

# Neighborhood Of Choice Survey Results

## Census Tract 306

29 Respondents as of July 25, 2007

1. The conditions of homes, yards and general attractiveness of my neighborhood are:

Very Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Good	Average	Poor
0	5	4	10	4

2. A) Is your neighborhood experiencing a high population turnover rate with people frequently moving into or out of the neighborhood?

A) Yes	A) No
16	9

B) If you were to start over again would you choose this neighborhood?

B) Yes	B) No
13	11

3. With respect to open space, safety, and walkability in your neighborhood, how would you describe the condition, adequacy and quality of parks, sidewalks, street trees, schoolyards, and the fit of structures relative to their lot size?

Very Good	Good	Average	Below Average	Poor
1	11	11	1	1

4. My neighborhood has a low incidence of crime and vandalism and we feel secure here.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
0	8	8	9	9

5. I live in a sociable neighborhood where many know each other and sense support.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
2	4	6	10	3

6. Nuisances (barking dogs, glaring lights, junk/trash, parking in front yards, overcrowded dwellings, weeds, littering, burning, commercial vehicles, outside storage, noise and engine exhausts) are infrequent and not a problem.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
0	5	5	8	7

7. Other issues such as quality of schools, city services (as in sewer, water, zoning, fire, police, streets, parks), housing affordability, employment, friends and family are equal or greater contributors to my choice (location) of residence.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
3	8	6	4	3

**Neighborhood of Choice Survey Results**  
**Census Tract 306**  
**Question Comments**

*Quotations have not been edited.*

**1. The conditions of homes, yards and general attractiveness of my neighborhood are:**

- \* Poor mainance of yards & buildings & garbage pick up.
- \* A couple questionable neighbors. See # 4
- \* Our neighbors care
- \* Many houses are sadly deteriorating, including my own, I guess, but never enough money for fix-ups anyway.
- \* People around here don't even use garbage bags when putting there garbage out for garbage day.
- \* Some abandoned houses & several rentals on the street
- \* Except for my next door neighbor. Whose home condition is poor to very poor - open "cess" pool in back yard.
- \* Two corner homes on cedar do not mow lawns, some homes in need of care
- \* Landlords need to do some upgrading
- \* There is a vacant home next to mine in poor condition
- \* From satisfactory to bad!
- \* House next door has garbage in yard all the time. (blows in my yard also)
- \* Porches with junk yard area mess. Windows with cardboard & sheets for cover.
- \* Porches with junk yard area mess. Windows with cardboard & sheets for cover. - [two surveys with exact same wording]

**2A. Is your neighborhood experiencing a high population turnover rate with people frequently moving into or out of the neighborhood?**

**2B. If you were to start over again would you choose this neighborhood?**

- \* High rental area, but fairly nice
- \* I love my house.
- \* Too many apartments - no pride - looking like Flint!
- \* Too many rentals
- \* Quiet area for most part
- \* Too many renters
- \* Almost all homes are now apt. buildings
- \* But would like rental houses kept better. Good location.
- \* Too many children - no discipline
- \* Not enough room to breathe, and hardly any privacy. Also very noisy. Too many dogs & kids.
- \* School location
- \* Drug house on the street

- \* Maybe/don't know
- \* Rental properties, speed of Oliver St. in excess of 35+ mph
- \* Close to mom and church and hospital, pretty trees in neighbor hood
- \* Burn laws not enforced
- \* This is a very nice neighborhood to live in, quiet, peaceful, and neighbors watch out for you.
- \* Too many rentals, don't like the neighborhood
- \* Nice neighbors - close to town
- \* It has been a good neighborhood till rental properties are numerous
- \* Lots of teenage drug use & distribution next door
- \* Condition of the house & rental property always a problem
- \* Condition of the house & rental property always a problem. [two surveys with exact same wording]

**3. With respect to open space, safety, and walkability in your neighborhood, how would you describe the condition, adequacy and quality of parks, sidewalks, street trees, schoolyards, and the fit of structures relative to their lot size?**

- \* Homes too close - apts. do not have adequate area for parking so tenants park in front of homes on grass & streets are overcrowded w/ cars.
- \* Alley needs better maintenance
- \* Beautiful shade trees. We need to take care of them!
- \* However, walkability is threatened in winter when people don't shovel their walk-ways.
- \* Walkability is bad - no cars stop @ stopsigns
- \* Sidewalks dangerous in areas, cars frequently block sidewalks, church and school are nice
- \* More lighting in school yard
- \* Fit of dwellings, could keep their yards cleaned up.

