

## ROSS TOWNSHIP OPINION SURVEY

Dear Ross Township Resident; The Township is developing a Master Plan to guide community development over the next 20 years. While change is inevitable, how that change occurs is up to the residents of the Township. What follows is a community questionnaire that asks demographic, economic, social and environmental questions to help determine both present community concerns and future community needs regarding issues which will impact Ross Township. **LET US KNOW YOUR OPINIONS BY ANSWERING THIS IMPORTANT SURVEY.** There are no wrong answers or opinions. All responses will be tabulated anonymously by an independent consulting firm to get a comprehensive overview of how residents feel about these issues.

When mailing, please tri-fold and staple or tape the survey and send it with the attached address visible. We will make the results known as soon as possible. Thank you for participating in this important effort.

- Linda Armintrout, Ross Township Supervisor

1	In which quadrant of the Township do you live? (see attached map)		38
	I	III	
		14	
		4	
	II	36IV	14
2	Do you live in the Village of Augusta?		
	Yes	4 No	225
3	Where do you work?		
	Augusta	3 Elsewhere in Calhoun County	1 At home
	Gull Lake area	16Kalamazoo	41 Retired or not employed
	Elsewhere in Ross Township	2 Elsewhere in Kalamazoo County	25 All around Michigan or the U.S.
	Battle Creek	21 Barry County	0 Elsewhere (not identified above)
			84
			10
			19
4	Please name the community if you selected "elsewhere"		37
5	Please indicate your age category.		
	25 or younger	1 45-64	125 no answer
	26-44	33 65+	75
			1
6	Including yourself, how many people live in your household? (Please check one)		
	1	38 4	25 7
	2	130 5	9 8 or more
	3	21 6	8
			2
			0
7	How many persons in your household are currently employed Full Time?		
	1	783	6 None
	2	554 or more	0
			93
8	How many persons in your household are currently employed Part Time?		
	1	49 3	2 None
	2	21 4 or more	1
			152
9	Do you have any children under 18 living at home?		
	Yes	52 No	182

10	Is anyone in your household over 65?					
	Yes	82	No	152		
11	Do you have a home-based business or a business office in your home?					
	Yes	33	No	199		
12	In which type of dwelling do you live?					
	single-family house		duplex			
		2		1		
		3				
		1				
	apartment/ condominium		mobile home			
		0		0		
13	Do you own or rent your dwelling?					
	Own		Rent			
		2		3		
		3				
		0				
14	How long have you owned/rented property in Ross Township?					
	Less than 3 years	18	6 to 9 years	34	More than 20 years	117
	3 to 5 years	17	10 to 20 years	48		
15	Annual Household Income (Please check the applicable range). NOTE: THIS INFORMATION IS FOR STATISTICAL PURPOSES ONLY. REMEMBER, YOUR RESPONSE IS ANONYMOUS.					
	Less than \$10,000	5	\$25,000 - \$34,999	20	\$51,000 - \$74,999	32
	\$10,000 - \$24,999	18	\$35,000 - \$50,999	33	\$75,000 or more	92
16	Please indicate the type of school your child/children attend?					
	pre-school	3	private/parochial	9	home school	1
	public	39	charter	0	no children in school	171
17	What school system are you in?					
	Gull Lake School District		Galesburg/Augusta School District			
			2 District	7		
			1			
			3			
18	Are you satisfied with the quality of public education provided by your District?					
	Yes	95	No	38	No Opinion	95

Please indicate how you feel about each of the following Current Issues/Conditions in the Township

### Issues

19		Not a Problem	Possible Problem	Slight Problem	Moderate Problem	Serious Problem	No Opinion
	Pollution of water quality	43	51	35	37	38	18
	Division of farmland for residential development in the Township	29	28	18	43	90	20
	Loss of open space in the Township	27	31	25	44	88	13
	Loss of wetlands in the Township	32	34	25	35	81	18

Soil erosion in the Township	39	35	43	30	32	44
Traffic congestion on Township roads	63	31	36	43	42	13
Motorist speeding on Township roads	21	26	37	53	80	10
Cost of single-family homes	61	19	28	40	34	45
Density of water uses on lakes (docks and watercraft)	28	18	28	60	71	26

### Conditions

20	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	No Opinion
Quality of drinking water	39	112	45	17	9	8
Drainage/ flood protection	24	107	46	9	4	34
Quality of lakes/wetlands	32	99	63	15	4	16
Police protection	15	102	65	19	12	17
Fire protection	19	129	45	11	3	25
Zoning code enforcement	6	73	47	29	32	43
Building code enforcement	9	73	46	24	29	48
Recycling services	3	44	52	38	53	40
Road maintenance	2	37	77	44	63	7
Communication facilities (cablevision/internet)	7	71	77	18	11	44
General quality of life in Township	39	161	29	1	0	3

