



# Albemarle County, VA

## Dashboard Summary of Findings

2017



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# 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 Albemarle 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 Albemarle 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.

Overall, ratings for dimensions of community livability tended to be similar to communities nationwide. Assessments of Education and Enrichment were higher than average in Albemarle County while evaluations of Mobility lagged behind comparison communities. This information can be helpful in identifying the areas that merit more attention.

Figure 1: Dashboard Summary

|                          | Community Characteristics |         |       | Governance |         |       | Participation |         |       |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------|-------|------------|---------|-------|---------------|---------|-------|
|                          | Higher                    | Similar | Lower | Higher     | Similar | Lower | Higher        | Similar | Lower |
| Overall                  | 12                        | 31      | 6     | 0          | 38      | 0     | 2             | 30      | 4     |
| General                  | 3                         | 4       | 0     | 0          | 3       | 0     | 0             | 3       | 0     |
| Safety                   | 0                         | 2       | 0     | 0          | 7       | 0     | 1             | 2       | 0     |
| Mobility                 | 0                         | 4       | 4     | 0          | 3       | 0     | 0             | 1       | 2     |
| Natural Environment      | 1                         | 2       | 0     | 0          | 5       | 0     | 0             | 2       | 1     |
| Built Environment        | 0                         | 4       | 1     | 0          | 5       | 0     | 0             | 2       | 0     |
| Economy                  | 1                         | 5       | 1     | 0          | 1       | 0     | 1             | 2       | 0     |
| Recreation and Wellness  | 3                         | 4       | 0     | 0          | 4       | 0     | 0             | 5       | 0     |
| Education and Enrichment | 3                         | 2       | 0     | 0          | 2       | 0     | 0             | 2       | 1     |
| Community Engagement     | 1                         | 4       | 0     | 0          | 8       | 0     | 0             | 11      | 0     |

