



# WILTON COMMUNITY SURVEY

December / January 2018

**FINAL VERSION 12/3/18**

& PUBLIC POLICY

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Researcher:	Date:
Time start:	CB:
Time end:	Supervisor:

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Hello. I am calling on behalf of the Town of Wilton. My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am a research assistant at The Center for Research and Public Policy. The Town is considering long-range planning goals and strategies. We are talking to residents about quality of life, and your opinions about open space, natural resources, business and residential development and community facilities. This is strictly a survey. We have nothing to sell. Your individual identity and individual responses will be kept private, as only full survey results will be reported.

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## SCREENER

- A. Are you at least eighteen years of age and a current resident or land owner in Wilton, Connecticut?
- 01 Yes, eighteen and a resident **(Continue)**
  - 02 Yes, eighteen and a land owner **(Continue)**
  - 03 Yes, eighteen and both a resident and a landowner **(Continue)**
  - 02 No (Ask for qualified respondent)
  - 03 DK/Unsure **(Thank and terminate)**
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## QUALITY OF LIFE

1. Please tell me why you chose to move to or continue to live in Wilton.

- 01 Location (close to work/close to highways/public transportation)
- 02 Community reputation
- 03 Community education system
- 04 Community amenities and recreational facilities
- 05 Community appearance (town character / community feeling)
- 06 Natural environment, resources and open space
- 07 Housing (availability, quality, value, affordability, aesthetic)
- 08 Birthplace, family nearby
- 09 Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- 09 DK/Unsure

2. Would you say your overall quality of life in Wilton is...

- 01 Very good;
- 02 Good;
- 03 Neutral;
- 04 Poor; or
- 05 Very poor
- 06 DK/Unsure

3. Please tell me two or three issues or problems the Town of Wilton should focus on in order to improve quality of life in town. **(RESEARCHERS: Probe "Is there anything else?")**

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## FUTURE TOWN DEMOGRAPHICS

Please tell me your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statements about Wilton’s population. For each, please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree.

Statements	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Unsure
4. Wilton should do more to keep its population stable or growing	01	02	03	04	05
5. Wilton should do more to attract and retain younger adults (millennials, singles, young professionals)	01	02	03	04	05
6. Wilton should do more to attract and retain families with children in town	01	02	03	04	05
7. Wilton should do more to allow “empty-nesters” and seniors to retire or “age in place” in town	01	02	03	04	05

## CONSERVATION AND PRESERVATION

Now, I’ll read a few statements about protecting natural resources and open space (defined: including parks, forests, preserves and trails) in Wilton. As I read each, please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree.

Statements	StrA	SA	SD	StrD	DK
8. The Town should do more to protect the quality and availability of potable water and aquifers	01	02	03	04	05
9. The Town should purchase undeveloped open space when it becomes available	01	02	03	04	05
10. The Town should provide tax and/or zoning incentives for new development and building renovations to incorporate “green” measures such as energy conservation and open-space set-asides	01	02	03	04	05
11. The Town should support improvements to open space and trails in terms of access, facilities, maintenance and usability	01	02	03	04	05
12. The Town should increase public education directed towards natural resources protection and conservation	01	02	03	04	05
13. The Town should engage in more conservation work programs, like habitat restoration, invasive species management, greenway establishment and dam removal programs	01	02	03	04	05

Now, I'll read a few statements about protecting historic properties and resources in Wilton. As I read each, please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree.

Statements	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Unsure
15. The Town should provide tax and/or zoning incentives for eligible owners of historic properties and/or developers who preserve historic structures	01	02	03	04	05
16. The Town should increase regulatory protections for historic properties (historic district designations, demolition delay ordinance increase, zoning restrictions)	01	02	03	04	05
17. The Town should provide funding for the purchase of historic properties	01	02	03	04	05
18. The Town should provide funding for the Historic Districts and Properties Commission to promote preservation, grants, education and outreach programs	01	02	03	04	05

## RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

19. Wilton may need more housing stock for younger residents, “empty-nesters” and “age-in-place” residents. This may include more diverse and affordable options such as apartments, starter/smaller homes and mixed-use developments. How strongly would you support or oppose **this higher density housing** to meet this need? Would you say...

- 01 Strongly support
- 02 Somewhat support
- 03 Somewhat oppose (**Go to Q26**)
- 04 Strongly oppose (**Go to Q26**)
- 05 DK/Unsure (**Go to Q26**)

The following are locations this new, higher-density housing may be placed in town. As I read these areas of town, please tell me if you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose placing higher density housing there.

Statements	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Unsure
20. Wilton Center	01	02	03	04	05
21. Cannondale	01	02	03	04	05
22. Georgetown	01	02	03	04	05
23. Danbury Road / Route 7	01	02	03	04	05
24. Transition areas abutting or adjacent to a village center or commercially-zoned areas	01	02	03	04	05
25. Rural, residentially zoned areas	01	02	03	04	05

**SPECIAL AREAS / ZONING DEVELOPMENT**

Please think about Wilton Center and Danbury Road/Route 7. Please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with the following statements.

