



Douglas County 2019 voter opinion poll

Hill Research Consultants
Information for leadership since 1988

FOURTH DRAFT, CODC0491, n=300 or 400 AV; Field (tent.) 04/8-15/2019

Hello, this is _____ calling for Hill Research Consultants, a public opinion polling firm. We are calling registered voters across Douglas County to hear opinions about important issues facing the area today. May I speak with _____.

A. ___ Would official records show that you are now registered to vote at the Douglas County address where you live today, and that you are eligible to vote in upcoming elections?

YES CONTINUE
 NO THANK & TERMINATE

B. ___ Is anyone in your household an elected state or local government officeholder, or a city or county government employee, or an employee of a news organization?

YES THANK & TERMINATE
 NO CONTINUE

1. ___ Do you feel things in Douglas County are generally going in the right direction today, or do you feel things have pretty seriously gotten off on the wrong track?

RIGHT DIRECTION 62%
 WRONG TRACK 31%
 UNSURE 7%
 REFUSED -

2. ___ How familiar would you say that you are with Douglas County government? Would you say that you are very familiar, somewhat familiar, not very familiar or not at all familiar with it?

VERY FAMILIAR 11%
 SOMEWHAT FAMILIAR 49%
 NOT VERY FAMILIAR 30%
 NOT AT ALL FAMILIAR 9%
[DO NOT READ]
 UNSURE -
 REFUSED -

Now, I'm going to read you a list of services that are provided by Douglas County. Please tell me if you are very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, not very satisfied, or not satisfied at all with each of the services.

[ROTATE]

- 3. ___ Law enforcement by the sheriff's office.
- 4. ___ Parks and trails.
- 5. ___ Road maintenance and resurfacing.
- 6. ___ Traffic management.
- 7. ___ Motor vehicle registration.
- 8. ___ Snow plowing.
- 9. ___ Management of elections.

	VERY SATISFIED	SOME SATISFIED	NOT VERY SATISFIED	NOT SAT AT ALL	UNS	REF
3. Law enforcement by the sheriff's office.	59%	29%	5%	4%	2%	*
4. Parks and trails.	66%	28%	3%	1%	2%	*
5. Road maintenance and resurfacing.	22%	49%	22%	7%	*	-
6. Traffic management.	19%	44%	24%	12%	1%	*
7. Motor vehicle registration.	51%	39%	7%	2%	1%	*
8. Snow plowing.	42%	40%	12%	6%	*	*
9. Management of elections.	42%	42%	8%	3%	5%	*

END ROTATION

The Douglas County Commissioners have developed priorities for the county and are deciding appropriate levels of funding for each priority. As I read five possible priorities, tell me whether you want to see Douglas County spend much more money on that area, some more, the same amount, some less or much less money. **[ROTATE]**

	MUCH MORE	SOME MORE	SAME AMOUNT	SOME LESS	MUCH LESS	UNSURE	REFUSED
10. _A safe, affordable, and accessible transportation system for residents and visitors.	18%	29%	40%	8%	6%	*	*
11. _Maintaining the quality of the county's historic and natural resources: water, air, land and wildlife.	24%	29%	42%	4%	1%	1%	*
12. _Ensuring economic conditions that enable citizens, taxpayers and businesses the opportunity to prosper.	14%	26%	49%	6%	3%	1%	*
13. _Ensuring conditions that provide public safety and security.	14%	35%	46%	3%	1%	*	*
14. _Programs that provide health and human services that allow vulnerable individuals to be self-sufficient.	17%	31%	40%	7%	4%	1%	*

END ROTATION

Now I'm going to read several descriptions of places where people might live and work in Colorado. For each description, tell me whether it describes Douglas County very accurately, somewhat accurately, not very accurately, or not at all accurately. **[ROTATE]**