**4. My neighborhood has a low incidence of crime and vandalism and we feel secure here.**

- \* Some homes have questionable tenants.
- \* We have never had a problem.
- \* Cars broken into - items stolen from porch - fire at Viron
- \* Cops around alot
- \* See police cars at a couple homes - several times but never know why.
- \* I no longer feel particularly comfortable or secure here.
- \* Some graffiti
- \* I have been broken into & cars have been broken into & stolen
- \* Have been victims of vandalism / crime more than once.
- \* Police presence is always necessary on Saginaw St. - 400 block. Former neighbors dealt drug were arrested etc.
- \* Vandals have broken statues at church and caused damages in church. Many teens skateboardi
- \* Does Owosso have a curfew?
- \* Kids out of control, adults out of control
- \* My truck got broke into (smashed window), things stolen out of back yard & house broke into
- \* I could write a book on crime & vandalism in the neighborhood.

**5. I live in a sociable neighborhood where many know each other and sense support.**

- \* Probably due to heavy rental population
- \* I regularly talk to one neighbor
- \* Where homeowner live - OK; apts have major turnover w/ many problems - police had to be called. Noise - drugs, etc.
- \* Only talk to owners of 2 houses, most are transient
- \* People move in and out so often, it is hard to get to know anyone.
- \* The druggie does not associate with anybody
- \* Renters, people walking through lawns, littering burning, etc.
- \* I have always had to initiate social hello's while walking and introduce self etc-then friendly area
- \* We only feel comfortable associating w/ 1 neighbor
- \* Rentals make it hard to know people - homeowners are good
- \* I caught a neighbor boy on video breaking in my house.
- \* Even the police told me you live in a bad neighborhood
- \* They are on drugs - police calls all the time!

**6. Nuisances (barking dogs, glaring lights, junk/trash, parking in front yards, overcrowded dwellings, weeds, littering, burning, commercial vehicles, outside storage, noise and engine exhausts) are infrequent and not a problem.**

- \* They are on drugs - police calls all the time!
- \* Junk/trash, parking in front yards, overcrowded dwellings, weeds, littering, burning, commercial vehicles, noise, engine exhausts
- \* Many skateboarders, no parent supervision noted, kids litter fast food-seems to always land in my yard.
- \* Weeds on Mason St.
- \* Neighbors who burn trash & garbage after dark. Teenagers roaming streets all hours of the night.
- \* Burning of junk & trash, street noise from arguing kids or adults
- \* Burning - noise & car radios blaring
- \* Barking dogs, drunk yelling teenagers in middle of the night
- \* Over crowded dwellings, noise from cars going on Lynn St & trucks, Boom Boom radios in cars. Junk & trash.
- \* Overcrowded dwellings, littering, noise, junk/trash, burning (recreational burning) past scheduled hours, parking in yards

**7. Other issues such as quality of schools, city services (as in sewer, water, zoning, fire, police, streets, parks), housing affordability, employment, friends and family are equal or greater contributors to my choice (location) of residence.**

- \* Family, friends & employment

- \* # 3, 4, and especially # 6 are the real problems. Apt. dwellers seem to take no pride & the owners do not care.
- \* I am within a few blocks of most everything including police - fire, library, town, hospital. Excellent snow removal in winter
- \* Employment nonexistent; city services probably as good as can be expected. At least the police and firefighters still have their jobs.
- \* People should have to keep growth around fences trimmed down.
- \* Clean up the Rif Raf and have the police patrol the area more. Have the business fronts cleaned up on Main St. Its an eye sore.
- \* Someday we will pass a millage
- \* it was location to church and mom
- \* Currently looking for new housing
- \* Do not like the school system, housing not affordable, not very safe place anymore.
- \* We need more officers driving by at night 12 - 5 a.m.!
- \* Especially rented tenants. They break every rule that the city has & don't work.
- \* Rental tenants - they are home all the time - I guess they don't have a job.

**8. After reviewing your responses, please feel free to offer your ideas on what can be done to make your neighborhood a "Neighborhood of Choice".**

- More police patrols - saw teenager walking with gun. Enforce laws on books concerning burning - curfew &
- \* landlord obligations.
- Ridding the neighborhoods of rental property crack down on the people hanging in middle of the street
- \* causing trouble & picking fights & have skateboarders a place to skate.
- \* Enforce grass mowing policy - fix up or tear down vacant homes in bad shape
- If neighbor property owner would rent to anyone but crackhead & drunk teenagers, this neighborhood
- \* would be stepping up about 10 notches.
- The big problem is getting people to clean their yards up. In fact that is the # 1 for the Planning Dept to do.
- In closing on these issues the brick house on Lynn & State needs to be boarded up. They party every night
- \* & keep the neighbors up.
- Is there a solution? I don't think so. Landlords rent to anyone. This has been going on for a long time.
- \* Houses are on S. Chipman. All kinds of items on porch.