



## **Engage St Pete Civic Health Survey – Summary of Preliminary Findings**

*The Engage St Pete project seeks to improve civic engagement in St Pete because civic health is vital to the overall health and well-being of our community. As a first step, the Civic Health Survey is measuring the baseline level of civic engagement in the City by looking at a broad range of formal and informal engagement.*

**Methodology:** The survey questionnaire was based on existing indexes of civic health and civic engagement, and relied on validated questions from the U.S. Census Bureau and other sources. The survey was available online and in paper copy, and was promoted via social media (by the League of Women Voters, the City of St Pete and other partners), email networks, paid advertising, and canvassing at libraries and recreation centers from January 31 – March 8, 2019. The survey had 1,211 respondents from across all city zip codes. Qualitative data collection through focus group discussions, community and key informant feedback, and triangulation with other studies will supplement the survey data.

**Data Challenges:** Focus Groups Discussions are being conducted to gather qualitative data from groups who were under-sampled in the survey, such as non-voters and men.

- 94% of survey respondents voted in November 2018.
- 75% of survey respondents were women
- Black, Latinx and Asian residents were under-sampled
- Young people were under-sampled (average age of respondents was 58)
- Residents at higher income levels and with higher levels of education were over-sampled

### **PRELIMINARY FINDINGS**

*Notes: Location analysis is based on zip code; All answers indicate behavior over the past 12 months.*

#### **Attitudes:**

- 60% of respondents said that people in their neighborhood can be trusted.
- 84% of respondents believe they are able to have a positive impact on their community. This was highest in the southern part of the city between 16<sup>th</sup> St S and 49<sup>th</sup> St S (e.g., Childs Park, Maximo, Palmetto Park, Highland Oaks) and lowest in the westernmost part of the city.
- 60% of respondents indicated that “people like them” have a say about what the local government does. This was highest in downtown and in the southern part of the City between 34<sup>th</sup> St S and 49<sup>th</sup> St S (e.g. Child’s Park, Clam Bayou, Maximo).
- Despite a majority believing that they have a say and are able to have a positive impact, only 25% of respondents reported being satisfied with the way things are going in the city.
- Narrative comments on the question about overall satisfaction highlight concerns about development, affordable housing, and sustainability.

### **Neighborhood Cohesion:**

- 75% of respondents reported having a conversation or spending time with neighbors a few times per month or more, and 33% reported their neighborhood as being close-knit. This was highest in the southern part of the City between 34<sup>th</sup> St S and 49<sup>th</sup> St S (e.g. Child's Park, Clam Bayou, Maximo), and lowest in the northernmost part of the city.
- 70% of respondents said that people in their neighborhood are willing to help their neighbors:
  - 32% reported neighbors doing favors for each other a few times per month or more
  - 25% reported that their neighbors had not done favors for each other in the past year
- 60% of respondents have not gotten together with neighbors to do something positive for their neighborhood or community in the past year

### **Community Participation:**

- Most respondents reported that they belong to groups/associations and that they volunteer: 61% of respondents who reported volunteering did so with social, environmental, or community service organizations.
- 26% of respondents did not belong to any groups, organizations, or associations
- 26% of respondents reported that they had not volunteered at all in the past year: People who do not volunteer were less likely to believe they can have a positive impact on their community
- Of respondents who reported giving \$25 or more: 59% gave to charity, 41% gave to political campaigns or organizations, and 24% gave to religious organizations. *Note: respondents could select more than one answer to this question.*

### **Political Participation:**

- 94% of respondents voted in the November 2018 election
- 29% attended a public meeting and 41% contacted or visited a public official: The higher their income, the more likely a person was to have attended a public meeting or contacted an official

### **Information:**

- Over 65% of respondents feel they have a pretty good understanding of the important issues facing the city.
- Top sources of information about local news and issues: Internet (66%), Print Newspapers (63%), Social Media (54%) and TV (47%)
- Top ways people have shared their views on local issues in the past year: Talking to family/friends/colleagues (58%), Signing a petition (52%), Sharing on social media (47%)

To submit feedback on these preliminary findings, please go to:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FQWRMS5>

For questions or to request a presentation/discussion of these preliminary findings, please contact:

[EngageStPete@lwvspa.org](mailto:EngageStPete@lwvspa.org)

For more information about the Civic Health Survey or the Engage St Pete project, please visit:

[www.LWVSPA.org/Engage-St-Pete](http://www.LWVSPA.org/Engage-St-Pete)