	VERY ACC	SOMEWHAT ACC	NOT VERY ACC	NOT AT ALL ACC	UNSURE	REF USE
15. _Good place to raise a family.	69%	27%	3%	1%	*	*
16. _Is a good place to start a business.	24%	53%	14%	4%	4%	*
17. _Safeguards its local environment.	33%	51%	11%	4%	1%	*
18. _Is a good place to retire.	33%	40%	19%	7%	1%	*
19. _Has property values that are stronger than in most other counties in the Denver metro area.	51%	41%	6%	1%	1%	*
20. _Has a transportation system that is effective and adequate.	11%	42%	29%	15%	2%	*
21. _Is a safe place to live and work.	69%	29%	2%	*	-	*
22. _Is a friendly place.	51%	42%	5%	2%	*	*
23. _Has good county government.	24%	59%	10%	5%	2%	*

END ROTATION

24. _Looking ahead, do you expect that at this time next year you will be financially better off than now, or worse off than now?	BETTER OFF	45%
	[DO NOT READ] ABOUT THE SAME	42%
	WORSE OFF	11%
	UNSURE	1%
	REFUSED	*

25. __And are economic conditions in Douglas County as a whole getting better, or getting worse, or staying the same?	GETTING BETTER..... 27% GETTING WORSE..... 18% STAYING THE SAME..... 54% UNSURE 1% REFUSED *
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Now I'll read a series of statements that other Douglas County residents have made about various topics related to local government and life in the county today. These statements are obviously opinions and you may or may not agree with them, so after I read each one, please tell me if you agree strongly, agree somewhat, disagree somewhat or disagree strongly. **[ROTATE SERIES]**

	AGREE STR	AGREE SOME	DISAGREE SOME	DISAGREE STR	UNS	REF
26. __Douglas County government listens to the people's voice.	11%	50%.....	24%.....	13%.....	3%	*
27. __My local taxes have been rising faster than my ability to pay them lately.	22%	34%.....	32%.....	11%.....	1%	*
28. __Douglas County's leaders have an effective long-term, comprehensive plan for the county's future.	10%	47%.....	26%.....	11%.....	7%	*
29. __Douglas County spends our tax dollars wisely.	9%	54%.....	25%.....	9%.....	3%	*
30. __County regulations protect our quality of life.	20%	56%.....	16%.....	7%.....	1%	*
31. __Douglas County is working effectively with federal, state and regional officials to reduce traffic congestion.	9%	41%.....	27%.....	18%.....	5%	*
32. __Douglas County is more open and transparent when it comes to the process and procedures whereby policies and budgets for the county are set.	11%	49%.....	26%.....	8%.....	5%	*

END ROTATION

Now, I'm going to read a list of some additional goals or objectives that county or state officials could make a priority. Using a scale from zero [0] to ten [10], with zero being a very low priority and ten being a very high priority, please tell me your priority ranking each issue should be. Keep in mind that not every goal and objective can have a very high priority.

[ROTATE SERIES]
[UNSURE = 98, REFUSED =99]

33. __Housing for all income levels, including more affordable housing.	LOW PRIORITY [0—2]..... 22% MEDIUM PRIORITY [3-7] 49% HIGH PRIORITY [8-10] 29% UNSURE * REFUSED * MEAN PRIORITY 5.3
-------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

34. __Regional planning to manage growth and development, in cooperation with other counties and cities.	LOW PRIORITY [0—2] 4% MEDIUM PRIORITY [3-7] 48% HIGH PRIORITY [8-10] 48% UNSURE 1% REFUSED * MEAN PRIORITY 7.2
35. __Improving traffic flow by synchronizing lights.	LOW PRIORITY [0—2] 4% MEDIUM PRIORITY [3-7] 44% HIGH PRIORITY [8-10] 52% UNSURE * REFUSED * MEAN PRIORITY 7.3
36. <u>SPLIT SAMPLE A/B VERSIONS:</u>	
A/Improving transportation infrastructure in Douglas County and its municipalities and the state, including roads, bridges, and highways.	LOW PRIORITY [0—2] 3% MEDIUM PRIORITY [3-7] 41% HIGH PRIORITY [8-10] 55% UNSURE - REFUSED * MEAN PRIORITY 7.5
B/Improving transportation infrastructure in Douglas County and its municipalities and the state, including roads, bridges, highways, public transit, and walking and biking options.	LOW PRIORITY [0—2] 2% MEDIUM PRIORITY [3-7] 42% HIGH PRIORITY [8-10] 56% UNSURE * REFUSED - MEAN PRIORITY 7.5

