

Your City Counts!
Global Survey of City Leaders
Revised: October 7, 2021

(Please select your preferred language from the dropdown list in the upper right corner.)

Description and purpose of the survey

City leaders make decisions that affect the most important economic, environmental, and social issues of our time. The survey asks for city leader's opinion about their local economy, housing, infrastructure, environment, and social issues, as well as governance and finance. Urban policy makers will benefit from a better understanding of the comparative experience, perspective, and priorities of city leaders from around the world. We will share the results of the research with you when it is complete.

Who should respond to this survey?

The respondent should hold executive power in the city or local government. Often this person is the mayor, but in some contexts this person has another title, such as municipal commissioner, governor, town clerk, chief executive, district magistrate, or chairperson.

Completing the survey

The survey takes 20 minutes. At the end of the survey there is a button to submit your final answers. Before you press the submit button, you can close the survey window at any time, your answers will be saved, and you can return to complete the survey at your convenience. If you have questions or need help completing the survey, you can contact us at globalcityleadersurvey@cornell.edu, and we will schedule a time to help you.

Participation, compensation, and confidentiality

Your participation is voluntary and there is no financial compensation. We do not anticipate any risk to you. You may refuse to participate before the study begins and discontinue at any time. You may withdraw your consent to participate at any time and any information you have already provided will be destroyed. All data will be securely stored on Cornell servers as long as the research continues. Your answers will not be identified with you or your city. De-identified data will be shared with the research and urban policy communities and will only be used for the main purpose of the study.

International coalition supporting the survey

The survey is a collaborative effort of Cornell University's Center for Cities, UN-Habitat, Slum Dwellers International, United Cities and Local Governments, and the Mayors Migration Council.

Contact information and concerns

If you have concerns, you may contact the Institutional Review Board (IRB) for Human Participants at +1-607-255-5138 or at www.irb.cornell.edu at Cornell University. You may report your concerns anonymously at www.hotline.cornell.edu or by calling toll free at +1-866-293-3077.

The act of submitting the survey is your consent to participate in the research.

A. Background information

This section asks for background information about your city and your leadership position. The survey uses “city” to refer to the local government and its jurisdiction that you present. All of the questions in the survey will ask you to refer to the jurisdiction that you represent.

1	What is the official name of your city or municipality (<i>in English</i>)? _____
2	What is your best estimate of the current population who reside in this city or jurisdiction that you represent? (<i>Do not use commas or decimals. For example, 1,300,072 people should be written as 1300072.</i>) _____
3	In what country is your city located? (<i>154 options</i>)
4	What is the official name of your position in the city government? 1. Mayor 2. Commissioner 3. Governor 4. Chief Executive 5. District Magistrate 6. Chairperson 7. Town Clerk 8. City Manager 9. Other: _____
5	How many years have you held the above position? (<i>Use a numeric response.</i>) _____
6	Were you elected or appointed to this position? 1. Elected 2. Appointed 3. Other: _____

B. Local economic development

This section asks questions about your perception of your city’s local economy.

Question	
1	How would you rate the local economic conditions in your city today? 1. Excellent 2. Good 3. Fair

	4. Poor
2	<p>What are the THREE most significant challenges to economic development in your city today? (<i>Select three options that apply.</i>)</p> <p>a. Availability of land b. Cost of land c. Lack of information technology infrastructure d. Access to core urban infrastructure (<i>roads, water, energy</i>) e. Availability of a skilled workforce f. Crime g. Corruption h. Lack of external investment i. Lack of capital/funding (<i>availability of credit</i>) j. High tax rates k. Remote location l. Permitting processes m. Environmental regulations n. Other 1: _____ o. Other 2: _____ p. Other 3: _____</p>

C. Housing and infrastructure

This section asks about your perception of the quality of your city's housing and infrastructure.