| Legend |         |
|--------|---------|
|        | 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                  | ↔     | ↑         | 88%              | Customer service                            | ↔     | ↔         | 73%              | Recommend Albemarle County                    | ↓     | ↔         | 87%              |
|                     | Overall quality of life             | ↔     | ↔         | 89%              | Services provided by Albemarle County       | ↔     | ↔         | 80%              | Remain in Albemarle County                    | ↔     | ↔         | 87%              |
|                     | Place to retire                     | ↔     | ↑         | 80%              | Services provided by the Federal Government | ↔     | ↔         | 43%              | Contacted Albemarle County employees          | ↔     | ↔         | 37%              |
|                     | Place to raise children             | ↔     | ↑         | 93%              |                                             |       |           |                  |                                               |       |           |                  |
|                     | Place to live                       | ↔     | ↔         | 91%              |                                             |       |           |                  |                                               |       |           |                  |
|                     | Neighborhood                        | ↔     | ↔         | 90%              |                                             |       |           |                  |                                               |       |           |                  |
|                     | Overall image                       | ↓     | ↔         | 81%              |                                             |       |           |                  |                                               |       |           |                  |
| Safety              | Overall feeling of safety           | ↔     | ↔         | 89%              | Police                                      | ↔     | ↔         | 88%              | Was NOT the victim of a crime                 | ↔     | ↔         | 95%              |
|                     | Safe in neighborhood                | ↔     | ↔         | 97%              | Crime prevention                            | ↔     | ↔         | 76%              | Did NOT report a crime                        | ↔     | ↑         | 88%              |
|                     |                                     |       |           |                  | Fire                                        | ↔     | ↔         | 94%              | Stocked supplies for an emergency             | ↔     | ↔         | 35%              |
|                     |                                     |       |           |                  | Fire prevention                             | ↔     | ↔         | 81%              |                                               |       |           |                  |
|                     |                                     |       |           |                  | Ambulance/EMS                               | ↔     | ↔         | 93%              |                                               |       |           |                  |
|                     |                                     |       |           |                  | Emergency preparedness                      | ↑     | ↔         | 71%              |                                               |       |           |                  |
|                     |                                     |       |           |                  | Animal control                              | ↔     | ↔         | 69%              |                                               |       |           |                  |
| Mobility            | Traffic flow                        | ↑     | ↔         | 43%              | Traffic enforcement                         | ↔     | ↔         | 55%              | Carpooled instead of driving alone            | ↔     | ↔         | 41%              |
|                     | Travel by car                       | ↔     | ↔         | 57%              | Street lighting                             | ↔     | ↔         | 53%              | Walked or biked instead of driving            | ↔     | ↓         | 42%              |
|                     | Travel by bicycle                   | ↔     | ↓         | 27%              | Bus or transit services                     | ↓     | ↔         | 37%              | Used public transportation instead of driving | ↔     | ↓         | 16%              |
|                     | Ease of walking                     | ↓     | ↓         | 35%              |                                             |       |           |                  |                                               |       |           |                  |
|                     | Travel by public transportation     | ↔     | ↓         | 24%              |                                             |       |           |                  |                                               |       |           |                  |
|                     | Overall ease travel                 | ↔     | ↓         | 62%              |                                             |       |           |                  |                                               |       |           |                  |
|                     | Public parking                      | ↔     | ↔         | 42%              |                                             |       |           |                  |                                               |       |           |                  |
| Natural Environment | Paths and walking trails            | ↔     | ↔         | 60%              |                                             |       |           |                  |                                               |       |           |                  |
|                     | Overall natural environment         | ↔     | ↑         | 91%              | Garbage collection                          | ↔     | ↔         | 80%              | Recycled at home                              | ↔     | ↓         | 76%              |
|                     | Air quality                         | ↔     | ↔         | 90%              | Recycling                                   | ↔     | ↔         | 64%              | Conserved water                               | ↔     | ↔         | 81%              |
|                     | Cleanliness                         | ↔     | ↔         | 83%              | Drinking water                              | ↔     | ↔         | 73%              | Made home more energy efficient               | ↔     | ↔         | 68%              |
|                     |                                     |       |           |                  | Open space                                  | ↔     | ↔         | 66%              |                                               |       |           |                  |
| Built Environment   |                                     |       |           |                  | Natural areas preservation                  | ↓     | ↔         | 62%              |                                               |       |           |                  |
|                     | New development in Albemarle County | ↔     | ↔         | 54%              | Sewer services                              | ↔     | ↔         | 81%              | NOT experiencing housing cost stress          | ↔     | ↔         | 73%              |
|                     | Affordable quality housing          | ↔     | ↓         | 26%              | Storm drainage                              | ↔     | ↔         | 61%              | Did NOT observe a code violation              | ↔     | ↔         | 60%              |
|                     | Housing options                     | ↔     | ↔         | 44%              | Utility billing                             | ↔     | ↔         | 67%              |                                               |       |           |                  |
|                     | Overall built environment           | ↔     | ↔         | 58%              | Land use, planning and zoning               | ↔     | ↔         | 41%              |                                               |       |           |                  |
|                     | Public places                       | ↔     | ↔         | 76%              | Code enforcement                            | ↔     | ↔         | 43%              |                                               |       |           |                  |