Statements	StrA	SA	SD	StrD	DK
26. I like the way <b>Wilton Center</b> has developed to date	01	02	03	04	05
27. I like the way the southern section of <b>Danbury Road / Route 7</b> , from Lambert’s Corner (intersection of Route 33 and Route 7) to the Norwalk line, has developed to date	01	02	03	04	05
28. I like the way <b>Danbury Road / Route 7</b> , from Lamberts Corner to Cannondale, has developed to date	01	02	03	04	05
29. I like the way <b>Danbury Road / Route 7</b> , from Cannondale, through Georgetown, to the Ridgefield line, has developed to date	01	02	03	04	05

**Researchers: Only ask Q30 if response to Q26 was somewhat or strongly disagree – 03/04.**

30. Please tell me what you might want to change or do to improve Wilton Center.

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**Researchers: Only ask Q31 if response in Q’s 27, 28, OR 29 was somewhat or strongly disagree – 03/04.**

31. Please tell me what you might want to change or do to improve this section of Danbury Road / Route 7.

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32. There has been discussion about development around the Cannondale, possibly a mixture of more housing and more businesses in a village-type pattern that preserves the historical structures and character of the area. Would you say you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree?

- 01 Strongly agree
- 02 Somewhat agree
- 03 Somewhat disagree **(Go to Q34)**
- 04 Strongly disagree **(Go to Q34)**
- 05 DK/Unsure **(Go to Q34)**

33. Please tell me what you would like to see occur in Cannondale Village.

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## TRANSPORTATION

34. Please think about and tell me what improvements in traffic, pedestrian, bike or rail and bus/transportation infrastructure you would like to see the Town of Wilton pursue. **(Researchers: Accept multiple responses and probe: “Is there anything else”)**

- 01 Improve **road maintenance**
- 02 Improving traffic and safety on **Danbury Road / Route 7**
- 03 Improving traffic and safety on **major secondary roads**
- 04 Improving frequency and reliability of **rail service** on the Danbury branch
- 05 Improving **train station buildings and parking areas**
- 06 Increasing level and availability of **bus / shuttle transit service**
- 07 Improving **pedestrian connections** (sidewalks, links to key places and trails)
- 08 Improving **bicycle connections** (building more trails, bike lanes, shoulders)
- 09 Unsure
- 10 Other: (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

35. Please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with the following statement: “Wilton should encourage additional business development in town.”

- 01 Strongly agree
- 02 Somewhat agree
- 03 Somewhat disagree
- 04 Strongly disagree
- 05 DK/Unsure

The following are a few potential economic development initiatives that may require additional property taxes to implement. As I read these, please tell me if you would be very willing, somewhat willing, somewhat unwilling or not at all willing to support each.

<b>Economic Development Initiatives in Wilton</b>	<b>Very Willing</b>	<b>Somewhat Willing</b>	<b>Somewhat Unwilling</b>	<b>Not at all Willing</b>	<b>Unsure or Neutral</b>
36. Hiring experts to help plan development in key areas, including Wilton’s villages and along Danbury Road / Route 7	01	02	03	04	05
37. Extending water, gas and sewer service in appropriate areas	01	02	03	04	05
38. Improving telecom and wireless wireless/cell infrastructure and services	01	02	03	04	05
39. Reviewing and revising land-use regulations to encourage appropriate development	01	02	03	04	05
40. Implementing town-wide marketing, branding and/or lifestyle programs	01	02	03	04	05

**OVERALL PRIORITIES**

41. Now, I’ll read a list of new projects and programs that have been considered for Wilton. Please tell me which ones you would you be most likely to support. **If you would like, I can read the list again. (Researchers: Accept multiple responses)**

- 01 Upgrade Town Hall and public safety facilities, such as the Fire and Police stations
- 02 Improve Town open space, forests, preserves and trails
- 03 Maintain adequate funding for public school facilities and programs
- 04 Create a River Walk along the Norwalk River in Wilton Center
- 05 Create additional sidewalks, bike trails and pathways throughout Wilton
- 06 Upgrade Town recreation facilities
- 07 Expand Town services and facilities for seniors
- 08 Improving Town energy efficiency and resiliency to interruption
- 09 Improve Town protections of historical properties and resources
- 09 Managing traffic
- 10 **(DO NOT READ:)** DK/Unsure

## DEMOGRAPHICS

Now, a few final questions for statistical purposes only...

42. How many years have you lived or owned property in Wilton?

- 01 \_\_\_\_\_ Years (**Researchers: enter whole numbers, no words or ranges**)
- 77 DK/Unsure
- 99 RF

43. Do you own or rent your home?

- 01 Own
- 02 Rent
- 03 DK/Unsure
- 04 RF

44. Please tell me your age.

- 01 Less than 35
- 02 35 to 44
- 03 45 to 54
- 04 55 to 64
- 05 65 to 74
- 06 75 or older
- 07 DK/Unsure
- 08 RF

45. Please tell me your total annual household income before taxes.

- 01 Less than \$50,000
- 02 \$50,000 to less than \$100,000
- 03 \$100,000 to less than \$200,000
- 04 \$200,000 to less than \$300,000
- 05 More than \$300,000
- 06 DK/Unsure
- 07 RF

46. Please tell me how many children under 18 years of age you have living at your home.

- 01 #\_\_\_\_\_ (**Researchers: enter whole number – no ranges or words**)
- 02 RF
- 03 DK/Unsure



47. Please tell me any other comments, suggestions, or ideas you have for the Town?

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*Thank you very much for your time and participation.*

48. Gender **(by observation)**.

- 01 Male
- 02 Female