	Question
1	<p>How is the match between the current housing stock and the needs of your population today?</p> <p>1. Excellent 2. Good 3. Fair 4. Poor</p>
2	<p>What is your best estimate of the percentage of population that lives in informal settlements in your city? (<i>Informal settlements are residential settlements built outside formal planning and regulatory frameworks and typically have large low-income populations. Reply between 0 and 100.</i>)</p> <p>_____</p>
3	<p>How would you rate the condition of infrastructure and services in your city today?</p> <p>1. Excellent 2. Good 3. Fair 4. Poor</p>

4	<p>Thinking about infrastructure in your city, what are the top THREE areas you would prioritize if you could allocate a significant amount of new money? (<i>Select three options that apply.</i>)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Roads b. Public transportation c. Drinking water infrastructure d. Wastewater and storm water infrastructure e. Energy f. Bicycle and pedestrian friendliness g. Broadband h. Affordable housing i. Parks and public space j. Other 1: _____ k. Other 2: _____ l. Other 3: _____
5	<p>Please rate how strongly you agree/disagree with the following statement: My city prioritizes the needs of private automobiles too much.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strongly agree 2. Somewhat agree 3. Somewhat disagree 4. Strongly disagree
6	<p>Please rate how strongly you agree/disagree with the following statement: The public transportation services in my city meet the needs of the population.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strongly agree 2. Somewhat agree 3. Somewhat disagree 4. Strongly disagree
7	<p>Please rate how strongly you agree/disagree with the following statement: My city should make its roads more accessible to active transportation (<i>walking, cycling</i>) even if it means sacrificing driving lanes and/or parking.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strongly agree 2. Somewhat agree 3. Somewhat disagree 4. Strongly disagree
8	<p>How would you rate the overall current condition of drinking water infrastructure (<i>such as water treatment plants and distribution pipes</i>) in your jurisdiction?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Excellent 2. Good 3. Fair 4. Poor

9	<p>What is the biggest challenge to household access to drinking water in your city? <i>(Select one option.)</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Failure to extend piped water to all households 2. Affordability of piped water (<i>connections and/or monthly tariffs</i>) 3. Contamination of the water supply 4. Insufficient water supply 5. Discontinuous piped water service (<i>failure to maintain pressure 24/7 in the piped system</i>) 6. Inadequate maintenance of the piped water system 7. There are no challenges 8. Other: _____
10	<p>How would you rate the management of human waste (<i>excreta</i>) in your jurisdiction?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Excellent 2. Good 3. Fair 4. Poor
11	<p>What is the biggest challenge to management of human waste (<i>excreta</i>) in your city? <i>(Select one option.)</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dwellings that lack proper latrines 2. Failure to extend piped sewer service to all households 3. Affordability of piped sewage service (<i>connections and/or monthly tariffs</i>) 4. Affordability of safely emptying on-site containment systems 5. Failure to safely contain human waste on-site 6. Failure to safely transport human waste to a treatment and/or a disposal site 7. Failure to safely treat human waste from on-site sanitation systems 8. Open defecation 9. Inoperable waste treatment plant 10. No waste treatment plant 11. Amount of waste produced exceeds the treatment plant's capacity 12. Insufficient water supply 13. There are no challenges 14. Other: _____
12	<p>Does your city have systems, policies, or programs that include recycling or reuse to divert waste from landfills and/or incineration?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes 2. No 3. Do not know
13	<p>What do these systems, policies, or programs include? <i>(Select all the options that apply.)</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Organic matter b. Paper products c. Plastics

	d. Glass e. Metals f. Construction materials g. Human waste to energy h. Other: _____
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D. Natural environment, sustainability, and climate change

This section asks questions about your perception of the natural environment, sustainability, and climate change in your city.

Question	
1	<p>How would you rate the condition of the natural environment in your city today?</p> <p>1. Excellent 2. Good 3. Fair 4. Poor</p>
2	<p>Thinking about the environment and sustainability in your city, what are the top THREE areas you would prioritize if you could allocate a significant amount of new money? <i>(Select three options that apply.)</i></p> <p>a. Reducing the number of vehicles on the road b. Flood mitigation c. Incentives for energy efficiency in buildings d. Access to green or renewable energy sources e. Incentives for water efficiency, reuse, reclamation f. More efficient/expanded recycling/reuse programs g. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions h. Climate change adaptation i. Increasing green space j. Increasing the number of trees k. Air quality improvement l. Other 1: _____ m. Other 2: _____ n. Other 3: _____</p>
3	<p>Has climate change created or intensified any of these conditions in your city? <i>(Select all the options that apply.)</i></p> <p>a. Water scarcity b. Flooding c. Exposure to extreme heat d. Exposure to wildfires e. Land subsidence f. Sea level rise g. Other: _____ h. There is no effect from climate change</p>

4	Does your city have plans, policies, or programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions? 1. Yes 2. No 3. Do not know
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E. Public health, inequality, and migration

This section asks questions about your perception of public health, inequality, and migration in your city.