Please indicate how you feel about each of the following Future Issues/Concerns

21	Rank from 1 to 6 the following issues/concerns (1 being most important, 6 being least important):					
	Population growth	78	Loss of open fields pastures farms	42	Loss of wood - lands	11
	Commercial Industrial development	29	Quality of lakes wetlands	62	Other	1

Please indicate how you feel about each of the following Future Issues/Concerns (continued)

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Single family housing should be encouraged in the Township.	64	87	42	21	7
Apartment housing should be encouraged in the Township.	3	20	57	88	59
More housing is needed for seniors in the Township.	15	60	109	33	8
New retail stores, services businesses, or shopping centers, should be encouraged in the Township.	17	44	43	77	46
Industrial development should be encouraged in the Township.	7	20	39	82	77
Tax abatements should be granted to attract industrial development into the Township.	6	15	29	90	86
Bike trails should be designed along roads in the Township.	61	86	43	25	10
Separate hiking / biking trails should be established in the Township	50	74	54	36	10
Development of more parks and recreation facilities should be encouraged in the Township.	31	67	58	55	12
Natural areas in the Township should be preserved.	103	91	24	7	1
Farmland in the Township should be preserved.	78	98	43	5	3
Open space in the Township should be preserved.	77	106	34	6	3
Sign regulations in the Township should be more strict.	37	69	88	19	9
Public funds should be used to attract new business.	3	16	53	88	65
There should be a limit on the number of domestic animals permitted at a nonfarm residence.	30	93	64	28	9
All existing subdivisions should have street lighting.	16	61	93	41	13
New subdivisions should have street lighting.	19	82	77	32	13
Township roads need to be better maintained.	92	78	47	7	2
The Township needs more police protection.	22	56	109	31	10
The Township needs more fire protection.	14	51	120	35	6

	The Township needs faster / better ambulance service.	10	43	120	45	6
	The Township needs yard waste pickup.	43	69	62	38	13
	The Township needs improved recycling service.	39	77	80	19	8
	The Township should promote expansion of water mains and sanitary sewers to unserved areas.	30	55	74	48	19
	The Township should support development of communication towers.	7	26	90	68	35
	I favor keeping the Public Access Channel on cable TV.	17	72	110	17	9
23	More traffic lights or stop signs are needed in certain places. Agree	61	Disagree	151		
24	Please name the intersection (s) if you agree.					53
25	Major street intersections should have improved illumination. Strongly Agree	19	Neutral	128	Strongly Disagree	4
	Agree	50	Disagree	17		
26	Please name the intersection (s) if you agree or strongly agree.					34
27	Which do you think are the MOST important items that should be dealt with in the Township? Please mark only five, 1 being most important, 5 being least important of the five.					
	Quality of drinking water	48	Park and recreation facilities	27	Expanded water/ sewer areas	35
	Drainage	5	Sign regulation	9	Stop signs/lights	6
	Road maintenance	107	Public funding for attraction of businesses	1	Intersection illuminations	4
	Code enforcement	25	Tax abatements for industry	4	Loss of farmland	71
	Trash collection	13	Limits on domestic animals	10	Loss of open space / natural areas	90
	Cablevision/internet access	10	Street lighting	15	Loss of wetlands	58
	New single-family housing	9	New bike trails	41	Soil erosion	10
	Concentration of manufactured home parks	22	Police protection	45	Traffic congestion	18
	New apartment housing	11	Fire protection	36	Speeding	45
	New senior housing	17	Ambulance service	17	Pollutants	19
	Commercial development	21	Yard waste pickup	38	Housing costs	10
	Industrial development	12	Recycling services	33	Groundwater protection	61

28	Would you be willing to pay additional taxes to address one or all of those five issues?	Yes	No	95
			11	
			4	
29	If not all, list ones for which you stated "Yes".			51
30	Under existing State law, Ross Township could pay agricultural or open space landowners for the rights to preserve the land as agricultural land or open space. For example, if the Township was to purchase 900 acres of agricultural land (about 25% of all agricultural land in the Township) for continued agricultural land use and preservation, would you be willing to pay an additional:			
	\$125.00 per year for 10	22	\$83.00 per year for 15 years	64
	years for a \$100,000 market		for a \$100,000 market value	125
	value home?		home?	Not be assessed at all and not purchase the land.
31	Are there conditions at a particular location in the Township you feel should be improved? If so, what and where?			71
32	The estimated 2000 population of Ross Township (excluding the Village of Augusta) is about 4,000. Which of the following population "targets" should the Township (excluding the Village of Augusta) be prepared to accommodate by the year 2020? (check one)			
	Less than 6,000		8,001 - 10,000	26
		11		over 12,000
		4		0
	6,001 - 8,000		51	10,001 - 12,000
				4
33	Additional comments on these and or other Ross Township issues.			58