END ROTATION

Here are some proposals that some voters or leaders favor for Douglas County. For each one, tell me whether you approve the proposal strongly, approve it somewhat, oppose it somewhat, or oppose it strongly. **ROTATE SERIES**

	APPROVE STR	APPROVE SOME	DISAPP SOME	DISAPP STR	UNS	REF
37. __Redirecting some existing sales tax dollars to growth-management-related projects like roads and infrastructure.	36%	51%	9%	3%	1%	*
38. __Forming additional partnerships between the county and churches or other faith-based organizations to deliver social services.	29%	36%	19%	15%	*	*

39. Investing more of our tax dollars in smart technologies that will help improve traffic flow and reduce congestion. 42% 47%.....8%.....2% * *

END ROTATION

- 40a. As you may know, the three Douglas County Motor Vehicle offices are open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for auto registration, license plates, and other services. If the county opened one of the offices several nights each week until 8 p.m. for resident convenience, how likely would you be to visit or use the office in the evenings – would you definitely, probably, or probably not visit the Motor Vehicle Office in the evenings?
- | | |
|--------------------|-----|
| DEFINITELY | 23% |
| PROBABLY | 25% |
| PROBABLY NOT | 51% |
| UNSURE | * |
| REFUSED | * |
- 40b. And if one of the Motor Vehicle offices opened for license plates and other services on Saturday mornings, how likely would you be to visit or use the office on a Saturday morning – would you definitely, probably, or probably not visit the Motor Vehicle Office on a Saturday morning?
- | | |
|--------------------|-----|
| DEFINITELY | 24% |
| PROBABLY | 32% |
| PROBABLY NOT | 44% |
| UNSURE | * |
| REFUSED | * |

41. On a different topic, there are two points of view about a potential change in Colorado gun laws:

Some people say that in order to prevent gun violence that sheriffs and other law enforcement officials should be allowed to seize guns temporarily from persons that are said or thought be a threat to themselves or others in the community, with these claims subject to later court review,

Other people say taking guns from lawful owners based on secretive allegations in closed deliberations amounts to an unconstitutional denial of due process for gun owners, seizure of their property, and deprivation of their gun rights, as well as creating a danger to law enforcement and residents during gun seizures.

TO PREVENT VIOLENCE, ALLOW SEIZURE IF THREAT	53%
UNCONSTITUTIONAL DENIAL; PROCESS/RIGHTS.LAWS.....	45%
UNSURE	2%
REFUSED	*

Which of those two viewpoints is closest to your own?

42. In previous elections, Douglas County’s voters approved a special one-cent sales tax, a portion of which collects 8 million dollars annually that is used for construction and maintenance of the Justice Center and related facilities. That portion is set to expire in 2020. If you were given just these two choices, which one would you prefer

[ROTATE]

■ Allow that 8-million-dollar tax portion to expire next year, as scheduled,

OR

■ Ask voters this November to authorize redirecting that existing eight million dollars annually to growth-related needs such as roads and infrastructure, for a period of 15 years?

ALLOW TAX TO EXPIRE IN 2020	33%
REDIRECT TAX TO GROWTH, ROADS, INFRASTRUCTURE	66%
UNSURE	1%
REFUSED	*

43. Here is a related question, but that is different, so listen carefully. Voters originally approved this 8-million-dollar annual tax amount through 2020. If you were given the choice this November at an election, would you:

[ROTATE]

■ choose to leave the tax dollars as currently assigned for the remaining year, for operations of the Justice Center and related facilities,
OR

■ choose to extend the 8-million-dollar annual tax amount through 2035 to pay for growth-related construction projects, including roads and other infrastructure?

LEAVE AS CURRENTLY ASSIGNED TO JUSTICE CENTER39%
TO PAY FOR GROWTH-RELATED CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS...58%

UNSURE2%
REFUSED1%

44. Where would you say that you actually get **most** of your news and information about what is happening with Douglas County government?

[READ LIST, FOLLOW-UP]

Where else do you get news & information about Douglas County government?

