility	Traffic flow	↔	↔	44%	Traffic enforcement	↔	↔	65%	Carpooled instead of driving alone	↔	↑	57%
	Travel by car	↔	↔	63%	Street repair	↔	↔	41%	Walked or biked instead of driving	↔	↔	54%
	Travel by bicycle	↔	↓	33%	Street cleaning	↔	↔	50%	Used public transportation instead of driving	↔	↑	36%
	Ease of walking	↔	↔	54%	Street lighting	↔	↔	47%				
	Travel by public transportation	↔	↔	49%	Sidewalk maintenance	↔	↔	49%				
	Overall ease travel	↔	↔	81%	Traffic signal timing	↔	↔	50%				
	Public parking	↔	↓	36%	Bus or transit services	↔	↑	66%				
Natural Environment	Paths and walking trails	↔	↔	56%								
	Overall natural environment	↔	↔	83%	Garbage collection	↔	↔	83%	Recycled at home	↔	↔	77%
	Air quality	↔	↔	74%	Recycling	↔	↔	78%	Conserved water	↔	↔	80%
	Cleanliness	↔	↓	52%	Yard waste pick-up	↔	↓	55%	Made home more energy efficient	↓	↓	56%
					Drinking water	↔	↔	78%				
Built Environment					Open space	↔	↔	57%				
					Natural areas preservation	↑	↔	66%				
	New development in Athens-Clarke County	↔	↔	61%	Sewer services	↔	↔	68%	NOT experiencing housing cost stress	↔	↔	65%
	Affordable quality housing	↔	↔	45%	Storm drainage	↔	↔	54%	Did NOT observe a code violation	↔	↔	54%
	Housing options	↓	↔	47%	Utility billing	↔	↔	62%				
	Overall built environment	↑	↔	68%	Land use, planning and zoning	↔	↔	43%				
					Code enforcement	↔	↔	36%				
					Cable television	↔	↔	45%				

Legend

↑↑ Much higher ↑ Higher ↔ Similar ↓ Lower ↓↓ Much lower * Not available

The National Citizen Survey™

	Community Characteristics	Trend	Benchmark	Percent positive	Governance	Trend	Benchmark	Percent positive	Participation	Trend	Benchmark	Percent positive
Economy	Overall economic health	↔	↓	42%	Economic development	↑	↔	54%	Economy will have positive impact on income	↔	↔	28%
	Shopping opportunities	↔	↑	71%					Purchased goods or services in Athens-Clarke County	↔	↔	96%
	Employment opportunities	↑	↔	52%					Work in Athens-Clarke County	↔	↑↑	64%
	Place to visit	↔	↑	87%								
	Cost of living	↔	↑	66%								
	Vibrant downtown/commercial area	↔	↑	78%								
	Place to work	↑	↔	74%								
Recreation and Wellness	Business and services	↑	↔	79%								
	Fitness opportunities	↔	↔	77%	County parks	↔	↔	85%	In very good to excellent health	↔	↔	61%
	Recreational opportunities	↔	↔	77%	Recreation centers	↔	↔	75%	Used Athens-Clarke County recreation centers	↔	↔	61%
	Health care	↓	↔	58%	Recreation programs	↑	↔	78%	Visited a County park	↔	↔	79%
	Food	↔	↔	79%	Health services	↔	↔	70%	Ate 5 portions of fruits and vegetables	↔	↔	78%
	Mental health care	↓	↔	44%					Participated in moderate or vigorous physical activity	↔	↔	84%
	Health and wellness	↔	↔	75%								
Education and Enrichment	Preventive health services	↔	↔	66%								
	K-12 education	↔	↓↓	36%	Public libraries	↔	↔	89%	Used Athens-Clarke County public libraries	↔	↔	58%
	Cultural/arts/music activities	↔	↑	83%	Special events	↑	↔	69%	Participated in religious or spiritual activities	↔	↑	57%
	Child care/preschool	↔	↔	42%					Attended a County-sponsored event	↔	↔	58%
	Religious or spiritual events and activities	↔	↔	85%								
	Adult education	↔	↑	75%								
Community Engagement	Overall education and enrichment	↔	↔	73%								
	Opportunities to participate in community matters	↔	↔	70%	Public information	↔	↔	64%	Sense of community	↓	↔	57%
	Opportunities to volunteer	↑	↑	88%	Overall direction	↔	↔	61%	Voted in local elections	↔	↓	70%
	Openness and acceptance	↔	↔	60%	Value of services for taxes paid	↔	↔	52%	Talked to or visited with neighbors	↔	↔	83%
	Social events and activities	↔	↑	81%	Welcoming citizen involvement	↔	↔	59%	Attended a local public meeting	↔	↔	23%
	Neighborliness	↔	↔	59%	Confidence in County government	↑	↔	61%	Watched a local public meeting	↔	↔	22%
					Acting in the best interest of Athens-Clarke County	↑	↔	60%	Volunteered	↓	↔	43%
					Being honest	↔	↔	60%	Participated in a club	↔	↔	34%
					Treating all residents fairly	↔	↔	48%	Campaigned for an issue, cause or candidate	↔	↔	27%
									Contacted Athens-Clarke County elected officials	↔	↔	18%
								Read or watched local news	↓	↓	71%	
								Done a favor for a neighbor	↔	↓	66%	

Legend

↑↑ Much higher ↑ Higher ↔ Similar ↓ Lower ↓↓ Much lower * Not available