## 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                           | ↔     | ↔         | 76%              | Economic development                            | ↔     | ↔         | 54%              | Economy will have positive impact on income            | ↔     | ↔         | 26%              |
|                          | Shopping opportunities                            | ↔     | ↔         | 71%              |                                                 |       |           |                  | Purchased goods or services in Albemarle County        | ↔     | ↔         | 97%              |
|                          | Employment opportunities                          | ↑     | ↔         | 54%              |                                                 |       |           |                  | Work in Albemarle County                               | ↔     | ↑         | 59%              |
|                          | Place to visit                                    | ↔     | ↑         | 89%              |                                                 |       |           |                  |                                                        |       |           |                  |
|                          | Cost of living                                    | ↔     | ↓         | 25%              |                                                 |       |           |                  |                                                        |       |           |                  |
|                          | Place to work                                     | ↔     | ↔         | 73%              |                                                 |       |           |                  |                                                        |       |           |                  |
|                          | Business and services                             | ↔     | ↔         | 73%              |                                                 |       |           |                  |                                                        |       |           |                  |
| Recreation and Wellness  | Fitness opportunities                             | ↔     | ↔         | 77%              | County parks                                    | ↔     | ↔         | 87%              | In very good to excellent health                       | ↔     | ↔         | 74%              |
|                          | Recreational opportunities                        | ↔     | ↔         | 77%              | Recreation centers                              | ↔     | ↔         | 76%              | Used Albemarle County recreation centers               | ↔     | ↔         | 59%              |
|                          | Health care                                       | ↔     | ↑         | 74%              | Recreation programs                             | ↔     | ↔         | 78%              | Visited a County park                                  | ↔     | ↔         | 83%              |
|                          | Food                                              | ↔     | ↔         | 74%              | Health services                                 | ↔     | ↔         | 79%              | Ate 5 portions of fruits and vegetables                | ↔     | ↔         | 91%              |
|                          | Mental health care                                | ↔     | ↔         | 53%              |                                                 |       |           |                  | Participated in moderate or vigorous physical activity | ↔     | ↔         | 88%              |
|                          | Health and wellness                               | ↔     | ↑         | 85%              |                                                 |       |           |                  |                                                        |       |           |                  |
|                          | Preventive health services                        | ↔     | ↑         | 78%              |                                                 |       |           |                  |                                                        |       |           |                  |
| Education and Enrichment | Cultural/arts/music activities                    | ↔     | ↑↑        | 84%              | Public libraries                                | ↔     | ↔         | 92%              | Used Albemarle County public libraries                 | ↔     | ↔         | 68%              |
|                          | Child care/preschool                              | ↓     | ↔         | 38%              | Special events                                  | ↔     | ↔         | 63%              | Participated in religious or spiritual activities      | ↓     | ↔         | 47%              |
|                          | Religious or spiritual events and activities      | ↔     | ↔         | 88%              |                                                 |       |           |                  | Attended a County-sponsored event                      | ↓     | ↓         | 41%              |
|                          | Adult education                                   | ↔     | ↑         | 79%              |                                                 |       |           |                  |                                                        |       |           |                  |
|                          | Overall education and enrichment                  | ↔     | ↑         | 89%              |                                                 |       |           |                  |                                                        |       |           |                  |
| Community Engagement     | Opportunities to participate in community matters | ↔     | ↔         | 77%              | Public information                              | ↑     | ↔         | 75%              | Sense of community                                     | ↔     | ↔         | 63%              |
|                          | Opportunities to volunteer                        | ↔     | ↑         | 84%              | Overall direction                               | ↔     | ↔         | 48%              | Voted in local elections                               | ↔     | ↔         | 87%              |
|                          | Openness and acceptance                           | ↔     | ↔         | 62%              | Value of services for taxes paid                | ↔     | ↔         | 50%              | Talked to or visited with neighbors                    | ↔     | ↔         | 93%              |
|                          | Social events and activities                      | ↔     | ↔         | 74%              | Welcoming citizen involvement                   | ↔     | ↔         | 52%              | Attended a local public meeting                        | ↔     | ↔         | 19%              |
|                          | Neighborliness                                    | ↔     | ↔         | 64%              | Confidence in County government                 | ↔     | ↔         | 49%              | Watched a local public meeting                         | ↓     | ↔         | 28%              |
|                          |                                                   |       |           |                  | Acting in the best interest of Albemarle County | ↔     | ↔         | 52%              | Volunteered                                            | ↔     | ↔         | 48%              |
|                          |                                                   |       |           |                  | Being honest                                    | ↔     | ↔         | 54%              | Participated in a club                                 | ↓     | ↔         | 31%              |
|                          |                                                   |       |           |                  | Treating all residents fairly                   | ↔     | ↔         | 52%              | Campaigned for an issue, cause or candidate            | ↑     | ↔         | 33%              |
|                          |                                                   |       |           |                  |                                                 |       |           |                  | Contacted Albemarle County elected officials           | ↔     | ↔         | 18%              |
|                          |                                                   |       |           |                  |                                                 |       |           |                  | Read or watched local news                             | ↔     | ↔         | 84%              |
|                          |                                                   |       |           |                  |                                                 |       |           |                  | Done a favor for a neighbor                            | ↔     | ↔         | 81%              |
|                          |                                                   |       |           |                  |                                                 |       |           |                  |                                                        |       |           |                  |

## Legend

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