	ALL	MOST
FROM A PRINT NEWSPAPER.....	32%	17%
FROM LOCAL TV AND CABLE CHANNELS.....	40%	20%
FROM A SOCIAL MEDIA SITE.....	37%	16%
FROM AN ONLINE NEWS OR NEWSPAPER SITE.....	36%	18%
FROM CONVERSATIONS WITH FRIENDS OR NEIGHBORS	38%	11%
FROM THE OFFICIAL DOUGLAS COUNTY WEBSITE.....	27%	13%

[DO NOT READ]

DOUGLAS COUNTY EMAILS	1%	1%
OFFICIALS, PUBLIC MEETINGS, OTHER PEOPLE	1%	*
OTHER PRINT	1%	*
OTHER BROADCAST	2%	1%
OTHER INTERNET	*	*
OTHER [SPECIFY]	*	*
UNSURE	*	*
REFUSED	*	*
NEVER GET ANY NEWS/INFORMATION.....	3%	3%

Now, I'm going to read you a list of media sources in Douglas County. Please tell me whether you frequently, occasionally, seldom or never read or listen to each one.

	FREQ	OCCAS	SELDOM	NEVER	UNS/REF	PRINT	ONLINE	BOTH
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BEGIN ROTATION

45. Any of the print or online versions of local weekly or monthly newspapers such as the Douglas County News-Press, Parker Chronicle, Castle Rock News-Press, Lone Tree Voice, Castle Pines News-Press, Castle Pines Connection, or Highlands Ranch Herald.

[IF FREQ/OCCAS/SELDOM, FOLLOW-UP]

And do you typically read a print edition of the paper, or the website online, or both?

25%27% 15% 32%..... *42%13% 12%

46. Any print or online version of the Denver Post, Colorado Springs Gazette, or Colorado Sun.

[IF FREQ/OCCAS/SELDOM, FOLLOW-UP]

And do you typically read a print edition of the paper, or the website online, or both?

17%20% 15% 48%..... *13%29% 10%

47. _The weekly “Your Hub” section in the Denver Post. <u>[IF FREQ/OCCAS/SELDOM, FOLLOW-UP]</u> And do you typically read a print edition of the paper, or the website online, or both?	10%.....8% 9% 73%.....* 11%.....11% 5%
48. _How often do you use any computing device – either a mobile device or desktop computer – to log onto any social media sites like Facebook, Next Door, Twitter, Instagram, or LinkedIn: frequently, occasionally, seldom, or never?	FREQUENTLY 70% OCCASIONALLY 13% SELDOM 8% NEVER 9% UNSURE - REFUSED *
49. _Do you visit the county web site daily, weekly, monthly, or less often? <u>[IF YES, FOLLOW-UP, RECORD]</u>	YES, DAILY 1% YES, WEEKLY 6% YES, MONTHLY 17% YES, LESS OFTEN 49% NO <u>[SKIP NEXT QUESTION]</u> 26% <u>[DO NOT READ]</u> UNSURE * REFUSED *
49a. _Why do you most often go to the Douglas County website?	NEWS; UPDATES; UPCOMING EVENTS; WEATHER 23% PROPERTY INFORMATION; PROPERTY TAXES, ASSESSOR INFORMATION 12% MOTOR VEHICLES; LICENSES; PLATES; REGISTRATION 10% COUNTY OFFICE LOCATIONS, CONTACT INFO, HOURS 8% PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT, ZONING 7% VOTING; ELECTIONS; REGISTRATION 5% TOPIC OR LINK FROM OTHER WEBSITE, EMAIL, OR OTHER SOURCE 5% COUNTY RULES, REGULATIONS, LAWS, POSITIONS, ETC. 5% ROAD INFORMATION; TRANSPORTATION; TRAFFIC 4% SERVICES; SERVICE AVAILABILITY 4% PARKS; TRAILS; OPEN SPACE 3% SCHOOLS; LIBRARIES 3% TO VERIFY/FOLLOW-UP OTHER NEWS, SOURCES OF INFO; ACCURACY 3% PAYMENTS (TAXES, WATER, PLATES, ETC.) 3% MEETINGS, AGENDAS, MINUTES 2% USE FOR BUSINESS, JOB RELATED REASONS 2% COUNTY COMMISSIONERS; TOWN COUNCILS 2% RECREATION; REC CENTER 2% CONVENIENT, EASY, FAST 1% LEGAL; JUDICIAL; COURT, JURY DUTY 1% JOB SEARCH 1% LAW ENFORCEMENT; POLICE, SHERIFF 1% COUNTY SPENDING, BUDGET; TAX ALLOCATION 1% GUN ISSUE; RED FLAG LEGISLATION * OTHER SPECIFIC INFORMATION MENTIONED 4% GENERAL OR UNSPECIFIED TOPIC INFORMATION 13% OTHER 1% NONE; DO NOT USE, RARELY USE 4% DON'T KNOW; NO ANSWER; NOT ASCERTAINED 3%