	Question
1	How would you rate the quality of public health in your city today? 1. Excellent 2. Good 3. Fair 4. Poor
2	Excluding COVID, which of the following are the THREE biggest public health challenges in your city? (<i>Select three options that apply.</i>) a. Inaccessibility of clean water b. Air quality c. Inaccessibility of recreational space d. Lack of opportunities to walk or bike e. Traffic accidents f. Hunger/malnourishment g. Personal safety (<i>exposure to crime, violence</i>) h. Substance abuse (<i>smoking, alcohol, and narcotics</i>) i. Obesity j. Mental health k. Exposure to toxins l. Inaccessibility of quality health care services m. Exposure to infectious diseases n. Other 1: _____ o. Other 2: _____ p. Other 3: _____
3	Please rate how strongly you agree/disagree with the following statement: Food security (<i>having reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable and nutritious food</i>) is a concern for residents in my city. 1. Strongly agree 2. Somewhat agree 3. Somewhat disagree 4. Strongly disagree
4	How would you rate income inequality (<i>the gap between the rich and the poor</i>) in your city today?

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Very high 2. High 3. Moderate 4. Low
5	<p>In your city, which of the following, if any, is the biggest challenge to social mobility (<i>the ability of an individual to transcend their socio-economic status or class</i>)? (Select one option.)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Housing costs 2. Insufficient well-paid jobs 3. Lack of affordable educational opportunities 4. High crime 5. Poor living conditions, inadequate infrastructure, and services 6. Residential segregation 7. Discrimination 8. There are no challenges 9. Other: _____
6	<p>Where do most migrants in your city originate from?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. From within your national borders (<i>domestic migrants</i>) 2. Another country (<i>international migrants</i>) 3. Do not know
7	<p>What is the most powerful force bringing/attracting migrants to your city? (Select one option.)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Perceptions of economic opportunity 2. Perceptions of a higher quality of life 3. Access to higher quality health and education services 4. Lack of economic opportunity in the sending community 5. Climate change in the sending community 6. Conflict in the sending community 7. Other: _____

F. Governance, planning, and finance

This section asks questions about your perception of governance, planning, and finance in your city.

	Question
1	<p>Does your city have a plan that addresses the following areas? (Select all options that apply.)</p> <p>Local economic development <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> do not know</p> <p>Land use <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> do not know</p> <p>Water infrastructure <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> do not know</p> <p>Waste water infrastructure <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> do not know</p> <p>Transportation infrastructure <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> do not know</p>

	<p>Housing <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> do not know</p> <p>Environmental sustainability <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> do not know</p> <p>Climate mitigation <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> do not know</p> <p>Climate adaptation <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> do not know</p> <p>City-wide slum/informal settlement upgrading <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> do not know</p> <p>Poverty <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> do not know</p> <p>Other: _____</p>
2	<p>Are your city's priorities supported by higher levels of government?</p> <p>Regional, subnational, state, or provincial government:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Very supported 2. Somewhat supported 3. Not very supported 4. Not at all supported 5. Not applicable <p>National level government:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Very supported 2. Somewhat supported 3. Not very supported 4. Not at all supported 5. Not applicable
3	<p>Given the resources, capacities, and powers available at the city level, how well equipped is your city to achieve its priorities in the event that higher levels of government do not provide support?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Well equipped 2. Somewhat equipped 3. Poorly equipped 4. Not at all equipped
4	<p>What percentage of your jurisdiction's budgetary needs are you confident you can fund in the coming year? (Reply between 0 and 100, where 100 indicates full funding.)</p> <p>_____</p>
5	<p>Reflecting on the past, how important were collaborations with the private sector and civil society organizations (<i>such as non-governmental organizations, non-profits, universities</i>) for achieving your city's priorities?</p> <p>Civil society organizations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Very important 2. Somewhat important 3. Not very important 4. Not at all important <p>Private sector:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Very important 2. Somewhat important 3. Not very important