ASK EVERYONE

50. __ When you have come into contact with employees of Douglas County regarding some matter of county business, have you been mostly satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied or very dissatisfied?
- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| MOSTLY SATISFIED | 52% |
| SOMEWHAT SATISFIED | 28% |
| SOMEWHAT DISSATISFIED | 5% |
| VERY DISSATISFIED | 3% |
| [DO NOT READ] | |
| NEVER HAVE CONTACT | 11% |
| UNSURE | 1% |
| REFUSED | * |
- Now I have a few simple questions designed to learn more about you to be sure we have a sample that includes all types of people.
51. __ What is the highest level of education that you had an opportunity to complete?
- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----|
| [DO NOT READ LIST - RECORD ONLY] | |
| SOME GRADE SCHOOL [GRADES 1-8] | * |
| SOME HIGH SCHOOL [GRADES 9-11] | * |
| GRADUATED HIGH SCHOOL [12TH GRADE] | 6% |
| SOME COLLEGE | 20% |
| GRADUATED COLLEGE | 45% |
| GRADUATE/PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL | 29% |
| REFUSED | * |
52. __ Including yourself, how many adults, age 18 and older, live in your household today?
- | | |
|-----------------|-----|
| 1 | 12% |
| 2 | 68% |
| 3 OR MORE | 20% |
53. __ How many infants and children, under 18 years of age, live in your household today?
- | | |
|-----------------|-----|
| NONE | 59% |
| 1 | 16% |
| 2 | 18% |
| 3 OR MORE | 7% |
| REFUSED | 1% |
54. __ Which of the following best describes your current employment status? **READ LIST, IN ORDER**
- | | |
|------------------------------------------|-----|
| EMPLOYED FULL TIME | 54% |
| EMPLOYED PART TIME | 11% |
| UNEMPLOYED OR TEMPORARILY LAID OFF | 3% |
| RETIRED | 23% |
| HOMEMAKER | 6% |
| STUDENT | 3% |
| SOMETHING ELSE [SPECIFY] | * |
| [DO NOT READ] | |
| UNSURE | * |
| REFUSED | 1% |
55. __ Would your primary racial or ethnic group be... **[READ LIST]**
- | | |
|------------------------------------------|-----|
| ASIAN OR PACIFIC ISLANDER | 2% |
| BLACK OR AFRICAN-AMERICAN | 1% |
| NATIVE AMERICAN | * |
| HISPANIC OR LATINO | 3% |
| ARAB OR MIDDLE EASTERN | * |
| WHITE OR ANGLO | 90% |
| MULTI-RACIAL | 2% |
| OR SOMETHING ELSE [SPECIFY] | - |
| REFUSED | 1% |
56. __ What was the combined income of all persons living in your household, rounded to the nearest thousand, for 2018?
- | | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| \$20,000 OR LESS | 2% |
| \$20,001-\$30,000 | 2% |
| \$30,001-\$50,000 | 5% |
| \$50,001-\$70,000 | 10% |
| \$70,001-\$100,000 | 19% |
| \$100,000 TO \$125,000 | 19% |
| MORE THAN \$125,000 | 43% |
| UNSURE/REFUSED | * |

THANK AND TERMINATE

c. ___ Record sex of respondent:

MALE 48%
FEMALE 52%

[Empty rectangular box]