	4. Not at all important
6	We want to get a very broad sense of public engagement with your local government. How would you describe public engagement — whatever that means to you — within your jurisdiction? Overall, would you say residents are: 1. Very engaged 2. Somewhat engaged 3. Not very engaged 4. Not at all engaged
7	Does your city belong to any networks of local and/or regional governments? (<i>Select all answers that apply.</i>) a. United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) b. Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI) c. C40 Cities d. Global Resilient Cities Network e. Global Covenant of Mayors f. Other: _____ g. My city does not belong to any networks h. Do not know
8	[If one or more of the above networks is chosen] Reflecting on your past experiences, how important has membership in these city networks been for achieving your city's priorities? 1. Very important 2. Somewhat important 3. Not very important 4. Not at all important
9	Do your city's priorities, plans, and programs align with the following international agreements or frameworks? a. 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development <input type="checkbox"/> align <input type="checkbox"/> do not align <input type="checkbox"/> do not know b. Paris Climate Agreement <input type="checkbox"/> align <input type="checkbox"/> do not align <input type="checkbox"/> do not know c. New Urban Agenda <input type="checkbox"/> align <input type="checkbox"/> do not align <input type="checkbox"/> do not know d. Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction <input type="checkbox"/> align <input type="checkbox"/> do not align <input type="checkbox"/> do not know
10	Optional: is there something you would like to add that we have not asked about that could help us better understand the challenges and opportunities your city faces? (<i>Maximum 2000 characters.</i>)

G. COVID recovery

This section asks about your perspective on COVID recovery in your city.

1	Where is your city in terms of COVID recovery? 1. Back to normal 2. Almost back to normal
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	<p>3. Not back to normal</p>
2	<p>How has COVID negatively affected your city in the following areas?</p> <p>Public health in your city:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Very little or no impact at all 2. Somewhat of an impact 3. A significant impact 4. Do not know <p>Economic conditions in your city (<i>businesses closing, unemployment</i>):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Very little or no impact at all 2. Somewhat of an impact 3. A significant impact 4. Do not know <p>Residents' welfare (<i>food security, mental health, loss of income or livelihoods</i>):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Very little or no impact at all 2. Somewhat of an impact 3. A significant impact 4. Do not know <p>Overall impact on your city:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Very little or no impact at all 2. Somewhat of an impact 3. A significant impact 4. Do not know
3	<p>How much longer do you think these negative impacts from COVID will last on the following areas?</p> <p>Public health in your city:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Not applicable 2. Less than 6 months 3. 6 to 12 months 4. More than 1 year 5. Do not know <p>Economic conditions in your city (<i>businesses closing, unemployment</i>):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Not applicable 2. Less than 6 months 3. 6 to 12 months 4. More than 1 year 5. Do not know <p>Residents' welfare (<i>food security, mental health, loss of income or livelihoods</i>):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Not applicable 2. Less than 6 months 3. 6 to 12 months 4. More than 1 year 5. Do not know <p>Overall impact on your city:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Not applicable

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Less than 6 months 3. 6 to 12 months 4. More than 1 year 5. Do not know
4	<p>[If “Back to normal” is not selected in G1]</p> <p>What are the top TWO challenges to full recovery from COVID? (Select two options that apply.)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lack of vaccines 2. Emergence of new variants 3. Business closures 4. Tax losses 5. Poor national economic situation 6. Filling job openings 7. Lack of access to health care services 8. Public failure to follow health protocols (<i>mask wearing, social distancing</i>) 9. Other 1: _____ 10. Other 2: _____

	<p>Would you like to receive emails about new research, events, and initiatives at Cornell’s Center for Cities?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes 2. No
	<p>[If “Yes” is chosen above] Please provide us with the best email address to receive future communications.</p>

Thank you for your time and your willingness to share your experience. We will send you the results of the survey when the research is complete.

Please click [here](#) to download the consent form for your records.

When you press the submit button below this will record your final answers. After you press the submit button, you will not be able to go back and add information or change your answers.

We thank you for your time.
Your response has been recorded.